



Rafael Ribó
Catalan ombudsman 2004-2022

Executive summary of his
term of office

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Competences and calendar

2004	Beginning of Rafael Ribó's first term
2009	Act on the Síndic de Greuges de Catalunya, which grants the Catalan Ombudsman the competence of the Catalan Mechanism for the Prevention of Torture
2010	Beginning of Rafael Ribó's second term as Catalan ombudsman
2010	Law 14/2010, of 27 May, on the rights and opportunities for children and adolescents, which grants the Catalan Ombudsman new powers in matters of children and adolescents
2010	Ruling of the Constitutional Court 31/2010
2014	Law 11/2014, of 10 October, for guaranteeing the rights of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex people and eradicating homophobia, biphobia and transphobia, which grants the Catalan Ombudsman new competencies in LGTBI rights issues
2014	Law 19/2014, of 29 December, on transparency, access to public information and good governance, which grants the Catalan Ombudsman new competencies in transparency matters
2015	Ruling of the Constitutional Court 46/2015
2015	Act 17/2015, of 21 July, on effective equality of women and men, which grants the Catalan Ombudsman new powers in equality matters
2017	The Structure of Human Rights of Catalonia
2019	Plan of Actions for Human Rights of Catalonia (2020-2023)
2021	Social Emergency Board

The term in figures



Complaints

Inquiries

Ex-officio
actions

Total

Total

144.736

223.020

3.195

370.951



People served



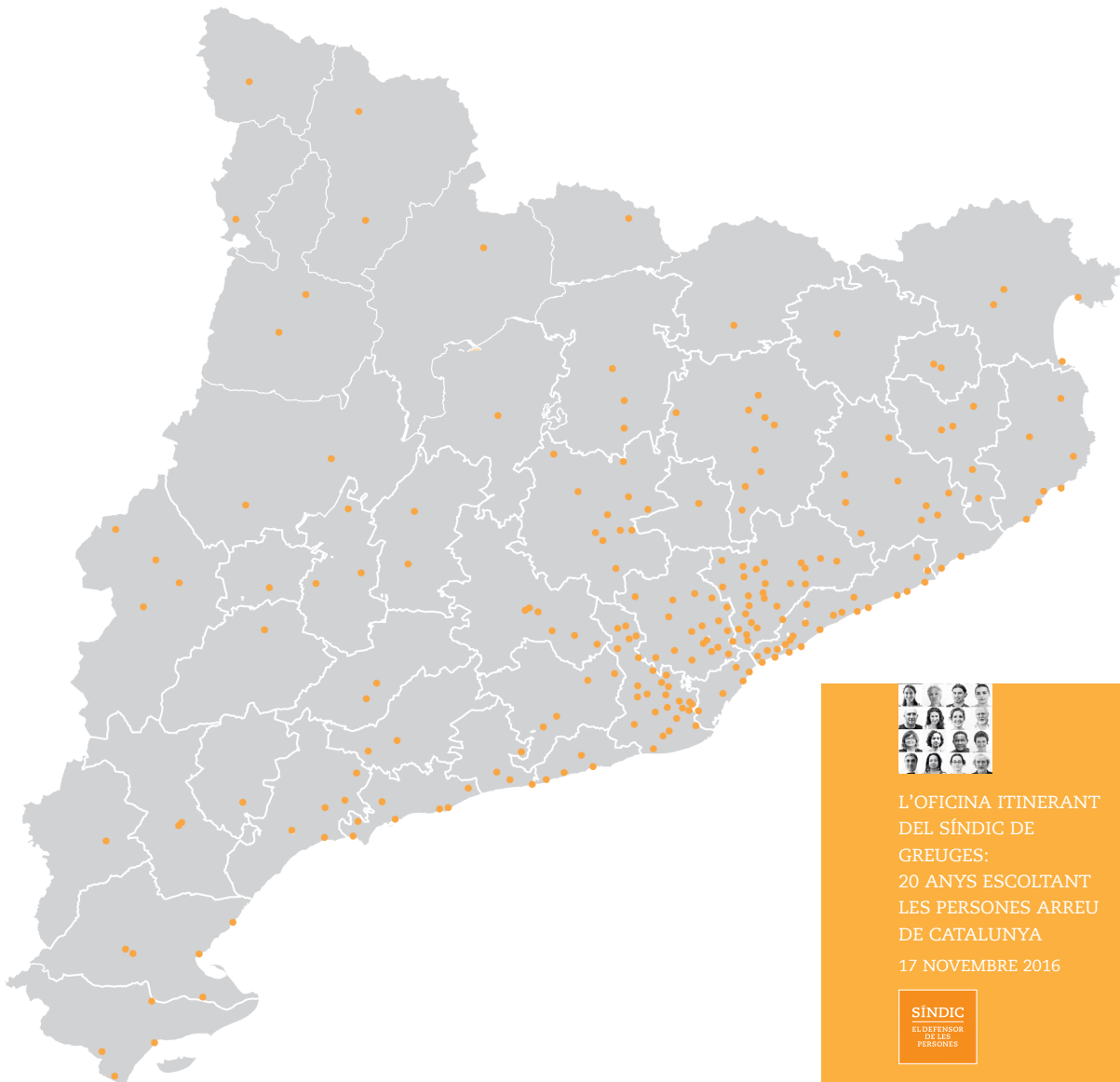
Valuation of the Catalan
Ombudsman's service
(average)

Total

617.603

6,79

Visits of the travelling office: 1.206



L'OFICINA ITINERANT
DEL SÍNDIC DE
GREUGES:
20 ANYS ESCOLTANT
LES PERSONES ARREU
DE CATALUNYA
17 NOVEMBRE 2016

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Reports (annual and monographic) and relations with the Catalan Parliament

Reports	Annual	Extraordinary	Total
	42	66	108
Appearances	Plenary session	Catalan Ombudsman's Commission	Other comissions
	20	112	21



Education

July 2020	Report on the estimated cost of a place in school in Catalonia
March 2019	Pact against school segregation in Catalonia
November 2016	School segregation in Catalonia (II): school conditions
July 2016	School segregation in Catalonia (I): management of the student admissions process
May 2008	School segregation in Catalonia



Childhood

October 2020	Report on prevention and redress of child sexual abuse by representatives of the Catholic Church
November 2019	The right to child and youth mental health: guarantees in the access and care in residential centres
March 2017	Alternative report on the 5th and 6th application report on the Convention on the Rights of the child in Spain (2010-2016)
October 2016	Report on child sexual abuse in Catalonia
Agosto 2013	Report on child malnutrition in Catalonia
Junio 2009	The protection of children in high social risk in Catalonia



Language

March 2022	Report on children's and adolescents' language rights and practices
September 2014	Report on linguistic rights in Catalonia



Social services

December 2005

The homeless phenomenon in Catalonia

Resolution 386/VII of the Parliament of Catalonia on the consideration of the report of the Síndic de Greuges *The homeless phenomenon in Catalonia*



Transparency

March 2012

The right of access to public information



Housing

Novembre 2015

Protecting people affected by the mortgage benchmark index

September 2015

Report on access to social housing



Consumption

November 2019

Shortcomings in nuclear emergency

March 2018

Castor Project: basis for an audit

February 2016

Irregular street commerce

December 2014

Report on the right to basic utilities (electricity, water and gas)

November 2014

Report on the Castor Project

October 2013

Report on energy poverty in Catalonia

June 2006

Broadband internet access: a right which must be made available to all



Environment

June 2018

Conflicts regarding the environmental and urban planning management in Catalonia

December 2016

Report on the contamination caused by slurry in Catalonia



Citizen security and justice

November 2019

Shortcomings in nuclear emergency

May 2019

The Fire Brigade of the Catalan Government and the Emergency System of Catalonia

November 2017

Prevention of radicalisation and terrorism in Catalonia

March 2016

Stun guns as police equipment in Catalonia: elements for discussion



Rights and freedoms

April 2022

Follow-up to Resolution 2381(2021) of 21 June 2021 of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe

September 2021

The granting of a partial pardon to the persons sentenced by Ruling 459/2019 of the Supreme Court

November 2020

Effects on rights of the criminal enforcement of Supreme Court Ruling 459/2019

January 2020

Supreme Court Ruling 459/2019 and its repercussions on the exercise of the fundamental rights

May 2018

The violation of fundamental rights and freedoms arising from the criminal justice reaction following October 1, and application of article 155 of the Spanish Constitution

November 2017

Summary report of actions taken by the Catalan Ombudsman regarding the day of October 1, 2017

April 2017

Human rights regression: elected officials' freedom of expression and the separation of powers in the Kingdom of Spain



COVID-19

November 2020

Ensuring the right to vote in the February 2021 Parliamentary elections in the context of the current pandemic

June 2020

Health and Rights in the COVID-19 crisis

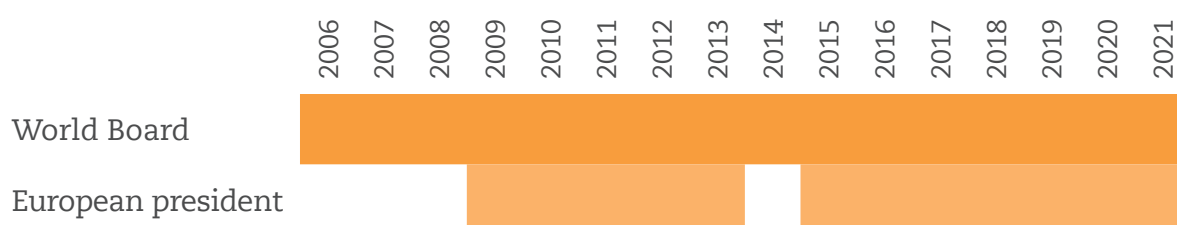
Conferences and seminars

2006	Seminar on the anniversary of the Act on the Síndic de Greuges
2007	Coordination seminar for regional ombudsmen and the Spanish Ombudsman
2007	ENOC Annual Meeting
2010	IOI European Conference
2013	ENOC Seminar
2014	Constitution of the IALC
2016	International Seminar on Human Rights Challenges I
2017	International Seminar on Human Rights Challenges II
2020	International Seminar on Artificial Intelligence and Human Rights
2022	Conference "The State of Rights"

Special monitoring agreements

- With county councils: 3
- With local councils: 39

International activity



During his mandate, Rafael Ribó has organised and chaired 32 meetings of the IOI European Board, and has followed up all the meetings of the World Board. He chaired and organised the 2010 European Congress, and has inaugurated and participated in all the seminars and workshops organised during his term of office.

■ Threats to ombudsmen - the special case of Poland

The IOI Board agreed to organize a monitoring and analysis mission on the rights situation in Poland in 2016, which concluded with a report on the threats received by the Polish Ombudsman. Led by the European President, Rafael Ribó, the delegation of ombudsmen included the Austrian Ombudsman and Secretary General of the IOI, Gunter Kräuter; Ireland's Ombudsman Peter Tyndall and Estonia's Ombudsman Ülle Madise. During the mission, meetings were held with members of Polish institutions and organisations, such as the presidents of the Constitutional Court, the Supreme Court and the National Council of the Judiciary, members of the Senate, members of the Government (Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Plenipotentiary Ministry for Civil Society), as well as with NGOs and the two Polish ombudsmen: the State Ombudsman and the Ombudsman for Children's Rights.

■ Venice Principles

The **Venice Principles** are the result of extensive consultations with the main international bodies of reference in the defence of rights. On behalf of the International Ombudsman Institute, as European President, the Catalan Ombudsman led the consultation of all the ombudsmen in Europe on the approved document, and also took part in the debates and work prior to its approval. The Venice Commission of the Council of Europe drew up the Venice Principles with the aim of making them an international benchmark regarding the guidelines that states have to follow in order to protect ombudsman institutions. In recent years, some of these institutions have seen their independence and even their very existence threatened.

Other international networks



The **European Network of Ombudspersons for Children (ENOC)** is an association of independent children's ombudspersons. It was founded in 1997 and currently 43 institutions from 35 countries are members of ENOC. Its role is to facilitate the promotion and protection of children's rights as set out in the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, to provide support to children's rights organisations, to share information and strategies among its member states and to promote the development of children's ombudsman offices.

The European Network of Young Advisors (**ENYA**) is a participatory project for children and adolescents that is carried out with the support of the European Network of Ombudspersons for Children (ENOC). The purpose of this network is to bring together young people and members of ENOC and to facilitate the transmission of their opinions related to the annual work theme. **In 2018 the Catalan Ombudsman organized the meeting of the Network in Barcelona.**



The main objective of the **Association of Ombudsmen and Mediators of the Francophonie (AOMF)** is to facilitate the development and consolidation of independent mediation institutions in the French-speaking world. The Catalan Ombudsman has been a full member of the Association since 2016.



The **Iberoamerican Federation of Ombudsmen (FIO)** currently brings together more than 100 ombudsmen, prosecutors, providers and presidents of national or state human rights commissions from 22 Iberoamerican countries to provide a forum for cooperation to exchange experiences and to promote, disseminate and strengthen the institution of the ombudsman.



The mission of the **Association of Mediterranean Ombudsmen (AOM)** is the promotion and defence of fundamental rights in the countries of the Mediterranean basin. It allows the experiences and initiatives of the different ombudsman institutions to be homogenized for collective enrichment, and to strengthen the relations between its members and the bonds of cooperation. The Catalan Ombudsman has been an associate member of the AOM since 2016.



The Catalan Ombudsman is a founding member of the **National Energy Ombudsmen Network (NEON)**, and a full member since 2012. The main objective of the Network is the exchange of good energy practices that the ombudsmen have carried out in their respective countries.



The mission of the **International Association of Language Commissioners (IALC)** is to foster and promote linguistic rights, equality and diversity throughout the world, and to support language commissioners in achieving the highest professional standards. The Catalan Ombudsman organized and chaired the Annual Founding Conference (2012) in Barcelona.



The **International Conference on Information Commissioners (ICIC)** is a network that aims to connect information commissioners, ombudsmen and other bodies responsible for overseeing the implementation of access to public information legislation.



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