

mid week

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ELECTIONS

4 DAYS TO GO

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SANTS SCREEN



Sant goes to report the Mistra case to the same Police Commissioner he called a 'smokescreen', only to be told that Gonzi had already filed the report himself - PG2

MEPs reject Ombudsman's call to publish accounts

MATTHEW VELLA

THE Bureau of the European Parliament (EP), the senior MEPs who run the house, have decided not to divulge the accounts and allowances received by MEPs despite a recommendation by the European Ombudsman.

The Ombudsman's recommendation concerns a complaint by MaltaToday lodged back in



European Parliament president Hans-Gert Poettering

2005, after the EP refused to publish accounts related to Malta's five MEPs. Backed by a supporting opinion from the European Data Protection Supervisor Peter Hustinx, Ombudsman Nikoforos Diamandouros recommended that the EP reconsider MaltaToday's appli-

cation and grant it access after finding the EP had no "appropriate legal basis for rejecting the complainant's application for access".

The European Parliament's office in Malta yesterday said the Bureau would not be providing the details of the MEPs' allowances, saying the practice across the EU's national parliaments reflected this decision.

"The Bureau of the European Parliament has decided not to

provide the amounts and details of the allowances received by individual MEPs. Instead, Parliament will publish on its website a clear overview and explanation of the different allowances. The Bureau took its decision in response to a draft recommendation by the European Ombudsman to reconsider an earlier refusal to grant access to the details of the allowances received by Maltese MEPs in 2004 and 2005." **pg 5**



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