

**AUSTRIAN INSTITUTE  
FOR EUROPEAN  
LAW AND POLICY**

**IRI** *Initiative and  
Referendum  
Institute Europe*

**CO-ORGANIZED BY**

**EU COMMISSION - REPRESENTATION IN AUSTRIA - AUSTRIAN FEDERAL  
CHANCELLERY – AUSTRIAN FEDERAL MINISTRY OF THE INTERIOR – AUS-  
TRIAN FEDERAL MINISTRY FOR EUROPEAN AND INTERNATIONAL AF-  
FAIRS - STATE OF SALZBURG - POLITISCHE AKADEMIE DER ÖVP – REN-  
NER-INSTITUT – GRÜNE BILDUNGSWERKSTATT – ÖSTERREICHISCHE GE-  
SELLSCHAFT FÜR EUROPAPOLITIK – BATLINER-EUROPA-INSTITUT – EU-  
ROPEAN MOVEMENT – AUSTRIAN INSTITUTE FOR EUROPEAN AND SECUR-  
ITY POLICY – DEPARTEMENT OF EUROPEAN, INTERNATIONAL AND  
COMPARATIVE LAW, UNIVERSITY OF VIENNA**



**EUROPEAN CITIZENS'  
INITIATIVE SUMMIT 2011  
ONE YEAR TO GO:  
THE FINAL ECI COUNT-  
DOWN**

**MAY 6<sup>TH</sup>/7<sup>TH</sup> 2011  
VIENNA**



EUROPÄISCHE KOMMISSION

BUNDESKANZLERAMT  ÖSTERREICH

 Bundesministerium für europäische  
und internationale Angelegenheiten

**BM.I**   
BUNDESMINISTERIUM FÜR INNERES

  
**Land Salzburg**

*Für unser Land!*

**PolAk**

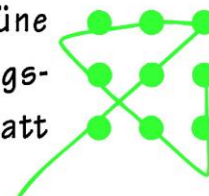
Politische Akademie der ÖVP

 **Renner**Institut

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Recht und Rechtsvergleichung

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bildungs-  
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 **AIES**  
AUSTRIA INSTITUT FÜR  
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 Herbert-Batliner-Europainstitut



**European Movement  
Mouvement Européen**



Österreichische Gesellschaft  
für Europapolitik

Dear European Citizen!

With less than a year to go before the first European Citizens' Initiative can be registered and formally launched, experts, activists and observers will meet in the Austrian capital to update each other on the final countdown to a historic première. This is a unique opportunity to learn more about the procedural, practical and infrastructural preparations for the very first direct-democratic tool at the transnational level in world history!

The 2011 European Citizens' Initiative Summit brings together the key stakeholders from civil society, politics, media, administration and academia from across Europe to assess:

- the remaining days of **procedural fine-tuning**, including issues related to the identification and verification requirements as well as the e-platform for the ECI;
- the preliminary ideas and ongoing projects which will shape the **first European Initiative cycle** before the procedures are revised in 2015/2016;
- contributions to the **supportive infrastructure**, which will be critical for making the ECI a truly pan-European and citizen-friendly tool - including a shared back office called the "European Citizens' Initiative Office".
- and finally, the bigger picture of participatory democracy enshrined in Arts. 10.3 and 11 TEU: how to follow up the strengthened requirements for information, consultation and dialogue between the EU institutions and civil society.

The European Citizens' Initiative is the key part of a comprehensive citizens 'participatory package established by the Lisbon Treaty. What happens to the other participatory democracy tools in the Treaty? Modern direct democracy is an integral part of representative government. The European Citizens' Initiative is just a first step at the transnational level, which is already being complemented by proposals and discussion on how to establish us the citizens also as decision-makers, for example by having pan-European popular votes on substantive issues ("referendums").

Join the work at this very promising and challenging moment of democratic history, when millions across the world are struggling for more democratic rights.

Welcome to the 2011 European Citizens' Initiative Summit, welcome to Vienna!

Yours sincerely

Johannes Pichler  
 Director  
 Austrian Institute for European  
 Law and Policy

Bruno Kaufmann  
 President  
 Initiative and Referendum Institute  
 Europe

# Programme

## DAY 1: Friday, May 6

- From 9.00 Registration and Coffee
- 10.00 Opening Address: ECI Job done? – Challenges ahead!  
Objectives of the conference,  
*Professor Johannes W. Pichler*, Director of the Austrian Institute for European Law and Policy
- 10.30 CHAPTER I: **ECI in Law**
- featuring: Open Questions; Fine-tuning Efforts; Optimizing Potential; Supporting Plans; Preparatory Steps
- Introduced and Chaired by  
*Bruno Kaufmann*, President, The Initiative and Referendum Institute Europe (IRIE)
- 10.45 Panel I: ***Institutional Actors***
- Commission: *Dr. Mario Tenreiro*, Head of Unit DG Institutional Affairs
- EU Parliament: MEP *Dr. Zita Gurmai*, Rapporteur AFCO
- EESC: *Dr. Anne-Marie Sigmund*, Past President, ECI Rapporteur
- Council and Member States: *Mag. Robert Stein*, Ministry of the Interior - Head of Department of Electoral Affairs
- 11.45 Discussion
- 12.30 Lunch at the Venue
- 13.30 Panel II: ***Non-governmental Actors***
- ECAS: *Tony Venables*
- IRI Europe: *Nils Ehlers*
- Research Network: *Dr. Tamara Ehs*
- Democracy International: *Carsten Berg*, Director ECI Campaign
- Balkan Assist: *Dr. Atanas Slavov and Vladimira Tsvetkova*

## CHAPTER II ECI in Action

14.30 Panel III: **Initiative Actors**

GMO III: *Greenpeace*

Eliant: *Dr. Andreas Biesantz*

Free Sunday: MEP *Martin Kastler*

More Democracy: *Daniel Schily*, Democracy International / *Erwin Leitner*,  
More Democracy, Austria

15.30 Coffee Break

### 16.00 ECI framework challenges: Inputs and Thoughts

Introduced and Chaired by  
*Professor Theo Schiller*, Chairman, The Initiative and Referendum Institute  
Europe

16.10 The ECI Back Office - Towards a supportive infrastructure for the supportive  
infrastructure  
*Bruno Kaufmann*

16.25 Activating the Activists - A Practitioner's Guide to a successful ECI  
*Carsten Berg*

16.40 Happy Losers? Provisions and support for ECIs and ECI and other forms of  
participation who cannot reach the given requirements  
*Johannes W. Pichler*

17.00 Discussion

18.00 Wrapping-Up and Outlook Day 1  
*Gerald Häfner, MEP*

19.00 **Reception given by the Austrian Federal Chancellery  
Special Invitation Follows**

## DAY 2: Saturday, May 7

- 09.30            CHAPTER III
- ECI in the making and beyond:** Reflections, Reactions, Considerations  
From Participation to Communication and back
- Introduced and Chaired by  
*Anne-Marie Sigmund*
- 09.35            Re-Inventing Ideas and Approaches to Pan-European Direct Democracy. Making Use of Dreamt Dreams – from De Gaulle to Juncker and....  
*Dr. Arnold Kammel*, Secretary General of the Austrian Institute for European and Security Policy
- 09.45            ECI – An instrument rather of deliberative than of participatory democracy?  
*Dr. Alexander Balthasar*, Federal Chancellery and Austrian Institute for European Law and Policy
- 10.00            The TEU's/Citizens' Participatory Democracy's "Holistic" Architecture beyond the ECI under Art 11.4 TEU - from Art 10.3 to Art 11.1&2&3  
*Johannes W. Pichler*
- 10.15            Panel IV: **Making the ECI a democratic success.** Inputs by the summit co-organizers.
- Expectations – too high or too low? Transnational agenda-setting power for citizens – first or last step? How to help the citizens in their new responsibility?
- Introduced and chaired by
- Martin Bühler*, Secretary General, The Initiative and Referendum Institute :  
*Representative Richard Kühnel, MA – European Commission*  
*Director General Dr. Harald Dossi – Austrian Federal Chancellery*  
*Yvonne Toncic-Sorinj, Director for General EU Matters and EU Institutions – Austrian Federal Ministry for European and International Affairs*  
*Professor Alina-Maria Lengauer, LL.M. – Vice Director to the Department of European, International and Comparative Law at the University of Vienna*  
*Paul Schmidt, MA, Secretary General – Austrian Society for European Politics*  
*Professor Heinrich Neisser – President to European Movement Austria*

11.15 Coffee Break

11.30 Final Discussion

12.30 Panel V: **Political Considerations.** Viewpoints by Representatives of Political Parties

Supportive Macroeconomy? Rush of ECI's? Your Personal Forecast on the ECI's Power to Impact European Politics and Policies?

**Introduced and chaired by** *Johannes W. Pichler*

*MP Kai Jan Krainer*

*MP Daniela Musiol, MA*

*Dr. Werner Fasslabend, Former Deputy President of the Austrian National Council*

13.30 **Close of the Conference**

**Reception at the Venue**

## Practical Information

**Conference Language:** English – Statements in German are welcome (no simultaneous translation, consecutive in the case of German language inputs)

## Registration / Contact

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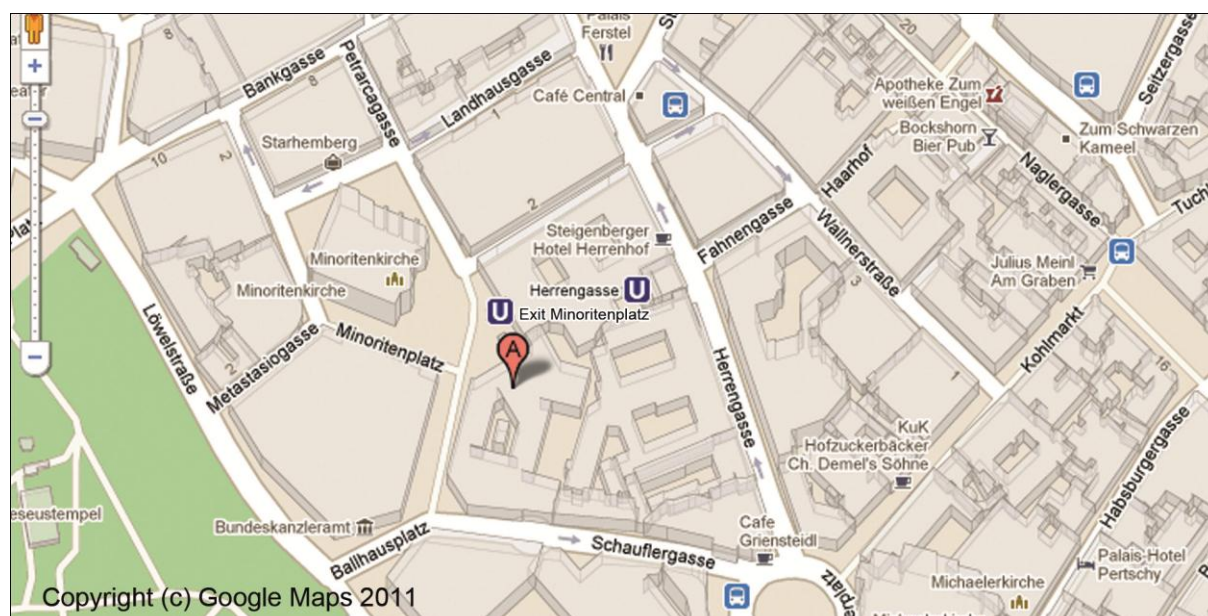
## Venue Details:

Grosser Vortragssaal  
 Bundesministerium für Inneres / Ministry of the Interior  
 Minoritenplatz 9, 1010 Wien

For users of Ground Transportation:

Orange Line U3 Station Herrengasse,  
 follow Exit Minoritenplatz

Entrance is vis-à-vis Subway Station U3



## Hotel Reservation:

The team of the Austrian Institute will be pleased to assist you, please contact us.