

THE EUROPEAN OMBUDSMAN



SECRETARIAT

Peter GØTZSCHE
The Nordic Cochrane Centre
Rigshospitalet, Dept 3343
Blegdamsvej 9
2100 Copenhagen Ø
DANEMARK

Strasbourg, 12/10/2007

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF RECEIPT

Dear Sir/Dear Madam,

Your complaint dated 08/10/2007 was received by the Office of the European Ombudsman on 10/10/2007 and was assigned registration number **2560/2007/BEH**.

It will be dealt with by Mr Bernhard HOFSTÖTTER (Tel. +33 (0)3.88.17.81.05).

The Ombudsman can only make inquiries into complaints that meet the criteria of admissibility set out in the Treaty establishing the European Community and the Statute of the European Ombudsman. Information concerning the admissibility of your complaint will be communicated to you as soon as possible.

Please note that complaints to the European Ombudsman (and any annexed documents) are dealt with publicly, unless the complainant requests confidentiality. Even a confidential complaint, however, must be sent to the Community institution or body concerned, if the Ombudsman begins an inquiry. Further information, including reference to the rules concerning protection of personal data, can be found in the enclosed note.

As set out in Article 2(6) of the Statute of the European Ombudsman, complaints submitted to the Ombudsman shall not affect time limits for appeals in administrative or judicial proceedings.

Sincerely yours,

João SANT'ANNA
Head of the legal department

INFORMATION NOTE

Complaints to the European Ombudsman (and any annexed documents) are normally dealt with publicly.

"Dealing publicly" with a complaint means that any member of the public may have access to the complaint and its annexes. If the Ombudsman opens an inquiry, the opinion of the institution or body concerned on the complaint, any observations on the opinion made by the complainant, as well as other documents mentioned in Article 13 of the Implementing Provisions (available on the Ombudsman's Website) are public documents to which any member of the public may have access on request. The Ombudsman's decisions on complaints are published in his Annual Report and on his Website, with the complainant's name removed.

A complainant has the right to request that his or her complaint be dealt with confidentially. If confidentiality is requested, there is no public access to the complaint or to the other documents mentioned above. However, even a confidential complaint must be sent to the Union institution or body concerned, if the Ombudsman begins an inquiry. The Ombudsman's decisions on confidential complaints are published in his Annual Report and on his Website, after the removal of any information which could lead to the identification of the complainant.

Complaints to the Ombudsman may contain personal data relating to the complainant, or to a third party. The processing of personal data by the European Ombudsman is governed by Regulation (EC) N° 45/2001¹. Unless the complainant requests confidentiality, he or she is understood to consent for the purposes of Article 5 (d) of Regulation (EC) N° 45/2001 to the Ombudsman dealing publicly with any personal data which the complaint may contain.

¹ Regulation (EC) No 45/2001 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 18 December 2000 on the protection of individuals with regard to the processing of personal data by the Community institutions and bodies and on the free movement of such data Official Journal L 8/1, 12/01/2001.