Deliberations of the Committee on Petitions in 1994 and 1995

1995/2006(INI) - 12/07/1995 - Text adopted by Parliament, single reading

Adopting the report by Mrs KHUN (PSE, D), the European Parliament undertook to take any complaints by Union citizens addressed to it seriously and to substantiate them efficiently vis--vis the Council and the Commission. It therefore instructed its committees and delegations to examine all petitions closely and to follow up the demands made. As far as the deliberations of the Committee on Petitions during the year from 1994 to 1995 were concerned, Parliament noted that the citizens of the Union had demonstrated a particularly strong commitment which the European institutions could not meet with indifference. The committee therefore: - noted the large number of complaints about the intolerable conditions obtaining during the transport of domestic animals and animals destined for slaughter and welcomed the Council's compromise in this matter; - urged the Council and the Commission to show greater determination than hitherto in using the Union Treaty provisions on justice and home affairs to close the gaps in national legislation and intergovernmental agreements that often led to conflicts in areas such as marriage law, civil status and the right of asylum; - called on the Council and the Commission to speed up their efforts to ensure the free movement of persons; - called on the Commission to reduce the considerable disparity in the medical criteria laid down by Member States for the approval of occupational invalidity pensions; - called for the Union's competence in relation to the directive providing for the environmental impact assessment of development projects to be strengthened. The European Parliament also reminded Member States of their obligation to provide the Commission and the Committee on Petitions with information on the issues raised in petitions without delay in order to demonstrate Parliament's interest in the complaints addressed to it. Similarly, it called on the Commission and the Committee on Petitions to jointly define new working methods so that manifestly just petitions were dealt with more quickly. In this respect, the European Parliament proposed that a database should be created so that identical legal questions could be dealt with quickly. Parliament also stressed that the Commission could obtain an external legal opinion on particularly complicated legal questions. Finally, the European Parliament noted the increase in the number of petitions identifying serious infringements of Community law, called on its Committee on Petitions to reconsider how frequently it should meet and raised the possibility of making provision for extraordinary or supplementary meetings.