

Whistleblowing Statement

The Delegation of the European Commission to South Africa is dedicated to the eradication and prevention of fraud, corruption, theft, misappropriation, abuse and wasteful use of EC funds donated to South Africa.

Who is a Whistleblower?

A Whistleblower is any person who reports any instances or suspicions of fraud, corruption, theft, misappropriation, abuse or waste of European Commission funds.

Who is not a Whistleblower?

Any person who for personal gain (not being limited to financial gain), with malice or any illegal intent makes a false allegation or accusation.

If I have *reasonable grounds to suspect* that there is, has been or is likely to be fraud, corruption, theft, misappropriation, abuse or waste of European Commission funds what should I do?

Ideally you should put your suspicions in writing along with any supporting documentation marked Personal for and forward it to:

**The Ambassador
Delegation of the European Commission
PO Box 945
Groenkloof 0027
Pretoria**

It would be helpful if you could provide your personal details and you can be assured that with the exception of the following circumstances your identity will not be disclosed unless you agree in writing:

- (i) It is a legal or regulatory obligation.
- (ii) If the information is in the Public Domain.
- (iii) For the purposes of obtaining legal advice and then only to a qualified, registered legal advisor.

Alternatively you can call the Whistleblower line on +27-12-452-5280 (Pretoria) and leave a message on the dedicated all hour answering machine.

What are considered as reasonable grounds to 'suspect'?

To fall within this definition suspicions must be tangible, capable of being verified and based on facts. Mere feelings or intuition would not be sufficient to constitute reasonable grounds to suspect.

What will happen if I provide information?

On receipt of any information a preliminary investigation will be carried out to determine the credibility of the information and assess the likelihood of successfully investigating the allegation. Once this has been determined, the Delegation may, in consultation with the National Treasury, take one or more of the following options depending on the nature of the allegations:

- (i) Commission a forensic investigation by an independent firm of chartered accountants.
- (ii) Refer the matter to the Auditor General/relevant ministry.
- (iii) Hand the matter over to the South African Police Services or Scorpions.
- (iv) Report the matter to the European Commission's Anti Fraud Office (OLAF).

What happens if I am wrong?

Providing that the information was provided in good faith and you believed what you were reporting was the truth, nothing will happen. However, as stated above, if it is established that the allegations were malicious you may be liable to criminal or civil prosecution.

Will I be kept informed of progress?

Whilst we can not determine the length of time it will take to carry out an investigation, we will endeavor to notify you of the outcome of the initial review of the allegation and the steps which we intend to take. It is unlikely that any detailed information can be provided over and above this as the information is likely to be sub judice.