Fight against fraud: mutual administrative assistance for the protection of the financial interests of the Community

2004/0172(COD) - 23/05/2005

The committee adopted the report by Petr DUCHO(EPP-ED, CZ) broadly approving the proposal under the 1st reading of the codecision procedure, subject to a few amendments:

- it should be clarified that the regulation will cover both direct and indirect EU funding;

- the Commission should keep a list of all the authorities taking part in cooperation under the regulation. The list should be constantly updated and made accessible on the Internet;

- Member States should be made aware of and use the service platform function of the EU anti-fraud office (OLAF), which will have a coordinating role;

- measures must be taken to strengthen information exchange at an early stage in order to facilitate the recovery of claims resulting from irregularities. The information must remain confidential;

- Member States should be able to seize and freeze assets when there is a serious suspicion of fraud. This would apply to "the proceeds of any irregularity involving sums of more than EUR 50 000 or property..... the value of which corresponds to such proceeds".