



Dr. Inge Gräßle, MdEP

Fraktion der Europäischen Volkspartei (Christdemokraten) im Europäischen Parlament
Group of the European People's Party (Christian Democrats) in the European Parliament
Groupe du Parti Populaire Européen (Démocrates-Chrétiens) au Parlement européen

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Inge Gräßle (EVP/CDU):

Inge Gräßle: OLAF Director General Kessler has to go

The Coordinator of the EPP group in the Budgetary Control Committee, Inge Gräßle, demands the resignation of the Director General of the European Anti-Fraud Office (OLAF), Giovanni Kessler.

Kessler himself conducted the investigations in the case of the former EU Health Commissioner John Dalli, who, in the light of the preparation of the proposal for a new tobacco products directive, has been exposed to allegations of corruption. At a press conference today, the Greens had shown that the plaintiff Swedish Match had been prompted by OLAF to make false statements in front of Parliament. Already two days ago, the OLAF Supervisory Committee pointed out to Parliament severe breaches of fundamental rights – the recording of a telephone conversation and its evaluation without a judicial authorisation, as well as the instigation of third persons to produce such records of telephone conversations.

“Now the instigation of a third party, in this case Swedish Match, to make a false statement in front of Parliament adds to this record,” says Gräßle.

She demands the disclosure of all breaches that are mentioned in the report of the Supervisory Committee. This report has been received by the Presidents of the three institutions Parliament, Council and Commission, and has been kept locked since.

“The presidents have to stop covering up for the breaches, everything has to be put on the table!” states Gräßle. She calls it unacceptable that her own institution thereby even covers up the fact that it has been lied to all along.

For further information:

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