



December 6th, 2019

Dear Commissioner JOUROVÁ,

The European Union – rightfully! – recognizes providing information to citizens on European elections as a public service. It is essential to invest resources to raise voters' awareness of what is at stake in such occasions. And it is even more important to help citizens understand which are the practical consequences on their lives.

In addition to this, the major part of the media coverage focuses on elected representatives and partisan politics.

Participatory democracy tools don't receive the same attention. We are aware of the investments in the European Citizens Initiative tool promotion. However, the level of attention is not the same. The result, which is in the public eye, is that only a tiny minority is familiar with such tools. There is a small number of European Citizens Initiative that achieved 1 million signatures.

Those "successful" initiatives achieved the result relying on existent networks of organisations. Or hiring firms with a massive mailing list. On the other end, there is not such a thing as a public information service on European Citizens Initiatives. Something that enables each EU citizen to choose whether to support an Initiative or not.

As European Citizens Initiative promoters we propose the European Commission to:

- 1) Level the budget currently invested in the European Citizens Initiatives to what is currently invested to inform citizens on elections and on the functioning of representative democracy;
- 2) Invite all EU public and private broadcasters, and digital media outlets to increase the coverage on participatory democracy tools and proposals, starting from European Citizens Initiatives.

We would like to meet you at a public meeting to discuss this further.

Kind regards,

Marco Cappato, Representative "A price for carbon to fight climate change" stopglobalwarming.eu,

Carlo Maresca, Coordinator, "A price for carbon to fight climate change" stopglobalwarming.eu

Virginia Fiume, Coordinator, "Respect for the rule of law in the European Union" formyrights.eu

Pier Virgilio Dastoli, Representative "Respect of the rule of law in the European Union" formyrights.eu

Joerg Mitzlaf, Representative “Central public online collection platform for the European Citizen Initiative”
openpetition.eu

Marcin Dzierżak, Substitute “Central public online collection platform for the European Citizen Initiative”
openpetition.eu

Veneta Magistrelli, Representative “Stop corruption in Europe at its root, by cutting off funds to countries with inefficient judiciary after deadline” stop-corruption.eu

Sebastian Reimer, Substitute “Stop Extremism” stop-extremism.eu

Timothée Galvaire, Representative “Ending the aviation fuel tax exemption in Europe” [fairosene.eu](https://www.fairosene.eu)

Thomas Eitzenberger, Representative “European Citizens Initiative Fridays for Future”