

Inge Gräßle: OLAF Supervisory Committee hints to deficiencies of OLAF's investigations in the Dalli-case - Commission and OLAF withhold information over own failure

"Full disclosure of documents" demands Inge Gräßle, coordinator of the EPP in the Budgetary Control Committee, after the Committee received a letter of the OLAF Supervisory Committee on the investigations surrounding the resignation of former Commissioner Dalli.

"Have there been profound and systematic violations in the OLAF-investigations? At least, yesterday's letter does suggest it", Gräßle said. "Has OALF illegally recorded tapes? This question has been brought up during Maltese criminal proceedings and needs an urgent answer".

"We want to know what those 'potential problems' are that have been identified, and what the Supervisory Committee means with the 'discussion on a more systematic level' that it requires to be held with the Director General." The recommendations of the Supervisory Committee are to the OLAF Director General directly transmitted.

"The role of the OLAF Director General turns out to be central, especially in regard to the Dalli case: The OLAF Director General, himself has led the investigations in the Dalli-case and is deciding now on how and when he is to be controlled for this. This is not acceptable. We are faced with a concrete and home-made conflict of objectives to the Director General of OLAF", urges Gräßle.

"The impression that the OLAF Director General eludes controls is amplified through the way the questions of the Parliament have been answered." A standard clause has been added to large parts of the 154 questions of Members of Parliament's Budgetary Control Committee concerning the resignation of former Commissioner Dalli leaving a lot of the questions Parliamentarians had unanswered. "This exhibits an arrogant and egomaniac attitude of the Director General." The OLAF Director General had given more information to the public in a press conference on 17th October 2012 than to Parliament, which according to Gräßle, could not be accepted.

"This attitude is also prevalent in the flawed cooperation of the Director General with the Supervisory Committee", criticises Gräßle: Between February and September 2012 the OLAF Supervisory Committee requested access in 32 cases. In none of those cases the access was granted in due time. 22 of those requests were even refused or ignored by the Director General.

Also the recruitment of the assistants to the OLAF Supervisory Committee has been hindered by the Director General.

"It is an absurdity that the Director General is granting his controllers in an act of grace, the possibility to control him", Gräßle said.