Basic information

2000/2063(COS) COS - Procedure on a strategy paper (historic)	Procedure completed
European Ombudsman. 1999 Annual report **Subject** 1.20.04 European Ombudsman	

Key players

European Parliament	**Committee responsible**	**Rapporteur**	**Appointed**
	PETI Petitions	THORS Astrid (ELDR)	23/02/2000
Council of the European Union			

Key events

Date	Event	Reference	Summary
31/12/1999	Non-legislative basic document published	N5-0303/2000	Summary
22/06/2000	Vote in committee		Summary
22/06/2000	Committee report tabled for plenary	A5-0181/2000	
03/07/2000	Committee referral announced in Parliament		
06/07/2000	Decision by Parliament	T5-0344/2000	Summary
06/07/2000	Debate in Parliament		
06/07/2000	End of procedure in Parliament		
24/04/2001	Final act published in Official Journal		

Technical information

Procedure reference	2000/2063(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/5/12381

Documentation gateway

European Parliament

Document type	Committee	Reference	Date	Summary
Committee report tabled for plenary, single reading		A5-0181/2000 OJ C 121 24.04.2001, p. 0008	22/06/2000	
Text adopted by Parliament, single reading		T5-0344/2000 OJ C 121 24.04.2001, p. 0180-0468	06/07/2000	Summary

Other institutions and bodies

Institution/body	Document type	Reference	Date	Summary
MED	Non-legislative basic document	N5-0303/2000	31/12/1999	Summary

European Ombudsman. 1999 Annual report

2000/2063(COS) - 31/12/1999 - Non-legislative basic document

PURPOSE: presentation of the report of the European Ombudsman (1999). CONTENT: The Ombudsman's Annual Report contains six chapters dealing with the complaints addressed to the Ombudsman, the decisions following enquiries, relations with other European Union institions, relations with the national ombudsmen, and public relations respectively. In 1999, the Ombudsman received 1 577 complaints (as opposed to 1 372 in 1998), opened 206 enquiries (171 in 1998) on possible cases of poor administration and undertook 5 own-initiative enquiries. Of the complaints that gave rise to an enquiry, 27 were filed with a critical remark regarding the institution or the body concerned, and 62 were resolves by the institution in favour of the complainant. One of the complaints that resulted in an amicable solution, and the Ombudsman drew up 10 draft sets of recommendations to remedy cases of poor administration. In 107 cases (96 in 1998), poor administration was not found, but the complainant received detailed explanations on the reasons for the disputed decision. The allegations of poor administration were essentially based on the lack of transparency (66 cases), discrimination (31 cases), procedural deficiencies or the lack of respect for the right to defence (33 cases), the injustice or abuse of power (32 cases), inevitable delays (45 cases) and negligence (29 cases), non-observance by the Commission of its obligations as guardian of the Treaty (9 cases) and error of law. The report notes that, for the most part, the Ombudsman acknowledged receipt of complaints within one week and decided on their admissibility within a one-month period. However, the objective of concluding cases, following enquiry, within a period of one year has still not been achieved. While stressing the beneficial effects of the constructive cooperation between the Ombudsman and the Institutions, the report regrets that certain problems continue to crop up with respect to the European Commission. The main problem relates to the fact that the Commission's services tend to consider that questions relating to the interpretation of Community law by the Commission are only a matter for the Court of Justice, and not for the Ombudsman. The other point of disagreement concerns the right of the Ombudsman to consult documents. The report also regrets the lack of significant progress with respect to transparency in the course of 1999. This issue is important for the Ombudsman, because absence of information or inadequate information remains the main grievance of complainants. Lastly, it is mentioned that the Ombudsman proposed, in July 1999, a code of good administrative conduct in the framework of recommendations addressed to the European Commission, Parliament and Council of Ministers. The adoption of this code, which would satisfy high quality criteria, would signify, in the eyes of Europe's citizens, a modern administration anxious to serve them. The Ombudsman intends to present to the European Parliament a special report on this matter at the beginning of the year 2000.

European Ombudsman. 1999 Annual report

2000/2063(COS) - 06/07/2000 - Text adopted by Parliament, single reading

The European Parliament adopted Mrs Astrid THORS' (ELDR, Fin) resolution on the activities of the European Ombudsman in 1999. It endorses the attempts to achieve greater transparency and openness. The need to provide the Ombudsman's service with adequate resources to deal with a growing number of complaints is emphasised. The resolution reaffirms the Parliament's determination to support the Ombudsman in his bid to have access to all relevant documents without interference from the authorities. Furthermore, his role in interpreting EU law and its application is also recognised and there is emphasis on the need to draw up "a good code of administrative behaviour" applicable to relations between EU officials and the general public. The is a call on the Commission to include a specific reference to petitions and complaints in its annual report on EU law. Parliament also wants to see a new inter-institutional agreement to deal with complaints. It believes there is a need to amend the statute of the Ombudsman to make public access to documents easier.