



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

Brussels, 14. 04. 2015
C(2015) 1631 final

Dear Chairman,

The Commission would like to thank the House of Lords for its Report on the impact of the European Public Prosecutor's Office on the United Kingdom and will take good note of the recommendations outlined therein, which touch upon key aspects of the proposed Regulation {COM(2013) 534 final}.

The Commission is aware of the concerns expressed by the House of Lords on the Commission's proposal and would, in addition to the comments below, like to refer to its earlier correspondence in this matter.

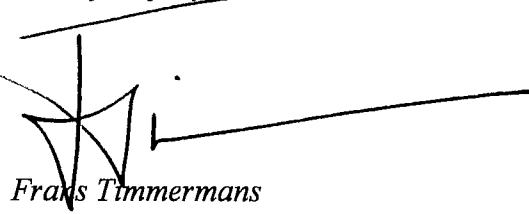
It is important to underline, that putting an independent European Public Prosecutor's Office in place by 2016 will be a significant step forward to protect the EU budget from fraud.

The Commission stresses that in accordance with protocols annexed to the Treaty on European Union and to the Treaty on the Function of the European Union, in respect of the Area of Freedom, Security and Justice the relevant Member States have to notify their wish [not] to take part in the adoption and application of this Regulation. The Commission is aware that some Member States do not intend to participate. In this regard, cooperation between the European Public Prosecutor's Office and non-participating Member States in fighting Union fraud would be ensured through the support and coordination by Eurojust and rely on, as the case may be, existing instruments of judicial cooperation at their disposal.

Concerning OLAF and Eurojust, the Commission would like to reiterate that both bodies will remain key players in their respective field of competence.

The Commission hopes that these clarifications address the concerns raised by the House of Lords and looks forward to continuing our political dialogue in the future.

Yours faithfully,



*Frans Timmermans
First Vice-President*



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