

**Question for written answer P-009514/2012
to the Commission**
Rule 117
Olle Schmidt (ALDE)

Subject: Anti-fraud inquiry and the new tobacco products directive

According to a recent report submitted to the Commission by the European Anti-Fraud Office (OLAF), the company Swedish Match has filed a complaint to the effect that it received a proposal to influence the outcome of the Commission's current review of the tobacco products directive, in exchange for financial compensation. The EU-wide sales ban on Swedish snuff, from which Sweden has an exemption, is regulated by this directive. OLAF's final report found that a Maltese entrepreneur had approached the company using his contacts with Commissioner Dalli and had sought to gain financial advantages in exchange for influence over a possible future legislative proposal on snuff.

In order to restore trust in the European institutions, what action will the Commission take to make the anti-fraud policies and internal code of conduct for staff more effective. In this regard, what role does the Commission allow to whistleblowers in fighting cronyism?

How will the Commission ensure from now on a transparent and legally fair process for the proposal for a new tobacco products directive which is expected this autumn?