

Newsletter May 2018



Petition on behalf of the City of Milan on the relocation to Amsterdam of the European Medicines Agency (EMA)

At its meeting of 16 May, the Committee examined a petition concerning the relocation from London to Amsterdam of the seat of the European Medicines Agency (EMA) after Brexit.

The Mayor of Milan (the petitioner) and the Deputy Permanent Representative of Italy to the EU took part in the debate.

The petitioner denounced as unlawful the procedure followed for the selection of Amsterdam as the new EMA seat, and stressed that the final choice was made by drawing lots. The City of Milan and the Italian government have also brought two parallel actions before the Court of Justice and the General Court.

Following the discussion, the PETI Committee took the decision to keep the petition open and to send a letter to ENVI, the EP Committee in charge of the trilogue negotiations for the adoption of the Regulation on the EMA relocation. PETI Members, following the EP resolution of 15 March 2018, stressed the importance of the EP prerogatives under the ordinary legislative procedure. They also requested to be kept informed every three months, through specific progress reports, on the state of play of the adjustments and construction of the EMA Amsterdam building.

PETI activities in

May:

- Fact-finding mission to Famagusta, Cyprus (7-8May)

Upcoming PETI activities in June:

- Vote:
Oral Question on voting rights

Petition on the lack of objectivity on Spanish television

The Committee discussed petition 1024/2017 relating to accusations of manipulation of facts and lack of objectivity in TVE, a national public broadcast service in Spain.

The petitioners, representing the News Council of TVE, claimed that the Spanish authorities are violating national and EU legislation by not guaranteeing objectivity and plurality in television nor upholding the civic right to information.

The Commission explained that the decisions on the financing and management of public media fall within national competence and that the Commission can only intervene when EU legislation is at stake. The Commission recalled that the new Audiovisual Media Services Directive (AVMSD) requires Member States to ensure the independence of public media. The Committee decided to maintain the petition open and send a letter to the Spanish government voicing its concern on the allegations of lack of objectivity in TVE.





Petitions on aquaculture

The Committee discussed two petitions on aquaculture.

Petition 718/2017 regarded the harm caused to an aquaculture business by the modification of import standards of Australian prawns to the EU.

The petitioner, a Spanish businessman, explained how this situation led to serious economic losses for the affected business. The

modification of standards allegedly prevented the importing of certain breeds from Australia but at the same time companies investing therein were granted with EU subsidies. The Committee decided to keep the petition open and to engage in a dialogue with the Commission.

Petition 578/2017 regarded the ongoing dispute between the petitioners and the Danish government on the issue of an amendment to the Danish Environmental Protection Act and its alleged non-compliance with EU environmental legislation. Having received a reply from the Danish government and the Commission that the Danish legislation in question did not constitute a per se breach of EU law, the Committee nonetheless decided to keep the petition open and to ask the Commission to monitor the situation.

Documents adopted in PETI:

- Opinion on the European citizens' initiative (2017/0220(COD)) (for AFCO)
- Oral Question and Resolution on 'Responding to petitions on tackling precariousness and the abusive use of fixed-term contracts'

Next PETI meeting: - 18-19 June 2018

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

PETI Secretariat

peti-secretariat@europarl.europa.eu
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