



Thursday, May 10, 2018

PRESS RELEASE

Hellenic-Dutch Ombudsmen cooperation

The Dutch Ombudsman Mr. Reinier van Zutphen is currently visiting the country in the context of his close cooperation with his Greek counterpart, Mr. Andreas Pottakis.

On May 9, Mr. van Zutphen addressed the staff of the Ombudsman and answered questions about how the Dutch Independent Authority is implementing mediation procedures. At the same time, he presented the recent innovative initiatives he has undertaken to modernize and transform the institution.

"We are launching an ambitious co-operation programme with the Dutch Ombudsman's Office, which mainly involves the exchange of know-how for the more efficient functioning of the Independent Authority and the management of refugee and immigrant flows," Andreas Pottakis explained.

As it is known, the Greek Ombudsman has been granted a specific mandate in the management of refugee and immigrant flows as well as in the forced return process, while Dutch experts in Greece participate in the relevant bodies through programmes funded by the Dutch Embassy.

"Our primary concern is to convince government agencies that citizens should be taken into consideration before proceeding with any decision or legislative initiative. Only when the State begins to take the citizen into account, will this world become a better place" said Mr. van Zutphen.

During this week Mr. van Zutphen and his associates will have working meetings with Mr. Pottakis and members of the staff of the Greek Independent Authority.

Information: 213 1306 712, 213 1306670, press@synigoros.gr