



“Europe? That is you and me, not only the EU-institutions”

New site Europinion wants to facilitate debate between all citizens from EU member states.

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Thanks to the newly established website www.europinion.net, citizens in the EU will find it easier to discuss and debate European issues of their concern. The independent portal offers its users the possibility to gauge, on their own initiative, the opinion in Europe on current affairs. Europinion is an initiative from The Europinion Network (TEN), a Foundation that has as its main goal the promotion of cross-border discussion and debate in the European Union.

Europinion is the first independent pan-European portal that permits EU citizens to create discussion groups that can be restricted if they so wish. One of the strong features of the portal is that it is multilingual. This lowers the threshold for European citizens to contact one another directly, to discuss amongst themselves and to develop activities. EU-citizens can foster a European public opinion through Europinion and expand their view on European issues. The site also offers its users the possibility to organise an opinion poll by themselves on any issue of their concern, thus showing the currents of opinion in Europe on particular themes.

It is the ambition of Europinion to develop into a platform for European Citizen's Initiatives (ECI). The ECI is one of the important innovations introduced by the Treaty of Lisbon, with the aim of enhancing direct democracy in the European Union. It allows one million EU citizens from at least a quarter of the total members of the Union to directly approach the European Commission and request action from the Commission on any issue within its competence. The multilingual portal Europinion strives to facilitate the collection of signatures for citizens from all member states and to make it easier as a result for citizens to together organize an ECI. Through Europinion they will be able to collect the required signatures for presentation to the Commission.

Robbert Blij, Chairman of TEN, point to the following on the initiative: “Europe, that is us, you and me, the citizens of Europe, not only the EU institutions in Brussels. It is important that people in the different member states know firsthand of each other's ideas and opinion on current issues that concern all European citizens as a community. This serves to promote mutual understanding and common initiatives by citizens, which in turn strengthens the European integration. Europinion, the first activity of TEN, wants to facilitate this process.

The Europinion Network Foundation (TEN) was established in 2013 by a group of friends. They felt there was a lack of opportunity for all EU citizens to easily and swiftly directly communicate with one another across borders on European affairs and issues and to together develop actions and initiatives. This is what lead to the creation of Europinion, the first portal from, by and for the citizens of the European Union.

For more information you may want to contact:

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