



Press release

On 28th October 2005 was taking place in Brussels joint seminar Building mutual trust between anti-fraud services (AFCOS-y) and journalists. The seminar was jointly hosted by The International Federation of Journalist (IFJ) and The European Anti-fraud Office (OLAF). Seminar was organized for the spokespersons and communicators of the partner's offices of OLAF in the EU member states and acceding countries - the OLAF Anti-fraud Office communicators' network (OAFCN). About 60 members of OAFCN participated on this seminar and actively took part in discussion with Mr. Michael Stabenow, President of the International press association (IPA), Mr. Noël Louis, Belgian attorney and Mr. Henrik Hololei, Head of cabinet of Mr. Siim Kallas, Vice-president of the EC, responsible for the Administrative affairs, audit and anti-fraud. The representatives of the Central contact unit OLAF for SR (Slovak AFCOS) as a department of the Office of the Government of the SR and representative of the Customs Directorate of the SR represented Slovak Republic. Participants of this seminar led to the conclusion, that the transparent society is the common interest of journalists and investigators, because also media can be a key component in the fight against fraud and corruption not only building-up public confidence in customs, but also investigating concrete cases of fraud. In communication of journalists and investigators and other repressive services is essential to respect ethical principles, primarily in the protection of the right of the publicity, especially conservation of the privacy in the moment of appearance of suspicion and during the whole investigation. It was expressed need of true and quick communication between two mentioned components for achievement the transparency. At the end of the seminar participants led to the conclusion that dialogue between anti-fraud services and journalists should continue and such discussions should be organized at least once a year.