

# EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

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*Session document*

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## MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

further to the Commission statement

pursuant to Rule 37(2) of the Rules of Procedure

by Freddy Blak, Jonas Sjöstedt and Luigi Vinci

on behalf of the GUE/NGL Group

on the follow-up to the Eurostat affair

**European Parliament resolution on the follow-up to the Eurostat affair**

*The European Parliament,*

- having regard to Rule 37(2) of its Rules of Procedure,
- A. whereas Parliament in principle concluded its consideration of the Eurostat case in the follow-up to the 2001 discharge (Casaca report of 29 January 2004),
  1. Recalls that the Eurostat affair bears a striking resemblance to the state of affairs that led to the resignation of the Santer Commission - nepotism, conflict of interests and secret accounts; stresses that irregularities and fraud have cost the taxpayer more than € 6 million and that what has come to light is probably just the tip of the iceberg;
  2. Stresses that the case has highlighted serious problems in the working methods of both the Commission and OLAF;
  3. Welcomes in principle the Eurostat action plan for 2004 and the Commission proposal for a new OLAF Regulation (10 January 2004); stresses, however, that the Commission does not need new rules – rather it needs to apply the existing ones;
  4. Reminds the Commissioners that they are responsible for the wrongdoings of officials in their departments (Committee of Independent Experts, 1999 and the Code of Conduct for Commissioners, 1999); considers that Commissioners cannot be relieved of their responsibility because they did not receive enough information;
  5. Regrets that the Commissioner in charge of Eurostat did not assume political responsibility and that he was not asked to resign by the Commission President;
  6. Considers that both Parliament and the public need to be properly informed about the follow-up to the Eurostat affair, including how the Commission intends to prevent similar cases arising in the future;
  7. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Commission.