

From: Vaughan Birbeck [REDACTED]
Sent: 09 June 2011 14:36
To: Euro-Ombudsman
Subject: [EOWEB] Statement of public principles for EU civil servants

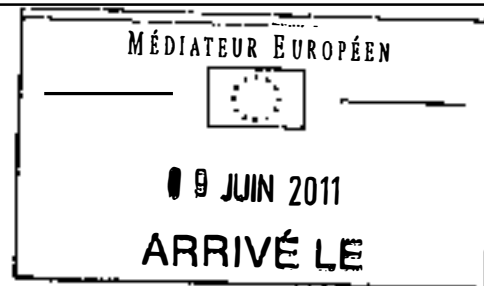
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Vos informations

Partie 1 - Information sur l'expéditeur

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Part 2 - Data

Subject Statement of public principles for EU civil servants

I have just read the draft statement and I am dismayed at its lack of focus and the assumptions it appears to make about EU civil servants.

To say civil servants should be conscious that institutions exist to serve the Union and its citizens is such a statement of the obvious as to be meaningless.

To say civil servants should not seek to "maximise their benefits" when claiming expenses appears to make an assumption of dishonesty on the part of all civil servants, or to imply that civil servants should not be too pressing when asking for reimbursement of expenses incurred when on EU business.

Content To say civil servants should be "polite, helpful, and co-operative" implies they are currently rude and obstructive. Is there a situation existing which needs to be corrected by the imposition of this 'principle'?

To say civil servants should "welcome public scrutiny" is to ignore the fact that they are employed to execute the decisions of policy makers. It is for policy makers to explain their decisions and activities in the light of their impact on EU citizens.

In my experience people who enter public service do so from the highest motives: to serve society and to improve the lives of their fellow citizens, not to enrich themselves and exploit others.

This 'draft statement' is simply a cosmetic exercise. The 'principles' are meaningless generalities which serve neither the EU civil service, which already works to a high code of conduct, nor citizens, who have no greater means of redress than before.