



JACOB SÖDERMAN

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## **AGENCIES LEAD THE WAY IN IMPLEMENTING CODE OF GOOD ADMINISTRATIVE BEHAVIOUR**

*-The European Ombudsman's proposal is adopted by EU agencies from London to Lisbon*

**"The decentralised agencies of the European Union are leading the way in setting standards of good administrative behaviour"** according to the European Ombudsman, Mr Jacob Söderman. The Code that he proposed has now been adopted by five agencies, with several more currently in the process of finalising their texts. The Codes adopted govern how EU officials in the agencies in question behave in their relations with the public.

The first agency to adopt the Code proposed by Mr Söderman was the European Agency for the Evaluation of Medicinal Products, based in London. Its Code was implemented on the first day of the new millennium and is available on their Website.

Since then, four more agencies have adopted the Code –the Dublin-based European Foundation for the Improvement of Living and Working Conditions, the Lisbon-based European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction, the Luxembourg-based Translation Centre for Bodies of the European Union and the Copenhagen-based European Environment Agency (EEA).

Mr Söderman is delighted by the steps that the agencies are taking in implementing the Code. Most agencies have amended an article to his proposal in order to require them to report progress to him when reviewing the Code in 2002. Agencies such as the EEA are planning training seminars to inform their staff of the Code and its obligations. As well as publishing their Code in the Official Journal and on their Websites, some agencies are preparing a brochure about the Code to be distributed to citizens.

Mr Söderman praised the decentralised agencies for taking the lead in implementing his proposal: *"I congratulate the agencies for demonstrating their commitment to transparency and service-mindedness. I hope that the institutions and bodies of the EU will now adopt similar Codes for their officials."*

*For copies of the Code, as proposed by the Ombudsman, and the Draft Recommendation to adopt a Code made by the Ombudsman to the institutions, bodies and agencies of the EU, please consult the Ombudsman's Website (<http://www.euro-ombudsman.eu.int>).*

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