

**Question for written answer E-000851/2024
to the Commission**

Rule 138

Domènec Ruiz Devesa (S&D)

Subject: EUIPO reported to OLAF

On 23 February 2024, Euronews published the article 'Fraud office handling complaints over jobs at European trade mark agency'. The article explains that the European Anti-Fraud Office (OLAF) has received two complaints alleging irregularities in recruitment at the European Union Intellectual Property Office (EUIPO) based in Alicante.

The article states that the complaints lodged last year involve various appointments and allege irregularities in the pre-selection process and partiality, nepotism and corruption in a number of recruitment and selection procedures. The complaints claim that irregularities often occur in the pre-selection committees' work so as to submit single candidates for selection or favour specific candidates.

What is more, according to Euronews, local municipal authorities in Alicante were involved in two of the recruitment processes for which complaints were lodged.

1. Can the Commission confirm that OLAF has received the reports mentioned in the article and that EUIPO is being investigated for irregular recruitment and that Alicante's municipal authorities are affected by that investigation?
2. Can the Commission confirm that the investigation involves Alicante Municipal Council or positions or people who have professional or personal connections to it?

Submitted:20.3.2024