

WRITTEN QUESTION E-1757/09
by Paul van Buitenen (Verts/ALE)
to the Commission

Subject: Recruitment for vacant OLAF director post

On 1 July 2008 the Commission published Vacancy COM/2008/10094 for a Director of one of OLAF's two investigative directorates¹. The conditions to be fulfilled by a successful candidate include:

- an advanced law degree or a qualification to practise law;
- very good knowledge of English and/or French.

The head of the other investigative directorate does not seem to possess an advanced law degree. The EU has a non-uniform legal system (common law, civil law); any advanced law degree is country specific. In other recruitment processes, OLAF has stated that it will apply positive discrimination for female applicants, but no such clause is in COM/2008/10094. The German language does not qualify applicants for this position. The recruitment section of OLAF's webpage did not provide any information about this recruitment process. The present acting director, Mr Cretin, is a French male with a law background.

1. Why does OLAF require the law degree which means that professionals without one are not eligible?
2. What are the fundamental differences of a legal nature that make it possible for the director of one investigative directorate to operate effectively, but render applicants for the position of director of the other investigative directorate ineligible for the same leadership position?
3. If there are no fundamental differences, does this mean that OLAF plans to dismiss the other investigative director for incompetence?
4. Why did OLAF not discriminate positively in favour of female applicants in this particular case?
5. What is the number of female OLAF professionals in and above the position of Head of Unit?
6. Why could a German speaking applicant not effectively lead the Directorate?
7. Why was COM/2008/10094 not posted on OLAF's webpage?
8. Do you agree that the conditions set seem to be tailored to meet the profile of the acting director?

¹ OJ C 166 A, 1.7.2008, p. 1.