



## EUROPEAN COMMISSION Audiovisual Services

### Extracts from the joint press conference by Viviane Reding and Algirdas Šemeta on the EC proposal for establishing a European Public Prosecutor's Office

Type: [Summary of press conference](#) Reference: [I-080620](#) Duration: [10:03:45](#) Lieu:  
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On 17 July 2013, Viviane Reding, Vice-President of the EC in charge of Justice, Fundamental Rights and Citizenship, and Algirdas Šemeta, Member of the EC in charge of Taxation, Customs, Statistics, Audit and Anti-Fraud, held a press conference on the proposal by the Commission to establish a European Public Prosecutor's Office. The European Public Prosecutor's Office will be an independent institution, subject to democratic oversight. Its exclusive task will be to investigate and prosecute and, where relevant, bring to judgement – in the Member States' courts - crimes affecting the EU budget.



Only the original language version is authentic and it prevails in the event of its differing from the translated versions.

TIME	DESCRIPTION	DURATION
10:00:00	Title	00:00:05
10:00:05	Exterior view of the EC Berlaymont building	00:00:07
10:00:12	General view of the press conference	00:00:04
10:00:16	SOUNDBITE by Viviane Reding, Vice-President of the EC in charge of Justice, Fundamental Rights and Citizenship, (in ENGLISH) on the reasons why the EC's proposal is necessary: saying that first, because we need to strengthen the protection of the EU budget; EU money must be spent on what it was intended to; and we have an obligation to prevent fraudulent use of EU money; unfortunately, we still witness far too many illegal activities leading to losses in the EU budget.	00:00:27
10:00:43	Cutaway of cameramen	00:00:05
10:00:49	SOUNDBITE by Viviane Reding (in ENGLISH) on what will the new European Public Prosecutor's office look like: saying that there will be an independent European Prosecutor with four deputies, leading the European Public Prosecutor's Office and coordinating the work; the actual work on the ground - gathering evidence, prosecuting, bringing to court and so on - will be done by the European delegated prosecutors, who are fully integrated into the national justice systems: they will be	00:01:22

	integrated into the national justice systems, they will be wearing a double hat: they will be national prosecutors and part of the European Public Prosecutor's Office; they will use national staff, apply national rules and address themselves to national courts; the internal working procedures of the European Public Prosecutor's Office, including the rules on the allocation of cases will be decided by a 'College of ten', composed of the European Prosecutor, his four deputies and five delegated prosecutors.	
10:02:11	Cutaway of the audience	00:00:05
10:02:16	SOUNDBITE by Viviane Reding (in ENGLISH) saying that not all EU Member States are concerned by this proposal; Denmark will not participate in this proposal; the UK - already in its government coalition agreement - has decided not to be part of the European Public Prosecutor's Office, while Ireland still has to decide if it wants to opt in or not; saying that she calls on Member States and the European Parliament to now rally behind this very important project so that the European Public Prosecutor's Office can assume its functions as of 1 January 2015.	00:00:51
10:03:08	Cutaway of the audience	00:00:04
10:03:12	SOUNDBITE by Algirdas Šemeta, Member of the EC in charge of Taxation, Customs, Statistics, Audit and Anti-Fraud, (in ENGLISH) saying that the EPPO will have the exclusive competence to tackle crimes against EU funds at every step of the process: from the moment fraud is suspected until a judicial decision has been taken; this will avoid any overlaps or duplications of work with national and Union bodies, and ensure clear separation of tasks and responsibilities.	00:00:28
10:03:40	Cutaway of the audience	00:00:04
10:03:45	SOUNDBITE by Algirdas Šemeta (in ENGLISH) saying that in short, the EPPO is about Member States and the Union working seamlessly hand-in-hand against fraud; the fusion of power and professionals from both sides will be a mighty force for fraudsters to contend with; the EU budget will undoubtedly be safer with the new European Public Prosecutor's Office and a better functioning anti-fraud office as its watchdogs.	00:00:28