

**24<sup>TH</sup> EPAC/EACN ANNUAL PROFESSIONAL CONFERENCE AND GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

**24–25 NOVEMBER 2025, THE HAGUE (NETHERLANDS)**

**THE HAGUE DECLARATION 2025**

We, the heads and key representatives of national Police Oversight Bodies (POBs) and Anti-Corruption Authorities (ACAs) of the Member States of the Council of Europe and the European Union,

*Expressing* our gratitude to the European Union Agency for Criminal Justice Cooperation (Eurojust) for generously hosting this conference in The Hague;

*Recalling* international conventions, instruments, and mechanisms, in particular the United Nations Convention against Corruption (UNCAC) and relevant Council of Europe conventions, as well as the GRECO monitoring mechanism and the OECD Anti-Bribery Convention;

*Recalling* the EPAC/EACN Declarations adopted in Bucharest (2024), Dublin (2023), Chisinau (2022), Vilnius (2021), Stockholm (2019), Rust (2018), Lisbon (2017), Riga (2016), Paris (2015), Sofia (2014), Krakow (2013), Barcelona (2012), Laxenburg (2011), Oradea (2010), Nova Gorica (2009), Manchester (2008), Helsinki (2007), Budapest (2006), Lisbon (2005) and Vienna (2004);

*Condemning* continuing acts of aggression by the Russian Federation against the territorial integrity and the rule of law in Ukraine and expressing support for Ukrainian anti-corruption authorities for their continued efforts to strengthen integrity and accountability despite the ongoing atrocities of war;

*Expressing* concerns about the recent legislative initiatives in several countries of the EPAC/EACN member organisations that may affect the capacity and independence of anti-corruption institutions, and *calling upon* all stakeholders to ensure that any reforms remain aligned with international standards;

*Acknowledging* that corruption in all forms is a serious threat to the development, security, and stability of states, which has harmful and detrimental consequences and undermines ethical values and the administration of justice;

*Welcoming* the results and progress made during the second cycle of the UNCAC implementation review mechanism, and looking forward to the launch of the next review phase;

*Welcoming* the completion of evaluation Rounds I-V of the GRECO evaluation process, and the launch of Round VI;

*Supporting* the European Commission's further efforts on modernising the EU anti-corruption and anti-fraud framework;

*Welcoming* the publication of the Rule of Law Report in 2025 by the European Commission, and acknowledging that an effective anti-corruption framework is one of the main pillars of the rule of law principle;

*Greeting* the finalisation and implementation of the EPAC/EACN Best Anti-Corruption Practice Exchange (BACPE) project and encouraging members to share their best practices, and strengthen international cooperation in the fight against corruption and fraud across Europe;

*Supporting* progress with the Working Group “Effective Approaches to Developing Situational Reports on Corruption” (Corruption SITREP) on organising workshops, and developing support tools for the creation of situation reports in the field of corruption;

*Encouraging* all POBs and ACAs to actively participate in the networks' activities;

*Welcoming* the offer by the Agency for Prevention of Corruption of Montenegro to host the 25<sup>th</sup> EPAC/EACN Annual Professional Conference and General Assembly in 2026 in Montenegro;

*Welcoming* new member and observer organisations to the network from France, Spain, Portugal, Switzerland, Norway, and Ukraine.

*Recommend* participating members to

- Actively safeguard their mandate by upholding strong internal integrity standards, ensuring accountable and integrity-based governance, and fostering a culture of professionalism and resilience that enables them to perform their functions effectively, credibly, and without undue influence;
- Promote accountability through regular public reporting and encouraging ACAs and POBs to publish periodic reports on their activities, achievements, and challenges, reinforcing transparency and public trust.
- Strengthen continuous professional development through mandatory and periodic training programmes for police-oversight and anti-corruption officials, focusing on emerging corruption risks, new investigative tools, and international standards;
- Encourage cross-border peer learning and experience exchange through sharing best practices, methodologies, and case studies, in particular, on innovative measures, digital tools, and successful enforcement strategies that can be replicated or adapted in other jurisdictions;
- Strengthen international cooperation in investigations by enhancing timely exchange of information, intelligence, and evidence through mutual legal assistance, joint investigation teams, and secure communication mechanisms, while also making full use of regional and global cooperation networks;
- Reinforce participation in global and regional forums (such as UNCAC, OECD Working Group on Bribery, and the Council of Europe’s GRECO, EU network against corruption) and by contributing expertise and aligning national practices with international standards.

*Furthermore*, call on states to actively

- Enhance transparency through open data by ensuring that information on public procurement, beneficial ownership, and the use of public funds is published in open, machine-readable formats, and by granting anti-corruption authorities and oversight bodies effective access to such data to strengthen accountability and integrity across the public sector;
- Promote anti-corruption education by integrating integrity and ethics topics into school curricula, law enforcement and civil service training, and professional development programmes, fostering a culture of honesty, accountability, and intolerance towards corruption across all levels of society;
- Provide ACAs, POBs and related institutions with adequate and predictable funding, as well as sufficient human resources, to secure operational autonomy and long-term stability;

- Introduce measures to safeguard prosecutors and law enforcement authorities from retaliation, intimidation, or undue pressure, including through legal guarantees, security measures, and support networks;
- Create effective national mechanisms to monitor and report on the progress of recommendations made during international or regional anti-corruption peer-review mechanisms (e.g., Council of Europe GRECO, OECD Working Group on Bribery) and commit to measurable timelines and transparent progress reporting;
- Foster sustained collaboration among ACAs, POBs, public institutions, civil society, academia, media, and the private sector, recognizing that combating corruption requires collective responsibility.

*Furthermore, call on EU institutions and international organisations to*

- Promote EU-wide and international standards that safeguard the operational independence of ACAs, POBs, as well as prosecution services, protecting them from undue political interference and guaranteeing adequate resources;
- Provide technical assistance, funding, and training opportunities for national anti-corruption and police oversight bodies, with a focus on new emerging corruption risks, innovation and digitisation, cross-border illicit financial flows;
- Facilitate structured platforms for member states and partner countries to share methodologies, training resources, digital tools, and legislative innovations, thereby building a common anti-corruption knowledge base;
- Work towards aligning anti-corruption legislation, asset recovery mechanisms, and whistleblower protection frameworks across EU and Council of Europe member states and partner jurisdictions, reducing loopholes for cross-border corruption;
- Ensure that anti-corruption efforts by EU institutions and international organisations are coherent, mutually reinforcing, and avoid duplication, thereby maximising collective impact.

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 Working Group on Bribery, and UNODC.

**Linas PERNAVAS**  
EPAC/EACN President



Director of the Special Investigation Service of  
the Republic of Lithuania