

Procedure file

Basic information	
INI - Own-initiative procedure	2005/2136(INI)
Report on the European Ombudsman's annual report 2004	Procedure completed
Subject	
1.20.04 European Ombudsman	

Key players			
European Parliament	Committee responsible	Rapporteur	Appointed
	PETI Petitions	PPE-DE MAVROMMATIS Manolis	17/03/2005

Key events			
04/07/2005	Committee referral announced in Parliament		
12/09/2005	Vote in committee		Summary
28/09/2005	Committee report tabled for plenary		
29/09/2005	Committee report tabled for plenary	A6-0276/2005	
27/10/2005	Results of vote in Parliament		
27/10/2005	Debate in Parliament		
27/10/2005	Decision by Parliament	T6-0413/2005	Summary
27/10/2005	End of procedure in Parliament		

Technical information	
Procedure reference	2005/2136(INI)
Procedure type	INI - Own-initiative procedure
Legal basis	Rules of Procedure EP 232-p1-a2
Stage reached in procedure	Procedure completed
Committee dossier	PETI/6/29217

Documentation gateway				
Amendments tabled in committee		PE362.581	30/08/2005	EP

Committee report tabled for plenary, single reading		A6-0276/2005	29/09/2005	EP	
Text adopted by Parliament, single reading		T6-0413/2005 OJ C 272 09.11.2006, p. 0454-0578 E	27/10/2005	EP	Summary
Commission response to text adopted in plenary		SP(2005)4593	24/11/2005	EC	
Commission response to text adopted in plenary		SP(2005)4912/2	24/01/2006	EC	

Report on the European Ombudsman's annual report 2004

The committee adopted the own-initiative report drawn up by Manolis MAVROMMATIS (EPP-ED, EL) in response to the annual report of the European Ombudsman (2004). MEPs welcomed the new presentation of the report and praised its "simple and clear thematic analysis". They also welcomed the high public profile achieved by the Ombudsman, and hoped that better quality information for the public could help reduce the number of complaints received which fall outside his remit (around 75%) as they are targeted at national authorities. The Ombudsman was urged to continue his efforts so that he would "be seen by citizens as the guardian of good administration of the European institutions". The committee also called on him to define more precisely the concept of "maladministration", drawing up a strict and exhaustive list of institutions and bodies covered and categorically excluding all complaints which fall under the responsibility of the Member States' authorities.

MEPs called for all the EU institutions to interpret as broadly as possible the provisions of Regulation No. 1049/2001 governing public access to documents, and urged the Commission not to refuse to make its documents available on the pretext that they are intended for internal use. They approved of the efforts by the Ombudsman to persuade the institutions to meet shorter deadlines for dealing with this type of complaint.

The Commission was urged to end the existing situation whereby institutions and bodies follow different codes of conduct, and to adopt the European Code of Good Administrative Behaviour. MEPs added that the Commission should begin preparatory work for the submission of a law on good administration.

The report also backed a review of the Ombudsman's statute and the extension and strengthening of the system of non-judicial appeal which it said "provides citizens with an alternative to legal action, in the form of decisions and recommendations which are not legally binding and do not constitute coercive measures". The Ombudsman was also urged to seek amicable solutions wherever possible in the cases he deals with.

Finally, MEPs commended the good working relationship developed between the Ombudsman's Office and the Petitions Committee, including the process for the mutual transfer of cases, and praised the close cooperation established by the European Ombudsman with his national, regional and local counterparts.

Report on the European Ombudsman's annual report 2004

The European Parliament adopted a resolution based on the own-initiative report drafted by Manolis MAVROMMATIS (EPP-ED, EL) on the annual report on the activities of the European Ombudsman for the year 2004. (Please see the document dated 12/09/2005.) Parliament adopted a report by 426 votes in favour, 3 against, with 9 abstentions. It also urged the Commission to take measures to end the existing situation whereby institutions and bodies follow different codes of conduct and called on it to adopt the European Code of Good Administrative Behaviour. Furthermore, Parliament encouraged the extension and strengthening of the system of non-judicial appeal which provides citizens with an alternative to legal action, in the form of decisions and recommendations which are not legally binding and do not constitute coercive measures.

Finally, it urged the European Personnel Selection Office (EPSO) to respect the rules and practices concerning openness and transparency in recruitment procedures and in particular to comply with Article 4 of the European Code of Good Administrative Behaviour by stating the reasons for its decisions.