

**SUMMARY OF THE ELEVENTH MEETING OF THE OLAF ANTI-FRAUD  
COMMUNICATOR'S NETWORK (OAFCN)  
4<sup>th</sup> May 2007, in Brussels, Belgium**

The 11th meeting of the OLAF Anti-Fraud Communicator's Network was held on 4<sup>th</sup> May 2007 in the Centre de Conférence Albert Borschette in Brussels. The meeting was preceded by a working dinner on 3<sup>rd</sup> May 2007.

On 4<sup>th</sup> May, Alessandro Buttice welcomed new members and opened the meeting.

**1. Approval of the Agenda**

The first order of business was the approval of the agenda. There were no further suggestions, so the agenda was considered approved.

**2. Adoption of the Minutes and Summary of the 10th OAFCN Meeting, Brussels, 7-8<sup>th</sup> December 2006**

The only correction was to make clear that the training seminar would not be a “meeting”. The distinction being that a “meeting” is about OAFCN policy and collaboration and a training seminar is about developing best practice. Otherwise both the summary version and full version were adopted.

**3. Open Day 5<sup>th</sup> May 2007 in Brussels, with the involvement of the OAFCN**

Gäelle Ceytre gave practical details regarding the OAFCN stand at the Open Day. The Belgian Customs representative promoted their stand and the ZKA representative expressed his thanks for the network cooperation. The usefulness of producing a DVD was discussed and Mr Buttice expressed his happiness with the media coverage.

**4. Customs Operation “Diabolo”, OLAF in conjunction with the Member States**

Diabolo was identified as a good example of successful cooperation, from which many press and TV reports were produced. Mr Schmitz emphasised the need for improvement, for example using TV. Dr. Aronica from the Italian Customs Agency suggested best practice seminars and stressed Mr Schmitz's point about keeping everyone informed. To conclude, Mr Buttice praised the French Custom's Authority's communications strategy and suggested an OAFCN communications strategy in writing.

**5. Joint communication campaign to launch the OLAF Annual Activity Report 2006**

Last year's results were described as positive, but with room for improvement. Mr Wojahn and Mr Buttice asked each OAFCN member to provide a press release, highlighting what their services had done together with OLAF, to show firstly that there is an OLAF, secondly to show cooperation and thirdly to add a national touch to OLAF's European report. Video material was also requested.

**6. Development of Relations with the International Federation of Journalists (IFJ)  
Training for Investigative Journalists in Bulgaria and Romania; Symposium on “The  
Relationship between the Police and the Mass Media”, United Arab Emirates**

Mr Buttice stressed the network's positive relationship with the IFJ, based on mutual trust and cooperation, which led to a successful training course teaching journalists about OLAF, anti-fraud- and Community financing-techniques. Mr Buttice asked members to notify the IFJ should they work with national press services. The conference on “The Protection and optimisation of Public Funds – the Cooperation between National and International

Authorities” in Rabat, Morocco, 14-16 May 2007 was mentioned, which aimed to strengthen democracy and act as a preventative tool. Mr. Buttice emphasised that citizens need to be informed about anti-fraud efforts and that any information campaign is positive.

#### **7. Organisation of the 7<sup>th</sup> Training seminar for the OAFCN in Vienna and Bratislava**

The training seminar's objective would be to deepen communication techniques using TV. The Italian OAFCN member, Col. Corsetti talked about their successful collaboration with TV channels and Mr Jones added that the Serious Fraud Office had been ~~was~~ involved in dramatisations. Mr Wojahn suggested showing an example of OLAF appearing on TV during the seminar. The Slovakian and Austrian representatives described practical matters and expressed their appreciation and anticipation of the event.

#### **8. Synergy building between OLAF Webmaster and members of the OAFCN**

Mrs Germain described the importance of synergy of the web. New OAFCN members were asked to provide her with their images, logos and coordinates, in order to highlight the idea of 'united we stand'.

#### **9. Dissemination of press cuttings of interest for the OAFCN**

Mrs Gaspard thanked the ZKA and Bulgarian Ministry of Interior for the exchange of press cuttings and cooperation in the preparation of media actions.

#### **10. De-briefing and communication aspects related to the OLAF investigation into EC delegations in conjunction with the Brussels Prosecutor's Office, the Belgian Federal Police and the Carabinieri**

Mr Buttice regretted the communication problems occurred during a communication crisis, during an internal investigation. However, the Carabinieri representative remarked that communication is restricted by legislation. The representative of Brussel's Prosecutor's Office, Mr. Meilleur, and the representative from the Belgian Federal Judicial Police, Mr. Luycks, said they were bound by confidentiality, but internally the spokesperson would be informed of operations. Mr Buttice concluded that investigators should inform communications units in time and thanked Italian and Belgian authorities for their cooperation in the matter.

#### **11. Any other business**

Mr Thuy, Spokesman of Eurojust, introduced himself and described the communication activities Eurojust carries out, for example the annual report and website. Mr Thuy expressed his gratitude that Eurojust had joined the OAFCN and suggested the possibility of a meeting in The Hague. Mr Buttice agreed to this meeting and emphasised the network's cooperation and duty to inform the citizens how their money is spent.

Mrs Balevska, described the Bulgarian AFCOS's information campaign, which communicates to the public what OLAF stands for and spoke about fraud prevention measures through videos, brochures, hotlines, billboards and press conferences.

Mr Buttice wished everyone luck for the following day's Open Day, expressed his satisfaction with the day's results and thanked all participants.