

STAKEHOLDER HEARING ON THE EUROPEAN CITIZENS' INITIATIVE

22 February 2010

9.30 – 17.30

Room 0D

Centre Albert Borschette, Rue Froissart 36, Brussels

Draft Programme

9.00 *Registration of participants*

9.30 – 10.15 **Opening session**

- Introductory speech by Commission Vice-President Maroš Šefčovič
- Address by Gerald Häfner, Member of the European Parliament
- Address by Diego López Garrido, Spanish Secretary of State of EU Affairs

10.15 – 10.45 **Session I: The functioning of Citizens' Initiatives at national level**

- Member States panel: Citizens' Initiatives in Italy, Hungary and Portugal

10.45 – 11.00 *Coffee break*

11.00 – 12.00 **Session I cont.**

- Citizens' panel: Presentations by promoters of initiatives on experience with organising an initiative at national/regional level:
 - Prof. Rafael Rubio Núñez, Universidad Complutense, Madrid, Spain
 - Daniel Schily, Mehr Demokratie, Germany
 - Janis Mucenieks, Energija, Latvia
- Discussion with both panels

12.00 – 13.30 *Lunch break*

13.30 – 15.30 **Session II: Discussion with participants on the key issues highlighted in the Green Paper**

- Overview of replies to the Green Paper by Jens Nymand-Christensen, Director for Institutional Issues, Secretariat General, European Commission
- Key issues for discussion:
 - How to organise an ECI: form and wording of an initiative; transparency; registration of proposed initiative; time-limit for collection
 - Requirements for signatories and for the collection process: minimum age; use of online tools; verification and authentication by Member States

15.30 – 15.45 *Coffee break*

15.45 – 17.15 **Session II cont.**

- Ensuring European Citizens' Initiatives (ECI) are representative of a Union interest: minimum number of Member States and minimum number of signatures
- Other issues

17.15 – 17.30 **Closing remarks**