

## Newsletter February 2018

### AFCO/PETI - Public hearing on the European Citizens' Initiative (ECI)



In view of the ongoing revision of the ECI legislative framework and Regulation 211/2011, a joint public hearing was held to gather expert views from the Commission, the European Ombudsman, academia, NGOs, and ECI organisers.

Members received detailed explanations on the Commission legislative proposal from the different stakeholders in order to attain a comprehensive overview of how the new Regulation would impact ECI organisers and citizen supporters in practice.

### Petition 0328/2016 by Serge Le Quéau (French), bearing 12 signatures, on the exposure of agricultural workers to pesticides

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#### Upcoming PETI activities in March 2018:

- PETI/ENVI Public Hearing: "Impact of endocrine disruptors on health and environment"

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PETI Members heard from a petitioner claiming that exposure to dangerous chemical products without adequate protection has led to health problems and disabilities of the employees of a company producing processed agricultural goods in France.



The petitioner claimed breaches of multiple EU directives on the use of pesticides and worker protection, and Regulation 882/2004 on animal feed.

Thanks to decisions taken by PETI Members, the information provided by the petitioner will be taken into account in the 2018 audit carried out by the European Commission in France on the sustainable use of pesticides. The petition will remain open until the results of this audit will be available by end 2018. The PETI committee also decided to send the petition to the new EP special committee on the EU authorisation procedure for pesticides, PEST.

## PETI Fact-Finding Mission to Lusatia, Germany

At the PETI meeting of 21 February, the Head of Delegation, Pál Csáky, briefly presented the fact-finding mission to Lusatia, Germany, which took place on 14 - 16 February 2018. The mission was based on citizen concerns raised in two petitions concerning the impact of lignite mining in the region on the Sorb community, a Slavic minority, and on the environment.



The delegation met with the petitioners, Sorb minority representatives, regional ministries, industry and civil society representatives, and the Mayors of the affected cities. The delegations' findings will be detailed in an upcoming report.

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### Other PETI activities in February 2018:

-LIBE/PETI/EMPL  
Public Hearing  
"Citizens' rights after Brexit"

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## Presentation of the Study "Management Plans for large carnivores in the EU and Member States"

The study presented to Members at the meeting of 21 February analyses the EU legal framework applicable to large carnivores – brown bear, Eurasian lynx, wolf, wolverine - and their current management within the EU.



The study compiles best practices regarding coexistence methods obtained from scientific research and EU-funded projects, such as the EU LIFE funding programme, and includes an analysis of the conditions for derogations under the Habitats Directive. The Committee decided to send the study for information to all concerned Member States.

### Documents adopted in PETI:

- Mission Report of the Fact Finding Visit to Larnaca, Cyprus

**Next PETI meeting:** - 21 - 22 March 2018

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

#### PETI Secretariat

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