

The Struggle Against Directive 2006/24/EO of the European Parliament and the Council Entered the Annual Report of the National Ombudsman of the Republic of Bulgaria.

The Bulgarian Parliament discussed the National Ombudsman's Annual Report for 2007. The voting for the document will take place tomorrow. Members from all the parliamentary groups made statements on the Ombudsman's conclusions and recommendations, confirming that the Report outlined problems, whose solutions should be sought in the future.

The fact that the Report is being discussed for two days now, clearly shows that the document presents a number of very sharp, heavy and up-to-date issues of the community's daily grind, the Parliament's Chairman, Mr. Georgi Pirinski underlined. As a Parliament we have to accept the Report in this manner and to react with our legislative and control functions over the discussed issues, added the Chairman. He wished the Ombudsman and his team to be as actual as usually and to keep drawing the community and institutions' attention to the issues, put forward by the citizens.

The Ombudsman, Mr. Ginyo Ganev, defined the Report discussion as lively and fruitful and stated the expectation that the exigency to the Ombudsman institution will get more stringent. *I shall keep fulfilling my task and defend the citizens' best interests,* Mr. Ganev stated. He underlined that the European Union is not a union of states or nations, or municipalities, but it is a union of citizens and that human rights are on the top of the Union's value-system.

The very important role of the National Ombudsman regarding the Regulation No 40 of the MoI was also noted. The regulation allows information retention from the citizens' electronic communication, even of there is no data that a crime has been committed.

The regulation transposes in the Bulgarian legislation Directive 2006/24/EO of the European Parliament and the Council of March 15, 2006 for retention of data, created or processed in relation with providing of communally accessible electronic communication services or communal communicational networks, amending Directive 2002/58/EO

After the matter was referred to the Ombudsman by the Civil Initiative **E-frontier**, Mr. Ganev not only did he support the protest against Regulation No 40, but he also actively joined the debate. There was a wide civil forum with a topic: "Rights and security - the new risks".

