

WRITTEN QUESTION E-1242/06

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to the Council

Subject: Leaking of OLAF information

According to information released recently and published by the media, documents were leaked from the OLAF Supervisory Committee between August 2002 and November 2005.

These documents, classified as confidential, ended up in the hands of certain journalists and leaders of Community agencies who were involved in a dispute with the European Commission.

Between August 2002 and November 2005, the Supervisory Committee was chaired by Mr Edmondo Bruti Liberati, an Italian magistrate.

The new Chairwoman of the Supervisory Committee, Mrs Rosalind Wright, has said in a statement to the European parliament's Committee on Budgetary Control that this is a serious problem to which she wishes to put an end. The Director-General of OLAF, Mr Franz-Hermann Brüner, apparently stated, in a dossier forwarded to the President of the European Parliament, the Chairman of the Committee on Budgetary Control and the OLAF Supervisory Committee, that he himself had repeatedly asked Mr Bruti Liberati to investigate the information leaks and to report on the matter, but had never obtained a satisfactory response. Mr Bruti Liberati, as Mr Brüner himself acknowledges, did not reply, other than in a marginal way, to the Director-General's repeated requests. After many requests, he merely wrote to the EP committee responsible, without referring the matter to OLAF.

What measures does the Council plan to take to ensure that such incidents do not recur?

Can it say whether any further information has been leaked since the reappointment of the Supervisory Committee in November 2005?

What were the conclusions of the investigations into the OLAF affairs?

Is the Council prepared to ascertain who might be responsible?