

## **Newsletter: European Citizen´s Initiative**

13 November 2006

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### **o) Editorial: European Citizens' Initiative**

by Ronald Pabst

This month, I am happy to announce a success.

In Bremen, we gathered enough signatures to trigger a referendum. The aim is to introduce a fair election law.

So we achieved an important goal. But there are still a lot things to do. And you can help us:

The signature gathering for the European Citizens' Initiative has been launched on 9 November. Join the growing numbers of supporters by signing the appeal now. And please spread the information about our new European-wide project via your networks.

### **1) Please support the ECI**

We demand the introduction of the European Citizens' Initiative (ECI) by a regulation into European law. Such a regulation would require the European Commission to respond to a proposed change in European law signed by at least one million EU citizens. The campaign is already supported by more than 90 NGOs and 47 MEPs. But the EU institutions are unlikely to introduce a strong regulation without further public pressure, so it is up to the citizens to demand its introduction.

Please join the campaign by signing at:

[www.citizens-initiative.eu](http://www.citizens-initiative.eu)

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### **2) Bremen: Citizens submission successful**

71.261 citizens supported our motion for a fair election law. This was the first time, that in the German region Bremen an initiative was able to gather the necessary amount of signatures.

more information

[www.democracy-international.org/bremen-success.html](http://www.democracy-international.org/bremen-success.html)

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### **3) Democratic education in South Tyrol**

The initiative for direct democracy in South Tyrol has decided to launch a campaign. The group aims to improve the regulations on initiative and referendum in the region. We present a translation of an article published in the newspaper "Demokratie Direkt": Stephan Lausch reports about an alternative approach to teach democracy.

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

#### **4) Budapest Forum 2006**

A conference aims to explore Hungary's and Switzerland's experiences and contributions of making Europe and themselves more democratic. It will take place on 20 November. The event targets at finding out, by what means and policies they can contribute to a better democratic quality of the national and international political systems in Europe.

Please find more information at:

[liberalisfiatalok.hu/lifeevent/index.php](http://liberalisfiatalok.hu/lifeevent/index.php)

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Ronald Pabst / Stefan Wolf / Lars Bosselmann

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