



Red Europea de Defensores del Pueblo
Europäisches Verbindungsnetz der Bürgerbeauftragten
European Network of Ombudsmen
Réseau européen des Médiateurs
Rete europea dei difensori civici

Agenda

25 years of the European Ombudsman

Digital conference on the future of the European Ombudsman and cooperation in the European Network of Ombudsmen

26 October 2020

The future of the European Ombudsman

(Webstreamed, open to the public)

10.00 - 11.30

Marking the first 25 years of the European Ombudsman, this session will look to the future of an increasingly effective and influential office. The Ombudsman's strategy 'Towards 2024' will inform the discussion. Participants will also explore an ambitious future for an office charged with oversight of an ambitious administration. How can the office best be equipped to monitor that administration as it deals with the major challenges of this time and beyond? What are the issues that will need ombudsman oversight in future?

The keynote speech will be given by **Maroš Šef ovi** , European Commission Vice-President in charge of interinstitutional Relations and Foresight.

Emily O'Reilly, European Ombudsman

Dolors Montserrat, Chair of the Petitions Committee, European Parliament

Peter Tyndall, President, International Ombudsman Institute (IOI)

Michiel van Hulst, Director, Transparency International EU

Alberto Alemanno, Professor of Law and Public Policy, HEC Paris

Moderator: **Shada Islam**, Director, New Horizons Project



European Network of Ombudsmen Annual Conference

(ENO members only)

Coinciding with the conference marking the 25th anniversary of the European Ombudsman, the European Network of Ombudsmen (ENO) will meet for its annual conference.

Emily O'Reilly and her counterparts from the almost 100 member offices of the ENO will discuss both the ongoing implications of the COVID-19 crisis and future work in the network.

The keynote address will be given by **Nicolas Schmit**, European Commissioner for Jobs and Social Rights, and will focus on the social implications of the COVID-19 crisis.

There will then be a 'virtual roundtable discussion' on the crisis, addressing the priority issues that have been identified by members of the network in a survey conducted in the month before the conference.

This same survey will then form the basis of discussions on a further session on the ENO, both its working methods and topics for possible parallel inquiries.

The impact of COVID-19 on members of the European Network of Ombudsmen

14.00 - 14.30

Nicolas Schmit, European Commissioner for Jobs and Social Rights (keynote speech)

This session will examine how the EU is dealing with the impact of COVID-19, particularly with regard to social welfare systems and employment. Responses to the survey of network members emphasized the importance of a coherent European strategy to combat the effects of the pandemic.

Q&A

14.30 - 15.30

Virtual roundtable discussion – Ombudsmen will discuss the implications of COVID-19. Issues mentioned by the network include the effects of the pandemic on vulnerable populations and how ombudsman institutions have adapted their role/work during the COVID-19 crisis. Ombudsmen will be able to share information on the proposals they have made to governments concerning social security, welfare and health. The session will also discuss potential parallel inquiries related to COVID-19.



Moderator: **Shada Islam**, Director, New Horizons Project

15.30 - 16.00

Break

Future parallel inquiries and ENO cooperation

16.00 - 17.00

Virtual roundtable discussion on further parallel inquiries topics (e-government) and how to strengthen ENO cooperation.

The survey showed that many respondents were in favour of conducting a parallel inquiry related to e-government and what it means for public administrations.

Survey responses also indicated unanimous support for more targeted workshops throughout the year on thematic areas, attended by experts from ENO member offices.

The European Ombudsman's Office will present a short overview of the results of the survey ahead of the discussion.

Moderator: **Shada Islam**, Director, New Horizons Project