



### Conclusions:

At the end of the meeting Mr Buttice set out what were agreed by general consensus to be the conclusions of the meeting:

- (a) The decision has been taken to organise a number of seminars and training actions, initially in Finland/Sweden and in Spain for communicators and for journalists respectively. It is planned that this initiative will be developed on in the future.
- (b) The OLAF Anti-Fraud Communicators Network (OAFCN) should continue its work of creating permanent synergies and contacts between OLAF's institutional communication service and its counterparts in the national investigation services and as between the members.
- (c) The OAFCN has proved its operational usefulness and should continue to be based on the level of the national investigative services co-operating together so that the shared operational goals can be kept in sight.
- (d) The OAFCN exists to help in the dissemination of information to the general public and in particular to the media relating to the fight against fraud to the detriment of the Community financial interests, to encourage co-operation in the domain of communication and to reach a larger audience.
- (e) The dissemination of information concerning the fight against fraud to the detriment of the Community financial interest is a means of prevention of this fraud.
- (f) The OAFCN should endeavour to increase its membership both by seeking out and inviting new members from EU Member States (especially states which are not as yet represented) but also by granting membership of the Network to colleagues representing the investigative services in candidate countries. Current members will furnish the OAFCN secretariat with the names and contact details of persons whom they consider to be suitable potential members of the Network
- (g) The OAFCN should continue to try to increase production of joint media actions such as videos, photos and press releases to show OLAF and the various national investigative services working together and the services working together through the good offices of OLAF.
- (h) Consideration should be given to formalising the links between the various webmasters of the Members services so as to allow more real time co-operation and joint actions using the Internet.
- (i) The idea of organising a joint publicity campaign throughout the EU, on a high profile fraud problem of mutual interest - perhaps the issue of cigarette smuggling - should be looked into. OLAF will take this matter up with the competent services within the EU institutions. Members should also raise this possibility of joint action with their administrations.
- (j) Within the limits imposed by operational and legal restraints, OAFCN members should inform each other in advance regarding possibilities for press releases of mutual interest and should assist journalists forwarded to them by other OAFCN members.