
THE FRENCH 'CITIZEN INITIATIVE REFERENDUM' (RIC)

An axiomatic moment of change

Pierre Beaudry, 12/19/2018

Today, December 18, 2018, *Le Figaro* newspaper announced that French President Emmanuel Macron has put a priority on the debate that the Yellow Vests have been demanding the government to accept; that is, the question of a *Citizen Initiative Referendum* (RIC). The Yellow Vest movement is demanding that this citizen's right be enshrined into the French Constitution. The demand is considered a means of containing and of putting an end to popular insurrections in France; however, it intends to accomplish more than that. The irony is that Macron has to accept it, because he cannot be perceived as anti-democratic. He has no choice; the RIC is part of the DNA of human freedom.

THE CITIZEN INITIATIVE REFERENDUM

During the last five weeks or so, the nation of France has been witnessing the most tormenting and unstable political and economic crisis in recent history. The manifestations of the Yellow Vest movement has demonstrated that the cup of human misery has overflowed and that the necessity for restoring the welfare and the sovereignty of the people has been penetrating every household in France like an unstoppable healing call for a constitutional axiomatic change. Now is the time for the French people to make a discovery of principle about their constitutional rights and apply it to a future that might never have otherwise existed before.



The Yellow vests calling for a “Citizen Initiative Referendum” (RIC) https://www.rtbf.be/info/monde/detail_les-gilets-jaunes-en-france-veulent-un-referendum-d-initiative-populaire-c-est-quoi?id=10099051

Yesterday, December 17, 2018, *Le Figaro* newspaper announced that the Government of President Emmanuel Macron promised to give an increase of the minimum salary (SMIC) of 100 euros per month to five million underpaid French families, starting February 2019. This, however, is merely a palliative to the general crisis that France and the rest of the world are going through at this time.

The good news is that the French population has succeeded in forcing President Emmanuel Macron to take note of their demand and is now proposing the insertion into the French constitutional framework of the right for citizens to get involved in the reforms of the affairs of state. This is an offer which Macron would never dare reject; and if he accepts it, all of the other peoples of the world

will demand the same right, which will completely change the nature of Democratic Republics worldwide, including former communist countries.

The idea of a *Citizen Initiative Reform* is not new, it already exists in several countries today, such as Switzerland, Italy, Austria, and the United States. According to France Info: "Each country has its specific vocabulary, the main point being that it is not a referendum convened by the government, as is the case in France, where it is the President who decides, but as in most cantons in Switzerland, and also in the United States, citizens can propose a law as soon as they have a sufficient number of signatures. In Switzerland they can also use this referendum in order to approve or reject a text voted by Parliament."¹

The RIC must be enshrined into the French Constitution, as opposed to the European Constitution, thus creating a political space for independent citizens to supervise legislative authorities, introduce or amend laws, and abrogate or revoke a law or an elected representative. The demand stipulates: ***"If this law proposal obtains 700,000 signatures, then this proposal will have to be discussed, completed, and amended by the National Assembly which will have the obligation (one year to the day after obtaining the 700, 000 signatures) to submit it to a vote by all the French people."***²

FIN

¹ [Les gilets jaunes en France veulent un référendum d'initiative populaire: c'est quoi?](#)

² Le Figaro, [Macron ouvre avec prudence le débat sur le referendum citoyen](#), December 18, 2018.