



WORKSHOP REPORT FORM

Number and title of workshop: **Special Session 1: Lessons Learned from the EU Anti-Corruption Policy**

Date and time of workshop: 1.11.2008, 17:00-19:00

Moderator (Name and Institution): Wolfgang Hetzel, OLAF (replacing F.Bruenner)

Rapporteur (Name and Institution): Natalia Graur, TI-S

Panellists (Name, institution, title)

Marc-Arno Hartwig, Joanna Beczala – EU Commission, DG Justice, Liberty and Security
Dr. Alina Mungiu-Pippidi – Hertie School of Governance
Monica Macovei, UK Consultant to the Prime Minister of the Former Yugoslavian Republic of Macedonia
Ian Harden, Deputy Ombudsman, EU
Meglana Plugchieva, Deputy Prime Minister, Bulgaria
Patrick Moulette, OECD
Martin Kreutner, Director of the Federal Bureau for Internal Affairs, Federal Ministry of the Interior of the Republic of Austria

Main Issues Covered

- Main findings of special Eurobarometer survey on corruption 2008 (mirrors TI's CPI findings)
- Role of EU in fighting corruption
- Indicators for measuring corruption
- Recommendation for improving the fight against corruption in countries before EU accession
- Political Corruption in Rumania
- Cooperation between NGOs and Government in Bulgaria in the fight against corruption
- New Anti-Corruption Network and Contact Point
- Anti-Corruption in Bulgaria: progress achieved and reasons for some problems
- Link between OECD anti-bribery mechanisms and EU anti-corruption policies
- Work done by European Ombudsman

Main Outcomes

Almost all panellists agreed that there are enough legal instruments in place to address and fight corruption. What is lacking at the moment, is their implementation and a good review on how this is being done in reality.
Another important issue discussed was on the anti-corruption work done in Bulgaria. Although



the European Commission has applied sanctions against this country based on the Mechanism of Verification and Control, Bulgarian government asked the EU to consider the progress and development Bulgaria has achieved up until today. It is not fair to always point at Bulgaria as a black sheep among the EU member states when it comes to discussing issues of corruption.

European Ombudsman described the work it does and highlighted that it looks into first of all cooperation with national NGOs in member states, but also with national Ombudsman offices in these countries.

The last outcome: how OECD can reinforce the EU anti-corruption policies, but at the same time how can certain EU initiatives reinforce OECD anti-bribery instruments.

Recommendations, Follow-up Actions

The major recommendations are:

- for EU to not cooperate and give funds to corrupt politicians in the accession countries and ask them to fight corruption – it will never work
- from Bulgarian Government for the EU – to give more assistance to Bulgaria in addressing the issue of corruption, but also to acknowledge the hard work this country is doing to fight corruption, not only to control and criticize it
- from Bulgarian Government – it is open for collaboration with civil society, already started 2 common projects with them, in order to ensure that civil society has the possibility actively participate in control mechanisms

Workshop Highlights (including interesting quotes)

“It is not fair to always point the finger at Bulgaria and Romania, and apply the Mechanism for Verification and Control only in the case of these two countries. But the very existence of this mechanism is a good pressure for Bulgaria to continue with the reforms” – Meglena Plugtschieva, Deputy Prime Minister of Bulgaria

“3 out of 4 EU citizens (77%) believe corruption is a problem in their country.” – Marc-Arno Hartwig, European Commission DG, Justice, Liberty and Security

Signed

GRAUR