

Initiate a discussion  
on [rahvaalgatus.ee](http://rahvaalgatus.ee)  
and make life in Estonia  
even better!

[Rahvaalgatus.ee](http://Rahvaalgatus.ee)  
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## What is collective addresses and [rahvaalgatus.ee](http://rahvaalgatus.ee)?

If you feel like some things could be done better in Estonia, then don't just complain about the government amongst your friends, better come and help your country and give advice!

What law would need changing, what problems need a quick solution, how could the quality of life be better – you have a chance to have an impact on all this when you enter the website [www.rahvaalgatus.ee](http://www.rahvaalgatus.ee)

Through this platform you have the possibility to address the Estonian Parliament collectively. The parliament's committees are obliged to discuss your proposals. By the way, two of such proposals have already become laws!

[Rahvaalgatus.ee](http://Rahvaalgatus.ee)

The citizen initiative portal [rahvaalgatus.ee](http://rahvaalgatus.ee) is managed by the Estonian Cooperation Assembly in collaboration with the Chancellery of the Riigikogu



So – don't just wait for things to change on their own, write down a proposal, invite others to join in in discussions, compose an initiative, gather at least 1000 digital signatures and send it to the parliament with just one click.

Don't be afraid that your message will be lost: the website makes it possible to track which committee will be discussing your proposal, what they thought of it and will it become a draft act.

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# Questions and Answers

## References to Government Regulations:

- ▶ Response to Memoranda and Requests for Explanations and Submission of Collective Addresses Act.
- ▶ Rules for Proceedings Regarding Proposals Submitted to the Riigikogu.

## What is a Collective Address?

A Collective Address is a proposal submitted to the Riigikogu as a community initiative that makes a suggestion for changing a present regulation or organising the society better. The implementation of the proposal has to be in the jurisdiction of the Riigikogu.

## What is needed in order to do it? What are the requirements?

- ▶ In order to submit your Address to the Riigikogu at least **1000 (digital) signatures** need to be gathered.
- ▶ The Address needs to include a proposal for how to change the existing regulation or organise the society better. An up to **three page explanation** should be added to the Address. It should explain why the present situation is not satisfactory and how the proposal would improve the situation.
- ▶ An electronic list of people who signed the Address, that **includes their full name and personal identification code** needs to be added to the Address.
- ▶ An Address with the same topic can be submitted once over two years.
- ▶ The Address can be signed by a permanent **resident of Estonia who is at least 16 years old.**

Permanent resident according to the present law is an Estonian citizen living in Estonia or a citizen of a country belonging to the European Union or the European Economic Community or Swiss Confederation who has the right to permanently live in Estonia or a foreigner living in Estonia who has a long term residence permit or a right for permanent residency.

- ▶ **Details of a contact person or persons** should be marked on the Address.
- ▶ The Address can be submitted to **The Board of the Riigikogu** electronically or on paper.

## What happens next? How does the process that follows the submission of the Address look like in the Riigikogu?

- ▶ The Board of the Riigikogu will inform the contact person(s) **within 30 day period** starting from the submission date whether the Address will be proceeded.
- ▶ If the Riigikogu decides to proceed with the Address they will forward it to the **relevant committees**. This process can also be followed on [www.rahvaalgatus.ee](http://www.rahvaalgatus.ee).
- ▶ If the Address does not correspond to the necessary requirements The Board of the Riigikogu will return it to the contact person(s) and give an opportunity to make amendments.

- ▶ The Board of the Riigikogu will inform the contact person(s) about not proceeding with the Address and identifies **the reasons for the decision**.

## What happens in the Committees of the Riigikogu? What kind of decisions can the Committees of the Riigikogu make?

- ▶ The Committee will discuss the Address **within three months** and makes a decision about the Address **within 6 months** of it being proceeded.
- ▶ The Committee will invite the contact person marked on the Address or **a representative to explain the Address during a committee meeting**.
- ▶ Proceeding with the Address and taking a position on it is **obligatory** for the Committees.
- ▶ Committee(s) can **either completely or partially agree or disagree** with the propositions. The Committee(s) will let the contact person(s) know what position they have taken.
- ▶ The committee can decide:
  - To start a draft act or a discussion over a question with national relevance.
  - To organise a public hearing.
  - To forward the Address to a relevant institution in order to form a position or solve a question.
  - To forward the Address to the Government of the Republic of Estonia in order to form a position and reply to the Address. Committee will also be informed about the decided position.
  - To reject the Address.
  - To find an alternative way to solve the problem posed in the Address.

## In what situation can the Committees of the Riigikogu reject the Address?

- ▶ The Committee may decide to **not thoroughly discuss the content of the Address and reject it** if:
  - The content of the Address is coinciding with an Address that was proceeded within a two year period.
  - The Address is clearly not in accord with the principles of the Constitution of the Republic of Estonia.
- ▶ If the Committee decides to reject the Address the decision **has to be explained** to the contact person(s) marked on the Address.

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