

Newsletter April 2019

Workshop on Conflicts of Interest

On 2 April 2019, the Committee on Petitions hosted a workshop on “Conflicts of interest in the EU institutions,” organized by the Policy Department on Citizens’ Rights and Constitutional Affairs. The workshop examined the achievements reached during this parliamentary term in relation to conflicts of interests in the EU institutions and agencies, while also discussing challenges for the future.

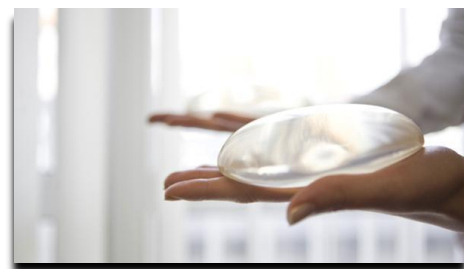


Petition against a fence along the Danish-German border to prevent wild boar from migrating

The Members examined a petition on the upcoming construction of a 70-kilometer fence along the German-Danish border, aiming to prevent wild boars from migrating from Germany to Denmark and to re-establish a native Danish wild boar population. The petition argues that this measure is disproportionate, does not prevent African Swine Fever from spreading into Denmark and runs counter to the EU’s objective of reducing landscape fragmentation in Europe. The Committee decided to keep the petition open and send a letter to the Danish authorities calling for the immediate halt of the construction of the fence, pending the implementation and outcome of the assessment and taking into account the balance between necessity and proportionality.

Petitions on mammary prosthetics

On 11 April, the Committee examined three petitions on mammary prosthetics and their effects on human health. The petitions pointed out the health risks associated to breast implants and highlighted that those adversely affected by dangerous implants are unable to receive the necessary healthcare and legal protection. The Members decided to keep all petitions open, send them to the ENVI Committee for an opinion and ask the Commission for a written update.





Petitions on access to education of disabled children in Poland

At the meeting of 11 April 2019, the Members discussed two Polish petitions on access to education of disabled children. The petitioners argued that new Polish legislation deprives these children of adequate support and forces them to follow an individual tuition at home. They also emphasized that there are no specific centres for younger children who are temporarily unadapt and unsuitable for traditional education due to physical or posttraumatic reasons and called for a swift change of the relevant laws. The Committee decided to keep the petitions open, ask the Polish authorities for clarifications and the Commission for a written update.



PETI end of legislature cocktail

Cecilia Wikström, Chair of the Committee on Petitions, hosted the end of term PETI cocktail on Wednesday, 10 April 2019.



Documents adopted in PETI:

The Committee unanimously adopted the draft report on the fact-finding visit to Valledora, Piedmont, Italy (17-18.12.2018) by 15 votes in favour and no abstentions. The purpose of the mission was to explore various aspects of environmental protection, public health and landscape in relation to landfilling in abandoned quarries.

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