

EN  
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Answer given by Mr Oettinger  
on behalf of the European Commission  
(10.12.2018)

In 2004, the European Institutions introduced rules on whistleblowing in the Staff Regulations (Articles 22a and 22b) which set out the procedures for reporting any allegations of fraud, corruption or serious irregularity.

These rules were complemented in 2012 by the Commission's Guidelines on Whistleblowing<sup>1</sup> which are applicable to Commission staff. The aim is to draw attention to situations that the institution has every interest to stop. As such, the Commission has a policy of granting protection to whistle-blowers acting in conformity with the rules. In particular, the Commission is committed to respecting a whistle-blower's wish to have his or her identity kept confidential.

The Commission relevant services pay utmost attention when dealing with allegations brought forward under the whistle-blower rules.

Without prejudice to other cases being recorded by other EU institutions, to date, the Commission has neither record of whistleblowing cases involving United Kingdom nationals nor of requests for assistance lodged under Article 22c.

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<sup>1</sup> Communication from Vice-President Šefčovič to the Commission on Guidelines on Whistleblowing SEC(2012)679 final.