

OMBUDSMAN FOR CHILDREN AT EUROPEAN LEVEL

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Abstract

Similar to the Ombudsman, the Ombudsman for Children is a public representative appointed for the interests of children in different countries. On 20 November 1989, the United Nations adopted the Convention on the Rights of the Child, until that time children's rights being included in the broader fundamental rights enshrined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Art. 18 of the Convention stipulates that, for the purpose of guaranteeing and promoting the rights provided by the Convention, states must ensure the creation of childcare institutions, establishments and services. Among European countries that have adopted the specific legislation for setting up independent authorities for the protection of the rights of children are Austria, Denmark, Finland, France, Italy, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Sweden and Romania. Authorities that defend children's rights can be established at national and/or regional level. Norway was the first country in the world to set up an Ombudsman for Children (1981), while the European Network of Ombudspersons for Children - ENOC was also set up at its initiative, which operates under the supervision of the Council of Europe.

Keywords: child, minor, ombudsman for children, children rights, United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child, ENOC, comparative law