

Procedure file

Basic information		
REG - Parliament's Rules of Procedure	2011/2302(REG)	Procedure completed
EP Rules of Procedure: implementing the European Citizens' Initiative		
Subject 8.40.01.08 Business of Parliament, procedure, sittings, rules of procedure		

Key players			
European Parliament	Committee responsible	Rapporteur	Appointed
	AFCO Constitutional Affairs		15/12/2011
		S&D GURMAI Zita	
		Shadow rapporteur	
		PPE LAMASSOURE Alain	
		ALDE JÄÄTTEENMÄKI Anneli	
		Verts/ALE HÄFNER Gerald	
		EFD MESSERSCHMIDT Morten	

Key events			
02/02/2012	Committee referral announced in Parliament		
26/04/2012	Vote in committee		
02/05/2012	Committee report tabled for plenary	A7-0148/2012	Summary
22/05/2012	Results of vote in Parliament		
22/05/2012	Decision by Parliament	T7-0213/2012	Summary
22/05/2012	End of procedure in Parliament		

Technical information	
Procedure reference	2011/2302(REG)
Procedure type	REG - Parliament's Rules of Procedure
Procedure subtype	Rules
Legal basis	Rules of Procedure EP 237-p1
Other legal basis	Rules of Procedure EP 159
Stage reached in procedure	Procedure completed

Documentation gateway

Committee draft report	PE478.388	16/02/2012	EP	
Amendments tabled in committee	PE486.111	28/03/2012	EP	
Committee report tabled for plenary, single reading	A7-0148/2012	02/05/2012	EP	Summary
Text adopted by Parliament, single reading	T7-0213/2012	22/05/2012	EP	Summary

EP Rules of Procedure: implementing the European Citizens? Initiative

The Committee on Constitutional Affairs adopted the report by Zita GURMAI (S&D, HU) on amending Parliaments Rules of Procedure with regard to the implementation of the European citizens initiative.

The report recalls that the European Parliament adopted the report on [the proposal for a regulation on the citizens initiative](#) at first reading on 15 December 2010 by a very large majority (628 votes in favour, 15 against and 24 abstentions). This result clearly illustrates the broad consensus surrounding this new tool for participatory democracy at European level.

The citizens initiative will be a powerful tool that European citizens can use to identify issues to place on the EUs agenda. It was first introduced in the Treaty establishing a Constitution for Europe and then taken over by the Lisbon Treaty, with the aim of giving citizens powers of political initiative on a par with those already enjoyed by the Council of Ministers and the European Parliament. Its main aim is to provide citizens with a means to be heard by enabling them to refer various issues of interest to the European institutions.

Parliament will be able to help achieve these aims by doing all it can to support the citizens initiatives it likes, in particular by organising public hearings.

With regard to public hearings, Article 11 of Regulation (EU) No 211/2011 on the citizens initiative stipulates that where the conditions of Article 10(1)(a) and (b) are fulfilled, and within the deadline laid down in Article 10(1)(c), the organisers shall be given the opportunity to present the citizens initiative at a public hearing. The Commission and the European Parliament shall ensure that this hearing is organised at the European Parliament, if appropriate together with such other institutions and bodies of the Union as may wish to participate, and that the Commission is represented at an appropriate level.

Regulation (EU) No 211/2011 applies as of 1 April 2012. Therefore, it is necessary to amend the Parliaments Rules of Procedure so that the necessary measures can be taken in terms of organising and conducting the public hearings concerned. In addition, given that the Committee on Petitions has specific experience in this field, Members propose that it should be given the opportunity to engage in political follow-up of initiatives which merit such consideration but which were not ultimately successful.

The Committee on Constitutional Affairs invites its President to take the necessary steps to ensure that a single contact point is set up in the European Parliament, which citizens, representative associations and civil society can contact on matters relating to citizens initiatives.

The report invites the Commission to confirm in a letter addressed to the President of the European Parliament its intention to be represented, at any public hearings on European citizens initiatives, in principle by the Commissioner responsible for the subject-matter, or, if he or she is unavailable, then either preferably by another Member of the Commission or by the Director-General responsible for the subject-matter.

Lastly, Members ask its Bureau and its Secretary-General to take the appropriate measures to ensure the greatest possible visibility of public hearings on European citizens initiatives by providing appropriate facilities, including the use of the best available information and communications technology.

EP Rules of Procedure: implementing the European Citizens? Initiative

The European Parliament adopted by 614 votes to 15, with 16 abstentions, a decision on amending Parliaments Rules of Procedure with regard to the implementation of the European citizens initiative.

It should be recalled that the European Parliament adopted the report on [the proposal for a regulation on the citizens initiative](#) at first reading on 15 December 2010 by a very large majority (628 votes in favour, 15 against and 24 abstentions). The citizens initiative will be a powerful tool that European citizens can use to identify issues to place on the EUs agenda. It was first introduced in the Treaty establishing a Constitution for Europe and then taken over by the Lisbon Treaty, with the aim of giving citizens powers of political initiative on a par with those already enjoyed by the Council of Ministers and the European Parliament. Its main aim is to provide citizens with a means to be heard by enabling them to refer various issues of interest to the European institutions.

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Parliament invites:

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Lastly, the Bureau and its Secretary-General are invited to take the appropriate measures to ensure the greatest possible visibility of public hearings on European citizens initiatives by providing appropriate facilities, including the use of the best available information and communications technology.