

PRESS RELEASE OF THE OFFICE OF THE PROSECUTOR GENERAL

12th February, 2018

In recent days it totally unfounded statements of politicians which seriously violated the independence of the justice in a wider sense and which were in connection with the cases sent by the European Anti-Fraud Office (OLAF) to the Hungarian Prosecution Service, were released.

The Prosecution Service of Hungary does not intend to react to attacks having political characters without any professional knowledge. But in order provide fair and correct information for the general public it calls attention to the followings.

1. OLAF investigates administrative irregularities (infringements) connected to EU funds, it does not establish criminal facts and it does not present evidence and prove cases in a criminal sense. OLAF has neither authorization nor legal tools for it.

2 At the end of its procedure OLAF addresses judicial recommendation to the given national authority – in Hungary to the Office of the Prosecutor General – if it presumes suspicion of a criminal act.

3 According to the protocol set forth by the Prosecutor General the Hungarian Prosecution Service – although it is not obliged to it – orders the investigation in each case and it assigns one of the national investigation authorities for the execution of the investigation.

4 Procedures of OLAF generally take more years and the duration of the investigations ordered in Hungary can take years too because of the extent (wide dimension) and complexity of a given case. The Prosecution Service filed 8 indictments from 36 cases opened on the basis of the OLAF recommendation in Hungary, the investigation authority terminated the procedure in 8 case while the remaining cases are still being investigated. This (filed indictments-termination) rate corresponds to the average of the EU, or it is a little bit higher.

5 OLAF and Hungarian Prosecution Service cooperate in their procedures and regularly exchange information and experience. OLAF appreciates the professional work of the Hungarian Prosecution Service and of the Prosecutor General, it respects and highly estimates them.

The Hungarian Prosecution Service refuses political attempts which are incompatible with principles of rules of law and which try to make pressure – even by threat in some cases – on authorities by making unfounded statements before the public in order to influence decision-making in some cases. The Prosecution Service has performed its task and activity until this time

constitutionally and with the aim of finding out objective truth, and in the future it will do the same.

Office of the Prosecutor General of Hungary
Division for Communication and Press