



European Economic and Social Committee

The President

Brussels, 17.03.15 000204 -

Subject: Your letter regarding the adoption of the European Economic and Social Committee's TEN/559 opinion on *Electromagnetic hypersensitivity*

You sent me a letter regarding the adoption of the European Economic and Social Committee's TEN/559 opinion on *Electromagnetic hypersensitivity*.

I understand and share your concerns regarding the transparency of the proceedings of our institution.

I. Regarding the voting on the TEN/559 opinion on *Electromagnetic hypersensitivity*:

The will of the Committee is expressed by the majority of votes cast by members present, subject to the required quorum being attained. With the Committee membership as it stands at present, 177 members must be present to establish a quorum.

The counter opinion on *Electromagnetic hypersensitivity* was presented in accordance with the procedure laid down in the Committee's Rules of Procedure, it was placed on the agenda and put to the vote by the assembly before the section opinion. 265 members were present in the assembly, and the counter opinion received 136 votes in favour and 110 against, and 19 members abstained.

As the established procedure was followed and the opinion was adopted by the majority of members present, the Committee vote cannot be annulled.

II. Regarding the request for recognition of a conflict of interest:

According to the Treaties, the Committee members "*shall not be bound by any mandatory instructions. They shall be completely independent in the performance of their duties, in the Union's general interest*" (Article 300(4) of the TFEU). Therefore, they can and must be completely independent in the performance of their duties, in the general interest of the Union and not in the interest of the organisations or sectors that they represent. The members thus enjoy great freedom in the performance of their tasks and, once appointed, may not be subject to instructions either from the organisation or from the country which proposed them.

The members are also responsible for submitting a declaration of interest.

III. Regarding the request to receive audiovisual copies of the debates conducted during the TEN section meeting on 7 January 2015 and during the assembly on 21 January 2015, together with the respective minutes and outcome of the voting, with the names of the voters and the votes of each of the members:

I am in a position to fulfil this request and accordingly you will receive these written and audio documents as rapidly, as possible in electronic format as requested.

I trust that this memo will satisfy the points raised in your letter, and will be pleased to provide any further information or clarification you might need.

Yours sincerely,

Henri Malosse

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Henri Malosse', with a horizontal line underneath the name.