



CENTRE FOR SECURITY COOPERATION
Office of the Director



REGIONAL ANTI-CORRUPTION INITIATIVE
Secretariat

Building Integrity and Reducing Corruption in Security Sector
(18th – 20th May 2009)

RACVIAC - Centre for Security Cooperation and RAI – Regional Anti Corruption Initiative, in partnership with Transparency International and United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, organized a two-day conference with the aim to discuss corruption in public institutions, with a particular attention to security sector, and to foster experience exchange and regional cooperation in preventing the phenomenon. During the conference, held from 18-20 May 2009 at Vitez Damir Martić Barracks in Rakitje, international experts shared their experience, knowledge and expertise, and evoked lively interest among participants.

In many countries, corruption has become part of political-administrative everyday life. Whether in politics, administration or economy, one thing is certain: bribery, embezzlement or other forms of corruption are spreading like cancer and causing damage to economy, politics and society. Corruption undermines democracy and the rule of law, leads to violations of human rights, distorts markets, erodes the quality of life and allows organized crime, terrorism and other threats to human security to flourish. This has prompted many countries to put greater emphasis on controlling corruption. Transparency and accountability are among the most important prerequisites of efficient democratic governance. A

"Everyone has a role to play, not only Governments, but also parliamentarians, businesses, civil society, the media and the average citizen. Corruption hurts us all, therefore fighting it is a shared responsibility"

Antonio Maria Costa,
UNODC Executive Director
In his statement at the Bali Conference against Corruption held in January 2008.

political society can only mobilize its citizens towards coping with the challenges it faces, if it first succeeds in creating an environment of trust, legitimacy and justice in all its sectors. Thus, RACVIAC in cooperation with RAI – Regional Anti Corruption Initiative, in order to foster dialogue and cooperation on security matters in Southeast Europe, has decided to engage in this pertinent issue and provide regional countries with an opportunity to exchange valuable information on these challenges.

Discussion remarks

Ms. Marina DUJMOVIĆ – VUKOVIĆ, State

Secretary of the Croatian Ministry of Justice, opened the conference. In her welcome address she stressed that cooperation between the countries of the region as well as cooperation with the European Union in strengthening the rule of law, the fight against corruption and organized crime is extremely important to create a climate of wide-ranging security and inclusion in the European legal order and standards. Ambassador

Nedžad HADŽIMUSIĆ, in his welcome address, made two basic statements about corruption: that it is as old as humanity and that it is universal, and if we accept that this is true, the question is how we reduce

corruption rates. He said that corruption is a global phenomenon from which no one is immune, although different societies exhibit different corruption rates.

The plenary section focused on three main issues: Fighting corruption & safeguarding integrity in SEE, Reducing corruption in security sector and defence, and Anti-corruption strategies and best practices of South European countries in fighting corruption.

Professor Josip KREGAR, Dean of the Faculty of Law in Zagreb, in his keynote address illustrated the three different phases of corruption perception in Croatia over the last 30 year. He said that until the end of 1990s it was looked upon as an important ethical rather than political issue, while from 2000 until today there has been open recognition of the existence of the problem, but there still prevails a climate of mere words rather than actions. He concluded by saying that the third phase had just started and that there is a need to make the final choice

between channelling energy towards reform and risking letting it flood into passivity and, ultimately, cynicism.

Mr. Miklos MARSCHALL, Regional Director for Europe and Central Asia at Transparency International presented TI's Corruption Perceptions Index (CPI) and discussed the importance of using the measures of the perceived levels of public-sector corruption in a

given country to understand the harmful effect of corruption on people's welfare.

Dr. Wolfgang HETZER, Anti-corruption adviser in the European Anti-Fraud Office, described that OLAF's powers and tasks for the

accomplishment of its mandate lie in three main areas, which make up OLAF's "platform of services": investigations and coordination/assistance, intelligence, and development of anti-fraud policy. He explained that these three functions are complementary and that the findings from OLAF's investigations represent an important source of information for the work of the intelligence units, which in turn leads to further information

to be used to detect fraud.

Ms. Sandra A. BLAGOJEVIĆ, Advisor of the Slovenian Commission for the Prevention of Corruption, discussed the implementation of the integrity plans as a strategic tool for the

prevention of corruption in public institutions and as one of the fundamentals of the Slovenian national strategy in the fight against corruption.

Mr. Tom McGOONA, Customs Law Enforcement Officer (ret), outlined the reasons for border controls, the vulnerability and



consequences of corruption in the Border Agencies and also described anticorruption measures to reduce the opportunity for corruption to thrive.

Mr. John WILLIAMS, Chief Executive Officer of Global Organization of Parliamentarians Against Corruption (GRECO) discussed the accountability within a democratic nation, analyzing how it should function so that people would be able to hold their leaders accountable. He presented GOPAC's "Hour Glass Concept of

Governance and Accountability" and described the roles that parliament, independent media, civil society and political parties should play in the democratic society to ensure that government serves society and that corruption is minimized.

Ms. Sanja MADŽAREVIĆ-ŠUJSTER, World Bank's Senior Country Economist, discussed the role of parliaments in curbing corruption. She mentioned that in all countries of Southeast Europe, Parliament has the constitutional mandate to both oversee the government and hold it accountable, and that audit institutions, ombudsmen and anti-corruption agencies often

report to Parliament, what serves both as a means of ensuring their independence from government and reinforcing parliament's position. At the same time, she emphasised that parliaments can also play the key role in promoting accountability through building constituencies with civil society, public hearings, and parliamentary commissions.

Mr. Marin MRČELA, Vice-President of Group of States Against Corruption held a speech about the Institutional framework for fighting corruption. In his presentation, he underlined that corruption has to be considered as a real international and trans-national problem (and

not a myth) and emphasized the role that media, education, as well as the affirmation of the moral values and the rule of law, can have in fighting against the phenomenon.

Ms. Susan POND, NATO Political and Security Policy Division's Senior Officer, addressed participants on the topic: "Building integrity and reducing risk of corruption in Defence establishments: what has been achieved by NATO and its partners?" She described what has been achieved to date, what the likely next steps are and how nations and others can support the efforts to build integrity and reduce the risk of corruption in defence establishments.

Dr. Aris GEORGOPOULOS, Head of Defence and Strategic Procurement Research Unit at the School of Law at the University of Nottingham talked about European defence procurement. He said that public procurement regulation in the context of the European Union is not specifically designed as an instrument to fight corruption, but it imposes numerous obligations on contracting entities, which ensure the transparency of

the procurement process thereby making corruption more difficult in practice. With reference to the procurement activities of the ministries of defence of the EU Member States, he provided an analysis of security and secrecy exemptions from the public procurement rules describing how they are operated in practice.

Rear Admiral (ret.) Hugh EDLESTON, Transparency International's Military Consultant, discussed reducing corruption risk in Defence. He affirmed that Corruption is costly and a waste of scarce resources. It dramatically impacts the operational effectiveness of military forces and reduces

Corruption scandals in Defence and the military have been with us for centuries. Yet this sector remains one of the least explored areas of governance in the public sector, still hidden behind the veils of secrecy and the national interest.

Transparency International,
Reducing Corruption in the
Defence & Security Sectors,
Update note, 30 April 2006, TI
(UK), pag. 10

public trust and acceptance. Corruption also reduces the credibility of national and international forces deployed on peacekeeping missions. In analyzing practical reforms to reducing corruption risk, he said that the increased transparency of structures and processes, and greater oversight of key procurements and “offsets” all have a part to play in this process. Similarly, effective training programmes, including mentoring and workshops, all contribute to reducing corruption risk in defence.

Mr. Erik LARSON, United Nations Office for Drugs and Crime’s Crime Prevention Expert, presented the "Basic Principles of the UN Convention Against Corruption" covering corruption prevention, criminalization and law enforcement, international cooperation, and asset recovery.

Mr. Dimitar MARKOV, Project Coordinator at the Centre for the Study of Democracy presented participants with the speech “The future of corruption benchmarking in the EU”. He said that identifying anti-corruption progress remains largely arbitrary. Diagnosing the state of corruption and obtaining reliable information about

its dynamics are crucial to the implementation of successful prevention and control policies within the EU. He pointed out that the evolution of the EU’s policies in the area of anti-corruption suggests that the next logical step in this process is the development of EU’s own methodology for benchmarking corruption, as has been done in other areas. National representatives from regional countries took the floor in the last section of the

conference discussing and presenting regional anti-corruption initiative and best practices in fighting corruption at national level. Mr. Stanislav ALEKANDROV, Regional Anti-corruption Initiative’s Anti-Corruption expert, moderated this section.



Conclusions.

The conference provided a successful platform to discuss challenges, lessons learned and the achievements of the SEE countries in fighting corruption.

Cooperation with the international community was further strengthened. Desk-to-desk meetings, staff-to-staff consultations between different partners, and cooperation between regional organizations were evoked, stressed and requested by all participants during the final discussion.

The significant progress that has been achieved in developing partnerships and cooperation with regional organizations has been stressed. It was also mentioned that efforts to enhance dialogue and to share information and cooperation with non-state actors should also be fostered in the region.

All panellists assessed the three sessions as very successful and useful. They also recommended the co-organizers to continue with similar activities in the future, organizing high-level conference at periodically, but also organizing courses in which state officials of all levels may be educated to oppose corruption whenever they encounter it.