

Newsletter March 2019



Short Motion for a Resolution on Waste Management

At the meeting of 21 March 2019, the Committee on Petitions adopted a Short Motion for a Resolution on Waste Management. The vote in plenary is foreseen in April 2019. The resolution stresses that waste management is one of the main global socioeconomic and environmental challenges and pushes for a reduction of waste generation and a boost of reuse and recycling. It focuses on proper waste management and waste prevention as a top priority for the EU and on better implementation of waste legislation by Member States.

PETI activities in March:

- hearing on climate change denial (21 March)

Upcoming PETI activities in

April:

- workshop on "Conflict of interest" (2 April)



Petition on minors under guardianship in Spain

The Members discussed a petition submitted on behalf of the Spanish Association of Host Families highlighting the difficult situation of undocumented minors living under guardianship in Spain, whose parents are Romanian nationals. The petitioner pointed out that, as a result of neglect from their

biological families, children live in a situation that restricts their rights as they do not have any form of identification or a defined nationality. Consequently, their access to social assistance is restricted, especially for the most vulnerable children with disabilities.

The Commission pointed out that, despite not having competence in matters related to nationality and statelessness, it has undertaken a series of initiatives to provide an operational response to these issues and to raise awareness, including among national authorities, on the impact of the lack of nationality on the fulfilment of children's rights.

The Committee decided to keep the petition open, to send a letter to the Romanian and Spanish authorities and to the Romanian Council Presidency, stressing the severity of the situation, and to call on the LIBE and JURI Committees to issue an opinion on the matter.

Documents adopted in PETI:

- Short Motion for a Resolution on Waste Management
- Fact-finding Visit to Donana National Park, Andalucia, Spain

Next PETI meeting: - 2 April 2019

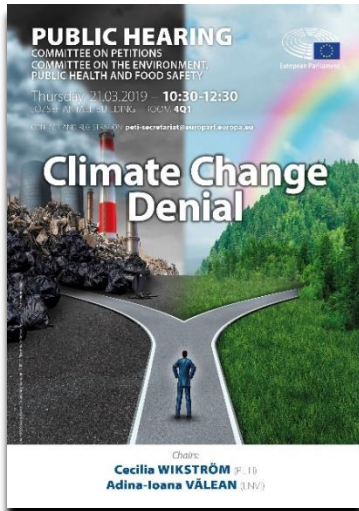
See [agenda](#), [documents](#) and [live broadcast](#)

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Joint PETI and ENVI Public Hearing on Climate Change Denial

On 21 March 2019, the PETI and ENVI Committees held a joint Public Hearing on “Climate Change Denial.” The aim of the hearing was to explore the topic of climate change denial under different perspectives and to examine the communication techniques used in politics or by private companies and other actors in society to mislead the public on the negative impact of certain industrial activities or policies on the climate. Members highlighted the leader role the EU has taken on the global stage in the climate change debate and stressed the need for speedy action on this topic.

Petition on the lack of objectivity on Spanish television

The Committee discussed petition 1024/2017 relating to accusations of lack of objectivity in TVE, a national public broadcast service in Spain. The petition, submitted on behalf of the News Council of TVE, claims that the Spanish authorities violate national and EU legislation by not guaranteeing objectivity and plurality in television nor upholding the civic right to information. The Committee decided to maintain the petition open and send a letter to the Standing

Committee of the Spanish Congress inquiring about the state of play of the public procedure for the election of the new president of TVE, which should now take account of professional criteria.



Fact-finding visit to Doñana National Park: Adoption of draft report

On 21 March 2019, the Committee adopted a report recommending to close the storage, prospection and gas extraction projects in the Doñana National Park, following the "precautionary principle." The report was drawn up after a visit of an MEP delegation to the Doñana Park in September 2018. The Committee urged the national, regional, local authorities and the Guadalquivir Water Authority to stop two pressing

dangers, which are damaging one of the most important protected areas in the EU: the illegal wells and the pipeline project.