



Unit 1 - Inquiries and ICT

Mr Arun Dohle

arundohle@gmail.com

Strasbourg, 10/09/2018

Complaint 1113/2018/TM

Dear Mr Dohle,

On 14 June 2017, you submitted a complaint to the European Ombudsman concerning the event "*No child left behind: Families not institutions – EU external action championing children's rights*" which took place in Brussels on 15 June 2018 and was co-organised by the European Commission and Lumos ('the co-hosting organisation'). On 13 July 2018, and subsequently on 18 August 2018, you sent us additional information. The Ombudsman has asked me to deal with your complaint and reply to you on her behalf. Please let me take this opportunity to apologise for the time it has taken to get back to you.

Your complaint is that the Commission wrongly decided not to web stream the event. We have decided to inquire into this issue and we have now asked the Commission to explain why it decided not to web stream the event. We have asked the Commission to reply by 7 November 2018 and we will revert to you thereafter.

We note that you have also expressed the following concerns; (i) that the co-hosting organisation exercised undue pressure on the Commission to promote inter-country adoption and that this is contrary to the founding values of the EU; (ii) that the Commission mistreated a former civil servant and, (iii) that the Commission was complicit in child trafficking from Romania. We do not understand these to form part of your complaint. In case they were, we must point out that the Ombudsman must follow certain rules for dealing with complaints¹. One of these rules² is that the complainant must first have contacted the EU body concerned with a view to resolving the problem, before complaining to the Ombudsman. In this way, the EU body in question will have an opportunity to deal with the problem at an early stage and without the need to involve the Ombudsman.

¹ These are set out in the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union and in the Statute of the European Ombudsman.

² Set out in Article 2(4) of the Statute of the European Ombudsman.



It appears from the information you have sent us that you have not raised issues (i) to (iii) with the Commission. This means that these issues would in any case be inadmissible.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact the case handler, Ms Tereza Mandjukova at +33 3 88 172092 or at tereza.mandjukova@ombudsman.europa.eu.

Yours sincerely,

Marta Hirsch-Ziemińska
Head of Inquiries and ICT - Unit 1