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European Ombudsman
Mr P. Nikiforos Diamandouros
1 avenue du Président Robert Schuman
CS30403
F-67001 Strasbourg Cedex

Subject: Public consultation on a draft statement of public service principles

Dear Mr Diamandouros,

Thank you again for submitting the draft statement of public service principles to the EU Agencies for comments.

In my function as Chairperson of the Network, I have forwarded the document with information on the public consultation to all EU Agencies.

The feedback received was overall positive and you have probably received individual input directly in reply to the public call. Agencies indeed agree that it is important to determine the common principles related to all public servants in the EU which should reflect the values of modern public administration, such as transparency, impartiality, accountability and efficiency.

Comments received on the draft text called for a even stronger emphasis of certain elements, for example in relation to "Integrity" where it was proposed to reformulate the first paragraph along the following lines "...conduct themselves at all times according to the highest standards of probity, impartiality etc." Equally, it was suggested to stipulate that "civil servants should avoid conflict of interests" not only "take steps to avoid" these. Regarding the heading "Objectivity" it was proposed to make reference also to the principles of impartiality and non-discrimination. Finally, it could be considered to add the aspect of diversity to the heading "Respect for others" given that this concept is also determined by cultural aspects.

I hope you will find this feedback useful and wish you all success with your important initiative. On behalf of the EU Agencies Network and personally, I am also much looking forward to welcoming you on 1 June to the next plenary meeting of the Network.

Yours sincerely,



Christ Danicet
Chairperson of the EU Agencies Network

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