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OLAF and Chinese Customs exchange experience on safeguarding staff integrity

European Anti-Fraud Office (OLAF) Director Margarete Hofmann and Vice Minister of the General Administration of China Customs (GACC) in charge of Discipline Inspection, Ms Yumin HU, met today to exchange best practices on protecting the integrity of staff.

Representatives from the Directorate-General for Human Resources and Security presented the European Union legal framework on staff integrity, while OLAF described the procedures it has put in place to safeguard staff ethics, particularly when it comes to internal investigations.

Director Hofmann and Vice Minister Hu discussed the possible cooperation between the two organisations in the area, particularly in the framework on the OLAF-GACC Anti-Fraud Working Group. OLAF and the GACC are already closely working together following the signature of a Strategic Administrative Cooperation Arrangement and of an Action Plan on Undervaluation Investigations in the margins of the EU-China Summit which took place in June 2015.

OLAF mission, mandate and competences

OLAF's mission is to detect, investigate and stop fraud with EU funds.

OLAF fulfils its mission by:

- carrying out independent investigations into fraud and corruption involving EU funds, so as to ensure that all EU taxpayers' money reaches projects that can create jobs and growth in Europe;
- contributing to strengthening citizens' trust in the EU Institutions by investigating serious misconduct by EU staff and members of the EU Institutions;
- developing a sound EU anti-fraud policy.

In its independent investigative function, OLAF can investigate matters relating to fraud, corruption and other offences affecting the EU financial interests concerning:

- all EU expenditure: the main spending categories are Structural Funds, agricultural policy and rural development funds, direct expenditure and external aid;
- some areas of EU revenue, mainly customs duties;
- suspicions of serious misconduct by EU staff and members of the EU institutions.

For further details:

Alina BUREA
Spokesperson
European Anti-Fraud Office (OLAF)
Phone: +32(0)2 29-57336
Email: olaf-media@ec.europa.eu
<http://ec.europa.eu/anti-fraud>



Silvana ENCULESCU
Deputy Spokesperson
European Anti-Fraud Office (OLAF)
+32(0)2 29-81764
olaf-media@ec.europa.eu
<http://ec.europa.eu/anti-fraud>

