

## Newsletter February 2019

### Petition 0252/2018 on investigation of the murder of the Slovak journalist Ján Kuciak and his fiancée Martina Kušnírová

One year after the assassination of the Slovak journalist Ján Kuciak and his fiancée Martina Kušnírová, the Committee discussed petition no. 0252/2018.

The petitioner expressed concerns regarding the current situation of the rule of law in Slovakia and the impartiality of the ongoing investigation of the murder. Europol explained the tactical and technical support granted to the Joint Investigation Team, established between Slovakia and Italy. The Committee decided to follow up on this case with the European Commission and the Slovak Government.



### Follow-up to the Fact-Finding Visit to Sweden (20 -21.02.2017)

A number of petitions received by the Committee in the past years revealed the difficulties faced by several EU citizens wishing to live in Sweden for more than a few weeks to get a personal identification number (PIN) necessary to access public and/or private services.

After the visit of the PETI delegation in February 2017, the Swedish authorities acknowledged the practical difficulties encountered by some EU citizens and suggested as part of the solution the development of a coordination number, with a facilitated and more rapid access to services.



However, during the PETI meeting of 21 February 2019, the petitioners and the Commission representatives pointed out that the discriminatory situation presented in the petitions still persists, as the commitments made by the Swedish authorities in relation to the coordination number had not been yet implemented. As a follow-up, the Members decided to ask the Swedish authorities for an update on the situation.

#### **Documents adopted in PETI:**

- Opinion on the Proposal for a Directive of the European Parliament and of the Council on discontinuing seasonal changes of time and repealing Directive 2000/84/EC

**Next PETI meeting:** - 21 March 2019

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



## Petition 1088/2016 on the US Foreign Account Tax Compliance Act's (FATCA) alleged infringement of EU rights and the extraterritorial effects of US laws in the EU

On 21 February 2019 the Committee discussed a petition on the effects of FATCA on dual EU/US citizens and “accidental Americans.” The petitioner argued that compliance with FATCA generates numerous infringements of the European data protection legislation, in particular the GDPR, and stressed the

difficulties that citizens face when Member States deny their freedom of information requests on personal data transferred to the US. The Commission pointed out, among others, that it is ready to accept a mandate from the Council and the Member States to negotiate with the US on how FATCA can be implemented in a more acceptable manner.

The Members decided to send letters to the US Congress, Commissioner Moscovici and to President Juncker, highlighting the issues raised by the petitioner, as well as to the Council Presidency, asking Member States to assess the situation and give their opinion on how to better address it.

## Update of the Study on “Liability and cross-border legal implications of nuclear energy in the EU”

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**Upcoming PETI activities in March:**  
 - hearing on climate change denial (March 2019)

At the meeting of 20 February, Members were presented with an update of the study entitled “Liability and cross-border legal implications of nuclear energy in the EU” commissioned by Policy Department C for the Committee on Petitions.

The study analyses the legal framework of nuclear safety as well as the liability and insurance schemes for nuclear accidents. It examines the current liability and insurance framework and formulates possibilities for a further involvement of the EU in the liability regime. Specific attention is paid to citizen and NGO involvement in decision-making concerning nuclear power plants.



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