

• Our ECI, what's the situation?

- (Executive Com. of FERPA, 26-27 November 2015,
Bruxelles)

■ 3 parts in this presentation

- 1) What have been done so far
- 2) What's the situation now
- 3) Conclusion

■ **1) What have
been done so far?**

- **Final Resolution** of our 6th FERPA Congress in Venice (April 2011): make use of the new right to take initiative granted to European citizens
- **Decision from the Executive Com.** dated 13-14 November 2012 to launch **ECI 28**
- **Registering procedure** by the Commission on September 5th 2013
- **Rejection** from the Commission on November 5th 2013
- **Two decisions** from the Steering Committee validated by the Executive Com. in March 2014
- - **appealing** to the court of Justice
- - drawing up of a **new proposal** for an ECI

■ 2) What's the situation today?

2.1) Appealing to the European Court of Justice

- Appeal received on **January 15th 2014**
- **Hearings of the parties (lawyers)** on October 28th before the Luxembourg Court of Justice with Robert RACKE representing FERPA

2.2) Facts & figures about the ECI



• **Evaluation of the ECI by the Commission**

- **51 registration procedures** (involving 6 millions citizens)
- **31 accepted**
- **20 rejected** (almost 40%)
- **3 open** (6%), but one rejected by the Commission
- **5 appeals** to the Court of Justice (25% of the rejected ECIs)

Problems brought up by the Commission

- **especially...**
- The Citizens' Committee is **lacking legal personality** (the members' responsibility is assumed)
- **Various expectations** depending on countries
- **Agenda** of the ECI itself
- **Quality check of translations** of the ECI proposals
- **Complex** procedure of the certifications required by the online collection system



The European Parliament

- **Resolution dated September 8th 2015** (hearing of the « right to water » ECI)
- **Condemned** the Commission's lack of ambition
- **Submission of amendments**
 - - **Transparency**
 - - **Support and legal advice**
 - - **Information**
 - - **Stop to administrative burdens**
 - - **Only one registration system**



The Committee on Institutional Affairs

- **Report on ECI dated October 7th 2015**
- The ECI must be supported because it is the first **tool of participatory democracy**
- **BUT** the difficulties met by a majority of ECI organisers **call for a new regulation**
- **especially...**
- - **lower the legal age down to 16**
- - Have a more **user-friendly** and **easy-to-use** collection software for disabled persons
- - **Harmonisation** of the collected data
- - **Reduce** the number of requirements
- - **Appearance of conflict of interest**
- - **No legal effects, until now...**



Agenda?

- **Information from the Secretariat-General of the Commission**
- **Revise the ECI? Open question**
- **Not a basic decision**
- **No agenda**
- **As early as possible (end 2017?)**

Conclusion

- **Two options:**
- **Launch our new ECI right NOW?**
- **Wait until end of 2017?**
- **It's possible to be helped by *Europe Direct***

Thank you for your attention

- **Any remarks?...**
- **Or questions?...**
- **The floor is now open for the
debate...**