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Transparency International EU submits complaint to OLAF on Patriots Group Secretary General misuse of funds

Pia Engelbrecht-Bogdanov · Monday, April 27th, 2026

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Following [revelations](#) last year that the now-defunct Identity and Democracy (ID) group in the European Parliament had misused some 4.3 million euros in EU funds, Transparency International EU (TI EU) has submitted a complaint to the European Anti-Fraud Office (OLAF) on the group's then-Secretary-General, Philip Claey's. Mr Claey's remains the Secretary-General of the ID's group's successor, the Patriots for Europe (PfE) group. As Secretary General of the ID group Mr Claey's was responsible for overseeing its budget. According to [reporting](#), the PfE group, the third-largest group in the European Parliament, may be involved in similar misuse-of-funds schemes.

The ID group is now the [subject of an investigation](#) by the European Public Prosecutor's Office (EPPO). Irrespective of this criminal inquiry, Transparency International EU is calling on OLAF to open a complementary investigation to establish administrative misconduct, as Mr Claey's is an employee of the European Parliament.

Nick Aiossa, Director at Transparency International EU, said

“It is astonishing that the European Parliament has refused to act against an employee, Philip Claey's, who was found to have overseen the mismanagement of millions of euros – and whose group is the subject of a criminal investigation. Not only has he received no consequences for his involvement but has been allowed to manage an even larger budget of taxpayers' money. This is beyond employer leniency; this is sheer negligence.”

Given the seriousness of these circumstances, Mr Claeys must be stripped of any budgetary authority and face appropriate disciplinary procedures.

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