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*Committee on Petitions*

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**2016/2018(INI)**

25.1.2017

# **OPINION**

of the Committee on Petitions

for the Committee on Legal Affairs and the Committee on Constitutional Affairs

on the interpretation and implementation of the interinstitutional agreement on Better Law-Making  
(2016/2018(INI))

Rapporteur: Notis Marias

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## SUGGESTIONS

The Committee on Petitions calls on the Committee on Legal Affairs and the Committee on Constitutional Affairs, as the committees responsible, to incorporate the following suggestions into their motion for a resolution:

1. Notes the Commission goal of better regulation as a priority for this term and affirms the need to create clear, simple, effective and balanced EU legislation that seeks to ensure high levels of social, environmental and occupational protection, which will be easy to transpose and implement;
2. Notes that improved legislative procedures at EU level, with timely and deeper inter-institutional cooperation, can lead to a more consistent and harmonised application of EU-law;
3. Considers that further development of the transparency of the negotiations process, especially as regards the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP) and the Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement (CETA), as well as of the legislative process and enhanced scrutiny of existing legislation must be the guiding principles of the implementation of the Interinstitutional Agreement on Better Regulation;
4. Stresses that the negotiations regarding a withdrawal agreement in accordance with Article 50 of the Treaty on European Union are conducted on an interinstitutional basis; recalls that Article 50 only clarifies the participation of Members of the European Council or of the Council; highlights that Members of the European Parliament of a withdrawing Member State are not prevented from participating in Parliament and committee debates and voting; calls on the need to enhance transparency with regard to withdrawal negotiations both on a Parliament and an interinstitutional basis;
5. Emphasises the importance of developing and further advancing Parliament's role as co-legislator and of ensuring equality with respect to the Council, as well as enhancing its role as a supervisory body of all EU institutions;
6. Stresses that when it comes to its application, effective EU legislation must aim to ensure that the procedures established therein match the underlying purpose of the piece of legislation itself, and particularly the ultimate goal of protecting the environment when it comes to ensuring a high degree of environmental protection;
7. Recalls the numerous petitions received on the economic and social crisis in the European Union and believes that priority should be given to legislative initiatives in order to revive the economy, fight unemployment and precarious employment, and to combat social inequalities and poverty;
8. Acknowledges the importance of the work being done in the Committee on Petitions in assessing the quality of EU law-making with regard to its actual implementation, and as a basis for improving legislative texts and procedures; notes in this regard the importance of genuine inter-institutional cooperation with the Commission when it comes to ensuring that the petitions are properly examined;
9. Encourages developing efficient legislation geared to developing employment protection

and European competitiveness with a particular focus on small and medium-sized enterprises, across all sectors of the economy;

10. Opposes any legislative initiative or legal framework put in place with the participation of any EU institution that can lead to an actual precarisation of the labour market, risks putting a greater amount of people effectively under the poverty threshold or undermines fundamental rights enshrined in the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the EU;
11. States that impact assessments of new legislative proposals should systematically take account of the actual effects, including in the short term, on objectives such as the safeguarding of citizens' fundamental rights, higher levels of social inclusion, the cost of non-Europe and forms of employment that fully protect the social and wage entitlements of the public and proper environmental protection; considers that an SME test case should also be included; is firmly convinced that the EU must adopt legislation that seeks to ensure the highest levels of social justice; regards it as essential, therefore, that all measures and instruments employed at EU level must be designed and implemented in such a way as to combat inequality, precarious employment and social exclusion consistently and effectively;
12. Calls for greater consultation with social partners at an early stage, and a greater involvement of the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions, and due account to be taken of their concerns;
13. Notes that the adoption of systematic impact assessments must not lead to a de-politicisation of the legislative process, thereby affecting Parliament's core role in the democratic functioning of the Union, as the true representative of the direct will and diversity of EU citizens, nor weaken its legislative power, watering down its debates or rendering them meaningless, and replacing the political decisions made therein;
14. Stresses that, in the light of the objective of ensuring full transparency in the decision-making process and the highest levels of social justice, consultations and impact assessments should principally aim to involve the public and civil society organisations fully and as prime movers, and must promote the adoption of legislation which guarantees full protection for citizens' fundamental rights and the environment; considers that consultations and impact assessments must form part of a wider process of democratisation which leads to the direct participation of the public at all stages in the EU decision-making process;
15. Believes that the independence of the Commission's Regulatory Scrutiny Board (RSB) should be strengthened and that its role should be more clearly defined and suggests the establishment of a common body for the three institutions, for example a Better Regulation Advisory Body;
16. Welcomes the participation of EP experts at the Commission's Regulatory Scrutiny Board meetings and the systematic publication of draft delegated or implementing measures and the creation of a register of delegated acts;
17. Requests that Parliament be invited to attend the Council's working party and Coreper meetings and insists that the agendas are transmitted to Parliament in a structured way.

## RESULT OF FINAL VOTE IN COMMITTEE ASKED FOR OPINION

<b>Date adopted</b>	24.1.2017
<b>Result of final vote</b>	+: 15 -: 1 0: 3
<b>Members present for the final vote</b>	Marina Albiol Guzmán, Margrete Auken, Beatriz Becerra Basterrechea, Pál Csáky, Rosa Estaràs Ferragut, Eleonora Evi, Peter Jahr, Notis Marias, Roberta Metsola, Julia Pitera, Virginie Rozière, Josep-Maria Terricabras, Jarosław Wałęsa, Cecilia Wikström, Tatjana Ždanoka
<b>Substitutes present for the final vote</b>	Kostadinka Kuneva, Ángela Vallina, Rainer Wieland
<b>Substitutes under Rule 200(2) present for the final vote</b>	Edouard Martin