



STAKEHOLDER BRIEFING

STRENGTHENING & PROTECTING EU CIVIL SOCIETY TOWARDS AN EU LEGAL FRAMEWORK ON THE RIGHT TO ASSOCIATE

*Commission's Follow-Up to the INL Report
'A Statue for European Associations'*

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SERGEY LAGODINSKY
Member of the European Parliament

14 July 2022

RECAP: THE LAGODINSKY REPORT



- Proposal: Regulation to create 'European statute for associations'
- Proposal: Directive to protect civil society from pressure & discrimination in MS - establishing harmonised rules to make civil society engagement easier
- Demand to COM: create overview of existing types of organisations qualifying for mutual recognition
- Demand to COM: establish stakeholder dialogue (long-standing demand of civil society)
- Demand to COM: establish common definition of what qualifies as 'public benefit'

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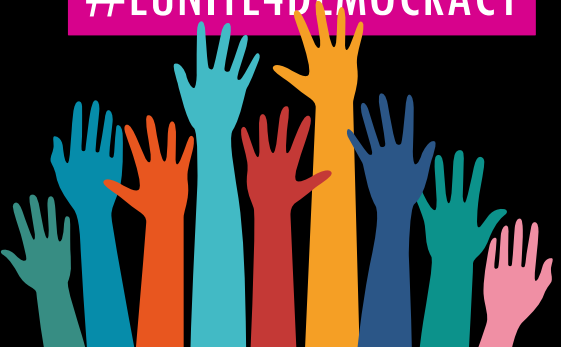


COMMISSION REPLY TO THE INL



- COM announcement: Directive to guarantee 'single market freedoms' for associations and non-profits 'while protecting their fundamental rights and freedom of association more generally'
 - » meaning: COM will create legal framework to facilitate mutual recognition of non-profits among member states
 - » potential to lead to establishment of minimum standards to protect civil society organisations
- COM announcement: Stakeholder Dialogue will be established
- COM announcement: overview of organisation types that we demanded

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COMMISSION REPLY TO THE INL



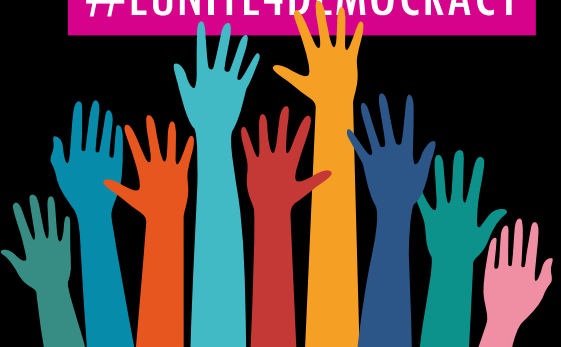
- However: COM does not feel comfortable proposing additional legal Statute for European Associations
 - » remains our long-term goal
 - » requires unanimity in Council
 - » we will continue to strive for equal footing with commercial interests in the EU!

NONETHELESS: SUCESS FOR CIVIL SOCIETY

- » First-ever legal framework to protect civil society organisations throughout the EU



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NOW WHAT?

- End of July: Public Consultation on the proposal will start
 - » be sure to submit your feedback over the summer
 - » runs for 3 months
 - » open to everyone
- Q2 2023: Draft Legislation will be submitted to EP and Council
 - » important to finish in this mandate as we have great support from other groups
 - » Council Presidencies with new mandate in 2024 might not be as friendly (HU, PL)

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JOIN THE ACTION



WE WILL NEED YOUR SUPPORT TO UPHOLD THE MOMENTUM

- GREENS/EFA CAMPAIGN: on protecting and strengthening civic spaces in the EU
- JOIN MY CAMPAIGN: #EUUnite4Democracy - comms material will be sent after this briefing
- MAKE YOUR OWN CAMPAIGN: create public awareness for the upcoming law & get in touch with the European Commission to ensure our demands are considered in the draft.



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