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Mitglied des Europäischen Parlaments

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## Press release

### Parliament paves the way for a more effective fight against fraud

Today the European Parliament has adopted at first reading its negotiating position on the reform of the European Anti-Fraud Office (OLAF). "We have reached an important milestone on our way towards a stronger anti-fraud policy at EU level", says Inge Gräßle MEP, Chair of the Budgetary Control Committee, who authored the report.

"We have been able to reach a consensus in committee between political groups on a lot of issues. We all want to make OLAF stronger by improving the efficiency and the legal soundness of its investigations, which will lead to an overall more effective Office. We want the Member States' authorities to make more and better use of the outcome of OLAF's investigations." Parliament's key demand is to strengthen the procedural rights of persons concerned by investigations, explains Gräßle: "We want to give persons concerned the right to access OLAF's final report, and to bring a lawsuit against that report, if they consider that their rights have been violated during an investigation. This would close a big loophole in the current legislation."

"The text that has now been approved by the plenary is well-balanced. We support the proposals made by the Commission, but we also propose further measures, which in our view are necessary to address the most important shortcomings of the current legal basis. Now the Council, which after months of internal deliberations has yet to come up with a common position, needs to deliver. The new Parliament will stand ready to negotiate after the European elections", says Gräßle.

The revision of the OLAF Regulation has been made necessary by the creation of the European Public Prosecutor's Office (EPPO), which is scheduled to be operational by the end of 2020. The EPPO will partly take over OLAF's tasks, which makes certain changes to OLAF's legal basis necessary. Besides enhancing the provisions on the cooperation between OLAF and the EPPO, Parliament supports streamlining the rules on how to

conduct investigations, strengthening the rights of the OLAF Supervisory Committee, and promoting the admissibility of OLAF reports in national judicial proceedings.

Further information:

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