

QUESTIONNAIRE FOR EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT PETITIONERS

Background: conflict

1. What is the matter of conflict? On what level has it been held (local, regional, national, international)?
2. When did it start?
3. What are the main groups of interest? Which is/are the most influential?
4. What are the resources of your group, including:
 - number of members
 - legal knowledge
 - own office
 - financial support
 - other resources

Precedings

5. Was petitioning preceded by attempts to bring consensus, such as:
 - sending letters, signing traditional petitions
 - meetings with opponents and policy makers
 - mediation, trilateral meetings
6. Whom were they aimed at?
 - a. opponents
 - b. local government
 - c. regional government
 - d. national government
7. What was the result of those attempts?
8. Was petitioning preceded by forms of gaining support, such as:
 - interviews, reports in media
 - asking experts and authorities for support
 - contacting social organization familiar with the subject
 - contacting representatives of political opposition on national or subnational level
9. What was the result of those actions?
10. Was petitioning preceded by any direct actions, such as:
 - picketing, happenings
 - demonstrations, boycotts, other conflict activities
11. What was the result of those actions?

Petition

12. How did you learn about the opportunity of petitioning the European Parliament?
13. Why did you decide to start a petition?
14. What results did you expect?
15. Did you decide to petition unanimously or was it controversial? What were the controversies?
16. What was your private opinion about petitioning?
17. How many people signed the petition?
18. How did you collect the signatures?
19. Writing the petition, did you ask for help any non-profit or professional organizations? What was their name? How did they help you?
20. Writing the petition, were you in contact with local or regional government?
21. Which member(s) of your organizations engaged the most in writing and monitoring the petition? Was it one person or more?
22. Did you engage in writing and monitoring the petition? Why/why not?
23. Have there been any actions accompanying the petition, such as:
 - contacting the European Parliament Commission, monitoring the petition
 - sending additional materials to the Commission
 - information about the petition sent to politicians, media, public opinion through social networking
 - organizing conferences, seminars
 - other actions.
24. Do you find those actions sufficient? In your opinion, could anything else have been done?
25. Did you know about the opportunity of online petitioning (through the petition site, such as gopetition.com)? Did you write such a petition? Why / why not?

Evaluation

26. What was the result of petitioning? Did it fulfill your expectations?
27. Why do you think you succeeded? Or why did you fail?
28. Did your private opinion on petitioning change? In what way?
29. If you tried once again to resolve the conflict, which level of intervention would you omit?
 - a. local
 - b. regional
 - c. national
 - d. international

30. Do you know other cases of petitioning the European Parliament? Describe briefly the results.
31. What are the main strengths of petitioning the Parliament? What are the weaknesses?
32. What would you change (if anything) in procedure of European Parliament petitioning to make it:
 - more effective
 - more accessible
 - more popular
33. Did your group take any other actions concerning the conflict on European or international level?
34. What are the advantages of actions on international level over the actions on national or subnational levels? What are the disadvantages?
35. Do you think that international actions would ever replace actions on national or subnational levels? On what conditions?
36. Did you use the Internet tool (online petition form)? How do you think it changed the effect of petitioning?