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Ms Emily O'Reilly

European Ombudsman

1 av. du Président Robert Schuman

CS 30403

F-67001 Strasbourg Cedex

Dear Ms O'Reilly,

Subject: Internal Rules on Whistleblowing

Thank you for your letter dated 24.07.2014 regarding the state of play on the adoption of internal rules on whistleblowing. The EEAS welcomes your initiative and considers it a useful step aimed at ensuring a harmonized approach between the Institutions.

When the EEAS was set up in January 2011, it was decided to continue to apply the Commission Internal Control Standards (ICS). This includes ICS 2 'Ethical and organisational Values: Management and staff are aware of and share appropriate ethical and organisation values and uphold these through their own behaviour and decision making. This ICS, which includes the Commission Guidelines on whistleblowing, already applied to around 60% of EU Delegation staff who come directly from the Commission. Full information on ICS 2 and whistleblowing is readily available on our intranet pages.

Reflection has also begun on preparing our own specific guidelines and the draft internal rules available on your website will be very useful in informing our discussions on this matter. In this context, I would be grateful to receive an updated version of these draft internal rules taking into account any public comments you might already have received.

Yours sincerely,

Patrick Child