Several years ago, the federal legislature already modified the obligation of confidentiality in civil servant law in the interests of effectively fighting against corruption. Pursuant thereto, the obligation of confidentiality expressly does not apply when civil servants notify of a suspicion, founded in fact, of a corruption offence pursuant to sections 331-337 of the Criminal Code (Strafgesetzbuch – StGB) to the competent superior service authority, a law enforcement authority, or another authority or other office outside the authority as determined by the superior service authority (cf. 67 (2) no. 3 BBG; § 37 (2) no. 3 BeamtStG).

Each federal ministry decides for itself on the question of introducing ombudspersons. The Federal Ministry of the Interior began on 1 October 2010 with the introduction of an ombudsperson for a test phase in three authorities within its remit. The experiences gathered were positive; as such, the project is being continued. There are comparable positions in some of the federal Länder.