

**Dear Ladies and Gentlemen,  
Dear Colleagues and Friends,**

## **EPAC Annual Conference**

The 9th Annual Conference of the European Partners Against Corruption (EPAC), our informal network of about 60 European Police Oversight Bodies and Anti-Corruption Authorities, took place in Nova Gorica, Slovenia, from 4 to 6 November 2009. More than 90 participants from 24 EU Member States, Western Balkan countries and overseas attended this successful conference held under the motto "Continuing the Dialogue - Fighting Corruption with Integrity". The highlights of this year's conference were the constituent meeting of the EU contact-point network against corruption (EACN), which EPAC had been tasked to implement based upon its own existing structures by Council Decision 2008/852/JHA, OJ L 301/38, and the formal constitution of EPAC. The cooperation in the context of EPAC will be continued, now also offering access to the anti-corruption and police oversight authorities of Council of Europe countries. Martin Kreutner (Austria) was elected as President, Drago Kos (Slovenia) and Ferenc Frankberger (Hungary) were elected as Vice-Presidents for Anti-Corruption, and Nicholas Long (UK) and Gil L. Bourdoux (Belgium) as Vice-Presidents for Police Oversight. The President of EPAC is at the same time the President of the EACN.



Further information can be found at: <http://www.epac.at>

## **EPAC Working Groups**

As already determined in the Perla Declaration adopted at the Annual Conference, there will be the following Working Groups in 2010: the 'EPAC (EACN) Finances WG', chaired by the President, the 'Staff Exchange WG', chaired by Belgium, the 'AC Standards WG', chaired by Slovenia, and the 'PO Principles WG', chaired by England & Wales. All partners - those already involved in former WGs as well as new ones - are welcome to participate. At the beginning of next year, the expected dates of the WGs will be announced. All interested partners, please apply at the EPAC/EACN Secretariat, [BMI-EPAC-Secretariat@bmi.gv.at](mailto:BMI-EPAC-Secretariat@bmi.gv.at) by the end of January 2010.

## **Global Forum on Fighting Corruption and Safeguarding Integrity**

From 7 to 8 November 2009, in the run-up to the third Conference of the States Parties (CoSP) to the United Nations Convention against Corruption (UNCAC), the sixth session of the Global Forum on Fighting Corruption and Safeguarding Integrity took place in Doha, Qatar, under the overall theme of "Strength in Unity: Working Together against Corruption". This intergovernmental forum, dealing with fighting corruption on a global scale and providing the opportunity to discuss anti-corruption good practice and openly exchange information on relevant policies, practices and measures, brought together more than 1000 high-level officials as well as representatives of civil society. Numerous lectures and several panel discussions with high-ranking experts were held.



The platform is considered as nucleus of interaction for opening new horizons for more effective policies and practices so as to build bridges and create new partnerships among peoples from all over the world in order to alleviate their technological and institutional gaps.

In the adopted resolution, participants agreed on closing the Global Forum in this form, but its spirit and mission will live on in international forums and anti-corruption networks, such as the Conference of the States Parties to the UNCAC, the International Anti-Corruption Conference, as well as the European Partners Against Corruption (EPAC) and the EU's anti-corruption contact-point (EACN) network.

For more information please see: <http://www.state.gov/p/inl/rls/rm/131695.htm>

### **Conference of the States Parties (CoSP) to the United Nations Convention against Corruption (UNCAC)**

From 9 to 13 November 2009, the third CoSP to the UNCAC was held in Doha, Qatar. The UNCAC is the first global legal instrument to fight corruption. The efficiency of the provisions set out in the convention primarily depends on the important issue of national implementation by the States Parties. Already the first CoSP in 2006 took the decision to create an appropriate mechanism or institution to support the implementation of the UNCAC. Following long and intense negotiations, a resolution on the establishment of a global review mechanism for the mutual assessment of the national implementation measures was adopted by the third CoSP. Thus, an important milestone in the international fight against corruption was set.



Furthermore, a number of side events were organized in the framework of the CoSP, such as a presentation headed by Austria on the ongoing establishment of the first "International Anti-Corruption Academy" in Laxenburg near Vienna.

Apart from the decision on the establishment of a review mechanism, the adoption of a resolution on the prevention of corruption was another important result of this CoSP.

Further information can be found at:

<http://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/treaties/CAC/CAC-COSP-session3.html>

### **International Anti-Corruption Day**

On 9 December 2003, the United Nations General Assembly adopted the United Nations Convention against Corruption (UNCAC). Since then, this day has been the international Anti-Corruption Day. On this occasion, a public hearing took place at the European Parliament in Brussels. Highly qualified experts from Transparency International (TI), the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), the European Anti-Fraud Office (OLAF) and the European Commission (EC) discussed how challenges of corruption to the private sector could be addressed to improve economic development.



Companies in the private sector are further establishing their internal policies against corruption. In spite of this, the massive scale of global corruption obstructs the path to sustainable economic growth. Inter alia, the hearing examined to what extent EU Member States have implemented and enforced existing EU foreign bribery laws and other related international conventions and how EU-based companies comply with anti-corruption regulations.

For further details see: <http://www.unodc.org>

## Human Rights Day

As every year on 10 December, Human Rights Day was celebrated by the international community. It commemorates the adoption of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) by the United Nations General Assembly in 1948.



This year, Human Rights Day focused on non-discrimination. "All human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights": these famous words of the UDHR are the foundation of international human rights law. However, the worldwide fight against discrimination is far from being won.

When the General Assembly adopted the Declaration, it was proclaimed as a "common standard of achievement for all peoples and all nations", towards which individuals and societies should "strive by progressive measures, national and international, to secure their universal and effective recognition and observance". Although the UDHR is not a binding document, it inspired more than 60 human rights instruments which together constitute an international standard of human rights. Today the general consent of all UN Member States on the basic human rights makes the Declaration even stronger.

The UN High Commissioner for Human Rights and her Office play a major role concerning the yearly observation of Human Rights Day. Their main objective "is to help promote discrimination-free societies and a world of equal treatment for all," says the High Commissioner.

More information is available at: <http://www.ohchr.org/EN/AboutUs/Pages/HumanRightsDay2009.aspx>

## Corruption Perceptions Index

The Corruption Perceptions Index (CPI), based on 13 different expert and business surveys, measures the perceived level of public sector corruption in 180 countries and territories around the world.

According to Transparency International's CPI 2009, it is clear that no region of the world is immune to the menace of corruption. Fragile states that are scarred by war and ongoing conflict linger at the bottom of the index. These are: Somalia, with a score of 1.1, Afghanistan at 1.3, Myanmar at 1.4, and Sudan tied with Iraq at 1.5. These results demonstrate that countries perceived as the most corrupt are also those plagued by long-standing conflicts tearing apart their governance infrastructure. Highest scorers in the CPI 2009 are New Zealand at 9.4, Denmark at 9.3, Singapore and Sweden at 9.2 and Switzerland at 9.0. These scores reflect political stability, long-established conflict of interest regulations and solid, functioning public institutions.

The overall results of the 2009 index are of great concern because they show that corruption continues to lurk where opacity rules, where institutions still need strengthening and where governments have not implemented anti-corruption legal frameworks.

For further information see the link below:

[http://www.transparency.org/policy\\_research/surveys\\_indices/cpi/2009/cpi\\_2009\\_table](http://www.transparency.org/policy_research/surveys_indices/cpi/2009/cpi_2009_table)

### Meeting EC - EACN

From 4 to 5 February 2010, a meeting between the EACN and the European Commission (EC) will take place in Brussels in order to have a first exchange. The EC is going to inform on their approach to anti-corruption issues in the framework of the Lisbon Treaty and the Stockholm Programme. More information will follow in due time.



### OLAF/ERA Seminar

Next year, from 25 to 26 February 2010, an anti-corruption conference organized by the European Academy of Law (ERA) in cooperation with OLAF will take place in Trier, Germany. The objective of the event entitled "Annual Forum on Combating Corruption in the EU 2010" will be to debate how best to ensure effective detection, investigation and prosecution of corruption, particularly affecting the EU's financial interests.



For further details see <http://www.era.int/?120904&en> or contact the event organizer of ERA, Mr Buono, under +49(0)651-937 37-0.

### EPAC Contact Catalogue 2010

We would also like to draw your attention to the upcoming EPAC Contact Catalogue 2010.

Concerning the production of the 2010 edition, we would like to remind all of our partners who have not yet submitted their current contact data to the EPAC/EACN secretariat at [BMI-EPAC-Secretariat@bmi.gv.at](mailto:BMI-EPAC-Secretariat@bmi.gv.at) to please do so in order to enable us to comply with internal deadlines necessary for a smooth further production process. Thank you very much for your support.

We wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Prosperous Year 2010!

**Your EPAC/EACN Secretariat**

