

**Teresa Anjinho**

President of the European Parliament  
(Nominations to the post of European Ombudsman)

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Dear President of the European Parliament,

**I am honoured to present my candidacy for the position of European Ombudsman for the 2024-2029 term.** This role is one of profound responsibility, one that requires a steadfast commitment to **fairness, integrity, and trust** in order to safeguard the relationship between European institutions and their citizens. Throughout my career in public service, academic research and human rights advocacy, I have been driven by these values, and it is my firm belief that I am prepared to further them as the next European Ombudsman.

As a **former Deputy Ombudsman of Portugal**, I was responsible for handling some of the most sensitive areas of public concern, including justice, education, health, and the protection of fundamental rights. In this capacity, I had the privilege of defending citizens' rights against possible cases of maladministration, ensuring that their voices were heard and their grievances addressed. This experience, combined with my current role as a **member of the Supervisory Committee of the European Anti-Fraud Office (OLAF)**, has afforded me the unique expertise needed to oversee institutional integrity, transparency, and accountability at a European level.

Recognising the importance of **own initiative procedures**, one of the pillars of the European Ombudsman's office has always been the handling of **individual complaints**. As I have seen first-hand as Deputy Ombudsman, addressing individual complaints effectively not only safeguards fundamental rights but also fosters participation, trust and **active citizenship** in the democratic processes. As European Ombudsman, I will ensure that this core function remains at the forefront of our efforts to serve the public, while also exploring ways to enhance its accessibility and responsiveness.

Furthermore, based on my experience within both the **European Network of Human Rights Institutions** and the **European Network of Ombudsman**, it is clear to me that the role of the European Ombudsman must also foster a more **collaborative and participatory relationship with the citizens of Europe and the institutions that serve them**. If entrusted with this position, I aim to strengthen the European Ombudsman's office by creating greater channels of cooperation with national ombudsman offices across member states. By forging these **partnerships**, we can ensure that there is a seamless exchange of information and best practices, leading to more effective oversight and response mechanisms at both the national and European levels. This collaboration should also extend to academic institutions, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), and community-based organizations, all of which play an invaluable role in the defense of human rights and the promotion of good governance.

Throughout my career, including having served as a **Member of Parliament in Portugal** and as **Secretary of State for Justice**, I have consistently advocated for the protection of fundamental rights, the promotion of transparency, and the strengthening of democratic governance. As a **human rights expert** and **academic researcher**, I have dedicated myself to the study and practice of fairness and non-discrimination, particularly in the realms of gender and digital innovation. These experiences have not only equipped me with the skills to serve as European Ombudsman but have also reinforced my deep conviction that the **EU must continue to set the highest standards for integrity and accountability in public administration**.

I believe that with the support of the European Parliament, I can lead the office of the European Ombudsman to further its mission of promoting good governance and upholding citizens' rights. My vision is to create an environment where every European citizen feels empowered to engage with the EU institutions, bodies and agencies, confident that their concerns will be met with fairness, integrity, and trust. **I am committed to ensuring that the European Ombudsman's office remains a pillar of justice, transparency, and accountability for all.**

Together we can make the European Union a stronger, more transparent, and more inclusive community for all its citizens.

Yours sincerely,

Teresa Anjinho

Candidate for European Ombudsman (2024-2029)