

1 **Resolution on the developments and implementation of the Minority Safepack**
2 **Initiative**

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4 1. The implementation of the MSPI and youth activism

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6 The Youth of European Nationalities (YEN), is a European network which represents ethnic,
7 national and linguistic minorities. On April the 3rd, 2017, the Minority Safepack Initiative
8 (MSPI) was approved as an European citizens' initiative and opened to gather 1 million
9 supportive signatures within one year.

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11 The MSPI calls for promotion and improvement of minority rights in the European Union.
12 Members of YEN have therefore actively campaigned to collect signatures for the MSPI
13 throughout the year. We have successfully reached out to other youth organisations, such as
14 national youth councils or other European networks, to support and promote it. This activism
15 of the youth has significantly contributed to the success of the MSPI. The MSPI has been
16 signed for in every EU country, and has achieved the statewide threshold of more than
17 seven countries to make the MSPI a valid initiative.

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19 With this wide support throughout the EU we stress the importance to implement the MSPI
20 recommendations.¹ We call the EU and nation states for a constructive debate on these
21 recommendations and the implementation of them.

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23 The youth activism in this campaign has shown the will of young people to carry out the EU
24 motto "united in diversity," where ethnic, national, cultural, and linguistic variety is seen as an
25 enrichment for societies. The youth, who benefit from the implementation of the
26 recommendations the longest, wants to ensure a united and peaceful Europe for future
27 generations. Therefore, we emphasize the importance to give the youth a voice and to have
28 an accurate and increased representation of youth in the fulfillment of the recommendations.

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30 Therefore, YEN:

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32 **Calls for** the implementation of all recommendations of the MSPI;

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34 **Highlights** the contribution of youth activism for the succes of MSPI;

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36 **Stresses** the need for the continuation of youth involvement to accomplish the
37 implementations of the MSPI.

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1. ¹EU-Recommendation for the protection and promotion of cultural and linguistic diversity
2. Funding programmes for small linguistic communities,
3. The creation of a Language Diversity Centre
4. The adaption of the EU's regional development funds to include the protection of national minorities and the promotion of cultural and linguistic diversity
5. Research about the added value of minorities to our societies and Europe
6. Approximating equality for stateless minorities e.g. Roma
7. A single European copyright law, so that services and broadcast can be enjoyed in the mother tongue
8. Freedom of service and reception of audio-visual content in the minority regions
9. The abolishment of exemption of regional (state) support for minority culture, media and cultural heritage conservation.

2. General demands on European citizens' initiatives

We have campaigned for the MSPI throughout the European Union. During this campaign, we encountered obstacles in the procedure of the European citizens' initiative. In 2013, the MSPI was refused to be registered by the European Commission. Therefore, the registration of the MSPI was taken to the European General Court (EGC) and the initiative was approved by the EGC in 2017. However, without a sufficient preparation period after the registration by the Commission, it proved to be difficult to immediately launch the campaign. The twelve months should be used for the campaign and collection of signatures, rather than for organisational matters, e.g. budget development, hiring staff, creation of web pages or production of promotion material.

The signature forms were hard to use and the preparation of user-friendly ones was time-consuming due to the different requirements of nation states for a valid signature. Moreover, these differences made the collection of signatures complicated, as some nation states required many personal data. The procedure to sign an initiative should be transparent and uncomplicated, and thereby making it accessible for all EU citizens.

A European citizens' initiative is a valuable democratic platform for the EU. The low number of successful initiatives since 2013 indicates that success is difficult to accomplish. We highlight the need to simplify, unify, and improve the procedure of a European citizens' initiative as to enhance the democratic possibilities of EU citizens.

Therefore, YEN:

Calls for sufficient preparation time after the registration of an initiative.

Urges the need to unify and simplify the signature forms of nation states in terms of formal requirements. As it is a European instrument it should have a unified European procedure.

Asks the European Union and its member states to have a positive approach towards European citizens' initiatives.

Highlights the importance of each initiative that has reached nearly a million signatures or more to be acknowledged.

Calls for the European Council to answer to each successful initiative.

Asks for a transparent procedure on the different phases on the citizens' initiative from the registration until the completion of the initiative.