



Motion in support of the European Citizens' Initiative: Minority SafePack – one million signatures for diversity in Europe

ADOPTED BY THE COUNCIL OF MEMBERS
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The European Citizens' Initiative¹ offers the opportunity for citizens from at least seven European states, who collect the support of at least one million Europeans, to invite the European Commission to come with legislative proposals on matters where they consider that action of the European Union is required.

A broad alliance of minority organisations across Europe initiated the “Minority SafePack Initiative – one million signatures for diversity in Europe”², including our member, Youth of European Nationalities³. This citizens' initiative is currently gathering support across Europe for minority rights and the promotion of cultural and linguistic diversity. They want to spark a Europe-wide debate on how the European Union can live up to its motto: “In varietate concordia – United in diversity”⁴.

The rights of the minorities in the European Union are not always respected. In many cases their language and culture is endangered or their rights have been violated. These communities want to have the same chance to participate and be an equal part of the society, without being marginalised. In the past the European Union has left the minority issues to be dealt with on a Member State level only, without reflecting on the important role that the European Union plays in the life of citizens.

The European Youth Forum is firmly committed to the rights-based approach⁵, equality, strong civil society and non-discrimination. It therefore welcomes the “Minority SafePack Initiative”⁶ as a chance to fight marginalisation, xenophobia and intolerance in society and to create a more inclusive European Union that takes account of its minorities.

The European Youth Forum has noticed that the “Minority SafePack Initiative” consists of measures in several areas of EU policy that may have a profound effect on the future of young people belonging to minorities.

Therefore the European Youth Forum supports the “Minority SafePack Initiative – one million signatures for diversity in Europe” and its objective to foster the debate on the effective promotion of minority rights on European Union level.

¹ <http://ec.europa.eu/citizens-initiative/public/?lg=en>

² <http://www.minority-safepack.eu>

³ <http://www.yeni.org>

⁴ https://europa.eu/european-union/about-eu/symbols/motto_en

⁵ http://www.youthforum.org/assets/2013/05/0233-12_SP2013-19_FINAL_AMENDED.pdf

⁶ http://www.minority-safepack.eu/assets/downloads/booklet/MSPI_brochure_EN.pdf