

Best regards syndicals

NOV-DEC 2014



The European Ombudsman, Emily O'Reilly, was re-elected by 569 votes in favour out of 678 MEPs voting.

"I am delighted to have been re-elected as European Ombudsman and I thank the European Parliament for its broad cross-party support. The work that I began in October 2013 continues, transforming my strategic goals into reality, with a view to improving the quality of the EU administration for the sake of all Europeans.

The EU has unfortunately not yet achieved the high levels of legitimacy which it needs among many Europeans.

This is mainly a political challenge but also one for the EU administration. It is already of a very high standard, but must become the 'gold standard' in ethics, transparency, accountability and effectiveness. My task is to work with the institutions and agencies to help make that happen.



Everybody complains about receiving too many emails... The STAFF Cttee has to find this **NotEverybody** sending mails to everybody...

Oh my goodness ... the **NotEverybody**!



Far back in time, Ulysses, the ingenious King of Ithaca after ten year wars and killings undertakes the way back home from Troy. With his crew, his 12 ships and a deep wish to return, under Goddess Athena's guidance and protection, he enters into a purification trip back to Penelope ...

Troy behind them, his men drunken from victory destroy the land of Cicones; the later attack in return obliges Ulysses to sail away in the mist of storm. Nearing the land of Lotus-Eaters, some imprudent sailors eat the lotus, forget their country and want to stay there. Ulysses pushes them on the ship and leaves in rush but arrived at the land of Cyclops. Ulysses' restless spirit lead them to enter into the cave of Polyphemus. The Cyclops eats 6 men, and after many stratagems Ulysses manages to get the Cyclops drunk, blind him and all escape..

Back to their ships they land on the island of Aeolus; the keeper of winds offers his hospitality and gives Ulysses a wineskin containing all the winds, except the west wind, for a safe return. While Ulysses was asleep, his sailors opened the wineskin believing it contained gold... All the winds flew out and the storm returned the ships to the opposite direction of Ithaca!

Eventually they arrive at the land of cannibal Laestrygonians, where Ulysses' ship is the only one to escape ... they arrive at the island of witch-goddess Circe who transforms his men into swine and only with the help of God Hermes Ulysses manages to resist to Circe's magic but she falls in love. He will spend one year before Circe allows him to go.

On her recommendation he goes to the land of dead, seeking prophet Tiresias's advice. There he is informed that Poseidon is angry with him because he blinded his son Polyphemus and thus Poseidon does not wish him back to Ithaca.



MERRY CHRISTMAS AND HAPPY NEW YEAR

Editor E. Malouta –Member of the Staff Cttee 2014-2016

A funding Father from a small country
Joseph Bech



« I have witnessed this development, from the Belgo-Luxembourgish Economic Union, of which I was a signatory in 1921, through the signature of the Benelux Customs Convention in 1944 in London, up to the Treaty of Rome that signaled the beginning of the Common Market. At each stage, we had to defeat the bitter resistance of specific groups and national self-interest, sometimes quite justified. It should be a matter of pride for our three countries that we have opened the way to economic union in Europe. That will enable the Old Continent to take the place it deserves in the world through the efforts of its people, its science, its thought and culture.» Febr.1958-The Hague

Men / Women : the masculine redemption...

Tell me, O muse, of that ingenious hero who traveled far and wide after he had sacked the famous town of Troy. Many cities did he visit, and many were the nations with whose manners and customs he was acquainted; moreover he suffered much by sea while trying to save his own life and bring his men safely home; but do what he might he could not save his men, for they perished through their own sheer folly in eating the cattle of the Sun-god Hyperion; so the god prevented them from ever reaching home. Tell me, too, about all these things, O daughter of Jove, from whatsoever source you may know them

Tiresias prophesies that in the end Ulysses will be saved and will have a quiet death, in very old age. Ulysses then meets the souls of: his mother, Alcmena, Jocasta, Phaedra and Ariadne as well as men's souls : Agamemnon, Achilles, Minoan, Heracles...

Back to Circe's island with his men prepare the trip according to her guidance. They embark again, and sail near to Sirens' island; he tied himself to the mast and his men put wax in their ears to escape the sirens magic song. Yet, they have to pass through the six-headed monster Scylla and the whirlpool Charybdis ; he loses 6 of his men but they manage to arrive at the island of sun god Helios. Ulysses reminds his crew the warning of Tiresias : 'not to eat the sacred cattle of the sun god' but hunger was irresistible! Helios asks Zeus to punish the sacrilege or else he will shine the sun in the underworld. Zeus creates a thunderstorm and Ulysses is the only to escape arriving at the island of Ogygia. There he meets Calypso who kept him as her lover for 7 years...

With Athena's intervention (in absence of Poseidon) the Gods decide to let him return to his wife. Although still in love with him, Calypso helps make a ship and informs Ulysses about his forthcoming adventures.

As soon as Poseidon sees him, he creates a storm destroying Ulysses' ship ... left 9 days on the sea, under Athena's protection, Ulysses is thrown out from the sea on the Phaeacians Island and becomes the host of their King who wishes to marry him with his daughter Nausika. Soon he discovers Ulysses' identity and bring him to Ithaca where Athena takes over and prepares his triumphal comeback. Indeed, Ulysses, disguised, beats Penelope's suitors in a contest of stringing his own old bow. Yet he has to go through Penelope's test and soon he is recognised as the long waiting husband !

In the heart of Europe, not very far from Ithaca, inside our Institution, several contemporary Ulysses are striving to pilot safely their god given ship... Let us hope the chosen crew deserves Athena's protection too ...

Please feel free to forward this mail to interested colleagues or to unsubscribe.

Far back in time, Ulysses, the ingenious King of Ithaca after ten years wars and killings undertakes the way to home from Troy. With his crew, his 12 ships and a deep wish to return home, under Goddess Athena's guidance and protection he enters into an initiative trip back to Penelope ...

Troy behind them, his men drunken from victory and wine destroy the land of Cicones who attack in return and oblige Ulysses to sail away in the middle of the storms. Coasted in the land of Lotus-Eaters, some imprudent sailors eat the lotus, forget their country and want to stay there. Ulysses pushes them in the ship and leaves in a hurry to coast in the land of Cyclops where his unquiet spirit lead him to enter in the cave of Polyphemus. The Cyclops eats 6 men, and after many stratagems Ulysses manages to drunken the cyclops, then blind him and escape..

Back in their ships they coasted on Aeolus island, the Master of winds offers them his hospitality and gives Ulysses a bag containing all the winds, except the west wind for a safe return. However, while Ulysses was sleeping his sailors opened the bag thinking it contained gold... All the winds flew out and the storm turns the ships in the opposite direction of Ithaca!

With the winds against them they arrive to the land of cannibalistic Laestrygonians from where Ulysses' ship is the only to escape ... they arrive on the island of witch-goddess Circe who turns his men into swine and only with the help of God Hermes Ulysses manages to resist to Circe's magic. He becomes her lover and spends one year before Circe allows him to go.

On her recommendation he goes to the land of dead to seek prophet Tiresias advice. There he is informed that Poseidon is angry against him because he blinded his son Polyphemus and that he does not want him to return to Ithaca. However, Tiresias prophesises that in the end he will be saved and he will have a quiet death very old. Ulysses meets also the souls of his mother, Alcmene, Jocaste, Phaedra and Ariadne and finally men's souls, Agamemnon, Achilles, Minoan, Heracles, and others...

Back to Circe's island he prepares his trip according to her guidance. They embarked again, and sail near to Sirens land, he himself tied to the mast and his men with wax in their ears to escape their magic song. Next tribulation is to pass between the six-headed monster Scylla and the whirlpool Charybdis where he will lose 6 of his men but manage to coast in the island of sun god Helios. Ulysses reminds his crew the warning of Tiresias not to eat the sacred cattle of the sun god, but in vain the hunger was big ! Helios asks Zeus to punish the sacrilege otherwise he threatens to shine the sun in the underworld. Zeus creates a thunderstorm and Ulysses is the only to escape and to arrives on the island of Ogygia, where he is going to be kept by Calypso, the mistress of the land for 7 years...

With Athena's intervention (in absence of Poseidon) the Gods decide to let him return to his wife. Although still in love with him, Calypso helps to make a ship and informs Ulysses about the forthcoming misfortunes. Indeed, as soon as Poseidon sees him, he creates a storm which destroys Ulysses' ship. Only 9 days later, under Athena's protection, Ulysses, safe, is thrown out from the sea on the Phaeacians Island and becomes the host of their King who wishes to marry him with his daughter Nausika. However, when he discovers Ulysses' identity he brings him to Ithaca where Athena takes over and prepares his triumphal comeback. Ulysses, disguised, beats Penelope's suitors in the contest of stringing his own old bow and go through Penelope's test before he is recognised as the return husband....

Northern from Ithaca, in the very heart of Europe and inside our Institution several Ulysses are striving to coast safely their ship... Let us wish that their crew too deserves Athena's protection ...

The European Ombudsman

Summary of the decision on complaint 178/2013/LP against the Fundamental Rights Agency

The case concerned the handling by the Fundamental Rights Agency ('FRA') of a complaint about psychological harassment allegedly suffered by a former member of staff of the FRA, and the FRA's alleged refusal to take any appropriate action in that regard.

The Ombudsman, having inquired into the issue, made a friendly solution proposal, according to which the FRA could consider proceeding to a proper and thorough investigation into the complainant's allegations of psychological harassment. In its reply, the FRA rejected the proposed friendly solution on the grounds that it had to carry out a balancing exercise between the interests of the complainant, who is no longer a member of its staff, and the interest of the service, and the fact that any new decision could expose the FRA to litigation before the EU courts and possibly to an action for damages.

The Ombudsman found the arguments of the FRA unconvincing. She thus made a critical remark finding that the FRA's refusal to carry out a proper and thorough investigation into the complainant's allegations of psychological harassment constituted maladministration.



For advice,
inquisitors should
better lean on
Scheherazade