

Statement in Support of Nomination

Irena Lipowicz

I have been elected as the Polish Ombudsman (Human Rights Defender) in 2010. Since the same year I have been acting as IOI Regional Director for Europe.

In my capacity at the European and World Board levels I tried to encourage an active involvement of former members of the IOI community, who due to their wide experience and expertise as former ombudsman, could help in promoting the standards of rule of law and human rights protection.

Europe's strength lies in our diversity, therefore I have been advocating the exchange of experiences between ombudsman institutions during times of the economic crisis. Growing unemployment and the situation of people living under severe social circumstances are a concern to many ombudsmen from across Europe. Additionally, the privatisation of public services has been and will continue to pose a serious challenge to our daily work. European IOI members can intensify their efforts in answering these challenges.

The promotion of core IOI standards, eg. the independence and impartiality of institutions, should continue to be one of our main targets. Our solidarity with ombudsmen under threat and the support for the creation of new offices are areas, where IOI Europe should remain active.

I have participated in exchanging views with other European human rights institutions, networks and bodies of the European Union and the Council of Europe. I believe that there is a need to further align valuable initiatives led by these actors.

My office has been engaged in the work of the IOI for a few years and is ready to take the responsibility of managing the duties of the Secretariat of the Region. Our effort to maintain a good relationship with the General Secretariat as well as with Mr Peter Tyndall's office could be additional assets.

Serving as Regional President would be an honour.

12 December 2014

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Irena Lipowicz', with a stylized flourish at the end.