



European Association for Local Democracy
Promoting good governance and citizen participation at the local level in Europe and its Neighbourhood



Europe for Citizens

CONFERENCE ON EUROPEAN CITIZENSHIP:

**“European Citizens’ Initiatives (ECIs):
A Breakthrough or the Illusion of Inclusion?”**

Friday, 11 December 2015

**Organised by the Student Debate Circles on European Citizenship, ECIT
Maastricht (European Citizens’ Rights, Involvement and Trust Foundation)**

Venue: 2.30 pm, 11 December, Faculty of Art and Social Science (FASOS), GG76,
room 0.16.

PROGRAMME:

DEBATE PART ONE: 2.30 – 4pm

“ECIs: A Breakthrough or the Illusion of Inclusion?”

1. Opening remarks by members of the ECIT Student Debate Circles in Maastricht.
2. Presentation on the successes and failures of ECIs by lecturer from Maastricht University (TBC).
3. Presentation by **Peter Teglas** on the significance of ECIs as a unique instrument for transnational deliberative democracy based on his paper: *“The European Citizens’ Initiative – (Un)Successful Tool of Deliberative Democracy; Present State and Future Perspectives”*.
4. **Open debate:**
 - What are the reasons for the deficiencies and poor results of ECIs? What can be done to increase their efficiency?
 - What are the prospects of ECIs becoming an important tool for deliberative democracy?
 - What is your view on the role of ECIs in creating a democratic and participatory European Citizenship?

BREAK: 4 – 4.30pm (tea and coffee)

DEBATE PART TWO: 4.30 – 6pm

Introduction to the topic of ECIT's next conference at Maastricht University:
"The Implications of the Asylum and Migration Crisis for European Citizenship"

1. Opening remarks by a member of the Maastricht Refugee Project on the European response to the refugee crisis (TBC) and a presentation by a refugee (TBC).

2. **Open debate:**
 - How open should European citizenship be to the rest of the world? Considering the ongoing refugee crisis, do you think that there is a risk of European citizenship becoming defensive and inward-looking?

3. **Presentation of draft statutes for ECIT Maastricht.**