



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

*Brussels, 4.12.2017
C(2017) 8188 final*

Dear President,

The Commission would like to thank the Bundesrat for its Opinion on the Commission proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council on the European Citizens' Initiative {COM(2017) 482 final}.

Increasing democratic legitimacy in the European Union through stronger citizen participation is among the ten priorities of this Commission (Priority 10 – A Union of Democratic Change). The proposal on the European Citizens' Initiative (ECI) is one of the actions adopted by the Commission on 13 September 2017, as part of the Democracy Package, to continue delivering on this commitment. It aims to make the Initiative more accessible, less burdensome and easier to use for organisers and supporters, in order to achieve its full potential as an instrument to foster debate among citizens at Union level, and to bring the Union closer to them.

The Commission welcomes the Bundesrat's broad support for the aims of the proposal and the specific measures contained therein such as the reduction and simplification of the data requirements for signatories, the simplification and facilitation of the collection of statements of support, and the improvements in the registration procedure, including the possibility of partial registration of proposed citizens' initiatives.

The Commission has submitted its proposal to the European Parliament and the Council, where it is currently in the legislative process.

The Commission is looking forward to continuing the political dialogue.

Yours faithfully,

*Frans Timmermans
First Vice-President*

*Mr Michael MÜLLER
President of the Bundesrat
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