

European Ombudsman and the European 'demos'?

Constitutional Affairs Committee,
European Parliament

March 20th 2017



European Ombudsman

Ms. Emily O'Reilly

- Former Ombudsman & Information Commissioner (IE)
- Elected in 2013 by EP
- Independent
- Office created in Maastricht Treaty (1992)



European Ombudsman

EU citizenship - Article 20 TFEU

1. Citizenship of the Union is hereby established...
2. Citizens of the Union shall enjoy the following **rights**...:
 - (a) the **right to move**...;
 - (b) the **right to vote**...;
 - (c) the **right to enjoy protection of the diplomatic and consular authorities**...;
 - (d) the **right to petition** the European Parliament, to **apply to the European Ombudsman**....



European Ombudsman

Our Mission

*“...to serve democracy by **working with** the institutions of the EU to create a more effective, accountable, transparent and ethical administration.”*



European Ombudsman



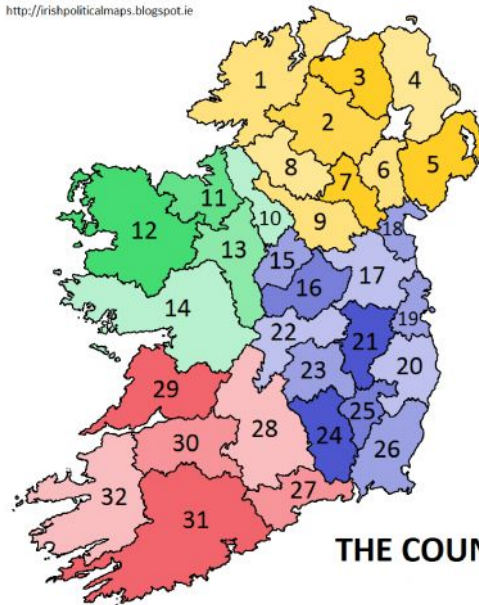
**~2000 complaints a year from citizens,
MEPs, companies, civil society,
academics...**



European Ombudsman

Can we create a 'demos'?

<http://irishpoliticalmaps.blogspot.ie>



ULSTER

- 1 Donegal
- 2 Tyrone
- 3 Derry/Londonderry
- 4 Antrim
- 5 Down
- 6 Armagh
- 7 Monaghan
- 8 Fermanagh
- 9 Cavan

CONNACHT

- 10 Leitrim
- 11 Sligo
- 12 Mayo
- 13 Roscommon
- 14 Galway

LEINSTER

- 15 Longford
- 16 Westmeath
- 17 Meath
- 18 Louth
- 19 Dublin
- 20 Wicklow
- 21 Kildare
- 22 Offaly
- 23 Laois
- 24 Kilkenny
- 25 Carlow
- 26 Wexford

MUNSTER

- 27 Waterford
- 28 Tipperary
- 29 Clare
- 30 Limerick
- 31 Cork
- 32 Kerry

THE COUNTIES OF IRELAND



European Ombudsman

European 'demos'?



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LE GOLF NATIONAL
FRANCE 2018



European Ombudsman

European 'demos'?



European Ombudsman

How to develop a European ‘demos’?



European Elections 2019?



European Ombudsman

How to develop a European ‘demos’?



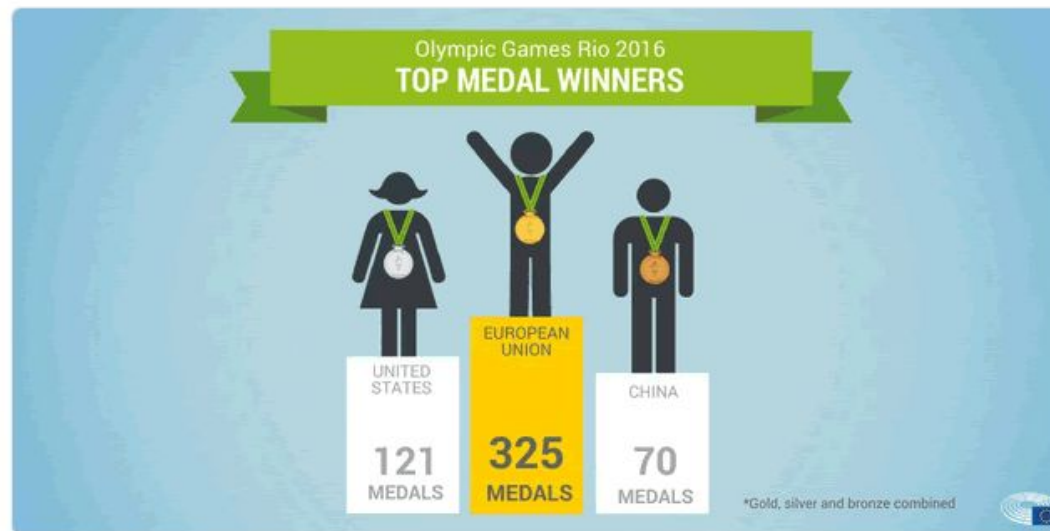
European Ombudsman

How to develop a European 'demos'?



European Parliament @Europarl_EN · 5h

Huge congratulations to all the European winners and participants at #Rio2016 🌄, you did brilliantly! 🏅



← ↺ 324 ❤️ 293 ⋮



European Ombudsman

How to develop a European 'demos'?

- Focus on **freedom of movement** but only 3% of citizens live in another MS!
- Charter of Fundamental Rights as focus of Europeans' rights?
- Would the MS agree?!



How to develop a European ‘demos’?

- Ombudsman’s work under Charter...
 - Right to good administration (Art 41)
 - Right to access documents (Art 42)
 - Right to complain (Art 43)
- 250 Ombudsman inquiries/year:
 - EU legislative transparency
 - Lobbying ethics/transparency
 - Regulation 1049/2001
 - Infringement complaints
 - Contract/tender problems etc...



Thank you!

@EUOmbudsman

@aidanosullivan



European Ombudsman