



European Parliament
Rue Wiertz 60, 1047 Brussels, Belgium

Brussels, 19th June 2018

Dear civil society organisations and former ECI organisers,

In response to your letter on the revision of the European Citizens' Initiative and we thank you for your letter. As you know the Greens/EFA have denounced several deficiencies in the way the ECI works. We perfectly share and understand your concern and would like to take the opportunity of this answer to give you a quick overview of the work carried out by us and what we plan to do in order to get this file moving.

What should have been a powerful tool to engage the people of Europe in EU decision-making has so far failed to deliver on its potential. Therefore, our main objectives about the reform of the ECI reform has been to empower citizens and give them a maximum of guarantees for the follow-up of their initiatives.

First of all, we would like to remind you that we have always proposed that the ECI be amended so that the full process could be simpler for citizens as well as ensuring a stronger follow up by the Commission to a successful ECI. During all the discussions to reform this participatory tool we have strongly criticized the lack of response made by the European Commission to the successful European Citizens' Initiatives. Crucially, there needs to be a clearer commitment on the European Commission to follow up on successful initiatives. The lack of meaningful action in the past has undermined confidence in the scheme, and citizens need to know that their efforts will be turned into real action. We will continue to push for this to happen.

Please rest assured that we share your concern regarding the need to truly extend the existing legal framework of ECI. We tabled a number of amendments that were going in the direction of having the ECI works and to make the full process more transparent and democratic with a stronger involvement of the European Parliament. For instance, we proposed precise

changes for the period of time to which you refer to the “black tunnel”. One of which is to have the European Parliament hold a debate after the hearing that is to be concluded by the adoption of a motion for resolution, as a first institutional follow-up before the Commission’s answer. We will keep working until the end of the procedure to try to convince the other political groups of the European Parliament to introduce these amendments and send a powerful message to the European Commission.

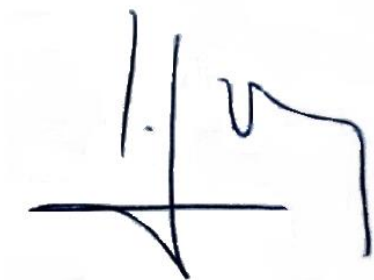
Finally, and again in order to carry out all possible actions to make this very important matter progress towards a more transparent and democratic procedure for citizens- we will work in parallel to introduce these measures in the Rules of Procedure of the European Parliament.

During this particular moment of crisis for the European Union, we share with you the belief for the need of strengthening the links between participatory democracy and representative democracy and the vote of June 20th is one of the rare opportunities to involve European citizens within the European institutional framework. The Greens/EFA group continues to work to include further improvements, because we believe that citizens should be able to fully exercise their democratic rights in the European Union.

Yours sincerely,

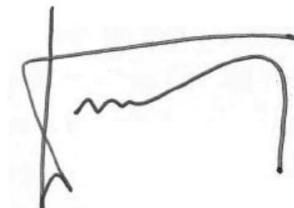
Pascal DURAND,

Greens/EFA AFCD’s
Coordinator, Vice President of
the Greens/EFA Group

A handwritten signature in dark ink, consisting of a stylized 'P' and 'D' followed by a horizontal line and a vertical line.

Josep Maria TERRICABRAS

Greens/EFA shadow rapporteur
EFA President and first Vice
President of the Greens/EFA
Group

A handwritten signature in dark ink, consisting of a stylized 'J' and 'M' followed by a horizontal line and a vertical line.