



Introduced by the Treaty of Lisbon, the European Citizens' Initiative (ECI) is the most important instrument for direct democracy at European level. Three years after its launch, the time has come for an assessment and potential reset of the ECI legal framework, particularly Regulation 211/2011.

On 1 April 2015, the European Commission will present an assessment report on the first three years of ECI practice. In 2014, the European Ombudsman carried out an own-initiative inquiry in order to receive feedback on how effectively the ECI procedure was working. This year's ECI Day will focus on the conclusions of these two reports.

The European Economic and Social Committee (EESC), in partnership with the Committee of the Regions (CoR), the European Citizen Action Service (ECAS), the ECI Campaign, Democracy International, the Initiative and Referendum Institute Europe, people2power.info and Swissinfo, is organising this year's ECI Day on **Monday 13 April, from 9.15 a.m to 5.30 p.m.**, at the EESC building in Brussels.

The event will focus on the ECI renewal and resetting and the different perspectives: users, Member States, European Institutions and support structures.

In the afternoon, an Open Space event will be held, offering participants space to work together on ideas and recommendations. Workshop themes will be suggested on the spot by participants, centring around the three main themes: agenda setting, citizens' dialogue and participatory democracy

The ECI Day serves as a meeting place 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**, **#ECI** and **#ECIDAY2015** hashtags.

Raise your question directly and participate in the discussions via the hashtag: **#dbateECIday**

If you would like to be kept updated on ECI developments and EESC's future events on ECI, please send us an e-mail at CitizensInitiative or keep an eye on www.eesc.europa.eu/eciday2015.

PROGRAMME
ECI DAY 2015 – Review – Renew – Reset !
13.04.2015



8.30 - 9.15: Registration / Welcome Coffee

09.15 – 10.15: Opening session

> Room: JDE 62

- **Mr Malosse, EESC President**
- **Mr Frans Timmermans, First Vice-President of the European Commission** - Presentation of the EC assessment report
- **Ms Emily O'Reilly, European Ombudsman** - Presentation of her ECI investigation

Debate with the audience

10.15-10.30: Coffee Break

10.30 – 12h20: ECI Review: how to renew and reset?

> Moderator: Bruno Kaufmann, editor-in-chief, people2power.info

> Room: JDE 62

> Format

- Presentation and interview of the panelists (10")
- Online contributions by Local Teams (5") Coordinated by the European Citizen Action Service (ECAS)
- Table deliberations between participants (5")
- Debate/Q&A with panelists (10")

PANEL 1: THE USER PERSPECTIVE

> Panel Speakers

- * **Chantal Cutajar**, ECI "An end to front companies"

- * **Adriano Varrica**, ECI "Stop vivisection"
- * **Madi Sharma**, Member of the EESC's ECI ad hoc group

> **Online Participation**

- * **MOVEBG**, civil platform for collaboration and common action for shaping public policies

PANEL 2: The Member State perspective

> **Panel Speakers**

- * **Lionel Antunes**, Luxembourgish Member of the Commission's ECI expert group
- * **Pauli Pekkanen**, Finnish Member of the Commission's ECI expert group

PANEL 3: The European Institutions perspective

> **Panel Speakers**

- * **Beatriz Becerra**, Member of the European Parliament, PETI rapporteur on ECI
- * **György Schöpflin**, Member of the European Parliament, AFCO rapporteur on ECI
- * **Inga Reine**, Chair of the Council's General Affairs working group

> **Online Participation**

- * **ManaBalss.lv**, MyVoice: public participation platform in Latvia

PANEL 4: The support perspective

> **Panel Speakers**

- * **Andris Gobins**, Member of the EESC's ECI ad hoc group
- * **Assya Kavrakova**, Director of the European Citizen Action Service (ECAS)
- * **Christophe Rouillon**, Member of the Committee of the Regions, rapporteur on Reconnecting Europe with its citizens – more and better communication at local level

> **Online Participation**

- * **ClicknSign**, participatory democracy platform

12.20-12.30: short introduction and explanation about the afternoon session

12.30 – 13.30 Lunch Break / Networking reception (Atrium 5 and Atrium 6)

13.30-14:15: Participatory Workshops session: Joined agenda creation

> **Room: Atrium 5**

> **Facilitators: Anita Paalvast and Jan Nielsen**

Gathering in circle before the "wall" with the open agenda for the workshops themes. Explanation on how to proceed and opening of the agenda for participants to post their workshop themes.

Proposals of workshop themes around the three main themes:

Agenda-setting – Citizens' dialogue – Participative democracy

Themes are to be proposed "on the spot" by participants. The rapporteur will be the person who proposes the workshop themes.

Each rapporteur has to produce a recommendation (280 characters max) which will be voted upon.

1 workshop = 50 minutes (2 rounds of workshops possible)

14:15 – 15:50 Participatory Workshops' session

> **Room: Atria 5 and 6**

- * Two rounds of workshops on the themes proposed by participants on the open agenda
- * Participants who did not propose a workshop session join one in each of the two rounds that they want to contribute to.
- * The theme proposer and the participants who join the session have a dialogue about the theme and create their recommendation together.

15.55-16.20: Break (the voting system is prepared)

16.20 – 17.30: Final session: ECI renewal and resetting

> **Room JDE 62**

- **Rapporteurs of the workshops pitch their recommendation**
 - **Ranking of these recommendations by voting procedure**
 - **Conclusions by Anne Marie Sigmund, President of the ECI Ad Hoc Group**
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