

EUROPEAN OMBUDSMAN

Avenue du Président Robert Schuman

CS 30403

F-67001-Strasbourg Cedex

Response to EESC proposals.

....., 27 February 2017

We wish to express our opposition to the proposal of the European Economic and Social Committee by the following considerations:

1^o. - The recommendations made by the European Ombudsman were that the EESC should comply with the following:

a) review the relevant rules in order to ensure that its members make, in a timely manner, a complete declaration of all relevant interests.

This was intended not to reproduce irregular situations, such as those of Mr. Richard Adams, who had given rise to the claim.

b) require that declarations of interests be updated on a yearly basis.

c) seek to ensure that its members are always provided with enough time to examine documents on which they will be asked to vote.

2^o. - The Committee presented a brief to the European Ombudsman, in which it states that it will comply with the recommendations but without acquiring any specific commitment, neither material nor temporary.

3^o. - Our opposition to this proposal is based on the absence of a concrete fulfillment of the content of the recommendations formulated.

In our view, at least, the EESC should have a binding commitment to comply with the recommendations, which would include at least the following:

I.- An articulated text containing a specific proposal for the reform of internal texts of the EESC, which should include the subjects given below:

- the revision of the rules guaranteeing the presentation of the full declaration of interests of the members

- the annual update of said declaration of interests of the members.

- the modification of the rules, so that EESC members may have sufficient time to examine the documents on which they must vote.

II.- A brief incorporating the temporary compliance with the commitments to modify the EESC's internal rules, taking into account existing internal procedures.

Insofar as these requirements are not met, we cannot consider that the EESC has followed the recommendations of the European Ombudsman or implemented them, which she hopes will be done as soon as possible, given The time elapsed since the date of the recommendation.

On the other hand, we inform you that on 24 October 2016, over 40 European organizations and platforms asked the EESC the following demands ¹ :

- **“The initiation of the relevant procedures to draw up a new opinion on electromagnetic hypersensitivity**, naturally, with collaboration and participation of independent doctors, scientists and European civil society organisations, including European associations defending EHS people's rights so that opinions from people suffering with electrosensitivity can be Heard”

- **“The resignation of Mr Richard Adams ² as external delegate (Category III - "Various Interests") of the Consultative Commission on Industrial Change (CCMI) of the EESC**, given his totally "inappropriate" attitude and lack of transparency within the EESC and the existence of a "conflict of interest" according to the European Ombudsman opinion”.

Yours truly,

¹ Ver <http://www.peccem.org/DocumentacionDescarga/Campanas/EHS-CESE/Letter to EESC.2016-ES-Final.pdf>

² Mr. Richard Adams ended his term as an EESC member on 20 September 2015. The UK Government did not renew the mandate of the Mr. Richard Adams, as an EESC member, for the current period (2015-2020). However, Richard Adams is since 1 January 2016 an external delegate (category III of various activities) of the Consultative Commission on Industrial Change (CCMI) of the EESC for a period of two years, which shall be renewable.