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OLAF

**Ufficio europeo per la
lotta antifrode**

Key figures



870

25

16

246

600

43.5

Mission



Illegal activities
against EU
financial interests

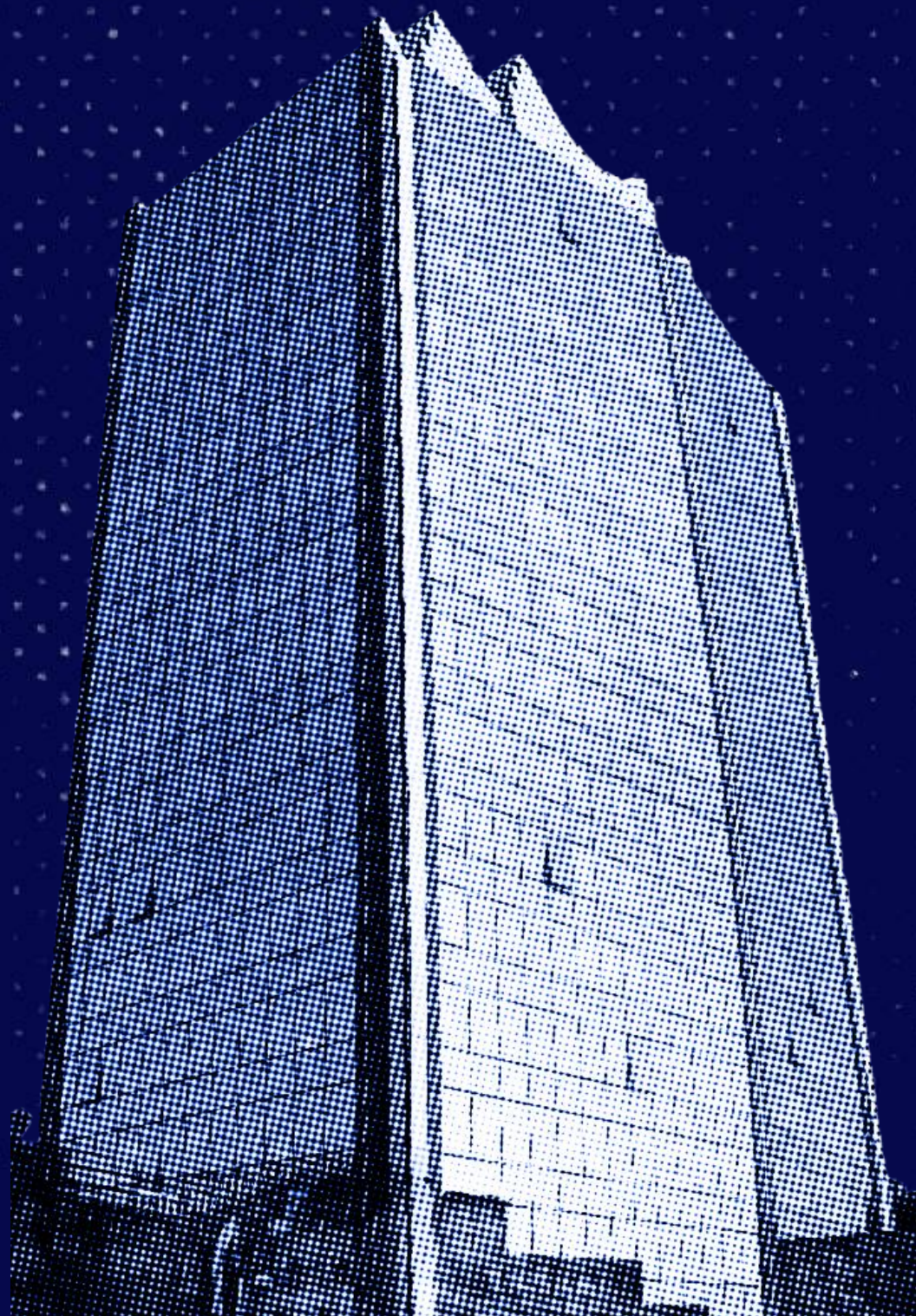
Fraud,
Irregularities and
Corruption

Detect
Investigate
Protect

Develop a sound
EU Anti-fraud
Policy

Serious
misconduct by EU
staff

A little history



1988 – Creation of UCLAF (OLAF predecessor)

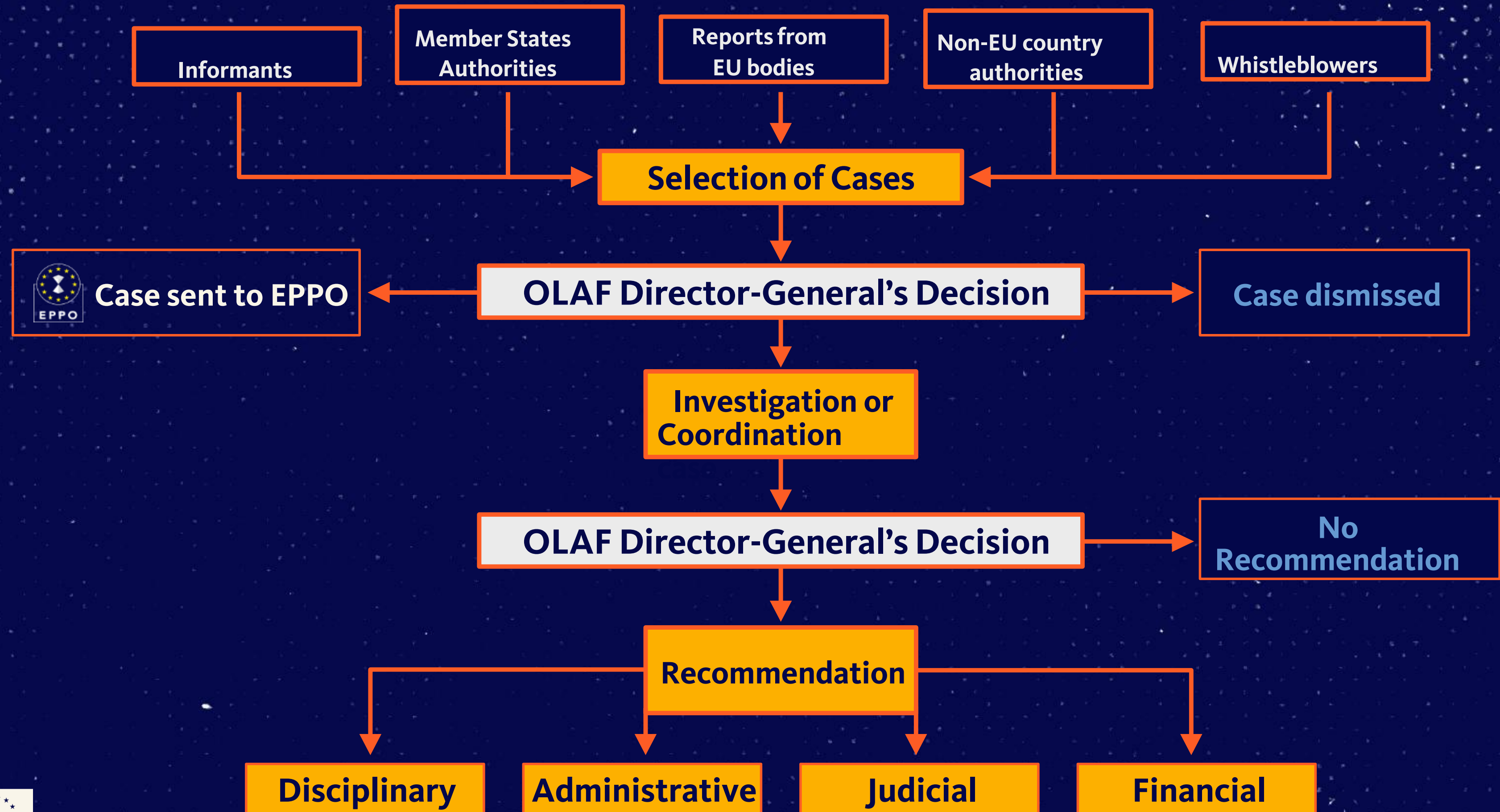
1999 – Creation of OLAF in Brussels

2013 – OLAF Regulation 883/2013

2021 – Revised OLAF Regulation

2021 – EPPO becomes operational

The investigative cycle



The future Anti-Fraud Architecture



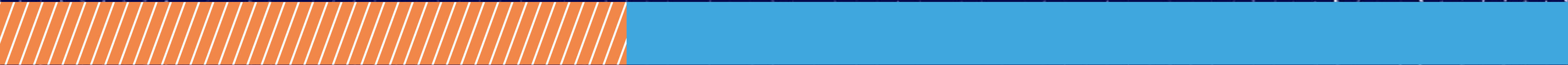
Protection of the financial interests of the EU



2021-27 EU Budget

NextGenerationEU Budget
€806.9 Billion

Multiannual Financial Frameworks Budget
€1210.9 Billion




Total: €2.018 trillion

EU 2021 Annual Budget
€166.1 Billion



NextGenerationEU: KEY FEATURES

RECOVERY AND RESILIENCE FACILITY
EUR 723.8 billion

**338.0** in grants

**385.8** in loans



POWER UP
Clean technologies and renewables



MODERNISE
Digitalisation of public administration




RENOVATE
Energy efficiency of buildings



SCALE UP
Data cloud and sustainable processors



RECHARGE AND REFUEL
Sustainable transport and charging stations



RESKILL AND UPSKILL
Education and training to support digital skills



CONNECT
Roll-out of rapid broadband services

NextGenerationEU CONTRIBUTION TO OTHER PROGRAMMES
EUR 83.1 billion



OLAF investigative performance in 2023

190 
Investigations
opened

1178
Selections made

265
Cases
concluded



309 Recommendations



Financial recommendations

€1 043 800 000

**recommended
for recovery**



€209 400 000
prevented from being unduly spent

Sanctions

Operation "Probirka"

- Cooperation with Spanish authorities in investigations into the export of chemical substances
- Certain companies were bypassing EU sanctions by rerouting goods through intermediaries in Kyrgyzstan, with the real destination being Russia
- The operation resulted in the seizure of **13 000 kg of a chemical compound subject to export restrictions**, at the Port of Barcelona
- This network involved the use of shell companies in Armenia and Kyrgyzstan to disguise the true destination of the goods, which were later rerouted to Russia



Irregularities in procurement



- Breaches of procurement rules, transparency, and financial management concerning a **€114 million** EU-funded project overseen by Poland's Government Agency for Strategic Reserves (RARS).
- The project aimed to procure and deliver power generators to Ukrainian regions suffering from power shortages
- Thanks to our efforts, **€91 million** has been earmarked for recovery, with an additional **€22 million** saved from being improperly spent
- Supporting our Ukrainian allies against unwarranted Russian aggression remains a top EU priority.

Cooperation with EPPO



- In Czechia we worked closely with the National Organised Crime Agency and the European Public Prosecutor's Office (EPPO)
- The investigation concerned the purchase of specialist machinery, via the European Social Fund
- Our work ascertained that the companies had purchased second hand machinery and claimed it as new.
- The effective cooperation between OLAF, the EPPO and national authorities led to a recommendation for **the recovery of almost €4 million** to the EU budget and **charging 13 people and three companies with subsidy fraud**

Internal Investigations

- We identified over **€120 000** worth of undue allowances and salary payments made to two employees of an EU body
- Irregularities in the recruitment procedures of an EU Agency
- We uncovered irregularities worth **€4.4 million** in the training programmes of an EU agency

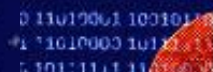


Environmental damage

- A solid waste landfill in Greece, constructed in 2016, was not operated for the first three years of existence
- When it finally sprang to life in 2019, it operated in bold defiance of environmental laws, without a fire safety licence, and far beyond its permit as an urban solid waste facility
- We discovered that the landfill in question was not even eligible for EU funding and was incorrectly included in the eligible expenditure by Greek authorities
- We recommended that **€1.165 million be returned** to the EU budget

Consequences of fraud for EU citizens

- Waste of public money
- EU businesses harmed by illegal imports
- European projects fall into disrepute
- Less EU support for genuine projects
- Lack of trust in the EU



OLAF Report 2024



Per ulteriori informazioni sull'OLAF:

- Sito web: olaf.europa.eu
- European Anti-Fraud Office - LinkedIn
- European Anti-Fraud Office - Bluesky
- @EUAntiFraud - X (ex-Twitter): (dal 16 giugno)

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