

Dear Ladies and Gentlemen, Dear Colleagues and Friends,

It is our pleasure to present you with the last newsletter for this year which also marks the 10th anniversary of the European Partners Against Corruption.

The idea for such an independent forum among bodies and agencies from EU Member States arose nearly 13 years ago, championed by Belgium and Austria. In 2004, the EU provided funds under the



AGIS framework programme to help practitioners and law enforcement officials from Member States and candidate countries set up networks to exchange information and best practices. As a result of these different efforts, EPAC was born in the same year as a network of police monitoring and inspection bodies and anti-corruption agencies with a wider remit at a conference hosted by the Austrian anti-corruption authority in Vienna.

In 2008, the European Council established the European contact-point network against corruption (EACN), based on EPAC's structures, to formalize cooperation between authorities mandated with the prevention of and fight against corruption in the EU.

EPAC and EACN mostly work together as one. Their efforts in promoting effective cooperation among operational entities, safeguarding the independence of national authorities, and developing common standards have received recognition from the European Union, the Council of Europe, the United Nations, as well as the wider international community.

Confident that EPAC/EACN will continue to provide its members with a solid platform for cooperation and exchange, we wish you a festive holiday period and a happy New Year.

Your Secretariat



14th Annual Professional Conference

Over 80 delegates from EPAC/EACN anti-corruption authorities and police oversight bodies met in Sofia, Bulgaria from 16 to 19 November for the network's Annual Professional Conference and General Assembly. The event was generously hosted by the Bulgarian Ministry of Interior and the State Agency for National Security (SANS).



The Plenary sessions were complemented by two workshops held in parallel. The anti-corruption authorities (ACA) strand looked at the status of whistleblowers in France and the fight against corruption of high-ranking officials in Bulgaria and Romania, while the police oversight bodies (POB) workshop addressed the latest developments in Bulgaria, France and Ireland. Both workshops provided ample opportunities for participants to work together and exchange experiences.

The General Assembly re-elected Giovanni Kessler as EPAC/EACN President and Anthony Duggan as Deputy Vice President for POBs, each for another two-year term. The mandates of Margarida Blasco, Anca Jurma and Daniel de Alfonso Laso, all elected by the 2013 General Assembly, will remain in effect until 2015.

In addition, the General Assembly accepted two new members from Moldova to EPAC - the National Anti-Corruption Centre and Anti-Corruption Prosecutor Office.

EPAC/EACN's 14th Annual Professional Conference and General Assembly closed with the adoption of the Sofia Declaration. The Declaration and presentations are available on our website at <www.epac.at/news/annual-conference>.

First MACS Graduation

On 9 December, International Anti-Corruption Day, the first class of the Master in Anti-Corruption Studies (MACS) graduated at the International Anti-Corruption Academy (IACA). Luis Moreno Ocampo, the guest of honour and formerly the first prosecutor of the International Criminal Court, delivered the keynote address. Martin Kreutner, Dean of IACA, Nikos Passas, Member of the Academic Consortium, Monika Stumpf-Hulsrøj, MACS Coordinator and H.E. Muhyiedeen Touq, Chair of the Defence Committee, also addressed the 22 graduates, saluting their achievements. The evening closed with a reception which was joined by family, friends, faculty and a wider network of distinguished guests.



The graduating class and faculty



E-learning Platform



In the framework of a project entitled "Rising of the Anticorruption Training System" the Polish Central Anticorruption Bureau has launched a public e-learning platform, the first in Poland. It contains anticorruption training dedicated to representatives of the public administration and the business sector as well as young people.

The English version has been launched earlier this year and can be accessed at the following link: <<https://szkolenia-antykorupcyjne.edu.pl>>, or via <www.cba.gov.pl>.

IACA Summer Academy Applications Open in January

The International Anti-Corruption Academy (IACA) will offer its fifth annual Summer Academy from 2 to 11 July 2015. The application period will open on 15 January and close on 15 March 2015. Representatives from EPAC/EACN authorities are encouraged to apply.



The Summer Academy is an intensive ten-day programme designed for familiarizing participants with contemporary insight in selected areas of corruption theory and anti-corruption practice. The programme aims to foster a culture of the reflective practitioner while providing knowledge and tools for helping bridge the gap between theory and practice. Detailed information on the Summer Academy, including the online application form, will be available on IACA's website, <www.iaca.int>.



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