



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

*Brussels, 9.4.2019
C(2019) 2777 final*

Dear President,

The Commission would like to thank the Camera dei Deputati for its Opinion on the Report to the European Parliament and the Council on the application of Regulation (EU) No 211/2011 on the citizens' initiative {COM(2018) 157 final}.

Increasing democratic legitimacy in the European Union through stronger citizen participation is among the political priorities of the Juncker Commission (Priority 10 – A Union of Democratic Change). The reform of the European Citizens' Initiative aims to continue delivering on this commitment. As highlighted in the Camera dei Deputati's Opinion, its goal is to make it more accessible, less burdensome and easier to use for organisers and supporters of citizens' initiatives, with a view to achieving 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 broad support of the Camera dei Deputati for the objectives of the reform of the European Citizens' Initiative and the specific measures contained therein, such as the creation of a central system for the collection of statements of support, the setting-up of an online collaborative platform including a discussion forum, or the enhancement of awareness-raising activities. It also takes note of the Camera dei Deputati's qualifications on aspects such as the timeline for collecting statements of support, the follow-up actions by the Commission in the context of the examination of successful initiatives, or the role of the European Parliament in terms of organisation of public hearings.

The legislative process on the Commission's proposal to revise the European Citizens' Initiative {COM(2017) 482 final}, which involves both the European Parliament and the Council, is now almost completed. The agreement reached with the co-legislators on 12 December 2018 was formally approved by the European Parliament on 12 March and is expected to be approved by the Council in the coming weeks. Following the completion of the adoption procedure, the new Regulation on the European Citizens' Initiative will start applying as of 1 January 2020.

*Mr Roberto FICO
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The Commission is looking forward to continuing the political dialogue in the future.

Yours faithfully,

*Frans Timmermans
First Vice-President*