



European citizens' initiative

latest developments

Expert Group on European citizens' initiative
Meeting of 30 September 2022

Intro

- Latest statistics on ECI initiatives
- COVID situation - update
- Recent case law

Key figures (as at 30 September 2022)



119

requests
submitted



94

initiatives
registered



6

Valid
initiatives



11

initiatives
collecting signatures



± 15M

EU citizens supported
an initiative since 2012

4/5

Initiatives potentially subject
to follow-up
action

Registered initiatives since January 2020

- 25 requests for registration received (5 in 2020, 10 in 2021 and 10 so far in 2022)
- 24 new ECIs registered
- Only one request for registration has been refused
- Use of two-stage procedure in 7 cases
- 11 initiatives currently in process of collecting statements of support

Registered initiatives since December 2021 (last EG meeting)

- Green VAT – an EU Green VAT to stimulate sustainable and eco-friendly products and services
 - registered on 14 December 2021
 - collection started on 9 February 2022 - to end on 9 February 2023
- Win it On the Pitch
 - registered on 2 February 2022
 - collection started on 13 March 2022 – to end on 13 March 2023
- Fur Free Europe
 - registered on 16 March 2022
 - collection started on 18 May 2022 - to end on 18 May 2023

New registered initiatives - continued

■ End the Slaughter Age

- registered on 27 April 2022
- collection started on 5 June 2022 - to end on 5 June 2023

■ Good Clothes, Fair Pay

- registered on 1 June 2022
- collection started on 19 July 2022 - to end on 19 July 2023

■ Call to achieve tobacco-free environment and the first European tobacco-free generation by 2030

- registered on 24 August 2022 - collection not yet started

New registered initiatives - continued

- Every European house equipped with 1 kw photovoltaic and 0.6kw wind turbines using EU funding through the municipalities
 - registered on 7 September 2022
 - collection started on 30 September 2022 – to end on 30 September 2023

- Protect the EU's Rural Heritage, Food Security and Supply
 - registered on 7 September 2022
 - collection not yet started

- Focus on Specific Learning Disabilities on EU Level
 - registered on 28 September 2022
 - collection not yet started

Valid initiatives (since 01/01/2020)

■ Minority SafePack

[1 123 422 statements of support validated - thresholds reached in 11 Member States]

- Submitted to the Commission on 10 January 2020
- Meeting with the Commission on 5 February 2020
- EP public hearing on 15 October 2020
- Communication 14 January 2021, C(2021)0171

■ End the Cage Age

[1 397 113 statements of support validated – thresholds reached in 18 Member States]

- Submitted to the Commission on 2 October 2020
- Meeting with the Commission on 30 October 2020
- EP public hearing 15 April 2021
- Commission Communication 30 June 2021, C(2021)4747

Valid initiatives

- **Cohesion Policy for the equality of the regions and sustainability of the regional cultures**
 - 1 414 175 statements of support validated - thresholds reached in 11 Member States
 - Registered under Regulation 211/2011 – no deadline for submission

ECIs in process of verification or to start

- **‘Save Bees and Farmers’**
 - Verification process ongoing
- **‘Stop Finning’**
 - Verification process ongoing
- **‘Save Cruelty Free Cosmetics’**
 - Verification process to start soon

COVID-Regulation (EU) 2020/1042

- Adopted on 15 July 2020, applies since 18 July 2020
- Regulation applies until 31 December 2022

Current status

- Commission has granted 3 three-months extensions to ongoing initiatives:
 - COM Decision (EU) 2020/2200 of 17 December 2020 (OJ L 434, 23.12.2020)
 - COM Decision (EU) 2021/360 of 19 February 2021 (OJ L69, 26.2.2021)
 - COM Decision (EU) 2021/944 of 3 June 2021 (OJ L 210, 14.6.2021)
- Thanks to the granted extensions, three initiatives have managed to collect the required statements of support
 - Cohesion Policy, Stop Finning and Save Bees and Farmers!

Extensions of verification periods

- Commission has granted 2 three-months extensions of verification period to Member State
 - COM Decision (EU) 2022/4883 of 14 July 2022
 - COM Decision (EU) 2022/4245 of 24 June 2022

COVID measures for examination stage

- Regulation 2019/788: Commission shall respond within six months after submission of a successful initiative to the organisers in form of Communication.
- Within that period:
 - Commission shall organise within one month a meeting with organisers
 - EP shall organise within three months a public hearing
- Regulation 2020/1042: Commission and European Parliament can decide to postpone the meeting or public hearing until the public health situation in the country concerned makes it possible to do so.
- In the case of 'Minority Safepack' and 'End the Cage Age' this provision has proven to have served its purpose. In both cases the public hearing was postponed. In the case of 'End the Cage Age' the meeting with the Commission took place online.

Overview recent case law

- T-789/19 - *Tom Moerenhout v. Commission* (Ensuring Common Commercial Policy), General Court judgement 12 May 2021
- T-611/19 – *Derecho de la Union*, General Court judgement 9 June 2021
- T-495/19 - *Romania v. Commission* (Cohesion Policy), General Court judgement 10 November 2021
- C-899/19 P – *Romania v. Commission* (Minority SafePack), Court of justice 20 January 2022

Ongoing:

- C-52/22 – *Romania v. Commission* (Cohesion policy appeal), expected end of 2022 or early 2023
- T-158/21 - *Minority SafePack v. Commission*, General Court judgement expected in November 2022