ePetition Facts

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Description of the scope of the system

1.1 Scope

The ePetition system is dedicated to the management of Petition dossiers within the European Parliament.

These are the main objectives of the ePetition system:

• Simplifying the petition management

• Reducing the administrative work related to each petition

• Reducing the processing time of petitions

• Improving the response time when providing detailed information concerning specific petitions to MEP's

• Helping to reduce paperwork

The application provides easy and quick access to petition data for the PETI Committee Secretariat and Members of the European Parliament (MEP).

1.2 Data Flow

1.2.1 Create new petition file from GEDA fiche

Petitions can be submitted by any citizen by ordinary mail or by filling a form available at the Europarl website.

(https://www.secure.europarl.europa.eu/aboutparliament/en/petition.html)

The corresponding data are introduced manually in the GEDA application.

The ePetition application is fetching the data from GEDA and presents it to an operator of the Reception and Referral Unit of the European Parliament.

If the record contains real data (Not spam), the operator use the ePetition application to create a petition record. At this stage a petition number is assigned to the record.

1.2.2 Edit Petition and Petitioner data

The operator of the Reception and Referral Unit completes all the required data to process the petition and to guarantee the quality of these data. An acknowledgment letter is sent to the petitioner.

1.2.3 Transfer processing

The operator of the Reception and Referral unit officially transfers the processing of petitions files to the PETI Committee Secretariat.

1.2.4 Create and Manage SIR Series

The PETI Committee Secretariat groups the petitions into "collections" (series) for processing purpose.

Summaries are written for each petition and sent to Translation in all EU official languages.

At the beginning of the process, PETI declares petitions admissible or non-admissible. In case of inadmissibility, the secretariat informs the petitioner by means of a   letter.

During the entire process of examination of a petition, the petitioner can send additional information to the PETI Committee Secretariat and this information will be electronically imported in the ePetition application.

1.2.5 Import and Manage information from the European Commission

In certain cases the European Commission is requested to give its opinion on a petition. Information sent by the Commission is imported in the ePetition application.

1.2.6 Manage Meetings and Meeting Outcomes

The ePetition application allows drafting of the agendas for the monthly meetings in which the follow-up of the different petitions is discussed.

The outcome of the meetings is also recorded in the ePetition application.

1.3 EP Users

- DG PRES - Reception and Referral Unit

- DG IPOL - PETI Committee Secretariat

- DG TRAD - All Units

2 ePetition Persistency

Data corresponding to petitions management are stored in the ePetition Oracle 11g database.

2.1 ePetition database

All necessary data for the processing of petitions are stored in the ePetition database and on the internal file system called EPADES.

It includes:

- Meta data of the petitions:

    o PET_PETITION,
    o PET_PETITION_PET_THEME and
    o PET_PETITION_PET_KEYWORD tables

- Data about the petition content:

    o PET_PETITION,
    o PET_PETITION_DOCUMENT and
    o PET_LOCAL_DATABASE_STORED_FILE tables

- Data about the petitioner:

    o PET_INDIVIDUAL table

- Data concerning the history of the petitions:

    o PET_EVENT,
    o PET_ADOPTION_EVENT,
    o PET_EC_COMMUNICATION_EVENT,
    o PET_MEETING_OUTCOME_EVENT,
    o PET_SEND_FOR_OPINION_EVENT,
    o PET_SEND_FOR_INFO_EVENT and
    o PET_SENT_TO_EC_EVENT tables

- Meta data of the SIR Series:

    o PET_SIR_SERIE and
    o PET_SIR_SERIE_APPROVED_STATUS tables

- Meta data of communications with the European Commission:

    o PET_EC_COMMUNICATION table

- Meta data of meeting agendas:

    - PET_MEETING and
    - PET_AGENDA_ITEM tables

- Meta data of Letter Templates:

    - PET_LETTER_PROPERTIES

- Content of Letter Templates:

    - PET_LETTER_TEMPLATE

- Documents:

    - PET_LOCAL_DATABASE_STORED_FILE table

2.2 EPADES server

The following data is stored on the EPADES server

- The translations of summaries of petitions in all the official languages

- The translations of communications from the European Commission in all official languages

- The agendas of meetings of the PETI Committee

3 Evaluation

Evaluations are made at different levels:

- The HOSTING department keeps track of the logs of the system and monitors the activity of the applications in term of availability and performances.

- The IT Maintenance activities are tracked to monitor the correct evolution of the application through the years.

It appears that, after more than 6 years of production, the application is very stable, reliable and with a high degree of performance.

4 Future Developments

The ePetition application is used on a daily base. A technical team takes care of the different aspects of maintenance (corrective maintenance, small prevention of technical changes, etc.)

Not all the tasks related to the processing of the petitions in the European Parliament are automated yet.

The ePetition application is also connected to other European Parliament systems such as GEDA, CODICT and ITER. Technical and business changes in these applications can impose changes in the ePetition application (inductive maintenance).

4.1 Automatic generation of the Meeting Agenda document

The Meeting agenda document is an official Word document currently being drafted manually by the PETI Committee Secretariat.

One of the projects under the evolutive maintenance is to develop a new functionality to generate this document directly from the ePetition application, as most of the required information is already stored in the ePetition Database.

4.2 Migration to GEDA web services

Today, the ePetition application communicates meta-data with the GEDA application through a dedicated java library.

There is a project to change this communication mechanism by using the web-services provided by the GEDA application (technical maintenance).

4.3 Automatic communication with the EC

There is a project to automatically receive and upload the information from the European Commission in the ePetition application.

5 Currently registered data

5.1 Petition data

- The PETI Committee is receiving circa 2.000 petitions/year.

- Today, the database of ePetition contains about 35.000 entries.

- The very first petition recorded in the ePetition Database was submitted to the European Parliament in 1984.

- The present ePetition application is available since end 2007.

- Data from previous systems (certain manual) have been migrated to the ePetition Database.

5.2 Document data

- Today, the ePetition Database contains about 138.000 documents.

5.3 Yearly statistics

Statistic and documents related to the petitions examined yearly by the European Parliament can be found via the EP Electronic Register and the Annual reports on the activities of the Committee on Petitions:

http://www.europarl.europa.eu/RegistreWeb/search/typedoc.htm?codeType Docu=TCME&autInst=%23%23NAME%23%23CO%23%23VALUE%23%23P ETI

http://www.europarl.europa.eu/sides/getDoc.do?pubRef=-%2f%2fEP%2f%2fTEXT%2bTA%2bP7-TA-2014-0204%2b0%2bDOC%2bXML%2bV0%2f%2fEN&language=EN

http://www.europarl.europa.eu/sides/getDoc.do?pubRef=-%2f%2fEP%2f%2fTEXT%2bTA%2bP7-TA-2013-0421%2b0%2bDOC%2bXML%2bV0%2f%2fEN&language=EN

http://www.europarl.europa.eu/sides/getDoc.do?pubRef=-%2f%2fEP%2f%2fTEXT%2bTA%2bP7-TA-2012-0445%2b0%2bDOC%2bXML%2bV0%2f%2fEN&language=EN

http://www.europarl.europa.eu/sides/getDoc.do?pubRef=-%2f%2fEP%2f%2fTEXT%2bTA%2bP7-TA-2011-0269%2b0%2bDOC%2bXML%2bV0%2f%2fEN&language=EN