



## **Constitution of the Network European Partners Against Corruption (EPAC)**

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### ***Article 1***

#### ***Name and Composition***

The name of the network is "European Partners Against Corruption" (EPAC). It is an independent, informal, non-political network of operational Police Oversight Bodies (POB) and operational Anti-Corruption Authorities (ACA) of the EU Member States and Member Countries of the Council of Europe concerned with the independent oversight of policing and with the prevention of and the fight against corruption.

**Article 2**  
*Objectives and Goals*

The objectives and goals of EPAC are of an operational nature only and may include:

- establishing, maintaining, and developing contacts between specialised authorities;
- promoting independence, impartiality, and legitimacy, as well as accountability, transparency, and accessibility in all systems created and maintained for the independent oversight of policing and the anti-corruption work;
- promoting international legal instruments and mechanisms from a professional perspective;
- supporting the development and the promotion of common working standards and best practices for POB and ACA;
- providing a platform for the exchange of information and expertise concerning developments in police oversight and anti-corruption matters;
- providing support to other countries and organisations that are looking to establish or develop oversight mechanisms and anti-corruption authorities;
- co-operating with other organisations, authorities, networks, and stakeholders in compliance with the foregoing objectives.

**Article 3**  
*General Principles*

EPAC in all its activities shall apply the principles of independence, impartiality, legitimacy, accountability, transparency, and accessibility.

**Article 4**  
*Members*

Members of EPAC may be organisations of national remit and/or broad jurisdiction within the EU Member States and Member Countries of the Council of Europe, concerned with the independent oversight of policing and with the prevention of and the fight against corruption. European Organisations and European networks with similar objectives may also be Members.

**Article 5**  
*Observers*

Organisations of other European countries concerned with the independent oversight of policing and with the prevention of and the fight against corruption may participate in the activities of EPAC as Observers. European Organisations and European networks with similar objectives may also be Observers.

## **Article 6**

### *Honorary membership*

The General Assembly may elect as an honorary member of EPAC any person who has made an outstanding contribution to the network's work and who in the opinion of the General Assembly deserves such distinction. Honorary members are elected for life.

## **Article 7**

### *Structure*

EPAC is composed of the General Assembly and its functions, which are one President, two Vice-Presidents, two Deputy Vice-Presidents and the Secretariat.

## **Article 8**

### *General Assembly*

EPAC convenes at least once per year for its General Assembly. The General Assembly shall be the body of supreme authority in the network. The duties and responsibilities of the General Assembly are, inter alia:

- determining the general policies of the network;
- accepting new Members and Observers;
- suspending or expelling Members and Observers who violate the general principles of the network;
- electing and appointing persons to perform the functions set out in this Constitution;
- suspending or dismissing persons from such functions;
- establishing Working Groups on specific issues and/or projects;
- adopting declarations after conferences;
- adopting and amending the Constitution of the network;
- dissolving the network.

In addition, the General Assembly shall also meet at the discretion of a decision between three among the President, the two Vice-Presidents, and the two Deputy Vice-Presidents, or at the request of at least one third of its Members. In such a case, the President (or one of his/her deputies) shall convene an extraordinary General Assembly within 6 (six) weeks and shall notify all Members of the business to be discussed.

## **Article 9**

### *Decision Making*

EPAC and its Members and Observers generally act upon the common understanding and undertaking of professional co-operation and friendship and in the spirit of equal partnership. Where consensus in specific matters

can not be achieved, decisions on the Constitution, on the suspension and/or expulsion of Members/Observers, and on the dissolution of the network will be taken by a two-third majority, all other decisions on the basis of a simple majority vote, of Members in attendance at the General Assembly. Abstentions and possible blank-votes are not counted as votes.

The "one Member - one vote" principle applies. In the case of more than five Members per state, these Members will come to an internal agreement in respect of their right to vote. If no internal agreement is achieved, then the principle of majority will be implemented with only one vote being given.

Observers and Honorary Members do not hold voting rights.

### **Article 10** *President*

The President is elected by the General Assembly for a term of two years (re-elections possible). The duties and responsibilities of the President are, inter alia:

- promoting and advocating the values and objectives of EPAC (core function);
- overseeing the overall direction and promotion of EPAC (development function);
- being responsible for the effective operation and representation of EPAC (management function);
- functioning as the public representative of EPAC (identity building function);
- liaising and co-operating with other organisations, networks, fora, and stakeholders (external relation function);
- presiding at the General Assembly (presiding function);
- taking care, running, and presiding over the Secretariat (administrative function);
- deciding about the allocation of the finances of the EPAC and reporting in detail on this issue to the General Assembly (financial function);
- reporting to the General Assembly on his/her activities and achievements (reporting function);
- liaising with the Vice-Presidents and Deputy Vice-Presidents;
- preparing applications/decisions for the General Assembly;
- proposing new Members and Observers to the General Assembly.

### **Article 11** *Vice-Presidents*

Two Vice-Presidents are elected by the General Assembly for a term of two years each (re-elections possible). The duties and responsibilities of the Vice-Presidents are, inter alia:

- also promoting and advocating the values and objectives of EPAC in consultation with the President;
- being responsible and developing the strand (ACA or POB) or projects they are representing;
- reporting to the General Assembly on his/her activities and achievements;
- supporting the President in his/her functions;
- liaising with their respective Deputy Vice-Presidents.

### **Article 12**

#### *Deputy Vice-Presidents*

Two Deputy Vice-Presidents are elected by the General Assembly for a term of two years each (re-elections possible). The first term of the first Deputy Vice-Presidents will only last one year. The duties and responsibilities of the Deputy Vice-Presidents are, *inter alia*:

- also promoting and advocating the values and goals of EPAC in consultation with the Vice-Presidents and the President;
- also being responsible and developing the strand (ACA or POB) and projects they are representing;
- supporting the President and Vice-Presidents in their functions.

### **Article 13**

#### *Secretariat*

The duties and responsibilities of the Secretariat are, *inter alia*:

- providing the President, the Vice-Presidents, and Deputy Vice-Presidents as well as Working Groups with administrative support;
- informing - on a regular basis, through website and newsletters - all EPAC Partners on developments and activities;
- maintaining and servicing the EPAC website;
- assisting in any other administrative, technical, and communication issues and duties with regard to the coherent visibility of the network.

### **Article 14**

#### *Working Groups*

Working groups consist of Members, Observers, and a Working Group Chair, who is responsible for convening the Working Group as often as necessary. The duties and responsibilities of Working Groups are, *inter alia*:

- elaborating on specific issues and projects;
- reporting their achievements to the General Assembly.

**Article 15**

*Finances*

EPAC may gain its funds by voluntary contributions of its Members, Observers, official international programmes and other sources of income. Proper care shall be taken to ensure the appropriateness of all such contributions and grants. The network shall also apply principles of transparency, accountability, and legitimacy.

**Article 16**

*Language*

The English language shall be the language of EPAC.