

Newsletter December 2019

Hearings of the candidates for the post of European Ombudsman

At the meeting of 3 December 2019, the Committee on Petitions held the hearings of the five admissible candidates for the post of European Ombudsman: Mr. Giuseppe Fortunato, Ms. Julia Laffranque, Mr. Nils Muižnieks, Ms. Emily O'Reilly and Ms. Cecilia Wikström.

Each one-hour hearing started with a 10-minute introductory statement during which the candidates presented their key priorities and vision for the next five-year term. MEPs then addressed a series of questions, followed by a short concluding statement by the candidates. Parliament is expected to elect the new European Ombudsman by secret ballot during the December 2019 plenary session.



ENVI-PETI joint Public Hearing on the Revaluation of the wolf population in the EU

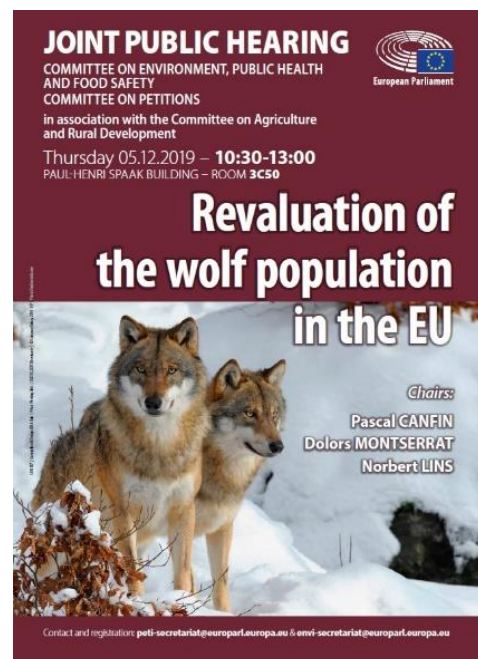
PETI
activities in
December:

Public hearing
 "Revaluation of the wolf population in the EU"

Hearing of the candidates for the post of European Ombudsman

On 5 December 2019, ENVI and PETI, in association with AGRI, held a joint public hearing on the revaluation of the wolf population in the EU. The aim of the hearing was to achieve a better understanding of the wolf population in the EU and, potentially, to consider possible changes to the current management of the wolf population in Europe.

The hearing was divided into three panels: the first focused on the analysis of the wolf population in the EU, the second discussed the legal framework and international obligations related to wolf protection and the third assessed the impact of the wolf population on the environment and rural communities.



Petition on the alleged violation of environmental EU law by an unhealthy industry in Borgo Val di Taro, Italy

The petition denounces the serious health problems allegedly caused to the citizens of Borgo Val di Taro, and in particular the children attending the local schools, by a ceramics factory that operates in the immediate vicinity. The petitioner argues that, after 2016, when the factory started its activity, citizens noticed the onset of discomfort and in some cases real illnesses, such as reddened eyes, headache, rashes, asthma and respiratory problems. According to the local paediatrician, these symptoms might be caused by irritants present in the air. The petitioner criticizes the actions of the local authorities, which were late to carry out an environmental impact assessment and performed no health impact assessment.



Furthermore, during the committee meeting of 2 December 2019, the petitioner claimed that the ceramic factory had applied for an increase of its operation and obtained permission from the regional environmental authorities not to disclose certain information on the ground that it constituted technical/commercial secret.

The Members decided to keep the petition open and send it to ENVI and the regional Italian authorities for an opinion.



End-of-year PETI cocktail

Dolors Montserrat, Chair of the Committee on Petitions, hosted the end-of-year PETI cocktail on Tuesday, 3 December 2019. The Chair took the opportunity to thank all Members and staff for their contribution to the excellent work of the Committee.

Next PETI meeting: - 21-22 January 2020

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

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.