

5TH MEETING OAFCN, BRUSSELS, 13-14 MAY 2004 – CONCLUSIONS

1. Conclusions of the OAFCN meetings will be published on the OLAF website, keeping the maximum possible level of transparency.
2. The details of the members of the network will be published on the OLAF website following a template that will be sent to their webmasters. This will allow members to fill in only the fields they want to publicize. A link from OLAF website to the national services press offices websites will be incorporated. Every service will therefore create a separate press page where the details of their press rooms are included and where they can update their contact details directly.
3. Virtual reality of the web - Every service should report on a successful operation on its website, should create a report on a successful investigative case and should send the link to OLAF unit 02. This way a virtual editors committee on success stories could be created on the web.
4. Members will regularly keep their countries representatives on the Advisory Committee for the Coordination of Fraud Prevention (COCOLAF) informed on the activities carried out by the Network.
5. Proactive joint action of communication: It was agreed that coordination of simultaneous communication actions between services would be put in place to ensure momentum. The date of publication of the next OLAF Annual Report, foreseen for next autumn, has been taken as desired time for reporting on successful antifraud operations all over Europe.
6. It was decided that a training seminar will be organised next October 2004 in Brussels. The seminar will be extended to 3-4 full days to give enough time for discussion and practice. The seminar will not be limited to members of the network. It will be extended to colleagues of the national administrations. Members will send desired seminar topics as well as the contact details of speakers they may find of relevance to Gemma Sánchez. It was thought that a speaker from the International Press Association would be a good idea.

The following topics were already identified for this seminar/future seminars:

- The relation between investigation services and the judicial authorities, a complex matter.
- According to Eurobarometer, television is the preferred information channel for the European citizens. Filming - training in video techniques might be necessary for policemen and investigators in order to better protect secrecy and confidentiality.

- Press freedom and manipulation of information: manipulation of the press, manipulation of the investigative services, a risk for journalists, a risk for the institutions. An academic approach.
 - Protection of sources: what is the legal approach in each country?
 - Right to speak as an investigative service – right to keep confidential information. Where is the balance?
7. It was decided that the 6th meeting of the OAFCN will be organised in November 2004, in Cambridge (UK) pending authorisation from OLAF financial dept.