

Petition EU

<http://www.europarl.europa.eu/aboutparliament/en/00533cec74/Petitions.html>

# Petitions

One of the fundamental rights of European citizens:

Any citizen, acting individually or jointly with others, may at any time exercise his **right of petition** to the European Parliament under Article 227 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union.

Any citizen of the European Union, or resident in a Member State, may, individually or in association with others, submit a petition to the European Parliament on a subject which comes within the European Union's fields of activity and which affects them directly. Any company, organisation or association with its headquarters in the European Union may also exercise this right of petition, which is guaranteed by the Treaty.

A petition may take the form of a complaint or a request and may relate to issues of public or private interest.

The petition may present an individual request, a complaint or observation concerning the application of EU law or an appeal to the European Parliament to adopt a position on a specific matter. Such petitions give the European Parliament the opportunity of calling attention to any infringement of a European citizen's rights by a Member State or local authorities or other institution.

- [Form for submitting a petition online](#)

Procedures for submitting a petition to the European Parliament:

Who can submit a petition, and on what subjects?

You can submit a petition if you are:

- a citizen of the European Union,
- a resident in a European Union Member State,
- a member of an association, company, organisation (natural or legal person) with its headquarters in a European Union Member State.

What subjects can your petition deal with?

The **subject of the petition** must be concerned with issues of European Union interest or responsibility such as:

- your rights as a European citizen as set out in the Treaties,
- environmental matters,
- consumer protection,
- free movement of persons, goods and services, internal market,
- employment issues and social policy,
- recognition of professional qualifications,
- other problems related to the implementation of EU law.

**Important Note:** Requests for information only are not dealt with by the Committee on Petitions, neither are general comments on EU policy.

What language should the petition be in?

The petition must be written in one of the **official languages** of the European Union.

This means French or English

For further information see:

- Article [227](#) of the TFEU
- Rules of Procedure: Rules [201](#), [202](#)

What action is taken in the case of admissible petitions?

If the subject of your petition concerns an area of activity of the European Union it will normally be declared admissible by the Committee on Petitions, which will then decide what type of action should be taken, according to the Rules of Procedure.

Whatever is decided, the Committee on Petitions will inform you as soon as possible after the decision has been reached.

Depending on the circumstances, the Committee on Petitions may:

- ask the European Commission to conduct a preliminary investigation and provide information regarding compliance with relevant Community legislation or contact SOLVIT,
- refer the petition to other European Parliament committees for information or further action (a committee might, for example, take account of a petition in its legislative activities),
- in some exceptional cases prepare and submit a full report to Parliament to be voted upon in plenary ; or conduct a fact-finding visit to the country or region concerned and issue a Committee report containing its observations and recommendations;
- or take any other action considered appropriate to try to resolve an issue or deliver a suitable response to the petitioner.

Meetings of the Committee on Petitions take place every month, as a rule, except during the month of August when Parliament is in recess. The Committee is assisted

in its work by a permanent secretariat which manages the petitions process, has an advisory role and which prepares meetings of the Committee.

The Petitions Committee of the European Parliament may seek to cooperate with national or local authorities in Member States to resolve an issue raised by a petitioner. Details of petitions may therefore be shared with such authorities unless the petitioner specifically objects.

The Petitions Committee cannot, however, override decisions taken by competent authorities within Member States. As the European Parliament is not a judicial authority: it can neither pass judgement on, nor revoke decisions taken by, the Courts of law in Member States. **Petitions seeking such courses of action are inadmissible.**

For further information see:

- Rules of Procedure: Rule [202](#)
- [SOLVIT - Effective problem solving in Europe](#)

There are **two ways of submitting a petition**:

- by post
- via the online form

The petition should be comprehensive and include all facts pertinent to the issue, but should omit superfluous details. It should be written clearly and legibly and may be accompanied by a summary.

by post:

If you wish to submit a petition in 'paper' form, there is no form to be filled in or standard format to be followed.

However, your petition must:

- bear your name, nationality and permanent address (in the case of a group petition, it must bear the name, nationality and permanent address of the presenter or, at least, the first signatory);
- be signed.

Your petition may include attachments, including copies of any supporting documents you may have.

The petition should be sent to:

- European Parliament
- The President of the European Parliament
- Rue Wiertz  
B-1047 BRUSSELS

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via the online form:

If you wish to submit a petition using the online form, you should:

- read the information and instructions given online on the Petitions pages of the European Parliament website, and then
- complete the online form and click on 'Send'.
- [online form](#)

As soon as you have submitted your petition using the online form, you should receive electronic confirmation that it has been received.

It will then be forwarded to the Committee on Petitions, which is responsible for managing the petition process and formulating recommendations and conclusions for each petition. Petitions which are submitted but which contain offensive language or which lack pertinence in their substance will not be investigated by the Committee, nor will a response be given.

In any further correspondence concerning action taken on the petition, the Committee on Petitions will communicate by post.

If you wish to attach any supplementary information or supporting documents to your petition, please send them by post, mentioning the petition number, to the following address:

- European Parliament
- Committee on Petitions
- The Secretariat
- Rue Wiertz  
B-1047 BRUSSELS

The Committee on Petitions is composed of 34 Members and is headed by a Chairman and 4 Vice-Chairmen.

Rules of Procedure of the European Parliament

7th parliamentary term - July 2009

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## ▶ TITLE VIII : PETITIONS

### Rule 201 : Right of petition

1. Any citizen of the European Union and any natural or legal person residing or having its registered office in a Member State shall have the right to address, individually or in association with other citizens or persons, a petition to Parliament on a matter which comes within the European Union's fields of activity and which affects him, her or it directly.
2. Petitions to Parliament shall show the name, nationality and permanent address of each petitioner.
3. Where a petition is signed by several natural or legal persons, the signatories shall designate a representative and deputy representatives who shall be regarded as the petitioners for the purposes of this Title.

Where no such designation has occurred the first signatory or another appropriate person shall be regarded as the petitioners.

4. Each petitioner may at any time withdraw support for the petition.

After withdrawal of support by all the petitioners the petition shall become null and void.

5. Petitions must be written in an official language of the European Union.

Petitions written in any other language will be considered only where the petitioner has attached a translation in an official language. Parliament's correspondence with the petitioner shall employ the official language in which the translation is drawn up.

The Bureau may decide that petitions and correspondence with petitioners may be drafted in other languages used in a Member State.

6. Petitions shall be entered in a register in the order in which they are received if they comply with the conditions laid down in paragraph 2; those that do not shall be filed, and the petitioner shall be informed of the reasons therefor.

7. Petitions entered in the register shall be forwarded by the President to the committee responsible, which shall first establish the admissibility or otherwise of the petition in accordance with Article 194 of the EC Treaty.

If the committee responsible fails to reach a consensus on the admissibility of the petition, it shall be declared admissible at the request of at least one quarter of the members of the committee.

8. Petitions declared inadmissible by the committee shall be filed; the petitioner shall be informed of the decision and the reasons therefor. Where possible, alternative

means of redress may be recommended.

9. Petitions, once registered, shall as a general rule become public documents, and the name of the petitioner and the contents of the petition may be published by Parliament for reasons of transparency.

10. Notwithstanding the provisions contained in paragraph 9, the petitioner may request that his or her name be withheld in order to protect his or her privacy, in which case Parliament must respect such a request.

Where the petitioner's complaint cannot be investigated for reasons of anonymity, the petitioner shall be consulted as to the further steps to be taken.

11. The petitioner may request that his or her petition be treated confidentially, in which case suitable precautions will be taken by Parliament to ensure that the contents are not made public. The petitioner will be informed under which precise conditions this provision is to apply.

12. Where the committee deems it appropriate, it may refer the matter to the Ombudsman.

13. Petitions addressed to Parliament by natural or legal persons who are neither citizens of the European Union nor reside in a Member State nor have their registered office in a Member State shall be registered and filed separately. The President shall send a monthly record of such petitions received during the previous month, indicating their subject matter, to the committee responsible for considering petitions, which may request those which it wishes to consider.

Last updated: 1 July 2009