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PRESS RELEASE

The 20th Annual Report of the Ombudsman to the Speaker of Parliament

The celebratory 20th Annual Report of the Greek Ombudsman for the year 2018 was delivered on Friday 22 March to the Speaker of the Hellenic Parliament, Mr Nikos Voutsis, by the Ombudsman, Mr Andreas Pottakis.

After referring to the 20th anniversary of the Ombudsman's office, Mr. Speaker stressed the importance of the institution both in our country and at international level. The issues and challenges of advocacy and rights protection, he said, are prominent in public life.

Citizens' rights are an essential component of democracy. The Ombudsman's operation is exemplary, a great asset for the citizen, the political forces and the parliament, towards the safeguard of rights. "2018 was a landmark year for society, economy and the administration", the Ombudsman pointed out, and added that it was a year in which the austerity programmes were completed and the country entered a track of recasting administrative structures and alleviating social inequalities. "In recent years, when the rights and standards of living have been severely suppressed, we have helped secure our citizens' income.

At the same time, we have acted decisively to protect the natural and living environment, consolidate the principle of equal treatment, tackle discrimination, implement positive measures in favour of the most vulnerable groups. The transition to a post-austerity era, a new stability, has many challenges for the Ombudsman, who will firmly insist on the fulfilment of its constitutional mission' completed Mr Pottakis.

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