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Answer given by High Representative/Vice-President Borrell i Fontelles
on behalf of the European Commission
(22.10.2024)

The specific case mentioned in the Anti-Fraud Office (OLAF) 2023 Annual Report¹ refers to staff who worked in an EU delegation.

The European External Action Service (EEAS) and the Commission monitor their staff compliance as regards statutory obligations and those deriving from the Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations². Any infringement of those obligations brought to the attention of these institutions are addressed and referred to the Investigative and Disciplinary Office of the Commission (IDOC), or to OLAF accordingly. The EEAS and the Commission services have followed up on the recommendations given by OLAF but cannot comment on individual cases.

Staff are provided with training on rights, obligations, and privileges before departing for a posting to an EU delegation, as well as appropriate inductions and refresher trainings on the ethics rules in place and on the reporting mechanisms for allegations of misconduct.

¹ https://ec.europa.eu/olaf-report/2023/index_en.html

² Article 36(1) of the Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations,
https://treaties.un.org/pages/viewdetails.aspx?src=treaty&mtdsg_no=iii-3&chapter=3&clang=en