

European Parliament Budgetary Control  
Committee

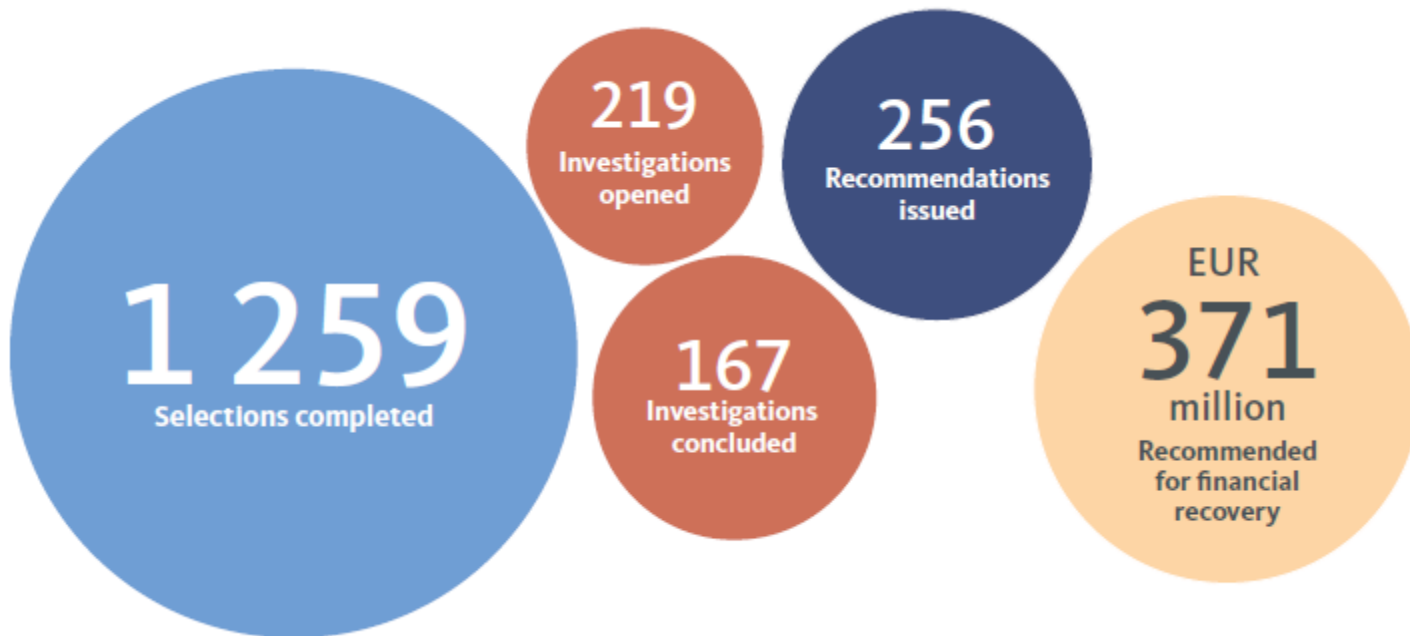
**Presentation of the  
OLAF Report 2018**

4 September 2019

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## OLAF'S INVESTIGATIVE PERFORMANCE IN 2018

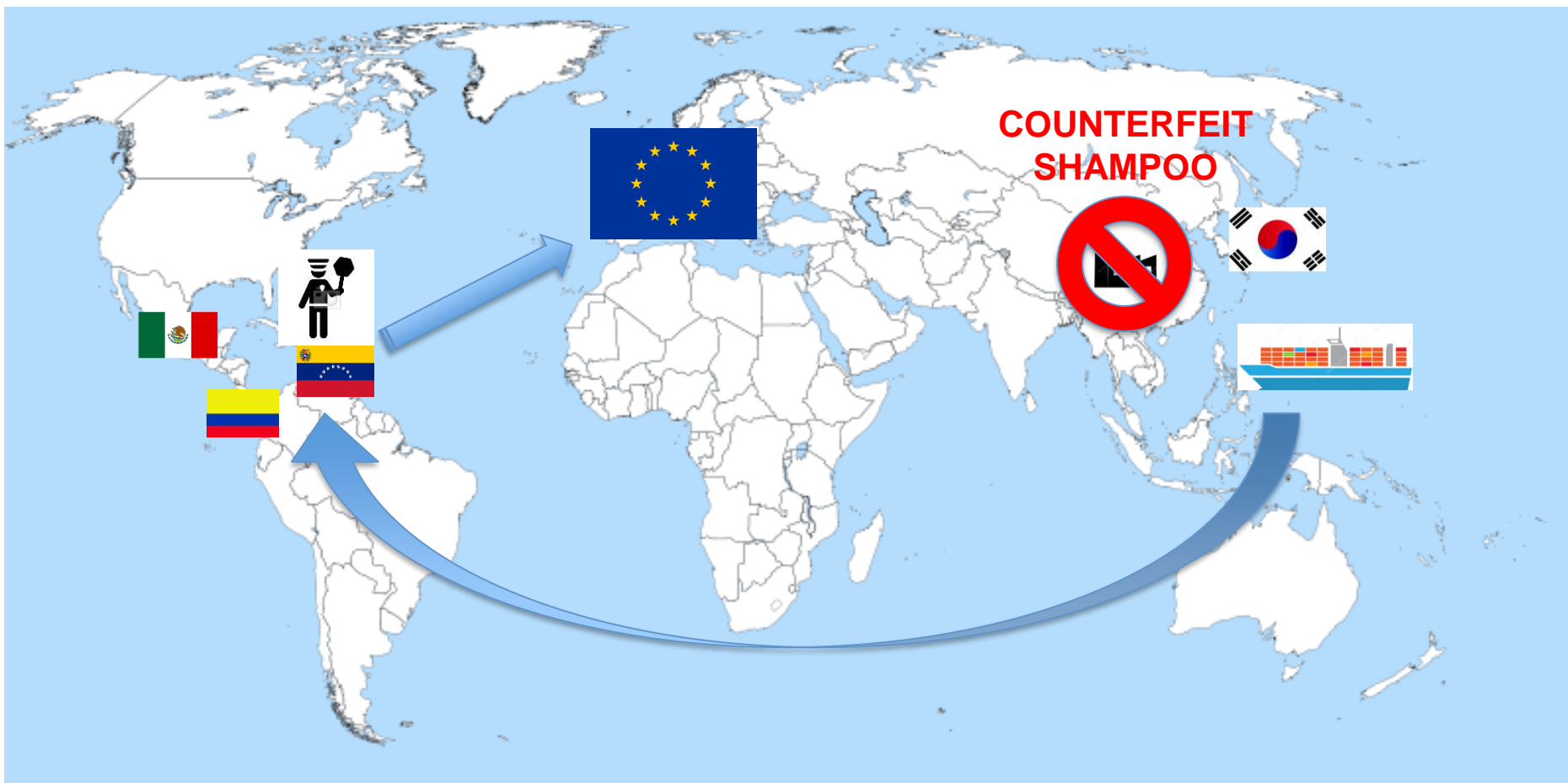


## OLAF's ADDED VALUE: CENTRAL ROLE IN COMPLEX INVESTIGATIONS

### Trends revealed by OLAF investigations in 2018:

- Cross-border fraud schemes where **shell companies** are used to disguise fake business transactions
- Fraud in the promotion of European agricultural **products**
- Organised crime involvement in defrauding EU funds meant to fund **refugee camps**
- The **evsion of customs duties** by highly-organised criminal groups

# FIGHTING REVENUE FRAUD AND PROTECTING EU CONSUMERS' HEALTH, SAFETY AND ENVIRONMENT



## FIGHTING REVENUE FRAUD THROUGH TRANSNATIONAL INVESTIGATIONS

- **A further success in the string of undervaluation cases:** textiles and footwear entering the EU generally through Germany, but go through customs clearance in the UK, Slovakia, Czechia, France, Malta and Greece.
- The losses to the EU budget stemming from these cases amount to **over €2.5 billion in customs duties**
- **Gaps in the legislative setting or operational capacity of customs** will be readily exploited by fraudsters. **OLAF plays a crucial role in preventing and tackling revenue fraud, as it is able to operate transnationally**



# UNRAVELLING COMPLEX FRAUD SCAMS: PROMOTION OF AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS



## CORRUPTION IN DISBURSEMENT OF PRE-ACCESSION FUNDS

- An Italian company set up a **network of Balkan partners** to unlawfully support the company in winning EU-funded contracts worth more than EUR 2 million.
- The company gained **access to confidential information** related to the procurement procedures. The Italian bidder also **bribed high-level public administration officials** in order to influence the evaluation committee.
- OLAF conducted several **witness interviews** and carried out an **on-the-spot check** including a **digital forensic operation** at the premises of the Italian company.
- OLAF concluded its investigation with a **financial recommendation** to DG NEAR to recover the entire amount disbursed, and with **judicial recommendations** to the Italian judicial authorities to consider prosecuting the persons concerned.

# OLAF HELPS ENSURE HIGH STANDARD OF PROFESSIONAL CONDUCT IN EU INSTITUTIONS

## Investigations into EU staff and members of the Institutions, concluded in 2018

Institution, body office, agency	Cases concluded	
	Total number	of which, concluded with recommendations
European Commission	9	7
European Parliament	8	2
Agencies	5	3
European Court of Justice	2	2
European External Action Service	2	2
Committee of the Regions	1	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>17</b>



## DEVELOPING ANTI-FRAUD POLICIES AND COOPERATING WITH PARTNERS

- OLAF's contribution to the **creation of the European Public Prosecutor's Office (EPPO)**
- Preparing **OLAF to be a close partner of the EPPO** – amendment of the OLAF Regulation 883/2013
- New **Commission Anti-Fraud Strategy (CAFS)**



## LOOKING TOWARDS THE FUTURE

- Three main principles: **transparency, cooperation and trust**
- Reinforce OLAF activities in areas European citizens are concerned about, like the **smuggling of counterfeit, illicit and dangerous products**, which damage the **health and safety** of citizens and threaten **the environment**
- OLAF as a **Knowledge Centre on fraud matters at EU level**, conducting analysis on fraud risks and supporting EPPO, EU institutions and national authorities.
- Extending our capacity to work as a **customs data intelligence and analysis centre**, in order to enhance the **European Customs Union**