

Newsletter October 2018



PETI Dialogue with the European Court of Auditors – “Landscape Review: Putting EU Law into Practice: The European Commissions’ Oversight Responsibilities under Article 17(1) TEU”

In response to a request of the European Parliament, the European Court of Auditors (ECA) carried out a landscape review of the 2017 oversight activities conducted by the European Commission pursuant to Article 17 (1) TEU. PETI welcomed Mr. Leo Brincat, a Member of the

Court, to present the main ECA findings. The ECA landscape review is an annual exercise which aims at highlighting the challenges encountered by Member States in the implementation of EU law and the existing opportunities for improvements in compliance and transposition.

Amidst the challenges discussed, the 2017 review underlines the financial capacity constraints of Member States, lack of clarity of EU law, and delays in launching infringement procedures. Building on these observations, Mr. Brincat set forth potential ways to facilitate a better implementation of EU law by Member States and to further strengthen the monitoring tasks of the Commission. The ECA recommendations included the development of measures enhancing the sharing of resources and expertise between Member States, a coordinated flow of information between the Commission and Member States, an overall framework assessing the economy, efficiency and effectiveness of the Commissions’ monitoring activities, and a greater transparency of the infringement proceedings launched by the Commission.

Upcoming PETI activities in November:

- Meeting with the national parliaments (27 Nov 2018)
- Follow-up to the PETI fact-finding visit to Spain on stolen babies (22 Nov 2018)

Study Presentation - “Air Quality and Urban Traffic in the EU: Best Practices and Possible Solutions”

The Committee heard a presentation of a study on air quality in five major EU cities commissioned on the basis of petitions received. Air quality is a major concern for many European citizens, and numerous cities and regions remain in violation of EU legislation on ambient air quality.

The study concludes that the main air pollutants in cities are particulate matter (PM10) and nitrogen dioxide (NO2). Vehicle emissions, especially by diesel vehicles, are the main source of elevated NO2 and PM10 levels. Further polluters contributing to PM10 levels include domestic heating, construction activities, and industry.



Next PETI meeting: - 21 - 22 November 2018

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

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Joint Committee Meeting with the Bundestag

The Committee welcomed a delegation of members of the Bundestag for an exchange of views at its meeting of 9 October.

In the presence of the delegation, PETI Members examined a number of petitions submitted by German citizens, regarding mainly environmental issues, including water contamination and nitrate pollution, as well as several petitions relating to allegedly discriminatory road tolls in Germany.

An Italian petitioner addressed the Committee with objections to the 2015 proposal introduced

by the German Transport Ministry to charge non-German nationals for the use of motorways. The petition raised concerns about the potential incompatibility of the proposal with the principle of free movement of goods and persons in the Single Market, as well as the basic principle of non-discrimination under EU law. In view of the reply from the European Commission, explaining that Germany has amended its national legislation following an infringement procedure, the Bundestag delegation was given the opportunity to take the floor and state their position on the topic and the specificity of the German national context.



Public Hearing - The Rights of Persons with Disabilities

The Committee held a public hearing on disabilities at its meeting of 9 October. Mark Priestley from the University of Leeds gave an update on an earlier study on the protection role of PETI in the context of the implementation of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNCPRD) commissioned by Policy Department C and first introduced in 2015.

Other experts gave presentations on the matter of legal capacity and the right to vote for persons with disabilities and of the particular situation of women with disabilities.

All experts concurred that there are many remaining challenges in fully implementing the UNCPRD to this day, eight years after the EU acceded to the convention in December 2010, and concluded with a call for the establishment of an observatory to share best practices and collect better data.



Documents adopted in PETI:

- Opinion on the Implementation report as regards Regulation 1/2005 on the protection of animals during transport within and outside the EU (2018/2110(INI))
- Fact-finding Visit to Lusatia, Germany (14-16 Feb 2018)
- Resolution on Jugendamt

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