

Directorate-General for Interpretation and Conferences
The Director-General

GEDA D (2017) 23185

Brussels, 9 NOV 2017

Ms Cecilia Wikström
Chair of the Petition Committee
ASP 08G201

Dear Ms Wikström,

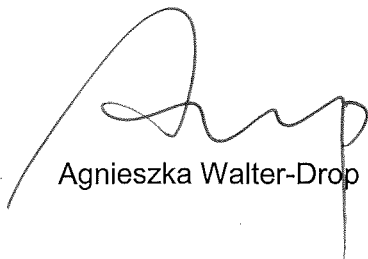
Subject: Petition No. 1056/2016

DG INTE has examined petition 1056/2016 and the proposal concerning changes to the petitions portal and workflows that would make it possible for the European Parliament to accept petitions in sign languages.

The proposed solution to the issue of accepting petitions in sign languages is not practicable as such. DG INTE has no lists of professionals exercising in that field which would ensure the quality required, nor does it have the budgetary means to participate in this activity as its budgetary resources have been earmarked for conference interpreting, conference organisation and supporting activities.

In the absence of proof that there would be a continuous and stable use for the requested resource, the proposed changes to the petitions portal and even more so, an establishment of a workflow involving 30 European national sign languages, are not the most resource-effective way of getting to the desired outcome. It would seem more fit-for-purpose to allow submitting petitions as video files in the format of a DVD, a memory stick, or file transfer or file sharing over the internet. Upon reception of such a file, the Petitions Committee could ask for a transcription to be made on an *ad hoc* basis. However, this solution would require additional budgetary resources from the EP budget.

While DG INTE does not have resources that would be directly applicable to the handling of petitions as such, it is willing to share information concerning sign language in Europe, as well as contact information for bodies and associations that work in the field of sign languages.



Agnieszka Walter-Drop