


# Procedure file

Basic information		
INI - Own-initiative procedure	<a href="#">1996/2007(INI)</a>	Procedure completed
Committee on Petitions. Annual report 1995-1996		
Subject 1.20.03 Right of petition 8.40.01.06 Committees, interparliamentary delegations		

Key players			
European Parliament	Committee responsible	Rapporteur	Appointed
	<b>PETI</b> Petitions	GUE/NGL <a href="#">GUTIÉRREZ DÍAZ</a> <a href="#">Antoni</a>	19/03/1996

Key events			
01/01/1996	Committee referral announced in Parliament		
03/06/1996	Vote in committee		Summary
03/06/1996	Committee report tabled for plenary	<a href="#">A4-0191/1996</a>	
18/07/1996	Debate in Parliament		
19/07/1996	Decision by Parliament	T4-0431/1996	Summary
19/07/1996	End of procedure in Parliament		
09/09/1996	Final act published in Official Journal		

Technical information	
Procedure reference	1996/2007(INI)
Procedure type	INI - Own-initiative procedure
Legal basis	Rules of Procedure EP 227-p7
Stage reached in procedure	Procedure completed
Committee dossier	PETI/4/07450

Documentation gateway				
Committee report tabled for plenary, single reading		<a href="#">A4-0191/1996</a> <a href="#">OJ C 198 08.07.1996, p. 0005</a>	03/06/1996	EP

## Committee on Petitions. Annual report 1995-1996

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A satisfactory outcome for a number of German petitioners who complained about unfair tax treatments of earnings from abroad and for an Irish petitioner who won the right to work as a pharmacist in Northern Ireland after petitioning Parliament are among notable successes recorded by the Petitions Committee during the parliamentary year up to the end of March 1996. The committee's annual report, presented by Antoni GUTIERREZ DIAZ (E, EUL/NGL) also reveals a success for a British petitioner, living in Greece, who complained of discrimination in respect of importing a tax-free vehicle specifically designed for a person with disability and for a Spanish petitioner who won a review of a German pension. In the last twelve months the committee received 1,169 petitions, down slightly from the peak of 1,352 the previous year. German citizens complained the most with 308 petitions followed by Britons with 181 and by Italians who submitted 166 petitions. Many petitioners were supported by large numbers of signatories with 10 bearing 10,000 signatures or more, including one on the 1988 Lockerbie air disaster. As in previous years, the petitions revealed serious shortcomings in the workings of the internal market, particularly with regard to free movement and recognition of qualifications. Petitions concerning pensions and other social security matters were the most frequent together with complaints of breaches in the application of EU environmental legislation. Mr GUTIERREZ DIAZ's report comments that there is striking evidence of continuing failure to comply with Directive 85/337 requiring an environmental impact assessment of major development projects, with over half of all environmental petitions raising this issue. Mr GUTIERREZ DIAZ's motion for a resolution, which was unanimously approved by the committee, calls on the Commission to monitor very closely the member states' application of Community law.

## Committee on Petitions. Annual report 1995-1996

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Adopting the report by Mr Antoni GUTIERREZ DIAZ (GUE/NGL, E) on the deliberations of the Committee on Petitions during the 1995-1996 parliamentary year, the European Parliament started by reiterating that the petition is a fundamental right of the citizens of the European Union. Accepting that, as a Community institution elected by direct universal suffrage, it had a duty to take note of the complaints, opinions and requests of the citizens and to advocate those which it considered legitimate or justified, it recommended that its Committee on Petitions meet when other committees were not in session so that petitions could be properly addressed. It called on its committees and delegations to examine all petitions passed to them and to pay particular attention to infringements and omissions with regard to Community law. It recalled that the European Union ombudsman and the Committee on Petitions had different remits and noted that the European Parliament was the institution to which the right to petition was addressed and that this right, which was enshrined in the Treaties, was an excellent way of finding out what citizens thought of Community policy and identifying shortcomings in European regulations, which was why it called for citizens to be properly informed of their right to petition by each of the institutions in question. It called in particular for close collaboration on the part of the other Community institutions in order to protect and strengthen the exercise of the right to petition in the European Union (especially by responding within a reasonable period of time) and urged the Commission to ensure that Community law was applied by the Member States. Similarly, it called on the Commission and the Committee on Petitions to make every effort to ensure that petitions were addressed as quickly and as efficiently as possible. Finally, Parliament hoped that it and the ombudsman would be able to work in close, extensive and fruitful collaboration.?