

Document No.: tvn0714  
Grade: 3  
Date: March 29, 2004  
Team: Peter Ovell, Hilikka Pekkanen

**Government Decree  
on the Ombudsman for Minorities**

(687/2001)

*Section 1 - Qualification requirements*

The Ombudsman for Minorities is required to have a Master's degree, be familiar with the sphere of activity covered by the post and possess proven management skills and good written and spoken English.

*Section 2 - Appointing and hiring staff*

- (1) The Ombudsman for Minorities shall be appointed by the Government for a fixed term of no more than five years at a time.
- (2) The Ministry of Labour shall appoint the other officials and hire staff under employment contracts.

*Section 3 - Advisory Board*

The duty of the Advisory Board for Minority Issues shall be:

- 1) to formulate proposals and issue opinions on development of the surveillance and monitoring of non-discrimination of ethnic minorities and safeguarding the status and rights of foreigners; and
- 2) to improve cooperation among the authorities and organizations in the surveillance and monitoring of non-discrimination and in issues concerning prevention of discrimination.

*Section 4 - Composition of the Advisory Board*

- (1) The Advisory Board shall comprise a chairman, vice-chairman and at least 14 other members, each of whom shall also have a personal deputy. The chairman, vice-chairman and other members and deputies shall be appointed by the Government for a term of three years at a time.
- (2) The Advisory Board's members and deputies must represent at least the following: the administrative sectors of the Ministry of Labour, the Ministry of the Interior, the Ministry of Social Affairs and Health, the Ministry of Justice and the Ministry of Education; the social partners; the Directorate of Immigration; the Association of Finnish Local and Regional Authorities; and a minimum of five organizations related to the sphere of activity of the Advisory Board. The Ombudsman for Equality is entitled to participate in the work of the Advisory Board.
- (3) If the chairman, vice-chairman or another member or deputy of the Advisory Board resigns during tenure, the Ministry of Labour shall appoint a new

member or deputy from the same authority or organization as replacement for the remainder of the term.

#### Section 5 - *The Advisory Board's work*

- (1) The Advisory Board shall have a part-time secretary employed by the Ministry of Labour.
- (2) The Advisory Board shall convene at the invitation of the chairman or the Ombudsman for Minorities.
- (3) The Advisory Board may set up investigatory and working groups and invite experts to its meetings.
- (4) The Advisory Board shall otherwise be subject to the provisions applying to Government committees.

#### Section 6 – *Report*

The Ombudsman for Minorities shall submit a report on his sphere of activity each year to the Ministry of Labour.

#### Section 7 - *Entry into force*

- (1) This Decree enters into force on September 1, 2001.
- (2) Measures necessary for the implementation of this Decree may be undertaken before its entry into force.

#### Section 8 - *Transitional provisions concerning duties*

The matters pertaining to the Office of the Ombudsman for Aliens shall be transferred to the Office of the Ombudsman for Minorities.