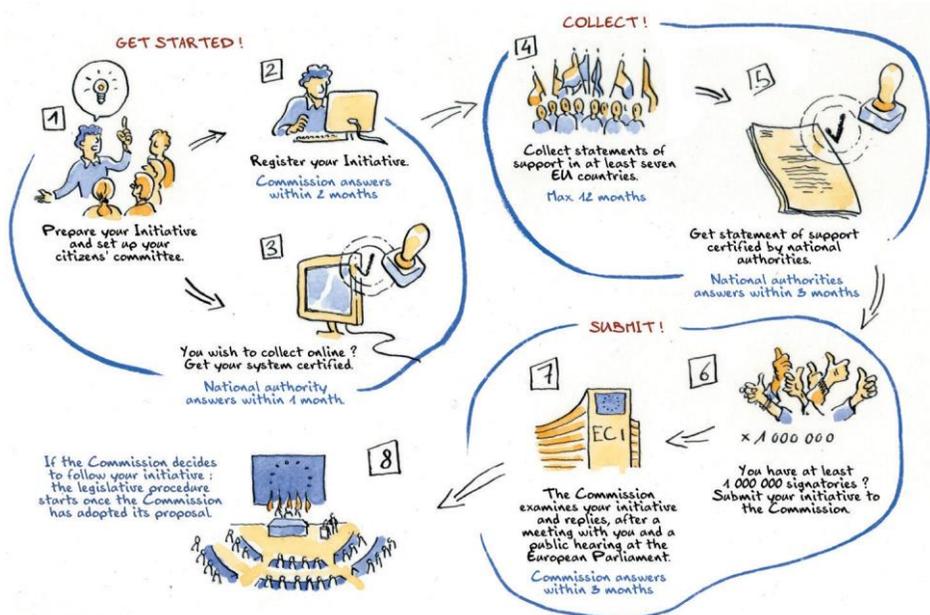


The 5 steps of a European citizen's initiative

<p>What is a ECI</p> <p>A tool of participative democracy which allows citizens from different Member states to adopt tangible legislative changes in order to influence the writing of the Union policies in their domains of interest.</p>	<p>How and by whom can a ECI be organized ?</p> <p>In order to submit an initiative citizens must form a committee of citizens composed of at least 7 citizens of the EU representing at least 7 different Member states of the EU after confirming the registration. The committee members must send their signatures at the latest in the course of the year.</p>	<p>What can be suggested as a ECI</p> <p>The ECI may be proposed in any domain where the Commission is competent to present a legislation, like for example in the domains of environment, agriculture, transport or public health.</p>	<p>How to support a ECI</p> <p>Any citizen from the EU who has the voting age for the European Parliament election may support the ECI with his signature in order to support one initiative promise. The citizens have to fill in a specific support declaration either on paper or online</p>	<p>What happens when one million signatures are gathered ?</p> <p>Il y a une audition publique au Parlement européen. La Commission répond que des mesures seront proposées en réponse à l'initiative citoyenne. La Commission n'est pas tenue de présenter une proposition législative sur la base de l'ICE.</p>
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Discover

How many European citizen initiatives have succeeded in collecting 1 million signatures ?

Following the given examples, what are the objectives which are the most highlighted ?
Which ECI could be submitted or not ?

Getting acquainted with a European resolution

The resolution 16 January 2018 Resolution of the European Parliament on international ocean governance: a program for the future of our oceans within the objectives of sustainable development for 2030.

The European Parliament,

- A. whereas plastic is a valuable material, widely used across all value chains, which has a useful place in our society and economy, if used and managed responsibly;

B. whereas these drawbacks generate wide public concern, with 74 % of EU citizens expressing disquiet at the health impacts of plastics and 87 % saying they are preoccupied by their environmental effects;

C. whereas the current political momentum should be used to shift to a sustainable circular plastics economy

1. Calls on the Commission to establish a circular economy and bio-economy based on research and innovation,

2. Calls on the competent authorities in the Member States to ensure that over 30 % of plastic waste is recycled [...],

3. Asks the Commission to put in place an effective verification system in order to boost the confidence of both industry and consumers in recycled materials;

4. Notes that there is no panacea to address the harmful effects to the environment of single-use plastics, and believes that important measures must be taken (change in consumer awareness, behaviour and participation);

5. Calls on the Commission, the Member States and the regions to support plans for the collection of litter at sea and to introduce port reception and disposal facilities for marine litter, as well as a recycling scheme for end-of-life nets;

6. Calls on the Commission to introduce a ban on micro-plastics in everyday products, in particular textiles, tyres, paints and cigarette butts;

7. Calls for a complete EU ban on 'oxo-degradable' plastic by 2020, as this type of plastic does not properly biodegrade, is not compostable, negatively affects the recycling of conventional plastic and fails to deliver a proven environmental benefit.

Drafting your own initiative

Using the given examples, draft your own initiative on the plastic or fast-fashion topic. Using the example below, think of a title, subject-matter and objectives for your initiative.

- The **title** should be clear and should indicate your demands without the reader's having even to refer to the subject-matter. It may look like a slogan. It may give you the opportunity to raise European citizen's attention and collect the million signatures you need.

Environment : what impact ?

The environmental impact of plastic

- There are 150 million tons of plastic in the world's oceans.
- The marine fauna is being damaged. The most common plastic objects found are cigarette filters, plastic bags and cotton buds.
- Animals frequently ingest plastic items and the toxic products they contain.
- Plastics have a negative impact on our health by the food chain.
- Only 9% of the plastic is recycled.
- 1,6 million square kilometers of sea detritus, le Seventh Continent.

The environmental impact of fashion industry

- 2% of the global greenhouse gas emissions
- 7 000 liters of water to make one pair of jeans, equivalent to 285 showers.
- Toxic chemical products used to protect the cloth during transportation.
- Production materials with high toxicity (the cotton used is frequently soaked with pesticides, petrol used).

Here an extract of a **successful ECI regarding glyphosate** :

Title:

Ban glyphosate and protect people and the environment from toxic pesticides

Current status: Answered

Commission registration number: ECI(2017)000002

Date of registration: 25/01/2017

Registration
language: **EN** /

Other languages

available: [BG](#) [CS](#) [DA](#) [DE](#) [EL](#) **EN** [ES](#) [ET](#) [FI](#) [FR](#) [HR](#) [HU](#) [IT](#) [LT](#) [LV](#) [MT](#) [NL](#) [P](#)
[L](#) [PT](#) [RO](#) [SK](#) [SL](#) [SV](#)

- The **subject-matter** should begin with ‘We call on the European Commission (...)’ Followed by your proposal. Do not forget to keep details of the objectives as the subject like in an email should help the reader understand what you are talking about. For example:
- **Subject-matter:** We call on the European Commission to propose to member states a ban on glyphosate, to reform the pesticide approval procedure, and to set EU-wide mandatory reduction targets for pesticide use.
- The objectives should be your main demands – the reasons why you want a law to be adopted, its effects etc. Like in the following example :
- **Main objectives:** Ban glyphosate-based herbicides, exposure to which has been linked to cancer in humans, and has led to ecosystems degradation; ensure that the scientific evaluation of pesticides for EU regulatory approval is based only on published studies, which are commissioned by competent public authorities instead of the pesticide industry; set EU-wide mandatory reduction targets for pesticide use, with a view to achieving a pesticide-free future.
- pesticide-free future.

Conduct and defend

For each committee, a representative (spokesperson for the group) should be designated. Each committee's spokesperson will present his/her group's initiative to the rest of the class, clearly setting out its objectives.

Present the title, subject-matter and objectives conviction: you need to convince your classmates that you have the winning initiative! Don't forget that in real life it would not be your classmates but 1 million people you would have to do convince – some of whom would not speak French.

It is important to follow the process in order to be clear and understandable by the public you are addressing. Do not forget to prepare for questions from the public.

Vote

You have presented your initiatives. Let's vote. The initiative receiving the most votes will be presented to representatives from the European Commission on 9 May!

ATTENTION : you are not allowed to vote for your own initiative, so pay attention to the others' initiatives.

The initiative which will obtain the highest amount of votes will be presented before the experts at the last presentation evening of the event.