

Newsletter November 2018



Petitions on forest management in Poland and non-compliance with EU environmental law

At its meeting of 21 November, the Petitions Committee examined two petitions on the state of forests in Poland. Petition 0805/2017 was submitted by seven Polish NGOs, alleging non-compliance with EU environmental law on forest management. Petition 0812/2017, submitted by Spanish citizens, concerned the Białowieża forest, one of Europe's last remaining primeval forests and natural habitats for bison.

The Commission informed the Committee it had sent to the Polish authorities a letter of formal notice under Article 258 TFEU concerning the improper transposition of the Birds and Habitats Directives with regard to forest management activities, and that it is currently assessing their reply. As regards the Białowieża forest, the Commission confirmed that, following a ruling of the Court of Justice of the European Union, the Polish authorities have committed to comply fully with the judgment and that the only activities currently carried out in the forest are those aimed at ensuring public safety and which have not been called into question in the judgment.

In view of the updates provided by the Commission and pending further assessment of the replies of the Polish authorities, the Committee decided to keep the petitions open and to send a letter to the Polish government, outlining its concerns over forest conservation and long-term compliance with the CJEU judgment. The Committee also decided to send the Oral Question of the PETI and ENVI Committees on Natura 2000 violations, and inform that the Oral Question will be followed by an upcoming Plenary debate.

**Upcoming
PETI
activities in
December:**

- Fact-finding mission to Italy, 17-18 December

Exchange of views with the European Ombudsman - European Commission Secretary-General Appointment

As the Committee in charge of the relations with the European Ombudsman, PETI co-chaired a joint exchange of views with CONT and JURI with Ms. O'Reilly concerning her recommendations in joint cases 488/2018/KR and 514/2018/KR on the

European Commission's appointment of a new Secretary-General. In her remarks, the Ombudsman explained the reasoning of her decision, and confirmed that her office had found four instances of maladministration by the Commission in the appointment of Mr. Selmayr. The exchange of views was followed by a debate with Members from all three Committees. The recording of the meeting is accessible via the EPTV website: <http://www.europarl.europa.eu/ep-live/en/committees/>



Committee on Petitions

News in PETI:

As of 1 December 2018, the PETI Secretariat will welcome a new Acting Head of Unit, Ms. Leticia Zuleta de Reales Ansaldo, who will succeed Ms. Virpi Koykka

Joint PETI-JURI inter-parliamentary meeting

On 27 November, PETI and JURI held an Interparliamentary Committee Meeting, in cooperation with the European Network of Ombudsmen. The programme focused on the empowerment of parliaments and the enforcement of citizens' rights in the implementation and application of EU law. Panels also explored the role of complaints to Ombudsmen and petitions to parliaments as instruments to detect breaches of EU law.



Presentation of the update of the Study "Fit for purpose? The Facilitation Directive and the criminalisation of humanitarian assistance to irregular migrants"

The Committee heard a presentation by two experts, Ms. Lina Vosyliūtė from the Centre for European Policy Studies and Ms. Jennifer Allsopp from the Migration London International Development Centre on the Facilitation Directive. Due to a number of petitions received on the criminalisation of humanitarian assistance provided to migrants by EU citizens, the Committee decided to request an update on the 2016 study initially commissioned by the LIBE Committee. The full study can be found via the following link:

<http://www.europarl.europa.eu/committees/en/peti/supporting-analyses.html>

Next PETI meeting: - 21-22 January 2019

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

Documents adopted in PETI:

- Report on the deliberations of the Committee on Petitions during the year 2017, Rule 216(7)
- Report on the Annual report on the activities of the European Ombudsman in 2017
- Opinion on the Implementation of the Treaty provisions related to the EU Citizenship

- Opinion on the proposal for amending Parliament's Decision 94/262/ECSC, EC, Euratom of 9 March 1994 on the regulations and general conditions governing the performance of the Ombudsman's duties
- Joint report on the Ombudsman's strategic inquiry OI/2/2017 on the transparency of legislative discussions in the preparatory bodies of the Council of the EU
- Fact-finding Visit to Famagusta, Cyprus (7-8.05.2018)

PETI Secretariat

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

Follow PETI

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.