

## **12<sup>th</sup> OAFCN training seminar closing speech**

### **"OAFCN in action: using new communication tools across Europe"**

**(Rome, Wednesday 24 April 2013 - 12.00-12.15)**

I think you will agree with me that this seminar has provided a lot of food for thought. We have been provided with valuable insight into conveying important anti-fraud messages to citizens, by means of new communication tools, namely Facebook, Twitter, YouTube, LinkedIn but also cartoons, whose impact can often be more direct & effective than words.

By communicating with citizens, we extend our outreach, and make our public institutions more transparent. This in turn fosters trust and cooperation.

It is only through close cooperation of all parties concerned, namely national anti-fraud bodies (i.e. OAFCN members), via OLAF and the OAFCN network, that we can successfully combat transnational fraud and illegal activities. It is through partnership that we will achieve results. This can be achieved by sharing information and best practice amongst ourselves, at events like these. It is then a matter of putting the theoretical information into practice, both at national level and international level via the OAFCN.

The OAFCN seminar this year particularly targets young people, that is to say, our future taxpayers. We have heard eminent presentations, interesting facts and statistics on the popularity of social media, inspiring initiatives and examples of best practice from all over Europe. We have been warned that criminals already know how to exploit social media. We have even learnt some useful tips like how to get discounts on KLM (Dutch airline) flights.

And of course, the practical workshop sessions – for which I would like to thank once again our facilitator Jan Hein Nielsen for his valuable help, have given rise to open and stimulating discussions. But this has also provided us today with some tangible results: our ideas catalogue, which is a brochure of the ideas you came up with in your workshop groups. A few copies are already at your disposal in the room and of course you will receive an electronic version after the seminar.

On behalf of OLAF, my main closing request to you is therefore to pick one (or several) of the ideas you have been provided with during this seminar - which are examples of using new communication tools to communicate an anti-fraud message –choose the one that fits your particular service's needs and budget, realise it back home and report back to us at our next OAFCN meeting. This is my call for action to the OLAF Anti-Fraud Communicators' Network (OAFCN) today.

This brings us to the end of our working session and I would like to warmly thank our Italian colleagues from the Guardia di Finanza for hosting this seminar and generously contributing to its flawless organisation. I would also like to thank all my staff for their hard work. And last but not least, thank you to you, my fellow delegates, for your active involvement.

For those of you who can stay, this afternoon we will have a cultural guided tour of the Vatican museum, hosted by the Guardia di Finanza to whom I will now hand over to say a few final words.