

Appointment of the European Ombudsman

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Appointment of the European Ombudsman

The Ombudsman is appointed by Parliament after each election for the duration of the legislative period. The mandate is renewable. He is chosen from among persons who are Union citizens, have full civil and political rights, offer every guarantee of independence and meet the conditions required for the exercise of the highest judicial office in their country or have the acknowledged competence and experience to undertake the duties of Ombudsman.

At the start of each parliamentary term, the President calls for nominations and sets a time-limit for their submission. Nominations must have the support of at least thirty-seven Members who are nationals of at least two Member States. The vote is held by secret ballot, and the result is secured by a majority of the votes cast. After two ballots and in the event of a tie, the oldest candidate prevails. The person appointed is called upon to take an oath before the Court of Justice.

The Ombudsman ceases to exercise his duties either at the end of his term of office or on his resignation or dismissal. He exercises his duties until his successor takes office, save in the case of death or dismissal. He may be dismissed by the Court of Justice at the request of Parliament (one-tenth of its Members), if he no longer fulfils the conditions required for the performance of his duties or if he is guilty of serious misconduct.