

EUROPEAN COMMISSION ADOPTS NEW ANTI-FRAUD STRATEGY

On 29 April 2019, the European Commission adopted its new Anti-Fraud Strategy that seeks to further improve the detection, sanctioning and prevention of fraud and will support the Commission's ongoing efforts to bring fraud against the EU budget further down.

The Commission adopted its current Anti-Fraud Strategy in 2011. It set out guidelines for the Commission's fight against fraud, such as the principle of zero tolerance to fraud, and three priority actions, namely:

- introducing anti-fraud provisions in Commission proposals on spending programmes under the Multi Annual Financial Framework for 2014-2020;
- implementing anti-fraud strategies at department level; and
- revising the public procurement directives.

After performing an evaluation of the 2011 Anti-Fraud Strategy, the Commission concluded that the strategy is still relevant and effective as a policy framework for the Commission in protecting the EU budget, but also that it needs to adapt to an evolving situation (new funding schemes and fraud trends, development of IT tools, etc.).

The new Anti-Fraud Strategy pushes for more consistency and better coordination in the fight against fraud among the various Commission departments and it paves the way for more data-driven anti-fraud measures in the coming years. The vision behind the new Anti-Fraud Strategy is to strengthen the corporate oversight of the Commission regarding all issues related to fraud and to reinforce the anti-fraud system that is already in place.

Building on actions taken since 2011, the new Anti-Fraud Strategy seeks to make sure that the Commission makes the most out of the available data to prevent and detect fraud. It focuses on improving the quality and completeness of relevant information, on joining up different data sources and on creating smarter tools to draw operational conclusions.

The Anti-Fraud Strategy also seeks to reinforce the Commission's corporate oversight of fraud issues, by giving the European Anti-Fraud Office ('**OLAF**') a much stronger advisory and supervisory role. OLAF will conduct mandatory reviews of the anti-fraud strategies of all Commission Directorates and monitor their implementation. It will liaise with all departments, and especially with the Heads of the Commission's central services (Secretariat-General, Legal Service, DG Human Resources and DG Budget), in this process. This will strengthen the Commission's overall governance of the anti-fraud system. In addition, the Commission will strengthen its follow-up of OLAF's recommendations in order to ensure a better implementation.

The Commission's Communication on the new Anti-Fraud Strategy is available via [this link](#). The Annex to the Communication can be consulted [here](#). The Communication is further accompanied by an [Action Plan](#) and a [Fraud Risk Assessment](#).

More general information on the Commission's anti-fraud policy is available at the [OLAF's website](#).

We hope this information is useful. You should not hesitate to contact us should you have any questions or require further information.

Kind regards,

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