Since the Lisbon Treaty, European Citizens’ Initiatives empower 1 million citizens to ask the European Commission to propose new EU legislation. Our proposal to reform the existing Regulation will make it easier for citizens to set up and support initiatives by lifting burdensome requirements and using digital technologies. It will also give the possibility to younger Europeans to support an Initiative. By lowering the age limit from 18 to 16, we have invited 10 million more young Europeans to step forward and help shape the EU’s policy agenda.

European Commission First Vice President Frans Timmermans

### MAIN EUROPEAN CITIZENS INITIATIVE (ECI) STEPS

1. **Citizens’ committee/Group of organisers**
   - 7 citizens living in 7 different Member States form a committee to submit an Initiative

2. **Registration**
   - The Commission checks the legal basis of the request, and decides if it can register or not

3. **Collection**
   - The organisers have 12 months to collect 1 million statements of support

4. **Verification**
   - National authorities check the signatures before the initiative is submitted to the Commission

5. **Examination**
   - The organisers get a meeting with the Commission and a public hearing in the Parliament. The Commission adopts a Communication, stating what action it will take, and why

   **Follow-up actions, if any**

### MAIN NOVELTIES

#### Preparation
- Online collaborative platform
- Option for organisers to set up a legal entity

#### Collection
- Flexible start date
- Central online collection system provided by the Commission, including support with eID
- Minimum age: 16
- Simplified data to be provided by signatories

#### Registration phase
- Partial registration clarified
- Two-stage procedure allowing organisers to revise their proposal

#### Examination
- More inclusive public hearing
- More time for the Commission to consult stakeholders and analyse
## MAIN INNOVATIONS IN THE PROPOSAL

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Current Regulation</th>
<th>The Proposal</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Minimum age for signatories</td>
<td>Age to vote in EP elections (18, except in Austria where it is 16)</td>
<td>16 -&gt; 10 million more potential signatories</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Possible forms to collect support</td>
<td>13 possible forms, depending on the Member State</td>
<td>Only 2 possible forms available</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Online collection</td>
<td>One online collection system per initiative to be built by its organisers</td>
<td>One central online collection system provided by the Commission (with the possibility for organisers to build their own, if they so wish)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Potential signatories</td>
<td>Some cases where citizens cannot give support</td>
<td>All EU citizens regardless of their place of residence can give their support</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Examination phase</td>
<td>3 months</td>
<td>5 months allowing more inclusive public hearing and more time for Commission to consult stakeholders and analyse.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## TRACK RECORD OF THE ECI AFTER 5 YEARS

- **47 initiatives registered**
- **An estimated 8 million statements of support collected**
- **3 successful initiatives**
- **2/3 initiatives subject to follow-up actions by the Commission**