

Friday, 22 March 2019

## **PRESS RELEASE**

### **The Ombudsman in Brussels on the refugee issue**

**The Ombudsman, Andreas Pottakis held successive meetings in Brussels with the First Vice-President of the European Commission, Frans Timmermans, and the European Commissioner for Migration and Home Affairs, Dimitris Avramopoulos, accompanied by the Ombudsmen of the Basque Country, Manuel Lezertua, and the Netherlands, Reinier van Zutpen. Mr Pottakis also met with the European Commissioner for Humanitarian Aid and Crisis Management, Christos Stylianides.**

The meetings concerned the initiatives taken by the Ombudsman in cooperation with his counterparts from the Netherlands and the Basque Country, within the framework of the International Ombudsmen Institute (IOI) regarding a study on the management of the refugee issue, as well as the Association of Mediterranean Ombudsmen (AOM), the Presidency of which the Greek Ombudsman has recently assumed.

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