



association for the prevention of torture
association pour la prévention de la torture
asociación para la prevención de la tortura

Cyprus

Updated 06.06.2018

OPCAT status

OPCAT Ratification : April 29, 2009

UNCAT Ratification : July 18, 1991

SPT Member : Mr Petros Michaelidis (2011-2014; 2017-2020)

NPM Designated :

[Commissioner for Administration and Human Rights](#)

NPM Type :

Ombuds Institution

NPM Legal Framework :

[Law 2 \(III\)/2009](#) ratifying the OPCAT and designating the Commissioner for Administration and Human Rights as the NPM (27 March 2009)

[Commissioner for Administration's Act](#)

Information



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Quick Links

Communication to the SPT: [Official Correspondence](#) from Cyprus (28 July 2009)

SPT: SPT visit (25-29 January 2016) - [Press release](#)

CAT: [Concluding Observations](#) (June 2014)

UPR: [Report of the Working Group](#) (April 2014)

CPT: [Report](#) (September-October 2013) and latest visit in February 2017 ([news flash](#))

Commissioner for Human Rights (Council of Europe): [Report](#) (2008)

OPCAT Situation

Shortly after having ratified the OPCAT in 2009, Cyprus appointed the Commissioner for Administration (Ombuds Institution) as its NPM.

A separate unit, called Independent Authority for the Prevention of Torture, was established to perform the NPM mandate and handle complaints. The NPM started to be operational in 2011.

The SPT visited Cyprus in January 2016.

The SPT member Kosta Mitrovic is the SPT Focal Point for Cyprus.



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OPCAT Ratification

Process

2007-2008

Following a communication from the APT inquiring about the process of ratification of the OPCAT, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs provided information to the APT, concluding that: *“Upon completion of the above evaluation and finalization of decisions on this matter, the ratification Law and other necessary national laws will be prepared and processed simultaneously for approval to the Council of Ministers, and then to the House of Representatives.”* (Communication from 16 April 2007).

On 29 April 2009, Cyprus officially became the 47th State Party to the OPCAT.

NPM Designation

NPM Designated

In March 2009, Cyprus published the law ratifying the OPCAT and designating the Office of the Commissioner for Administration and Human Rights (Ombuds Institution) as the NPM.



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Process

The government initially considered designating two institutions as the NPM, namely the National Institute for the Protection of Human Rights and the Office of the Commissioner for Administration and Human Rights (Ombuds Institution). Finally, for practical purposes, it was deemed that only one mechanism should assume the NPM mandate, namely the Office of the Commissioner for Administration and Human Rights (Ombuds Institution).

In 2009, Cyprus adopted the law 2 (III) ratifying the OPCAT and designating the Commissioner for Administration and Human Rights as the NPM. The law was published on 27 March 2009.

NPM Internal Organisation

The Ombuds Institution established a separate unit within the Office to perform the NPM functions and to handle complaints, called Independent Authority for the Prevention of Torture.

NPM Resources

Human Resources

The NPM unit is composed of two staff members of the Ombuds Institution Office who are also dealing with complaints. Both staff members have a legal background.

Financial Resources



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The budget of the Ombuds Institution does not include a separate budget for the NPM activities.

NPM Reports and Recommendations

Visits Reports

The NPM drafts a report following each visit and submits it to the relevant authorities. The visits reports contain information on the visiting team, actions undertaken during the visit, findings regarding material conditions and treatment of detainees, and recommendations to the authorities. Visits reports are made public.

Following each visit, a Report was prepared that contained recommendations and suggestions for actions, inter alia, with regard to food, medical care, recruitment of qualified personnel, monitoring systems, use of violence etc. - See more at: http://www.ombudsman.gov.cy/Ombudsman/ombudsman.nsf/page08_en/page08_en?OpenDocument#sthash.PfS8gBhr.dpuf

Annual Reports

The Ombuds Institution drafts a separate annual report as NPM, which contains information on the visits carried out by the NPM, the main findings for each institution visited and the response from the authorities. The annual report is submitted to the President of the Republic, the Board of Ministers, the Parliament and the Attorney General and is published on the website of the Ombuds Institution.

If requested by Parliament, annual reports are also presented through hearings in the relevant Parliament Committee.