

The fight against irregularities and fraud

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The Court of Auditors itself does not have jurisdictional power, its task being specifically to bring to light weaknesses and shortcomings in the management systems in place for Community legislation which may lead to irregularities or fraud. Therefore, in its capacity as an independent audit body, the Court examines, from a critical perspective, the measures adopted by senior management and encourages them to make improvements. When the auditors of the Court uncover instances of irregularity or fraud, the information collected is immediately conveyed to the Anti-Fraud Office — commonly called OLAF — so that appropriate action may be taken. This is because the European Commission, and particularly OLAF, together with the Member States themselves, have responsibility for taking the measures which prove to be necessary, and even for claiming back the sums of money concerned.