

**Answer***(21 February 1975)*

1. This is not matter for the Community but rather for the Italian Government and the governments of the individual countries concerned.

2 and 3. The legislation referred to by the Honourable Member has no impact on Community legislation (viz. Regulations (EEC) No 1408/71 <sup>(1)</sup> and (EEC) No 574/72 <sup>(2)</sup> on the application of social security schemes to employed persons and their families moving within the Community) which remains fully applicable.

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<sup>(1)</sup> OJ No L 149, 5. 7. 1971, p. 2.

<sup>(2)</sup> OJ No L 74, 27. 3. 1972, p. 1.

**WRITTEN QUESTION No 663/74****by Lord O'Hagan****to the Commission of the European Communities***(20 January 1975)*

*Subject:* Community Ombudsman

Several Member States have provided their citizens with a means of redress against official maladministration by setting up a special office to receive and investigate citizens' complaints.

In the United Kingdom the civil servant in charge of such investigations is called the Parliamentary Commissioner for Administration, and his duties are, to some extent, modelled on the Danish Ombudsman.

In view of the need to bridge the gap between the citizens of the Member States and the structure of the EEC, will the Commission now consider making proposals to set up a Community Ombudsman?

**Answer***(24 February 1975)*

As the Commission informed the Honourable Member in its answer to his Written Question No 562/74 <sup>(1)</sup>, Community citizens may lodge complaints about Community activities with the Commission itself, or route them through one of the Community's Information Offices or a Member of the European Parliament.

Since this bridges the gap referred to by the Honourable Member, the Commission feels that there is no need to appoint a Community Ombudsman.

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<sup>(1)</sup> OJ No C 55, 7. 3. 1975, p. 13.