

Survey, MEPs, 1990.

CODE: 461

When you have completed, please return to:

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1. An MEP receives requests for action both from constituents and from interest groups. We would like to find out what proportion of your time is devoted to these requests out of all the different jobs you have to do.
Please tick the relevant box in each case. Ignore where non-applicable.

Time spent...

Requests from...

- individual constituents
- individuals outside the constituency
- individuals from other EC states
- national interest groups
- Community-level interest groups

0%	1-25%	25-50%	50-75%	75-100%
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>			
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>			
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>			
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>			

2. About how many requests do you get each week on average?
Please tick the relevant box in each case. Ignore where non-applicable.

Numbers each week...

Requests from...

- individual constituents
- individuals outside the constituency
- individuals from other EC states
- national interest groups
- Community-level interest groups

0-50	50-100	100-150	150-200
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>			
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>			
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>			
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>			

3. Is it your impression, based on your experience in the European Parliament, that such requests are increasing in number, decreasing, or staying about the same number?
Please tick the relevant box in each case. Ignore where non-applicable.

The requests are...

Requests from...

- individual constituents
- individuals outside the constituency
- individuals from other EC states
- national interest groups
- Community-wide interest groups

increasing	about same	decreasing
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	

4. How important do you think the following contacts are for your work as an MEP?
Please tick the relevant box in each case. Ignore where non-applicable.

important	not very important	unimportant
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- press conferences

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
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- talks to selected groups (eg. farmers, trade unions, industrialists, etc.)

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
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- visits and inspections (eg. schools, factories, problem regions, etc.)

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
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- 'surgeries' (meeting voters in your local office)

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
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- other
(please specify.....
.....
.....)

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5. We are interested in finding out which types of requests from individual voters come up most often. Which of the following is most common?
Please rank-order the following 1, 2, 3, etc. Ignore any categories which are non-applicable.

- help in obtaining grants or other EC funds
 - problems relating to the constituency
 - problems relating to regional or local authorities
 - problems relating to national authorities
 - problems referred by a national MP
 - problems over specific legislation before the European Parliament
 - problems relating to the Common Agricultural Policy
 - problems over VAT or other Community taxes
 - the environment
 - other
- (please specify.....
.....
.....)

5
7
4
3
2
6
1
6
6

6. What form of contact do you have with individual voters?
Please tick just one box.

- permanent manned constituency office
 - regular surgery (at least once a month)
 - irregular surgery
 - other
- (please specify. *Appointment at*
either my office or a
venue suitable to the constituent)

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>

7. Do you regard the frequency of individual contacts with your constituents as...

- satisfactory
- unsatisfactory (give reasons.....
.....
.....)
- no opinion/don't know

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>

8. We are interested in exploring your contact with interest groups. How often do you take the initiative in establishing contacts with the following?
Please tick the relevant box in each case. Ignore where non-applicable.

- national interest groups
- local/regional interest groups
- Community-wide interest groups

frequently	rarely	virtually never
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	

9. How often are you the target of contacts by the following?
Please tick the relevant box in each case. Ignore where non-applicable.

- national interest groups
- local/regional interest groups
- Community-wide interest groups

frequently	rarely	virtually never
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		

10. When interest groups contact you which kinds of issues are raised most often?
Please rank-order the following 1, 2, 3, etc. Ignore any categories which are non-applicable.

- the Community budget
 - specific legislation before the European Parliament
 - the 1992 project
 - the work of the Commission
 - the work of the Council of Ministers
 - the Common Agricultural Policy
 - Community grants (e.g for regional development)
 - European Investment Bank loans
 - the environment
 - problems with local or national authorities
 - other
- (please specify.....)
-)

1
4
2
1
1
1
3
1
4
5

11. How important do you regard contacts with interest groups?
Please tick the relevant box in each case. Ignore where non-applicable.

Contact with...

- national interest groups
- local/regional interest groups
- Community-wide interest groups

important	not very important	unimportant
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

12. How applicable to you are the following statements about the way in which MEPs see themselves?
Please tick the relevant box on the scale in each case. Ignore where non-applicable.

	highly applicable					highly inapplicable
	(6)	(5)	(4)	(3)	(2)	(1)
- representative of my country	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
- representative of my region	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
- representative of my constituency/district	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
- representative of my national party	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
- representative of my European party group	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
- representative of an interest group	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
- representative of all citizens of the EC	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

13. We are interested in exploring your relationship with the other institutions of the European Community. In general what is your opinion on the degree of co-operation from the other EC institutions?

Please tick the relevant box in each case. Ignore any which are non-applicable.

	cooperative	not very cooperative	uncooperative
- European Council			✓
- the Councils of Ministers			✓
- COREPER		✓	
- Special Committee on Agriculture	✓		
- European Commissioners	✓		
- Chefs de Cabinet	✓		
- Directorate-Generals	✓		
- Economic and Social Committee	✓		
- Court of Justice	✓		
- Court of Auditors	✓		

14. At what level are you most likely to have contact with the other institutions of the European Community: formally or informally?

Please tick the relevant box in each case. Ignore where non-applicable.

	formally	mixture	informally
- European Council	✓		
- The Council of Ministers	✓		
- COREPER	✓		
- Special Committee on Agriculture		✓	
- European Commissioners		✓	
- Chefs de Cabinet		✓	
- Directorate-Generals	✓		
- Economic and Social Committee			✓
- Court of Justice			
- Court of Auditors			

15. Finally, after having asked about your political activities we would like to now focus a little more sharply on a different topic. It is generally accepted that aside from their written rules, parliaments have their unwritten rules and customs. How would you, in terms of those unwritten rules, judge the behaviour of an MEP who acted in one of the following ways?

Please tick the relevant box on the scale in each case.
Ignore where non-applicable.

To...	most acceptable	acceptable	no opinion	unacceptable	most unacceptable
- introduce a motion without party group advice			✓		
- always give priority to one's own electoral considerations		✓			
- disclose to the press decisions taken in private				✓	
- never take a position					
- publicly speak against the position of group leaders				✓	
- give priority to special interests		✓			
- vote against the group line				✓	
- be absent from Parliament to prevent a quorum				✓	
- always stay away from conflict				✓	
- in principle, reject unanimous decisions				✓	
- demand that decisions be reached by simple majority		✓			
- publicly question a colleague's sincerity				✓	