

MANCHESTER DECLARATION 2008

The Heads and key representatives of the national Police Oversight Bodies (POB) as well as the Heads and key representatives of the national Anti-Corruption Authorities (ACA) of the EU Member States and Observer States met in Manchester on 19 – 21 November 2008 for their 8th Annual Professional Conference. The Heads and key representatives of the national POB as well as the Heads and key representatives of the national ACA of the EU Member States and Observer States warmly welcome the achievements that have been accomplished in recent years and with an overwhelming majority declare as follows:

Expressing their gratitude to the Independent Police Complaints Commission of England and Wales (IPCC) for hosting the Conference as well as *stating their deepest thanks* for its hospitality that has made the Conference a resounding success;

Commemorating and recalling the 60th anniversary of the UN Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the 5th anniversary of the UN Convention against Corruption (UNCAC);

Recalling the numerous (other) international conventions, instruments, and mechanisms, such as 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 the Comprehensive EU Policy against Corruption; as well as 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 Protection and Promotion of Human Rights (Paris Principles); the European Convention on Human Rights; the Council of Europe 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 the EPAC Vienna 2004, Lisbon 2005, Budapest 2006, and Helsinki 2007 Declarations;

Welcoming the fact that EPAC has successfully developed and maintained a sustainable organisation during the last eight years, which has allowed European POB and ACA to pro-actively participate in a variety of activities within the Network, including in different Working Groups, which have also added to the success of this Conference;

Welcoming as observers relevant organisations from Albania, Croatia, Kosovo, Montenegro, and Norway, and *appreciating* their fruitful co-operation with these organisations;

1. *Reiterate* the necessity that POB as well as ACA are given the necessary independence; *state furthermore* that such independence may be developed and maintained through sufficient separation from the hierarchy of the structures that are subject to the POB's or ACA's remit;
2. *Ensure* independence, transparency, accessibility, accountability, legitimacy, impartiality, and integrity in all systems created for the oversight of policing and the anti-corruption work;
3. *Continue* to support the development of common standards and best practises for POB and ACA in 2009 with an emphasis on the promotion of the standards by Partner Organisations, and, thus, enhance of accountability and legitimacy also beyond their own structures;
4. *Acknowledge and welcome* the work and the results of the 2008 EPAC Working Groups: 'PO Principles' (Chair: England & Wales), 'AC Standards' (Chair: Latvia and Lithuania), 'EPAC Trans-national Cooperation & Staff Exchange' (Chair: Belgium), 'EPAC Communication' (Chair: Austria), and 'EPAC Conference 2008' (Chair: England & Wales);

5. *Commit themselves* to further develop the EPAC Network and to take first steps toward the adoption of an EPAC Constitution, by appointing a Steering Group comprising a President, 2 Co-Chairs (one each for ACA and POB) and 2 Deputy Chairs (one each ACA and POB) (all of which have been individually appointed by the Conference), in order to also support the implementation of the EACN Council Decision of 24 October 2008 until its separate full operability, and who are charged with collective responsibility, supported by the Secretariat, for the development of a draft EPAC Constitution to be discussed and formally approved by the Annual Professional Conference;
6. *Implement* a Partners Working Group EPAC "Constitution" (chaired by the President) to assist the Steering Group in their development of a draft EPAC Constitution, open to attendance by representatives of all EPAC Partners, based upon the principles of independence, transparency, accountability, legitimacy, impartiality, and integrity and shall provide aims & objectives and provisions, among others, relating to governing structure, membership, finances, and rules of procedure;
7. *Request* the President - subject to availability of resources - especially: to promote and advocate the values and goals of EPAC; to be responsible for the effective operation and representation of EPAC; to oversee the overall direction and promotion of EPAC; to function as the public face of EPAC; to liaise and co-operate with other organisations and forums; to preside at the Annual Professional Conference; to report to the Annual Professional Conference on his/her activities and achievements;
8. *Request* the Co-Chairs - subject to availability of resources - especially: to lead, promote and advocate the values and goals of EPAC and the strand (ACA or POB) they are representing, particularly in the Steering Group and the Partners Working Group "Constitution"; to support the President in his/her functions; to liaise with their respective Deputy Co-Chairs; to report to the Annual Professional Conference on his/her activities and achievements; and *request* the Deputy Co-Chairs - subject to availability of resources - especially: to lead, promote and advocate the values and goals of EPAC and the strand (ACA or POB) they are representing, particularly in the Steering Group and the Partners Working Group "Constitution"; to support the President and Co-Chairs in their functions;
9. *Request* the Secretariat - subject to availability of resources - especially: to provide the Steering Group, the Partners Working Group "Constitution", and other Working Groups with administrative support in relation to the mandated activity and the Annual Professional Conference; to inform - on a regular basis, through website and newsletters - all Partners of EPAC developments and activities; to engage in and to continue to collect and co-ordinate notifications of the national contact points by the Member States for EACN nominations; to assist in any other administrative, technical and communication issues and duties with regard to the coherent design of the EPAC Network; to report to the Annual Professional Conference on its activities and achievements;
10. *Request* the Working-Group Chairs - subject to availability of resources - especially: to convene, chair and co-ordinate the work of the respective Working Group; to coordinate their work with the Secretariat; to report to the Annual Professional Conference on their Working Group's activities and achievements;
11. *Request* the President, the Co-Chairs, the Deputy Co-Chairs, and the Secretariat - subject to availability of resources - to engage in their activities and carry out their functions until the (new) Constitution is adopted by the Annual Professional Conference;

12. *Invite* all EPAC Partners to pro-actively participate in the one or more of the 2009 EPAC Working Groups (EPAC Partners WG "Constitution" chaired by the President, Staff Exchange WG chaired by Belgium, AC Standards WG chaired by Latvia and Lithuania, PO Principles WG chaired by UK) and the other activities of the Network, and – on a voluntary basis – support the Secretariat;

13. *Welcome* that the 9th EPAC Annual Professional Conference of the EU Member States' and Observer States' POB and ACA will be organised and hosted by the Slovenian Commission for Preventing Corruption in autumn 2009. Partners who have already organised conferences as well as the Secretariat gladly offer their experience and assistance;

14. *Recommend* that this Declaration be widely circulated by the EPAC Partners in their respective countries and beyond.