



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

Office of the President
Head of Cabinet

Brussels,
BARROSO (2011) 340260
BARROSO (2011)

Mr Luca COPETTI
Mr Jaša PIPAN
Co-Presidents
Fraternité2020
c/o Institut Européen de Cluny
Email: enc@fraternite2020.eu

Dear Sirs,
Dear supporters of Fraternité2020,

The President of the European Commission, Mr José Manuel Barroso, asked me to thank you for your letter of 21 March informing him of your initiative Fraternité2020.

I welcome your interest in the citizens' initiative and I appreciate your desire to bring the EU closer to its citizens and to promote what you refer to as "a united Europe at grass-roots level". These are concerns the Commission deeply shares with you.

I took note with great interest of your suggestions, including those related to the increase in the financial resources dedicated to learning mobility and exchange programmes.

The Commission will set out its proposals for the next multi-annual financial framework, concerning the period from 2014 onwards, in June. It is our hope that we will be able to increase substantially our support for learning mobility and exchange programmes, and that such opportunities can be offered to greater numbers of EU citizens and young people in particular.

If you intend to formalise your suggestions in a European citizens' initiative in the sense of Article 11(4) of the Treaty on the European Union, please be aware that the regulation on the citizens' initiative¹ will only be applicable from 1 April 2012, allowing the first initiatives to be launched.

This regulation defines the rules to be followed in order to succeed in the organisation of a citizens' initiative. In particular, organisers will have to request the registration of their proposed citizens' initiative in an online register made available by the Commission.

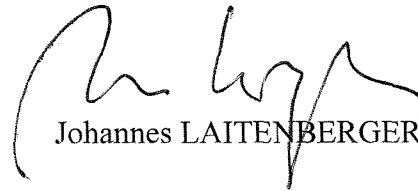
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¹ Regulation (EU) No 211/2011 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 16 February 2011 on the citizens' initiative (<http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:L:2011:065:0001:0022:EN:PDF>)
European Commission, B-1049 Brussels - Belgium. Téléphone: (32-2) 299 11 11.
Office: BERL 13/64. Téléphone: direct line (32-2) 2965745

From the registration date, organisers will have one year to collect at least 1 million valid statements of support from citizens coming from at least 25% of the EU Member States.

Therefore, if you wish to organise such an initiative, I invite you to submit your proposed citizens' initiative for registration through the procedure which will be available on the Commission's website, from 1 April next year.

Yours sincerely,



Johannes LAITENBERGER