



**The European Affairs Committee of the National Council  
of the Slovak Republic**

*Courtesy translation*

42nd Meeting  
CRD-2133-4/2018-VEZ

**118.**

**R e s o l u t i o n**

**of the European Affairs Committee of the National Council of the Slovak Republic**

**Delivered on 8 February 2018**

on the Proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council on the European citizens' initiative, COM (2017) 482

**The European Affairs Committee of the National Council of the Slovak Republic**

**A. Discussed**

the Proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council on a European Citizens' Initiative, COM (2017) 482, and the preliminary position of the Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs of the Slovak Republic;

**B. Adds**

to the preliminary position of the Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs of the Slovak Republic on the Proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council on a European Citizens' Initiative, COM (2017) 482, as set out in paragraphs C to I;

**C. Highlights**

that the European Citizens' Initiative is a unique and innovative tool for creating an agenda for participatory democracy in the European Union; and considers to be extremely important that citizens can contribute to the activity of the legislative powers of the Union and participate directly in the initiation of legislative proposals; and therefore

**D. Welcomes**

that the Commission accepted a large number of proposals for improvement in the proposed European Citizens' Initiative Regulation, thus continuing to meet the goal of making the European Citizens' Initiative more accessible, less burdensome and easier to use for organisers and supporters;

**E. Notes**

that much remains to be done to ensure that the European Citizens' Initiative is able to fully achieve its potential; and that the institutions of the European Union and the Member States must take all necessary steps to support the European Citizens' Initiative, and to deepen the confidence of citizens in this instrument;

## **F. Recalls**

that according to the Treaty of Lisbon, the issues raised by European Citizens' Initiatives do not fall exclusively within the competence of the Commission, and therefore regrets the high number of initiatives that the Commission has refused to register;

## **G. Expresses**

regret that the Commission has refused to act in cases of „successful“ European Citizens' Initiatives; and stresses that not even the proposed regulation changes the fact that the Commission is not obliged to propose legislation that would meet the objectives of an initiative, as in fact the objective of the citizens' initiative is still merely to stimulate debate on a particular subject, while the Commission is bound only to consider all aspects of the citizens' requests; and not to act on them;

## **H. Considers**

it undesirable that in cases, in which the Commission decides not to act upon a “successful” European Citizens' Initiative, there is no correction mechanism, which the organizers associated in the citizens' committees could utilise for appellate review of the Commission's decision; consequently, is of the opinion that it is needed to consider the role of the European Parliament as a subject with decision-making competences within the scrutiny process of initiatives by the Commission, as the European Parliament is the only institution, the members of which are elected directly by the citizens of the European Union; therefore is of the opinion that in case the Commission does not submit a legislative proposal based on a successful initiative within a period of 12 months, the organisers of the initiative should have an option to turn to the European Parliament with an appeal that, after consideration, it would exercise its right to request the Commission to submit a corresponding legislative proposal in accordance with article 225 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union;

## **I. Expresses**

disagreement with the new proposal for the regulation, which, in its article 24, extends the period for the presentation of the report on the implementation of the proposed regulation from three years to five, and proposes to not change the current period;

## **J. Authorises**

The Chairman of the Committee

to inform the Speaker of the National Council of the Slovak Republic and the Minister of Foreign and European Affairs of the Slovak Republic of the Committee meeting results.

**Edita Pfundtner**  
**Peter Osuský**  
Verifier

**Ľuboš Blaha**  
Chairman of the Committee