

Notice on transitional arrangements on the new Regulation on the European citizens' initiative, applicable as of 1 January 2020

As of 1 January 2020, [new rules on the European citizens' initiative](#) will apply.

According to these rules, *'Regulation (EU) No 211/2011 ('the old rules') is repealed with effect from 1 January 2020'* (see Article 26).

Regulation (EU) 2019/788 ('the new rules') also provides for transitional arrangements; i.e. *'Articles 5 to 9 of Regulation (EU) No 211/2011 shall continue to apply after 1 January 2020 to European citizens' initiatives which are registered before 1 January 2020'* (see Article 27).

What will happen to initiatives registered before the end of 2019 and which are about to collect or already in the process of collecting statements of support? Will organisers have to modify the forms to collect statements of support and their online collection systems?

Any citizens' initiative registered until the end of 2019 will have to follow the old rules for the collection of statements of support, and in particular the conditions and data requirements concerning signatories. Organisers will also have to follow the old rules for the use of (individual) online collection systems.

This means that organisers that have not yet started the online collection of statements of support, have to set up their own individual online collection system and have it certified by the relevant authority in the Member States where it is hosted.

For initiatives that are already in the process of collecting, no change will be required as far as forms (and data requirements) for the collection of statements of support is concerned. No modification of their online collection systems will be required either.

What rules should an initiative registered before 1 January 2020 follow once it has collected the required numbers of statements of support?

The rules for validation of statements of support collected for any initiative registered before 1 January 2020 will not change.

The rules for submission of the initiative to the Commission will not change either. There will be no deadline for this, but organisers shall be aware of the specific retention periods for keeping the collected statements of supports (the new rules provide for a deadline of 3 months, but these will only apply to initiatives registered after 1 January 2020).

However, once submitted, the new rules will apply as far as the examination phase is concerned; this means in particular that the Commission will have a deadline of 6 months (instead of 3 months according to the old rules) to give its reply.

What will be the deadline for the Commission to provide its response to a successful initiative submitted at the end of 2019? 3 months or 6 months?

As regards the examination of successful initiatives, for initiatives submitted to the Commission before the end of the year 2019, the Commission will have 6 instead of 3 months to adopt the Commission Communication.

Will citizens' committees for initiatives registered before 1 January 2020 have to modify anything to their existing setup?

From 1 January 2020, citizens' committees will be referred to as groups of organisers. They will not be required to alter their existing structure, but will be allowed to follow the new rules and add more members if they wish to.

However, they may not be allowed to set up a legal entity. This possibility will only apply to initiatives registered from 1 January 2020.