



# Introduction

## to the Commission's procedure for the European Citizens' Initiative

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# European citizens' initiatives (ECI)



- The ECI is an instrument to enhance the democratic functioning of the EU.
- Through an ECI citizens may bring certain issues to the attention of the institutions of the EU.
- It has to follow the procedure laid down in Regulation (EU) 2019/788.

# ECI 'End the Cage Age'

*This ECI calls on the Commission to propose legislation to prohibit the use of*

- *cages for **laying hens, rabbits, pullets, broiler breeders, layer breeders, quail, ducks and geese;***
- *farrowing crates for **sows;***
- ***sow stalls**, where not already prohibited;*
- *individual **calf pens**, where not already prohibited.”*

# ECI 'End the Cage Age'

- Collected almost 1.4 million signatures (minimum: 1 million)
- Met the threshold in 18 Member States (minimum: 7 Member States)
- Supported by > 170 organizations throughout the EU

# Procedural steps for an ECI

- Preparation Phase; Registration Phase
- Collection phase: **collection of statements of support** (signatures) for the ECI.
- Verification phase: validation of the **eligibility of the signatures**.
- Examination phase: examination of the content/ the objectives of the ECI by the European Commission aiming at the **preparation of its formal response** in the form of a Communication.

# ECI examination phase: milestones (1)

- **Submission of the initiative** to the European Commission, validation by the Commission and **publication in the ECI public register**
  - [https://europa.eu/citizens-initiative/initiatives/details/2018/000004\\_en](https://europa.eu/citizens-initiative/initiatives/details/2018/000004_en)
- **Transmission of the initiative** to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee, the Committee of the Region and to national parliaments
- **Meeting** between the Organisers and the Commission
  - Within one month after publication in the register
  - Explain in detail the objectives of the initiative

# ECI examination phase: milestones (2)

- **Public hearing** at the European Parliament
  - Within three months after publication in the register
  - Presentation of the initiative by the organisers
- **Adoption** of the Communication by the College of Commissioners
  - Within six months after publication in the register
- **Notification of the Communication** to the European Parliament and the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions; **Information to signatories** on the Commission's answer.

# ECI 'End the Cage Age' Examination Phase Main Steps

Submission of signatures  
to the Commission  
02/10/2020

Meeting with organisers  
30/10/2020

Public hearing in EP  
+/- 12/2020 - 01/2021

Adoption Communication  
by 02/04/2021

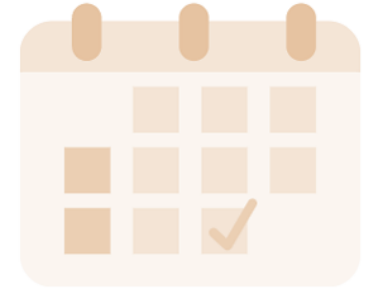


# Communication

Within six months after submission of the signatures:

The Commission will reply to the organizers

- by way of a **communication** (adopted by the college)
- setting out its **legal and political conclusions** on the initiative,
- the **action** it intends to take, if any,
- and its **reasons** for taking or not taking action.
- Where actions are intended, also an indication of an envisaged **timeline**.



# Summary



- The ECI is an instrument to enhance the democratic functioning of the EU.
- An ECI addresses the Commission. The European Parliament is involved in the process. The Council, the EESC, the CoR and national Parliaments are informed. Actions in response to an ECI may be taken throughout the EU and at all levels.
- The Commission is currently developing its communication, replying to the ECI ‘End the Cage Age’.

# Thank you!



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