

Resolution adopted by the national ombudsmen and similar bodies of the Member States of the EU, meeting at their fourth seminar, held in Athens 7-8 April 2003

The national ombudsmen and similar bodies of the Member States of the EU, conscious of the need to strengthen and deepen their cooperation in order to promote the rule of law, democracy, human rights and access to justice

- call on the European Convention on the future of the EU to promote provisions in the future constitution

- to enable the Union to accede not only to the European Convention on Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms, but also to other international agreements for the protection and promotion of human rights
- to facilitate the application of the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the EU to the actions of the institutions of the Union and of the Member States when applying Union law
- to ensure in the Union and the Member States a clear and comprehensive system of judicial and non-judicial remedies for the protection of individual rights under Union law

- resolve to maintain and strengthen the network of cooperation between national ombudsmen and similar bodies, including exchange of information through a liaison letter, full use of the internet, appointment of liaison officers and regular meetings and seminars

- invite the European Ombudsman to request the national ombudsmen and similar bodies of countries that plan to join the Union in 2004 to appoint liaison officers to the network

- decide that the theme of the next seminar shall be **the role of ombudsmen and similar bodies in ensuring implementation of Union law and respect for fundamental rights**. The meeting will take place in The Netherlands in 2005. A questionnaire relating to the theme of the seminar will be circulated to ombudsmen and similar bodies in 2004.