

Friday, 5 October, 2018

PRESS RELEASE

A study on the relocation of asylum seekers was presented by the Ombudsman to the Board of Directors of the International Ombudsmen Institute (IOI)

The Greek Ombudsman, Andreas Pottakis, presented his assessment on the relocation programme for asylum seekers which ran between September 2015 and September 2017, during the recent meeting of the International Ombudsman Institute (IOI) in Brussels, where he participates in the capacity of Regional Director. Andreas Pottakis also briefed his counterparts on the progress of the report on the situation of migrants and refugees, which has been co-ordinated by the Greek, Dutch and Basque Ombudsmen. The meeting discussed the co-operation programme of the European Ombudsmen's offices as well as the initiatives taken by the international Ombudsmen network.

On the occasion of the Ceremony of the 40th Anniversary of the International Ombudsman Institute and the 20th Anniversary of the establishment of the Ombudsman of Belgium, the International Ombudsmen Institute held a conference in Brussels on the role of the "*Ombudsman in an open and participatory society*". Speaking at the event, Andreas Pottakis focused on the issues of transparency and access to information, highlighting the importance the Ombudsman attaches to citizens' access to administrative documents.

The next IOI meeting will be hosted in Athens in February 2019 on the occasion of the 20th anniversary of the Greek Ombudsman.

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