


Procedure file

Basic information		
INI - Own-initiative procedure	1997/2004(INI)	Procedure completed
Committee on Petitions. Annual report 1996-1997		
Subject 1.20.03 Right of petition 8.40.01.06 Committees, interparliamentary delegations		

Key players			
European Parliament	Committee responsible	Rapporteur	Appointed
	PETI Petitions	PPE PERRY Roy	26/02/1997

Key events			
01/01/1997	Committee referral announced in Parliament		
26/05/1997	Vote in committee		Summary
26/05/1997	Committee report tabled for plenary	A4-0190/1997	
09/06/1997	Debate in Parliament		
10/06/1997	Decision by Parliament	T4-0282/1997	Summary
10/06/1997	End of procedure in Parliament		
30/06/1997	Final act published in Official Journal		

Technical information	
Procedure reference	1997/2004(INI)
Procedure type	INI - Own-initiative procedure
Legal basis	Rules of Procedure EP 227-p7
Stage reached in procedure	Procedure completed
Committee dossier	PETI/4/08551

Documentation gateway				
Committee report tabled for plenary, single reading		A4-0190/1997 OJ C 200 30.06.1997, p. 0003	26/05/1997	EP

Committee on Petitions. Annual report 1996-1997

The right to petition the European Parliament is a basic right of European citizens and of any natural or legal person residing or having a registered office in a Member State. The rapporteur, Mr Roy PERRY, referred to the growing number of petitions concerning cases revealing serious shortcomings in Community law, frequently raising political and legislative questions as a result. Petitions therefore constitute an effective means for acquiring direct information on the attitude of the public to Community issues, for detecting shortcomings in European legislation and for monitoring cases of non-application or non-transposition of Community law. They also provide an insight into the difficulties encountered by national and Community administrations. Malfunctions in Community law should henceforth serve as a basis for enlarging and/or improving Community legislation. The rapporteur instructed all Parliamentary committees and delegations to examine the petitions forwarded to them and to take account, within their respective areas of responsibility, of the infringements detected and shortcomings of Community law highlighted by these petitions. The Committee on Petitions should also be informed and consulted on any political or legislative initiative resulting from such petitions. The rapporteur also instructed the relevant departments to ensure that regular and frequent publicity is disseminated about the right of petition, the procedure for presenting petitions and the important petitions brought to the attention of the European Parliament. The rapporteur additionally called for a continuation of the close and productive cooperation with the European Ombudsman, who is empowered to receive such complaints. He also undertook to ensure that petitions forwarded to Parliament were dealt with appropriately and as rapidly as possible. To achieve this, the rapporteur called on Parliament to establish with the other institutions, within the framework of interinstitutional agreements, deadlines for answers and investigations to petitions forwarded to them. He proposes in particular that the Commission and the rapporteur should together examine the extent to which computerized data could be made available over Intra and/or the Internet to the EU institutions and the citizens of the Union. He then called on the Commission to establish clear standards of service which European citizens are entitled to expect. Finally, he urged the Commission to guarantee close cooperation with the Committee on the 'Citizens First Initiative'. As far as the Council was concerned, the rapporteur called on its officials to attend the meetings of the Committee on Petitions on a more regular basis. ?

Committee on Petitions. Annual report 1996-1997

Adopting the report by Mr Roy PERRY (PPE, UK), the European Parliament noted that the number of petitions illustrating serious shortcomings in Community law continued to rise, causing numerous political and legislative problems. Petitions were therefore an excellent way of obtaining the public's view on questions of Community policy directly, identifying shortcomings in European legislation and monitoring the non-application or non-transposition of Community law. Noting that, in accordance with Article 138 D of the EC Treaty, petitions are addressed to the European Parliament, it undertook to give a suitable response to the petitions submitted to it as quickly as possible. Petitions gave an overview of the difficulties encountered by national and Community administrations in applying Community law (bureaucratic behaviour, failure to adhere to the principles of Community law and shortcomings in legislative provisions). Parliament considered that the malfunctions encountered should serve as a basis for widening and/or improving existing legal provisions. Parliament called on all its committees and delegations to examine the petitions filed promptly, taking account of the infringements noted in their individual areas. The Committee on Petitions should also be notified of and consulted on any political or legislative initiative which resulted from the examination of a petition. Parliament also called on its departments to ensure that the right to petition and important petitions brought to its attention were published at regular and frequent intervals. The European Parliament also wished to continue close and fruitful cooperation with the European ombudsman, who is authorized to receive complaints. Parliament also called on the Commission and its Committee on Petitions to finalize efficient procedures for a fast and satisfactory examination of petitions. It suggested that this could be achieved by enlarging and/or coordinating existing computer systems and, more importantly, by examining the degree to which computerized information should be made available to the European institutions and its citizens via Intranet and/or the Internet. It also requested that deadlines for replies to and investigations into the petitions submitted be laid down with other Community institutions within the framework of institutional agreements. It then called on the Commission to clarify the standards which should be met by the services which European citizens are entitled to expect. These standards should comply with the following principles: - high, controllable standards based on published statistics; - exhaustive and transparent information, especially on the financial management and administration of the departments concerned (especially appropriations spent); - accessibility of services to the public; - a courteous attitude when examining replies and rapid responses. Finally, the European Parliament called for close collaboration between its Committee on Petitions and the Commission departments in charge of the "Citizens First" initiative. Parliament also invited Council representatives to attend meetings of the Committee on Petitions more regularly.?