

Newsletter January 2024



Fact-Finding Visit to Ireland on the use of defective blocks

The Committee considered the draft report on the [Fact-Finding Visit to Donegal](#) (Ireland) on the use of defective blocks used in construction in Ireland, an alleged non-compliance with the EU Construction Products Regulation and the protection of homeowners, which took place between the 30th of October and the 1st of November 2023.

The aim of the mission was to visit affected buildings, to establish facts and to seek possible solutions. The Members of the delegation had rich exchanges with the petitioners and homeowners, the national and regional authorities, and experts and acquired first-hand information about the issue, which affects thousands of homeowners and their families.

Defective blocks have been used in the construction of thousands of buildings, in the northwest of Ireland, with severe health, financial and social consequences for homeowners, their families and their communities. This is a multi-folded problem, which involves all levels of administration, from local to regional and national, as well as European level. The challenge is to urgently respond to the calls of the petitioners to get faster help and more effective support through specific and tailored measures.

Protection of undocumented domestic workers in Belgium

The Committee discussed [Petition No 0611/2023](#) by Eva Maria Jiménez Lamas (Belgian), on behalf of the Domestic Workers' League of CSC Brussels, on the protection of undocumented domestic workers and alleged breach of EU legislation in Belgium.

The petitioners pointed out that undocumented domestic workers are especially vulnerable, disadvantaged, and subject to undignified working, wage and living conditions, with no protection if they need to report an abusive or violent boss. The petitioners called for the scope of the Single Permit Directive to be extended, so that the permit can be accessed, under certain conditions, by irregular workers already in the country.

The representative of the European Commission stated that the Commission is monitoring the implementation of the applicable directives and that it has put forward a proposal for a directive to facilitate the reporting of crimes by third-country nationals. The Committee decided to ask the Commission for a written reply and to send the petition to the Committee on Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs (LIBE) and to the Committee on Employment and Social Affairs (EMPL), for an opinion.





Accessibility systems for people with hearing disabilities

PETI Members debated the [Petition No 0463/2022](#) by David Hernandez (Spanish) on the installation of accessibility systems for people with hearing disabilities. The petitioner called for the installation of magnetic loop systems to enable people suffering from hearing loss to improve their audition capacity in public buildings, such as educational establishments, museums, cinemas, metro stations, etc. The petitioner stressed that by imposing such a system, all hearing aids could connect to sound sharply and without

external interference, which would significantly improve the quality of life and social inclusion of people with hearing disabilities.

The Commission stated that the Strategy for the rights of persons with disabilities underlines the importance of accessibility and presented the current initiatives to promote accessibility and to facilitate the implementation of EU law in this area. Members decided to keep the petition open and ask the Commission for an updated reply and follow up on the developments concerning the measures aimed at the integration of persons with disabilities, in particular people who are hard of hearing.

Rule of law in Spain

PETI Members debated several petitions on the rule of law in Spain. The petitioners explained that the current Spanish government has reached an agreement with certain political parties, some of whose members are being prosecuted by the Spanish judiciary. The petitioners raised concerns about the governmental agreement, including the proposed amnesty law, and denounced an alleged violation of separation of powers and a threat to the rule of law in Spain.



The Commission stated that it is currently analysing the draft amnesty law and remains in close contact with Spanish authorities. The Committee decided to keep the petitions open, ask the Commission to keep the Committee up to date about its analysis and forward them to the Committee on Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs (LIBE), the Committee on Budgetary Control (CONT) and the Spanish Government, for an opinion.

Texts adopted

► **Oral Question on the working conditions of teachers in the EU (2023/3015(RSP))**

Next PETI meeting ► 14 and 15 February 2024, Room SPINELLI 1G3, Brussels

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



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