



EUROPEAN
COMMISSION

Brussels, 22.3.2017
C(2017) 2000 final

COMMISSION DECISION

of 22.3.2017

on the proposed citizens' initiative entitled "Stop Brexit"

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THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION,

Having regard to the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union,

Having regard to Regulation (EU) No 211/2011 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 16 February 2011 on the citizens' initiative¹, and in particular Article 4 thereof,

Whereas:

- (1) The subject-matter of the proposed initiative entitled "Stop Brexit" refers to the following "The process of Brexit is doing enormous damage to the United Kingdom the damage will continue to fracture British society". The main objectives of that proposed initiative are: "Stay in the European Union".
- (2) The Treaty on European Union (TEU) reinforces citizenship of the Union and enhances further the democratic functioning of the Union by providing, inter alia, that every citizen is to have the right to participate in the democratic life of the Union by way of a European citizens' initiative.
- (3) To this end, the procedures and conditions required for the citizens' initiative should be clear, simple, user-friendly and proportionate to the nature of the citizens' initiative so as to encourage participation by citizens and to make the Union more accessible.
- (4) The right of any Member State to withdraw from the European Union is enshrined in Article 50(1) of the Treaty on European Union (TEU), according to which any Member State may decide to withdraw from the Union in accordance with its own constitutional requirements.
- (5) There is no legal basis in the Treaties which would allow for the adoption of a legal act of the Union for the purpose of implementing the Treaties in order to prevent a Member State from withdrawing from the Union.
- (6) For these reasons, the proposed citizens' initiative entitled "Stop Brexit" manifestly falls outside the framework of the Commission's powers to submit a proposal for a legal act of the Union for the purpose of implementing the Treaties within the meaning of Article 4(2)(b) of the Regulation, read in conjunction with Article 2, point 1, thereof.

HAS ADOPTED THIS DECISION:

Article 1

The registration of the proposed initiative entitled "Stop Brexit" is hereby refused.

¹ OJ L 65, 11.3.2011, p. 1.

Article 2

This Decision is addressed to the organisers (members of the citizens' committee) of the proposed citizens' initiative called "Stop Brexit", represented by [Personal data deleted following the consultation of the organisers] acting as contact persons.

Done at Brussels, 22.3.2017

For the Commission
Frans TIMMERMANS
Vice-President