

# Europe's Disconnections

Reforming the  
European Citizens'  
Initiative

# Our starting point

A broken connection between citizens and decision-makers



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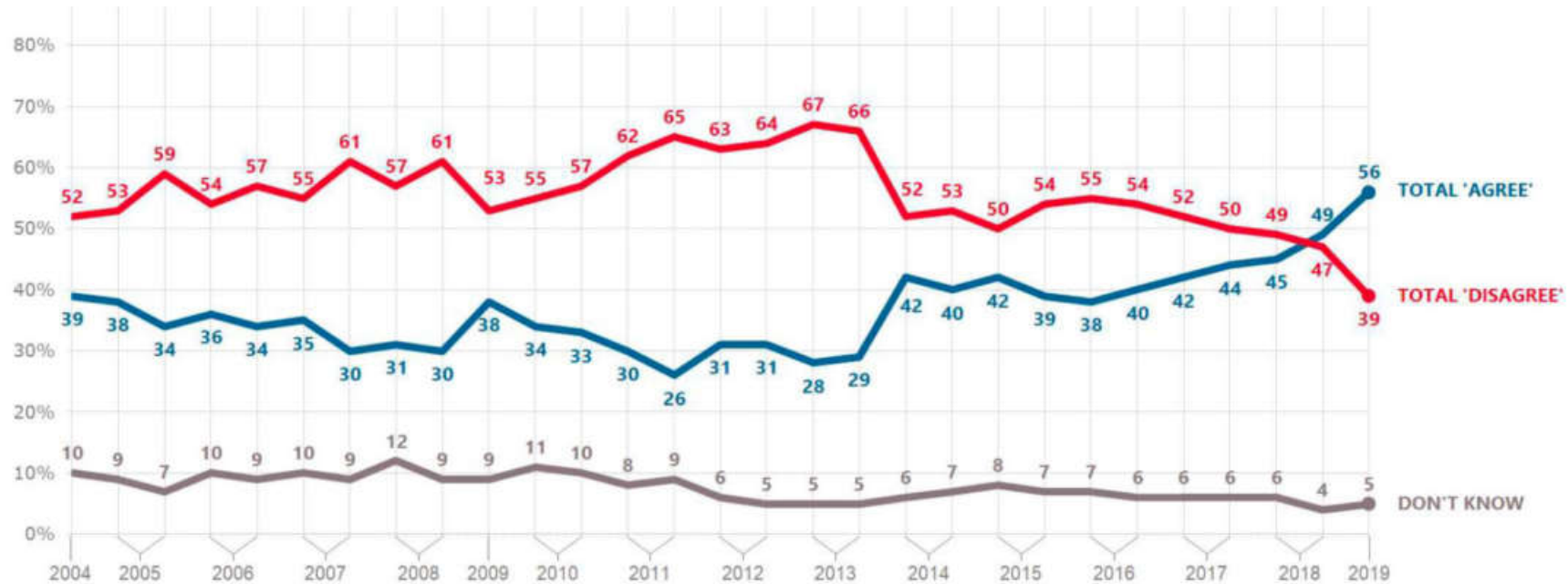
Dialogue

# Our Project

16 semi-structured  
interviews  
\*  
One book/8 essays  
\*  
One policy proposal  
\*  
An exhibition project

# Europe's Disconnections

*Please tell me to what extent you agree or disagree with each of the following statements: **My voice counts in the EU (%-EU)***



Source: 2019 Eurobarometer First Results, p.13

# Europe's Disconnections

*"We are a small country with little impact, right? It's like: do we have to scream in order to be heard?"*

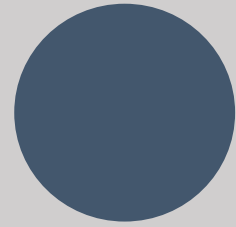
(Teresa, Portugal)

*"I don't even see it [the EU]. Not like something close, it's a distant thing."*

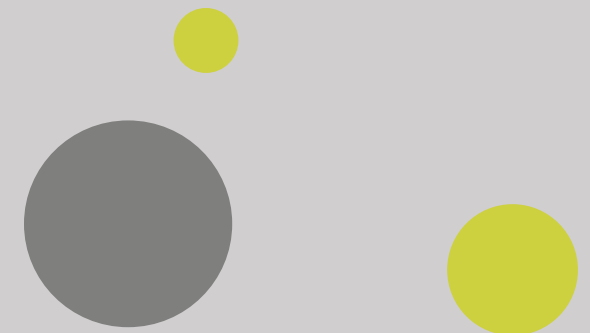
(Joaquin, Spain)

*"I feel like the EU is not designed towards the people. It's for big businesses."*

(Rosa, Scotland)



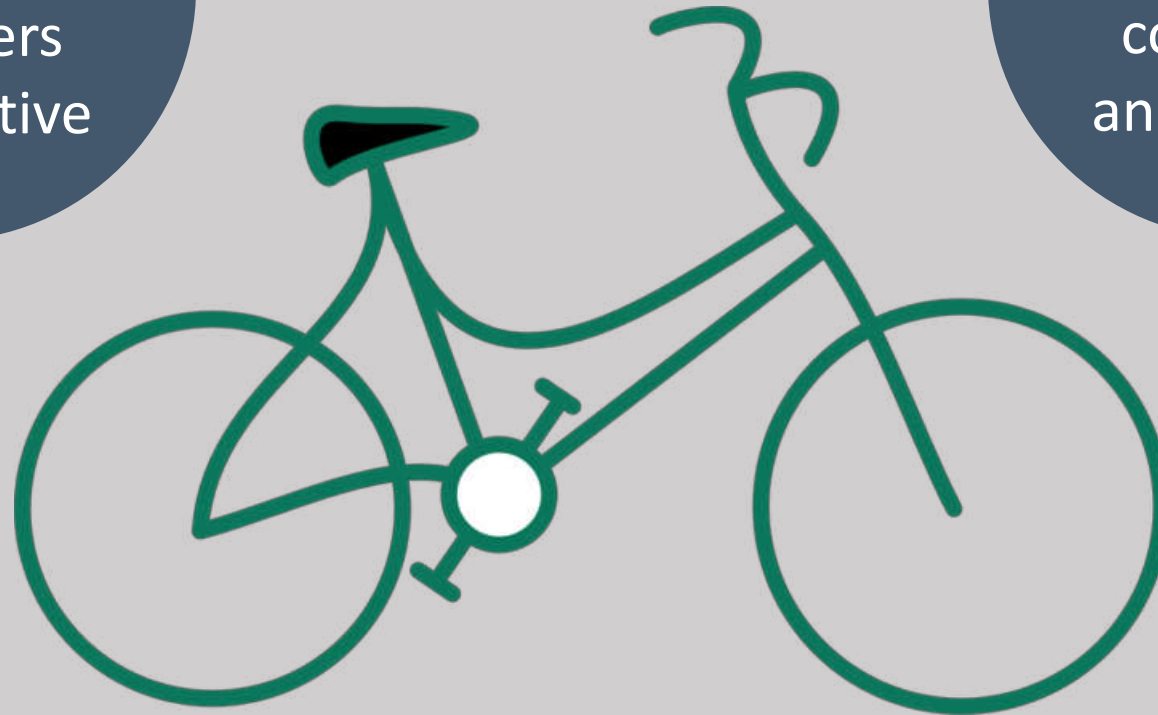
# The ECI 2020 - How it works



# The ECI – a bicycle with two flat tyres

Phase  
**before** the  
Commission  
considers  
an initiative

Phase  
**after** the  
Commission  
considers  
an initiative



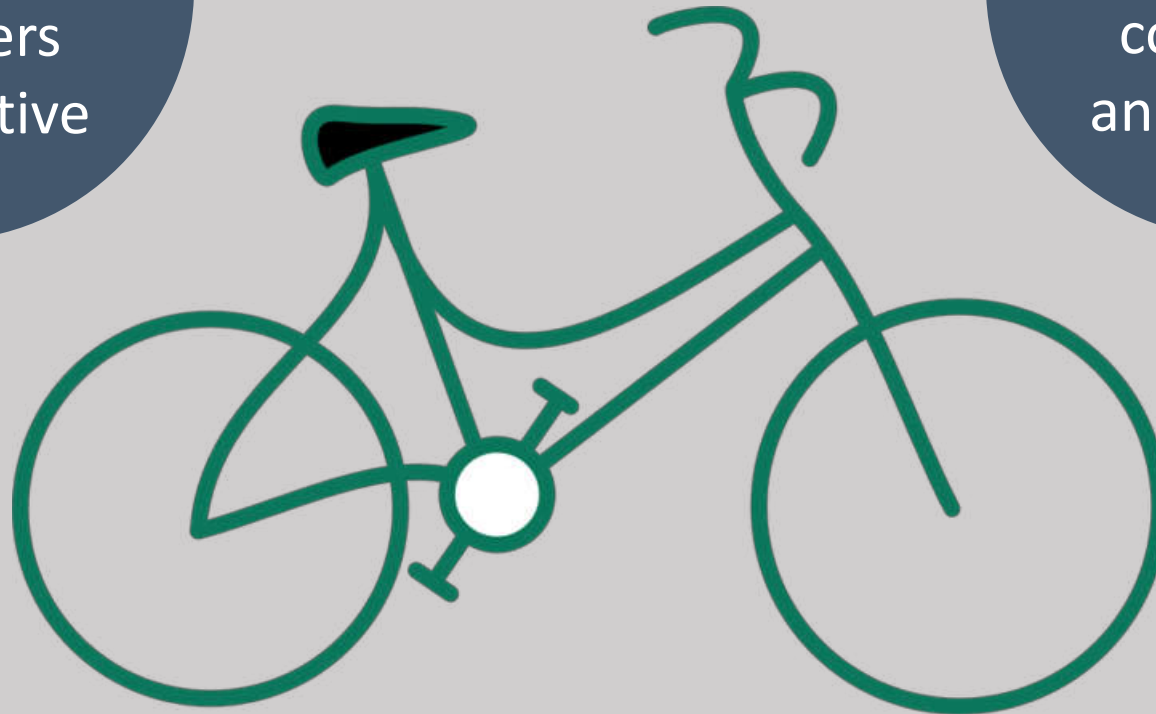
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Current ECI  
Reform  
(Jan 2020)





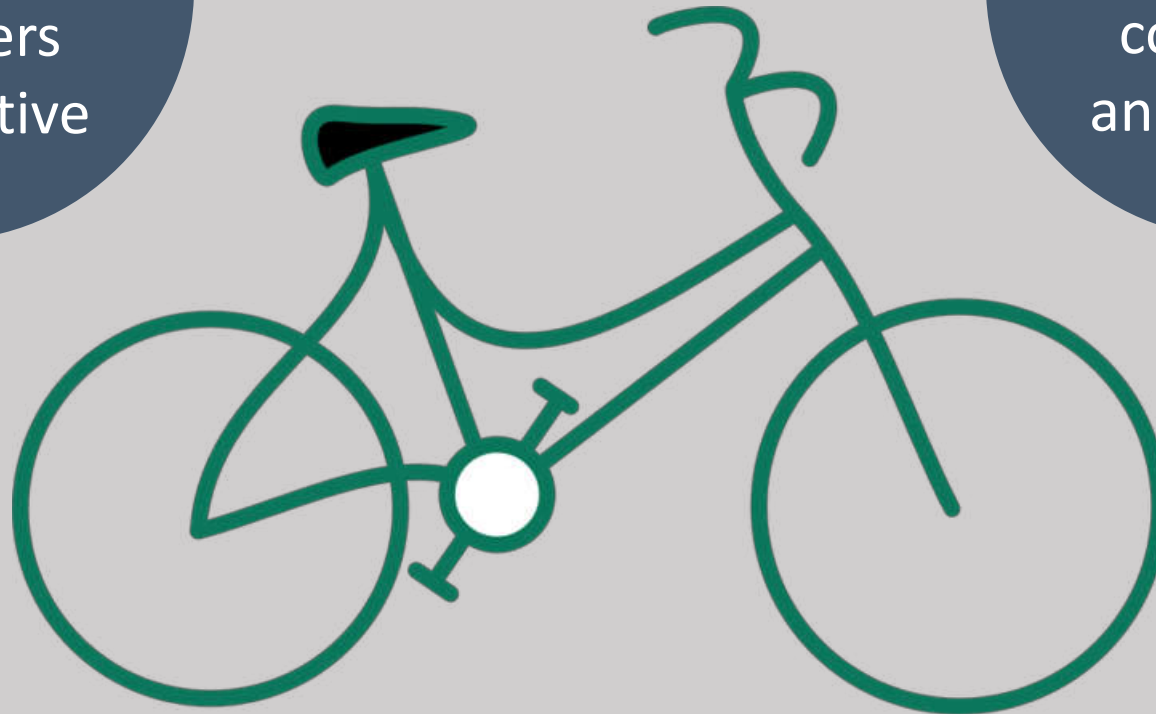
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Current ECI  
Reform  
(Jan 2020)



Our  
proposed  
reform

# Our proposed reform to the ECI



The European Parliament should follow the resolution procedure after each public hearing of a citizens' initiative



The European Commission should make a legislative proposal based on the initiative if there is a resolution that passed with a majority of MEPs



The European Parliament should publicly evaluate the Commission's proposal



# Assessment of our proposed reform



**Fits with current  
political will**



**Cost-  
effective  
and easy to  
implement**



**Joins  
participatory  
and  
representative  
democracy  
together**

# The ECI and Europe's Disconnections



*"We cannot be partakers unless we participate"*

(Veera, Finland)

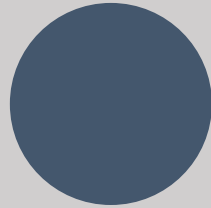
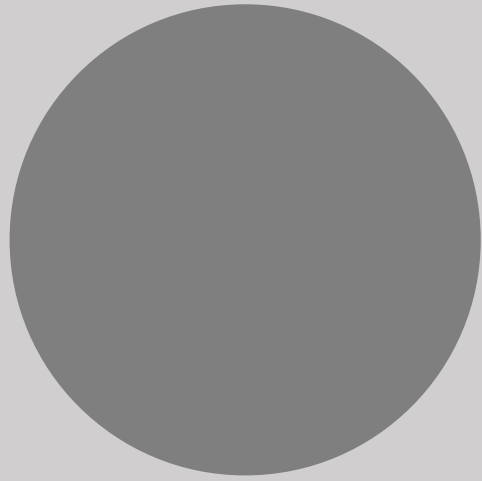


*"Anything that helps you feel like you are not left out by the European Union is a good thing (...).  
You should be able to say :*

**"Yes, the European Union did this for me!"**

(Valeriu, Romania)





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