

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-003147/25
to the Commission
José Cepeda (S&D), Carla Tavares (S&D), Giuseppe Lupo (S&D)
(30 July 2025)**

Subject: Review of the OLAF Regulation and strengthening democratic checks in the appointment of its Director-General

The upcoming review of the regulation governing the functioning of the European Anti-Fraud Office (OLAF) ⁽¹⁾ presents a valuable opportunity to improve the appointment process for its Director-General and provide better balance between institutions, greater transparency and respect for the principle of gender equality.

In this context, could the Commission please say:

1. Does it intend to clarify, develop and strengthen the role of the European Parliament and the Council in that procedure, beyond mere political consultation?
2. Will the criteria is uses to draw up the list of successful candidates be made public and submitted to Parliament in advance?
3. Is it considering setting a minimum number of applications that the Commission transmits to Parliament (which can only select three), so as not to de facto limit the co-legislators' ability to choose? Does the Commission intend to introduce an obligation to draw up a gender-balanced list in order to ensure the principle of gender equality is applied in the selection procedure?

Submitted: 30.7.2025

**Answer given by Mr Serafin on behalf of the European Commission
(20 October 2025)**

The Commission is currently evaluating Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 883/2013 ⁽¹⁾, as required by Article 19(1) of the regulation to prepare the review process.

The Commission cannot commit to any specific contents of the review of the regulation prior to the finalisation of this evaluation, which is due mid-2026.

In parallel, the Commission has launched a structured reflection process for the review of the EU's anti-fraud architecture, as outlined in the recent White Paper ⁽²⁾ on the subject.

Both processes involve stakeholder consultation and provide an opportunity to collect input for a subsequent legislative review.

The criteria that the Commission currently applies to draw up the list of successful candidates are clearly set in the vacancy notice which is published in the Official Journal of the European Union and on the external website of the Commission. The European Parliament and the Council were consulted on the draft vacancy notice before its publication.

The Commission already takes into account the principle of gender equality in all its selection procedures. Implementing a possible obligation to provide a minimum number of suitable candidates, or a gender-balanced list, to be sent to the Parliament and the Council, may prove difficult in practice, as the number of eligible applications received after a publication is unpredictable.

In this context, it should be stressed that merit remains the primary selection criterion.

¹ Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 883/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 September 2013 concerning investigations conducted by the European Anti-Fraud Office (OLAF) and repealing Regulation (EC) No 1073/1999 of the European Parliament and of the Council and Council Regulation (Euratom) No 1074/1999.

⁽¹⁾ Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 883/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 September 2013 concerning investigations conducted by the European Anti-Fraud Office (OLAF) and repealing Regulation (EC) No 1073/1999 of the European Parliament and of the Council, and Council Regulation (Euratom) No 1074/1999, OJ L 248, 18.9.2013, p. 1, as amended.

⁽²⁾ White Paper for the Anti-fraud Architecture Review, COM(2025) 546 final.