



Jacob Söderman

Curriculum vitae

Born on 19th March 1938 in Helsinki Married, three children **STUDIES** Master of Laws (University of Helsinki) 1962 Court Training 1965 Licenciate of Laws (University of Helsinki) 1967 **EMPLOYMENT** Senior Lecturer in Social Law at the Swedish Institute of Social Work and Local Administration 1966-67 Director, Association of Swedish Speaking Municipalities in Finland 1967-71 Head of Labour Safety Department, Ministry for Social Affairs and Health 1971-82 Governor of the Province of Uusimaa (1.2 million inhabitants) 1982-89 Parliamentary Ombudsman of Finland 1989-95 European Ombudsman 1995-2003 **POSITIONS OF TRUST** Minister of Justice 1971 Finnish Representative in the Governing Body of the ILO 1972-75 Member of Parliament 1972-82 Member of the Constitutional Committee, Member of the Foreign Affairs Committee Chairman of three Government Commissions on the Working Environment 1971-74 Minister of Social Affairs and Health also responsible for Nordic Cooperation 1982 Chairman of the International Chile Commission (Meetings in Helsinki, Stockholm, Copenhagen, Luxembourg, Mexico, Algiers, Athens, Rome and Bologna) 1974-1988 Chairman of Parliamentary Committee on Police affairs 1984-86 Member of the Board of Directors of the International Ombudsman Institute 1991-92 **HONOURS** White Rose Decoration of Finland 1988 Grand Cross of Bernardo O'Higgins Decoration conferred by Chile 1993 Grand Cross of the Lions Decoration of Finland 1995 European Information Association Award for Achievement in European Information 1996 Honorary Degree, Åbo Academy, University of Turku, Finland 1998 Honorary Doctorate in Law, University of Lapland 1999 Special Award for the European Ombudsman's Contribution to Dissemination of Information by



the Ministry of Education of Finland 2000 Alexis de Tocqueville Prize, European Institute of Public Administration (EIPA) 2001 Knight of the national order of the Legion of Honour of the French Republic 2002 J.V. Snellman Prize, Finnish Periodicals Association 2002

INTERNATIONAL PAPERS 1. **Council of Europe** , Steering Committee for Human Rights Helsinki, 7.6.1990 Presentation of the Ombudsman's Office 2. **The first San Juan Ombudsmanship Congress** San Juan, Puerto Rico 8-10.9.1991 "The Ombudsman and the judicial system" 3. **Conference of the Society of Basque Studies** Bilbao, 11.7.1991 "The Parliamentary Ombudsman: Roots and Future Prospects" 4. **International Workshop of National Institutions for the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights** Paris, 7-9.10.1991 "The Parliamentary Ombudsman and Human Rights in Finland" 5. **Second National Symposium (Capítulo Chileno del Pueblo)** Santiago, Chile 14-15.11.1991 "The Ombudsman in Transition: The European Experience" 6. **III International Colloquium of the Latin American Ombudsman Institute** Buenos Aires, Argentina, 19-21.11.1991 "The Ombudsman in transition" 7. **Symposium on the occasion of the 10th anniversary of the National Ombudsman in the Netherlands** The Hague, 29.1.1992 "The Ombudsman and the Judiciary" 8. **Conference of the Ombudsmen and other similar Institutions in defence of Human Rights in the CSCE Countries** Madrid, 29.5.1992 "The non-judicial mechanism for the protection of the fundamental rights of persons in the sphere of the CSCE countries" 9. **Article for "La Revue française de l'Administration Publique"** 24.11.1992 "The tasks of the Finnish Ombudsman" 10. **Human Rights at the Dawn of the 21st Century** Strasbourg, 28-20.1.1993 "Implementation of Human Rights, including the prevention of Human Rights violations" 11. **International Meeting on the Judicial Ombudsman** Mexico City, 23-25.6.1993 "The Ombudsman and the Judiciary" 12. **4th Round Table with European Ombudsmen** Lisbon, 16-18.6.1994 "Cooperation between the Ombudsman and the Council of Europe" 13. **Seminar in Managua** Managua - Nicaragua, 7-8.7.1994 Closing speech 14. **Commemoration of the tenth anniversary of the Catalan "Sindic de Greuges"** Barcelona, 21.11.1994 "The role of the Ombudsman in a changing social environment" 15. **The Ombudsman and Indigenous Populations** Antigua - Guatemala, 12.1.1995 Opening speech 16. **International Ombudsman Convention** San Salvador - El Salvador, 16-18.1.1995 "The task of the Ombudsman in a changing world" 17. **IV International Colloquium of the Latin American Ombudsman Institute** Maracaibo - Venezuela, 31.5.-21.6.1995 "Combating corruption" 18. **First Congress of the "Iberoamerican Federation of the People, Attorneys, Commissioners and Chairmen of the Public Rights Commissions"** Queretar - Mexico, 15-19.5.1996 "El origen de la Unión Europea y algunos datos fundamentales sobre ella" 19. **Second Congress of the "Iberoamerican Federation of the People, Attorneys, Commissioners and Chairmen of the Public Rights Commissions"** Toledo, Spain 14-16.04.1997 "Derechos Ciudadanos y Procesos de Integración Económica : Reflexiones Críticas desde la Perspectiva de la Unión Europea" 20. **Conference on "Transparency in the EU Administration" organised by Lex Mundi** Oslo, Norway 30.05-01.06.1997 "Transparency and Public Access to Documents in the EU" 21. **Seminar on "Transparency and Openness" organised by the European Institute of Public Administration** Maastricht, Netherlands 18-19.09.1997 "The role and impact of the European Ombudsman in access to documentation and the transparency of decision-making" 22. **25th Anniversary of the Médiateur de la République** Université de la Sorbonne, Paris 05.02.1998 "La Médiation : Quel avenir ?"