

Dear colleagues and friends,

We hope that you have had an enjoyable festive season and wish you a good start in a prosperous New Year 2008!

Following our Annual Conference in Helsinki last December, we would like to thank you for your proactive engagement in the updating process of the Contact Catalogue. Furthermore, we are very pleased about your interest and questions concerning this year's working groups. We take that as a good signal for a promising working year 2008!

As set out in article 12 of the Helsinki Declaration, there will be 5 working groups dealing with the issues "PO Principles", "AC Standards", "2008 Conference", "EPAC Transnational Cooperation & Staff Exchange" and "EPAC Communication". They will present their results to the 2008 Conference at the latest.

To facilitate your decision whether to participate in one or several working groups, please find below short descriptions of the planned work of each group, provided by the working group chairs. They include the contact details of the responsible person of each organization as well as possible first (approximate) dates for working group meetings.

Given the exemplary commitment of last year's working group members, we will count on the continued engagement of those organizations that have already taken part in the ongoing working groups. We kindly ask all other organizations which would also like to join an ongoing or new working group to proactively sign up at the below contact details of each working group and to send a copy to the address of the EPAC Secretariat, BMI-IV-6-4-BIA@bmi.gv.at.

Dear colleagues and friends, thank you once again for your enthusiasm last year. It has been our pleasure to support your dedicated efforts! The work on the EPAC Contact Catalogue 2008 is in full swing: we are confident to be able to send it to you in the next weeks.

We would also like to inform you that your Austrian EPAC partner has already sent out the reviews of the International Anti-Corruption Summer School (IACSS) 2007. This event, organized last summer by the BIA with the support of the European Commission, was an excellent proof of the efficiency of EPAC communication channels.

In this sense – get yourself connected! We hope to see you soon in the working groups!

Your EPAC Secretariat

PO PRINCIPLES

Building consistency in police oversight

Launched at the 2006 EPAC conference the working group dealing with principles in police oversight is working to create aspirational minimum standards for organisations involved in oversight of those with policing powers.

The WG's work programme for 2008 will focus on promotion and adoption of the standards by member organisations, and the further development of the current draft to ensure its compatibility and operational relevance to organisations working within member countries.

The first meeting of the Police Oversight Principles WG, chaired by Nicholas Long, the IPCC's Commission lead for International Liaison and Development, is expected to take place in early April. POC for the working group is Mark Hines (Tel.: +44 (0) 207 166 3278, email international.liaison@ipcc.gsi.gov.uk). The deadline for signing up for the working group is 15 February 2008.

We look forward to hearing from you.

Nicholas Long
IPCC, England & Wales



Nicholas Long

AC STANDARDS

Continuing work on anti-corruption standards

The EPAC working group on common standards and best practice for anti-corruption agencies was set up during the Budapest Conference in 2006, as it was considered a relevant and important topic to the network.

In 2007, a working document on common standards, based on practical measures taken to implement key international requirements, and on best practice and achievement of specialized anti-corruption institutions was prepared by the working group and presented to the EPAC Helsinki Conference. It was also decided that the working group (renamed AC Standards) should continue its activities.

The Chairs of the working group tentatively suggest two themes to be further elaborated in 2008: how to effectively involve public and private partners in the fight against corruption in prevention, education and enforcement (e.g. NGOs or persons reporting corruption and helping to detect corrupt offences), and the development of criteria for how to measure the results and effectiveness of the work of specialized anti-corruption agencies. Other participating institutions are invited to propose other topics of interest.

The first meeting of the AC Standards WG is tentatively scheduled for the end of February/beginning of March in Riga. The working group's POCs are Ms. Inese GAIKA (Tel. +371 67356135, email: Inese.Gaika@knab.gov.lv) and Ms Jūratė TUMONIENE (Tel. +370 5 266 3396, email: jura@stt.lt). We expect you to sign up for or confirm your membership in the working group before 15 February 2008.

We look forward to hearing from you.

Aleksejs Loskutovs
KNAB, Latvia

Žimantas Pacevičius
STT, Lithuania



Žimantas Pacevičius



Aleksejs Loskutovs

2008 CONFERENCE

Starting the new year with your head full of ideas for the next EPAC conference?

This year's EPAC Conference is being hosted by the Independent Police Complaints Commission of England and Wales, and will be taking place in November/December. If you're interested in shaping the programme for this exciting event by becoming a member of the 2008 conference working group or if you want to tell us about what you want to get from attending EPAC's next annual conference then email us at international.liaison@ipcc.gsi.gov.uk to find out more.



Nicholas Long

The first meeting of the 2008 Conference WG, chaired by Nicholas Long, the IPCC's Commission lead for International Liaison and Development, is expected to take place in March/April. POC for the working group is Mark Hines (Tel.: +44 (0) 207 166 3278, email international.liaison@ipcc.gsi.gov.uk). The deadline for signing up for the working group is 15 February 2008.

We look forward to hearing from you.

Nicholas Long
IPCC, England & Wales

EPAC TRANSNATIONAL COOPERATION & STAFF EXCHANGE

Cross-border cooperation

Throughout their years of activities, police oversight bodies (POB) and the anti-corruption agencies (ACA) have accumulated important experience and knowledge, mainly in methods and techniques. As it appeared during our meetings, the references and standards of work are not necessarily the same all over Europe. The know-how of each organization can be of particular interest to the other partners, and systematizing the exchange of views around good practices may prove to be valuable. Besides, there are some cases where it is useful or necessary to join forces and work together, sometimes even in the frame of cross-border cooperation.



André Vandoren

It is essential that the members of our institutions get to know each other better and confront their experiences, why not, by organizing a system of regular and carefully prepared exchanges for our personnel. These arrangements made in advance should considerably facilitate the workings afterwards. Its status as an external and independent monitoring body makes Committee P a key partner for all activities of safeguarding the fundamental rights of citizens when they are confronted with the police, or of fighting against corruption. We believe that your experience and expertise combined with ours will allow us to play a pioneering role on the international – and especially the European – scale in exchanging know-how and good practices. We will organize two meetings in Brussels, one in March/April and another in August/September.

We will be most pleased by your joining our working group on "Transnational Cooperation and Staff Exchange". You can sign up for this event until 15 March by sending an email to nancy.vanbareel@comitep.be or gil.l.bourdoux@comitep.be.

We look forward to meeting you.

André Vandoren
Standing Committee P, Belgium

EPAC COMMUNICATION

Combine your knowledge, develop your vision!

The idea of creating an EPAC communication working group was born when last year's EPAC Strategy WG was thinking of ways how to make the already existing expertise of EPAC partners more available to the members of the network, but also to a broader audience interested in our work. Moreover, we also experienced that it would be interesting to develop a value-based vision for EPAC, which could serve as a guideline for the network's activities and highlight the network's core values to outsiders.



Martin Kreutner

Thus, there are two projects the working group would focus on, one being the drafting of a potential mission statement for EPAC and the other one the compilation of the EPAC members' expertise as to police oversight and anti-corruption in one common or two separate books.

The latter project would not only depend on the willingness of some organizations to participate in the development of the book's concept and the collecting and editing of the materials, but also in the willingness of - more or less - all EPAC member institutions to submit articles or essays which could make the final product a useful source of PO and AC information.

The first meeting of the Communication WG is envisaged to be held in March/April in Vienna. The working group's POC is Mr. Thomas OBRUCA (Tel.:+43-664-856 98 98, email: bia136@bmi.gv.at). The deadline for signing up for the working group is 15 February 2008.

We look forward to hearing from you.

Martin Kreutner
BIA, Austria