

## **Newsletter: Berlin wants Direct Democracy**

20 September 2006

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### **o) Editorial: Berlin wants direct democracy**

by Ronald Pabst

Berlin wants ; Berlin says ; Berlin has decided

When one hears these phrases, they are usually used to describe the actions of the German government, and not those of its citizens. I am happy to report that Berlin wants to improve direct democracy I am even happier to report that it is the citizens who made this decision.

In this edition of the newsletter, not only will you find exciting news for direct democracy in Berlin, but also more information about the EU campaign for direct democracy-- launched by our Dutch friends. Additionally, you will find a link for more information

regarding the Mini-Treaty for the EU. We would also like to invite you to have a look at two recent publications on direct democracy.

## **1) Netherlands: Campaign for more democracy in Europe**

At the beginning of this month, the Referendum Platform launched a campaign to promote the introduction of the European Citizens Initiative. More than 1,000 signatures have already been collected.

[www.democracy-international.org/dutch-eci.html](http://www.democracy-international.org/dutch-eci.html)

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## **2) Berlin: 84%**

The results speak for themselves-- the citizens of Berlin desire more democracy.

84% voted in favour to alter constitutional articles 61 and 62 in order to lower the hurdles for citizens-initiated referendums.

[www.democracy-international.org/berlin-84.html](http://www.democracy-international.org/berlin-84.html)

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## **3) Mini-Treaty for the EU?**

Currently the future of the EU Constitution is uncertain; however, the idea of a simplified, pared-down constitution is gaining increased support. This strategy would avoid new referendums.

[www.democracy-international.org/mini-treaty.html](http://www.democracy-international.org/mini-treaty.html)

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## **4) New books**

The Initiative and Referendum Institute Europe has recently published two new books that may be of interest to our members. Both deal with the latest developments in direct democracy.

[www.democracy-international.org/new-books.html](http://www.democracy-international.org/new-books.html)

Ronald Pabst / Lars Bosselmann / Jennifer Shore

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