

## Newsletter January 2019

### Report on the deliberations of the Committee on Petitions during the year 2018



The Committee adopted a simplified version of its annual report, the last one for a full calendar year in the current legislative term. The detailed and complete overview of the work of the Committee, including statistics, will be part of the annual report for the year 2019.

Members called on the EU institutions and bodies as well as authorities in the Member States to raise awareness about the citizen's right to petition. They also underlined the need to foster cooperation between the different

institutions and authorities on matters linked to the application of EU law.

### Petitions on the rule of law in Poland

The Committee held a debate on a series of petitions on the constitutional situation in Poland and compliance with EU law, in particular with regard to the reforms of the judiciary and the separation of powers. The Polish Ombudsman was present for the debate. The members decided to keep the five petitions open, send a letter to the Commission asking to take these petitions into account in its dialogue on the rule of law with the Polish government and send the same letter for information to the relevant Polish authorities.



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**PETI activities in December:**  
- Fact-finding mission to Italy  
17-18 dec

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

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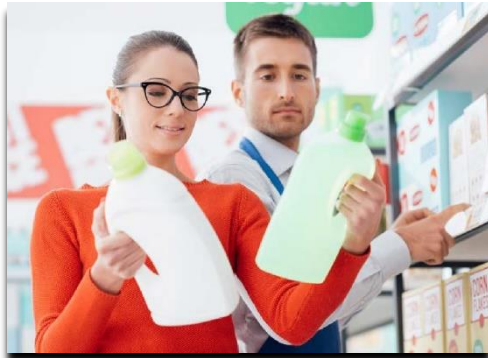
### Petitions on the legal status of local and municipal police forces in Italy

The Committee heard three petitions on the legal status of local and municipal police forces in Italy. This was the second debate in PETI on the issue, following the one held in November 2017. The petitioners, present at the meeting, complained that they are subject to

discrimination because, despite carrying out both administrative and police functions, they are considered local employees who do not belong to the Italian law enforcement forces. They also pointed out that their current status prevents them from adequately responding to terrorist threats. Following an intense debate, the members decided to keep the petitions open and send a new letter to the relevant authorities in Italy, urging them to restore the rights of local and municipal police officers.

### Documents adopted in PETI in January meeting:

- Opinion on the implementation of the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union in the EU institutional framework
- Report on the deliberations of the Committee on Petitions during the year 2018, Rule 216(7)



## Study and petitions on quality differences in consumer products in the EU

On 22 January, PETI members were presented with the study entitled “Quality differences in consumer products in the EU legislation” commissioned by Policy Department C for the PETI Committee. The study was undertaken by doc. JUDr. Blanka Vítová, Vice-dean for Science and Research at Palacký University Olomouc (Czech Republic) and deals with so called dual quality products, that is goods (food products, detergents, cosmetics, toiletries and products intended for babies, etc.) marketed on the Single Market under the same brand or trademark but with differences in content, composition or quality in individual EU Member States. On the same day, the Committee examined three petitions that highlighted the dual quality of consumer products in Western versus Eastern Europe. The Bulgarian Ombudsman was one of the petitioners who voiced their concerns about the use of double standards and discrimination of consumers. The members decided to keep all petitions open and ask the European Commission for an update, in particular in relation to the EU-wide product testing campaign coordinated by the Joint Research Centre (JRC).

## Petitions on the lack of objectivity of the state audio-visual media in Catalonia

The Committee discussed two petitions related to the lack of objectivity, plurality and impartiality of the Catalan state audio-visual media (TV3 and Catalunya Radio). The Commission explained that the Media Pluralism Monitor, which has the objective of highlighting risks to media pluralism in all Member States, flagged some of the issues raised by the petitioners. It also mentioned the new provisions of the revised Audio-visual Media Services Directive on independent audio-visual regulators, which should be implemented by Member States by 2020. Eventually, the Committee decided to keep the petitions open, request an opinion from the Committee on Culture and Education, send letters to the central Spanish government and the Catalan authorities and ask the Commission for an updated reply.



**Next PETI meeting:** - 20 - 21 February 2019

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

### PETI Secretariat

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