Basic information

2017/0220(COD) COD - Ordinary legislative procedure (ex-codecision procedure) Regulation	Procedure completed
European citizens' initiative Repealing Regulation (EU) No 211/2011 2010/0074(COD) See also 2020/0099(COD) **Subject** 1.20 Citizen's rights	

Key players

European Parliament

Committee responsible	Rapporteur	Appointed
AFCO Constitutional Affairs	SCHÖPFLIN György (PPE)	28/09/2017
	Shadow rapporteur KAUFMANN Sylvia-Yvonne (S&D) MESSERSCHMIDT Morten (ECR) GOERENS Charles (ALDE) SPINELLI Barbara (GUE/NGL) TERRICABRAS Josep-Maria (Verts/ALE) CASTALDO Fabio Massimo (EFDD) ANNEMANS Gerolf (ENF)	

Committee for opinion	Rapporteur for opinion	Appointed
CULT Culture and Education	DZHAMBAZKI Angel (ECR)	10/10/2017
LIBE Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs	The committee decided not to give an opinion.	
PETI Petitions	PREDA Cristian Dan (PPE)	22/11/2017

Council of the

Council configuration	Meetings	Date

European Union	General Affairs	3685	2019-04-09
	General Affairs	3629	2018-06-26

European Commission	Commission DG	Commissioner
	Secretariat-General	TIMMERMANS Frans

Key events

Date	Event	Reference	Summary
13/09/2017	Legislative proposal published	COM(2017)0482	Summary
02/10/2017	Committee referral announced in Parliament, 1st reading		
20/06/2018	Vote in committee, 1st reading		
20/06/2018	Committee decision to open interinstitutional negotiations with report adopted in committee		
27/06/2018	Committee report tabled for plenary, 1st reading	A8-0226/2018	Summary
02/07/2018	Committee decision to enter into interinstitutional negotiations announced in plenary (Rule 72)		
05/07/2018	Results of vote in Parliament		
05/07/2018	Committee decision to enter into interinstitutional negotiations confirmed by plenary (Rule 72 - vote)		
22/01/2019	Approval in committee of the text agreed at 1st reading interinstitutional negotiations	GEDA/A/(2019)000441 PE632.949	
11/03/2019	Debate in Parliament		
12/03/2019	Decision by Parliament, 1st reading	T8-0153/2019	Summary
12/03/2019	Results of vote in Parliament		
09/04/2019	Act adopted by Council after Parliament's 1st reading		
17/04/2019	Final act signed		
17/04/2019	End of procedure in Parliament		
17/05/2019	Final act published in Official Journal		

Technical information

Procedure reference	2017/0220(COD)
Procedure type	COD - Ordinary legislative procedure (ex-codecision procedure)
Procedure subtype	Legislation
Legislative instrument	Regulation
Amendments and repeals	Repealing Regulation (EU) No 211/2011 2010/0074(COD)

	See also 2020/0099(COD)
Legal basis	Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union TFEU 024-p1
Stage reached in procedure	Procedure completed
Committee dossier	AFCO/8/11016

Documentation gateway

European Parliament

Document type	Committee	Reference	Date	Summary
Committee draft report		PE618.206	09/03/2018	
Committee opinion	CULT	PE618.293	27/04/2018	
Amendments tabled in committee		PE620.899	17/05/2018	
Committee opinion	PETI	PE615.473	18/05/2018	
Committee report tabled for plenary, 1st reading/single reading		A8-0226/2018	27/06/2018	Summary
Text agreed during interinstitutional negotiations		PE632.949	20/12/2018	
Text adopted by Parliament, 1st reading/single reading		T8-0153/2019	12/03/2019	Summary

Council of the EU

Document type	Reference	Date	Summary
Coreper letter confirming interinstitutional agreement	GEDA/A/(2019)000441	20/12/2018	
Draft final act	00092/2018/LEX	17/04/2019	

European Commission

Document type	Reference	Date	Summary
Legislative proposal	COM(2017)0482	13/09/2017	Summary
Document attached to the procedure	SWD(2017)0294	13/09/2017	
Commission response to text adopted in plenary	SP(2019)393	30/04/2019	
For information	SWD(2021)0208	16/07/2021	
Follow-up document	COM(2023)0787	06/12/2023	
Follow-up document	C(2025)4607	09/07/2025	
Follow-up document	C(2025)4754	17/07/2025	
For information	C(2025)6015	04/09/2025	
Follow-up document	C(2025)7935	25/11/2025	
Follow-up document	C(2025)8013	25/11/2025	
Follow-up document	C(2026)0011	05/01/2026	

Follow-up document	C(2026)1492	05/03/2026	

National parliaments

Document type	Parliament /Chamber	Reference	Date	Summary
Contribution	DE_BUNDESRAT	COM(2017)0482	06/11/2017	
Contribution	CZ_SENATE	COM(2017)0482	14/12/2017	
Contribution	SK_PARLIAMENT	COM(2017)0482	02/03/2018	
Contribution	PT_PARLIAMENT	COM(2017)0482	16/04/2018	
Contribution	IT_CHAMBER	COM(2023)0787	13/01/2025	

Other institutions and bodies

Institution/body	Document type	Reference	Date	Summary
CofR	Committee of the Regions: opinion	CDR4989/2017	23/03/2018	

Additional information

Source	Document	Date
EP Research Service	Briefing	
European Commission	EUR-Lex	

Final act

Regulation 2019/0788
OJ L 130 17.05.2019, p. 0055 Summary

Corrigendum to final act 32019R0788R(01)
OJ L 334 27.12.2019, p. 0168

Delegated acts

Reference	Subject
2019/2772(DEA)	Examination of delegated act

European citizens' initiative

2017/0220(COD) - 17/05/2019 - Final act

PURPOSE: to reform the Citizens' Initiative instrument in order to facilitate its organisation.

LEGISLATIVE ACT: Regulation (EU) 2019/788 of the European Parliament and of the Council on the European Citizens' Initiative.

CONTENT: the instrument of the European Citizens' Initiative (ECI) was introduced by the Treaty of Lisbon and was made operational on 1 April 2012 by Regulation No 211/2011.

The aim of this instrument is to enhance citizens' involvement in the democratic life of the European Union, by allowing them to directly address the Commission with a request to submit a proposal for legal acts of the Union for the purpose of implementing the Treaties.

This Regulation aims to make the European Citizens' Initiative more accessible, less burdensome and easier to use for the organisers of an initiative and those who support it, as well as to strengthen its follow-up, in order to fully realise its potential as a tool to strengthen the debate.

Right to support a European Citizens' Initiative (ECI)

Every citizen of the Union who is at least of the age to be entitled to vote in elections to the European Parliament shall have the right to support an initiative by signing a statement of support, in accordance with this Regulation.

Member States may set the minimum age entitling to support an initiative at 16 years. People with disabilities should be able to exercise their right to support initiatives and access all relevant sources of information on initiatives on an equal footing with other citizens.

EU citizens shall be able to support an ECI regardless of their country of residence. They shall provide less personal data when supporting an ECI.

Information and assistance by the Commission and Member States

The Commission shall:

- provide citizens and organising groups with easily accessible and comprehensive information and assistance concerning the ECI, including redirecting them to relevant sources of information and assistance;

- make available to the public, online and in paper format and in all the official languages of the Union institutions, a guide to the ECI;

- provide a free online collaborative platform dedicated to the ECI as well as an online register allowing groups of organisers to manage their initiative throughout the process;

- provide the translation of the content of the ECI once it has been registered, including the Annex, into all the official languages of the Union institutions, for publication in the register.

Each Member State shall establish one or more contact points to inform and assist the organising groups free of charge.

Registration

An ECI shall be prepared and managed by a group of at least 7 individuals. In order to ensure that as many initiatives as possible are registered, partial registration of an ECI shall be possible when only parts of it meet the registration requirements of the Regulation.

The group of organisers should submit the application for registration to the Commission via the register. When it refuses to register an initiative or registers it only partially, the Commission should give reasons for its decision and inform the group of organisers. It should also inform the organizing group of all judicial and extrajudicial remedies available to it. It should make available to the public, in the register and on the public website of the ECI, all decisions relating to requests for registration of proposals for citizens' initiatives that it has adopted.

The deadline for receiving statements of support remains 12 months. However, organisers shall now be able to choose the date on which this period can begin, within six months of the registration of the ECI.

Publication and public hearing

When the Commission receives a valid initiative, it should without delay publish an opinion to this effect in the register and forward the initiative to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee, the Committee of the Regions and national parliaments.

Within three months of the presentation of the initiative, the group of organisers would be given the opportunity to present the initiative at a public hearing organised by the European Parliament.

Following the public hearing to be held on its premises, the European Parliament would assess the political support for this initiative.

Examination by the Commission

Within six months of the publication of the initiative, and after the public hearing, the Commission shall set out in a communication its legal and political conclusions on the initiative, the action it intends to take, if any, and its reasons for taking or not taking action.

Where the Commission intends to take action in response to the initiative, including, where appropriate, the adoption of one or more proposals for a legal act of the Union, the communication shall also set out the envisaged timeline for these actions.

The European Parliament shall evaluate the measures taken by the Commission following the Commission's communication.

The Commission shall raise public awareness of the existence, objectives and functioning of the ECI through communication activities and information campaigns. The European Parliament shall contribute to the Commission's communication activities.

ENTRY INTO FORCE: 6.6.2019.

APPLICATION: from 1.1.2020.

European citizens’ initiative

2017/0220(COD) - 12/03/2019 - Text adopted by Parliament, 1st reading/single reading

The European Parliament adopted by 535 votes to 90 with 41 abstentions a legislative resolution on the proposal for a regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council on the European Citizens' Initiative.

The position of the European Parliament adopted at first reading under the ordinary legislative procedure has amended the Commission proposal as follows:

Right to support a European Citizens' Initiative (ECI)

EU citizens have the right to address the Commission directly with a request to submit a proposal for a legal act of the Union for the purpose of implementing the Treaties. In this way, the ECI contributes to strengthening the EU’s democratic functioning through the participation of citizens in its democratic and political life.

The amended text specifies that any EU citizen who is at least of voting age in elections to the European Parliament would have the right to support an initiative by signing a declaration of support. Member States that set the minimum age for supporting an ECI at 16 years should inform the Commission accordingly.

People with disabilities should be able to exercise their right to support initiatives and access all relevant sources of information on initiatives on an equal footing with other citizens.

Information and assistance by the Commission and Member States

The Commission should:

- provide citizens and organising groups with easily accessible and comprehensive information and assistance concerning the ECI, including redirecting them to relevant sources of information and assistance;

- make available to the public, online and in paper format and in all the official languages of the Union institutions, a guide to the ECI;

- provide a free online collaborative platform dedicated to the ECI.

The platform would provide practical and legal advice, as well as a forum for discussion on the ECI for the exchange of information and good practice between citizens, organising groups, stakeholders, non-governmental organisations, experts and other EU institutions and bodies wishing to participate.

The Commission would ensure that information on the application for registration and the translations submitted are published in the register and on the ECI public website, the latter being the responsibility of the organising group.

Each Member State would establish one or more contact points to inform and assist groups of organisers free of charge.

Registration

The group of organisers should submit the application for registration to the Commission via the register. When it refuses to register an initiative or registers it only partially, the Commission should give reasons for its decision and inform the group of organisers. It should also inform the organizing group of all judicial and extrajudicial remedies available to it. It should make available to the public, in the register and on the public website of the ECI, all decisions relating to requests for registration of proposals for citizens' initiatives that it has adopted.

Publication and public hearing

When the Commission receives a valid initiative, it should without delay publish an opinion to this effect in the register and forward the initiative to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee, the Committee of the Regions and national parliaments.

Within three months of the presentation of the initiative, the group of organisers would be given the opportunity to present the initiative at a public hearing organised by the European Parliament.

Following the public hearing to be held on its premises, the European Parliament would assess the political support for this initiative.

Examination by the Commission

Within six months of the publication of the initiative and following the public hearing in the European Parliament, the Commission should present, in a communication, its legal and political conclusions on the initiative and the action it intends to take.

Where the Commission intends to follow up the initiative, including, where appropriate, by adopting one or more proposals for a Union legal act, the communication would also set out the timetable for their implementation. The Commission should provide, in the register and on the public website of the ECI, updated information on the implementation of the measures set out in the Communication that are adopted as a follow-up to the initiative.

The European Parliament would evaluate the measures taken by the Commission following the Commission's communication.

European citizens’ initiative

2017/0220(COD) - 13/09/2017 - Legislative proposal

PURPOSE: to reform the European Citizens’ Initiative in order to facilitate its organisation.

PROPOSED ACT: Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council.

ROLE OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT: The European Parliament decides in accordance with the ordinary legislative procedure and on an equal footing with the Council.

BACKGROUND: the instrument of the European Citizens' Initiative (ECI) was introduced by the Treaty of Lisbon and was made operational on 1 April 2012 by Regulation No 211/2011.

The aim of this instrument is to **enhance citizens' involvement in the democratic life of the European Union**, by allowing them to directly address the Commission with a request to submit a proposal for legal acts of the Union for the purpose of implementing the Treaties.

Since its first report on the application of the Regulation adopted in 2015, the Commission has implemented a series of non-legislative measures to facilitate the use of the instrument by organisers and citizens and to mitigate the main problems identified, namely:

- the difficulties encountered by the organisers in the **registration** phase including the high rate of refusals to register proposed citizens’ initiatives;
- the **complexity for organisers of initiatives to collect statements of support**, as evidenced by the low rate of successful initiatives;
- differences in requirements for **personal data** of signatories;
- **low number of initiatives** reaching the one million threshold and the limited impact so far generated by citizens' initiatives.

The resolution of the European Parliament of 28 October 2015 highlighted a number of problems and called for the revision of Regulation (EU) No 211 /2011 and the adoption of a package of amendments to improve the functioning of the ECI.

IMPACT ASSESSMENT: no impact assessment has been carried out. The Commission notes, however, that technical and practical measures to simplify the ECI should **reduce the administrative burden** for both organisers and Member States.

CONTENT: the proposal seeks to replace Regulation No 211/2011 with a view to improving the way the ECI operates, with the main policy objectives of:

- **making the ECI more accessible, less burdensome and easier to use** for organisers and supporters;
- **achieving the full potential of the ECI as a tool to foster debate and participation**, including that of young people, at European level and to bring the EU closer to its citizens.

Concretely, the proposal:

- stipulates the **right of every citizen of the Union of at least 16 years of age** to support an initiative by signing the statement of support;
- introduces the requirement to make available an **online collaborative platform for the ECI** providing a discussion forum as well as information and advice to organisers, support to organisers with regard to the translation of the main elements of their initiatives into all official languages of the Union for publication in the Register;
- provides for the requirements for the organisers of initiatives, including the formation, composition and responsibilities of the group of organisers composed by at least seven citizens of the Union entitled to vote in the elections to the European Parliament and residents of at least seven Member States;
- provides that statements of support may only be collected after an initiative has been registered and establishes the requirements for the registration or refusal of initiatives;
- clarifies that statements of support for initiatives may be collected online or in paper form and that only forms which comply with the models set out in Annex III of the Regulation may be used to collect statements of support. Personal data to be provided by the signatory would be reduced;
- introduces the requirement for the Commission to set-up and operate, by 1 January 2020, a **central online collection system** made available free of charge to organisers of registered initiatives and allowing citizens to provide support to initiatives online;
- stipulates the possibility for organisers to **set up their own individual online collection systems**, the security and technical features for these systems and the procedure for the verification by the competent national authorities in the Member States;
- provides that each Member State shall **verify and certify** the statements of support signed by their nationals;
- lays down the **conditions and time limits** for the submission of initiatives to the Commission;
- sets out the **publication and public hearing phase** for initiatives submitted to the Commission and sets out the conditions for the public hearing at the European Parliament within three months from the submission of the initiative by the organisers;
- obliges the Commission to receive the group of organisers at an appropriate level as well as to **set out in a Communication its legal and political conclusions on the initiative**, the actions it intends to take, if any, and its reasons for taking or not taking action;
- provides for **awareness-raising and communication** activities on the ECI to be carried out by the Commission.

BUDGETARY IMPLICATIONS: the specific budgetary implications of the proposal relate to a number of online systems for the European citizens’ initiative which the Commission will put in place and make available free of charge to citizens and organisers.

The estimated impact on expenditure (in commitment appropriations) is estimated at **EUR 2.050 million for 2019 and EUR 2.140 million for 2020**. For administrative expenditure, the impact is estimated to EUR 1.071 million per year.

European citizens’ initiative

2017/0220(COD) - 27/06/2018 - Committee report tabled for plenary, 1st reading/single reading

The Constitutional Affairs Committee adopted the report by György SCHÖPFLIN (EPP, HU) on the proposal for a regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council on the European citizens’ initiative.

The committee recommended that the European Parliament’s position adopted at first reading under the ordinary legislative procedure should amend the Commission proposal as follows:

Right to support a European Citizens' Initiative (ECI): the proposal aims to replace Regulation 211/2011 on the citizens’ initiative in order to improve the way the ECI operates, the main strategic objectives being to make the ECI more accessible, less burdensome and easier to use for organisers and supporters.

Members considered that **citizens residing in Member States other than those of their nationality** shall have the right to support an initiative either in their Member State of residence or in the Member State of which they are nationals. The Member States and the Commission shall adopt all the necessary provisions to facilitate the exercise by persons with disabilities of their right to support a citizens' initiative.

Information and assistance by the Commission and Member States: the Commission shall, upon request, provide to citizens and groups of organisers easily accessible, **clear, accurate and comprehensive information** about and appropriate expert and legal assistance in connection with the European citizens’ initiative.

The Commission shall make available an online collaborative platform to support the exchange of information and best practices between stakeholders including groups of organisers, independent experts, NGOs and other institutions and bodies of the Union. The online collaborative platform shall be user-friendly and accessible to people with disabilities.

Each Member State shall establish **one or more digital and physical dedicated ECI contact points** to provide practical and legal information, advice and assistance to groups of organisers who are setting up a European citizens’ initiative.

Group of organisers: the members of the group of organisers shall be citizens of the Union, of the age to be entitled to vote in elections to the European Parliament and **residents of at least one quarter of the Member States**. Throughout the organisational phase preceding the registration of a proposed citizens’ initiative, the organisers may request the support of the ECI contact points, Europe Director of the Commission’s ECI services.

Registration: where it refuses to register or only partially registers an initiative, the Commission shall inform the group of organisers in full detail of the **reasons for its decision**, enabling the group of organisers to make a detailed assessment of the grounds for the Commission’s refusal, including the suggested legal basis or bases.

Publication and public hearing: within three months after the submission of the initiative, the group of organisers shall be given an opportunity to present the initiative at a **public hearing in the European Parliament**, in the interest of generating a Union-wide public debate on the proposed initiative.

The European Parliament shall organise the public hearing on its premises. Representatives of the Council, the Commission, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions, representatives of civil society, the social partners and national parliaments could participate in the hearing. The presence of at least one member of the College of Commissioners shall be assured.

Commission review: within **six months** after the publication of the initiative, and after the public hearing, the Commission shall set out in a communication full details of its legal and political conclusions on the initiative, the action it intends to take, and an exhaustive and clear statement of the reasons for taking or not taking action.

In the event of a successful citizens’ initiative, the Commission shall, within **12 months after the publication of the initiative, submit to the European Parliament and to the Council a proposal for a legal act** in response to the initiative.

After the 12 month period, the European Parliament shall assess the actions taken by the Commission in order to follow-up to its communication on the ECI.

Transparency: the group of organisers shall provide, for the publication in the register, and as the case may be on their campaign website, **clear, accurate and comprehensive information** on the sources of support and funding for the initiative exceeding 500 euros per sponsor. Sponsors and corresponding amounts shall be clearly identifiable. It shall also communicate the names of the organisations assisting them on a voluntary basis.

The Commission shall be entitled to perform **random checks** on the information submitted in respect of the sources of support and funding, to assess the quality of the information provided and to request additional clarifications from the groups of organisers. The Commission shall ensure full transparency of funding and sponsorship information through quality checks, alerts and complaints system so as to ensure that funding and sponsorship information provided by ECI organisers are correct.

In order to support the organisation of citizens' initiatives, an **annual appropriation** shall be allocated from the Union budget.