

Newsletter October 2017



European Ombudsman Annual Report 2016

In its meeting of 11 October 2017, PETI adopted its Report on the 2016 annual review of the European Ombudsman's activities. The Report commends the Ombudsman on the quality of her work and the high compliance rates her office has secured, finding that she exercises her powers in a balanced and proactive way with regard to not only citizens' maladministration complaints, but also own-initiative enquiries as well inter-institutional relations with other EU institutions.

The Report concludes that transparency-related inquiries remain the top concern of citizens and welcomes the Ombudsman's practical recommendations for public officials' interaction with lobbyists as well as her initiative to raise public awareness of best practices within the EU administration through the Ombudsman's Award for Good Administration. Members also underline that rules relating to transparency and public access to documents must be rigorously enforced.

Upcoming PETI activities in November:

- Public Hearing: "Protection of the rights of workers in temporary or precarious employment, based on petitions received" (22 Nov)
- Presentation of the Study: "Effective access to justice" (28 Nov)



Fact Finding Visit to Cyprus

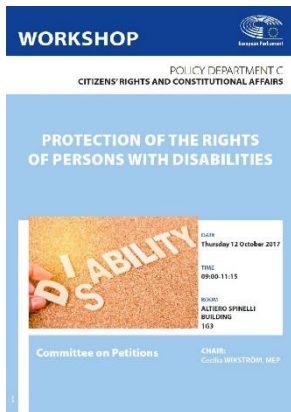
PETI undertook a fact-finding visit to Cyprus from 20-22 September 2017 based on petitions received on alleged breaches of EU environmental legislation in relation to industrial development activities. The Members of the delegation were Mr. Pál Csáky (Chair, EPP), Ms. Ángela Vallina (GUE), Mr. Igor Šoltes (Greens), Mr. Demetris Papadakis (ex-officio, S&D), and Mr. Takis Hadjigeorgiou (ex-officio, GUE).

Documents adopted in PETI:

- Annual Report on the European Ombudsman Annual Report 2016

Next PETI meeting: - 22-23 November 2017 & 28 November 2017

See [agenda](#), [documents](#) and [live broadcast](#)



Workshop: “Protection of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities”

At its meeting of 12 October 2017, PETI held a workshop on the protection of the rights of persons with disabilities, organised by the Policy Department for Citizens’ Rights and Constitutional Affairs. The Committee welcomed Professor Ebersold, who presented a study entitled “Inclusive Education for Learners with Disabilities”. The study stressed that inclusive education was not an end in itself but rather a means for exercising the right to education, and also addressed the role of international organisations and the Member States, concluding with perspectives for future progress.

The first session of the workshop focused on developments relating to the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and the EU context, while the second session addressed legal and social protection for persons with disabilities. Panellists included the European Disability Forum, the European Ombudsman, the European Commission, Inclusion Europe, the European Network on Independent Living, and the European Association of Service Providers for Persons with Disabilities.

Debate: Petition on unresolved murders linked to ETA and historic terrorism in Spain

At its meeting of 12 October 2017, the Committee heard a petition concerning 379 cases of unsolved murders purportedly perpetrated by the terrorist group ETA in Spain, on behalf of "Dignity and Justice", a Spanish organisation for the defence of the rights of victims of terrorism. In its reply, the European Commission stated that the fight against terrorism and the organisation of legal proceedings are issues that fall within the remit of national Member State competences, while also referring to the EU Directives on victims’ rights and combating terrorism.



Following an intense debate, Members took the decision to keep the petition open and send letters to the relevant political and judicial authorities in Spain, urging them to carry out proper investigations. PETI, a non-judicial body, stressed the need to end a culture of impunity and to seek justice. The Committee also decided to forward the petition to TERR, the recently created Special Committee on Terrorism, and to refer the matter to the PETI Coordinators for further consideration.

PETI Secretariat

peti-secretariat@europarl.europa.eu
[Petitions Portal](#)

Follow PETI

www.europarl.europa.eu/peti/
[Webstream](#)

Disclaimer: The items contained herein are drafted by the secretariat of the European Parliament and are provided for general information purposes only. The opinions expressed in this document are the sole responsibility of the author(s) and do not necessarily represent the official position of the European Parliament. This document may contain links to websites that are created and maintained by other organisations. The secretariat does not necessarily endorse the view(s) expressed on these websites.