

Foreword



Mr Siim KALLAS
Vice-President of the European Commission
Responsible for Administrative Affairs, Audit and Anti-Fraud

As Commissioner in charge of Administrative Affairs, Audit and Anti-Fraud, I am very pleased to see the great success of such initiatives as the OLAF Round Table on Anti Fraud Communication.¹

This project first came into being in October 2004 as a Virtual Round Table within the OLAF website. It today provides a precious analysis forum on communication and information as a means of preventing fraud and corruption, and as such it constitutes an important element of the OLAF Anti-Fraud Communicators Network (OAFCN).

This Round Table brought together and encouraged discussion between different experts on institutional communication such as anti fraud investigators, police and other law enforcement agencies, academics from the fields of law, economics and media, members of investigative and judicial services, officials from the European Institutions, journalists and other individuals working in related fields.

I truly believe that communication can help deter and prevent fraud and irregularities by raising awareness and promoting public debate. Communication policy can help shape public opinion, and the key to success in the fight against corruption is changing public opinion, different in each of the MS and Candidate countries, to ensure that corruption is viewed critically by members of the public.

For this reason it is crucial for law and anti-corruption authorities from all over the EU to share their experiences in such forums, particularly as putting across a positive message about our work is not always easy. We need to constantly communicate that we strive to be professional, impartial and reliable in fighting fraud that harms all citizens.

Looking at the experiences and successes of investigative and law enforcement services from the MS and Candidate Countries offers a valuable insight into the ways in which such agencies can adequately inform the public about their activities and in doing so, actively involve them in the fight against fraud. It also gives an insight into the role that the media play as a vital platform for communication with the public about anti-fraud cases and as a vehicle that can be used to educate citizens about the risks that economic crime poses to them.

I would like to offer my heartfelt thanks to the OLAF Anti-Fraud Communicators Network for providing us with this compilation. By highlighting the role of the public in the fight

¹ http://europa.eu.int/comm/anti_fraud/olaf-oafcn/rt/c/i_en.html

against fraud, this publication moves towards the goal stated by the Barroso Commission and most notably by my colleague Margot Wallström, Vice President of the European Commission and Commissioner for Institutional Relations and Communication, of connecting with the European citizen and opening up dialogue and debate.

I encourage the continuation of such meaningful projects and extend my most sincere congratulations to OLAF for such worthwhile initiatives.

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