



Brussels, 14 July 2020

CM 3046/20

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### **COMMUNICATION**

#### **WRITTEN PROCEDURE**

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| Tel./Fax: | +32 2 281 43 93  |
| Subject:  | Draft REGULATION OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL laying down temporary measures concerning the time limits for the collection, verification and examination stages provided for in Regulation (EU) 2019/788 on the European citizens' initiative in view of the COVID-19 outbreak [2020/0099(COD)]<br><br>Outcome of the written procedure initiated by CM 3039/20:<br>– Adoption of the legislative act, and<br>– Derogation from the 8-week period provided for in Article 4 of Protocol 1 to the TFEU on the role of national parliaments in the EU |

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Delegations are informed that the written procedure, opened by CM 3039/20 of 13 July 2020 was completed on 14 July 2020 and that all delegations voted in favour of:

1. the adoption of the draft Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council laying down temporary measures concerning the time limits for the collection, verification and examination stages provided for in Regulation (EU) 2019/788 on the European citizens' initiative in view of the COVID-19 outbreak, as set out in PE-CONS 23/20;

2. the derogation, on the basis of the second subparagraph of Article 3(3) of the Council's Rules of Procedure, from the eight-week period referred to in the first subparagraph of that Article;

The required qualified majority has been reached. Therefore, the above Regulation is adopted.

The Council agreed to derogate, on the basis of the second subparagraph of Article 3(3) of the Council's Rules of Procedure, from the eight-week period referred to in the first subparagraph of that Article.

The statement by Romania is reproduced in the Annex to this CM.

The above statement will be included in the summary of acts adopted by the written procedure as statements to be entered in the Council minutes, in accordance with the third subparagraph of Article 12(1) of the Council's Rules of Procedure.

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**Statement by Romania**

Romania understands the intention of the European Commission to preserve the efficacy of the European citizens' initiative instrument during this pandemic and to provide reassurance and legal clarity to the organizers of initiatives with the collection, verification or examination still ongoing.

Romania considers that in this difficult situation there is a need to have a clear and sound policy applying to the European Citizens' Initiative, in order to preserve their important character of participative democracy and ensuring that the voice of European citizens can be heard.

Romania will not oppose, in the spirit of compromise, the proposal of the European Commission, but considers that some of the provisions do not provide legal certainty and equal treatment for the ECI. Romania considers that the most problematic is the application of the provisions that extend the collection period, which is unclear and could lead to discrimination between ECIs, especially in the case of those which finalized their collection period between 11 March and 11 September. Since the legal text provides the same extension for the collection of signatures without adapting it on a case by case basis, depending on the time elapsed in each case, such an approach will result in an unequal treatment between these ECI.

Romania's position is that, even in exceptional circumstances, a legal act needs to be legally sound and ensure fair and equal treatment to all that are impacted by it.

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