

EN
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Answer given by Mr Šefčovič
on behalf of the European Commission
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The European Citizens' initiative (ECI) is a unique participatory democracy tool. Since its launch in 2012, the ECIs have allowed citizens to become more engaged in the EU policy-making process, influencing the agenda-setting of the European institutions.

ECIs triggered laws such as the recast Drinking Water Directive¹ or the Regulation on food chain transparency². In other cases, the Commission proposed non-legislative measures, such as improved implementation of existing legislative acts (for instance in the case of the ECI 'Minority Safepack') or preparatory work before a final decision on legislative follow-up is made (related impact assessment for the ECI 'Stop Finning – Stop the Trade' or a scientific opinion on the welfare of animals farmed for fur in case of 'Fur Free Europe' ECI).

Citizens continue to successfully campaign for their initiatives, with four ECIs collecting over 1 million signatures in 2025.

In line with its obligations under the ECI Regulation³, the Commission thoroughly assesses each valid ECI and explains added value of legislative intervention. The reasons for taking or not taking legislative action are clearly specified in this communication.

Since 2018, the Commission has been running a multilingual communication campaign, online and offline, with local promotions in the Member States. The campaign focuses on young people – for example, offering an educational toolkit for schools⁴. The Commission will continue its awareness-raising efforts, working with the other EU institutions and bodies, and institutions and organisations at national level.

¹ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/dir/2020/2184/oj>.

² <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/reg/2019/1381/oj/eng>.

³ Article 15(2) of Regulation (EU) 2019/788, <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/reg/2019/788/oj/eng>.

⁴ https://citizens-initiative.europa.eu/schools/eci-educational-toolkit_en.