

Enclosure 1

Replies to requests from the Budgetary Control Committee

Seconded National Experts

Please find below the information requested by **Ms. AYALA SENDER** on the 11 national experts working in the Secretariat-General on 31 December 2016 (ref. reply to Question 11).

Nationality	MEMBER STATE EMPLOYER
Cypriot	Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Nicosia, Cyprus
Danish	Ministry of Business and Growth (Danish Business Authority. The Better Regulation Unit)
Danish	Ministry of Business and Growth (Danish Business Authority, Copenhagen (Denmark)
Danish	Ministry of Justice, Denmark
Dutch	Ministry of Economic Affairs, The Hague, The Netherlands
Dutch	Ministry of Economic Affairs, The Hague, The Netherlands
Estonian	Ministry of Economic Affairs and Communications, Tallinn (Estonia)
Estonian	Government Office of Estonia, Legal department, Tallinn (Estonia)
German	UK Department for Transport (DfT), Government Economic Service (GES), Economic Fast stream
Romanian	Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Bucharest, Romania
UK	UK Civil Service, European Faststream, London (United Kingdom)

Expert Groups

Concerning the question from **Mr. DE JONG** on expert groups, within the Secretariat-General of the Commission there are currently three staff involved in keeping the ‘register of Commission expert groups and other similar entities’ up to date. Please see the written reply to question 52 for further information on the implementation of the new horizontal rules on expert groups.

Secretariat of OLAF Supervisory Committee

With regard to the question from **Ms. GRÄSSLE** on the staffing of the secretariat of OLAF's Supervisory Committee, currently 5 out of 8 posts are filled. One vacant post will be filled as of 1 January 2018. For another vacant post, the selection procedure has just been completed and the post should be filled as soon as the necessary administrative steps for recruitment have been completed. The last vacant post was published in November and a selection procedure is on-going. Consequently, all posts should be filled in early 2018.

Cyber-security

In response to additional questions received from **Mr. KOHN** on 8 December:

What preventive measures is the Commission taking in cooperation with other EU institutions to protect itself and these institutions from possible cyber-attacks?

The Commission collaborates actively with the CERT-EU (the Computer Emergency Response Team for the EU institutions) by sharing on a permanent basis security incident related information and best practices. The Commission is also sharing practical information on its security projects (such as Windows security, secure email between EU institutions) in the security subgroup of the Comité Informatique Interinstitutionnel (CII).

What is the strategy of the Commission to support Member States in the context of the upcoming European elections in 2019 to prevent cyber-attacks?

Ensuring the integrity of electoral processes – including for European Parliament elections – is the responsibility of the national authorities of the Member States. The Directive on Information and Network Security (Directive (EU) 2016/1148) requires national authorities to ensure that networks and information systems of operators of essential services and digital service providers are resilient against cyber-attacks. It also requires Member States to develop cyber security strategies and capacities which contribute to increased overall cyber resilience and which can in principle cover also sectors beyond those referred to in Annex II and III of the Directive.

Public administration is not included in the scope of the Directive, but the Commission is aware that some Member States are considering extending the obligations stemming from the directive on their public administrations as part of their transposition process of the NIS Directive, set for 9 May 2018. In September 2017 the Commission put forward a comprehensive cybersecurity package which takes a comprehensive approach to cybersecurity, while at the same time putting forward a set of concrete operational actions that could be implemented in order to build cyber-resilience and defend the EU against cyber threats.

At the same time, awareness-raising in relation to online disinformation campaigns and fake news on social media specifically aimed at undermining democratic processes and European values is equally important. While the primary responsibility remains at national level, the pooling of expertise and sharing of experience at the European level has proven to be of added value in providing a focus for action. In November 2017 the Commission launched work to prepare an initiative to tackle fake news and disinformation online whose results should be available by the 2nd quarter of 2018. A public consultation is now open¹ to collect views from all parties concerned across the EU as regards the scope of the problem and the effectiveness of voluntary measures already put in place by industry to prevent the spread of disinformation online and to better understand the rationale and possible directions for action at EU and/or national level.

¹ https://ec.europa.eu/info/consultations/public-consultation-fake-news-and-online-disinformation_en