

COMMITTEE ON PETITIONS

Draft Programme

PUBLIC HEARING

Transparency and freedom of information

21 June 2016 - Room JAN 6Q2 - 9:00-12:30

Introduction by the Chair (5min)

I. The EU legal framework on transparency and freedom of information: success and limits

- Openness, Transparency and the Right to Access to documents in the EU
(*commissioned by Poldep C - with briefing paper available*) (15 min)

Prof. Deirdre Curtin, Professor of European Law, in the European University Institute of Florence and Professor of European Law of the University of Amsterdam
(<http://www.eui.eu/DepartmentsAndCentres/Law/People/Professors/Curtin.aspx>)

and

Prof. Paivi Leino-Sandberg Professor of EU Law, University of Helsinki
(<http://www.helsinki.fi/eci/Staff/Leino-Sandberg.html>)

- Transparency and access to information in environmental matters: the Aarhus Convention and the EU legal framework (*commissioned by Poldep C - with briefing paper available*) (10 min)

Prof. Jonas Ebbesson, Chair of the Compliance Committee of the Aarhus Convention (UNECE Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters); Director of the Stockholm Environmental Law and Policy Centre

- The balance between transparency and confidentiality (10 min)

Dr. Vigjilence Abazi, postdoctoral Researcher and Research Coordinator at the Maastricht Centre for European Law, Faculty of Law, Maastricht University

And/or

Prof. Dr. Andreas Maurer, Jean Monnet Chair for Political Science and EU integration, University of Innsbruck, Austria, author of the Comparative study on access to documents (and confidentiality rules) in international trade negotiations for the EP ([http://www.europarl.europa.eu/RegData/etudes/STUD/2015/549033/EXPO_STU\(2015\)549033_EN.pdf](http://www.europarl.europa.eu/RegData/etudes/STUD/2015/549033/EXPO_STU(2015)549033_EN.pdf)) *tbc*

and

Emilio De Capitani, member of the Free Group, former LIBE Head of Secretariat on the Case T-540/15: Action brought on 18 September 2015 — De Capitani v Parlement. (*tbc*)

⇒ Q&A: 20-30 min

II. The freedom of information in practice

- The action of the Ombudsman

Emily O'Reilly, European Ombudsman on her work on transparency, public access to documents and recent inquiries (*10 min*)

- **The civil society action**

Ask the Eu (*10 min*) (*tbc*)

Anaïs Berthier from Client Earth (petitioner/ petition n°0134/2012) (*10 min*) (*tbc*)

- **The position of the EU institutions**

- Representative from the Dutch Presidency (*tbc*) *5 min*
- Transparency unit of the EP (Chiara Malasomma *tbc*) *5 min*
- Secretariat General of the European Commission *5min*

⇒ Q&A: 20-30 min

Conclusions by the Chair (*5min*)