



**One year after the launch of the European Citizens' Initiative (ECI), now is a good time to assess this first year, hear the experiences of organisers, draw conclusions from the lessons learnt, devise intermediate solutions and start preparing for the 2015 revision of the regulation.**

The European Economic and Social Committee (EESC), in partnership with the Committee of the Regions (CoR), the European Citizen Action Service (ECAS), Democracy International, the Initiative and Referendum Institute Europe and Euronews, is organising this year's ECI Day on **Tuesday 9 April, from 9.30 a.m. to 5.30 p.m.**, at the EESC building in Brussels.

To set the scene, an evaluation of the first year of the ECI will be presented.

We will focus on campaigning issues and lessons to be learned from the experiences of ECI organisers, giving them space to exchange best practices.

We will discuss the online signature collection software with IT and campaign experts, drawing conclusions from initial experiences and making suggestions on how to improve it.

The afternoon will also be devoted to the results of a series of workshops that were organised by our partners on 19 March 2013, entitled '[European Citizens' Initiatives \(ECIs\): A case for orientation or re-orientation?](#)'.

The ECI Day also serves as a meeting space and platform for registered and future ECI organisers to meet and exchange information and experiences, and present their ECI to the media.

You can also follow us on Twitter using the **#EESC** and **#ECI** hashtags.

If you would like to be kept updated on ECI developments and EESC's future events on the ECI, please send us an e-mail at [citizensinitiative@eesc.europa.eu](mailto:citizensinitiative@eesc.europa.eu) or check regularly [www.eesc.europa.eu/eciday2013](http://www.eesc.europa.eu/eciday2013).

## Programme

**9.30**            **Registration of participants**

**10.00 - 11.00**   **Opening**

- **Staffan Nilsson**, EESC President
- **Mercedes Bresso**, Vice-President of the Committee of the Regions
- **Maroš Šefčovič**, Vice-President of the European Commission in charge of Inter-Institutional Relations and Administration
- **Gerald Häfner**, Member of the European Parliament

Presentation of a study on the first year of the ECI: "*A small step for Europe, a big step for democracy. 2013 European Citizens' Initiative Report*" by **Bruno Kaufmann**, President, Initiative and Referendum Institute Europe

11.00 – 11.30   **Coffee**

**11.30 - 13.00**   **Session 1: How to devise a professional campaign and keep the momentum**

Exchange of views on most effective transnational campaigning mechanisms

Guest speaker: **Carmen Dupont**, Amnesty International, European Campaign Coordinator on Migration

Contributors to the debate: ECI organisers, namely

- **Simona Pronckuté** (Fraternité2020),
- **Jerry van den Berge** (Right2water),
- **Ana Gorey** (MEET – High Quality education),
- **Gaël Drillon** (Responsible waste management),
- **Vincent Chauvet** (One Single Tariff),
- **Alain Brun** (Let me vote),
- **Heike Aghte** (30 km/h).

Moderator: **Jane Morrice**, EESC Vice-President-elect responsible for communication

13.00 – 14.30   **Lunch**

**14.30 - 15.30**   **Session 2: Signing made easy: how to improve the online collection system**

Report from IT experts and debate with ECI organisers and participants

- **Francisco Gimeno**, DG DIGIT, European Commission
- **Xavier Dutoit**, IT developer, Tech to the People
- **Aleksi Rossi**, IT expert, Open Ministry
- **Gilles Feith**, Deputy Director, Centre des Technologies de l'Information de l'Etat (CTIE), Luxembourg

Moderator: **Carsten Berg**, Director, ECI Campaign

**15.30 - 16.45 Session 3: Insights from the preparatory sessions held on 19 March on the assessment of the first year of ECIs: "ECIs - A case for orientation or re-orientation?"**

- **Christophe Leclercq**, Euractiv: Proposals to bring ECIs to citizens and citizens to ECIs
- **Daniel Schily**, Democracy international: Proposals to create a supportive infrastructure for organisers of ECIs
- **Tony Venables**, Director, ECAS: Proposals for revision of the ECI regulation in 2015
- **Carsten Berg**, Director, ECI Campaign

Moderator: **Maureen O'Neill**, EESC President-elect of the EESC's Section for Employment, Social Affairs and Citizenship

**16.45 - 17.30 The way forward: creating ECI 2.0**

- **Bruno Kaufmann**, Initiative and Referendum Institute Europe
- **Maureen O'Neill**, EESC President-elect of the EESC's Section for Employment, Social Affairs and Citizenship
- **Gerald Häfner**, Member of the European Parliament
- **Staffan Nilsson**, EESC President

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**Representatives of the Citizens' committees responsible for the following ECIs have confirmed their presence:**

- [Let me vote](#)
- [Single Communication Tariff Act](#)
- [30 km/h - making the streets liveable!](#)
- [European Initiative for Media Pluralism](#)
- [Pour une gestion responsable des déchets, contre les incinérateurs](#)
- [High Quality European Education for All](#)
- [Water and sanitation are a human right!](#)
- [Fraternité 2020 - Mobility. Progress. Europe.](#)