Question for oral answer O-000043/2017

to the Commission

Rule 128


Subject: Ruling by the General Court of the European Union on the Commission's decision of 10 September 2014 to refuse to register the European Citizens' Initiative ‘STOP TTIP’

On 10 November 2014, Michael Efler and others brought an action against the Commission to the General Court of the European Union, requesting that the Commission's refusal to register the European Citizens' Initiative (ECI) ‘STOP TTIP’ — C (2014)6501 be annulled. Mr Efler and others had initially filed a request to register the initiative in July 2014, and had collected more than 3.5 million signatures in support of it.

The ECI in question recommended that the Council repeal the Commission’s negotiating mandate for TTIP and, ultimately, refrain from concluding CETA. With its ruling, the General Court rejected the Commission’s position that the decision to withdraw its authorisation to open negotiations with a view to concluding TTIP could not be the subject of an ECI.

1. In view of the ongoing judicial action on its decision to refuse the registration of the ECI, did the Commission take any steps to ensure that the complainants’ rights would not be neglected in the event that the General Court ruled in their favour?

2. What action will the Commission take to ensure that the ECI in question is taken into account in relation to TTIP and other similar trade agreements?

3. What conclusions does the Commission draw from the General Court’s ruling with regard to the revision of the ECI Regulation?

Tabled: 23.5.2017
Forwarded: 25.5.2017
Deadline for reply: 1.6.2017