COMMITTEE ON PETITIONS

PUBLIC HEARING

Inter-institutional relations in the treatment of petitions: the role of the Commission

26 May 2021
ALTIERO SPINELLI 3G3 (by remote connection)

9.00 - 12.00

Programme

Introduction

5 min	**Opening remarks by the Chair of the Committee on Petitions, Dolors MONTSERRAT**
20 min	**Presentation of the Study "*Inter-institutional relations in the treatment of petitions: the role of the Commission*"** commissioned by the Policy Department for Citizens' Rights and Constitutional Affairs for the Committee on Petitions Marta BALLESTEROS, Senior Lawyer and Manager, Milieu Consulting SRL Maxime MOULAC, Senior Lawyer and Manager, Milieu Consulting SRL
25 min	**Questions & Answers and debate**

The EU Ombudsman's perspective: Experiences and expectations regarding the Commission's response to citizens' concerns

10 min	Emily O'REILLY, European Ombudsman
15 min	**Questions & Answers and debate**

Panel I: How could petitions be better referred to in political decisions?

10 min	Expert from academia : Alberto ALEMANNO, Jean Monnet Professor of European Union Law Policy, HEC Paris
10 min	David LOWE, Consultant in the field of Governance and former Head of Unit of the PETI Committee, European Parliament
25 min	**Questions & Answers and debate**

Panel II:
The Commission and the Committee on Petitions as natural partners – how to improve a crucial cooperation to the benefit of the citizens

10 min	General Secretariat of the EC Raquel CORTES-HERRERA (HoU), Unit for Relations with the European Parliament & Consultative Committees
10 min	General Secretariat of the EC René SLOOTJES (HoU), Unit of Implementation and Enforcement of EU Law
25 min	**Questions & Answers and debate**
5 min	**Concluding remarks by Dolors MONTSERRAT**

ANNEX: Information about the panelists

Alberto ALEMANNO, Jean Monnet Professor of European Union Law Policy, HEC Paris
(https://www.hec.edu/en/faculty-research/faculty-directory/faculty-member/alemanno-alberto)

Prof. Alemanno published extensively on EU participatory democracy and is Co-Founder and Director of The Good Lobby, a non-profit start-up that fosters bottom-up citizen participation. Currently, he is drafting a study for the Policy Department on the impact of petitions on EU democracy.

David LOWE, Consultant in the field of Governance and former Head of Unit of the PETI Committee, European Parliament

Mr David Lowe served the European Parliament for about 33 years as EU Official and worked for years as Head of Unit of the PETI Committee. He has an outstanding knowledge of the right to petition the European Parliament and of the inter-institutional relations in the treatment of petitions.He retired as EU official in 2015 and since then he has been working and maintaining his interest and commitment in the field of governance notably as regards petitions processes and participatory democracy, parliamentary activity and citizen involvement. Over the last years, he has had the opportunity to contribute to the development of petitions systems in other countries, notably as a consultant to the World Bank, and more recently to the Westminster Foundation for Democracy. He was also recently invited by the Irish Parliament (Irish Oreachtas) to make a submission as the Irish Oreachtas conducted a review into the functioning of their petitions process.