

European Citizens' Initiative

As of 1 April 2012, EU citizens have a new tool allowing them to participate in shaping EU policy. Put in place by the Lisbon Treaty, the citizens' initiative allows 1 million citizens from at least a quarter of the EU Member States to ask the European Commission to propose legislation in areas that fall within its competence.

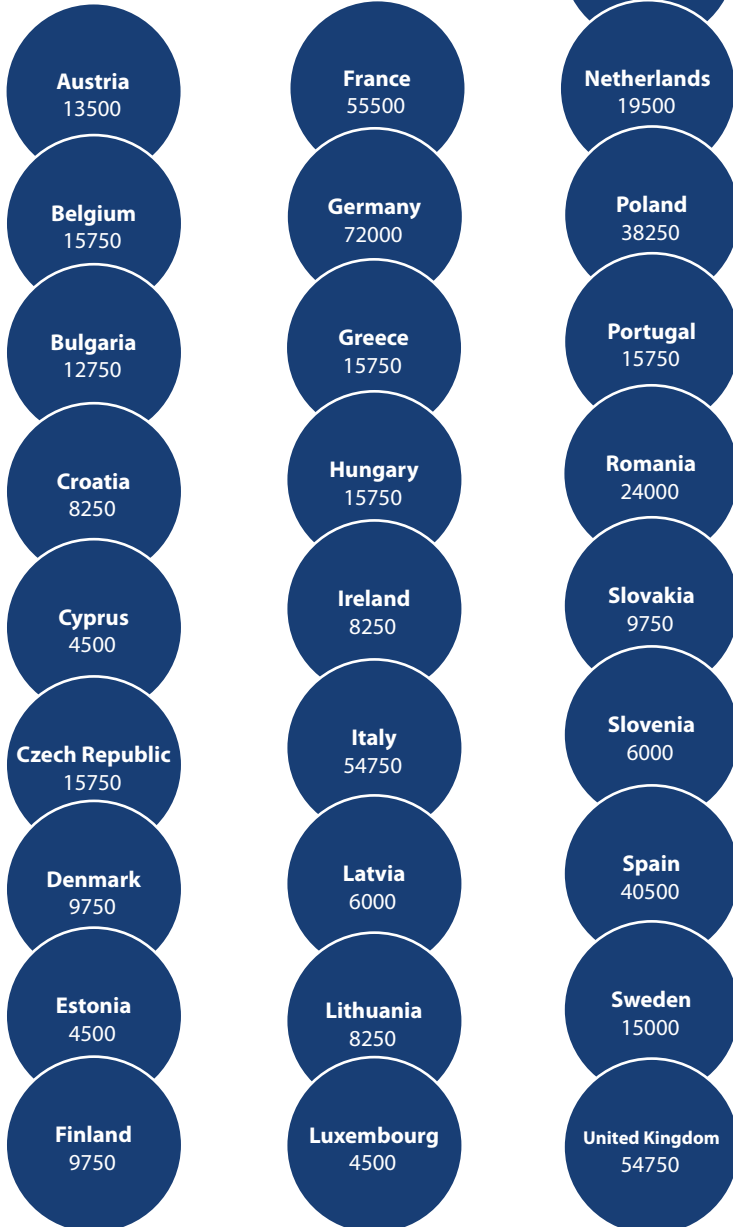
The organisers of a citizens' initiative - a citizens' committee composed of at least 7 EU citizens, resident in at least 7 different Member States - have 1 year to collect the necessary support.

Signatures must be certified by the competent authorities in each Member States. Organisers of successful initiatives will participate in a hearing at the European Parliament. The Commission will have 3 months to examine the initiative and decide how to act on it.

KEY NUMBERS

- 1** INITIATIVE
- 1** PUBLIC HEARING
- 2** MONTHS FOR EC TO DECIDE IF THE ECI IS ELIGIBLE
- 3** MONTHS OF VERIFICATION
- 3** YEARS – THE ECI REGULATION WILL BE REVISED BY THE EC
- 7** COUNTRIES OR MORE TO PROVIDE SIGNATURES
- 7** MEMBERS OF THE CITIZENS COMMITTEE
- 12** MONTHS TO COLLECT
- 18** YEARS TO BE ABLE TO SIGN (16 IN AUSTRIA)
- 24** LANGUAGES
- 28** EU MEMBER STATES
- 1000000** SIGNATURES

SIGNATURES NEEDED PER COUNTRY



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How it works

01

Set up Citizens' committee.
You need at least 7 people living in 7 different countries.



02

Register your initiative.
Wait for the green light from the Commission.



03

Start collecting signatures.
You need signatories from at least 7 EU countries.



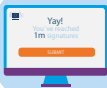
04

Get your signatures certified.
National authorities will issue certificates of validity within 3 months.



05

One million signatories? Submit your initiative to the European Commission.
The European Commission will publish it on its website.



06

The floor is yours!
Present your initiative at a public hearing in the European Parliament.



07

Mission accomplished!
All information concerning your initiative will be made public.
The Commission can propose a new law and send it to the European Parliament and the Council for approval.



European Parliament

Directorate-General for Internal Policies (DG IPOL)
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