



# MINORITY SAFEPACK INITIATIVE

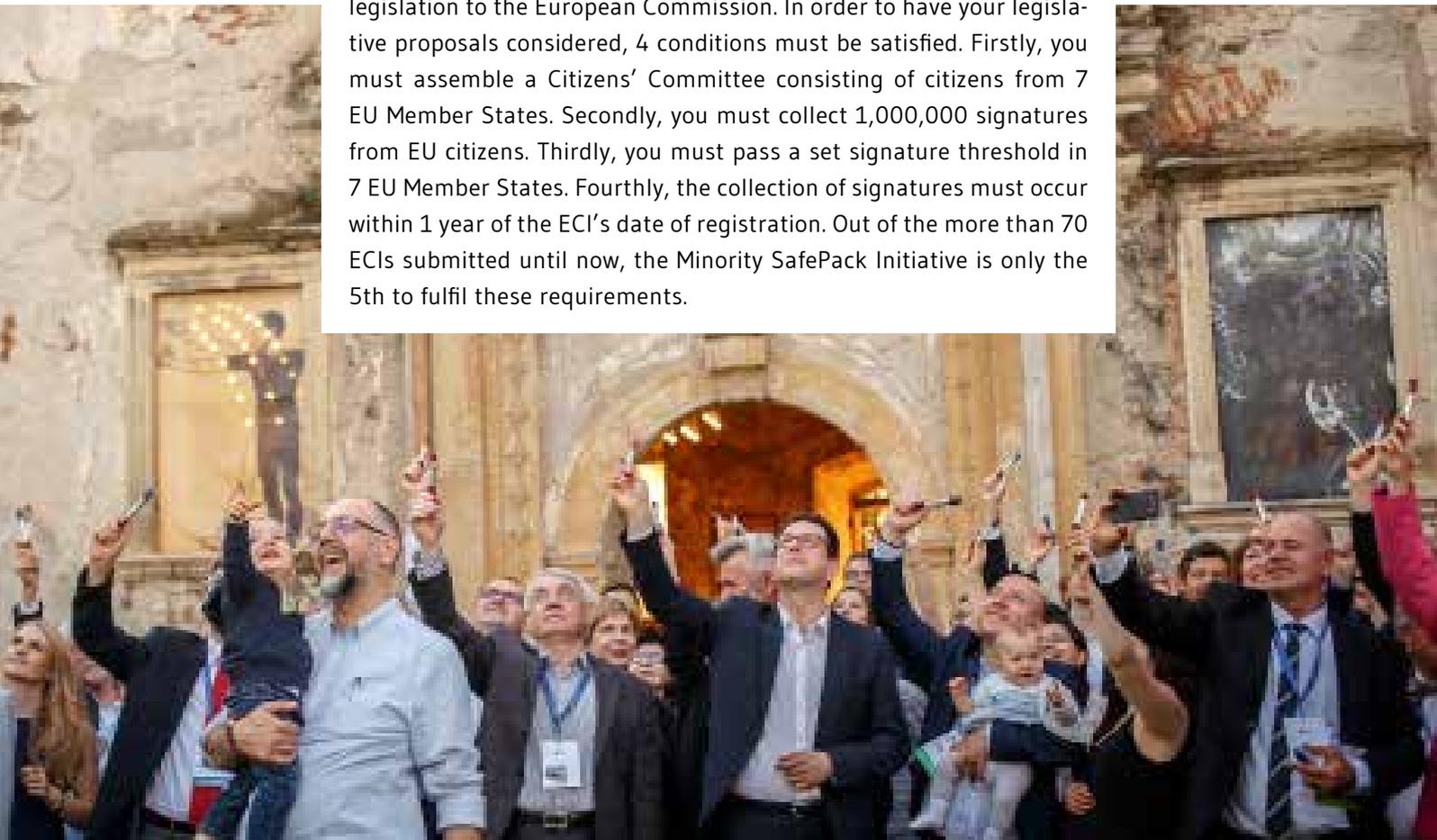
YOU ARE NOT ALONE. ONE MILLION  
SIGNATURES FOR DIVERSITY IN EUROPE

**1,128,385**  
**REASONS FOR**  
**MINORITY PROTECTION**  
**IN THE EU**



# WHAT IS THE EUROPEAN CITIZENS' INITIATIVE?

**T**he European Citizens' Initiative [(ECI)] is an instrument of participatory democracy that was introduced by the European Union in 2012. It allows EU Member State citizens to propose legislation to the European Commission. In order to have your legislative proposals considered, 4 conditions must be satisfied. Firstly, you must assemble a Citizens' Committee consisting of citizens from 7 EU Member States. Secondly, you must collect 1,000,000 signatures from EU citizens. Thirdly, you must pass a set signature threshold in 7 EU Member States. Fourthly, the collection of signatures must occur within 1 year of the ECI's date of registration. Out of the more than 70 ECIs submitted until now, the Minority SafePack Initiative is only the 5th to fulfil these requirements.



The Federal Union of European Nationalities (FUEN) is the most important advocate and the largest representative umbrella organisation of autochthonous national minorities, nationalities and language groups in Europe. It unites 105 Member Organisations from 35 European countries. FUEN is active within the UN, OSCE, CoE and the EU.

European autochthonous minorities, nationalities and language groups were among the first to launch a European Citizens' Initiative of their own. Proposed by the Democratic Alliance of Hungarians in Romania, joined by the South Tyrolean People's Party (SVP) and the Youth of European Nationalities (YEN) a package of 9 legal instruments for the protection and promotion of national minorities has been elaborated. With the coordination of the Federal Union of European Nationalities (FUEN) this package became the Minority SafePack Initiative.

# WHO STANDS

## BEHIND THE MINORITY SAFEPAK INITIATIVE?

MEMBERS OF THE CITIZENS' COMMITTEE



Former FUEN President  
**HANS HEINRICH HANSEN**  
(German from Denmark)



RMDSZ President  
**HUNOR KELEMEN**  
(Hungarian from Romania)



UN High Representative  
for Bosnia and Herzegovina  
**VALENTIN INZKO**  
(Slovenian from Austria)



Minister of Justice, Culture and International  
Affairs of the Schleswig-Holstein Parliament  
**ANKE SPOORENDONK**  
(Danish from Germany)



President of the European  
Committee of Regions  
**KARL-HEINZ LAMBERTZ**  
(German-speaking from Belgium)



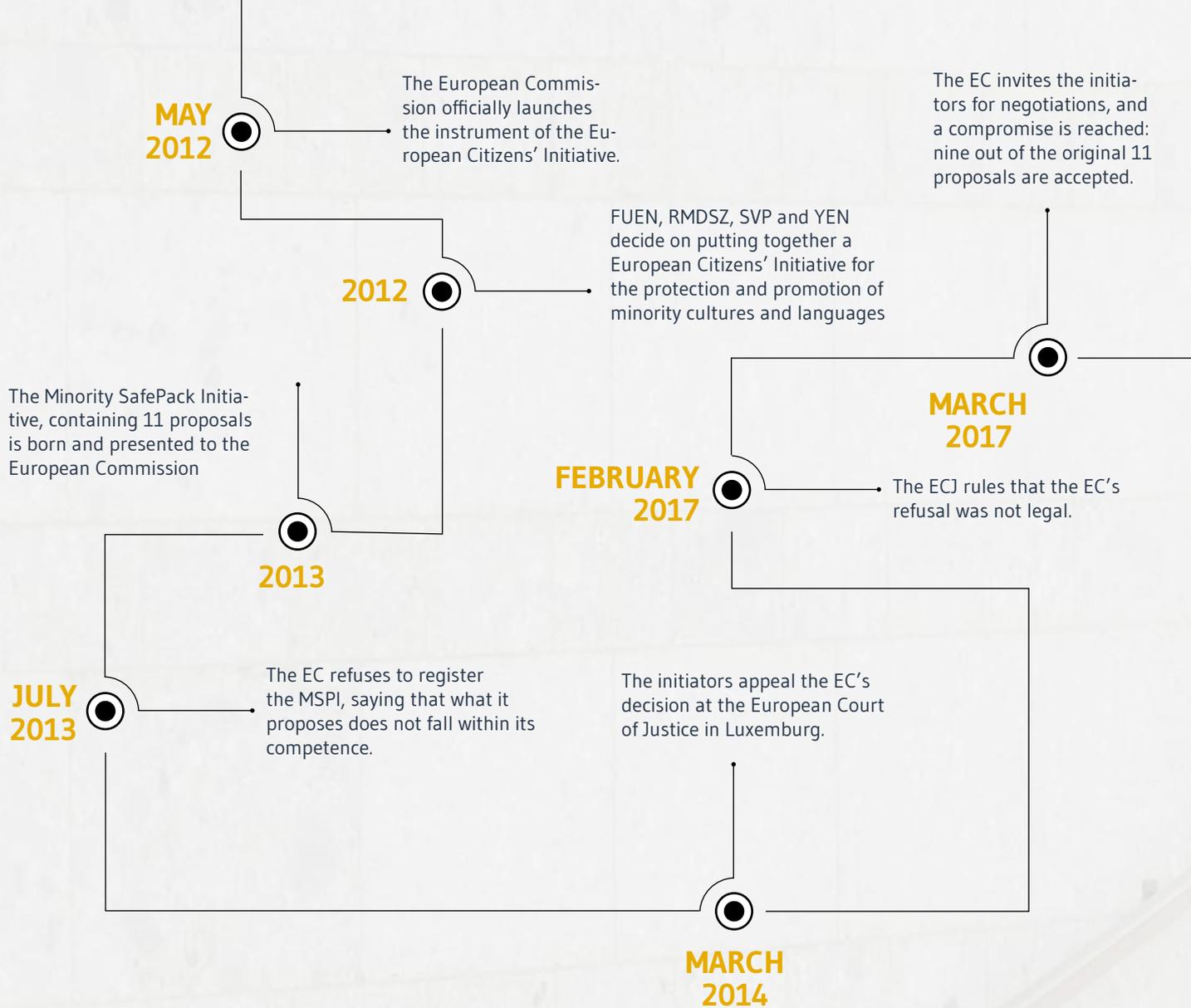
Former Prime Minister of South Tyrol  
**LUIS DURNWALDER**  
(German-speaking from Italy)



Former Minister of Friesland and  
former Chairman of NPLD  
**JANNEVIETSKES DE VRIES**  
(Frisian from the Netherlands)



FUEN President, MEP  
**LORÁNT VINCZE**  
(Hungarian from Romania)



# WHAT HAPPENED

SO FAR?

MAY  
2017

The collection of statements of supports, coordinated by FUEN begins at the organisation's Congress in Cluj-Napoca/Kolozsvár.

A massive international campaign is going on in more than a dozen European countries in order to collect the 1 million signatures needed and to pass the threshold in at least seven states.

In order to gain the best possible recommendations of the initiative's demands, the FUEN Presidium and the Citizens' Committee decides to present the validated statements of support for the MSPI to the new European Commission, which will be established in the Autumn of 2019.

SEPT.  
2017 –  
APRIL  
2018

NOV.  
2018

**It's official:** the Minority SafePack is a successful European Citizens' Initiative. National authorities in all 28 Member States of the European Union have verified the signed statements of support and validated a total number of **1,128,385 signatures**. It is now also certified that the MSPI managed to reach the national threshold in 11 Member States.

JULY  
2018

The campaign ends with 1,320,000 signatures collected, and the national threshold being passed in 11 Member States (Romania, Slovakia, Hungary, Latvia, Denmark, Spain, Croatia, Bulgaria, Lithuania, Slovenia and Italy).

APRIL–  
MAY 2018

During April and May the statements of support were presented to the national authorities in all 28 Member States. Authorities had three months to certify the valid signatures.

APRIL  
2018

## THE FUTURE

The certificates issued by the national authorities are going to be presented to the EC at a time to be determined later on. The institution will have another three months to organise a public hearing in the European Parliament and make its position known.

**T**he Minority SafePack Initiative is a package of legal proposals for the safety of autochthonous national minorities, a set of EU legal acts that enable the promotion of minority rights, language rights, and the protection of their cultures. It sums up our main objectives: safety for minorities via a legislative package for them. We want the European Union to take responsibility and become a genuine promoter of cultural and linguistic diversity across Europe. We want the Copenhagen Criteria on protecting the rights of minorities to be continued to be observed by EU Member States. Ultimately we aim to create an “EU Minority Protection Framework”.

## THE NINE PROPOSALS OF THE MSPI:

- 1** EU-Recommendation for the protection and promotion of cultural and linguistic diversity;
- 2** Funding programmes for small linguistic communities;
- 3** The creation of a Language Diversity Centre;
- 4** The objectives of the European Regional Development Fund to include the protection of national minorities and the promotion of cultural and linguistic diversity;
- 5** Research about the added value of minorities to our societies and Europe;
- 6** Approximating equality for stateless minorities e.g. Roma;
- 7** A single European copyright law, so that services and broadcasts can be enjoyed in the mother tongue;
- 8** Freedom of service and reception of audio-visual content in the minority regions;
- 9** Block exemption of regional (state) support for minority culture, media and cultural heritage conservation.



**T**he over one million verified statements of support that we have collected send a message of strong communities. But the support of minority communities is not enough to ensure the success of the Minority SafePack Initiative. Our aim as the largest umbrella organisation of European nationalities is to work together with majorities to:

- create favourable conditions for linguistic and cultural diversity to thrive;
- preserve and promote the identity of the minority communities;
- stop the assimilation of autochthonous minority communities and language groups;
- make them feel entirely at home on the territory where they have been living traditionally;
- have a say in decisions that affect their lives;
- exercise their cultural, educational and linguistic rights autonomously.

For this to be achieved,

## a pact between minorities and majorities

is needed on a European level.

The Assembly of Delegates at the 2018 FUEN Congress in Leeuwarden/Ljouwert adopted a pact to be proposed to majority communities. **We ask majority communities from all over Europe to join the movement for minority rights, to listen to the national minorities and language groups without prejudices, and to help them in becoming EU citizens with equal rights.**

**We need to work together on a local, regional and European level, as we aim to put the minority issue on the European agenda.**

**The Minority SafePack Initiative can be one of the most important achievements in the history of the EU, and together, we are the ones who can make it happen.**

**We aim to put the minority issue on the European agenda.**

**We want all MEPs and all parties represented in the European Parliament to have a clear understanding of the common goals of the autochthonous minorities in Europe. We want to make clear that our initiative does not take anything away from the majority, but aims to contribute to the cultural and linguistic diversity of Europe, a core value of the Union. Our aim is to inform all national parliaments and governments about our proposals and ask for their support.**

**We want the motto of the European Union, “United in diversity” to become reality, not only a slogan.**

**We count on your support in achieving this!**

# HOW CAN I HELP?



[www.minority-safepack.eu](http://www.minority-safepack.eu)



[minority.safepack](https://www.facebook.com/minority.safepack)



[mspi\\_eu](https://twitter.com/mspi_eu)

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