Question for written answer E-002561/2024
to the Commission
Rule 144
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Subject: Access to OLAF report on fraud committed with EU money in Cyprus

In 2015, the European Union spent over EUR 46 million on the construction of a public waste treatment facility in Cyprus by a Cypriot-Canadian joint venture. The facility was to recycle waste and transform it into fuel on the condition that the Cypriot Government would find buyers for the fuel. The fuel was never sold and has been buried illegally ever since the plant began operating, violating the Landfill Directive and Waste Framework Directive. However, before signing the contract with the Commission, the Cypriot Government would have known that the waste could not be used to make the right type of fuel. After a European Anti-Fraud Office (OLAF) investigation into this case, both OLAF and the Commission's Directorate-General for Regional and Urban Policy have denied the aforementioned company access to its report and have not allowed it to use the outcomes to clear its name[1][2].

1. What are the exact rules for OLAF and the Commission to provide subjects of an OLAF investigation access to the resulting reports and have they adhered to these rules?

2. What action can the Commission take to protect the financial interests of the EU if national authorities are themselves involved in irregularities and fraud concerning EU money, leading, moreover, to violations of EU environmental law, and what action will it take in this specific case?

3. Will the Commission ensure that the company in question gains access to the OLAF report without undue delay?

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[1] https://www.politico.eu/article/cyprus-waste-treatment-scandal-european-commission-funds-medcon-db-technologies-eu-anti-fraud-office-olaf-dg-regio/.
[2] https://pro.politico.eu/news/186853.