

European Ombudsman completes accession tour with visit to Poland

Press release no. 14/2004 - 28/04/2004

The European Ombudsman, **Professor P. Nikiforos Diamandouros**, will visit Poland from 28 April to 2 May on the final leg of his tour of the accession countries. During his visit, the Ombudsman will meet with the President of Poland, Mr Aleksander Kwasniewski, the Commissioner for Civil Rights Protection, Professor Andrzej Zoll, the Speaker of the Senate, Professor Longin Pastusiak, the President of the Constitutional Tribunal, Professor Marek Safjan and the President of the Administrative Court, Professor Roman Hauser. Professor Diamandouros will give a lecture on *"Rule of law, democracy and the ombudsman institution - a European perspective"* at the Law Department of the Jagiellonian University, Krakow and will address the Natolin European Forum on the topic *"Citizens' rights, means of redress and the European Ombudsman"*.

Commenting on the upcoming visit, the Ombudsman said: "During my visit to Warsaw in May 2003, I announced that I would visit all ten accession countries before the date of enlargement, in order to raise awareness of the rights linked to European citizenship, including the right to complain to the European Ombudsman. I am delighted to be back in Poland on the final leg of my accession tour and to be with my national counterpart, Professor Andrzej Zoll, as the long-awaited EU enlargement finally becomes a reality".

Programme

The European Ombudsman will arrive in Krakow on the evening of Wednesday 28 April. The following day, he will meet with Professor Jacek Majchrowski, Mayor of the City of Krakow and then with Professor Maria Nowakowska, Vice-Rector of the Jagiellonian University for Research and International Relations, before giving his lecture at the University. During the afternoon, the European Ombudsman will visit Auschwitz-Birkenau.

On Friday 30 April, the European Ombudsman will meet in Warsaw with the Head of the European Commission Delegation to Poland, Mr Bruno Dethomas, and with the Head of the European Parliament Information Office, Mr Toon Streppel. He will then continue to the Office of the Commissioner for Civil Rights Protection, Professor Andrzej Zoll, for a meeting with the Commissioner. Following a press conference at the Commissioner's Office, the European Ombudsman will meet with representatives of non-governmental organisations. During the afternoon, he will meet with the President of the Constitutional Tribunal, Professor Marek Safjan, the Speaker of the Senate of Poland, Professor Longin Pastusiak, and the President of the Administrative Court, Professor Roman Hauser. He will then continue to the Natolin



European Forum to give his lecture.

The European Ombudsman will complete his formal visit on Saturday 1 May, by meeting with the President of the Republic of Poland, Mr Aleksander Kwasniewski.

Background

The European Ombudsman has been undertaking an information tour of the ten accession countries in order to inform citizens of their rights. Poland is the final country on the Ombudsman's tour.

For further information, please call Ben Hagard, Communications Officer, tel. +33 6 14 56 04 46.