

WARMING UP FOR THE CITIZENS' INITIATIVE

A CONFERENCE HOSTED BY COMMISSION VICE-PRESIDENT MAROŠ ŠEFČOVIČ

26 JANUARY 2012

EUROPEAN COMMISSION CHARLEMAGNE BUILDING
RUE DE LA LOI 170
1040 BRUSSELS



DRAFT PROGRAMME

9.00 – 9.30 *Registration and welcome coffee*

9.30 – 10.20 INTRODUCTION

9.30 – 10.00 **Getting ready for the ECI – Where the Commission stands in implementing the Regulation**

Speech by Maroš Šefčovič, Vice-President of the European Commission

10.00 – 10.20 **Getting off to a good start - the role of Member States in the successful launch of the ECI**

Speech by Nicolai Wammen, Minister for European Affairs, Danish Presidency of the Council of the European Union (*invited*)

10.20 – 12.30 THE ECI IN PRACTICE

10.20 – 10.50 **The ECI procedure step by step and demonstration of the Commission Register**

by Mário Tenreiro, Head of Unit for General Institutional Issues, Secretariat General, European Commission

10.50 – 11.00 **The software for online collection**

by Declan Deasy, Director for Information Systems and Interoperability Solutions, Directorate General for Informatics, European Commission

11.00 – 11.20 *Coffee break*

11.20 – 12.00 **Implementation of the ECI in the Member States and perspectives based on experience with existing initiatives at national level**

Presentations by representatives of Poland and Austria and Civil Society

12.00 – 12.30 **Questions from the floor and discussion**

12.30 – 14.00 *Buffet lunch*

14.00 – 15.30 PANEL I: THE POTENTIAL FOR USING SOCIAL NETWORKS

14.00 – 15.00 **Panel discussion**

Moderator: Francisco García Morán, Director General for Informatics, European Commission

Panellists: Elliot Schrage, Vice President of Global Communications, Marketing and Public Policy, Facebook

Simon Hampton, Director of European Public Policy, Google

Colin Crowell, Head of Global Public Policy, Twitter

Guisepe de Martino, Secretary General, Dailymotion

Christophe Leclercq, Publisher and Founder, EurActiv

Mark P. McDonald, Vice-President, Gartner Group

15.00 – 15.30 **Questions from the floor and discussion**

15.30 – 15.45 *Coffee break*

15.45 – 17.15 PANEL II: THE FOLLOW-UP TO AN INITIATIVE

15.45 – 16.45 **Panel discussion**

Moderator: Maroš Šefčovič, Vice-President of the European Commission

Panellists: Alain Lamassoure, Member of the European Parliament

Zita Gurmai, Member of the European Parliament (*invited*)

Diana Wallis, Member of the European Parliament (*invited*)

Gerald Häfner, Member of the European Parliament (*invited*)

Staffan Nilsson, President of the European Economic and Social Committee (*invited*)

Mercedes Bresso, President of the Committee of the Regions (*invited*)

16.45 – 17.15 **Questions from the floor and discussion**

17.15 – 17.30 CLOSING REMARKS

by Maroš Šefčovič, Vice-President of the European Commission