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## PRESS RELEASE

The Greek Ombudsman inaugurated the *Eunomia* project in 2001 aiming at the promotion of the Ombudsman institution in Southeastern Europe. Since 2004, the project's activities have been placed under the auspices of the Council of Europe Commissioner for Human Rights.

Within the framework of this project, an international working seminar, entitled “**The Ombudsman’s oversight of the Police**”, is being organized in the city of Hermoupolis on the island of Syros, from Friday 2 June, to Saturday 3 June 2006.

Approximately forty representatives from Greece, Southeastern and other European countries have been invited to participate in the Seminar, among whom are the Ombudsman delegations of Albania, Austria, Bulgaria, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo, Montenegro, the Former Yugoslavian Republic of Macedonia, the Netherlands, representatives of the European Court of Human Rights, the Office of the Commissioner for Human Rights of the Council of Europe, Harvard University’s Kennedy School of Government and the Aristotle University of Thessalonica, the Chief of the Greek Police Headquarters with a four-member delegation of the Ministry of Public Order and other international experts.

During the two-day capacity building Seminar, which is open to the public, the following subjects will be developed:

- a) Substantive law and practice: seizure, custody, detention
- b) The Greek institutional framework of police activity
- c) Internal disciplinary procedures and police accountability
- d) Police accountability and the Ombudsman’s oversight
- e) The Ombudsman’s control in cases of maltreatment of vulnerable groups by the police (Roma and immigrants)

The Greek Ombudsman attributes major importance to the organization of this seminar, as it is the first time that an open international comparative debate is organized in Greece, covering issues related to the police authority’s accountability to the Ombudsman and the internal disciplinary procedures of the Police itself.