Inter-parliamentary Seminar

THE OMBUDSMAN’S ROLE IN A MODERN PARLIAMENTARY DEMOCRACY: A REGIONAL PERSPECTIVE

with Members of the European Parliament and Members of Parliament and Ombudsmen of EU Enlargement Countries

Organised by the European Parliament’s Pre-Accession Actions Unit and the European Ombudsman’s Office

Brussels
18 – 19 November 2015

European Parliament,
18 November: Altiero Spinelli Building, Room 3G2
19 November: József Antall Building, Room 4Q1

FINAL PROGRAMME
**Wednesday 18 November 2015**

*In the Chair:* Mr Jarosław Wałęsa, MEP, Rapporteur on the annual report on the activities of the European Ombudsman 2013 for the Committee on Petitions

**14:30 – 15:00**  
*Arrivals and registration*  
Altiero Spinelli Building – Solidarnosc Esplanade  
*access from place du Luxembourg*

**15:00 – 15:20**  
*Keynote speech by Ms Emily O’Reilly,* European Ombudsman

**15:20 – 16:10**  
*The EU institutions accountability and the Ombudsman’s role*  
Mr Jarosław Wałęsa, MEP, Rapporteur on the annual report on the activities of the European Ombudsman 2013 for the Committee on Petitions  
Mr Pascal Leardini, Director for relations with the other institutions, Secretariat-General of the European Commission  
Ms Emily O’Reilly, European Ombudsman  
Exchange of views

**16:10 – 16:50**  
*Tools and resources for an efficient Ombudsman institution*  
Ms Nathalie Bajos, Director for promotion of equality and access to rights, Office of the Defender of Rights (National Ombudsman) of France  
Exchange of views

**16:50 – 17:00**  
*Break*

**17:00 – 17:40**  
*The European Network of Ombudsmen and its evolution*  
Ms Irena Lipowicz, former Human Rights Defender (National Ombudsman) of Poland  
Ms Marta Hirsch-Ziembinska, Head of Complaints and Inquiries Unit, European Ombudsman’s office  
Exchange of views

**17:40 – 18:30**  
*Reaching out to the civil society and the general public*  
Ms Marietje Schaake, MEP, Vice-Chair of the Delegation for relations with the United States, Member of the Committee on International Trade  
Ms Gundi Gadesmann, Head of Communications, European Ombudsman’s Office  
Exchange of views
Thursday 19 November 2015

In the Chair: Ms Heidi Hautala, MEP, Chair of the Working Group on Administrative Law in the EU of the Committee on Legal Affairs

08:45 Arrival of the participants
Altiero Spinelli Building – Solidarnosc Esplanade
(access from place du Luxembourg)

09:00 – 09:20 Keynote speech by Mr Elmar Brok, MEP, Chair of the Committee on Foreign Affairs

09:20 – 10:10 Investigating malpractices: different institutions, complementary roles
Mr Dennis de Jong, MEP, Member of the Committee on Budgetary Control
Ms Rosita Agnew, Own-initiative inquiries coordinator, European Ombudsman’s office
Ms Petra Kneuer, Director of Investigations, European Anti-Fraud Office (OLAF)

Exchange of views

10:10 – 11:00 Parliamentary oversight of the implementation of the law and the ombudsman’s input
Ms Heidi Hautala, MEP, Chair of the Working Group on Administrative Law in the EU of the Committee on Legal Affairs, Shadow-Rapporteur on the 30th and 31st annual reports on monitoring the application of EU Law (2012-2013) for the Committee on Legal Affairs
Ms Nele Parrest, Deputy Chancellor of Justice (National Ombudsman) of Estonia

Exchange of views

11:00 – 11:20 Break

11:20 – 12:10 Developing good administrative behaviour in the reform process towards EU integration
Ms Ulrike Lunacek, MEP, Vice-President of the European Parliament in charge of Western Balkans, Rapporteur on Kosovo for the Committee on Foreign Affairs
Mr Olivier Verheecce, Principal Legal Adviser, European Ombudsman’s office

Exchange of views

12:10 – 12:30 Conclusions and recommendations

12:30 – 14:00 Lunch hosted by Ms Ulrike Lunacek, MEP, Vice-President of the European Parliament on behalf of Mr Martin Schulz, MEP, President of the European Parliament
Presidential dining room, Paul-Henri Spaak building, 12th floor (On invitation)