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Inge Gräßle (EPP/CDU):

OLAF: reliability of figures still in doubt

"Many questions arise around the 2014 OLAF Activity Report which was published today", stated Inge Gräßle MEP, Chairwoman of the Budgetary Control Committee in the European Parliament. "Just four weeks ago, the OLAF Supervisory Committee gave the Director-General of OLAF a devastating testimonial when the Committee checked the figures and the success stories from the 2013 Annual Activity Report", said Gräßle.

"Reading the new report, I am experiencing déjà-vu: we are told that, once again, the duration of investigations was cut down. In 2013, we saw manipulations like splitting up large cases into a multitude of smaller cases which were subsequently closed with no discernible investigative activities. If we recalculate the average duration of investigations without those distorting effects, the average duration of an investigation in 2013 jumps from 17.5 to 26.8 months", said the EPP Group MEP.

"We cannot trust the figures from the Office. The situation is worrying because the Office's success stories depend on statistical manipulations and breaches of law. The success stories in the 2014 OLAF Report are déjà-vu and thanks to the work of the Supervisory Committee, we know how these figures were manipulated." Gräßle called on the Supervisory Committee to re-check the 2014 figures of the Office, and on the Commission to take action.

For further information:

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