

ROADMAP			
TITLE OF THE INITIATIVE	Revision of the European Citizens' Initiative		
LEAD DG – RESPONSIBLE UNIT – AP NUMBER	SECRETARIAT GENERAL – C4 – 2016/SG/007	DATE OF ROADMAP	18/05/2017
LIKELY TYPE OF INITIATIVE	Proposal for an EU Regulation/ legislative revision		
INDICATIVE PLANNING	4 th quarter 2017		
ADDITIONAL INFORMATION	ECI website		
This Roadmap aims to inform stakeholders about the Commission's work in order to allow them to provide feedback and to participate effectively in future consultation activities. Stakeholders are in particular invited to provide views on the Commission's understanding of the problem and possible solutions and to make available any relevant information that they may have. The Roadmap is provided for information purposes only and its content may change. This Roadmap does not prejudice the final decision of the Commission on whether this initiative will be pursued or on its final content.			

A. Context, Problem definition and Subsidiarity Check
<p>Context</p> <p>The European Citizens' Initiative (ECI) was introduced by the Treaty of Lisbon (Article 11 TEU and Article 24 TFEU) and has been implemented by the (EU) Regulation No 211/2011 on the citizens' initiative (ECI Regulation) which entered into application in April 2012.</p> <p>The ECI aims 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.</p> <p>The revision of this instrument after the first five years of its implementation is part of the European Commission's commitment to increase democratic legitimacy in the EU through enhanced citizens' involvement and participation, reflecting the political guidelines of the Juncker Commission (Priority n° 10 – A Union of Democratic change).</p> <p>In its report on the application of the ECI Regulation of 2015, the Commission listed a number of challenges arising in the implementation of the Regulation. It also committed itself to further analyse the impact of these issues on the effectiveness of the instrument, and to improve its functioning.</p> <p>Stakeholders and institutions have also assessed and evaluated the instrument¹, identifying a number of shortcomings in the way the instrument operates, some of which can only be efficiently and effectively addressed via a revision of the ECI Regulation.</p> <p>Problem the initiative aims to tackle</p> <p>The ECI has not reached its full potential to foster citizen participation and democratic debate. The current form of the ECI Regulation is considered to be overly restrictive and burdensome for the ECI organisers and signatories. In case no policy action is taken, the ECI tool risks being used less and less by citizens and ultimately becoming obsolete. Since 2015 the Commission has undertaken a number of non-legislative actions to improve the functioning of the tool but their positive impact is considered insufficient. With the progress of ICT technologies uptake, the negative impact of the issues relating to the online collection systems will increase.</p> <p>The following key areas for improvement have been identified as regards the current ECI Regulation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Lack of clarity and transparency at the registration stage and the high rate of refusals or partial registrations of the proposed ECIs, - The divergences between and the level of signatories' data requirements in the different Member States, (resulting in complexity, administrative cost for Member States and the risk of excluding some groups of

¹ The following contributions should be highlighted in particular: two European Parliament studies "[European Citizens' Initiative – First lessons of implementation](#)" and "[Implementation of the European Citizens' Initiative](#)", [the Ombudsman own-initiative inquiry](#), the conclusions of the "ECI Days" of [13 April 2015](#) and [20 April 2016](#), [the Commission study on ICT impacts of the ECI Regulation of 2015](#), [the Council Presidency note of 2015](#), [the Opinion of the Committee of the Regions of October 2015](#), [the Resolution of the European Parliament of October 2015](#), [the REFIT Platform Opinion of June 2016](#), and [the Opinion of the European Economic and Social Committee of July 2016](#).

<p>citizens),</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The personal liability of citizens who set up ECIs, combined with the lack of legal personality of the citizens' committees, act as a deterrent to the setting up of ECIs in view of the heavy responsibility for the collected data, - Several issues related to the ECI's lifecycle timeline, and most notably, the link between the date of registration and the start of the 12 months collection period, shortening the collection period in practice, - Several aspects of the online collection process, especially the need for the organisers to themselves set up and obtain the certification by national authorities of the online collection systems, - The examination of and follow-up given to the initiatives having successfully collected the required support.
<p>Subsidiarity check</p> <p>This initiative falls under the exclusive competence of the EU according to Article 24 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union (TFEU). Therefore, the subsidiarity principle does not apply.</p> <p>The European Citizens' initiative by its very nature has EU dimension as it concerns the process for the formulation of proposals for a legal act of the Union.</p>
<p>B. What does the initiative aim to achieve and how</p> <p>This initiative aims to improve the functioning of the ECI by addressing the shortcomings identified in its implementation, with as main policy objectives to: (i) making the ECI more accessible, less burdensome and easier to use for organisers and supporters (ii) achieving the full potential of the ECI as a tool to foster debate and citizen participation at European level and bring the EU closer to its citizens.</p> <p>As a substantial set of identified shortcomings stem directly from some of the key provisions in the legal instrument they can only be addressed via a revision of the ECI Regulation.</p>
<p>C. Better regulation</p>
<p>Consultation strategy</p> <p>The affected stakeholders are: ECI organisers, Member States' competent authorities, but most importantly the EU citizens in general as the tool is addressed to them directly. The EU institutions also play a primary role in the implementation of the ECI, and in particular the European Commission and the European Parliament.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Several targeted stakeholders consultations have recently taken place as part of evaluation actions carried out by different institutions (see under section A). • Additional targeted consultation activities are carried out as part of data collection for ongoing Commission studies. These concern mostly the technical aspects of the tool and the signatories' data requirements. • An open public consultation will be launched on the different policy options. This consultation will be announced at https://ec.europa.eu/info/consultations_en
<p>Impact assessment</p> <p>Due to its institutional nature, this initiative has no direct significant economic, social or environmental impacts. However technical and practical simplification measures can be expected to reduce administrative burdens for both the organisers and the Member States. Thus no impact assessment is foreseen with regard to this initiative. However different options of improvement of the technical architecture of the tool will be assessed through three different technical studies.</p>
<p>Evaluations and fitness checks</p> <p>Studies in preparation (to be completed by Q3 of 2017):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Study on signatories' data requirements for the European Citizens' Initiative • Study on the use of Electronic Identification (eID) for the European Citizens' Initiative • Study on improvements to the technical specifications for online collection systems <p>For the available evaluations and studies see Section A above.</p>