



*One alone does not
help, but rather he
who unites with
others at the right
time*

Goethe

*1 million signatures
for
greater quality
of life
in Europe!*

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Perspectives for further steps

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I.

The Lisbon Treaty came into effect on 1 December 2009. As a result, the new instrument of a *European citizens' initiative* has been incorporated into the EU treaty. Under the new article 11, clause 4, "not less than 1 million EU citizens who are nationals of a significant number of Member States may take the initiative of inviting the Commission, within the framework of its powers, to submit any appropriate proposal on matters where citizens consider that a legal act of the Union is required for the purpose of implementing the Treaties."

The wording of this clause is based on the Treaty on a European Constitution of 2004 which failed as a result of the referenda in France and Holland. When it became clear, 3 years ago, that this treaty would be replaced by a new Reform Treaty, ELIANT started to collect 1 million signatures with the expectation that this treaty would be implemented.

Today this signature campaign is close to achieving its goal! If one counts signatures from non-EU countries as well as those from within the EU, we have already exceeded the required million, with 1,031,951. For instance, almost 50,000 votes come from Switzerland. To submit our concerns to European institutions in Brussels, however, one million signatures are required from within the EU alone. We still need around 79,000 signatures, therefore, and ELIANT hopes to secure these very soon. The 110,000 plus signatures from non-EU countries are important as additional support. They will show EU institutions that anthroposophy is recognised worldwide.

II.

Currently the EU is working on implementation regulations relating to the new citizens' initiative instrument, which is of such significance for civil society and citizens themselves. The Commission has recorded its ideas about this in a green paper. As one of the first non-government organisations registered with the Commission, ELIANT has accepted an invitation to express an opinion on the green paper. ELIANT's response is based on experiences which it has had while collecting signatures, and contains specific suggestions for the structuring of implementation procedures. ELIANT's statement has been published, along with others, on the Commission website set up for this purpose.

http://ec.europa.eu/dgs/secretariat_general/citizens_initiative/contributions_en.htm

The ELIANT representative in Brussels, Dr. Andreas Biesantz, presented ELIANT's suggestions to

a Commission hearing on 22 February 2010. These include a transitional ruling for citizens' initiatives which collect 1 million signatures before the new rules come into effect.

In the forthcoming consultations on the Commission's proposals for implementation regulations in the European parliament and the EU Council of Ministers, ELIANT will continue to put forward its proposals, collaborating with other non-governmental organisations which have likewise issued statements relating to the green paper.

III.

ELIANT geared the aim and mode of implementation of its signature campaign to the wording of the new article 11, clause 4 on citizens' initiatives which, as mentioned above, has long been in the public domain.

In the near future, ELIANT will submit the results of its signature campaign in a memorandum to the European Commission. In this memorandum, ELIANT will, at the same time, as allowed for under article 11, clause 4, "invite the Commission, within the framework of its powers, to submit... proposals on matters where citizens" who have given ELIANT their vote "consider that a legal act of the Union is required for the purpose of implementing the Treaties."

These citizens support the aims outlined in the Alliance's charter, from which are derived the current themes and demands for developing existing EU law. Basically, the concern here is to preserve or create legislative framework conditions in the EU which will appropriately safeguard modes of life derived from applied anthroposophy. This will benefit all citizens. Diversity and freedom of choice are the vital and decisive themes here!

Specifically, the proposals to the Commission relate to the following themes:

- In the field of agriculture and nutrition, legislation should take full and sufficient account of the unique nature of biodynamic cultivation and Demeter produce, and their enhancement of living processes. This applies above all to the production of specific fertiliser preparations and pure, natural foodstuffs. Anthroposophic initiatives' concern to promote the health of human beings, animals and plants must be incorporated into the general provisions of health or consumer protection laws. Thus future EU research programmes must promote holistic research approaches. In addition, ELIANT and its sponsors, in collaboration with other non-government organisations, are asking for regulations to protect organic agriculture unadulterated by genetic engineering.
- In the field of health policy and medicine, anthroposophic medicine must be acknowledged as a major, scientifically-based aspect of alternative and complementary medicine, to be integrated into all EU provisions for promoting public health. A specific permit procedure that is appropriate to the unique nature of anthroposophic medicines and allows their free availability on the internal EU market is necessary. All EU regulations must take account of the specific concerns of patients relating to free choice of the medicinal and therapeutic treatment they desire. In the realm of special needs education and social therapy, too, the principles of plurality and free choice for service users must be observed.
- In the field of general education, likewise, the special approach of Waldorf education must be adequately acknowledged in the EU's support programmes and coordination measures. Here note should be taken of the contribution that this form of education and its independent institutions can make, and are already making, to improving the quality of education in Europe.

These demands apply initially explicitly to fields of applied anthroposophy, which are especially sensitive areas of professional work geared to enhancing living processes. They can thus be seen as representative of other, similarly sensitive fields such as organic agriculture, homeopathic medicine or progressive education. Freedoms hopefully achieved in certain fields could then offer an encouraging example for other such fields.