

TIRANA DECLARATION

ON ENHANCING INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION ON CONFLICT OF INTEREST PREVENTION AND DECLARATION OF ASSETS THROUGH THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE “INTEGRITY EXPERTS NETWORK” (IEN)

TIRANA, 3-4 MAY, 2010

The Heads and key representatives of integrity institutions from member and observer countries of the Regional Anti-corruption Initiative (RAI) for South-Eastern Europe as well as from other European countries (Slovenia and Spain) gathered in Tirana, Albania, on May 3-4, 2010, for the International Conference “International Collaboration in Conflict of Interest Prevention and Declaration of Assets – a Tool against Corruption”;

In the presence of representatives from the United States Embassy to the Republic of Albania, partner international organisations such as Council of Europe and United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC),

Taking into account the international standards and recommendations on integrity issues (conflict of interest prevention, declaration of assets from public officials and integrity related issues):

- The OECD “Guidelines for Managing Conflict of Interest in the Public Service”¹;
- The Council of Europe Resolution (97)24 on the “Twenty Guiding Principles for the Fight against Corruption”, (especially its guiding principles 1, 3, 7, 10 and 20)²;
- The Council of Europe Recommendation No.R (2000)10 of the Committee of Ministers to Member states on “codes of conduct for public officials”, (Articles 13 to 18 of the Model Code of Conduct for Public Officials)³;
- The United Nations Convention against Corruption (articles 5, 7, 8 and 48)⁴;

¹ Adopted in June 2003.

² Adopted by the Committee of Ministers on 6 November 1997 at its 101st session.

³ Adopted by the Committee of Ministers at its 106th session on 11 May 2000.

⁴ Adopted by the General Assembly by its Resolution 58/4 of 31 October 2003 and entered into force on 14 December 2005.

Regarding the role and responsibilities of represented institutions in enhancing integrity through prevention of conflict of interest and assets declarations systems already in place in accordance of their respective legal systems;

Taking into consideration the current status of cooperation between the represented institutions through mutual agreements and the relevant acquired experience;

By acknowledging that enhancement of integrity systems is an effective tool to prevent corruption;

Being firmly committed to upgrade any form of regional and international co-operation through sustainable further efforts;

We convened and confirmed the following:

1. To establish an Integrity Experts Network (IEN) as a prerequisite of enhanced regional and international co-operation and good-neighbourly relations, in order to consolidate mutual trust, stability, security and capacities to prevent corruption and to consolidate integrity systems.
2. We underlined the necessity for informal exchange of information, experience, best practices and transfer of knowledge between practitioners of involved institutions in accordance with the respective legal systems.
3. We agreed to adopt the IEN Statute hereinafter attached to this Declaration.

First Chairmanship-in-Office

4. We gladly accepted the proposal of the High Inspectorate of Declaration and Audit of Assets of Republic of Albania to take the first Chairmanship-in-Office of IEN in the period May 2010 – May 2011.

Incoming Chairmanship-in-Office

5. We welcomed the incoming IEN Chairmanship-in-Office of the State Commission for Prevention of Corruption of Republic of Macedonia in the period May 2011- May 2012.

Adopted in Tirana on May 4th 2010