



P. Nikiforos Diamandouros
European Ombudsman

Mr José Manuel Barroso
President
European Commission
1049 Brussels
BELGIQUE

Strasbourg, **12 -03- 2012**

Own-initiative inquiry OI/2/2012/VL

Dear Mr President,

The Commission's Communication on relations with the complainant in respect of infringements of Community law (the 'Communication')¹, which was adopted and published in 2002, has proven to be a very valuable means of informing EU citizens of their rights as regards the submission of a complaint to the European Commission alleging the infringement of EU law by a Member State.

I strongly believe that if EU citizens are to reap the benefits of their EU citizenship fully, they need to be informed of their rights and how to assert them. However, as of late, it has come to my attention that the above-mentioned Communication is not available in the official languages of the Member States which acceded to the EU in 2004 and 2007. Nor does it appear to be available in Irish. It would seem obvious that this state of affairs means that citizens of the Member States concerned are not as well informed about their rights concerning infringement complaints as they ought to be.

I have therefore decided to open an own- initiative inquiry into this matter.

I would very much appreciate it if the Commission could explain (i) why the Communication on relations with the complainant in respect of infringements of Community law that it adopted and published in 2002 has not been made available in all EU languages and (ii) when the missing language versions will be made available.

I am aware that the Communication needs revision, an issue which is the subject of my on-going inquiry OI/2/2011/OV. However, in the absence of a concrete date for the adoption and publication of a revised text, I consider that it would not be in the interest of the affected EU citizens further to delay providing them with a translation of the existing Communication into their

¹ Commission communication to the European Parliament and the European Ombudsman on relations with the complainant in respect of infringements of Community law, OJ 2002 C 244, p. 5.



respective languages. It appears useful to note that the text of the Communication that was published in the Official Journal in 2002 covered a mere four pages.

I would very much appreciate if the Commission could send its opinion by 31 May 2012 at the latest.

Yours sincerely,

P. Nikiforos Diamandouros