



OFFICE OF THE PROSECUTOR GENERAL
DIVISION OF COMMUNICATION AND PRESS
H-1055 Budapest, Markó utca 16 • H-1372 Budapest, Pf. 438.
Phone: +36-1-354-5774 • E-mail: sajto@mku.hu

September 11, 2020

Press release

The rate of indictments based on OLAF's judicial recommendations still exceeds the EU average

According to OLAF's Annual Report 2019, published on 10 September, between 2015 and 2019 the Prosecution Service of Hungary filed indictments in 47% of the cases initiated by OLAF, which significantly exceeds the European Union average of 39%.

The number of judicial recommendations made by OLAF to the Prosecution Service of Hungary has been steadily decreasing in recent years.

OLAF has more frequently made judicial recommendations in cases that are already under investigation in Hungary.

OLAF carries out investigations into administrative irregularities against EU funds, but it does not determine if a criminal offence has been committed or not, nor does it prove any criminal offences with evidence. OLAF has neither authorization nor any tools to do so.

Although no such legal obligation exists, the Prosecution Service of Hungary – in accordance with the set protocol – has issued an order on the opening of a criminal procedure in each case based on OLAF recommendations, and where an investigation was already ongoing, OLAF's recommendations were attached to the investigation files and were assessed as a part thereof.

The Annual Report of OLAF for 2019 clearly shows that the Prosecution Service of Hungary filed indictments in 47% of OLAF-cases. This figure is significantly higher than the EU average, which is of 39%.

In 2019 OLAF made 3 judicial recommendations to the Prosecution Service of Hungary. The authorities evaluated these recommendations in the course of already ongoing criminal investigations.

The number of judicial recommendations has been steadily decreasing. In 2015 and 2016 10-10 recommendations were received in each year, whereas in 2017 the number of received recommendations was only 6, in 2018 it was 4, and in 2019 this number was 3.

On 31 January 2020, Péter Polt Dr. Prosecutor General met the Director General of OLAF, Ville Itälä, in his Office. At the meeting, the parties reaffirmed that effective exchange of information and cooperation between their organizations concerning the criminal misuses of EU funds remains a priority. Besides, they also agreed to elaborate a cooperation agreement for further deepening the already well-functioning professional relationship.

After the meeting, Ville Itälä also publicly expressed his satisfaction with its results.

The Prosecution Service of Hungary and OLAF work closely together, by regular meetings at both managerial and expert levels.

Office of the Prosecutor General
Division of Communication and Press