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Answer given by Mr McGrath
on behalf of the European Commission
(15.12.2025)

According to Article 16(1) of Council Regulation (EC) No 168/2007 establishing a European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights, the Agency shall fulfil its tasks in complete independence. In accordance with Article 21(1), the Agency's budget is implemented under the responsibility of its Director.

The Agency transparently informed its Management Board, including the Commission represented therein, of its plans to establish a liaison office in Brussels, following the example of other EU Agencies. The post of the Liaison Officer (LO) has been filled by internal mobility within the Agency, reducing salary costs in view of the lower correction coefficient to be applied when compared to Austria. The LO will be supported by one stagiaire. The costs for running the office in Brussels are thus mainly related to the rental costs of the office space amounting to EUR 14 900 per year, which is located in premises available for the European Commission services.

According to Article 2 of Council Regulation (EC) No 168/2007, the Agency's objective is to provide the relevant EU institutions, bodies, offices and agencies and the Member States when implementing EU law with assistance and expertise relating to fundamental rights. The Commission expects the Agency to exercise its contacts with EU institutions and bodies – via the Brussels liaison office and otherwise – in full respect of its mandate.