


Procedure file

Basic information		
INI - Own-initiative procedure	2003/2032(INI)	Procedure completed
Measures on repatriation of mortal remains		
Subject 1.20 Citizen's rights		

Key players			
European Parliament	Committee responsible	Rapporteur	Appointed
	LIBE Citizens' Freedoms and Rights, Justice and Home Affairs	PSE CASHMAN Michael	10/12/2002

Key events			
10/04/2003	Committee referral announced in Parliament		
21/10/2003	Vote in committee		Summary
21/10/2003	Committee report tabled for plenary	A5-0362/2003	
03/12/2003	Debate in Parliament		
04/12/2003	Decision by Parliament	T5-0552/2003	Summary
04/12/2003	End of procedure in Parliament		

Technical information	
Procedure reference	2003/2032(INI)
Procedure type	INI - Own-initiative procedure
Procedure subtype	Initiative
Legal basis	Rules of Procedure EP 54
Stage reached in procedure	Procedure completed
Committee dossier	LIBE/5/19411

Documentation gateway					
Document attached to the procedure		B5-0316/2002	19/09/2002	EP	
Committee report tabled for plenary, single reading		A5-0362/2003	21/10/2003	EP	

Measures on repatriation of mortal remains

The committee adopted the own-initiative report by Michael CASHMAN (PES, UK) on the adoption of measures concerning the repatriation of mortal remains. The report began by noting that there was currently no uniform EU-wide provision governing the repatriation of mortal remains from one Member State to another. The death of an EU citizen in a Member State other than his/her country of origin resulted in more complex procedures, a longer time before burial or cremation and higher costs than if the death had occurred in the deceased person's country of origin. Pointing out that freedom of movement and residence was a fundamental right within the EU, MEPs stressed that, with greater intra-Community mobility in general, the number of Community citizens who die in a country other than their country of origin was bound to increase. The report concluded that the repatriation of mortal remains without excessive cost or bureaucracy should be regarded "as a corollary of the right of each EU citizen to move and reside freely within the territory of the Member States". The report added that the provisions of the Council of Europe's 1973 Strasbourg Agreement, which imposes strict rules on the cross-border transfer of mortal remains, were the source of indirect discrimination in that they applied essentially to "non-nationals", which ran counter to the Community scheme of things. The Commission was urged to ascertain whether or not the Agreement was compatible with Community law and to ensure that the latter was upheld. MEPs also called for harmonised standards and procedures to be applied in the cross-border transportation of corpses throughout the EU and asked the Commission to ensure that, as far as possible, Community citizens were treated in the same way as nationals in their home country.?

Measures on repatriation of mortal remains

The European Parliament adopted a resolution based on the own-initiative report drafted by Michael CASHMAN (PES, United Kingdom) on the repatriation of mortal remains. (Please see the summary dated 21/10/03).?