



# NEWSLETTER

Dear ladies and gentlemen,  
colleagues and friends,

Welcome to our newsletter, the second one of this year. We hope that the newsletters help to keep you updated on the latest news from the EPAC/EACN network and provide you with informative articles as well as event tips for the international anti-corruption community.

For more, scroll down and find our fine selection of events coming up in the following months.

As always, we would appreciate your input regarding future or past events, conferences, seminars, training courses, studies, project findings, etc. for us to include in the December-newsletter.

We wish you a great and sunny summer.

Your EPAC/EACN Secretariat

## EPAC/EACN EVENTS AND LATEST NEWS

### **18th ANNUAL PROFESSIONAL CONFERENCE AND GENERAL ASSEMBLY “Multiple challenges require sustainable and interactive solutions”**

This year's 18th Annual Professional Conference and General Assembly will take place in Rust, Austria, from 22 to 24 October 2018, hosted by the Austrian Federal Bureau of Anti-Corruption (BAK).

There will be three interesting plenary sessions focusing on: compliance and integrity; latest international developments; as well as sharing of experience in national and regional projects and activities.

The plenary sessions will feature speeches of senior representatives of different anti-corruption authorities, non-governmental organizations, EU bodies and international organizations. In the course of the parallel workshops, topics such as human rights in the context of anti-corruption investigations, complaints systems, corruption in health systems, and the “EU Integrity”-project will be discussed interactively. On the second day, a World Café will foster networking and the exchange of views.

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Homepage: [www.epac-eacn.org](http://www.epac-eacn.org)

During the General Assembly, a declaration on the work and strategic orientation of the networks will be officially presented and adopted, the election of the president and further board members will take place, new members will be admitted, and outcomes of the EPAC/EACN working groups will be presented.

Finally, at the closing session, a prominent speaker will host the award ceremony for the most innovative and valuable projects of Police Oversight Bodies and Anti-Corruption Authorities.

## 2nd BOARD MEETING



The second board meeting in 2018 was hosted by the Austrian Federal Bureau of Anti-Corruption (BAK) in Vienna on 28 and 29 May. Present were the president of EPAC/EACN, Andreas Wieselthaler, the ACA's Vice President, Mati Ombler, the POB's Vice President, Jack Vissers, as well as the secretariat of EPAC/EACN and representatives of the Austrian Federal Bureau of Anti-Corruption.

Topics discussed were, among others, the agenda of the 18th EPAC/EACN Annual Professional Conference and General Assembly, taking place in Rust, Austria, in October 2018, progress made by the EPAC/EACN Working Groups, and new membership requests.

## FIRST MEETING OF THE EPAC/EACN WORKING GROUP:

"How can POB organizations monitor the authorities of police forces in respect of the balance between collective security and individual rights during mass meetings/events"



During last year's 17th EPAC/EACN Annual Professional Conference in Lisbon a working group was set up: "How can POB organizations monitor the authorities of police forces in respect of the balance between collective security and individual rights during mass meetings/events".

On 20 April 2018, the Standing Police Monitoring Committee from Belgium and the General Police Inspectorate from the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg hosted participants of Portugal, France, Spain, Azerbaijan, Ireland, Finland, Luxembourg and Belgium for the first working group meeting in Brussels.

After the participants were welcomed by Johanna Erard, Chairwoman of Standing Committee P, the working group session started with a brief overview of the results of the monitoring enquiry by Standing Committee P on "Operational and legal aspects of screening for the Tomorrowland 2017 festival".

Keynote speaker of the day was Saad Amrani, Chief Commissioner from the Belgian Federal Police who presented a general overview of "Negotiated management of public space".

The first working group session ended with an interactive workshop discussing the following topics: security risks of festival visitors/employees, the need for a legal basis, the need for a risk analysis, screening in national databases, screening in international databases, defining criteria for screening, appeals process, screening practices, adequate quality control in screening assessments, and violation of professional secrecy.

The participants of the working group session stressed that they were very interested in receiving best practices from the different POB's. During a second working group meeting these practices will be exchanged in order to elaborate general guidelines concerning the discussed topics.

## EU INTEGRITY CONFERENCE



On 21 and 22 June 2018, the Kick-off Conference of the EU Integrity project took place in Vienna. The project is carried out by the Austrian Federal Bureau of Anti-Corruption (BAK) together with its project partners from Germany (Criminal Police Office, from North Rhine Westphalia State), France (French Anti-Corruption Agency) and Romania (Anticorruption General Directorate, Romanian Ministry

of Internal Affairs).

At the heart of the “EU Integrity” initiative is the intention to foster exchanges of experience and best practices between actors from all sectors (public administration, academia, civil society and the private sector) within the European Union and especially those who face integrity and corruption risks.

By facilitating exchange and cooperation between experts with different professional backgrounds and focus areas, the aim is to create synergy effects. Furthermore, it is intended to develop diversified solutions in order to generate added value and to promote a culture of integrity in the EU in the long run.

Based on discussions and work priorities of the institutions, the following objectives have been defined:

- Facilitating a multilateral, constructive dialogue and a broad exchange of experiences and practices between different sectors, supported by an IT platform, and by developing an “Integrity Manual”
- Strengthening interagency cooperation and establishing common standards for its enhancement
- Improving the support and protection of whistleblowers through measures to implement anti-corruption ideas
- Promoting educational and value management measures as well as awareness-raising activities for public servants and citizens concerning the consequences of corruption

These four priorities will simultaneously serve as the subject focus of one of the Working Groups that have been established, and were introduced in more detail within the framework of the conference.

The conference was attended by about 80 participants of different sectors from EU Member States including 22 EPAC/EACN member organizations. It consisted of keynote speeches as well as interactive parts to enhance dynamic and productive exchanges.

## PRESS RELEASE OF THE ROMANIAN NATIONAL ANTICORRUPTION DIRECTORATE (DNA)

In February, the Romanian minister of justice requested the revocation of the head of DNA, Ms. Kovesi. The Superior Council of Magistracy gave a negative opinion to the request. The President of Romania refused to revoke her and wrote a letter to the minister in that sense. At the end of May the Romanian Constitutional Court stated, by majority of votes, that the President of Romania is obliged to issue a decree for revoking the chief prosecutor of DNA thus confirming the request of the minister of justice.

The Romanian National Anticorruption Directorate (DNA) released the following statement in respect to the decision of the Plenary of the Constitutional Court:

*"In the context of the discussions generated by the press release of the Constitutional Court of Romania (CCR) issued on May 30, 2018, the Office for Public Information and Relations is authorized to convey the views expressed by the prosecutors of DNA.*

*Now it is the moment to raise an alarm and express our concern regarding the potential impairment of the prosecutors' independence status, which represents an essential premise of the fight against corruption. Without the current legal safeguards of independence, the fight against corruption would not have been possible, while losing these safeguards may seriously affect the investigations carried out by the anti-corruption prosecutors."*

(See: <https://www.pna.ro/comunicat.xhtml?id=8834>  
<https://www.ccr.ro/comunicate/COMUNICAT-DE-PRESA-554>)

## EUROBAROMETER

### Perceived independence of the national justice systems in the EU

In May 2018, the European Commission published one report focusing on the perceived independence among the general public and another one focusing on perceived independence among companies. The studies concentrate on how the general public and companies rate the justice system in their country in terms of independence of courts and judges, and what reasons they give for these perceptions.

The majority of the general public rates the level of independence of courts and judges in their country as good. The reason for the good rating of independence of courts and judges is the status and position of judges. The main reason they give for bad ratings is interference or pressure from government and politicians.

Companies, that is, just about half of them, rate independence of courts and judges in their country as good. Most companies also explain their good ratings with the status and position of judges.

(See: [https://data.europa.eu/euodp/data/dataset/S2116\\_435\\_ENG](https://data.europa.eu/euodp/data/dataset/S2116_435_ENG) ;  
[http://data.europa.eu/euodp/en/data/dataset/S2167\\_462\\_ENG](http://data.europa.eu/euodp/en/data/dataset/S2167_462_ENG))

## RAI CONDUCTED A COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS OF ASSET RECOVERY WITH OSCE

The OSCE and the Regional Anti-Corruption Initiative (RAI) have issued a comparative study on asset recovery mechanisms in Bulgaria, Croatia, Moldova and Romania.

The report analyzes final court judgments in cases of corruption, in particular, human rights standards, and identifies shortcomings at the national level which can affect regional and international cooperation.

The study seeks to complement the publication “Asset Recovery in the Western Balkans – A comparative analysis of legislation and practice” which was carried out earlier this year. This second study conducted by the RAI Secretariat and the AIRE Centre, with the support of the OSCE, focuses on the seizure of illegally acquired property in the Western Balkans. The studies are part of a project which aims at strengthening regional cooperation in asset recovery and combating corruption in South-Eastern Europe.

(See: <https://www.osce.org/secretariat/384060>  
<http://rai-see.org/osce-rai-secretariat-join-hands/>)

## GRECO REPORTS ON DENMARK AND LIECHTENSTEIN

On 30 May 2018, the Council of Europe's anti-corruption group (GRECO) published the Third Round Compliance Report on Liechtenstein. The Compliance Report assesses measures taken by the authorities of Liechtenstein to implement the 20 recommendations issued in the Third Round Evaluation Report on Liechtenstein, covering incriminations and transparency of party funding. As required by GRECO's Rules of Procedure, the Liechtenstein authorities submitted a Situation Report on measures taken to implement recommendations made. This report constituted the basis for the Compliance Report.

Furthermore, on 6 June, GRECO issued its Sixth Interim Compliance Report concerning transparency of party funding in Denmark. The report states that only limited results were achieved after the last evaluation report of 2010. Denmark has dealt in a satisfactory manner with only six of fourteen recommendations; that is why GRECO has requested the Danish authorities to provide a report regarding further actions taken to implement pending recommendations by 31 December 2018.

(See: <https://www.coe.int/en/web/portal/-/greco-report-on-denmark-more-transparency-in-party-financing-needed>  
<https://www.coe.int/en/web/greco/-/liechtenstein-publication-of-greco-s-third-round-compliance-report>)

## EUROPEAN COMMISSION PROPOSES NEW EU-WIDE STANDARDS FOR HIGH LEVEL PROTECTION OF WHISTLEBLOWERS

On 23 April, the European Commission proposed a new law to strengthen whistleblower protection across the EU. The proposal will set EU-wide standards for guaranteeing protection for whistleblowers who report breaches of EU law. The new law will establish safe channels for reporting both within an organization and without, to public authorities. It will also protect whistleblowers against dismissal, demotion and other forms of retaliation, and oblige national authorities to inform citizens and provide training for public authorities on how to deal with whistleblowers.

Protection mechanisms for whistleblowers must include clearly defined reporting channels both within and without organizations, and ensure confidentiality.

The Commission's proposal foresees feedback obligations for authorities and companies, who will have to respond and follow up to whistleblowers' reports for internal reporting within 3 months.

Whistleblowers will also be protected in judicial proceedings, in particular, through exemption from liability for disclosing information.

(See: [https://ec.europa.eu/commission/news/whistleblower-protection-2018-apr-23\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/commission/news/whistleblower-protection-2018-apr-23_en))

## GRECO REPORT ON ANTI-CORRUPTION TRENDS IN EUROPE & USA

On 3 May 2018, the Council of Europe issued a press release regarding their "18th General Activity Report (2017) – Anti-corruption trends, challenges and good practices in Europe & the United States of America". Therein, the Council of Europe warns that EU countries may backslide on anti-corruption due to new legislative initiatives in certain European countries. These initiatives taken in 2017 reversed reforms previously undertaken to strengthen the prevention of corruption. Furthermore, some countries started reforms that may lead to breaches of the Council of Europe's anti-corruption standards. The report perceives overall progress in introducing new measures to fight corruption, but the speed of their practical implementation lower than desired. Furthermore, the report includes an assessment of the level of compliance exhibited by GRECO's member states with recommendations made in respect of parliamentarians, judges and public prosecutors.

GRECO's recommendations regarding MPs such as asset reporting, transparency of interactions with lobbyists and management of conflicts of interest were not implemented in a satisfactory manner. Results in respect of recommendations for judges were better; still, one third of recommendations made remained only partly implemented, and about 20% were not implemented at all. Concerning public prosecutors, countries performed more satisfyingly.

(See: [https://search.coe.int/directorate\\_of\\_communications/Pages/result\\_details.aspx?ObjectId=09000016807c117d](https://search.coe.int/directorate_of_communications/Pages/result_details.aspx?ObjectId=09000016807c117d))

## AUSTRIAN PRESIDENT VISITS IACA



The President of Austria, H.E. Dr. Alexander Van der Bellen, paid his first official visit [\[1\]](#) to the International Anti-Corruption Academy (IACA) on 14 June and expressed his country's strong support for the organization.

"Austria is known throughout the world as a venue for addressing important global issues. IACA, a truly international centre of excellence in anti-corruption education, is making a major contribution in this regard and will continue to enjoy Austria's full support," President Van der Bellen said.

During his visit the President received an update on how the organization's anti-corruption programmes are contributing to fulfilment of the United Nations' 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

He joined a classroom discussion about IACA's current research projects, heard from alumni about the positive impact of its programmes, and held talks with Mr. Martin Kreutner, IACA's Dean and Executive Secretary, regarding potential further cooperation on anti-corruption and compliance projects.

Among other recent highlights, in mid-May IACA hosted a well-attended side event on "Cyber-Crime and Cyber-Corruption: The Fourth Criminal Revolution?" in the framework of the 27th session of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice (CCPCJ) in Vienna. [\[2\]](#)

Related to this, IACA is currently welcoming applications for its upcoming seminar on Digital Compliance: How disruptive technologies will drive changes in compliance systems (20 - 21 Sep). [\[3\]](#)

There is also still time to apply for the 2018 - 2020 edition of IACA's Master in Anti-Corruption Studies (MACS) [\[4\]](#), and for the 2019 - 2021 International Master in Anti-Corruption Compliance and Collective Action (IMACC) [\[5\]](#) for professionals involved with the business sector in these fields.

In addition, former students and participants are warmly invited to register for this year's IACA Alumni Reunion [\[6\]](#) in Laxenburg on 5 - 6 July.

{See [www.iaca.int](http://www.iaca.int) for further details and updates}

## OVERVIEW OF UPCOMING EVENTS AND CONFERENCES

- 02 to 08 Jul. 2018: Transparency International School on Integrity, Vilnius
- 13 Jul. 2018: Informal JHA Council & Eastern Partnership ministerial meeting; Innsbruck
- 03 to 05 Sep. 2018: Meeting UNCAC Implementation Review Group, Vienna
- 06 to 07 Sep. 2018: Meeting UNCAC Working Group on Prevention, Vienna
- 20 Sep. 2018: Informal meeting of heads of state or government, Salzburg
- 07 to 14 Oct. 2018: ICGG 16th Workshop "Economics of Corruption 2018, Passau
- 09 to 12 Oct. 2018: Meeting OECD Working Group on Bribery, Paris
- 15 to 16 Oct. 2018: GRECO High level Conference, Šibenik
- 15 to 19 Oct. 2018: 81st Plenary Meeting (GRECO), Strasbourg
- 22 to 24 Oct. 2018: EPAC/EACN Annual Conference, Rust**
- 22 to 24 Oct. 2018: 18th International Anti-Corruption Conference, Copenhagen
- 12 to 16 Nov. 2018: Meeting UNCAC Implementation Review Group, Vienna
- 20 to 21 Nov. 2018: 5th Management Board Meeting of CEPOL, Vienna
- 03 to 07 Nov. 2018: 82nd Plenary Meeting (GRECO), Strasbourg
- 11 to 14 Dec. 2018: Meeting OECD Working Group on Bribery, Paris
- 13 to 14 Dec. 2018: Meeting Europol Management Board, Vienna