

From: Martin Cunniffe [REDACTED]
Sent: 25 November 2017 18:15
To: EO-CouncilConsultation
Subject: [EOWEB] Council consultation - OI/2/2017
Attachments: LETTER TO IRISH TRANSPORT MINISTER VARADKAR (1).pdf

Sender

Sender Martin Cunniffe [REDACTED]
To Council consultation - OI/2/2017
Date Saturday, November 25, 2017 6:14:42 PM CET

Your data

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Language you would like to receive an answer in en - English

Part 2 - Data

To Council consultation - OI/2/2017
Subject Council consultation - OI/2/2017
Council consultation - OI/2/2017

I have two suggestions (both highlighted) which I think would benefit the EU and make its institutions more relevant to its citizens.

The European Ombudsman should cease its informal arrangement with the EU Petitions Committee, whereby it does not examine cases which it deems to have already being examined by the EU Petitions Committee.

The attached letter came into my possession, which the EU Petitions Committee wrote to the now Taoiseach of Ireland finding that no consultation had been undertaken with Ireland's West / Northwest Region for ERDF funding.

Content

When I asked the EU Ombudsman to investigate the bigger failure of the European Commission to organise a proper consultation for the TEN-T which actually reached its primary target group, I was advised over the phone of this informal arrangement and then formally written to as to the non-acceptance of my complaint. Even though it was an entirely separate subject matter of complaint.

As a result, every person living in this former Objective 1 Region has been discriminated against and excluded from the possibility of applying for core funding from the EU's largest infrastructure fund.

I sought a review of the EU Ombudsman decision not to investigate my complaint and received an email of acknowledgement on September 7th, but nothing since.

As an EU citizen, I am appalled that the EU institutions appear to be working in concert to foil very serious complaints such as this one. The rule of law should be respected and informal arrangements whereby an

EU Ombudsman feels they can not investigate matters already investigated by the EU Petitions Committee must stop.

Ireland's government departments have very poor transparency of decision making, particularly in the area of transport, where the poorer of the two regions continuously loses out. Europe should not enable this.

All public consultations should be sent directly to every regional authority individually.



Committee on Petitions
The Secretariat

Brussels;
IT/mjd[IPOL-COM-PETID (2013)36162]

Mr. Leo Varadkar
Minister for Transport, Tourism and
Sport
44 Kildare Street
Dublin 2
IRELAND

312459 17.07.2013

Subject: Petition to the European Parliament No. 0836/2012

Dear Minister,

Over the course of recent months, the Committee on Petitions of the European Parliament has been examining a petition submitted by an Irish citizen. The petitioner complains of the lack of transparency and fairness in transport policy in Ireland. Specifically, he denounces that national authorities persistently discriminate against the West / North West Region in the provision of public transport services, investment into rail freight, and expenditure of European Union funds.

Members of the Committee referred the subject matter of the petition to the European Commission, and from the reply learnt that the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) has provided – and continues to provide – significant financial assistance for investment in Ireland's transport infrastructure. Such investments have taken place in each of the two regions – (1) the Border, Midland and Western (BMW) region and (2) the Southern and Eastern Region – either through regional programmes or through national programmes with ring-fenced financial allocations for each region.

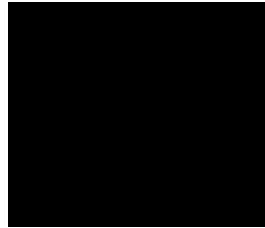
The Committee subsequently invited petitioners to present their case during its meeting of 24 April 2013, and to discuss it with Members and with representatives of the Commission.

On the basis of all considerations, the Committee on Petitions regrets that the West / North West Region appears to not have benefited from ERDF funding, and that no ex ante public consultation was reportedly carried out. In addition, the Committee takes the view that the Irish authorities should request the inclusion of (all or part of) the Western Rail Corridor as an element for consideration during the preparation of the revision of the TEN-T guidelines.

Fairness and transparency are primordial concerns of the Committee on Petitions. As a result, Members would like to clarify whether there are plans on the part of the Irish government to develop new rail links, motorway connections and other transport infrastructure in and around the West / North West Region, and particularly whether the authorities will reconsider support for the Western Corridor.

The Committee on Petitions has asked the European Parliament's Committee on Transport and Tourism for an Opinion, and will carry on the discussions with the European Commission. Members will continue to examine this petition on the basis of all information received, and with a view on possibly travelling to Ireland on a fact-finding visit during the second half of 2013. Therefore, we look forward to receiving your insights into the subject.

Yours sincerely,



Erminia Mazzoni
Chairman
Committee on Petitions