



Press release

## Towards the establishment and functioning of the electronic system for declaration and publication of private interests of the elected officials and some public employees

For immediate release

Monday, April 8, 2019

The High Inspectorate for the Declaration and Audit of Assets and Conflicts of Interest (HIDAACI) presented today in its premises in Tirana the way towards the establishment and functioning of the online system for the declaration and publication of private interests of the elected subjects and some public officials. The reform processes at HIDAACI, supported by international partners, enabled the legal amendments, giving the green light for the establishment of the online system for the declaration and publication of private interests. Since February 2018, the United States Agency for International Development (USAID); the Council of Europe; and the Delegation of the European Union to Albania have joined hands in a coordinated effort to provide support to HIDAACI to establish the new system, as a tool developed towards fighting corruption in the public sector.

HIDAACI expresses the maximal recognition for all international partners USAID, EU and the Council of Europe which have been and remain our main partners in increasing capacities of Albanian institutions in general and HIDAACI in particular.

The journey towards the establishment and functioning of the electronic system is an important process for improving and further strengthening of the monitoring and verification mechanism of private interests of high officials. In the same time, this is a complex process, which puts the institution in a very important reforming phase which will require the necessary time for testing, piloting and increasing the capacities of system' users, to make it operational. HIDAACI remain fully committed to send forward this reform, seriously and dedication as it has been the contribution in fulfilling other important processes such as the justice and police vetting.

Ambassador Luigi Soreca, the Head of the Delegation of the European Union to Albania stressed that "Today we are marking the first step of the establishment of an online asset declaration system in order to make verifications faster, more efficient and more transparent. Asset declarations have become an EU standard for candidate countries to prevent corruption. I am happy to see that Albania is on time and I look forward to the first asset declaration exercise in January 2020."

On behalf of the US Government, the USAID Mission Director, Mikaela Meredith underlined the importance of a productive partnership between the watchdog institutions and civil society and media organizations who share a common goal in improving transparency, strengthening good governance principles, and protecting public resources from abuse.

The Head of the Council of Europe in Tirana Mrs. Jutta Gützkow said that the electronic system of the declarations of assets enables for the first time in Albania the electronic declaration, processing and publication of elected persons and some public employees. It is an instrumental tool in addressing GRECO recommendations for supporting key institutional reforms and the increase of monitoring and trust of citizens in their institutions.

The online declaration system is designed around the principles below to enable:

1. Simplification of the process of filling in, submitting and publishing declarations.
2. Automatization of gathering, processing and saving the data for the declaration and control of private interests.
3. Elimination of errors during filling in the declaration of private interests and processing of data of declaration
4. Guaranteeing the confidentiality and protection of personal data contained in the declaration of the private interests.
4. Publication in real time of the declaration of the private interests

The process of establishing the new electronic declaration system will be followed by a series of training activities for the users and the public.