

Dear Madam, Dear Sir,

The very basic of the Citizens Initiative is flawed, and it is flawed on purpose.

Regardless of what we, the citizens, want, even if we would get all citizens of the EU to sign - the Commission is still able to dismiss the initiative without even the requirement to give a reason why they did so.

So, at first, an initiative signed by a sufficient number of citizens should be legally equivalent to a proposal to the parliament, without the commission being able to just ignore it.

Like in the petitioning websites in the UK (<http://petitions.number10.gov.uk/>) or Germany (<https://epetitionen.bundestag.de/>), a website should be set up by the EU for this very purpose. The submitters of initiatives and the signees should be verified to a certain extent to prevent abuse, and, of course, they should agree to rules that expressively exclude the use for commercially driven lobbying. It should be a citizens initiative, not just another commercial lobbying channel.

It should be possible to put up a proposal, discuss it online with the original submitter being able to change or even withdraw it, and, after a certain time, put it up for citizens to sign them.

It should also include the feature that one can download a formally correct, printable form with the text of the initiative and an address where to send the filled in form to, and the necessary fields to collect signatures in a way that is legally acceptable.

I'm still skeptical that an initiative system at the sole mercy of the commissions goodwill will be able to change the EU to a democratic society, but at least I have done what I could.

Christian Treczoks