

**Question for written answer E-004443/2016  
to the Commission**  
Rule 130  
**Olaf Stuger (ENF)**

Subject: Almost € 900 million in EU subsidies fraudulently obtained

Because of fraud, almost € 900 million in EU funding ended up in the wrong hands last year. According to a report by the European Anti-Fraud Office (OLAF), most EU subsidy fraud was committed in Romania, Bulgaria and Hungary.

The € 888 million in 2015 was a shade less than the € 901 million the previous year. The aggregate amount represents 0.6% of the overall budget.

OLAF investigated about 1 400 cases of fraud, the largest involving € 1.3 million for modernisation of a refrigeration plant for vegetables in Bulgaria. It turned out that the supplier of the new equipment and the owner of the plant were one and the same person.<sup>1</sup>

1. Can the Commission explain why, each year, fraud is found to have occurred, but it never takes action?
2. What action does the Commission intend to take in order to combat fraud? Is, for instance, stopping EU subsidy handouts to corrupt countries an option?
3. Does the Commission find it odd that most fraud was committed in Romania, Bulgaria and Hungary, which are countries with high unsatisfactory scores - 46, 41 and 51 respectively - on Transparency International's Corruption Perceptions Index?<sup>2</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> [http://www.telegraaf.nl/dft/25902287/\\_\\_\\_Gesjoemel\\_EU-subsidies\\_bedraagt\\_bijna\\_\\_900\\_miljoen\\_\\_\\_.html](http://www.telegraaf.nl/dft/25902287/___Gesjoemel_EU-subsidies_bedraagt_bijna__900_miljoen___.html)

<sup>2</sup> <http://www.transparency.org/country>