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European Union Committee

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Secretary General
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Directorate E "Better Regulation and Institutional Issues"
Unit E.1 "Institutional Issues"
B-1049 Brussels

29 January 2010

Dear Secretary General,

Doc. 16195/09 Green Paper on a European Citizens' Initiative

Sub-Committee E of the European Union Committee, dealing with law and institutions, considered the Green Paper on a European Citizens' Initiative at its meeting of 27 January. The Committee was agreed that in principle any initiative which would increase public interest in and engagement with the EU is to be welcomed. The Committee feels that the following principles should be taken into consideration when deciding upon the matters of procedure and practical implementation set out in the Green Paper:

- The process should be as open and accessible as possible, making full use of the opportunities provided by the internet
- The principle of fairness between states should be respected. In particular we consider a threshold of citizens set proportionate to the population of Member States to be unfair
- Bureaucracy should be kept to a minimum. This is considered particularly relevant with regard to the authentication and verification of signatures
- Measures should be put in place to prevent the initiative from being captured by interest groups

Yours faithfully
John Roper

The Rt Hon the Lord Roper
Chairman of the Select Committee on the European Union