



**13TH ANNUAL PROFESSIONAL CONFERENCE
OF THE EUROPEAN PARTNERS AGAINST CORRUPTION (EPAC/EACN)
POLAND, 13-15 NOVEMBER 2013**

KRAKOW DECLARATION 2013

We, the heads and key representatives of the national Police Oversight Bodies and Anti-Corruption Authorities of the Member States of the Council of Europe and the European Union, having met in Krakow, Poland, from 13 to 15 November 2013 for the 13th Annual Professional Conference and General Assembly of the European Partners against Corruption (EPAC), including the European contact-point network against corruption (EACN), welcome the achievements of recent years and declare as follows:

Expressing our gratitude to the Central Anti-Corruption Bureau and the Polish Police, Poland, for generously hosting this conference and for greeting us with such warm hospitality;

Seriously concerned about the significant effects of the economic crisis on the work of police oversight bodies and anti-corruption authorities, potentially jeopardizing previous achievements and rendering current tasks more challenging;

Reiterating the imperative need to ensure transparency, legitimacy, accessibility, accountability, impartiality, and integrity in all systems guiding police oversight and anti-corruption work;

Promoting respect for the rule of law and human rights in all police oversight and anti-corruption activities;

Recalling numerous international conventions, instruments and mechanisms, such as the UN Convention against Corruption (UNCAC), the Council of Europe Civil and Criminal Law Conventions on Corruption, the OECD Convention on Combating Bribery of Foreign Public Officials in International Business Transactions, the EU Hague Programme and EU Stockholm Programme of 2009 which call for the development of a comprehensive EU anti-corruption policy, the European Commission's Decision on establishing an EU anti-corruption reporting mechanism for periodic assessment, adopted in June 2011; also recalling the Universal Declaration on Human Rights, the UN Convention against Torture and other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, the UN International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, the UN principles relating to the status and functioning of national institutions for protecting and promoting human rights (Paris Principles), the European Convention on Human Rights, the Council of Europe's European Convention for the Prevention of Torture and Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (CPT), and the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union;

Recalling as well the EPAC/EACN Declarations adopted in Barcelona 2012, Laxenburg 2011, Oradea 2010, Nova Gorica 2009, Manchester 2008, Helsinki 2007, Budapest 2006, Lisbon 2005, and Vienna 2004;

Acknowledging perceived deficiencies, as expressed through public opinion, in the fight against corruption and at the same time particularly calling on our anti-corruption authority members to live up to public expectations to provide effective remedies against corruption;

Welcoming the achievements of the first four sessions of the Conference of the States Parties to the UNCAC, and sincerely hoping in further progress to be made during the fifth session held in Panama in November 2013;

Calling on stakeholders to follow a holistic and comprehensive approach in the fight against corruption, which shall be based on, inter alia, prevention, education, (law) enforcement, and international cooperation;

- **Welcome** the High-Level Panel on the Rule of Law preceding the UN General Assembly, the relevant resolutions previously adopted by this organ, and stress the importance of fighting corruption in the context of the rule of law and good governance;
- **Commend** the increased number of ratifications of UNCAC, nearing universal applicability, and encourage States which have not yet done so to ratify this vital legal instrument at their earliest convenience;
- **Call for** the implementation of the principles agreed upon at the G20 and B20 Summit in Los Cabos, Mexico 2012, and welcome the Saint Petersburg Strategic Framework, Russia 2013, especially encouraging all stakeholders to foster and enhance collective action with the corporate business community, and including the C20 and other representatives of the civil society;
- **Welcome** and call for the robust national implementation of the findings and recommendations of the GRECO Evaluation Round reports, including the ongoing 4th round, and the recommendations stemming from the OECD Anti-Bribery Convention;
- **Recognize** the valuable achievements made in the process of the UNCAC Implementation Review Group, the Working Groups on Asset Recovery and Prevention, as well as the establishment of the Expert Meeting on International Cooperation;
- **Note with interest** the European Commission proposal to establish the European Public Prosecution's Office as a major step to facilitating cross-border investigation and prosecution of corruption cases in the European Union;
- **Welcome** the achievements of the seminar on the use of advanced information technology, organized by the Slovenian Commission for the Prevention of Corruption in cooperation with the Romanian National Anticorruption Directorate in October;
- **Encourage** members to take, between the annual conferences, a proactive approach to international cooperation by initiating working groups or expertise exchange meetings;
- **Invite** all members to reflect upon the possibilities of integrating IT in their work and applying technology in order to make better use of available resources and in helping render their work more effective;
- **Recognize** legal and practical challenges concerning whistleblowing, its value and importance in fighting corruption, and call for an analysis of factors which either hinder or could be used to encourage it;
- **Welcome** the successful development of the International Anti-Corruption Academy (IACA), and call upon States which have not yet done so to consider acceding to its founding treaty and pledge their support to this important initiative;
- **Also welcome** the programmes and trainings offered by IACA, in particular the International Anti-Corruption Summer Academy (IACSA) as well as the first inter-disciplinary Master in Anti-Corruption Studies (MACS) programme;

- **Strongly call** for the implementation of the *Anti-corruption Authority Standards and Police Oversight Principles*, unanimously adopted by the EPAC/EACN General Assembly in 2011, and commend their broad dissemination;
- **Express** our sincere thanks to IACA for hosting the Secretariat and providing it with the necessary resources to effectively carry out its mission;
- **Take note**, with sincere appreciation, of the generous offer by our Bulgarian friends to host the 2014 Annual Professional Conference and General Assembly in Sofia, and accept this proposal with gratitude;
- **Recommend** that the text of the Declaration be widely circulated by the members in their respective countries and that it be submitted by the EPAC/EACN Secretariat to the EU Presidency, the European Commission, and the Council of Europe's GRECO.