

Newsletter June 2020

Extraordinary meeting of the Committee on Petitions

On 16 June 2020 the Committee on petitions held its third extraordinary meeting in which it discussed a series of petitions on COVID-19-related issues.

In addition, the Committee on Petitions unanimously adopted two draft motions for a resolution: the Draft Motion for a Resolution on international and domestic parental abduction of EU children in Japan and the Draft Motion for a Resolution on the rights of persons with intellectual disabilities in the COVID-19 crisis.



Petition on vaccination against COVID-19

During the meeting of 16 June 2020, the Committee heard a petition on vaccination against COVID-19. The petitioner called on the EU to finance the administration of a free vaccine, when available, to all citizens of all Member States, in order to put an end to the pandemic. The petition also highlights the huge economic cost caused by the pandemic to most Member States.

The Members decided to keep the petition open, send the petition to ENVI for opinion and ask the Commission for further information, in particular in what concerns the “Inclusive Vaccine Alliance” and equal access to any future vaccine for all EU citizens.

Documents adopted in PETI:

- Draft Motion for a Resolution on international and domestic parental abduction of EU children in Japan (2020/2621 (RSP))
- Draft Motion for a Resolution on the rights of persons with intellectual disabilities in the COVID-19 crisis (2020/2680 (RSP))

Petition on custom duties on beef due to COVID-19

At the same meeting, the Members examined a petition urging for an immediate increase on custom duties on beef. The petitioner argued that the high import of beef from South America coupled with the massive decrease in demand for beef in gastronomy and tourism caused by the Coronavirus have negatively affected European farmers. The petitioner called on the EU institutions to mitigate the negative effects of this alleged massive market distortion and to protect European farmers.



The Committee decided to keep the petition open, ask the Commission for more information and send the petition for opinion to the INTA and IMCO Committees.



Petition on the limitation of information rights during the COVID-19 crisis in Spain

On 16 June 2020, the Members discussed a petition that criticized the measures adopted by the Spanish government during the COVID-19 crisis. The petitioner argued that the limitations imposed on fundamental rights, and in particular the right to information, have breached the transparency and good governance rules in force in the European Union and its Member States. According to the petitioner, this state of affairs has prevented both citizens and the media from exercising an adequate scrutiny of the measures adopted by

the government.

The Committee decided to keep the petition open, ask the Commission for information on the study regarding the measures adopted in occasion of the declarations of the State of Alarm in all Member States and send the petition for information to the LIBE Committee.

Next PETI meeting: - 2 July and 14 July 2020

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

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