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London / Vienna, 12 February 2018

Dear Ms Françoise Profit,
Dear Ms Marie-Odile Ott,
Dear Ms Ivana Radonova,
Dear Ms Katarina Jovic
Dear Mr. Sjur Bergan

ENOHE, the European Network of Ombudsmen in Higher Education, is an association of some 70 ombudspersons from higher education institutions throughout the European Higher Education Area (and beyond like the United States, Canada, Mexico, New Zealand and Australia). The main aims of the network are sharing ombudsman approaches to common issues (primarily dispute resolution), expanding knowledge and comparing working methods, enhancing skills and developing competences.

This is primarily done by activities like electronic information sharing and annual conferences. During our most recent event in Strasbourg at the European Parliament we adopted the "Strasbourg Declaration" which we are sending to you today as an enclosure.

In the Declaration, ENOHE endorses the extension of the institution of higher education ombudsmen as beacons for safeguarding a fair, inclusive and transparent higher education system throughout the continent. This includes contributing to an improvement of the governance and the quality of higher education institutions.

ENOHE now respectfully proposes to the Ministerial meeting in Paris in May 2018 that their closing documents include a recommendation on the installation, by law or respective national regulations, of ombudsmen in higher education.

This suggestion, as the enclosed Declaration states, is made in order to help individuals (students, but also academics and staff) to have resources at their disposal to access for the independent adjudication or mediation of disputes and to resolve upcoming issues in daily life at higher education institutions.

We would be very pleased if the bodies currently preparing the final documents for the Paris conference considered our proposal.

We remain with kind regards
Yours sincerely

Robert Behrens, CBE
ENOHE Chair of the Executive Committee
UK Parliamentary and Health Service Ombudsman,
London, UK

Josef Leidenfrost
ENOHE Convenor and President
Austrian Student Ombudsman