

Statement of the Greek Ombudsman, Andreas Pottakis

Professor Ioannis (Ion) Sayas took up the position of the Deputy Ombudsman responsible for the quality of life in 2011. Since then, he determined the course of the Independent Authority for about a decade, a period during which the protection of the environment -urban, suburban, natural, cultural-, the standard of living and the daily life of the inhabitants of Greece were tested as never before.

With persistence, dedication to documentation and confidence in the mediating role of the Ombudsman, he served as a catalyst towards the search for lawful, realistic and sustainable solutions to a number of cases of major interest as well as to systemic problems managed by the Authority during this period.

At the same time, with similar diligence, he coordinated the work of the Ombudsman for resolving individual cases and disputes of the citizens.

My collaboration with Ionas was for me an invaluable gift, a unique privilege. Our conversations were an inexhaustible source of inspiration. A profound connoisseur and defender of the institution, a man of rare culture, he continued with undiminished intensity, faith and passion to be a visionary, irreconcilable and relentlessly romantic.

With the kindness of his soul, his sense of humour, his generosity and his scientific and professional composition, he won the love, appreciation and respect of all those of us who had the honour and happiness to work with him.

Ion Sayas remained with us, firmly committed to ensuring better, more just and humane living conditions.

The quality of the man, his ethos, the integrity of his character will remain deeply engraved in all of us.

His friends and colleagues will honour him as he deserves.

My deepest condolences to his family.