

# Preventing and investigating EU-Fraud and corruption in Sweden


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# Preventing EU-Fraud

- Governmental proposal in 1994
- The Swedish EU Anti-Fraud Committee established in 1996

# The Committee's main task

- To promote measures against fraud, misuse and other irregular and inefficient management and use of EU-related funds in Sweden

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- Agencies responsible for handling EU funds
  - Ministries concerned
  - The Swedish National Audit Office
  - The National Tax Board
  - The Police
  - The Judicial Authorities

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- The EU Anti-Fraud Council established in 2001

# The Council's tasks

- To promote collaboration between the authorities concerned, to enhance efficiency regarding prevention, detection, investigation and implementation of measures in the event of suspected irregular use of EU-related funds

- To monitor development of fraud, misuse and other irregular and inefficient management and use of EU-related funds and propose or initiate measures to counter these actions
- To constitute a forum for the exchange of information and experience between the authorities involved
- To analyse and evaluate accomplished work in the area

# Investigating EU-Fraud

- The Swedish National Economic Crimes Bureau investigates:
  1. fraud,
  2. fraudulent conduct and
  3. gross fraud if the act concerns EU's financial interests as well as
  4. subsidy fraud

- The suspicion should be reported regardless of any financial limit.
- Administrative sanctions can be issued regardless of potential crimes being reported.

- 27 new reports in 2006 (36 in 2005)
  - Agricultural aid (9)
  - Structural funds (13)
  - The Financial Instrument for Fisheries Guidance (1)
  - Direct aid from the Commission (3)
  - Equal project (1)

- The reports were mainly filed by
  - The county administrative boards
  - The European Social Fund Council
  - The Swedish Board of Agriculture

## ■ In 2006

- 4 prosecutions were brought on
- 4 judgements were passed
- 2 summary penalties were issued
- 20 cases were dismissed

- The Swedish National Economic Crimes Bureau is the contact authority with the EU Commission European Anti-Fraud Office (OLAF).

# Corruption

- Corruption impoverishes national economies, undermines democratic institutions and the rule-of-law, and has a negative impact on the process of economic and social development.

- Fighting corruption is primarily about changing attitudes.

# Preventing corruption

- Open access to the authorities' activities
- Free and independent media
- Sufficient legal income for public officials
- Trade associations and large companies must develop and follow up codes of conduct against corruption

# Investigating corruption

- The detection and investigation of corruption is particularly difficult since the criminal conduct is surrounded by a pact of silence.

# The National Prosecution Unit for Combating Corruption

- Prosecutors
- Auditors
- Economists

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- National network against corruption including many authorities and agencies

- The international co-operation is very important when it comes to fighting fraud involving EU funds and corruption.



Thank you for your attention.