



MY VOICE, MY CHOICE: FOR SAFE AND ACCESSIBLE ABORTION

As one of the EU's principal participatory democracy instruments, the European citizens' initiative (ECI) enables citizens to invite the European Commission to propose legal acts in areas within EU competence. Since its launch, the ECI has given Europeans a stronger voice in shaping Union policies, from environmental protection to social justice.

The initiative 'My Voice, My Choice: For Safe and Accessible Abortion' is part of this democratic process, highlighting citizens' demand for safe reproductive healthcare across Europe, in line with the EU's values of equality, human dignity, and protection of health.



WHAT ARE THE INITIATIVE'S GOALS?

This initiative seeks to improve access to **safe and legal abortion services** for women in Europe who currently lack such access. It calls on the European Commission to provide **financial support** to Member States that would be able to perform safe termination of pregnancies, in accordance with their domestic law, for anyone in Europe who still lacks access to safe and legal abortion, through an **opt-in, solidarity-based scheme**, allowing Member States to participate voluntarily.

The initiative does not seek to harmonise national abortion laws. Instead, it relies on the EU's **supporting competence in public health**, aiming to complement Member State actions while respecting national legal frameworks.



ENGAGEMENT

This initiative collected **1,124,513 valid statements of support** from citizens across the EU, with the required national thresholds reached in **19 countries**.



COMMISSION'S REPLY AND NEXT STEPS

The initiative was formally submitted to the European Commission for examination on 1 September 2025. The Commission presented its official reply on 26 February 2026, in which it states that:

Having carefully analysed the initiative and with regard to the EU Treaties limitations to EU competence in the area of public health, the Commission underlines that Member States can rely on existing EU instruments to improve equal access to legally available and affordable healthcare services, including safe abortion services.

This EU support can be provided through the **European Social Fund Plus (ESF+) programme**,

in case Member States wish, voluntarily and in accordance with their national laws, to provide such support, notably by using or reallocating available resources under their ESF+ programmes. The ESF+ could be used to enhance access to legally available, affordable and safe abortion services for pregnant women. The ESF+ can support the efforts of these Member States, while granting them autonomy to determine how and under what conditions access to safe and legal abortion will be provided.

As EU support can already be provided relatively quickly by Member States willing to do so under existing instruments, it is not necessary to propose a new legal instrument.

KEY DATES



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