Basic information

2003/2068(INI) INI - Own-initiative procedure	Procedure completed
European Ombudsman. 2002 annual report **Subject** 1.20.04 European Ombudsman	

Key players

	Committee responsible	Rapporteur	Appointed
European Parliament	PETI Petitions	STOCKTON The Earl Of (PPE-DE)	23/01/2003

Key events

Date	Event	Reference	Summary
10/02/2003	Non-legislative basic document published	N5-0011/2003	Summary
15/05/2003	Committee referral announced in Parliament		
10/06/2003	Vote in committee		Summary
10/06/2003	Committee report tabled for plenary	A5-0229/2003	
25/09/2003	Decision by Parliament	T5-0415/2003	Summary
25/09/2003	Debate in Parliament		
25/09/2003	End of procedure in Parliament		

Technical information

Procedure reference	2003/2068(INI)
Procedure type	INI - Own-initiative procedure
Legal basis	Rules of Procedure EP 238-p2
Stage reached in procedure	Procedure completed
Committee dossier	PETI/5/19505

Documentation gateway

European Parliament

Document type	Committee	Reference	Date	Summary

Committee report tabled for plenary, single reading		A5-0229/2003	10/06/2003	
Text adopted by Parliament, single reading		T5-0415/2003 OJ C 077 26.03.2004, p. 0266-0403 E	25/09/2003	Summary

Other institutions and bodies

Institution/body	Document type	Reference	Date	Summary
MED	Non-legislative basic document	N5-0011/2003 OJ C 270 11.11.2003, p. 0005	10/02/2003	Summary

European Ombudsman. 2002 annual report

2003/2068(INI) - 25/09/2003 - Text adopted by Parliament, single reading

The European Parliament adopted a resolution based on the own-initiative report drafted by Lord STOCKTON (EPP-ED, United Kingdom) on the Ombudsman's report for 2002. (Please see the summary dated 10/06/03.) Parliament asked the Commission to reconsider its position on the proposed amendments to Article 3(2) of the Ombudsman's Statute. This related particularly to Member States' and third parties' right to deny the Ombudsman and Parliament access to information. It also relates to the restrictions supported by the Commission in respect to the right and duty of officials and other servants to give truthful testimony to the Ombudsman in the course of his inquiries.

European Ombudsman. 2002 annual report

2003/2068(INI) - 10/02/2003 - Non-legislative basic document

PURPOSE : to present the European Ombudsman's 2002 Annual Report. CONTENT : the Report analyses the complaints to the Ombudsman and discusses the decisions made following enquiries. During 2002, the process of examining complaints to see if they are within the mandate of the Ombudsman, meet the criteria of admissibility and provide grounds to open an enquiry was completed in 97% of cases. The report states that 331 met the admissibility criteria, but 109 did not appear to provide rounds for an enquiry. Inquiries were therefore begun in 222 cases. 75% of cases that led to an enquiry were against the European Commission. As the Commission is the main Community organ that makes decisions having a direct impact on citizens, it is to be expected that it should be the principal object of citizens complaints. There were 21 complaints against the European Parliament and 12 complaints against the Council. The main types of maladministration alleged were: - lack of transparency (92 cases); - discrimination (26 cases); - unsatisfactory procedures or failure to respect rights of defence (40 cases); - unfairness or abuse of power (45 cases); - avoidable delay (53 cases); - negligence (37 cases); - failure to ensure fulfilment of obligations, i.e. failure by the European Commission to carry pout its role as guardian of the Treaties vis-à-vis the Member States (6 cases); - legal error (21 cases). With regard to progress made, the Ombudsman reports progress in establishing principles on how to compensate citizens for damages in case where the administration has not fulfilled its obligations on time. Similarly, progress was made on the implementation of the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights, with the Commission and the Parliament abolishing age limits in recruitment and the Commission taking steps to tackle sex discrimination. 2002 also saw the settlement of an EUR 1.5 million contractual dispute - one of the highest sums ever involved in a decision of the Ombudsman. The Ombudsman's Guide for citizens published in 2002 gives an overview of many of these achievements. However, on the question of a law on good administration and freedom of expression for officials there was less progress. The Ombudsman feels that there is room for improvement.