

Declaration nr. 5

Name of the person introducing the declaration: Carsten Leth Schmidt and Anke Spoorendonk

On behalf of the party: SP and SSW

Title: Strengthening citizens' political participation in the European Union.

When the European Citizens' Initiative was introduced under the Lisbon Treaty, it was with the aim of giving citizens a greater voice by being able to call on the European Commission to address a given issue on which a million valid signatures had been collected.

- In the light of the major bureaucratic workload required to pursue a Citizens' Initiative
- Whereas the successful completion of a Citizens' Initiative does not impose any actual obligation on the European Commission to address the issue at hand, thus inhibiting the participative democracy afforded by this method

The European Free Alliance (EFA) proposes a revision of the European Citizens' Initiative to simplify the procedure substantially and strengthen political participation by citizens:

by standardising and simplifying the procedures for collecting signatures in all EU Member States.

by reducing the minimum figure of one million signatures collected across at least seven EU Member States to 500,000.

by ensuring that a successful collection of signatures will be submitted to the European Parliament. If it obtains a majority here, the European Commission shall be obliged to act on it.