


Procedure file

Basic information		
INI - Own-initiative procedure	2003/2069(INI)	Procedure completed
Petitions committee. 2002-2003 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	GUE/NGL GONZÁLEZ ÁLVAREZ Laura	23/01/2003

Key events			
15/05/2003	Committee referral announced in Parliament		
10/06/2003	Vote in committee		Summary
10/06/2003	Committee report tabled for plenary	A5-0239/2003	
25/09/2003	Debate in Parliament		
25/09/2003	Decision by Parliament	T5-0416/2003	Summary
25/09/2003	End of procedure in Parliament		

Technical information	
Procedure reference	2003/2069(INI)
Procedure type	INI - Own-initiative procedure
Procedure subtype	Annual report
Legal basis	Rules of Procedure EP 54; Rules of Procedure EP 142-p1
Stage reached in procedure	Procedure completed
Committee dossier	PETI/5/19506

Documentation gateway					
Committee report tabled for plenary, single reading		A5-0239/2003	10/06/2003	EP	
Text adopted by Parliament, single reading		T5-0416/2003	25/09/2003	EP	Summary

Petitions committee. 2002-2003 annual report

The committee adopted the own-initiative report drawn up by Laura GONZÁLEZ ÁLVAREZ (EUL/NGL, E) on the work of the Petitions Committee during the parliamentary year 2002-2003. As Mrs González Álvarez is no longer an MEP, the report will be tabled for plenary by María Luisa BERGAZ CONESA (EUL/NGL, E). MEPs pointed out that exercise of the right of petition embodied in the Treaties provided a comprehensive and consistent set of indicators for gauging public interest in Europe. Moreover, through petitions, the European Parliament was able to assess and, if necessary, publicly reveal loopholes in EU legislation or infringements by the Member States. The committee stressed the need to lay down new rules for the treatment of petitions so as to establish clear areas of responsibility with regard to other Community institutions (Commission and Council) and the national authorities, as indicated in the working document it had submitted to the Chairman of the Convention on the Future of Europe. The committee added that, with the redefinition of the right of petition under the new Constitution, common rules of conduct for all Community institutions and Member States must be established along the lines of the Code of Good Administrative Conduct drawn up by the European Ombudsman and endorsed by the EP. MEPs supported the creation of the SOLVIT system as an informal means of assisting individuals and companies to resolve problems relating to the internal market and they urged Member States to step up this integrated cooperation scheme to make SOLVIT operational on a large scale. The report expressed concern at the Council's persistent failure to send representatives to working meetings of the committee where the problems raised by the petition were aggravated by the lack of information or explanation by the Member State authorities, thereby causing delays and undermining the committee's decision-making effectiveness. It also said that there should be greater cooperation with the European Ombudsman. To that end, MEPs called for the necessary changes to be made to the EP's Rules of Procedure and the Ombudsman's Statute. With a view to the accession of new Member States to the EU, the committee called for firmer measures to ensure that the new European citizens are made aware of their right to petition Parliament, the Commission and the Ombudsman under Articles 21 and 194 of the Treaty. Lastly, it hoped that, throughout the Union, national petitions committees or other parliamentary committees would work together with the European Parliament's Committee on Petitions and at the same time provide a more homogeneous image of the level of protection of citizens' rights within the EU. ?

Petitions committee. 2002-2003 annual report

The European Parliament adopted a resolution based on the own-initiative report drafted by Laura GONZALEZ ALVAREZ (EUL/NGL, Spain) on the work of the Petitions Committee during the parliamentary year 2002-2003. The report was tabled for plenary by María Luisa BERGAZ CONESA (EUL/NGL, Spain). (Please see the summary dated 10/06/03.) Parliament stated that the success achieved through petitions regarding the effect of Europe on the life of individual citizens makes it essential to consider carefully the best way of improving the effectiveness and transparency of all procedures for the examination and processing of petitions received. Therefore, it called for more flexible and rapid procedures adapted to the substance of replies to petitioners, so as to make them swifter and more effective, even at the expense of other factors such as multilingualism. Furthermore, Parliament asked the Commission to pursue its efforts - which have already produced appreciable results - to rationalise and accelerate internal procedures in response to requests for information concerning petitions. To this end, Parliament felt that there should be a more rapid response regarding matters clearly outside the remit of the Union or, on the contrary, where infringement proceedings against a Member State have already been commenced. There must be separate and specific treatment of petitions ruled admissible over three years previously. ?