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European Ombudsman, P. Nikiforos Diamandouros, announces his retirement

14 March 2013

The European Ombudsman investigates complaints about maladministration in the EU institutions and bodies. Any EU citizen, resident, or an enterprise or association in a Member State, can lodge a complaint with the Ombudsman. The Ombudsman offers a fast, flexible and free means of solving problems with the EU administration.

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The European Ombudsman, P. Nikiforos Diamandouros, has informed the President of the European Parliament, Martin Schulz, of his intention to retire on 1 October 2013.

In a letter to Mr Schulz, dated 13 March, Mr Diamandouros explained that by the end of March 2013 he will have completed ten years in office as European Ombudsman. He stated that “the time has come for me to look beyond my public life at the European Union level, and to seek to resume my erstwhile role as a scholar and student of, rather than as an actor in, public life, and as an active private citizen.”

Mr Diamandouros thanked Mr Schulz as well as his predecessors for the trust, confidence, and broad support that the European Parliament and, particularly, its Committee on Petitions, have granted him in his role as guardian of good administration, and in his efforts to promote accountability, transparency, and a culture of service in the EU administration. He invited the President to launch the procedure for the election, by the Members of the European Parliament, of a new European Ombudsman.

Mr Diamandouros was born on 25 June 1942 in Athens, Greece. After a long career as a professor of political science in the United States and Greece, he became the first National Ombudsman of Greece in 1998. In January 2003, the European Parliament elected him to the post of European Ombudsman. Parliament renewed his mandate in 2005 and 2010.

The Ombudsman's letter to President Schulz is available at:

<http://www.ombudsman.europa.eu/en/resources/otherdocument.faces/en/49549/html.bookmark>