



(07/12)

Information to members II

Since its last information to its members **two board meetings** of the European Ombudsman Institute took place. The former was carried out at **Novi Sad/Serbia** on 23 September 2011 together with the General Assembly, the latter at **Florence/Italy** on 13 April 2012.

The newly elected board members at the last General Assembly at Novi Sad can be seen at the EOI website www.eoi.at.

This summer the EOI is going to offer its members **new Ombudsman-literature**:

The newly elected president at Novi Sad, **Dr. Burgi Volgger**, has meanwhile put at disposal her speech „The role of the regional Ombudsman in Europa“ (contribution to a debate at the Chamber of Regions, The Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe, 20th Conference, Strasbourg, 23 March 2011). As to the theme of the regional Ombudsman a „VARIA“ in English, German and Italian will be published within the publication serial of the EOI and sent to the members. Another „VARIA“ looks beyond Europe to the Japanese cultural sphere not so familiar to most of the members. The central question here is, how on this insular state in comparison to Europe the figure of the Ombudsman is understood. This contribution by **Prof. Tsuyohshi Hiramatsu** (University of Daito-Bunka) may offer the one or the other member rewarding knowledge. It will be sent within the month of July 2012 to the members in English.

On 1 June 2012 Dr. Burgi Volgger took part in the **International Conference** „Regions in the Council of Europe and in the European Union“ at Innsbruck. As President of the EOI Dr. Volgger spoke about the work of the regional Ombudsmen in Europe. She pointed out that the proximity to the citizens and an efficient and direct dealing with the concerns of the citizens „in situ“ are the most important arguments for the regional Ombudsman. A European standard as to jurisdictions for a regional Ombudsman should also be aimed at in order to prevent the creation of alibi-institutions.

On 11 June 2012 the President, Dr. Burgi Volgger, and the Secretary General, Dr. Josef Siegele, visited the **University of Padua** in order to sign for the EOI an agreement as to academic cooperation with the Institute for Human Rights. To the plans, which should be implemented, belongs the publication of a common book next year. The results of the Working Session at Novi Sad („The daily work of the Ombudsman“) shall also form part of this book.

The **next board meeting** will take place at St. Petersburg on 28 September 2012.

The date for the **next General Assembly** (including Working Session and Ceremonial Act as to the 25th Anniversary of the European Ombudsman Institute at Innsbruck/Tyrol/Austria including an excursion to Bolzano/South Tyrol/Italy) has meanwhile been determined. The events will take place from 19 to 21 September 2013.

The **membercards 2012** have been sent to the members, who have paid the membership fee. Those persons and institutions, who have not yet paid the membership fee, will receive the membercard as soon as the membership fee 2012 arrives at the EOI.

For the EOI:

The President:

Dr. Burgi Volgger, m.p.

The Secretary General:

Dr. Josef Siegele, m.p.