

## Newsletter January 2018



### PETI resolution on minorities - "Fighting discrimination of EU citizens belonging to minorities in the EU Member States"

Following the fruitful hearing on minority rights and discrimination held by PETI on 4 May 2017, the Committee adopted a short resolution at its meeting of 22 January to highlight the difficulties faced by national and ethnic minorities as well as LGBTI persons in the EU. The vote in plenary is foreseen in February 2018.

The text denounces all forms of discrimination and calls upon the Commission and the Member States to better protect minority rights.

#### \*\*\* PETI activities in February 2018:

- Fact-finding mission to Lusatia, Germany  
14 - 16 Feb
- Hearing on "Citizens' rights after Brexit", (LIBE - EMPL - PETI)  
1 Feb
- Hearing on revision of the ECI legal framework (AFCO-PETI)  
21 Feb

\*\*\*

### Petitions on nuclear energy and liability insurance for nuclear power plants

The Committee heard a series of petitions on nuclear energy. Two petitions from Austria, one of which gathered an excess of 14,000 signatures, called for EU legislation on nuclear insurance.

Insurance regimes for nuclear power plants and nuclear waste storage vary greatly between Member States. The petitioners assert that, in the event of a nuclear accident, current regimes for third party liability insurance will be insufficient and all additional costs are likely to be borne by the public purse.

The petitioners therefore appealed to the European Commission for the preparation of a proposal of a Regulation for the obligatory civil liability insurance of each reactor in the EU for the minimal amount of 400 billion Euros, with the aim of covering all risks related to nuclear accidents (including transport of nuclear waste, provisional storage and risk of minimal exposure).

Both the Commission and the European Parliament are currently preparing studies on the existing level of such insurance in Member States and consequently the petition will be kept open at least until both studies are presented. The Commission will then update the Parliament on the results. The ITRE Committee and the Austrian government will also be informed of the petition.



\*\*\*

**Documents  
adopted in  
PETI in  
January 2018:**

- Short  
resolution:  
"Fighting  
discrimination  
of EU citizens  
belonging to  
minorities in  
the EU  
Member  
States"

\*\*\*

## Visit of a delegation from the Moroccan Parliament

In the framework of a capacity-building and democracy support programme, a delegation from the Moroccan House of Representatives paid a visit to the European Parliament during the week of 22-25 January 2018. Following an expression of interest in the activities of the PETI Committee, the delegation followed the morning session of the PETI meeting on 23 January.



## Petitions on the situation of foreign-language lecturers in Italy - 'Lettori'

The Committee examined a set of petitions concerning the situation of foreign-language lecturers ('lettori') in Italian universities and the alleged discriminatory treatment they face compared to Italian colleagues.

One of the present petitioners, the Chair of the 'Association of foreign lecturers in Italy', presented the first of such petitions, submitted twenty years ago, in 1998.

The European Commission, fully aware of the situation, is currently reviewing a new Italian law, which would finally provide a remedy to the lettori's discrimination. PETI Members took the decision to keep the petition open, to wait for an updated written reply from the Commission in relation to the new Italian law, and to refer the matter to the EP Brexit Steering Group.



### **Next PETI meeting:**

21 - 22 February 2018

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

### **PETI Secretariat**

[peti-secretariat@europarl.europa.eu](mailto:peti-secretariat@europarl.europa.eu)  
[Petitions Portal](#)

### **Follow PETI**

[www.europarl.europa.eu/peti/](http://www.europarl.europa.eu/peti/)  
[Webstream](#)

Disclaimer: The items contained herein are drafted by the secretariat of the European Parliament and are provided for general information purposes only. The opinions expressed in this document are the sole responsibility of the author(s) and do not necessarily represent the official position of the European Parliament. This document may contain links to websites that are created and maintained by other organisations. The secretariat does not necessarily endorse the view(s) expressed on these websites.