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COVER NOTE

From:	Secretary-General of the European Commission, signed by Ms Martine DEPREZ, Director
date of receipt:	23 July 2026
To:	Ms Thérèse BLANCHET, Secretary-General of the Council of the European Union

No. Cion doc.:	C(2026) 5115 final
Subject:	COMMISSION IMPLEMENTING DECISION on the request for registration, pursuant to Regulation (EU) 2019/788 of the European Parliament and of the Council, of the European citizens' initiative entitled 'Save Europe Act'

Delegations will find attached document C(2026) 5115 final.

Encl.: C(2026) 5115 final



EUROPEAN
COMMISSION

Brussels, 22.7.2026
C(2026) 5115 final

COMMISSION IMPLEMENTING DECISION

of 22.7.2026

on the request for registration, pursuant to Regulation (EU) 2019/788 of the European Parliament and of the Council, of the European citizens' initiative entitled 'Save Europe Act'

(Only the English text is authentic)

COMMISSION IMPLEMENTING DECISION

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on the request for registration, pursuant to Regulation (EU) 2019/788 of the European Parliament and of the Council, of the European citizens' initiative entitled 'Save Europe Act'

(Only the English text is authentic)

THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION,

Having regard to the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union,

Having given the group of organisers the opportunity to make known their views,

Having regard to Regulation (EU) 2019/788 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 17 April 2019 on the European citizens' initiative¹, and in particular Article 6(3) thereof,

Whereas:

- (1) A request for registration of a European citizens' initiative entitled 'Save Europe Act' was submitted to the Commission on 8 June 2026.
- (2) On 24 June 2026, the Commission informed the group of organisers of its preliminary assessment and invited it to submit comments. The group of organisers submitted its comments on 29 June 2026.
- (3) The aim of the initiative as expressed by the organisers is to call on the Commission 'to propose a Union act establishing a temporary moratorium on new non-Western immigration channels, including study and family reunification visas, while fundamentally reforming the EU migration and asylum system. The act should strengthen external border protection, rapid screening and return procedures, and provide for the systematic and accelerated remigration of illegally staying migrants, rejected asylum seekers, and further categories of non-European migrants whose continued stay places a serious burden on Member States. It should also ensure mutual recognition of return decisions across the Union, stronger cooperation with third countries on readmission, and the removal of welfare pull factors that encourage further migration into Europe.' An annex to the initiative provides further details on its background, its subject matter and its objectives.
- (4) The group of organisers has provided appropriate evidence that it fulfils the requirements laid down in Article 5(1) and (2) of Regulation (EU) 2019/788 and has designated the contact persons in accordance with Article 5(3), first subparagraph, of that Regulation.
- (5) The Commission notes that all the proposed objectives of the initiative have, as their starting point, the 'temporary moratorium on new non-Western immigration channels'. The proposed generalised moratorium on immigration – defined on the basis of 'ethnic

¹ OJ L 130, 17.5.2019, p. 55, ELI: <http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg/2019/788/oj>

and cultural continuity’ of ‘native peoples of Europe’ against what the initiative characterises as ‘demographic replacement’ by ‘non-Western’ and ‘non-European’ migrants – would not be based on migration-management criteria but on the ethnic, cultural or civilisational origin of the persons concerned. Therefore, the proposed generalised moratorium would discriminate on the basis of race and ethnic origin. It is thus manifestly contrary to Article 21 of the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union (see, to that effect, judgment of 6 September 2017, *Slovakia and Hungary v Council*, C 643/15 and C 647/15, EU:C:2017:631, paragraph 305) and to the values enshrined in Article 2 of the Treaty on European Union (TEU), upon which the Union is founded.

- (6) Contrary to the comments submitted by the group of organisers, the term ‘non-Western’ cannot refer ‘exclusively to external migration flows and third-country nationals’, given that the initiative targets only people with a specifically ‘non-European’ or ‘non-Western’ origin.
- (7) The group of organisers further points out that the initiative is justified by ‘cultural and demographic continuity of the peoples of Europe’ and that Article 4(2) TEU obliges the Union to respect the national identities of the Member States. However, Article 4(2) TEU protects only a view of the national identities which is consistent with the values enshrined in Article 2 TEU (judgment of 21 April 2026, *Commission v Hungary*, C-769/22, EU:C:2026:326, paragraph 562). Therefore, respect for national identities under Article 4(2) TEU does not authorise measures that are incompatible with the Union’s foundational values or fundamental rights and thus the group of organisers cannot rely on national identity to justify a broad exclusion from immigration channels based on ethnic origin.
- (8) For those reasons, the initiative entitled ‘Save Europe Act’ is manifestly contrary to the values of the Union as set out in Article 2 TEU and rights enshrined in the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union within the meaning of Article 6(3), first subparagraph, point (e), of Regulation (EU) 2019/788.
- (9) Therefore, in line with Article 6(3), third subparagraph, of Regulation (EU) 2019/788, the request for registration of the initiative entitled ‘Save Europe Act’ should be refused,

HAS ADOPTED THIS DECISION:

Article 1

The European citizens’ initiative entitled ‘Save Europe Act’ shall not be registered.

Article 2

This Decision is addressed to the group of organisers of the citizens’ initiative entitled ‘Save Europe Act’, represented by Eva VLAARDINGERBROEK and Martin SELLNER acting as contact persons.

Done at Brussels, 22.7.2026

For the Commission
Maroš ŠEFČOVIČ
Member of the Commission

