

Antonio Missiroli

Directeur - Director

Mr Gerhard Grill
Director
European Ombudsman
1 Avenue du Président Robert Schuman
CS 30403
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Paris, 13 January 2014

Dear Mr Grill,

My apologies for the delay in replying to European Ombudsman's inquiry OI/4/2013/CK. It is not the first time that messages from your office to us get lost somehow – so may I ask you, from now on, always to send them via both regular mail and email? Thank you in advance.

Let me first clarify the position of the European Union Institute for Security Studies (EUISS) with regards to your letter dated 12-08-2013.

Owing to its historical legacy, the EUISS is an agency of the Council, not an agency the European Commission. As a result, the EUISS is governed by different rules and regulations to other decentralised agencies.

Our operational procedures are laid out in our Council Joint Action and Staff Regulations, which – in addition to being only applicable to the EUISS – can only be altered by the unanimous decision of the 28 member states. To date, only marginal amendments have been made to both since 2001. Presently, both the Joint Action/Decision and the Staff Regulations are under review (in this order), the outcome of which will be decided exclusively by the member states.

With regard to inquiry OI/4/2013/CK, our Joint Action and Staff Regulations contain no provisions regarding the precise composition of (or disclosure of the names of) selection board members (Article 4). That said, we are internally reviewing the implementation of selection procedures at the EUISS in order to maximise transparency. We will keep you duly informed of progress made on this process.

Regarding the selection of personnel at the EUISS, it has been the practice of the EUISS Director - since my appointment in October 2012 - to report to the EUISS Board throughout the entire procedure, from advertisement of the post to the selection of the candidate, and I can assure you that the strictest standards are maintained.

I hope this clarifies the position of the EUISS regarding this matter.

Yours sincerely,



Antonio Missiroli

