## Press Release / Basın Duyurusu

## **EU SUPPORTS FIGHT AGAINST CORRUPTION IN TURKEY**

A European Union-funded project supporting anti-corruption policies and practice in Turkey will hold its closing event on 13 May 2015 in Ankara. The project aimed at strengthening the investigation capacity against corruption and improving the coordination and implementation of related policies and strategies. The event will be hosted by the Prime Ministry's Head of the Inspection Board Mr Yunus Arıncı, the Council of Europe's Head of Action against Crime Mr Ivan Koedjikov and the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the EU Delegation to Turkey Mr Béla Szombati.

The €1.6 million EU-funded project was carried out in cooperation with the Council of Europe. It has supported the Turkish authorities in developing anti-corruption measures through a broad range of activities, including trainings and study visits, as well as the development of guidelines and methodologies. In particular, it provided training for the staff of the Prime Ministry Inspection Board and inspectors and auditors of other institutions dealing with corruption prevention.

The project has supported the authorities in applying modern corruption investigation techniques and promoting improved coordination and information sharing methodologies. Activities included development of a draft Investigation Guide for Inspectors, preparation of a gap analysis, and policy reports on compliance of Turkish regulations with international anti-corruption conventions, as well as drawing up reporting standards for inspectors and a methodology for corruption-related data collection. Extensive training has been provided on the development of sector-specific strategies and their coordination, anti-corruption investigations, modern investigation techniques, and information-sharing.

Turkey implemented a "National Strategy for Increasing Transparency and Strengthening the Struggle against Corruption" from 2010 to 2014 under the coordination of the Prime Ministry Inspection Board, the main beneficiary of this project. The Board is tasked with coordinating, leading and initiating investigations conducted by the responsible institutions.

This EU-supported project is part of a broader effort to contribute to the fight against corruption in Turkey and to support the fulfilment of the <u>Copenhagen criteria</u> for EU accession and the recommendations of the <u>Group of States against corruption (GRECO)</u>.

**Date/Time:** 13 May 2015, 10:00 **Venue:** Sheraton Hotel, Ankara

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