

Newsletter: The Ballot Card

16 March 2006

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o) EDITORIAL: DEMOCRATISING GERMANY

by Ronald Pabst

The ballot card... have you ever thought about it? Its design is decisive for the outcome of an election. In Germany most regions have introduced a new election law which gives the voters more influence. In Hamburg the citizens introduced the new regulations by a referendum - initiated by Mehr Demokratie. Our regional branch Bremen is now following this example. In North Rhine-Westphalia we have started an information campaign.

Highlight: You can test the new ballot card online.

In Berlin, the struggle for an improved law for direct democracy has started.

Besides these main points please find also information about our work in Brussels and an evaluation of an important speech by Nicolas Sarkozy (interior minister of France).

1) CONFERENCE IN BRUSSELS

The fifth and last regional conference of the *Initiative for Europe – A Citizen's Agenda* project will take place in Brussels on March 23/24.

[more info](#)

2) INSIDE BRUSSELS: GROWING SUPPORT

Carsten Berg and Lars Bosselmann report about the growing support for the ECI-Campaign.

[report](#)

3) SARKOZY - A DI-SUPPORTER?

French interior minister Nicolas Sarkozy has given a remarkable keynote speech in Berlin. He described ideas for the future of the EU and its constitution.

[analysis](#)

4) NEW ELECTION LAW FOR GERMANY

Local democracy in Germany is in a transition phase. With the new proposal each voter will have more influence on the composition of the local council. What is it all about? Please find out here:

[more information](#)

5) BREMEN: TAKING THE HARD WAY

The regional branch of Mehr Demokratie in Bremen has started a citizens' submission for the introduction of a new voting law.

[report](#)

6) NORTH RHINE-WESTPHALIA: CAMPAIGN

The government has announced a reform in autumn. We have started a campaign to inform citizens about the changes. In addition, we push forward a far-reaching proposal for the new regulation.

[report](#)

7) TEST THE NEW GERMAN VOTING LAW - ONLINE

The discussion about the new law is somehow abstract. Don't worry, we are offering an online ballot card. Have fun!

[online card](#)

Ronald Pabst / Carsten Berg

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