








Procedure file

Basic information		
INI - Own-initiative procedure	2023/2047(INI)	Procedure completed
Deliberations of the Committee on Petitions in 2022		
Subject		
1.20.03 Right of petition		
8.40.01.06 Committees, interparliamentary delegations		

Key players			
European Parliament	Committee responsible	Rapporteur	Appointed
	 Petitions	 AGIUS SALIBA Alex Shadow rapporteur  JAHR Peter  GHEORGHE Vlad  MIRANDA Ana  ZŁOTOWSKI Kosma	02/06/2023
European Commission	Commission DG Eurostat	Commissioner GENTILONI Paolo	

Key events			
20/04/2023	Committee referral announced in Parliament		
24/10/2023	Vote in committee		
06/11/2023	Committee report tabled for plenary	A9-0333/2023	
23/11/2023	Results of vote in Parliament		
23/11/2023	Decision by Parliament	T9-0434/2023	Summary

Technical information	
Procedure reference	2023/2047(INI)
Procedure type	INI - Own-initiative procedure

Procedure subtype	Annual report
Legal basis	EC before Amsterdam E 227-p2; Rules of Procedure EP 54
Other legal basis	Rules of Procedure EP 159
Stage reached in procedure	Procedure completed
Committee dossier	PETI/9/11741

Documentation gateway

Committee draft report		PE749.894	20/07/2023	EP	
Amendments tabled in committee		PE753.744	02/10/2023	EP	
Committee report tabled for plenary, single reading		A9-0333/2023	06/11/2023	EP	
Text adopted by Parliament, single reading		T9-0434/2023	23/11/2023	EP	Summary
Commission response to text adopted in plenary		SP(2024)79	15/04/2024	EC	

Deliberations of the Committee on Petitions in 2022

The European Parliament adopted by 488 votes to 12, with 62 abstentions, a resolution on the outcome of the Committee on Petitions deliberations during 2022.

In 2022, Parliament received 1 217 petitions, which represents a decrease of 12,6 % compared to the 1 392 petitions submitted in 2021 and a decrease of 22.6 % compared to the 1 573 petitions submitted in 2020. The overall number of petitions remains modest in relation to the total population of the EU, revealing that efforts still need to be stepped up to increase citizens awareness about their right to petition.

Parliament emphasised the fundamental role of the Committee on Petitions in protecting and promoting the rights of EU citizens and residents by ensuring that petitioners concerns and complaints are examined in a timely, effective, appropriate and non-discriminatory manner, and that the petitioners are informed about the actions taken and progress made on their petitions, and that they are resolved through an open, democratic and transparent petition process.

Members reiterated that it is important that the Commission revises its strategic approach on the handling of petitions in order to ensure an adequate follow-up of all petitions denouncing violations of EU law. The Commission is called on to raise awareness among its staff about the need to use plain, simple, empathetic and appropriate language in order to convey clearly understandable responses to the petitioners.

The resolution stressed the huge increase in the number of petitions submitted on external relations issues compared to previous years which could be explained by the geopolitical context in 2022 and in particular the Russian aggression against Ukraine.

Health, which was one of the main areas of concern for petitioners in 2021, mainly due to health concerns related to the COVID-19 pandemic, appeared to become less important in 2022.

Parliament drew attention to the significant number of petitions discussed in relation to various aspects of the protection of the rights of rainbow families in the EU, in particular the different stances regarding the free movement and mutual recognition rights of LGBTI+

families in the EU. It pointed out that petitions related to the rights of national minorities remained on the agenda of the Committee on Petitions, especially in the areas of discriminatory practices concerning their right to education in their mother tongue and the use of languages.

Environmental issues remained an area of serious concern for petitioners in 2022, with more than 20 % of petitions dedicated to environmental issues. In this regard, the Commission to launch without delay an infringement procedure that should be finalised within a reasonable time frame in order to prevent further deterioration of the environment. Members stressed the importance of delivering on EU citizens expectations regarding the protection of the environment, and in particular of taking action in the field of illegal logging.

It is also important to reflect on EU citizens demands with regard to the significant number of petitions received in 2022 calling for improvements to animal welfare standards.

The important contribution of the Petitions Committee in defending the rights of persons with disabilities was highlighted.

The European Citizens Initiative (ECI) is an important instrument for active citizenship and public participation. Members underlined the need to improve the Commission's commitments in its responses to valid ECIs in order to foster citizens' trust in the ECI as the most significant instrument for participatory democracy.

Parliament welcomed the Commissions commitment to create an interinstitutional IT tool with Parliament, and urged its swift implementation, as a means of sharing information and documents on all follow-up actions taken on petitions. It recalled that the Petitions Web Portal is an essential tool for ensuring a smooth, efficient and transparent petitions process.