

How the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control gathered and assessed information during the COVID-19 crisis

Case OI/3/2020/TE - **Opened on** 24/07/2020 - **Decision on** 05/02/2021 - **Institution concerned** European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (No maladministration found)

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In the context of wider strategic work on the response of the EU administration during the COVID-19 crisis, the Ombudsman has also been examining the work of the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC). This included a particular focus on how the ECDC has been gathering and assessing the data that underpins its work. The Ombudsman's inquiry highlighted shortcomings in how the data is communicated to and gathered by the ECDC, both in terms of timing and completeness, and how the ECDC presents this information. With a view to promoting greater transparency, to better facilitate scrutiny of the data and assessments compiled by the ECDC, the Ombudsman made a series of suggestions. In particular, these suggestions seek to improve the transparency of the data gathered by the ECDC (including its completeness) and the assessments and guidelines issued by the ECDC. The Ombudsman also made suggestions about how the ECDC communicates this information to the public. In response, the ECDC committed to implement the Ombudsman's suggestions, which the Ombudsman welcomed.