Date: 06-08 May 2013

Venue: Skopje, (MK)

Background: National security remains the sole responsibility of each state, in the fields of both defence and security. Defence procurement accounts for a large share of public procurement in each country. The gradual establishment of defence equipment market is essential for strengthening the defence technological and industrial base and developing the military capabilities required to implement the national system and also to be in alignment with the European Security and Defence Policy. In the process of establishing defence equipment markets and public defence procurement, great emphasis is put on preventing corruption, promoting transparency and the rule of law. In 2010 the EU Commission intensified its dialogue on the rule of law with the candidate countries and potential candidates. The aim of the dialogue on the rule of law is to strengthen benchmarking aimed at enhanced transparency at earlier stages of the pre-accession process.

One prerequisite for the creation of national defence settings and equipment market is the establishment of an appropriate legislative framework. In the field of procurement, this involves the coordination of procedures for the award of contracts to meet the security requirements and obligations arising from the respective regulations and treaties. Regarding the candidate countries, potential candidates and neighbouring countries, the process of EU enlargement has been a key tool for establishing the corresponding system settings, including anti-corruption reforms in the respective countries.

The event is aimed at strengthening defence procurement organization. It will support and foster the capacity-building process, exchange of experiences and best practices in the field of defence procurement.

Purpose & Objectives: This multi-country beneficial event will be an exceptional opportunity to get together all relevant state institutions and agencies in order to discuss and share best practices on the common issue of concern: organization of the public defence procurement. The purpose of the workshop is to discuss and share information on aspects and challenges in the organization of defence procurement, with corruption as one of the issues that needs special attention.

The objectives are:
- To provide an overview of the European public procurement policy;
- To outline and learn about the principles and criteria of procurement;
- To stimulate the research and development of appropriate legal frameworks;
- To explain procurement procedures and criteria;
- To stress the importance of the security of defence and security procurement supply;
- To acquire the knowledge on how to detect and investigate corruption;
- To learn about the prevention and best practices in fighting corruption in defence procurement;
- To share anti-corruption policies and strategies between candidate and potential candidate countries.

Participants: Approximately 50 participants from the signatory countries of RACVIAC Agreement. The participants will be at a decision making level and experts, representing the Ministry of Defence, Ministry of the Interior, Ministry of Justice, the Public Procurement Bureau, the State Appeals Commission, the State Anti-Corruption Commission, the State Audit Office, Agency/Directorate for classified information, Intelligence agency and other participants relevant for the activity subject matter. Representatives of other MAG countries and relevant international organizations, NGOs and the media are also to be invited.

Methodology: The workshop will last for two working days and the official working language will be English. The event will be conducted as a combination of presentations, speeches and open discussions.

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