



# **Guidelines of the Parmenides Foundation for the appointment of ombudspersons**

*decided by the Board of Trustees of the Parmenides Foundation on 15.12.2006*

## **Preamble**

*The rules for safeguarding good scientific practice adopted by the Board of Trustees of the Parmenides Foundation on December 15, 2006, stipulate the following under item 6:*

A neutral, qualified ombudsperson with personal integrity must be elected by the scientific staff in each institute or research institution of the Parmenides Foundation to advise in cases of conflict in matters of good scientific practice. In particular, the ombudsperson has the task of being available as a confidential contact person and advisor in cases of suspected violations of the principles of good scientific practice.

## **1. Tasks and position of the ombudspersons**

Anyone who is confronted with concrete circumstances that could justify a violation of the rules of good scientific practice or a suspicion of scientific misconduct should be given an effective opportunity to speak out about it without having to fear disadvantages for their own person. The ombudsperson is therefore directly available for consultation as a person of trust in all matters of good scientific practice and in cases of suspected scientific misconduct. The appointment of the ombudsperson is also intended to resolve the possible conflict situation that can arise, especially for junior scientists, from the contradiction between loyalty to a supervisor or a working group and the obligation to behave in a scientifically correct manner.

The appointment of ombudspersons is intended to create an independent point of contact and advice for whistleblowers as well. The ombudsperson is bound to confidentiality. In the performance of their duties, the ombudspersons are independent of the foundation's management and of any superiors or colleagues. The ombudsperson may initiate a discussion with the management of the foundation, but is not obligated to disclose the information received to the management of the institute and is not authorized to confront the suspect with it.

## **2. Election mode and term of office of the ombudspersons**

All members of the Faculty of the Parmenides Foundation are eligible for election. The election is made by the Board of Trustees of the Parmenides Foundation. Ombudspersons are generally elected for a period of three years; re-election is possible. In due time before the end of the current term of office, the election for a new term of office shall be held. As long as no new election has taken place, the previous ombudsperson remains in office.