



‘ECI - Direct Democracy session organized by the Green Institute, Greece on Friday, 9 November 2012’, 18.00 -19.30’

The workshop aims to examine how the European Citizens’ Initiative, a new instrument for citizen participation, can serve the purpose of bringing about more direct democracy and engage Europe’s citizens in assuming a more active role in their own affairs. After entering into force in April 2012, the ECI seems to have overcome problems with the online system for collecting signatures and 12 initiatives have been registered so far. Green MEP Gerald Haefner, Daniela Bozhinova, deputy of Democracy International and Wawa Wang, policy advisor 8 hours campaign, will present the process and discuss the particular challenges organizers face in using the ECI instrument, how other informal 1 million signature campaigns actually faired after they reached their target and debate about the extent to which EU institutions are responding to the will of their own citizens. The meeting is open to participants from civil society organizations and active citizens who want to learn more about the process and the ways they can use the ECI in their own transnational campaigns.

** The above session was organised in the context of the 17th Council of the European Green Party, GREENS/EFA Group in the European Parliament (Athens, 9-11 November 2012).*