

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

2004



2009

Committee on Petitions

20.03.2009

NOTICE TO MEMBERS

Subject: Petition 1181/2007 by Frank Doyle (Irish), with 12 signatures, on speed limit indications

1. Summary of petition

The petitioners, residents of a rural tourist area, indicate that Cork County Council has decided to locate signs indicating a speed limit of 100 km/hour next to the church and school. The petitioners regard this as much too high, endangering both the church congregation, in particular the elderly, and school pupils. and call for the speed limit to be brought down to 50 km/hour. Furthermore, signs have been put up indicating a speed limit of 80 km/hour on a number of narrow roads nearby, which is extremely dangerous because of limited visibility. The petitioners argue that the speed limit should be brought down to 10 km/hour and maintain that Cork County Council is infringing the European 'Road Safety Charter'.

2. Admissibility

Declared admissible on 8 April 2008. Information requested from Commission under Rule 192(4).

3. Commission reply, received on 20 March 2009.

The petitioners, residents of a rural tourist area, complain against Cork County Council for two reasons:

- the Cork County Council has located speed limit signs of 100 km/hour next to the church and school. The petitioners call for the speed limit to be brought down to 50 km/hour.
- it has also located speed limit signs of 80 km/hour on a number of narrow roads nearby, which is extremely dangerous because of limited visibility. The petitioners call for the speed limit to be brought down to 10 km/hour.

The setting of speed limits does not fall within the competence of the European Union. Member States are free to rule speed limits and there is no harmonisation in this respect at EU level.

However, consistency between speed limits and environment should be dictated by road safety requirements: setting of speed limits should be consistent with both road design and the overall environment of the road.

As legislation on speed limits does not fall at present under Community competence, the Commission would have no legal basis to support the petitioners in requesting Cork County Council to reduce the speed limits in question.