

**THE ARARTEKO ACT. PROPOSALS FOR THE FUTURE.**  
**Rethinking Ombuds institutions**

**PROGRAMME**

12 June. First Day

09:30 Opening statements

**BAKARTXO TEJERIA OTERMIN**  
*President of the Basque Parliament.*

**EMILY O'REILLY**  
*European Ombudsman.*

**ÁNGEL GABILONDO PUJOL**  
*Spanish Ombudsman.*

**DESPINA CHATZIVASSILIOU-TSOVILIS**  
*Secretary General of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe.*

**MANUEL LEZERTUA**  
*Ararteko - Basque Ombudsman.*

10:00 Keynote speech

**The Ararteko and Guaranteeing Citizens' Rights**  
**MANUEL LEZERTUA**  
*Arartekoa / Ararteko.*

10:30 Break

11.00

## Introductory Lectures

Genesis and Approval of the Law of the Ararteko. Experience in its Implementation. Procedure to Reform Act 3/1985

### Speakers:

**ÁLVARO GIL ROBLES.**

*Former Spanish Ombudsman and former Human Rights Commissioner of the Council of Europe.*

**ALBERTO LÓPEZ BASAGUREN**

*Full Professor of Constitutional Law at the University of the Basque Country.*

**ANDONI ITURBE MACH**

*Chief Counsel of the Basque Parliament*

**Moderator:** INÉS IBÁÑEZ DE MAEZTU

*Deputy to the Ararteko.*

12:15

## Lecture I

New Standards and Expectations for Ombuds Institutions: Outlook for the Ararteko.

**GUILLERMO ESCOBAR**

*Full Professor of Constitutional Law at the University of Alcalá.*

**Moderator:** INMACULADA DE MIGUEL

*Director of Social Relations, Research and Modernisation, Ararteko.*

13:00 Lunch

14:30

Roundtable I: First part

New Standards and Expectations for Ombuds Institutions.

- The Mediation Model of the Ombuds of Andalusia.  
JESÚS MAEZTU GREGORIO DE TEJADA.  
*Ombudsman of Andalusia.*
- Overseeing Private Companies Managing Public Interests or Universal or General Services.  
ESTHER GIMÉNEZ-SALINAS Y COLOMER.  
*Síndica de greuges of Catalunya (Catalan Ombudswoman)*
- The Experience of the Institution of the Valedor do Pobo as Transparency Commissioner.  
MARÍA DOLORES FERNÁNDEZ GALIÑO.  
*Valedora do Pobo (Galician Ombudswoman)*
- Legal Measures to Respond to Non-Complying Administrations.  
PATXI VERA DONAZAR.  
*Ombudsman of Navarra*

*Moderator:* FAUSTINO LÓPEZ DE FORONDA  
*Secretary-General of the Ararteko.*

16:30 End of the first session

13 June. Second day

09:00

Roundtable I: Second part

New Standards and Expectations for Ombuds Institutions

- The Role of the French Ombuds in the Fight Against Discrimination and the Promotion of Equality.

**GEORGE PAU-LANGEVIN ANDREA.**

*Deputy to the Ombuds of France in charge of the fight against discriminations and promotion of equality.*

- The Role of the Ombuds institutions in the Defence of Children and Adolescents.

**EMILY LOGAN.**

*First Ombuds for Children in Ireland.*

**Moderator: MONTSERRAT AUZMENDI DEL SOLAR**

*Director of Research at the Basque Parliament.*

10:00

Roundtable II

Best European Practices and New Standards at European Level

- The Venice Principles and European recommendations on Ombuds institutions.

**DESPINA CHATZIVASSILIOU-TSOVILIS**

*Secretary General of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe.*

- The Ombuds Institutions and Digitalisation.

**ÜLLE MADISE**

*Chancellor of Justice of Estonia.*

- Best Practices of the Dutch Ombudsman when Working with Vulnerable Groups.

**REINIER VAN ZUTPHEN.**

*Ombudsman of the Netherlands.*

**Moderator: MARÍA LUISA AGUIRRECHE**

*Head of International and European Affairs Office, Ararteko.*

11:15 Break

11:45

Roundtable III

New Needs, New Competencies, New Functions?

Representatives of the Basque Parliament political groups

*Moderator: IÑAKI GURIDI*  
*Journalist from Euskadi Irratia.*

13:45 Discussion

14:00 End of the Session