

# Annual conference: Subsidy fraud

## Agenda

Time	Topic	Presenter
09:00	Registration	
09:30	Welcome	Bart De Bie – IFA Belgium
09:40	Navigating subsidies and State aid rules: a story of pitfalls and opportunities	Wout De Cock – Vrije Universiteit Brussel
10:10	VLIR-UOS as grant manager	Kristien Verbrugghen – VLIR-UOS
10:40	Break	
11:00	Effective control measures against subsidy fraud	Sabine Dierckx – Stad Antwerpen
11:30	The Flemish approach on Subsidy Fraud	Tom Blockmans – Vlaamse Overheid
12:00	Lunch	
13:00	Critical reflection on subsidy fraud from a Walloon perspective	Cédric Halin – Gouvernement de Wallonie
13:30	EPPO, game-changer in the landscape of fraud investigations	Jennifer Vanderputten – EPPO
14:00	Break	
14:20	Risk analysis in anti-fraud activities, an OLAF perspective	Bogdan Necula – OLAF
14:50	Panel discussion	All, moderated by Michiel Vervloet – FPS Economy
15:50	Closing	Bart De Bie – IFA Belgium
16:00	Reception	
17:00	End	

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## Speakers

### Wout De Cock

Wout De Cock is an Assistant Professor of EU Economic Policy and Law at the Vrije Universiteit Brussel. Previously he worked as a teaching and research assistant at the KU Leuven and the Vrije Universiteit Brussel, where he defended his PhD on the enforcement of EU State aid law (2022). Furthermore, he was a visiting researcher at King's College London and at the Max Planck Institute in Luxembourg. He has contributed to various academic publications and research projects about State aid and subsidy rules.

### Kristien Verbrugghen

Kristien Verbrugghen is the Director at VLIR-UOS (Flemish Interuniversity Council - University Development Cooperation). In this influential position, she oversees programs that foster cooperation between Flemish universities and higher education institutions in the Global South. With a strong background in international development and education, Mrs. Verbrugghen is dedicated to promoting global partnerships, sustainable development, and capacity building. Her leadership and vision have significantly contributed to enhancing the impact of higher education initiatives in fostering global development and knowledge exchange.

### Sabine Dierckx

Sabine Dierckx is the Business Director of the Inspectorate of Finance for the city of Antwerp. In this prominent role, she is responsible for overseeing the financial inspection and ensuring the fiscal integrity of the city's operations. Mrs. Dierckx's extensive experience in public finance management and her commitment to financial transparency and efficiency have been instrumental in enhancing Antwerp's financial governance. Her leadership and strategic insight are vital in maintaining the city's economic stability and fostering sound financial practices.

### Tom Blockmans

Tom Blockmans is an Inspector of Finance accredited to the Flemish Government, charged with the responsibility over the Flemish Audit Authority and the newly created Strengthened Supervision of Subsidies. In this senior role, he oversees financial inspections and ensures the integrity and efficiency of financial operations within the government. Dr. Blockmans' experience in public finance and his commitment to transparency and accountability guide him in the effort of maintaining the fiscal health of the Flemish administration.

### Cédric Halin

Cédric Halin is a Financial Inspector at the Government of the Walloon Region. With a wealth of experience in public finance and administration, he plays a crucial role in overseeing financial operations and ensuring fiscal responsibility within the regional government. Mr. Halin's expertise in financial analysis and strategic planning has significantly contributed to the region's economic stability and growth. Known for his analytical acumen and dedication to public service, he is a respected figure in Walloon financial governance.

### Jennifer Vanderputten

Jennifer Vanderputten is a European Delegated Prosecutor at the European Public Prosecutor's Office (EPPO) based in Brussels. In this pivotal role, she is responsible for investigating, prosecuting, and bringing to judgment crimes against the EU's financial interests. With a robust background in law and a commitment to justice, Mrs. Vanderputten has significantly contributed to enhancing the efficiency and effectiveness of transnational legal proceedings within the EU. Her dedication to upholding the rule of law and ensuring accountability has made her a respected figure in European legal circles.

### Bogdan Necula

Bogdan Necula is the Deputy Head of Unit at the European Anti-Fraud Office (OLAF). With extensive experience in fraud prevention and investigation, he plays a crucial role in safeguarding the financial interests of the European Union. Mr. Necula's expertise in legal and operational matters has significantly contributed to OLAF's mission to detect, investigate, and prevent fraud. His dedication to public service and his strategic leadership have made him a key figure in the fight against financial crimes within the EU.