

14/11/2023

# SEMINAR ROBERTO SAVIANO

Report and commentary on the works  
of some students of the basic course  
of European Union Law, M-Z,  
Professor Ubertazzi



ANGELO SALIMBENI, ANDREA ZANINI

## FRAUDS IN CALABRIA: THE SACRIFICE OF JAN KUCIAK

Jan Kuciak was an investigative journalist, murdered on  
February 21, 2018

- His colleagues published his unfinished latest investigation, in which the business of some families, linked to the Ndrangheta, were revealed; they “devoured” European funds for agriculture, allocated in Slovakia;
- Local entrepreneurs involved in money laundering, a turnover that exceeded 68 MILLION euros;



CARMELA  
SANTORO

## MEDIA FREEDOM AND PLURALISM

European Commission initiatives to promote a sustainable  
and free media ecosystem:

- Proposal for directives on strategic legal actions against public participation (SLAPP), a form of harassment against journalists aimed at penalizing the dissemination of matters of public interest.



## MEDIA FREEDOM AND PLURALISM

European Commission initiatives to promote a sustainable and free media ecosystem:

- Grants for the Center for Pluralism of the Media and Media Freedom (CMPF) for the development and implementation of the "Media Pluralism Motor" (MPM), which provides a comprehensive overview of the risks to media freedom and pluralism across Europe.



## MEDIA FREEDOM AND PLURALISM

European Commission initiatives to promote a sustainable and free media ecosystem:

- "Play Your Rights, Again!" Project, conceived and implemented by Cefa ETS with the aim of promoting the values of European citizenship at a regional level.



MATTEO PIATTI

## EPPO AND THE MEDIA

- EPPO's activity is reported by the media, but in a limited way and too marginal;
- However, it is a "recent" organism and its potential is not yet fully known.

- Current global news «covers» EPPO's activity.
- The implications must be taken into account excessive media exposure can lead, for example regarding operational effectiveness.



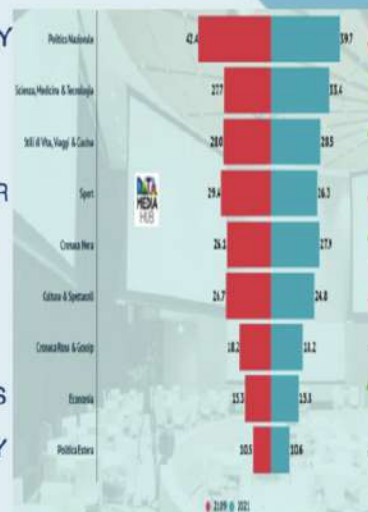
# MEDIA COVERAGE OF EPPO

Data from DataMediaHub, on the type of information that arouses the curiosity of Italians (in 2019/2021), demonstrate little interest in the EPPO and the investigations carried out by it.

Possible solutions:

- Use of clear and simple language.
- Increase in EPPO presence on social media
- The Opening to the public of congresses at the Eppo headquarters.

NATIONAL POLICY  
 SCIENCE, MEDICINE, TECHNOLOGY  
 TRAVEL AND COOKING  
 SPORT  
 CRIME NEWS  
 CULTURE AND ENTERTAINMENT  
 GOSSIP  
 ECONOMICS  
 FOREIGN POLICY



## MICHELE MEDA EPPO AND TIKTOK

Typing the term “Eppo” (or similar) on TikTok, nothing appears; It is clear that the potential of this social media is not exploited.

What are the potentials of Tik Tok?

- 01 • Edited videos, which involve the recipients, no longer just listeners passive;
- 02 • “Uninterested” disclosure of information: the idea that newspapers choose topics based on their own utility, or that they are manipulated in some way, is shared by many;
- 03 • In addition to the minimal costs, the use of this platform allows you to reach a large, generally active audience.

VALLESI SARA, NAVA ROBERTA, VALMADRE MARTA

## OPERATION WATERDIVINER

The Financial Policy of the provincial command of Udine has issued a press release regarding the EPPO investigation into a fraud of almost 1.6 million euros.

Two hypotheses of aggravated fraud to the detriment of the EU budget.



From the articles we draw the following conclusions:

- All news is faithful to the GdF press release.
- News has more relevance at the local level than at the national level.
- The articles do not specify the relationship between Eppo-Delegated Prosecutor of Venice-Gdf, which could provide a unclear picture of the role of EPPO.



## BIODIESEL FRAUD

- EPPO, in 2021, contests the creation of an extensive biodiesel import system from Bosnia and Herzegovina to the Union, produces from waste oils kitchen;
- It led the investigation into these alleged forgeries declarations, which resulted in a loss of income of approximately 1.295.000 euros.



The Commission is adopting a policy to combat the phenomenon of “greenwashing”, i.e. facade environmentalism, by guaranteeing the accuracy of companies ecological declarations.

FRANCESCA BENEDETTA MIGLIORE, BEATRICE PELLEGRINO, FRANCESCO ZITO E WISAL TAYEBI

## “BETWEEN REALITY AND MEDIA ”

The European Prosecutor’s Office is very active on a social-media level. The Twitter profile has a following of 15 thousand followers. The community does not appear to be interested in crimes that harm the financial interests of the European Union.

This may be due to:

- Little “stir” that these crimes create compared to others, such as for example murders;
- Poor dissemination of news by the press at national level;
- Inefficient use of social platforms capable of creating a greater engagement.



LISA MARIOTTI, LISA SPERONI, ALESSIA PERRI, RICCARDO NASUTI, TOMMASO PIAZZA E ALESSANDRO STRANCI

## THE ROAD TO LEGALITY

The object of the Public Prosecutor’s Office are crimes against the EU budget, including carousel fraud;

- On behalf of the European Public Prosecutor’s Office in Venice, the alleged leader of a fraud operation VAT of 28 million was arrested; this fraud operation involved several countries
- Only local media have paid attention to what happened; the news had no resonance at a national level.



## SUPERBONUS 110%

Fraud related to the 110% Superbonus:

- 235 interventions in the last 17 months, with 87 investigations delegated to the national and European judiciary (EPPO).
- 113 subjects reported, with damages amounting to over 1 million euros.
- Fraud affecting European Union resources amounts to over 100 thousand euros.
- Damage to the European Union budget of 5,3 billion euros.

What are the media saying?

- Little media coverage from the national newspapers
- Investigations relating to financial crimes perceived as too complex and “remote” from daily life, especially if to the detriment of the European Union.



ANNALISA TRABBIA

## ARE EUROPEAN CITIZENS AWARE OF EPPO'S WORK?

- On 27 September 2023, the European Public Prosecutor's Office in Madrid carried out 14 searches following investigations relating to a transnational criminal organization, which orchestrated operations worth 17 euros through the sale of luxury cars, seizing over 200,000 euros in cash and bank accounts worth 500,000 euros.
- The case found space ONLY in the pages of Spanish Newspapers.
- “Enhanced Operation” should be understood in every sense. Also therefore from a media point of view, among the various participating countries.



ELEONORA ZANETTI

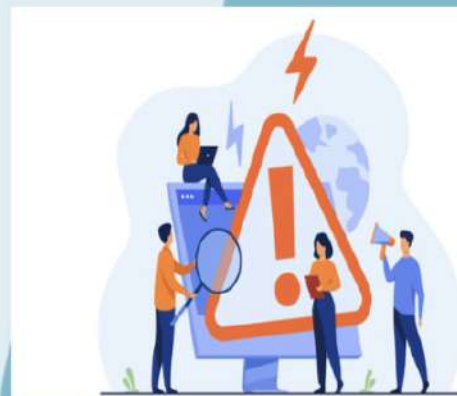
## SEMINAR PAPER ON EU LAW

- On 20 December 2017 AMAP s.p.a., a municipal company for the management of Palermo's water service, obtained a loan of 20 million euros from the European investment Bank (EIB) by presenting a project for improving the quality of water supply and of wastewater services.
- On 25 May 2023 EPPO seized everything for the crime of improper perception of public donations.
- The news had only local relevance.



# THE MEDIA AND THE EUROPEAN PROSECUTOR'S INVESTIGATIONS

- Greater media interest in national investigative activity;
- The lack of public knowledge of the European Prosecutor's Office's activities compromises its work;
- By providing easy reporting mechanism, the media would increase the efficiency of the European Public Prosecutor's Office;
- Direct reporting would lead to quicker investigative activity compared to categories of crimes that require speed and competence.



FRANCESCA MAPELLI, MARGHERITA MARCOMINI, MATTIA ROSSI,  
GIOVANNA TAGLIABUE, ALICE TRAVAGLIN, GIUSEPPE TRUDU

## THE POOR VISIBILITY OF EPPO



Eppo is an institution that moves in the shadows, apparently lacking in criteria of newsworthiness.

Why is EPPO not relevant in the media?

- Complexity of the news.
- Conditions of «apathy» of the citizen with regard to issues relating to the financial sphere.
- Little space given by the media to economic - financial news.

# THANKS FOR WATCHING

Sofia Mazza  
Alessia Redaelli

