



"European Citizens' Initiative: time to act!"
Perspectives from civil society and local/regional authorities

Friday 30 March 2012

Jacques Delors Building (room JDE 62), rue Belliard 99-101, 1040 Brussels

Programme

Language regime

Interpretation from EN/FR/DE/IT/ES/PL into EN/FR/DE

All sessions are chaired by **Christophe Leclercq**, publisher Euractiv

9.00 - 9.30: Welcome and registration

9.30 – 11.15: Opening session

Welcome speeches

- **Mercedes Bresso**, President of the Committee of the Regions
- **Staffan Nilsson**, President of the European Economic and Social Committee
- **Maroš Šefčovič**, Vice-President of the European Commission, Commissioner for Interinstitutional Relations and Administration

Presentation of the European Citizens' Initiative

- **Mario Tenreiro**, Head of Unit General Institutional Issues, Secretariat General, European Commission
- Representative of the Danish Presidency of the Council of the EU (tbc)

Participatory democracy and citizen's participation

Discussion on what civil society and local authorities have been doing at community level and the exploration of possible links with strengthening political participation and forging a sense of citizenship

- 2 case studies of participative democracy in Europe
 - **NN**, Regional citizens' initiative Rhone-Alpes, France
 - Case study civil society (tbc)
- **Bruno Kaufmann**, President of the Initiative and Referendum Institute Europe, Falun, Sweden
- Debate with the panel and the audience

11.15 – 11.30: Coffee break

11.30 – 13.00: Policy debate

Promoting the ECI in the member states

- **Ramón Luis Valcárcel Siso**, President of the Murcia Region, Spain, and First Vice-President of the CoR, presenting the Murcian case study "debatejoven.eu"
- **Maureen O'Neill**, Director Faith in Older People, United Kingdom, EESC Member, reporting back from national events organised in March

Policy debate: "What role for the CoR and the EESC in the European Citizens' Initiative?"

- **Sonia Masini**, President of the Province of Reggio Emilia, Italia, CoR rapporteur on the ECI
- **Anne-Marie Sigmund**, EU Adviser at the Federal Committee of Liberal Professions, Austria, EESC rapporteur on the ECI
- **Zita Gurmai, Gerald Häfner**, Members of the European Parliament, Rapporteurs on the ECI (tbc)
- **Mario Tenreiro**, Head of Unit General Institutional Issues, Secretariat General, European Commission

Closing remarks

- **Anna Maria Darmanin**, Council Member of the Malta Workers' Union, EESC Vice President for Communication
- **Luc Van den Brande**, Chairman of the Flemish-European Liaison Agency, Belgium, Chairman of the CoR CIVEX Commission

13.00 – 14.00: Networking reception

Online registration form:

<http://selectsurvey-gen.cor.europa.eu/TakeSurvey.aspx?SurveyID=9611473>