

**European Economic and Social Committee
The President**



Médiateur européen

- 6 OCT. 2014

Brussels, 01 OCT. 2014
DRH-SI/STA/2014/4608

Dear Ms O'Reilly,

Date d'arrivée

Subject: Own-initiative inquiry concerning whistleblowing (OI/1/2014/PMC)

I refer to your letter dated 24 July 2014 announcing your own-initiative inquiry concerning whistleblowing and asking all EU institutions to inform you of the steps they have taken or they intend to take to give effect to Article 22c of the Staff Regulations.

As other European Union institutions the European Economic and Social Committee adopted, following the establishment of the European Anti-Fraud Office, a Decision (No 363/99 A of 11 October 1999) laying down certain obligations of officials and other staff members in the prevention of fraud, corruption or any illegal activity detrimental to the Communities' interests. Further rules in this domain were adopted under the form of 24 standards for internal control (1 July 2004).

Pursuant to the new Article 22c of the Staff Regulations, the European Economic and Social Committee is drafting internal rules specifically covering the protection of whistleblowers, the provision of information to them and the procedure for handling complaints made by them. In this context, the EESC is also reflecting about the possible inclusion of rules encouraging third parties not falling directly under the scope of the Staff Regulations to report serious irregularities.

As you are aware, the College of Heads of Administrations has, in order to share best practices and to encourage convergence across EU institutions and bodies, requested the inter-institutional Preparatory Committee for Matters relating to the Staff Regulations ('CPQS') to look into this matter, and the EESC will actively contribute to this discussion. Further to the discussion within the CPQS, the EESC staff will be duly consulted on the draft rules via the EESC Staff Committee and the relevant notification on the processing of personal data will be submitted.

Once the new rules are adopted, you will be sent a copy along with more detailed information on the procedure followed and the choices made by the EESC.

Yours sincerely,


Henri Malosse

Ms Emily O'Reilly
1, Avenue du Président Robert Schuman
CS 30403
F-67001 Strasbourg Cedex