



17TH ANNUAL PROFESSIONAL CONFERENCE AND GENERAL ASSEMBLY

OF THE EUROPEAN PARTNERS AGAINST CORRUPTION (EPAC/EACN)

PORTUGAL, 15-17 NOVEMBER 2017

LISBON DECLARATION 2017

We, the heads and key representatives of the national Police Oversight Bodies and Anti-Corruption Authorities of the Member States of the Council of Europe and the European Union, especially in such difficult times for Portugal, after the tragic wildfires that have recently taken place and have caused loss and suffering to so many people,

Expressing the gratitude to the Inspectorate General of Home Affairs of Portugal (IGAI) for generously hosting and efficiently organising this conference;

Recalling international conventions, instruments and mechanisms, in particular the United Nations Convention against Corruption (UNCAC) and its Implementation Review Mechanism, relevant Council of Europe conventions, the GRECO monitoring mechanism and the OECD Anti-Bribery Convention;

Recalling the EPAC/EACN Declarations adopted in Riga (2016), Paris (2015), Sofia (2014), Krakow (2013), Barcelona (2012), Laxenburg (2011), Oradea (2010), Nova Gorica (2009), Manchester (2008), Helsinki (2007), Budapest (2006), Lisbon (2005), and Vienna (2004), and *thanking* the Austrian Federal Bureau of Anti-Corruption (BAK) for hosting the Secretariat;

Acknowledging that corruption is a serious threat to development and stability which has harmful consequences at all levels of governance and undermines public trust in democracy and its institutions;

Welcoming the adoption of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and *recalling* target 16.5 calling States to “Substantially reduce corruption and bribery in all their forms”;

Welcoming the achievements of the 7th Conference of the States Parties to the UNCAC in Vienna and particularly the resolutions adopted in this session;

Welcoming the forthcoming establishment of an independent and efficient European Public Prosecutor's Office (EPPO) as a major step to facilitating cross-border investigation and prosecution of fraud and corruption cases affecting the financial interests of the EU;

Reiterating the need to follow a holistic and comprehensive approach in the fight against corruption based on comprehensive prevention frameworks and efficient international cooperation among law enforcement agencies;

Emphasising the imperative need for our members to live up to strong public expectations to provide effective remedies against corruption;

Stressing the importance of strengthening the independent, transparent and effective functioning of ACAs and POBs and providing for the necessary protection of officials involved in the anti-corruption and oversight efforts so as to guarantee that they can carry out their function without any form of pressure or interference;

Taking into account the work of the EPAC/EACN Working Groups, in particular the results of the EPAC/EACN Working Groups "Police Oversight Bodies' Effectiveness and Efficiency" and "Risk Management and Risk Analysis" as well as the outcomes and conclusions of the Lisbon conference workshops and plenary sessions:

- Recommend that every POB develops internal control and/or audit departments in order to improve the functioning of police forces and the service provided to the public;
- Encourage POBs to consider the use of the "Handbook for evaluating the effectiveness/efficiency of Police Oversight Bodies" for improving their performance;
- Encourage all members to conduct risk analyses and implement risk management as appropriate, in particular to increase the effectiveness of ACAs and POBs themselves;
- Commit to distribute the "Guideline on Integrity Risk Management for Anti-Corruption Authorities (ACAs) and Police Oversight Bodies (POBs)" among relevant national bodies, acknowledge that this guideline contributes to creating a shared basis for promoting the integrity of public organisations, and invite EPAC/EACN members to share their experiences in this regard within EPAC/EACN;
- Welcome the progress of the EPAC/EACN Working Group "Big Data, Legal Aspects, Use of Databases", set up by the General Assembly in Riga in November 2016;

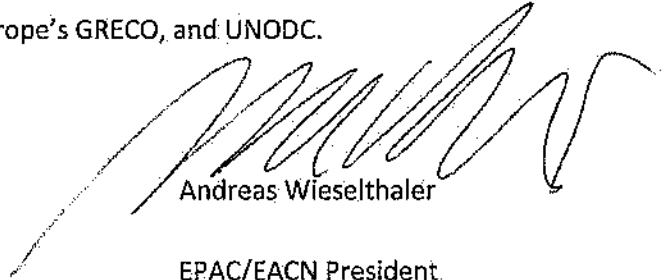
- Take note that the 2018 Annual Professional Conference and General Assembly will be hosted by the Austrian Federal Bureau of Anti-Corruption in Austria.

The Declaration will be widely circulated by the members in their respective countries and submitted to relevant EU institutions and bodies, the Council of Europe's GRECO, and UNODC.



Margarida Blasco

Inspector General of IGAI



Andreas Wieselthaler
EPAC/EACN President