

The Chair
Committee on Petitions

Brussels,
CG/mf[IPOL-COM-PETI D (2017)13057]

D 304641 22.03.2017

Mr Andrei Sumar
Bd du 9ème de Ligne,
27 Petit Château 27
1000 Bruxelles
BELGIQUE

Dear Mr Sumar,

On behalf of the President of the European Parliament, Antonio Tajani, I acknowledge receipt of your E-mails of 14 February and 15 March 2017. Mr Tajani has asked me to examine your appeal and to reply to you, since your message concerns directly the Committee on Petitions, which I have the honour to chair.

First of all, I would like to clarify some points relating to Parliament's working methods, and to the processing of petitions in particular.

Rule 216.7, second paragraph of the Rules of Procedure of the European Parliament provides that "When consideration of an admissible petition has been concluded, it shall be declared closed by decision of the committee." Moreover, Rule 2016.10 stipulates that "By a majority of its members, the committee shall adopt guidelines for the treatment of petitions in accordance with these Rules of Procedure". According to guideline 15(b) adopted by the Committee on Petitions in January 2016, "the Committee may decide after considering a petition that the case has been sufficiently discussed and researched. The Chair makes a proposal for closure and/or other possible follow-up measures, with the aim of reaching consensus. If no consensus emerges to support the proposal by the Chair, it is put to vote by simple majority. If no quorum exists to allow a vote, the decision is referred to the Coordinators."

Consequently, decisions on the closure of petitions do not have to be taken by vote, pending a quorum of one third of the Members of the Committee. In the case of your petition, the decision was taken by consensus of the attending Members.

Your claim about the falsification of the minutes of the meeting is unfounded. According to Article 12 of the Statute of the Members, "A Member's attendance shall be attested by his or her signature in the record of attendance available [...] in the meeting room [...]". However, Members who sign the attendance list are not required to attend the whole meeting. Rule 2 of the Rules of Procedure thus indicates that "Members shall exercise their mandate freely and independently, shall not be bound by any instructions and shall not receive a binding mandate".

Members of the Committee on Petitions have access to all documents related to each petition through an internal database. Therefore, they are able to take decisions on petitions with full knowledge of all the evidence provided by the petitioner and by the authorities that the Committee has consulted.

On the 28th of November 2016, the Members of the Committee, on the basis of all the information received, agreed with the conclusions of the Commission and considered that there is no proof of a systematic violation of EU law by the Polish authorities. The Members decided to send a letter to the Belarussian authorities to draw attention to the issues raised in your petition and to inform them that the European institutions are expecting their cooperation according to a strict management of the Schengen visas delivery procedure. A letter was also sent to the Commission, requesting its services to continue to monitor the situation in Belarus.

I now consider that the services of the Parliament have undertaken every possible step in relation to your petition. Your file, in absence of any new facts, is thus now considered definitively closed.

Please also be informed that as from now, the services of the European Parliament will discontinue correspondence in relation to your petition and the complaints mentioned above.

Yours sincerely,



Cecilia Wikström
Chair
Committee on Petitions