Review clause

• Art. 25 of Regulation (EU) 2019/788: The Commission shall periodically review the functioning of the European citizens’ initiative and present a report to the European Parliament and the Council on the application of this Regulation no later than 1 January 2024, and every four years thereafter. These reports shall cover also the minimum age to support European citizens' initiatives in the Member States. The reports shall be made public.

• Scope of the review: take stock of the implementation and application of the rules so far, including COVID-19 temporary measures.
Data collected

- ECI organisers
  - 16 replies
  - 18 interviews

- Member States
  - 25 replies

- Civil society
  - Workshop & survey

- EESC AHG
  - Recommendation

- European Parliament resolution

- Citizens
  - 7200 general survey replies
  - 60,000 COCS exit-survey replies

- Statistics

- ECI review report
Overall assessment of revised rules

• The revised rules provide a more accessible, less burdensome and more user-friendly framework for ECI organisers and supporters.

• The full impact of the revised rules can only be assessed over a longer period of application under normal circumstances.

• Further practical improvements can already be made within the existing legal framework.
## Minimum age to support ECIs

### State of play

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age</th>
<th>MS Countries Information</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>16 years</td>
<td>5 MS: AT, MT, EE (as of 1/1/2020), DE (as from 1/1/2023), BE (as of 1/5/2023)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17 years</td>
<td>EL</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18 years</td>
<td><strong>21 MS:</strong> BG, CZ, DK, IE, ES, FI, HR, IT, CY, LV, LT, LU, HU, NL, PL, PT, RO, SI, SK, SE, FR</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Registration phase (2020 – 2023)

• Over 95% registration success rate
• 2-stage procedure applied in 9 cases
• 75% of surveyed organisers concerned by the new rules considered the ECI procedure for registration overall effective and straightforward.
Collection phase

- 5 initiatives managed to collect 1 million signatures (2+3), 3 after COVID-19 extensions.

- Organisers surveyed were fairly satisfied with the effectiveness of the procedures and tools available for collection phase.

- The 6 months for preparing the collection – essential for organisers.
Online collection systems

- Before 31/12/2022: **20 initiatives** chose the **Central Online Collection system**, and **6** the **Individual Online Collection System**

- **Central system:**
  - Signatories – **high levels of satisfaction** (93%) with the system;
  - Organisers positive about **shift of most responsibilities for data protection** to the Commission.

How easy was it for you to support the initiative using the Central Online Collection System?

- **Very easy**: 63.72%
- **Easy**: 29.52%
- **Neutral**: 4.96%
- **Difficult**: 1.48%
- **Very difficult**: 0.33%
## eID integration with COCS

### State of play of e-ID integrations with COCS (December 2023)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Number</th>
<th>Countries</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Enabling eID</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>BE, CZ, DE, EE, ES, HR, IT, LV, LT, LU, MT, NL, AT, PT, SK, SE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Work in progress</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>BG, DK, FR, PL, SI</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Not enabled</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>IE, EL, CY, HU, RO, FI</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Verification phase

- 7 initiatives completed the verification procedure during the reporting period, 6 with positive outcomes.
- File Exchange Service and prevalence of online signatures facilitate verification.
- Organisers considered the procedure for verification as overall effective.
Examination phase

- Organisers surveyed satisfied with the opportunities offered to present their initiative (meeting with the Commission, public hearing at the EP).
Transparency

- Total funding equal or above EUR 1,000,000: 2 initiatives
- Total funding between EUR 500,000 and 999,999: 2 initiatives
- Total funding between EUR 250,000 and 499,999: 3 initiatives
- Total funding between EUR 100,000 and 249,999: 3 initiatives
- Total funding between EUR 50,000 and 99,999: 4 initiatives
- Total funding between EUR 10,000 and 49,999: 8 initiatives
- Total funding below EUR 10,000: 7 initiatives
- No funding reported: 27 initiatives
Information and guidance

- Communication
  - ‘EU Take the Initiative’ communication campaign - traffic to the ECI website more than doubled since 2020; six-fold increase in subscriptions to the ECI newsletter, and the social media campaigns have substantial outreach.
  - National Contact Points – websites & replies to questions from citizens.
  - Other EU institutions: EP (public hearings & plenary debates), EESC – annual ECI Day
  - 64% EU-wide awareness of the ECI

- Guidance to ECI organisers: overall positive feedback from organisers regarding the advice provided by the ECI Forum at different stages of the ECI procedure.
Impact of COVID-19

- The pandemic significantly disrupted the functioning of the ECI in the first two years of application of the new ECI Regulation.

- The temporary measures managed to limit the impact on initiatives.

- 12 initiatives granted extensions of up to 12 months for the collection of signatures
  -> 3 initiatives reached the required thresholds

- 1 MS granted upon request an extension of the deadline for completing its verification obligations.
Way forward

- Support to ECI organisers
- Central Online Collection System
- Public awareness and visibility
- More visible follow-up of ECIs
- ECI implementation at national level
Thank you for your attention