



SIVILOMBUDET
Norwegian Parliamentary Ombud

European Bureau for Conscientious Objection
35 Van Elewyck Street
1050 Brussels
Belgium

Our ref.
2024/5872

Your ref.

Enquiries to
Tora Fæste

Date
07.01.2025

EBCO annual report 2024

Dear Madame/Sir,

Reference is made to your e-mail 28 October 2024 and your questionnaire regarding information from governments, national human rights institutions, and civil society organisations for your upcoming Annual Report on Conscientious Objection to Military Service in Europe, which will cover developments in the year 2024.

We have studied your questions and kindly refer to our letters 4 January 2024 and 6 February 2023 with information about the Parliamentary Ombud's mandate and the Norwegian laws on the right to conscientious objection, see attachments. As far as we know, these laws still apply without changes. The Parliamentary Ombud has not received any complaints regarding conscientious objection to military service.

We would like to mention that the Parliamentary Ombud regularly receives complaints from young people who are motivated to serve in the Armed Forces but who have not been selected due to different reasons. Even though military service in Norway is compulsory, as stated on our Constitution article 119, selection is based on health, fitness and other criteria and according to the Armed Forces' needs. Currently only around 10.000 of the conscription age group is called to serve each year. This number will increase in the coming years in line with what the Armed Forces need. We hope that you find the information useful and wish you good luck with your report.

On behalf of the Parliamentary Ombud

Birthe Aspehaug Buset

Head of Division

Tora Fæste

Senior Advisor

This letter has been electronically approved and has no handwritten signature.

Vedlegg

1 Answer to annual report EBCO 2023_4