

**AUSTRIAN INSTITUTE
FOR EUROPEAN
LAW AND POLICY**

IRI *Initiative and
Referendum
Institute Europe*

EUROPEAN CITIZENS' INITIATIVE SUMMIT 2010

- **ASSESSING THE PROPOSED PROCEDURE**
 - ESTABLISHING THE SUPPORTIVE
INFRASTRUCTURE
- **PREPARING THE INITIAL PRACTICES**

May 7- 9

**HOUSE FOR EUROPE
MÖNCHSBERG 2A-5020 SALZBURG**

Dear Fellow European Citizen!

The time has come for the final countdown towards the launch of the first real European Citizens' Initiative (ECI). Last winter, the Lisbon Treaty establishing the very first transnational direct-democratic procedure in the world came into force. This spring, the European Commission presented its draft regulation, defining the framework and details of the new procedure. Later this year, the European Parliament and the European Council will finally decide on the rules of how European citizens will become agenda-setters beyond the borders of the Member States.

For us, the Citizens of Europe, active in many different ways in elected bodies, administrations, non-governmental organizations and as individual citizens, it is time to act again. After having proposed and supported the introduction of participatory tools for decades and after having supported both European Convention members, Member States' representatives and the Commission in establishing the principles and cornerstones of the European Citizens' Initiative, we have to secure the core principles and user-friendliness of the new regulation proposed by the EU Commission this spring and assist both the Parliament and the Council in improving certain elements of this regulation.

However, this is still only a beginning, because when the European Citizens' Initiative process begins to be used in practice, its effectiveness will depend on there being in place a comprehensive and supportive infrastructure. This support must include the availability of expert help - on a kind of consultancy basis - for prospective launchers of initiatives in designing ECIs which fit into the adopted framework and in ensuring that they are technically admissible, in assisting initiators to communicate their initiative in several EU languages, and, of course, in providing information and education on this new democratic territory to all stakeholders.

That's a lot of work - and so you and your organization are most welcome to join us at the 2010 European Citizens' Initiative Summit in Salzburg on the weekend of Europe Day. Let us together assess both the regulation, its strengths and weaknesses, and the next steps ahead in what we can call the final countdown towards the entry of the new democratic instrument of the European Citizens' Initiative into political practice.

It's time to act - welcome to Salzburg in May!

Johannes W Pichler

Director, Austrian Institute for European Law and Policy

Bruno Kaufmann

President, Initiative and Referendum Institute Europe

Agenda

FRIDAY, 7 MAY 2010

NEUE RESIDENZ SALZBURG

17.30 DINNER RECEPTION GIVEN BY THE GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF SALZBURG AND BY THE MAJOR OF THE CITY OF SALZBURG (TBC)

SATURDAY, 8 MAY 2010

HOUSE FOR EUROPE – EDMUNDSBURG

Assessing and Improving the new regulation on the European Citizens' Initiative

CHAIR: BRUNO KAUFMANN, INITIATIVE AND REFERENDUM INSTITUTE

09.30 OPENING ADDRESS
JOHANNES W. PICHLER: The European Citizens' Initiative – into new democratic territory

10.00 PRESENTATION: DRAFT REGULATION ON THE EUROPEAN CITIZENS' INITIATIVE
EU COMMISSION REPRESENTATIVE

10.30 ROUNDTABLE I WITH ALL PARTICIPANTS

12.30 LUNCH BREAK (RECEPTION AT THE VENUE)

Towards a supportive infrastructure for the European Citizens' Initiative

CHAIR: DIANA WALLIS, VICE-PRESIDENT, EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

14.00 TOWARDS A SUPPORTIVE INFRASTRUCTURE
ANNE-MARIE SIGMUND, EUROPEAN ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMITTEE

14.30 ROUNDTABLE II WITH ALL PARTICIPANTS

17.30 CONCLUSIONS

19.30 DINNER RECEPTION GIVEN BY THE AUSTRIAN INSTITUTE FOR EUROPEAN LAW AND POLICY

SUNDAY 9 MAY – EUROPE DAY

HOUSE FOR EUROPE – EDMUNDSBURG

CHAIR: THEO SCHILLER, CHAIRMAN OF THE INITIATIVE & REFERENDUM INSTITUTE

9.00 INTERNAL MEETING OF THE ORGANIZERS IRI AND AIELP

12.00 EUROPE DAY CELEBRATION – PROCLAMATION OF THE SUMMIT RESOLUTION

12.30 FAREWELL LUNCH RECEPTION AT THE VENUE

Practical Information

Registration / Contact

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Accommodation:

Hotel Stadtkrug
Linzergasse 20
A- 5020 Salzburg
Tel: +43 662 873545
www.stadtkrug.at
Price for one night including breakfast: € 75,00

Venue Details:

With the bus:

Coming from the Central Station take the bus (line 1) directly to the stop of *Herbert Karajan Platz* in the old town Salzburg.

From there you walk straight ahead, along the opera house of the Salzburg Festival in the *Hofstallgasse*. At the end of the *House of Mozart* there is an archway leading into a little square called *Toscaninihof*. There you take the stairways (*Clemens-Holzmeister-Stiege*) by which you get directly to the entrance (little iron gate) of the Edmundsburg.

You can also take the elevator in the parking garage (Altstadtgarage) taking you up to the building.

With the car:

There is a parking possibility in the parking garage "Altstadtgarage B". Follow the exit "Toscaninihof". In the parking garage there is an elevator ("Universität Salzburg, Haus für Europa, Edmundsburg), which you can take for coming directly in the Edmundsburg.

With the Taxi:

Take a taxi to the "Toscaninihof". From there location plan see above.

Hosts

The Austrian Institute for European Law and Policy

Founded in 1989 as an offshoot of an association (NFP), run by the republic of Austria / ministry for science and research and the state of Salzburg.

The Institute's working motto is "law and the weaker party". As a result of that programmatic line the Institute has carried out lots of projects in favour of women's rights, children's rights, youth supporting laws, workers' rights, patients' rights, rights of the elderly, and pollution laws.

On EU-issues the citizens are seen as a kind of a weaker party. Therefore the Institute's programme for the forthcoming session is about EU citizens' rights. For now, the main focus is on:

- *direct democratic instruments, such as the European Citizens' Initiative and the pan-European EU-referendum,*
- *EU citizens' online political participation models and*
- *the falling electoral turnout in Europe .*

IRI Europe – Europe's global direct democracy think-tank

The Initiative and Referendum Institute Europe (IRI Europe) is a transnational think-tank dedicated to research and education on the procedures and practices of modern direct democracy.

Modern direct democracy facilitates popular sovereignty within the framework of a representative system by giving every citizen the right to initiate new proposals (e.g. new laws or constitutional amendments) and to take part in the final decision-making. As modern direct democracy has become much more common in Europe and worldwide, IRI Europe conducts research activities, offers educational programmes and is involved in analytical and consultancy work.

IRI Europe is a non-partisan, non profit-making association with headquarters in Marburg/ Germany and brings together some of the best experts on and practitioners of the initiative and referendum process across Europe and the world. IRI Europe is part of the emerging global network of IRI-think tanks, which also includes the us-based Initiative & Referendum Institute and IRI Asia.

IRI Europe is the co-organizers of the 2010 Global Forum on Modern Direct Democracy in San Francisco, JKuky 31-August 4 [www.2010.globalforum.com]