

D 202107 27.11.2019



The Chair
Committee on Petitions

Brussels,
AC/npe[IPOL-COM-PETI D(2019)43789]

To: Hon Matthew Swinbourn MLC
Chair of Standing Committee on
Environment and Public Affairs
Legislative Council
Parliament House
PERTH WA 6000
AUSTRALIA

Subject: Reply to the inquiry into the functions, processes and procedures of the Standing Committee on Environment and Public Affairs

Dear Chair,

I thank you for your letter dated 25 October 2019 in which you invite us to provide you with a written submission including, but not limited to, information on the history and operation of the petitions process in the European Parliament.

The Petitions Committee is the bridge between EU citizens and the EU institutions and helps the citizens of Europe to bring their concerns and ideas to the attention of their elected representatives. The Committee strives for the EU to take better advantage of citizens' direct experiences of EU law and has an important role in helping to identify problems with the national implementation of EU law. It is our responsibility and objective to ensure that all the rights and opportunities that EU legislation creates become a reality that can benefit all citizens of Europe.

The right to petition the European Parliament is set out in Article 227 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union and Article 44 of the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union. It guarantees that any citizen of the European Union, or resident in a Member State, may, individually or in association with others, at any time submit a petition to the European Parliament on a subject which comes within the European Union's fields of activity and which affects them directly. Any legal person (for example a company, organisation or association) with its registered office in the European Union may also exercise this right of petition. Petitions can be submitted in any of the official languages of the EU either electronically, via the Petitions Portal, or by regular mail. Title IX, Rules 226-229 of the Rules of Procedure of the European Parliament set out in more detail the rights of petitioners as well as the procedure for submission and examination of petitions.

Although the Committee on Petitions is the primary recipient of all petitions submitted by EU citizens, it often directs these petitions to other parliamentary committees for information or

for opinion, among which the Committee on Environment, Public Health and Food Safety (ENVI).

In order to better illustrate the processes and procedures followed in the handling of petitions and to provide you with more background on the historical petitions work carried out by the European Parliament over the years, I am enclosing for your consideration a series of documents that might assist you in your inquiry.

I hope that this information will prove useful and I thank you for your interest in our work.

Yours sincerely,



Dolors Montserrat
Chair
Committee on Petitions

Useful links:

Rules of Procedure of the European Parliament, Title IX, Rules 226-229, available at https://www.europarl.europa.eu/doceo/document/lastrules/TOC_EN.html?redirect#T9

*Guidelines of the Committee on Petitions, January 2018
<https://www.europarl.europa.eu/committees/en/peti/publications.html?tab=Guidelines%20Committee%20on%20Petitions>*

The citizen's appeal to the European Parliament: Petitions 1958-1979, available at <https://op.europa.eu/en/publication-detail/-/publication/f606d3dc-813a-4f8b-88dd-cc7611e13075>

Petitions Portal, Frequently Asked Questions about petitions: I. Eligibility and requirements II. Treatment and follow-up III. Registration and submission, available at: <https://petiport.secure.europarl.europa.eu/petitions/en/faq>

CC: Klaus Welle,
Secretary-General of the European Parliament