

**Statement by the Greek Ombudsman, Andreas Pottakis
for Vassilis Karydis**

Professor Vasilis Karydis took over the crucial position of Deputy Ombudsman for Human Rights in a difficult time, in 2010. From this post too, as in his entire career, he managed to promote the principles and values he passionately defended throughout his life.

With the determination and persistence that characterised him, he succeeded in highlighting the constant demand for maximum safeguarding and protection of fundamental rights as well as the particular sensitivity and concern that a State upholding the rule of law must show to the most vulnerable groups within the population.

He inspired the staff of the Independent Authority, his friends and colleagues. With his intellect, his generosity and his characteristic sense of humour, he won a special place in the heart of those of us who had had the honour and privilege to work with him. He took decisive initiatives and until the end of his term in the Authority as Acting Ombudsman in 2016, he made the most of his deep understanding regarding the role and nature of the institution.

Vasilis Karydis never bid farewell to the Ombudsman. He remained close by, with his invaluable advice, his encouragement and induce, his affection for the institution and those who serve it. But we also will always carry him with us, a point of reference for our future personal and professional course. His friends and colleagues will honour him as he deserves.

My deep condolences to his wife and children.