



EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

2009 - 2014

Committee on Constitutional affairs

HEARING

Method for citizens' direct participation in EU Member States - model for a more democratic Europe

A European Union of, by and for the citizens

How can Europe provide better possibilities
for the participation of its citizens?

18 September 2012, from 9.00 am to 12.30 pm and from 14.00pm to to 17.00pm

Brussels – Room: Altiero Spinelli A1G 3

*** **Draft Programme** ***

Morning

9.00 – 9.30

Opening words

Carlo CASINI, Chair
Gerald HÄFNER, Organizer

9.30 – 11.00

PANEL 1: Participative democracy
concepts, conditions and challenges for the European Union

- **Prof. Dr. Christian Joerges** (t.b.c.)
Univ. Bremen – *EU Citizenship and Political Participation*

- **Bruno Kaufmann**, President, Initiative and Referendum Institute Europe (IRIE) and Chairman of Election Commission in Falun (SV): *Popular votes on Europe – From the European Citizens Initiative to a supportive infrastructure for citizen participation across Europe*

Exchange of views

11.00 – 12.30	PANEL 2: Direct democracy in Europe
	Prof. Dr. Theo Schiller , Univ. Marburg (D): direct Democracy in Europe: <i>conditions, chances and challenges</i>
	Prof. Dr. Gebhard Kirchgässner , Universität St. Gallen (CH): Popular votes on financial issues? <i>Experiences with and empirical findings on the impact of direct democracy on fiscal policy and public spending</i>
	Exchange of views
12.30 - 14.00	Pause
Afternoon	
14.00 – 16.30	PANEL 3: Participatory, deliberative and direct democracy – Proposals for the EU level. What can the EU learn from instruments and experiences in the Member States?
	- Prof. Dr. Ulrike Liebert , University of Bremen: <i>European Economic and Social Constitutionalism and the quest for Democracy after the Treaty of Lisbon.</i>
	- Dr. Andreas Gross , Council of Europe, Saint Ursanne (CH): Governing with the people – <i>The impact of Direct Democracy on the level of information, discourse, engagement, acceptance, integration, identification</i>
	- Dr. Nadja Braun-Binder , Hochschule für Verwaltungswissenschaft, Speyer: <i>Popular initiatives and referenda in Europe - a best practice model</i>
	Exchange of views
16.30 - 17.00	Closing words