Basic information

1998/2084(COS) COS - Procedure on a strategy paper (historic)	Procedure completed
European Ombudsman. Annual report 1997 **Subject** 1.20.04 European Ombudsman	

Key players

European Parliament	**Committee responsible**	**Rapporteur**	**Appointed**
	PETI Petitions	NEWMAN Edward (PSE)	05/02/1998
Council of the European Union			

Key events

Date	Event	Reference	Summary
15/04/1998	Non-legislative basic document published	N4-0270/1998	Summary
15/05/1998	Committee referral announced in Parliament		
22/06/1998	Vote in committee		Summary
22/06/1998	Committee report tabled for plenary	A4-0258/1998	
16/07/1998	Debate in Parliament		Summary
16/07/1998	End of procedure in Parliament		
21/09/1998	Final act published in Official Journal		

Technical information

Procedure reference	1998/2084(COS)
Procedure type	COS - Procedure on a strategy paper (historic)
Procedure subtype	Commission strategy paper
Legal basis	Rules of Procedure EP 148
Stage reached in procedure	Procedure completed
Committee dossier	PETI/4/10009

Documentation gateway

European Parliament

Document type	Committee	Reference	Date	Summary
Committee report tabled for plenary, single reading		A4-0258/1998 OJ C 226 20.07.1998, p. 0004	22/06/1998	
Text adopted by Parliament, single reading		T4-0453/1998 OJ C 292 21.09.1998, p. 0113-0168	16/07/1998	Summary

Other institutions and bodies

Institution/body	Document type	Reference	Date	Summary
MED	Non-legislative basic document	N4-0270/1998	15/04/1998	Summary

European Ombudsman. Annual report 1997

1998/2084(COS) - 15/04/1998 - Non-legislative basic document

OBJECTIVE: annual report of the European Ombudsman for 1997. SUBSTANCE: this is the third annual report by the European Ombudsman giving further information concerning the work of the Ombudsman since 1995 when he was first appointed. The report outlines as in previous years the complaints received and considered giving particular emphasis to inquiries initiated by the Ombudsman. For the first time it was possible to reach amicable settlements regarding cases of maladministration. Details are also given concerning other measures such as the Ombudsman's special report on access to Community documents. The inquiry was the subject of a special report to the European Parliament (COS0690) concerning organisational matters the Ombudsman indicates that in 1997 all the offices and infrastructures were operational in Brussels and in Strasbourg. A network of liaison bodies were set up with the national Ombudsman's office and similar bodies in the Member States thereby facilitating effective communication. The Ombudsman indicates that 1181 new complaints were made to him during 1997. 1067 of these were sent directly by individual citizens, 57 came from associations and 38 from companies. 17 complaints were transmitted by Members of the European Parliament and 227 were brought forward from the year 1996. The Ombudsman also began four own-initiative inquiries. In all he dealt with 1412 cases, a 40% increase over the number of complaints received in 1996. The number of complaints ruled admissible also increased. The Ombudsman also indicates that a number of complaints were forwarded to the European Parliament's Committee on Petitions (13 complaints and two petitions) as provided for under the European Parliament's Rules of Procedure. In accordance with Parliament's wishes expressed in its resolution of 1997 concerning the Ombudsman's second annual report (COS0525) he proposed a definition of what is understood by 'case of maladministration' based on previous experience of national ombudsmen and the relevant legal texts. The Ombudsman also indicated that he had launched a significant policy seeking to provide information for citizens in 1997 and setting up a website on the Internet to give citizens easier access to the Ombudsman and giving general information about the right to complain and table petitions. Finally, the Ombudsman indicates that he wishes to speed up the procedure for ruling a complaint admissible and for this purpose wishes for further staff, particularly in view of the new responsibilities arising from the implementation of the Treaty of Amsterdam. To this end, he expresses the hope that suitable funding will be provided for the years 1999 and 2000.

European Ombudsman. Annual report 1997

1998/2084(COS) - 16/07/1998 - Text adopted by Parliament, single reading

Adopting the report by Mr Edward Newman (PSE, UK) on the Annual Report on the activities of the European Ombudsman in 1997, Parliament welcomes the fact that the Ombudsman has defined the term 'maladministration', as it has requested. It also welcomes the Ombudsman's positive response to the initiative for a code of good administrative behaviour for the European Institutions and bodies and stresses that this code must be identical for all the Institutions. It calls for broader and deeper cooperation between the European Ombudsman and Parliament's Committee on Petitions and repeats its call for sufficient resources, including budgetary resources, to be allocated. It calls on the Ombudsman and all the European institutions to enhance the awareness of the Union's citizens of their right to petition and to send complaints to the Ombudsman and suggests improving and rapidly extending the existing electronic data processing system. In particular it calls for an Internet service to be set up, making this data available to EU citizens.