

Friday, 15 June 1990

## 6. Deliberations of the Committee on Petitions

— Doc. A3-107/90

### RESOLUTION

**on the deliberations of the Committee on Petitions during the parliamentary year 1989-1990, with indications as regards future procedure for handling petitions**

*The European Parliament,*

- having regard to Rule 129(5) of the Rules of Procedure,
- having regard to its previous resolutions on petitions, in particular the resolution adopted on 26 May 1989 on the basis of the annual report (Doc. A2-79/89) on the activities of the Committee on Petitions during the 1988-1989 parliamentary year <sup>(1)</sup>,
- having regard to the interinstitutional declaration signed at the sitting of 12 April 1989 <sup>(2)</sup> on petitioning the European Parliament,
- having regard to the report of its Committee on Petitions (Doc. A3-107/90),

- A. whereas the number of petitions has increased steadily in recent years,
- B. whereas in the interinstitutional declaration of 12 April 1989 the Presidents of Parliament, the Council and the Commission were pleased to note that the practice of petitioning was increasing and 'hoped that the European Parliament would be able to obtain as clear and swift replies as possible to those questions which the Commission might decide (...) to forward to the Member States concerned',
  1. Affirms that the corollary to the citizen's right to submit petitions in order to request action on his behalf or to ask Parliament to state its position is that Parliament and the other Community institutions have a duty to consider such petitions and to take appropriate action on them;
  2. Acknowledges with satisfaction that the Commission, on the basis of a correct perception of interinstitutional relations, is cooperating extremely actively in the handling of the petitions forwarded to it by the Committee on Petitions, and calls for this collaboration to be stepped up, and for tangible measures to be taken, in the interests of petitioners, to achieve a sharp reduction in the time taken to reply;
  3. Calls on the Member States, with reference to the interinstitutional declaration mentioned in recital B, to take the measures necessary to reduce the time taken to reply to questions concerning petitions addressed to them by Parliament and the Commission;
  4. Expresses its satisfaction with the cooperation initiated between the Committee on Petitions and the ombudsmen and parliamentary committees in the Member States, which, once it is increased and better organized, will enable the problems raised in petitions to be dealt with by the most appropriate body, at Community or at national level;
  5. Calls on the Committee on Petitions to continue its efforts to assist petitioners, within the limits of the Community's powers and responsibilities;
  6. Stresses the importance of petitions for Parliament and for the Communities, in that they provide a link with individual citizens, an indicator of a general need or feeling of unease and, in short, a means of contributing to the democratic running of the Community;

<sup>(1)</sup> OJ No C 158, 26.6.1989, p. 481.

<sup>(2)</sup> OJ No C 120, 16.5.1989, p. 90.

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7. Calls, therefore, on all its committees to consider carefully the proposals and ideas contained in the petitions forwarded to them by the Committee on Petitions and, where necessary, to envisage taking appropriate action;

8. Decides, moreover, that it is vital that the public be informed as fully as possible of the right to petition the European Parliament and of what exactly this right entails and therefore calls on the competent parliamentary services to make basic information on this subject widely available through the appropriate means;

9. Instructs its President to forward this resolution and the report of its committee to the Commission, the Council, the governments and parliaments of the Member States, the national petitions committees or other committees with competence in this field and the national ombudsmen.

## 7. Integrated transport market \*

— Proposal for a regulation COM(88) 340 final as amended by COM(89) 238 final

**Modified proposal for a Council regulation for an action programme in the field of transport infrastructure with a view to the completion of an integrated transport market in 1992**

Approved with the following amendments:

TEXT PROPOSED BY THE COMMISSION  
OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES

TEXT AMENDED  
BY THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

(Amendment No 1)

### Article 2

The Community's contribution *may, among other things, take the form of a declaration of European interest, within the meaning of Article 5 of Council Decision .....of...on the financing of large-scale infrastructure projects of European interest, financial assistance* through appropriations provided for this purpose in the budget of the European Communities and, where applicable, through other financial instruments.

The Community's contribution to the implementation of certain infrastructure projects in the framework of the action programme referred to in this Regulation shall be made through the declaration of European interest by the Commission in respect of certain eligible projects in the light of the priority areas listed in Article 3 and taking account of national programmes submitted under the consultation procedure provided for in Decision 78/174/EEC.

This contribution shall be made through appropriations provided for this purpose in the budget of the European Communities and, where applicable, through other financial instruments.

(Amendments Nos 9, 7, 2, 15, 14)

### Article 3

The action of the Community concerns primarily:  
— the high-speed railway network. Links:

The action of the Community concerns primarily:  
— the high-speed railway network, with due regard to the impact on the environment, the countryside and the interests of the local population. Links: