

RESOLUTION

on the institutional status of the municipal and regional Ombudspersons

The undersigning Municipal and Regional Ombudspersons assembled in Athens on 29 January 2013,

taking into account

- the Recommendation (85) 13 of the Committee of the Ministers of Council of Europe to the member states on the Ombudsman institution, calling the member states to consider the possibility of appointing an Ombudsman at local and regional level,
- the Recommendation 61 (1999) of the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of Europe on the role of local and regional mediators/ombudsmen in defending the citizens rights, calling the member states to take measures for the establishment of the ombudman institution at local and regional level and raising awareness of the public on the nature of the institution and the services it offers,
- the Resolution 80 (1999) of the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of Europe on the role of local and regional mediators/ombudsmen in defending the citizens rights, calling the local and regional authorities that already have an ombudsman to set up a network of local and regional ombudspersons with the aim of exchanging experience, co-operation and harmonisation in the field of complaints handling,
- the Recommendation 1615 (2003) of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe on the institution of Ombudsman, calling the member states to introduce the institution at regional and local level with a title similar to “local/regional Ombudsman”
- our Resolution of 18.12.2012 on the establishment of a Network of Municipal and Regional Ombudspersons

declare that

1. The establishment and functioning of the Municipal and Regional Ombudspersons was the response of the Greek legislator to a series of recommendations of Council of Europe institutions and therefore consists an integral part of the European *aquis* for the citizens rights.
2. A substantial response to the abovementioned recommendations requires the strengthening of the role and competences of the Municipal and Regional Ombudspersons, by amending the legal framework and adding to articles 77 and 179 of Law Nr.3852/2010 provisions that:
 - i. safeguard the institutional status of the Ombudspersons as independent municipal and regional authorities,
 - ii. wide their mediatory competences with full powers of control and
 - iii. ensure the administrative and financial independence of the Ombudspersons' Office according to the Principles governing the insitution of mediator at local and regional Level, attached to the Resolution 80 (1999).
3. The establishment of the Local and Regional Ombudsnetwork echoes the Resolution 80 (1999) and therefore any planning, designing, legislative or regulatory proposal or recommendation on the institution of the municipal and regional Ombudsman requires prior

consultation with the Ombudsnetwork.

Athens, 29 January 2013

The Municipal Ombudspersons

(signatures)

The Regional Ombudspersons

(signatures)