



## Press Release

Luxembourg, 13 June 2017

### EU Auditors to examine Commission's fraud controls

**The European Court of Auditors is to conduct an audit of how the European Commission manages the risk of fraud in EU spending. The audit will focus on fraud prevention and fraud response and will include contributions from NGOs, academics and prosecutors, as well as Europol and Eurojust.**

In a 2015 Eurobarometer survey on perceptions of fraud and corruption affecting the EU budget, 71% of respondents thought that fraud occurred "rather frequently" and 60% felt that corruption was "significant in the EU institutions".

This represents a significant increase compared with the 2008 flash Eurobarometer, when 54% thought fraud happened rather frequently and 44% felt that corruption occurred in EU institutions.

**Mr Juhan Parts, the Member of the European Court of Auditors responsible for the audit, said, "These figures show how seriously the problem of fraud is taken by our citizens. We cannot simply explain it away by saying they don't understand. The only solution is an EU fraud management system which effectively prevents, detects, investigates and punishes fraudulent activity."**

Fraud is difficult to measure. It can only be established through a criminal court procedure, and possible weaknesses in the Commission's and Member States' detection and reporting of fraud can reduce the reliability of the available figures.

In 2015, the total value of suspected fraud reported by the Commission was €560 million (representing 0.4% of payments from the EU budget). On average, around 10 % of all suspected fraud cases reported at EU level end up actually being established as fraud by the courts. On this basis, fraud against the EU budget for 2015 can be estimated at €56 million. However, the auditors warn that it is unclear how much fraud goes undetected and unreported.

The auditors' report is expected to be available in 2018.

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