

## Newsletter February 2024



### Fact-finding visit to Catalonia, Spain

The Committee considered the draft report on the [Fact-finding visit to Catalonia](#) (Spain), which took place from 18 to 20 December 2023. The aim of the mission was to assess in situ the language immersion model in Catalonia, its impact on families moving to and residing in the region, as well as on multilingualism and non-discrimination and the principle of the Rule of Law, based on petitions Nos [0858/2017](#), [0650/2022](#) and [0826/2022](#).

During the Fact-finding visit, the PETI delegation met with representatives of the competent regional authorities, the judicial authorities and with the petitioners, in order to investigate the claims made in the petitions, to establish facts and to seek possible solutions.

### Public hearing on the responsibilities of fossil fuel companies in the cost of living crisis

On 14 February 2024, in response to a number of petitions, the Committee organised a [public hearing](#) to examine the share of responsibility of fossil fuel companies in the social and economic difficulties faced by EU citizens.

Experts in the first panel analysed the impact of the war in Ukraine on energy prices. In this context, the panel addressed the cost-of-living crisis and energy poverty in the EU. The second panel focused on the EU's response to the energy crisis, in order to secure energy supply and ensure affordable prices for consumers. The panel also addressed the need for an open, transparent and regular dialogue with associations and civil society, independent from the fossil fuel industry.





## Automatic recognition of forensic medicine/forensic pathology in the EU

The Committee has discussed [Petition No 0866/2023](#) by Garyfalia Ampanozi (Greek). The petitioner complained that forensic medicine/forensic pathology is not listed in Directive 2005/36/EC. Therefore, it does not enjoy an automatic recognition in the EU, which prevents forensic pathologists

from enjoying equal job opportunities.

The Commission explained that it is up to the Member States to notify this medical speciality to the Commission and if the threshold of 11 Member States is reached, the Commission can, via a delegated act, add it to the Annex V of Directive 2005/36/EC. Members decided to keep the petition open and ask the European Commission for a written reply.

## Seating allocation policies of airlines

PETI Members debated the [Petition No 0202/2018](#) by Alfonso Rodríguez Sanchez (Spanish) on seating allocation policies of low cost airlines. The petitioner complained that some low cost airlines deliberately separate groups of passengers and families, especially those with small children, by allocating seats in different rows in a bid to force them to pay to sit together. The petitioner denounced this practice, which is becoming customary for nearly all airlines and concerns all EU citizens.



The Commission stated that EU air safety legislation contains some provisions on seat allocation in order to ensure safety of the passengers, but the commercial pricing mechanisms of airlines are out of the scope of the current rules. The Committee decided to keep the petition open and forward it to the Committee on Transport and Tourism (TRAN) and the Committee on Internal Market and Consumer Protection (IMCO) for an opinion.

**Next PETI meeting** ► 18 – 19 March 2024, Room SPINELLI 3G3 and Room ANTALL 6Q2, Brussels  
See [agenda](#), [documents](#) and [live broadcast](#)



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