



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

**Venue:** 2:30 pm, Friday, 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 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 titled *“The European Citizens’ Initiative (Un)Successful tool of Deliberate Democracy: Present State and Future Perspectives”* (TBC).

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 deliberate 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 in-ward looking?

#### **4. Presentation of draft statutes for ECIT Maastricht.**