



## NEWS REPORT

<b>Update of flash report nr:</b>	<b>612-CY-63</b>
<b>Date:</b>	24 March 2011
<b>Expert :</b>	Corina Demetriou
<b>Title:</b>	Appointment of new ombudsman and head of equality body
<b>Country:</b>	Cyprus
<b><u>Context</u></b>	
<b>Issue at stake:</b>	The new ombudsman is appointed from the ranks of the existing equality body legal officers.
<b>Ground of discrimination:</b>	n/a
<b>Source:</b>	Media, personal contacts
<b>Field:</b>	n/a
<b>Legislative provisions:</b>	The Commissioner for Administration Laws 1991-2004; The Combating of Racial and Other forms of Discrimination (Commissioner) Law N.42(I)/2004.

### Content

**Description:** After weeks of deliberations and heated debates the government and political parties finally came to an agreement as to the person that will succeed the previous Ombudsman. Following the rejection by the majority of the votes in Parliament of the professor of criminology proposed by the President, the Council of Ministers proposed as the new Ombudsman Eliza Savvidou, the most senior of all legal officers at the Ombudsman's office and head of the Equality Authority, the department of the equality body dealing with employment and occupation. The presidential proposal was approved by the majority of the House of Representatives at a plenary session on 03.03.2011. All political parties approved the proposal except the small far right party EVROKO which abstained in protest against the fact that there had allegedly been a pre-arranged agreement between the two large parties<sup>1</sup> as to this appointment. EVROKO justified its abstention on its belief that the agreement between the two large political parties on the appointment of Eliza Savvidou does

<sup>1</sup> The President's party (the left wing AKEL) and the main opposition party (the centre-right DESY).



injustice to the previous candidate Andros Kapardis, who had been rejected by the majority of the parties (including EVROKO).

The appointment ceremony took place on 16.03.2011 at the presidential palace. Both the Ombudsman and the equality body are now back into operation after almost three months of being headless and inactive. The new Ombudsman and head of the equality body has already met with stakeholders to discuss priorities and developments to both institutions.