

## European Ombudsman continues accession tour with visit to Latvia

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The European Ombudsman, **P. Nikiforos Diamandouros**, will visit Latvia on 15 and 16 April on the latest leg of his tour of the accession countries. During his visit, the Ombudsman will meet with the Director of the National Human Rights Office, Mr Olafs Bruvers, the Minister for Foreign Affairs, Mr Rihards Pīks and the Minister for Special Assignments for Society Integration Affairs, Mr Nils Muižnieks. Mr Diamandouros will also address students at Riga Graduate School of Law on the topic *"Citizens' rights, means of redress and the European Ombudsman"*.

Commenting on the upcoming visit, the Ombudsman said: "With only two weeks to go before enlargement, I am delighted to have the opportunity to meet with my Latvian counterpart and with Latvian citizens to raise awareness of the rights linked to European citizenship, including the right to complain to the European Ombudsman".

### Programme

On Thursday 15 April, the European Ombudsman will meet with the Head of the European Commission Delegation to Latvia, Mr Andrew Rasbash, and then with the Minister for Special Assignments for Society Integration Affairs, Mr Nils Muižnieks. He will hold discussions with Ms Ina Druviete, President of the Human Rights and Public Affairs Committee of the Parliament and with other Members of the Committee. During the afternoon, the Ombudsman will meet with the Minister for Foreign Affairs, Mr Rihards Pīks, before continuing to the Riga Graduate School of Law to give his lecture.

On Friday 16 April, the Ombudsman will meet with his Latvian counterpart, Mr Olafs Bruvers, Director of the National Human Rights Office. He will then have a meeting with Mr Aivars Endzins, President of the Constitutional Court of Latvia. The official visit will end with a press conference organised by the National Human Rights Office.

### Background

The European Ombudsman is currently undertaking an information tour of the ten accession countries in order to inform citizens of their rights. Latvia is the eighth country on the Ombudsman's tour, with trips planned to Lithuania and Poland before 1 May.

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