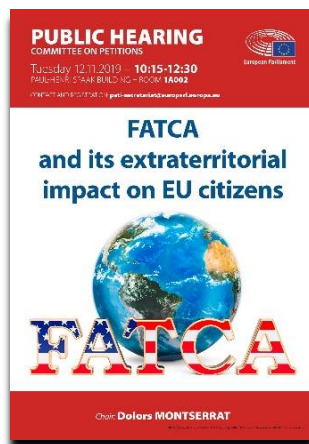


Newsletter November 2019



Hearing on FATCA and its extraterritorial impact on EU citizens

On 12 November 2019 the Committee held a public hearing on FATCA and its extraterritorial impact on EU citizens. The aim of the hearing was to facilitate an exchange of views between the various stakeholders and discuss solutions to the issues faced by EU citizens affected by FATCA.

The hearing was divided into two panels, one that focused on financial services and another on the indirect effects of FATCA on EU citizens, with a special emphasis on potential conflicts between the US law and European data protection rules. As a follow-up to the hearing, the Members decided to write letters to the Finnish Presidency of the Council and to the European Commission calling on them to take action in support of the citizens concerned.

Adoption of the Report on the Annual report on the activities of the European Ombudsman in 2018

At the meeting of 12 November 2019, the Committee adopted by a large majority the Report on the Annual report on the activities of the European Ombudsman in 2018. The Report highlights the Ombudsman's work and commends her essential and fruitful dialogue with the Committee on Petitions, which constitutes an effective system of addressing the citizens' concerns for guidance and help.



The Report also points out that transparency and accountability-related inquiries continue to account for the greatest proportion of cases handled by the Ombudsman in 2018.

*** PETI activities in November:

- hearing on FATCA and its extraterritorial impact on EU citizens

Upcoming PETI activities in December:

- hearing "Revaluation of the wolf population in the EU"
- hearing of the candidates for the post of European Ombudsman

Petition on the reduced daily rest period for truck drivers provided by the Mobility Package

At the meeting of 12 November 2019, the Members discussed a petition calling for the abolishment of the 9-hour daily rest for truck drivers, introduced by the Mobility Package.

The petition also asks for international drivers to be paid in accordance with the legislation of the country where they have been posted. After a lively debate, the Committee decided to keep the petition open, ask the Commission for an update and send the petition to TRAN for an opinion.





Petition on widows' pensions in Spain

At the meeting of 12 November 2019, the Committee heard a petition on entitlements to widows' pensions in Spain. The petitioner claimed that the Spanish Government is denying women whose registered partners have passed away the right to a widow's pension, on the ground that their income was higher than their partners' in the year of the latter's death.

The Committee decided to keep the petition open, send a letter to the relevant Spanish ministry and to the Spanish Parliament, send the petition to EMPL for information and ask the Commission for a written reply.

Petition on blood farms and Pregnant Mare's Serum Gonadotropin (PMSG)

On 11 November 2019 the Members examined a petition seeking a ban on the import of PMSG from South America as a result of investigations showing inhuman treatment of mares in blood farms in Uruguay and Argentina. PMSG is used to produce veterinary drugs to increase fertility in farm animals in the EU, in particular pigs.

The petitioner also highlighted the adverse effects of PMSG on the health and welfare of European farm animals. The Members decided to keep the petition open, ask the World Organization for Animal Health (OIE), the World Trade Organization (WTO) and the INTA committee for an opinion, ask the Commission for an update and send the petition for information to the Intergroup on the Welfare and Conservation of Animals.



Documents adopted in PETI:

- Report on the Annual report on the activities of the European Ombudsman in 2018

Next PETI meeting: - 2-3 December 2019

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

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