

Basic information	
2025/2027(INI)	Procedure completed
INI - Own-initiative procedure	
Deliberations of the Committee on Petitions in 2023	
Subject	
8.40.01.06 Committees, interparliamentary delegations	

Key players			
European Parliament	Committee responsible	Rapporteur	Appointed
	PETI Petitions	FALCĂ Gheorghe (EPP)	12/12/2024
		Shadow rapporteur GÓMEZ LÓPEZ Sandra (S&D) SZEKERES Pál (PfE) AXINIA Adrian-George (ECR) TOOM Jana (Renew) MIRANDA PAZ Ana (Greens /EFA) PAPPAS Nikos (The Left)	

Key events			
Date	Event	Reference	Summary
23/01/2025	Committee referral announced in Parliament		
08/04/2025	Vote in committee		
14/04/2025	Committee report tabled for plenary	A10-0063/2025	Summary
22/05/2025	Decision by Parliament	T10-0114/2025	Summary
22/05/2025	Results of vote in Parliament		
22/05/2025	Debate in Parliament		

Technical information	
Procedure reference	2025/2027(INI)
Procedure type	INI - Own-initiative procedure

Procedure subtype	Annual report
Legal basis	Rules of Procedure EP 55
Stage reached in procedure	Procedure completed
Committee dossier	PETI/10/01791

Documentation gateway				
European Parliament				
Document type	Committee	Reference	Date	Summary
Committee draft report		PE768.068	31/01/2025	
Amendments tabled in committee		PE770.213	11/03/2025	
Amendments tabled in committee		PE770.291	28/03/2025	
Committee report tabled for plenary, single reading		A10-0063/2025	14/04/2025	Summary
Text adopted by Parliament, single reading		T10-0114/2025	22/05/2025	Summary
European Commission				
Document type	Reference	Date	Summary	
Commission response to text adopted in plenary	SP(2025)08	20/08/2025		

Deliberations of the Committee on Petitions in 2023

2025/2027(INI) - 22/05/2025 - Text adopted by Parliament, single reading

The European Parliament adopted by 260 votes to 194, with 110 abstentions, a resolution on the deliberations of the Committee on Petitions in 2023.

Petitions received in 2023 compared to 2022

In 2023, Parliament received **1 452 petitions**, which represents an increase of 16.2 % compared to the 1 217 petitions submitted in 2022. The number of users supporting one or more petitions on Parliament's Petitions Web Portal was 26 331, which represents a considerable increase compared to the 22 441 users recorded in 2022 (both numbers are considerably lower than the 209 272 supporters recorded in 2021). **82.4 %** of the petitions received in 2023 were submitted via Parliament's Petitions Web Portal, which is a slight increase compared to 2022 (79.05 %), thus reconfirming it as by far the most used channel for citizens to submit petitions to Parliament.

However, the **overall number of petitions remains modest** in relation to the total population of the EU, revealing that efforts still need to be stepped up to increase citizens' awareness of their right to petition and the possible usefulness of petitions as a means of drawing the attention of the institutions and the Member States to matters that affect and concern citizens directly.

Work carried out by the Petitions Committee

Parliament welcomed the work of the Petitions Committee on petitions concerning the Akamas Peninsula, the most biodiverse area in Cyprus, which has been subject to systemic and repeated violations of the Habitats Directive and the Birds Directive for decades. It highlighted the essential work of the Petitions Committee on protecting workers' rights against discrimination and the abusive use of fixed-term contracts in the public sector in Italy. It also welcomed the PETI Committee's examination of petition 1168/2023, submitted by Mihai Igna on behalf of the 'Together We Bring Prosperity' association, which calls for the return of Romania's national treasure and historical archives currently held in Russia.

Intensify information and awareness

Parliament recalled the importance of a continuous public debate on the Union's areas of action, in order to adequately inform citizens about the scope of the Union's competence and the different levels of decision-making. It called for a structured and reinforced **information and communication campaign** at Union level to be carried out at no additional cost in all official languages of the Union, in cooperation with national and regional ombudsmen, NGOs and educational institutions, in order to raise awareness among citizens in all Member States of the rights of petition, and also to reach out to rural and disadvantaged populations, marginalised groups, as well as inhabitants of islands and remote regions.

Members recommended exploring the potential of existing IT tools to strengthen citizens' support for the **portal**, including through options redirecting users to appropriate complaint mechanisms.

Issues covered by the petitions

Parliament noted a slight decrease in the number of petitions submitted on external relations issues compared to 2022. This could be explained by the new geopolitical context in 2023 and in particular a decrease in the number of petitions on the war in Ukraine and a significant increase in petitions dealing with the new conflicts in the Middle East. The Committee on Petitions took account of citizens' concerns about, *inter alia*, sanctions, security, conflict resolution, refugees, visa policy, border checks, free movement of persons, progress of EU candidate countries and single standard for hand luggage dimensions.

Health and environmental issues appear to continue to play an important role in 2023 with the examination of petitions on banning chemicals and heavy metals in children's toys, on supporting healthy and environmentally friendly food systems and lifestyles, and on implementing EU regulations on added sugars in foods for infants and young children.

In view of the large number of petitions submitted in relation to citizens' concerns about the **reintroduction of border checks** between certain Member States, Parliament recalled that Member States may reintroduce internal border controls in the event of a serious threat to public policy or internal security, or in exceptional circumstances which jeopardise the overall functioning of the Schengen area.

Increased transparency

Members reiterated their call on the Commission to provide legal clarifications on the key criteria underpinning its strategic approach to enforcing EU law and to regularly update the Committee on Petitions on developments in infringement proceedings and to ensure that the Committee on Petitions gets access to the all relevant documents on EU Pilot and infringement procedures and legislative initiatives that were launched based on petitions received. Increased **transparency and regular feedback on the handling of ongoing infringement procedures** by the Commission would be beneficial for the Committee's follow-up of open petitions.

In addition, the Commission is encouraged to put in place all necessary measures to improve transparency and effectiveness of its management of infringement procedures, which can be perceived as **opaque** by citizens.

Members emphasised the need for enhanced and more active cooperation between Member States and the Committee on petitions in order to unblock those petitions requiring prompt responses and reactions from the national authorities. Member States should **guarantee responses** to petitions within the three-month deadline requested.

European citizens' initiatives (ECIs)

Parliament urged the Commission to take due account of parliamentary resolutions adopted on European Citizens' Initiatives (ECIs) and to strengthen its engagement with citizens, including by ensuring proper and effective follow-up to successful ECIs, which will strengthen the democratic process and ensure that citizens' voices are duly taken into account in EU policy-making.

Deliberations of the Committee on Petitions in 2023

2025/2027(INI) - 14/04/2025 - Committee report tabled for plenary, single reading

The Committee on Petitions adopted the own-initiative report by Gheorghe FALCĂ (EPP, RO) on the deliberations of the Committee on Petitions in 2023.

Petitions received in 2023 compared to 2022

In 2023, Parliament received **1 452 petitions**, which represents an increase of 16.2 % compared to the 1 217 petitions submitted in 2022. The number of users supporting one or more petitions on Parliament's Petitions Web Portal was 26 331, which represents a considerable increase compared to the 22 441 users recorded in 2022 (both numbers are considerably lower than the 209 272 supporters recorded in 2021). **82.4 %** of the petitions received in 2023 were submitted via Parliament's Petitions Web Portal, which is a slight increase compared to 2022 (79.05 %), thus reconfirming it as by far the most used channel for citizens to submit petitions to Parliament.

However, the overall number of petitions **remains modest** in relation to the total population of the EU, revealing that efforts still need to be stepped up to increase citizens' awareness of their right to petition and the possible usefulness of petitions as a means of drawing the attention of the institutions and the Member States to matters that affect and concern citizens directly.

Scope of responsibility

Of the 1 452 petitions submitted in 2023, 429 were declared inadmissible and 13 were withdrawn. The high percentage (29.55 %) of inadmissible petitions in 2023 confirms that there is still a widespread **lack of clarity about the scope of the EU's areas of responsibility**. In this regard, Members called for an EU-wide enhanced structured information and communication campaign in all EU official languages in collaboration with national and regional ombudsmen, NGOs, and educational institutions to increase awareness of petition rights among citizens from all Member States, particularly addressing rural and disadvantaged communities and marginalised groups, as well as, remote islands and regions.

Issues covered by the petitions

The report highlighted a slight decrease in the number of petitions submitted on **external relations** issues compared to 2022. This could be explained by the new geopolitical context in 2023 and in particular a decrease in the number of petitions on the war in Ukraine and a significant increase in petitions dealing with the new conflicts in the Middle East. The Committee on Petitions took account of citizens' concerns about, *inter alia*, sanctions, security, conflict resolution, refugees, visa policy, border checks, free movement of persons, progress of EU candidate countries and single standard for hand luggage dimensions.

Health and environmental issues appeared to continue to play an important role in 2023.

Increased transparency

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European citizens' initiatives (ECIs)

The report took note of the significant number of new ECIs registered by the Commission in 2023, which shows that citizens are seizing the opportunity to use participatory instruments to have a say in policy and law-making processes.