

From: CHAIMOWICZ Philipp-Maximilian
Sent: 05 March 2015 10:05
To: EORegistry
Subject: Telephone note concerning OI/1/2014/PMC

Dear colleagues,

Please register this telephone note under the above-mentioned own-initiative inquiry.

Thank you in advance,

Philipp

Telephone note

On 4 March 2015, Alain Pilette, HoU in the Council of the EU, contacted the Ombudsman in order to express his hierarchy's dissatisfaction as regards the Ombudsman's own-initiative inquiry on whistleblowing, and in particular as regards the Ombudsman's press release. In his view, the Ombudsman's statement that the Council had not yet adopted internal whistleblowing rules was misleading, since it had already adopted internal rules based on the 2004 Staff Regulations in the past. In reply, PMC explained that the Ombudsman's inquiry was focused on the process of adopting internal whistleblowing rules *giving effect to Article 22c of the Staff Regulations*. While it is true that the protection of whistleblowers is a part of the requirements laid down in Article 22c, PMC informed Mr Pilette that nothing in the Council's opinion as regards the Ombudsman's inquiry suggested that the Council had also laid down rules as regards the other requirements, that is, the provision of information to whistleblowers and the introduction of a complaints mechanism for whistleblowers that are unhappy with the way they are treated following their report of serious irregularities. Mr Pilette agreed that the Council had not yet adopted rules in that respect. Mr Pilette further stated that the Ombudsman's findings in her inquiry will most likely be addressed in the next CCA and CPQS meetings.