

Question for written answer E-003293/2025
to the Commission
Rule 144
Jean-Paul Garraud (PfE)

Subject: Enhancing the effectiveness and legitimacy of the European citizens' initiative

The aim of the European citizens' initiative (ECI) – as enshrined in Article 11 of the Treaty on European Union and governed by Regulation (EU) 2019/788 – is to strengthen participatory democracy in the EU by allowing one million citizens from at least seven Member States to ask the Commission to submit a legislative proposal.

However, most of the ECIs that have reached the required threshold have not resulted in tangible legislative action. This severely restricts the democratic scope of the ECIs and also has the potential to fuel the public's distrust of the European institutions.

1. Does the Commission realise that the fact that so few ECIs have actually resulted in legislative proposals is undermining the credibility of the ECI as an instrument of participatory democracy?
2. Is the Commission intending to amend Regulation (EU) 2019/788 to make a reasoned response and a legislative proposal mandatory when an ECI is successful?
3. What action is it intending to take to raise the ECI's profile and make it more accessible for everyone in the EU, especially for people who have little to do with the EU institutions or are less active online?

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