



# NEWSLETTER 03 23

**Dear EPAC/EACN members and observers,  
Dear colleagues and friends,**

With great pleasure, we present the third newsletter for this year informing you about the latest developments and upcoming events.

As always, we would appreciate your contributions about future or past events, conferences, seminars, training courses, studies, project findings, so that we can include them in the next newsletter.

**We wish you all  
a Merry Christmas  
and a Prosperous Year in 2024!**

**Your EPAC/EACN Secretariat**

**Join us on Social Media!**

-  [www.facebook.com/EPACandEACN](https://www.facebook.com/EPACandEACN)
-  [www.twitter.com/EPAC EACN](https://www.twitter.com/EPAC_EACN)
-  [www.linkedin.com/company/epac-eacn/](https://www.linkedin.com/company/epac-eacn/)
-  [www.youtube.com/@epaceacn](https://www.youtube.com/@epaceacn)

I EPAC/EACN SECRETARIAT

II EPAC/EACN COMMUNITY



## EPAC/EACN BOARD NEWS

### 22<sup>nd</sup> EPAC/EACN Annual Professional Conference and General Assembly

The 22<sup>nd</sup> Annual Professional Conference and General Assembly of the European Partners against Corruption (EPAC) and European contact-point network against corruption (EACN) were held in Dublin on November 2 and 3, 2023. The conference marked the adoption of the Dublin Declaration and the election of Mr. Linas Pervanas, Director of Lithuania's Special Investigation Service (STT), as the new President of the EPAC/EACN Board, while other Board members were re-elected for a second term.



The EPAC/EACN conference, held in Ireland, was organized by the Garda Síochána Ombudsman Commission, the Policing Authority, the Garda Inspectorate, and the Department of Justice. It attracted nearly 200 participants from over 100 institutions in more than 30 different countries and jurisdictions.



Speakers from the European Commission, European Public Prosecutor's Office, European Union Agency for Law Enforcement Cooperation (EUROPOL), European Anti-Fraud's Office (OLAF) and national anti-corruption and police oversight institutions provided their insights and experience on relevant topics. This year's Conference focused on four main themes, which included Whistleblowing, Gender-Based Violence committed by state actors, Safeguarding the EU's financial interests, and Addressing Emerging Challenges in Corruption Investigations and Police Oversight.



The conference also featured the presentation of the EPAC/EACN award for the most innovative anti-corruption initiative, which was awarded to the Polish Central Anti-Corruption Bureau for their project 'ABC Integrity' this year.

The project is based on three foundations relating to different stages of human development:

**A** promoting the idea of honesty and ethics among the youngest

**B** cooperation with the scientific community and organization of anti-corruption events for students in their final years of studies who are just starting their professional careers

**C** conducting specialized training for public sector employees and representatives of commercial law companies with State Treasury share



Source: EPAC/EACN



# NEWSLETTER 03 23

The General Assembly also accepted five new members to the EPAC network, bringing the total number of anti-corruption and police oversight bodies from 38 European countries who are members of EPAC and/or EACN to 109.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Anti-Corruption Bureau of Georgia</li><li>• Special Investigation Service of Georgia</li></ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Asset Recovery and Management Agency of Ukraine</li></ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Hungarian Integrity Authority</li></ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Andalusian Anti-Fraud Office (Spain)</li></ul>

Source: EPAC/EACN

In addition, the **Dublin Declaration** as the final document of the conference, was adopted by the General Assembly. This Declaration will be widely circulated by the EPAC/EACN members in their respective countries and submitted to relevant EU institutions and bodies, the Council of Europe's GRECO, the OECD WGB, and UNODC.

**The EPAC/EACN Secretariat thanks all participants and contributors and is already looking forward to the next annual conference in 2024.**



Source: EPAC/EACN



## THE NEW EPAC/EACN BOARD

At the 22<sup>nd</sup> General Assembly, the members of the EPAC/EACN Board were elected for a 2 years term. **Mr Linas Parnavas**, Director of the Special Investigation Service of the Republic of Lithuania, was elected to serve as the President of the EPAC/EACN. Anti-corruption strand and Police oversight strand members were elected for the second term.

### PRESIDENT



**LINAS PARNAVAS**  
Lithuania

President  
(2023-present)  
Director of Special  
Investigation Service (STT)

### ANTI-CORRUPTION STRAND



**ERNST SCHMID**  
Austria

Vice President ACA  
(2022-present)  
Acting Head of Department,  
Federal Bureau of Anti-  
Corruption (BAK)



**TRAIAN MIHAITA BARLICI**  
Romania

Deputy Vice-President ACA  
(2022-present)  
Head of the Prevention  
Directorate in the Anti-corruption  
General Directorate (DGA)

### POLICE OVERSIGHT STRAND



**LUCILE ROLLAND**  
France

Vice-President POB  
(2022-present)  
Deputy Head of the French  
National Police General  
Inspectorate



**HUGH HUME**  
Ireland

Deputy Vice-President POB  
(2022-present)  
Commissioner of the Irish  
Garda Síochána  
Ombudsman Commission

## A WORD FROM THE PRESIDENT

*Distinguished members and observers of the EPAC/EACN,*

*Let me start by thanking you all for placing your confidence and trust in me to serve as your President. It is an honour and a great responsibility to take on this duty and I will do everything to represent EPAC/EACN in its best interests. This is a responsibility that I do not take lightly.*

*Taking on this duty is an honour and a great responsibility, therefore the expressed trust in me is not only an important international assessment, but also an obligation. The EPAC/EACN network must continue to grow and become an even more open, constantly modernising network seeking the best solutions. My main priorities as the president of EPAC/EACN will be to strengthen inter-institutional cooperation and the sharing of good practices, to create conditions for effective information exchange in order to use the latest technological solutions.*

*EPAC/EACN and its Board will continue working jointly to strengthen our professionalism through cooperation and best practice sharing among European anti-corruption and police oversight authorities. Through projects such as Best Anti-Corruption Practice Exchange (BACPE) we will retain our commitment in ensuring that our members have more opportunities and assistance to develop the skills, the methods and operating frameworks required for a modern fight with corruption. As the biggest professional anti-corruption network in Europe we will promote development of standards and application of latest technology solutions for the best results.*

*To achieve this you should expect nothing less than my full and complete commitment when I begin as president.*

*Sincerely,*

*Linas Parnavas  
EPAC/EACN President  
Director of the Special Investigation Service of the Republic of Lithuania*

## EPAC/EACN AT THE 10TH CONFERENCE OF STATE PARTIES OF THE UNITED NATIONS CONVENTION AGAINST CORRUPTION



Source: EPAC/EACN

EPAC/EACN Board members Linas Parnavas and Mihai Barlici as national delegates attended the 10th Conference of State Parties of the United Nations Convention against Corruption.

The tenth session of the Conference of the States Parties to the United Nations Convention against Corruption was held at the Georgia World Congress Center in Atlanta, United States, from 11 to 15 December 2023.

The Conference is the widest governmental global gathering anti-on corruption matters. Every two years, the Parties to the Convention meet to review its implementation and discuss how to improve international cooperation and to better prevent and tackle corruption.

The UN Convention against Corruption is a legally binding universal and comprehensive instrument to combat corruption and has near universal acceptance, with 190 States Parties. The Convention, negotiated in Vienna and adopted by the General Assembly in 2003, is marking its 20th anniversary this year.

Among other meetings, Linas Parnavas, EPAC/EACN President, spoke at one of the side events dedicated to advancing anticorruption outcomes across multilateral fora and presented importance of multi-disciplinary approach and international cooperation in combatting corruption. Among other aspects he provided example of EPAC/EACN network as means of sharing best practices and developing anti-corruption standards.

## BACPE PROJECT



**Funded by  
the European Union**

EPAC/EACN Secretariat hopes that all experts found their visits interesting and professionally rewarding. We would like to remind that according to the Best Anti-Corruption Practice Exchange Project (BACPE) regulation within 10 working days following an exchange visit to another EPAC/EACN member, it is mandatory for the experts who traveled to complete the report form. This form should provide detailed information about the practices and approaches learned during the visit.



Additionally, any PowerPoint presentations or relevant documents shared during the exchange visit should be attached to the report form. Please note that presentations containing sensitive or classified information will not be published on the EPAC/EACN website.

Source: STT

## VALENCIAN ANTI-FRAUD AGENCY (SPAIN)



### 19 GERMAN LAWYERS IN TRAINING VISIT THE VALENCIAN ANTI-FRAUD AGENCY TO LEARN HOW IT WORKS

A total of 19 German lawyers in training from Cologne have visited the Valencian Anti-Fraud Agency to learn first-hand about aspects of the Agency's operation such as the development of investigations, the complaints mailbox or the protection of whistleblowers of corruption.

Throughout the morning staff of the Agency in the areas of analysis and research, legal, prevention, computer and training have explained to them what the work that is carried out on a day-to-day basis in each of the departments consists of.

The group is composed of 19 lawyers who have passed the entrance exam and this visit is part of the training program. The students have actively participated by asking questions about different aspects of the work carried out by the Agency.

Once the visit to the Agency was over, the group took a guided tour of the Corts Valencianes, headquarters of the Valencian Parliament.



Source: Valencian Anti-Fraud Agency

**Additional Information:** <https://www.antifraucv.es/en/19-german-lawyers-in-training-visit-the-valencian-anti-fraud-agency-to-learn-how-it-works/>

**Contact:** María José Moragues: [maria.moragues@antifraucv.es](mailto:maria.moragues@antifraucv.es)  
Amalia López Acera (communication): [amalia.lopez@antifraucv.es](mailto:amalia.lopez@antifraucv.es)

## THE VALENCIAN ANTI-FRAUD AGENCY PRESENTS THE BOOK “CODE OF INTEGRITY OF THE VALENCIAN COMMUNITY”

**The book reviews the main international standards to continue with European, state and regional regulations. This book is configured as a practical tool for all those people and institutions that want to access the published regulations on integrity, also providing a novel methodology that also includes a glossary of terms and an analytical index.**

The Valencian Anti-Fraud Agency presented in the Assembly Hall of the building annexed to the Corts Valencianes the book “Code of Integrity of the Valencian Community” that has been published together with the publishing house Tirant Lo Blanch.

The book reviews the main international standards to continue with European, state and regional regulations. This book is configured as a practical tool for all those people and institutions that want to access the published regulations on integrity, also providing a novel methodology that also includes a glossary of terms and an analytical index.

The publication has been made both in paper format and in e-book format for digital consultation which also has an expanded and commented selection of the regulations contained in the paper edition. This digital edition will also allow the permanent updating of the regulations as they change or expand.



Source: Valencian Anti-Fraud Agency

The presentation was given by Marisa Cuerda, president of the Ethics Committee of the Agency and professor of Criminal Law at the Universitat Jaume I de Castelló, who highlighted the role played by the Agency in improving the corruption rates of the Valencian Community as highlighted by the European Commission or the State Attorney General’s Office.

For her part, Irene Bravo, head of prevention of the Agency and coordinator of the publication, has pointed out the novel aspect of this code as it is a pioneer in the regional and state level that wants to contribute to the consolidation of the culture of public integrity in the Valencian Community.

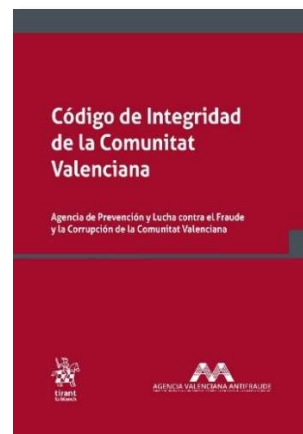
María Campo, director of edition of Tirant Lo Blanch thanked the collaboration with the Agency for the edition of this work that she hopes will contribute to democratic regeneration and to face “a corruption that breaks our democratic system into pieces”.

Finally, Joan Llinares, director of the Agency, pointed out that “codification is a legal technique that helps all those who have to apply, defend and develop laws, integrity being the largest source of income for public administrations”.



The e-book version (in epub and pdf) of the Integrity Code of the Valencian Community is available for download, which contains an expanded and commented selection of the regulations collected and approved herein in the field international, European and national, with a special impact on the provisions of the autonomous legal system of the Valencian Community linked to public integrity, as well as the recommendations, guides and manuals of the Valencian Anti-Fraud Agency.

In documents with multiple graphic elements and for a better reading experience, we recommend giving preference to the pdf version of the electronic book



**Additional Information:** 1. <https://www.antifraucv.es/en/the-valencian-anti-fraud-agency-presents-the-book-code-of-integrity-of-the-valencian-community/>  
2. <https://www.antifraucv.es/en/integrity-code/>

**Contact:** María José Moragues: maria.moragues@antifraucv.es  
Amalia López Acera (communication): amalia.lopez@antifraucv.es

## INSPECTORATE OF PERSONNEL AND SECURITY SERVICES (IPSS) (SPAIN)



### THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE APPLICATION OF COMPLAINTS AND SUGGESTIONS OF THE MINISTRY OF THE INTERIOR. STATE SECURITY FORCES AND CORPS SCOPE

Article 17.1 of Royal Decree 951/2005 establishes that "The General Inspectorate of Services of each department will follow up on complaints and suggestions regarding the organs, units and agencies within its scope, both central and peripheral". Likewise, the fourth additional provision, on the intervention of the Inspections of Specific Services, details that "the functions attributed by this Royal Decree to the General Inspections of Services of the ministerial departments will be assumed, in their respective scope, by the Inspection of Personnel and Security Services of the Secretariat of State for Security, by the Penitentiary Inspection of the General Directorate of Penitentiary Institutions and by the Inspection of the Services of the General State Advocacy-Directorate of the State Legal Service, in the terms provided for in the fifth and sixth additional provisions of Royal Decree 799/2005, of July 1, which regulates the general inspections of services of ministerial departments.

To delimit the scope of action of this IPSS, Instruction 7/2007 was published, on the procedure for processing complaints and suggestions made by citizens, which in its second instruction, on the Unit Responsible for Coordination, Control and Monitoring, establishes that "in the field of the State Security Forces and Corps (FCSE), in accordance with the provisions of the Fourth Additional Provision of Royal Decree 951/2005, of July 29, the Inspection of Personnel and Security Services of this Secretariat of State (IPSS, hereinafter) will be responsible for ensuring compliance with the provisions contained therein regarding complaints and suggestions made by citizens, carry out a specific follow-up of them and propose, where appropriate, to the competent bodies the adoption of the appropriate measures".





# NEWSLETTER 03 23

On the other hand, RD 734/2020, which develops the basic organic structure of the Ministry of the Interior, in terms of the functions of the IPSS highlights as fifth "Carry out, within the scope of its functions, the monitoring of the quality programs established in Royal Decree 951/2005, of July 29, which establishes the general framework for the improvement of quality in the General State Administration, and especially that of complaints and suggestions made by citizens, in the field of the State Security Forces and Corps".



In this context, IPSS for several years had a computer application for the management of complaints and suggestions, made available by the Subdirector General for Information and Communications Systems for Security (SGSICS) of the Secretary of State for Security and whose users are part of different units of the Ministry of the Interior that handle complaints such as the General Directorate of the National Police (DGP), the General Directorate of the Civil Guard (DGGC) and the General Directorate of Traffic and Penitentiary Institutions. Since its creation, the way of working for the procedure of complaints files has been, since its creation, centralized, requesting from the processing units of the FCSE everything that had been done in relation to a complaint, suggestion and congratulation, and the IPSS prepared the entry, coding and recording record in the aforementioned application in order to carry out the analysis and monitoring and evolution reports required.

A few years ago, a proposal was launched to decentralize the recording of complaints and that the same complaint processing units recorded them in the application. For this, a pilot phase was deployed that had two recording units in the territorial deployment of the General Directorate of the Police and another two in the demarcation of the General Directorate of the Civil Guard. Once the pilot phase had been analyzed and the success of the experience verified, the appropriate modifications were managed through the SGSICS to take this pilot test to the rest of the FCSE recording units.

On the occasion of the implementation of these new functionalities and improvements in the capacities of the application of complaints and suggestions of the Ministry of the Interior developed by the SGSICS, at the end of 2022, a letter was sent to the technical cabinets of the DGP and the DGGC requesting that they be determined, depending on the criteria deemed appropriate, the Units (Central Organs of both bodies, Superior Headquarters and/or Provincial Police Stations, Operational Evaluation Section of the General Staff of the Civil Guard, Zones, Commanderies and Traffic Sectors) entrusted with the recording of complaints/suggestions/congratulations (QSF) and their attached documentation, taking into account as an essential requirement the connection to the SARA network and the limit of 400 users supported by the computer program, of which 200 are assigned to the National Police and the rest to the Civil Guard.



Once the corresponding lists have been received, this IPSS is currently carrying out tasks related to the registration of recording users of both the DGP and the DGGC, as well as the definition of user profiles, to subsequently issue precise instructions to the officials designated for the use of the tool. with the ultimate objective that the recording units of complaints and suggestions can access the aforementioned tool to enter the basic data of the complaints processed within their scope of competence.

**Contact:** Esther Fernandez, [efernadezc@interior.es](mailto:efernadezc@interior.es)



## SPECIAL INVESTIGATION SERVICE (LITHUANIA)



### INTERNATIONAL WEBINAR

On the 18<sup>th</sup> of October, 2023, the Special Investigation Service (STT) of the Republic of Lithuania organised an international webinar on the topic of "Strengthening integrity in law enforcement agencies". This webinar aimed to demonstrate various approaches and methods towards greater integrity and to create a corruption resistant environment within law enforcement.



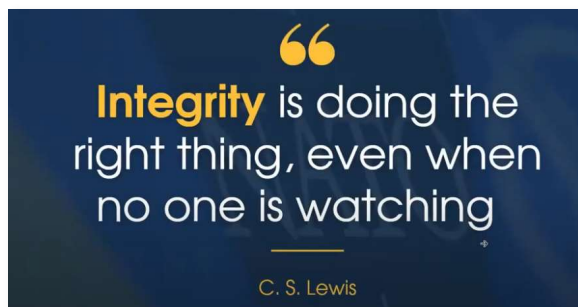
Source: EPAC/EACN

Mr Žydrūnas Butkevičius, Head of Immunity Board of the Police Department under the Ministry of the Interior of the Republic of Lithuania, shared a presentation on tackling corruption and strengthening integrity and the role of Police Immunity Board, while Mr Iaroslav Liubchenko, Deputy Head of the National Agency of Corruption Prevention (NACP) of Ukraine, shared the NACP experience on how to strengthen integrity in law enforcement agencies.

The webinar was opened with the remarks by Mr Linas Pernavas, Director of the Lithuanian STT, and was moderated by Mr Benas Aldauskas, Head of Anti-corruption Education Division of the Lithuanian STT.

Ms Lucile Rolland, Deputy Head of the French National Police General Inspectorate and EPAC/EACN Vice-President, shared her experience on how to ensure integrity within the French National Police.

Mr Hugh Hume, Commissioner of the Ireland Garda Síochána Ombudsman Commission and EPAC/EACN Deputy Vice-President, discussed structures, strategies and processes necessary to effectively counter the threat of internal corruption in a police service.



Source: National Agency on Corruption Prevention

**Additional Information:** Record of the webinar <https://youtu.be/n5r96Zlyq9g?si=uv-5zr5mFEc20MPk>