Three candidates will compete for the post of European Ombudsman

The Petitions committee declared admissible three of the six applications received for the post of European Ombudsman, in an extraordinary meeting held on Monday, 19 October, in Strasbourg. The candidates running for this position are Nikiforos Diamandouros (Greek), Vittorio Bottoli (Italian) and Pierre-Yves Monette (Belgian). All of them will outline their priorities in a hearing in the Petitions committee on 30 November.

The other three applicants did not fulfil the conditions required by the Regulations on the Ombudsman and, thus, their candidacies have been declared inadmissible.

The Petitions committee is responsible for the reception of candidacies and the organisation of hearings with aspirants to this position.

The European Ombudsman investigates complaints about maladministration in the institutions and bodies of the European Union. Every year, he submits a report to Parliament on the outcome of his enquiries, which is analysed by the Petitions committee.

Background

The Ombudsman is elected by the European Parliament at the start of each parliamentary term. The current European Ombudsman, Nikiforos Diamandouros, was elected in January 2003 for the remainder 1999-2004 legislative period, following the retirement of the Union’s first Ombudsman, Jacob Söderman. The European Parliament will elect the new Ombudsman by secret ballot in January 2010.

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