

RESUME

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Heard, but Not Heeded: The Minority SafePack European Citizens' Initiative and the Lessons of EU Case-Law

This article examines the legal and procedural implications of the European Citizens' Initiative through the case of the Minority SafePack, complemented by a comparative reference to the initiative on cohesion policy for the equality of regions. It focuses in particular on the Commission's margin of discretion and its duty to state reasons. Drawing on the relevant case-law of the Court of Justice of the European Union, the analysis highlights a structural gap between the registration phase and the stage of substantive response, which allows the Commission to redefine the scope of initiatives and to limit the depth of its engagement with the organisers' proposals. The study argues that this practice weakens the participatory function of the ECI and risks transforming it into a largely formal mechanism with limited substantive impact. In response, the article proposes a reconsideration of the follow-up phase, suggesting a more dialogical approach that would enable organisers to react to the Commission's position and thereby strengthen the role of the ECI in EU decision-making.

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Parliamentary Representation of National Minorities in Montenegro

The study describes, in a historical context, how the parliamentary representation and effective presence of national minorities have evolved in the small Adriatic country over the past three and a half decades, from the first democratic elections following the regime change to the present day. To this end, it presents the milestones of Montenegro's political life and the changes in its electoral system, with particular regard to specific regulations affecting minorities. It further explores how these provisions have been implemented in practice and the extent to which they have facilitated, supported, or hindered the actual realization of parliamentary representation for national minorities as a whole or in part. In addition to describing elements of the parliamentary electoral system – such as list types, the number of constituencies and mandates, general thresholds, and the electoral formulas used for majority lists – the study presents the specific procedural methods designed to ensure minority representation. It also provides a detailed account of the election results achieved by national minorities running independently and winning seats. For a more comprehensive and deeper insight, the study also examines the performance of minority parties that ran independently but failed to reach the threshold, as well as the results of minority parties running on majority lists, given their undeniable significance.