



## DEMOCRACY INTERNATIONAL

### **Newsletter: On Democracy in Ireland, Switzerland and the EU**

01 October 2012

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#### **Content:**

1. Irish People to vote on children's rights
  2. Lessons from Switzerland for the EU
  3. Barroso: "More integration demands more democracy, European democracy"
  4. Press release: German constitutional court passes ESM and fiscal pact
  5. European Greens discuss EU convention
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Dear members and friends of Democracy International,

This month I visited Brussels twice to listen to the discussions on more democracy and citizen participation that are going on in the European Parliament. Matched with an analysis of Barroso's State of the Union speech the edition of this newsletter reflects the growing debate about more European integration and EU treaty change.

For Democracy International it is clear that we need an EU convention and EU referenda to let citizens choose which kind of European Union they want. In this view, we are gearing up for a campaign for a more democratic EU. More news will follow soon. But first of all, enjoy the read of this newsletter.

Best wishes from Cologne,  
Cora Pfafferott

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#### **1. Irish People to vote on children's rights**

On Saturday, 10 November 2012, Ireland's three million registered voters are called to decide whether to amend the Irish constitution and to grant more rights to the child.

[www.democracy-international.org/referendum-children.html](http://www.democracy-international.org/referendum-children.html)

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#### **2. Lessons from Switzerland for the EU**

On Tuesday, 18 September 2012 a public hearing on „Citizen participation – How can the European Union provide better possibilities for the participation of its citizens?“ took place in Brussels in the European Parliament

[www.democracy-international.org/hearing-participation.html](http://www.democracy-international.org/hearing-participation.html)

### **3. Barroso: "More integration demands more democracy, European democracy"**

An analysis of the Commission President's "State of the Union Speech" from a perspective of more (direct) democracy in Europe and Democracy International's call for an EU convention

[www.democracy-international.org/barroso-state-of-union.html](http://www.democracy-international.org/barroso-state-of-union.html)

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### **4. Press release: German constitutional court passes ESM and fiscal pact**

Strasbourg, 12 September: Germany's top constitutional court has ruled today that the European Stability Mechanism (ESM) and the fiscal compact can only be ratified with the condition that the German Parliament keeps the control.

[www.democracy-international.org/pressrelease-esm-sentence.html](http://www.democracy-international.org/pressrelease-esm-sentence.html)

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### **5. European Greens discuss EU convention**

On Thursday, 6 September 2012, the Greens/ European Free Alliance met in the European Parliament in Brussels to discuss the future of the European Union and whether to campaign for an EU convention.

[www.democracy-international.org/eugreens-convention.html](http://www.democracy-international.org/eugreens-convention.html)