



European Research Council
Executive Agency

Established by the European Commission

SELECTION PROCESSES – APPEAL PROCEDURES

Review

The ERCEA and the Selection Committees operate within the context of the general principles of European Union law as interpreted by the Courts. In assessing candidates' merits, Selection Committees observe the principle of equal treatment. If candidates nevertheless believe that one of these principles has not been applied in their case, they have the right, within 10 calendar days from the date when they receive notification of the decision that was sent to them, to request a review by sending an e-mail stating their reasons to: ERC-SELECTION@ec.europa.eu. Candidates must quote in the subject line: reference number of the selection process; 'Request for review'. The ERCEA will forward it to the Selection Committee if it comes within the Committee's remit.

Appeal procedure

If, at any stage of the selection, candidates consider that their interests have been prejudiced by a particular decision, or lack thereof, they can take the following action:

- Lodge an administrative complaint pursuant to Article 90(2) of the Staff Regulations, at: ERC-SELECTION@ec.europa.eu. The complaint must be lodged within three months from the date on which candidates are notified of the act adversely affecting them, or lack thereof, only if the rules governing the selection process have clearly been infringed. The Appointing Authority of the ERCEA cannot overturn a value judgement (i.e., the quality of a candidate's performance in a written or oral test or the relevance of qualifications and professional experience) made by the Selection Committee. The Appointing Authority of the ERCEA shall notify the person concerned of its reasoned decision within four months of the date on which the complaint was lodged.
- Should the aforementioned complaint be rejected, candidates may request a [judicial review](#) of the act adversely affecting them, pursuant to Article 270 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union and Article 91 of the Staff Regulations. The request for judicial review must be lodged within three months from the date on which candidates are notified of the decision taken in response to the above-mentioned administrative complaint.

Complaints to the European Ombudsman

Any citizen of the European Union or any natural or legal person residing in a Member State may direct a complaint concerning instances of maladministration to the [European Ombudsman](#) pursuant to Article 228(1) of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union. Complaints to the European Ombudsman do not suspend the periods mentioned in Articles 90(2) and 91 of the Staff Regulations for lodging complaints or submitting an appeal before the Court of Justice according to Article 270 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union. It should also be noted that, under Article 2(4) of the Regulations and general conditions governing the performance of the European Ombudsman's duties, any complaint to the European Ombudsman must be preceded by appropriate administrative approaches to the institutions and bodies concerned.