


Procedure file

Basic information		
INI - Own-initiative procedure	2001/2010(INI)	Procedure completed
Petitions Committee. 2000-2001 annual report		
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-DE CAMISÓN ASENSIO Felipe	06/03/2001

Key events			
18/01/2001	Committee referral announced in Parliament		
20/06/2001	Vote in committee		Summary
20/06/2001	Committee report tabled for plenary	A5-0236/2001	
06/09/2001	Debate in Parliament		
06/09/2001	Decision by Parliament	T5-0456/2001	Summary
06/09/2001	End of procedure in Parliament		
21/03/2002	Final act published in Official Journal		

Technical information	
Procedure reference	2001/2010(INI)
Procedure type	INI - Own-initiative procedure
Legal basis	Rules of Procedure EP 227-p7
Stage reached in procedure	Procedure completed
Committee dossier	PETI/5/14215

Documentation gateway					
Committee report tabled for plenary, single reading		A5-0236/2001	20/06/2001	EP	

Petitions Committee. 2000-2001 annual report

The committee adopted the own-initiative report by Felipe CAMISÓN ASENSIO (EPP-ED, E) on the work of the Petitions Committee. It stressed the importance of the right of petition as a means of making the institutions aware of the problems and legitimate aspirations of EU citizens and enabling the latter to draw attention to shortcomings in, or failure to implement, Community legislation. The committee also expressed support for initiatives by the European Ombudsman, such as the drawing up of a code of good administrative behaviour, and recommended that the right of petition be included on the agenda for the planned Convention on future EU integration. Although it praised the constructive role of the Commission in dealing with petitions, the report was critical of the Council and stressed the need for fruitful cooperation between the 3 institutions. It called for a new interinstitutional agreement to be drafted for processing petitions more effectively and rapidly, for example by introducing mandatory deadlines and compulsory attendance by the Council at meetings where petitions were considered. The agreement should also confirm the Petitions Committee's rights to obtain the information and documents it needed to carry out its tasks. The committee was also critical of the failure of the EU institutions, particularly Parliament, to exploit the potential of computer technology. It called for the development, in electronic form, of a body of case-law and data-bases for the consideration of petitions, which could be made available to the general public through Internet. It also recommended establishing an Internet website as part of an information campaign for citizens on the right of petition. Lastly, looking ahead to the applicant countries joining the EU, the report stressed the need to take account of the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights, especially Article 21 thereof, when investigating possible cases of discrimination. ?

Petitions Committee. 2000-2001 annual report

The European Parliament adopted the resolution by Mr Felipe CAMISON ASENSIO (EPP-ED, E). This resolution calls for the legal and technical changes to be made to allow petitions to be submitted on the Internet. (Please refer to the previous text). The resolution emphasises that petitions keep the EU institutions in touch with the public and are a crucial way of learning about the impact of EU legislation on the everyday life and ordinary people. In future Parliament would like to use the Internet to a larger extent so that the members of the public can send not just their petitions but also the supporting documents in electronic format after some legal changes. MEPs also call on the Commission to devise ways of processing information and setting up databases which could be available to the public via the Internet. Parliament also wants attention to be devoted to the applicant countries. Since 1985, when the current systems of petitions was introduced, more than 10 000 petitions have been received by the European Parliament. In the year covered by the report, the committee received 886 (compared to 958 the previous year), of which 510 were declared admissible. The issues raised related mainly to social affairs (101 petitions), the environment (77) and freedom of movement (27). The countries submitting most petitions were Germany (184), Italy (112), the UK (102) and France (100).?