We network against corruption.

Dear Ladies and Gentlemen,
Dear Colleagues and Friends,

It is our pleasure to present you with the last newsletter for this year, informing you on the latest developments of interest for our networks.

We wish you a festive holiday period and a happy New Year.

Your Secretariat

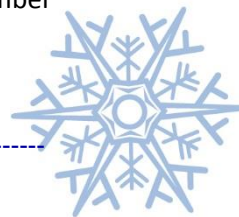## 13th Annual Professional Conference and General Assembly

From 13 to 15 November, the 13th Annual Professional Conference took place in Krakow, Poland, hosted by the Central Anti-Corruption Bureau (CBA) and the Police Headquarters of Poland.

Current issues ranging from the European Commission's proposal for the establishment of the European Public Prosecutor's Office to more specific experiences from network members were discussed.

The conference concluded with a number of important decisions by the General Assembly. The 2013 Krakow Declaration was unanimously adopted. The A.N.AC. from Italy, the Immunity Board at the Police Department under the Ministry of the Interior of the Republic of Lithuania, and the Estonian Internal Security Service, were unanimously accepted as new members. Furthermore, Vice-President Ms. Diane Reynders and Deputy Vice-President Mr. Joachim Schwanke concluded their terms with the bureau. Supporting the President in the anti-corruption strand is Ms. Anca Jurma, who was re-elected, and the newly elected Mr. Daniel de Alfonso Laso. Mrs. Margarida Blasco was elected by the General Assembly as Vice-President and will assist the President in the police oversight part together with Mr. Anthony Duggan.

Next year's conference will take place in Sofia, Bulgaria, generously hosted by the Bulgarian member authorities.

Technical Seminar on Information Exchange

As agreed in the framework of the last Annual Professional Conference, the Austrian Federal Bureau of Anti-Corruption (BAK) will organize a one-day technical seminar on information exchange in 2014. The seminar is indicatively planned for late spring and will *inter alia* complement the BAK's initiative

to promote the extension of Europol's Secured Information Exchange Network Application (SIENA) to anti-corruption authorities. More information about the BAK's initiative relating to SIENA can be found in the presentation available at http://www.epac-eacn.org/news/annual-conference.

Study "Identifying and Reducing Corruption in Public Procurement in the EU"

On 1 October 2013, OLAF launched the results of research on corruption in public procurement. The study, "Identifying and reducing corruption in public procurement in the EU", had been commissioned by the European Commission (OLAF) and was conducted between March 2012 and June 2013 by PricewaterhouseCoopers and Ecorys, with the support of the University of Utrecht.

Public procurement in five sectors of the economy in eight EU Member States was analyzed. Findings from the study were that the overall direct costs of corruption constituted between 2.9% to 4.4% of the total procurement value. It was also discovered that two thirds of all performance problems in "corrupt/grey" procurements (13% of budgets involved) can be attributed to corruption. For more detailed information on the study and its findings, please consult the OLAF website: http://ec.europa.eu/anti_fraud/policy/preventing-fraud.

Ljubljana Technical Seminar

The seminar on the Use of Advance Information Technology took place on 28 and 29 October in Ljubljana, Slovenia. It was jointly organized by EPAC/EACN, DG Home Affairs (European Commission), the Commission for the Prevention of Corruption of the Republic of Slovenia, the National Anticorruption Directorate of the Prosecutor's Office attached to the High Court of Cassation and Justice of Romania, and the Jožef Stefan Institute, Slovenia.

The seminar focused on how advanced information technology could be used by anti-corruption agencies in their practical work. Presentations where given by lecturers from the European Commission, the USA, and Romania, among others. A variety of topics was discussed, such as data mining techniques, data driven analytics, methods for combating corruption and information security. Special emphasis was also given to external funding of such projects and EU funding schemes. The seminar also allowed for participants to test their ideas with the IT experts who developed advanced information tools, and to exchange views with other organizations who used such tools.

IACA Assembly of Parties - Second Session

More than 40 delegations gathered in Bangkok, Thailand for the second session of the Assembly of Parties of the International Anti-Corruption Academy (IACA). The Assembly took place from 9 to 11 December and was generously hosted by the Kingdom of Thailand.

The *Work Programme 2014-2016 and Budget 2014 sequ.* found unanimous approval by the Assembly. A total of six resolutions was adopted. The commitment to IACA and its mandate was reaffirmed by the constituency, while the call for ownership and financial contributions was emphasized by the Executive Secretary.

The Assembly also offered the opportunity for roundtables such as the ASEAN group, who came together to exchange knowledge on their corruption focus areas and best practices. A mobile exhibition featuring paintings by young artists portraying corruption-related themes (on the left: "Difference" by Vissaroot Lerdlum) was opened in honor of the International Anti-Corruption Day on 9 December.

EPAC
EUROPEAN PARTNERS AGAINST CORRUPTION

Wishing you a happy holiday season and a prosperous New Year!

Giovanni Kessler
(President EPAC/EACN)