

# FEDERICA MOGHERINI

HIGH REPRESENTATIVE

VICE PRESIDENT OF THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION

Brussels, 24/11/17  
A(2017)5522797-5536413

Ms Ana Gomes MEP  
European Parliament  
60 rue Wiertz  
1047 Brussels

Dear Colleague,

I would like to thank you for your letter of 28 September 2017, whereby you raise your concerns as regards alleged irregularities in the conduct of our former EU Ambassador to Cabo Verde.

We are aware of the reports that appeared in the Cabo Verdean press and social media on the matter to which you are referring.

EU officials are obliged to respect the highest standards of ethical behaviour, which are particularly strict for senior officials. After leaving EU service, officials are bound by duty to behave with integrity and with discretion as regards the acceptance of certain appointments or benefits. As such, we are examining these allegations and have already contacted the former official concerned with a request for further clarification.

I have been informed that the European Anti-Fraud Office (OLAF) is currently assessing the case. Only after such an initial assessment does OLAF decide whether or not to open an investigation. The fact that OLAF does assess the received information does not therefore mean that the individual in question is guilty of any wrongdoing. The EEAS and OLAF fully respect the universal presumption of innocence, including in the matter at hand.

I wish to reiterate the importance that the EU attaches to its representatives and its staff conducting themselves in accordance to the rules and highest standards of independence, integrity, and impartiality established in the Staff Regulations and Ethics Policy.

Yours sincerely,



Federica Mogherini