

# Procedure file

Basic information	
INI - Own-initiative procedure	1994/2160(INI)
Role of the Ombudsman	
Subject 1.20.04 European Ombudsman	

Key players			
European Parliament	Committee responsible	Rapporteur	Appointed
	PETI Petitions	PSE <a href="#">NEWMAN Edward</a>	27/07/1994

Key events			
14/11/1994	Committee referral announced in Parliament		
24/11/1994	Vote in committee		Summary
24/11/1994	Committee report tabled for plenary	<a href="#">A4-0083/1994</a>	
14/07/1995	Debate in Parliament		
14/07/1995	Decision by Parliament	T4-0380/1995	Summary
14/07/1995	End of procedure in Parliament		
25/09/1995	Final act published in Official Journal		

Technical information	
Procedure reference	1994/2160(INI)
Procedure type	INI - Own-initiative procedure
Procedure subtype	Initiative
Legal basis	Rules of Procedure EP 54
Stage reached in procedure	Procedure completed
Committee dossier	PETI/4/06132

Documentation gateway	
Committee report tabled for plenary, single reading	A4-0083/1994 <a href="#">OJ C 018 23.01.1995, p. 0004</a>

## Role of the Ombudsman

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The Committee on Petitions adopted the report by Mr Newman on the role of the European ombudsman. Mr Newman considered in his report that the appointment of an ombudsman would enable: - the rights of European citizens to be defended against cases of maladministration by the European institutions; - relations to be enhanced between the institutions and the European citizens. He was also of the opinion that the Committee on Petitions and the ombudsman together formed an efficient system for defending citizens' interests and would help Community to work more democratically. He reiterated the respective remits of the ombudsman and the Committee on Petitions, the task of the former being to investigate cases of maladministration by the Community institutions and the purpose of the latter being to respond to any complaint, request for an opinion or action or reaction by citizens to resolutions of the European Parliament or decisions by the other institutions. He emphasised the importance of establishing close cooperation between the ombudsman and the Committee on Petitions, mainly in the interest of those affected by the complaints. At the same time, the rapporteur undertook to support the ombudsman in his activities by considering his reports and, if the committee considered necessary, taking steps to protect the interests of the persons in question where the other institutions had given inadequate assistance. Finally, he called on the Council and the Commission to cooperate with the ombudsman by supplying him with the information needed for the performance of his duties. At the same time, he called on the three institutions to publish a joint statement setting out guiding principles for the number of staff employed by the ombudsman and the status of temporary agents or persons in charge of the investigations conducted by the ombudsman. In this respect, the rapporteur stated that he was concerned by the fact that the draft 1995 budget provided that only staff dealing with enquiries would have the status of temporary staff, while other human resources would be provided by the Secretariat of the European Parliament. He therefore called for all the ombudsman's staff to be assigned to him for the duration of his term of office, in order to maintain his independence and efficiency.?

## Role of the Ombudsman

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Adopting the report by Mr NEWMAN (PSE, UK) the European Parliament considered that the appointment of an ombudsman would enable the rights of European citizens to be defended against cases of maladministration by the European institutions and Community bodies and would enhance relations between them and the European citizens. It was of the opinion that the Committee on Petitions and the ombudsman, Mr Jacob S-DERMAN (elected on 12 July 1995 by the European Assembly, Finnish nationality) together formed an effective system of defending citizens' interests, the task of the former being to investigate cases of maladministration and the purpose of the latter being to provide an appropriate response to any complaint and to reactions by citizens to resolutions of Parliament. It also emphasized the importance of establishing close cooperation between these two Community bodies. The European Parliament therefore undertook to support Mr S-DERMAN in his activities by considering his reports and taking steps on a case by case basis to protect the interests of the persons in question. The European Parliament called on all the Community institutions and bodies, in particular the Council and the Commission, to cooperate closely with the ombudsman by supplying him with the information and documents needed for the effective performance of his duties. It also called on the institutions to publish a joint statement setting out guiding principles for the number of staff employed by the ombudsman and their responsibilities. It stated in this respect that it was concerned by the fact that the 1995 budget provided that only staff dealing with enquiries would have the status of temporary staff, while other human resources would be provided by the Secretariat of the European Parliament. It therefore called for all the ombudsman's staff to be assigned to him for the duration of his term of office.?