


Procedure file

Basic information		
INI - Own-initiative procedure	2002/2209(INI)	Procedure completed
Petition 395/2001 tabled by Mr Owen, on discrimination against the clergy		
Subject 1.10 Fundamental rights in the EU, Charter		

Key players			
European Parliament	Committee responsible	Rapporteur	Appointed
	PETI Petitions		21/02/2002
		PPE-DE STOCKTON The Earl Of	
	Committee for opinion	Rapporteur for opinion	Appointed
	EMPL Employment and Social Affairs		19/06/2002
		ELDR ATTWOOLL Elspeth	

Key events			
26/09/2002	Committee referral announced in Parliament		
08/10/2002	Vote in committee		Summary
08/10/2002	Committee report tabled for plenary	A5-0342/2002	
07/11/2002	Debate in Parliament		
07/11/2002	Decision by Parliament	T5-0525/2002	Summary
07/11/2002	End of procedure in Parliament		
22/01/2004	Final act published in Official Journal		

Technical information	
Procedure reference	2002/2209(INI)
Procedure type	INI - Own-initiative procedure
Procedure subtype	Initiative
Legal basis	Rules of Procedure EP 227-p2
Stage reached in procedure	Procedure completed
Committee dossier	PETI/5/16732

Documentation gateway					
Committee report tabled for plenary, single reading		A5-0342/2002	08/10/2002	EP	
Text adopted by Parliament, single reading		T5-0525/2002 OJ C 016 22.01.2004, p. 0014-0056 E	07/11/2002	EP	Summary

Petition 395/2001 tabled by Mr Owen, on discrimination against the clergy

The committee adopted the own-initiative report by the Earl of STOCKTON (EPP-ED, UK) on the petition by Reverend Owen on discrimination towards priests in the UK. The petition concerned an English clergyman whose tenure of office was terminated in July 1999, leading to attempts to evict him and his family from their home, which was provided as tied accommodation for his office. The committee's report noted that the clergy's relationship with their employers in the UK was governed by common law and ecclesiastical law and that the provisions of Directive 91/533/EEC on an employer's obligation to inform employees of the conditions applicable to the contract or employment relationship did not apply to the clergy in the UK, although they did apply in some other EU countries. It regretted that certain types of working relationships were not covered by the employment protection afforded under EC law and that the individuals concerned did not always have sufficient legal or other recourse against decisions affecting them. Noting that directives referred to different categories of working people but that no standard definition was provided of the terms used, the committee called on the Commission to engage in a comprehensive review of its directives in the area of employment and come up with proposals to ensure that existing rights are extended to the widest possible range of workers, especially those dependent on a single employer or source of income for their livelihood.?

Petition 395/2001 tabled by Mr Owen, on discrimination against the clergy

The European Parliament adopted a resolution based on the draft by the Earl of STOCKTON (EPP-ED, United Kingdom) on the case of Reverend Owen. (Please refer to the document dated 08/10/02.) It should also be noted that the resolution called upon the Church of England to review the way in which decisions were taken, which led to Reverend Owen's termination of office. It felt that there are clear breaches of natural justice and basic human rights in the procedures which were used to justify his removal from office and the attempted eviction of Reverend Owen from his home.?