



CORTE DEI CONTI

MEETING OF THE LIAISON OFFICERS OF THE SUPREME AUDIT INSTITUTIONS
OF THE EUROPEAN UNION

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Contact Committee Working Group on prevention and fight against irregularities and fraud

The Working Group for the enhancement of cooperation among SAIs regarding the prevention and fight against irregularities and fraud aimed at protecting EU revenues has been established pursuant to Resolution CC-R-2015-02 of the Contact Committee.



The Scope:

1. Protection of the financial interests of the European Union is a key element to strengthen and increase the confidence of citizens and ensure that their money is used properly.
2. The proper use of the European Union funds is a priority. Fraudulent activities have negative effects on the budget and on the economic and social field of the European Community.





The Working Group's specific mission to be pursued in the next years will benefit from the existing fruitful cooperation with OLAF, especially in the use of the OLAF Database for the monitoring of irregularities and fraud.

For instance, on March 12, 2019, the Corte dei conti met representatives of OLAF and ECA with the aim to develop the investigative synergy in the fight against fraud and irregularities in the European framework.





The Working Group has paid attention to the scope of the application of the Directive (EU) 2017/1371 on the fight against fraud to the EU financial interests by means of criminal law.

This directive is an important step in the context of the protection measures the EU Member States are required to adopt to prevent and discipline fraud and illegal activities that damage the financial interests of the Union.





The Working Group should proceed to:

- harmonize the different approaches towards prevention and fight against irregularities and fraud;
- develop a greater awareness in national administrations, both at central and local level, so that they can intensify and improve prevention activities;
- share of best practices and methodologies;
- take into consideration and exchange information concerning the Member States legislation on financial crimes, conflict of interests, irregularities denunciations and definition of fraud;
- carry out evaluations and comparisons on the extent and the quality of the phenomena in the different Member States.



Actions and next steps:

- SAIs must be informed of the denunciations to OLAF made by national administrations that have discovered cases of fraud and irregularities;
- SAIs should also define appropriate indicators to address situations at risk of irregularity to identify the most common cases and areas in which they usually occur.



The Corte dei conti as Chair of the Working Group plays a very fundamental role to carry towards and a great challenge to face.

The Corte dei conti takes advantage from a situation of crossed collaboration or cross subsidization: judicial functions stimulate auditing functions and auditing functions stimulate judicial functions.

This system facilitates a mutual exchange and use of data and information to achieve the goals which law ascribes to each of the two functions.

In Italy the Judicial and audit functions of the Corte dei conti allow to verify not only the use of public funds at European Union and National level and also to prosecute the waste of public resources due to misconduct



While thanking again the colleagues of the Bulgarian National Audit Office for joining the Working Group, the Corte dei conti invites other SAIs to participate in it to work together in order to:

- analyse the cross benefit/subsidization;
- carry out also judicial activity in the fight against corruption, fraud, etc.;
- utilize common audit guidelines on the use of European and national funds



Thank you for your attention

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