

## Dear colleagues and friends,

As summer is approaching, it is time to provide a brief résumé on what has been happening within EPAC, to have a look on next steps and upcoming events, and to take a glance on future developments.

The first round of working group meetings is to be completed soon. Let us see the results achieved so far.

## EPAC WORKING GROUPS

### Police Oversight Principles

The PO Principles working group had its first meeting at the IPCC in London on 7 April. Under the chairmanship of the UK, EPAC partners from Sweden, Ireland, Austria, Romania, Portugal, and Spain discussed the PO Principles paper drafted by the working group last year. It was once again stressed that the principles should be aspirational; it was agreed that the paper should be substantially restructured and made more compact. It was also decided to discuss the text with other institutions as for example the Council of Europe. There will be an email discussion exchange on the new text and another – possibly virtual – meeting of the working group in autumn.

### 2008 Conference

The Conference working group, which met in a joint session with the PO Principles WG, was made up of EPAC partners from Belgium, Slovenia, Norway, Germany, Ireland, Austria, and Portugal (chairmanship: UK) and agreed on the date, place and theme of the next conference.

The 8<sup>th</sup> EPAC Conference will be entitled “Integrity” and take place from 19 to 21 November 2008 at the Marriott Worsley Park Hotel and Country Club located outside Manchester.



Apart from discussing amendments to the usual conference setting, especially in order to enhance interaction between the delegations but also to ensure a maximum of practical input, the working group deliberated on speakers and potential topics for the plenary and the workshop sessions. Finally, the issue of financing was also touched. The next working group meeting will be held on 2 June at the Conference venue.

### Communication

From 8 to 9 April 2008, the EPAC Communication working group met in Vienna for the first time: partners from Latvia, Lithuania, and Romania (chairmanship: Austria) participated in this session. The meeting

was initiated to draft a vision for EPAC, which, after its adoption by the general EPAC Conference, shall serve as a guideline for the network's activities and emphasize its core values. Furthermore, the working group discussed a concept for making the already existing expertise of the EPAC partners more available to the members of the network but also to a broader audience interested in the work of EPAC. As a result of the meeting, important elements of the draft EPAC vision and basic parameters for the EPAC publication were compiled. According to these parameters, the publication will deal with the fight against the abuse of authority in a broad sense and follow a "phenomenon-focused approach" instead of an institutional one. It was agreed to finalize the drafts in a second working group meeting in autumn this year. At the 8th annual EPAC Conference the EPAC vision shall be discussed and necessary commitments to contribute to the publication shall be sought.

### Anti-corruption Standards

The AC Standards working group met in Riga on 6 and 7 May 2008. In this first meeting, EPAC partners from Poland, Romania, Albania, Italy, and Austria gathered under the chairmanship of Latvia and Lithuania. Apart from taking stock on what has been achieved in the working group last year (i.e. the elaboration of a concise and a comprehensive paper on EPAC Anti-Corruption Agencies common standards and best practises), the first day saw a discussion on how to measure progress in the overall anti-corruption policy but also on the efforts of anti-corruption institutions. On the second day, the workshop participants exchanged on how to effectively involve other public and private partners in the prevention of corruption and in anti-corruption education. It was decided to keep on working on these topics and take them forward to the Anti-Corruption workshop at the 8<sup>th</sup> annual EPAC Conference.



### Transnational Cooperation and Staff Exchange

The Transnational Cooperation and Staff Exchange working group will have its first meeting on 24 June 2008 in Brussels.

### Practice Meets Science

#### Second International Anti-Corruption Summer School – IACSS 2008

With the scientific support of renowned European and international universities the Austrian BIA, supported by other EPAC partners, organizes the "Second International Anti-Corruption Summer School" (IACSS 2008) to be held from 10 to 19 July 2008 in the Vienna area. It will be co-financed by the European Commission.

As at the IACSS 2007, this year's summer school will again give a selected audience of senior anti-corruption investigators, prosecutors, judges, etc. from over 25 EU Member States, Candidate and Western Balkan States and countries of the European Neighbourhood Policy as well as advanced university students of anti-corruption related subjects the opportunity to attend interdisciplinary lectures by scientists and experts with comprehensive expertise in the fields of fighting and preventing corruption and profound knowledge about the mechanisms of the corruption phenomenon.



The primary goal of the Summer School is an interdisciplinary transfer of knowledge from science to practice. In a very compact 10-day programme the participants of the IACSS will attend lectures of university professors and lecturers from Austria, Canada, Germany, Slovenia, the USA, and the UK of faculties like criminology, law, sociology, economics and others. The participants will engage in workshops and discuss about anti-corruption issues of special concern with prominent figures from politics, international organizations, the private sector and the media.

The IACSS 2008 shall also promote the exchange of experiences between the different participating authorities, be it from the Member States of the EU or from outside the Union, disseminate general and specific knowledge and thus contribute to the fight against fraud and corruption, including fraud and corruption affecting the financial interests of the European Union. Moreover, the Summer School helps to make known OLAF and its working methods by offering a detailed presentation of the Office as well as to develop effective cooperation by improving the understanding of Community and national mechanisms.

For further information on the Second International Anti-Corruption Summer School see: <http://www.bia-bmi.at/en/summerschool/>

### EPAC Conference 2009

#### EPAC Conference 2009 to be held in Slovenia

After the EPAC Conferences held in Eastern, Northern and Western Europe, the 2009 Conference turns south again. The Slovenian Commission for Preventing Corruption thankfully offered to host the EPAC Conference in autumn next year. Apart from the impressive record of preventive actions in its home country, its independence and toughness, the Commission is known for its excellent skills and knowledge concerning international cooperation. The CPC has taken part in EPAC's activities since 2004 and is ready to take the network forward in its fight against the abuse of authority in 2009. We are convinced that this option further contributes to safeguarding our tradition of following an approach which considers being regionally balanced as well as varied and inclusive in terms of content.

