

Question for written answer E-001664/2024

to the Vice-President of the Commission / High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy

Rule 144

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Subject: EU diplomats smuggling cigars and alcohol for personal profit

As described by both the European Anti-Fraud Office (OLAF) and the press¹, EU diplomats in an EU delegation in Asia have been caught abusing their diplomatic privileges to smuggle alcohol and tobacco for personal profit. This is both illegal and immoral and could harm the EU's reputation.

Could the Vice-President of the Commission / High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy therefore answer the following questions:

1. Have disciplinary procedures already been initiated against those involved, and if not, why not?
2. In the light of these revelations, will the European External Action Service investigate other EU delegations to determine whether similar activities have taken place, particularly in the delegations to which those involved in the smuggling case were posted in the past?
3. What specific steps have been taken to prevent similar cases from occurring in future?

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¹ <https://www.telegraph.co.uk/world-news/2024/09/07/eu-diplomats-caught-using-status-tax-free-cigars-and-booze/>.