

Dear Ladies and Gentlemen, Dear Colleagues and Friends,

We are pleased to present you with the last newsletter for 2011 and provide you with the latest information of interest to our network. If you would like to see any specific issue or activity advertised in our next newsletter, please contact us.

Wishing you a festive holiday season and most success in 2012,

Your Secretariat

International Human Rights Day

The 10th of December marked the International Human Rights Day, serving as a reminder of our moral and social responsibility for safeguarding fundamental rights and preserving the rule of law. This particular date coincides with the 1948 adoption of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, and has been annually commemorated since 1950.



For police oversight work in particular, human rights must be taken into highest account for preserving integrity and ensuring the equality of all persons before the law. In safeguarding these rights, it is the duty of police oversight bodies to provide effective redress mechanisms for concerns relating to discrimination on all social levels. These bodies, entrusted with addressing human rights issues, must be independent, free from undue influence, and sufficiently separated from the hierarchy of the police that are subject to their remit.

International Anti-Corruption Day

The International Anti-Corruption day has been globally commemorated on 9 December for the last nine years. Following the adoption of the United Nations Convention against Corruption (UNCAC) in 2003, the United Nations designated this date as one for raising awareness on corruption and the role of the Convention in preventing and combating it.

This date is one of reflection and concern for the detrimental effects corruption has imposed on our societies, and serves to remind us of the importance of combating and preventing it. Those governmental and international bodies dealing with anti-corruption work must be as an antithesis to corruption, and especially the abuse of power for private gain. To ensure confidence and integrity, they must perform their functions without undue influence, be accountable to the people they serve, and provide them with safe means to take preventative measures and report instances of corruption.



EPAC/EACN Conference

This year's Annual Professional Conference and General Assembly took place at the International Anti-Corruption Academy (IACA) in Laxenburg, Austria, between 22 and 25 November. Under the theme "Standards in Integrity", it brought together around 70 representatives from member anti-corruption authorities and police oversight bodies.

The conference was dedicated to the exchange of experiences and latest developments in an effort to strengthen police oversight, human rights, and anti-corruption measures on the European continent and beyond. It opened with keynote speeches by the EPAC/EACN President, Martin Kreutner, and the Vice President of GRECO, Marin Mrčela. Delegates from the European Commission, European Anti-Fraud Office (OLAF), Austrian Federal Bureau of Anti-Corruption (BAK), and Latvian Corruption Prevention and Combatting Bureau (KNAB) delivered presentations on their latest endeavors. Apart from this, six external speakers from institutions such as the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) and the European Union Fundamental Rights Agency (FRA) addressed the participants on a variety of pertinent issues, and facilitated lively debates.



During the General Assembly of 25 November, the Anti-Corruption Authority Standards and Police Oversight Principles were adopted. The papers are the result of relentless year-long working group negotiations. Both of recommendatory nature, they serve to guide practitioners in rendering their work more effective and striving towards the establishment of common European standards. The EPAC/EACN Secretariat extends its gratitude to all those involved in drafting and negotiating these papers. The Chairs of the working groups, Nicholas Long

of the United Kingdom's Independent Police Complaints Commission (IPCC), Anca Jurma of the Romanian Anticorruption Directorate (DNA), and Drago Kos, the former Head of Slovenia's Commission for Preventing Corruption (CPC), deserve special acknowledgement in this regard. The Assembly also agreed on the need to continue inter-sessional work during 2012, and thus requested that authorities circulate their proposals for future working groups or thematic events.

The conference culminated in the adoption of the Laxenburg Declaration and the acceptance of two new authorities into EPAC; the Internal Security Directorate of the Bulgarian Ministry of Interior and the Romanian National Integrity Agency. Upon the invitation of our Spanish friends, the Catalanian Anti-Fraud Office, next year's conference will convene in Barcelona, Spain.

EPAC/EACN Elections and Changes in the Secretariat

The General Assembly of 25 November provided an opportunity for the election of new EPAC/EACN representatives. Diane Reynders of the Belgian Standing Police Monitoring Committee (SPMC) is the new Vice President of Police Oversight Bodies, while Joachim Schwanke of the Department of

Internal Investigation (DIE) has assumed the position Deputy Vice President of Anti-Corruption Authorities. The Assembly also adopted that Martin Kreutner will remain EPAC/EACN President for another year, while Anca Jurma of the Romanian National Anticorruption Directorate (DNA) would continue serving in her capacity as Vice President of Anti-Corruption Authorities. All decisions were achieved by unanimous voting.

The Conference and General Assembly also recognized the hard work and dedication of the two outgoing Vice Presidents, Nicholas Long of the United Kingdom's Independent Police Complaints Commission (IPCC), Vice President of Police Oversight, and Drago Kos, former Head of the Slovenian Commission for Preventing Corruption (CPC), Vice President of Anti-Corruption. Both have chaired their respective working groups and substantially contributed to the results of the corresponding standards adopted.

There have also been changes in the leadership of the EPAC/EACN Secretariat. Following Gerlinde Wambacher's change of employment, Ernst Schmid is now the new Head of Secretariat and EPAC/EACN contact point. The team of the EPAC/EACN Secretariat extends its sincere appreciation to Ms. Wambacher for her outstanding leadership, professionalism and dedication over the years.



Transparency International 2011 Integrity Awards



Transparency International's 2011 Integrity Awards ceremony was hosted by the International Anti-Corruption Academy (IACA) in Laxenburg, Austria on 24 November. Cardinal Christian Tumi received the award in honour of his continued efforts to combat corruption and increase integrity in Cameroon over the last three decades. The 81-year-old Cardinal has been vocal about government injustice, the atrocities committed by the special security forces, fought for the freedom of the media, and led church inquiries into the disappearance of citizens. This event, presided

over by Huguette Labelle, Chair of Transparency International's Board of Directors, was attended by the EPAC/EACN Conference participants and other members of the international community.

GRECO Fourth Evaluation Round and Leadership Change

The Fourth Evaluation Round of the Council of Europe's Group of States against Corruption (GRECO) is scheduled to start on 1 January 2012. The theme of this round is corruption prevention in respect of Members of Parliament, judges and prosecutors. Following the Third Evaluation Round chronology, Fourth Round visits will be held in Estonia, Finland, Iceland, Latvia, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Poland, Slovakia, Slovenia, Sweden and the United Kingdom in the course of 2012.



In view of the Fourth Evaluation round, new officials were elected during the 53rd Plenary in Strasbourg, which took place from 5 to 9 December.

Marin Mrčela from Croatia was chosen as the new President following the expiration of Drago Kos' ten-year term. Consequently, Christian Manquet from Austria has assumed Mr. Mrčela's previous post of Vice President. The five newly elected members of the Bureau include Edmond Dunga (Albania), Ernst Gnaegi (Switzerland), Helena Lišuchová (Czech Republic), Slagjana Taseva (FYR Macedonia), and Aslan Yusufov (Russian Federation).

Fourth Session of the CoSP to the UNCAC

From 24 to 28 October, the 4th Session of the Conference of the States Parties (CoSP) to the United Nations Convention against Corruption (UNCAC) was hosted by the Kingdom of Morocco in Marrakech. It witnessed the participation of around 2 000 delegates from States Parties, signatories, observers and civil society.

The CoSP was devoted to discussing progress in implementing the Convention and countering corruption globally. The main agenda items included asset recovery, technical assistance, international cooperation, anti-corruption and review of implementation, all of on which major resolutions were adopted.

Several side-events also took place in the framework of the CoSP, on topics such as the Millennium Development Goals, corruption in the MENA countries, and civil society engagement. Conference-related documents, including the draft report, are available under <www.unodc.org/unodc/en/treaties/CAC/CAC-COSP-session4.html>. After the next session in Panama in 2013, the 6th Session of the CoSP will take place in the Russian Federation in 2015, followed by Austria in 2017.



Fifth IAACA Conference

The 5th Annual Conference and General Meeting of the International Association of Anti-Corruption Authorities (IAACA) convened in Marrakech, Morocco on 22 and 23 October.

The two-day event provided an opportunity for examining the means and conditions for implementing the provisions of the United Nations Convention against Corruption (UNCAC), and especially those related to Chapter V on asset recovery. In this context, three parallel workshops took place for the purpose of scrutinizing different provisions within this chapter.



The conference adopted a series of recommendations in its final declaration, which was submitted to the 4th Session of the Conference of the States Parties to the UNCAC.

Fifth ICAC Symposium

The 5th Symposium of the Independent Commission against Corruption (ICAC) will be held between 9 and 11 May 2012 in Hong Kong, with the theme, "Old Challenge, New Approach: Fighting Corruption in a Changing World". It will provide a platform for international exchange on new strategies to combat corruption and strengthen cooperation in pursuit of the anti-corruption cause. For further information please contact the Symposium Secretariat <symposium@icac.org.hk>.



TRACK Web-Portal

On 1 September, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) launched the Tools and Resources for Anti-Corruption Knowledge (TRACK) web-portal. The TRACK includes three main features; the Legal Library on the United Nations Convention against Corruption (UNCAC), an anti-corruption learning platform, and a communication forum. The Legal Library is a database containing laws, jurisprudence and information relevant to the UNCAC from over 175 states. The anti-corruption learning platform serves as a common space where tools generated by partner organizations can be accessed, whereas the communication forum provides an area for registered users to share information and schedule events. The TRACK also includes a list of all anti-corruption authorities in the world. For more information, please visit <www.track.unodc.org>.



New Contact Catalogue

The EPAC/EACN Secretariat is working on integrating the EPAC and EACN Contact Catalogues into one to make them more user-friendly. As a result, each member and observer authority will receive a template within the next few days in which they can fill out their most recent details. The form is to be returned to the Secretariat by no later than 27 January 2012.



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