

**Brief summary of the meeting n.2
of the Network of Corruption Prevention Authorities,
20 and 21 of March 2019
Strasbourg**

Objective:

- Discussion on the annual working plan of the Network, with agreement on substance of activities, calendar and delegation/s in charge;
- Tour de table for updates and propositions
- Going forward: future Network meetings and external relevant events

Points of discussion
1. Establish an agenda in order to find consensus on minimum good standards on prevention tools, such as: <ul style="list-style-type: none">a. Codes of conductb. Transparencyc. Risk-assessment
2. Establish a "Technical guide" in order to develop and implement GRECO recommendations on corruption prevention.
3. Engage in an exercise of mapping of anti-corruption agencies internationally;
4. Providing guidance on Small Facilitation Payments
5. Perception of Corruption in relation to Prevention of Corruption
Additional points of discussion and going forward

During day 1, the member delegations from the following Countries attended the meeting:

1. Azerbaijan;
2. Denmark;
3. France;
4. Greece;
5. Italy;
6. Montenegro;
7. Serbia;
8. Slovakia;
9. Moldova (remotely).

Another agency has also attended the meeting in light of possible future accession to the network. He has expressed interest in the goal and functioning of the group, and has committed to report back to the anti-corruption agency in order to possibly file the request to access in the near future. It is recalled that rule 1 of the Charter of the Network of Corruption Prevention Authorities, titled Membership in the Network, reads:

1. Membership in the Network shall take effect on the day following receipt by the Secretariat of the signature of the Declaration for a Network of Corruption Prevention Authorities (open for signature in Šibenik, Croatia, on 16 October 2018).
2. Other possible ways to join the Network include a Letter of notification, with signature filed no later than 1 year after the letter of notification has been sent.
3. All members are encouraged to actively participate in and contribute to the work of the Network.

The group is ready to welcome the accession of this agency.

On the discussion of the single points in agenda:

- a) Establish an agenda in order to find consensus on minimum good standards on prevention tools.

A member informed the group of its plan for this first year, which should be initially focused on the following 3 themes, according to this road-map:

- a. Codes of conduct: March 2019 (network meeting 2)
- b. Transparency: June 2019 (network meeting 3)
- c. Risk-assessment: December 2019 (network meeting 4).

These subjects are among those that will be presented, discussed and possibly approved during this annual Presidency. Nonetheless, other subjects related to the prevention of corruption will be presented during future Presidencies.

The group has approved the draft technical guide, provided some slight amendments and clarifications are added, namely:

- a) the handbook is a collection of good practices on single themes related to corruption prevention (such as, but not limited to, codes of conduct, transparency and risk-assessment);
- b) the handbook will provide a list of good practices, stemming from different regions (including outside GRECO), jurisdictions and sectors, that could inspire and assist institutions in developing and implementing relevant mechanisms for the prevention of corruption;
- c) the goal of the technical guideline is to organize, categorize, systemize as well as promote good practices and possible solutions.

On the content of the handbook, the group has then approved the proposed recommendations on codes of conduct, with some slight amendments and clarifications, namely:

- a) further reference will be done to the values and integrity pursued by the codes of conduct;
- b) additional structural elements are added at the bottom of each recommendation, in order to specify and clarify few important points, such as:
 - a. Challenges and solutions
 - b. Key questions
 - c. Basic pre-conditions

A consolidated version of the recommendation will be circulated shortly.

During day 2, the following items were discussed:

- a) Engage in an exercise of mapping of anti-corruption agencies internationally. A questionnaire was distributed, in order for the Agency to collect information on existing ACAs with one or more of the following powers:
 - a. Coordination
 - b. Prevention
 - c. Repression
 - d. Investigation
 - e. Compliance monitoring and control
 - f. Other specific tasks

The collection, recognition and analyses exercise should start soon, and last till the end of the year, approximately. The agency will present available preliminary results during the next session, in June.

- b) Providing guidance on Small Facilitation Payments (by another member). It will consist in an exercise to gather good practices on how different jurisdiction react and deal with small facilitation payments. The results of the examination will be probably end up in a study report, to be shared with the network, and/or in a training program.
- c) Perception of Corruption in relation to Prevention of Corruption (by another member). Many countries are obsessed by perception and perception has a vicious effect: the more a Country engages against corruption, the more cases may be discovered and sentenced; more cases in court equal to stronger publicity and therefore higher perception of corruption. How can we stop that vicious circle? How can we use perception in a positive way, in order to increase pressure and ability to prevent corruption? How can we reconcile perception with reality? These are few of the questions that the agency proposes to explore. The subject received support from other members, which may engage in a combined activity to draft a study report on this matter. The agency has anticipated that the discussion should be included in a concept note or discussion paper, whose results should be presented during next Network session, of mid-June.

End of report.