4ᵗʰ Periodic Meeting of the Network of Corruption Prevention Agencies

Tunis, Tunisia
17-18 October 2019

Minutes of the discussion

Participants to the meeting were agencies from:

1. Albania
2. Azerbaijan
3. Benin
4. Croatia
5. Estonia
6. France
7. Italy
8. Jordan
9. North-Macedonia
10. Marocco
11. Romania
12. Serbia
13. Slovak
14. Tunisia
15. Ukraine

The meeting, the 1ˢᵗ regional event since the Network was created in 2018, aimed at enhancing cross-Mediterranean partnerships and exchange of good practices in the anti-corruption field saw the accession of Jordanian JIACC, Moroccan INPPLC and Tunisian INLUCC. Additionally, Tunisian Anti-corruption Authority (INLUCC) signed Memorandums of Understanding with its Moroccan and Jordanian counterparts. The Network now has 23 anti-corruption authorities. The Network continues to appreciate the Council of Europe and the GRECO Secretariat for the logistical and organizational support.

Media coverage:

1) https://www.coe.int/en/web/corruption/-/jordan-morocco-north-macedonia-and-tunisia-accede-to-the-sibenik-network-of-corruption-prevention-agencies
2) http://www.inlucc.tn/www.inlucc.tn/index.php?id=121&L=1&tx_ttnews%5Btt_news%5D=1820&cHash=00cdc0a4897f7d692bbb723811222512
3) http://www.inlucc.tn/www.inlucc.tn/index.php?id=121&L=1&tx_ttnews%5Btt_news%5D=1827&cHash=06ff8bc63f711c0edf1153205df686cb
4) https://www.tunisie-tribune.com/2019/10/17/la-tunisie-adhere-au-reseau-des-autorites-de-prevention-de-la-corruption/
5) Link 2
6) Link 3

Agenda and notes:

1) Opening remarks:

- Mr Chawki Tabib, President of the Tunisian National Anti-Corruption Authority (INLUCC)
- Ms Nicoletta Parisi, Council Member at the Italian National Anti-Corruption Authority (ANAC) and current Chairperson of the Network of Corruption Prevention Agencies
- Mr Roman Chlapak, Senior Legal Advisor at GRECO

2) Accession of new members to the Network - Signature ceremony of Sibenik Declaration

3) Presentation of new members and follow-up exchanges
- Jordanian Integrity and Anti-Corruption Commission (JIACC)
- Moroccan National Authority for Probity, Prevention, and Fighting Corruption (INPPLC)
- North-Macedonian State Commission for the Prevention of Corruption
- Tunisian National Anti-Corruption Authority (INLUCC)

4) Technical Guide on Corruption Risk assessment. A discussion paper was presented by the Council of Europe. The Network commended this very professional paper. The Members have agreed in moving forward in the creation of guidelines on this topic.

5) Technical Guide on Codes of Conduct.
The final draft was presented to the Members, for concluding discussion. It was reminded that approvals by the Network happens by consensus, as opposed to unanimity. After discussion and presentation of the guide on the codes of conduct, the Members have consented to this draft, which was conditionally approved, pending no-objection from the 3 new Members.

6) Technical Guide on Transparency
Complexity of the subject remains. Nevertheless, in order to tackle this issue and start developing a comprehensive guideline on transparency, the Network has decided that single issues should be analysed separately and re-aggregated in a second phase. So far, the following agencies have committed to advance and present single papers on:
   a. Transparency in the legislative process
   b. Asset declarations
   c. Whistleblowing + other sectors (including employment)
   d. Transparency in business sector

It was reminded that ideally there are 2 types of papers that can be prepared by the Network, namely:
   a) **Discussion papers**: these are studies for presentation of a subject to the Group, for further discussion and conclusion. These papers have no fixed framework.
   b) **Guidelines**: These are more structured documents, through which the Network recognize, raise, approve and/or suggest good practices and (non-binding) recommendations on single subjects, instruments and principles linked to the prevention of corruption. The guidelines should adhere, as much as possible, to the following structure:
      1. Background and justification
      2. Recommendations
      3. Challenges and solutions

       a. Defining the purpose and content of [*subject*]
       b. Defining the scope of application
       c. Reach effective implementation
4. Monitoring high standards of [*subject*]
       a. Who is responsible for monitoring compliance?
       b. Monitoring Tools
       c. Reporting mechanisms
       d. Building awareness
5. Basic conditions for successful implementation of [*subject*]
6. Relevant readings

7) Presentation of results and discussions on on-going projects:
       a. Mapping of anti-corruption agencies internationally
       • Small facilitation payments
       • Perceptions of corruption in relation to prevention of corruption

8) Roundtable discussion: "Challenges faced by anti-corruption authorities in institutional transition processes & how to overcome them?"
The Group discussed about the subject of independence and stability of the anticorruption agencies. The Members of this Network are particularly sensitive and attentive to the independence of ACAs vis-à-vis undue political pressure. Therefore, it was decided to start a discussion paper (called "Jakarta principles and beyond") on the Jakarta Statement on Principles for Anti-Corruption Agencies (of November 2012, see at https://www.unodc.org/documents/corruption/WG-Prevention/Art_6_Preventive_anti-corruption_bodies/JAKARTA_STATEMENT_en.pdf).

9) Discussions on website, logo and communication strategy

10) Name and logo: the Network will have a second round of voting

11) Changes to the Charter will be proposed at the December meeting, in order to duly enshrine the previous decision to create 3 status of affiliation, namely:
    a) Full member;
    b) Observer member;
    c) Partner

New or upcoming members of the Network:
- Canada: the Network welcomes the accession of the Canadian representative agency, and looks forward to the official signature.
- Other agencies have shown interest in becoming members of the Network. The Network is ready to welcome their accession, once this preliminary intention is confirmed.

End of minutes