

EN
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Answer given by Ms Kyriakides
on behalf of the European Commission
(24.10.2024)

The Commission has not been aware of such 'regional authority's suppressed report on the common agricultural policy fund fraud' and cannot thus currently comment on any related misuse of funds.

When the Commission becomes aware of any suspected cases of fraud, corruption or any other illegal activity affecting the EU budget, it informs the European Anti-Fraud Office (OLAF). OLAF analyses information of potential investigative interest to determine whether there are sufficient grounds to open an investigation. OLAF can carry out administrative investigations when there are suspicions of fraud, corruption or other illegal activities against the financial interests of the EU. In addition, in case of criminal conduct in respect of which the European Public Prosecutor's Office (EPPO) could exercise its competence, the case is reported to the EPPO, who can initiate a criminal investigation.

From a food safety perspective, the current EU legal framework is considered fit for purpose. Its implementation and enforcement remain under the responsibility of the Member States. Italian authorities have neither informed the Commission nor other Member States within the Alert and Cooperation Network (ACN)¹ about the illegal slaughter of animals or the sale of meat unfit for human consumption in relation with the situation described. This absence of communication would conform with the EU legislation if the issue remains strictly limited to the Italian territory.

¹ https://food.ec.europa.eu/safety/acn_en