

(English version)

Question for written answer E-000443/25
to the Commission
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(3 February 2025)

Subject: European citizens' initiative 'My voice, my choice'

The European citizens' initiative 'My voice, my choice: for safe and accessible abortion' was launched on 24 April 2024. The aim of this initiative is to call on the Commission to submit a proposal for financial support to Member States to facilitate 'abortion tourism'. Abortion is not an EU competence. Therefore, we have the following questions for the Commission regarding this initiative:

1. In accordance with Article 6(3)(c) of Regulation (EU) 2019/788, the Commission can only register a European citizens' initiative if the initiative falls within the framework of the EU's competences. Abortion policy is a Member State competence. For what reason and on what legal grounds was this initiative approved by the Commission?
2. Does the Commission already facilitate abortion tourism in any way or does it intend to facilitate abortion tourism as a result of this initiative?
3. Is the 'My voice, my choice' organisation or its initiators supported directly or indirectly, financially or otherwise, by the Commission or any other EU institution?

Submitted: 3.2.2025

Answer given by Commissioner Šefčovič on behalf of the European Commission
(24 April 2025)

The Commission must register a citizens' initiative if it does not *manifestly* fall outside the Commission's powers to propose a legal act of the Union for the purpose of implementing the Treaties.

The Commission registered the initiative in question because financial support for Member State action promoting health could fall under Union supportive competence (Article 168(5) of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union, TFEU).

Any such support would need to comply with Article 168(7) TFEU whereby Union action must respect Member States' responsibilities for the definition of their health policy and organisation and delivery of health services and medical care; this includes sexual and reproductive healthcare.

Therefore, the registration decision⁽¹⁾ specified that a financial support mechanism cannot have as its aim or effect the undermining of the public order legislation of Member States, or more generally healthcare and ethical choices made by Member States in exercise of their competence in health matters.

It is only if the organisers collect the necessary valid statements of support that the Commission will analyse the substance of the initiative.

The registration decision does not affect the assessment of whether the concrete substantive conditions required for the Commission to act, including compliance with the proportionality and subsidiarity principles and compatibility with fundamental rights, would be met (recitals (10) and (11) of the registration decision).

In any event, the Commission is not obliged to take action in response to an initiative. Therefore, it cannot be stated at this stage what action, if any, the Commission would take.

Organisers are legally required to report funding over EUR 500. Funding information is published on the initiative's webpage. The Commission provides in kind support to all initiatives, notably the online collection system and guidance from the European Citizens' Initiative Forum⁽²⁾.

⁽¹⁾ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX:32024D1158>

⁽²⁾ https://citizens-initiative-forum.europa.eu/_en