



Vienna Declaration 2004

The Heads and key representatives of the national Police Monitoring and Inspection Bodies as well as the Heads and key representatives of the Anti-Corruption Agencies of the EU Member States met in Vienna on 24-26 November 2004 for their fourth annual professional gathering.

The conference, in formulating this declaration, firstly must acknowledge that the national representatives present have varying levels of responsibility for the creation and development of anti-corruption policies. In this regard it is accepted that in particular, the Police Monitoring and Inspection Bodies' national remit may not extend to include various aspects of national and international anti-corruption policy.

In accordance with the policies and legislation of the Member States and the principles of the United Nations Convention against Corruption as well as the relevant European Conventions as there are both the Civil Law Convention against Corruption and the Criminal Law Convention against Corruption of the Council of Europe, the Heads and key representatives of the national Police Monitoring and Inspection Bodies as well as the Heads and key representatives of the Anti-Corruption Agencies with specific responsibility for national and international anti-corruption policy stress, inter alia, the seriousness of the problems and threats posed by corruption, which they perceive as a social disease, to the stability and security of societies, undermining the institutions and values of democracy, ethical values and justice and jeopardizing sustainable development and the rule of law. Therefore they are convinced that good relations between Police Monitoring and Inspection Bodies as well as the Anti-Corruption Agencies and the civil society are indispensable for a successful fight against corruption.

The Heads and key representatives of the national Police Monitoring and Inspection Bodies as well as the Heads and key representatives of the Anti-Corruption Agencies also emphasize the links between corruption and other forms of crime, especially organized crime and economic crime, as these forms of crime make use of corruption as an instrument to facilitate their illegal activities. The Heads and key representatives of the national Police Monitoring and Inspection Bodies as well as the Heads and key representatives of the Anti-Corruption Agencies also underline that corruption is a transnational challenge that affects all societies and economies, making increased international cooperation to prevent and control it a key prerequisite.

The Heads and key representatives of the national Police Monitoring and Inspection Bodies as well as the Heads and key representatives of the Anti-Corruption Agencies agree that law enforcement agencies are at the forefront of this struggle and hence must themselves meet the highest standards of subordination to and compliance with the principles of law, justice, social responsibility and ethics.

Furthermore, the Heads and key representatives of the national Police Monitoring and Inspection Bodies as well as the Heads and key representatives of the Anti-Corruption Agencies acknowledge that corruption can successfully be fought only when seen in the wider perspective of its manifestations in both the public and private sectors.

The Heads and key representatives of the national Police Monitoring and Inspection Bodies as well as the Heads and key representatives of the Anti-Corruption Agencies emphasize the



significance of transparency as a key means of fighting corruption. They also stress the importance of a broad approach to fighting corruption, such as, for example, the commonly accepted three-pillar approach of prevention – education - repression.

By effective operational cooperation, promotion of opportunities, joint working, sharing of good practices and development of high professional standards, the Heads and key representatives of the national Police Monitoring and Inspection Bodies as well as the Heads and key representatives of the Anti-Corruption Agencies aim to improve the fight against all types of corruption, in particular corruption and any (criminal) misbehaviour in the law enforcement agencies.

In summarizing the results of this conference, the Heads and key representatives of the national Police Monitoring and Inspection Bodies as well as the Heads and key representatives of the Anti-Corruption Agencies consent to the following objectives and will work together through the following initiatives:

- 1.** The Heads and key representatives of the Police Monitoring and Inspection Bodies as well as the Heads and key representatives of the Anti-Corruption Agencies welcome the participation of the relevant units from the new Member States and agree that the Heads and key representatives of all the national Police Monitoring and Inspection Bodies as well as the Heads and key representatives of the Anti-Corruption Agencies of the 25 Member States should continue to convene at least once a year for a regular professional meeting.
- 2.** The UN Convention against Corruption signed in December 2003 in Mexico will have an important impact on the fight against corruption. From the professional perspective it is therefore desirable that the Convention enter into force as soon as possible.
- 3.** In the light of the UN Convention and with regard to the increasing importance of the fight against corruption, the Heads and key representatives of the Police Monitoring and Inspection Bodies as well as the Heads and key representatives of the Anti-Corruption Agencies welcome anti-corruption initiatives especially the measures that will be taken under the Hague programme.
- 4.** The Heads and key representatives of the Police Monitoring and Inspection Bodies as well as the Heads and key representatives of the Anti-Corruption Agencies would welcome the idea of a European Anti-Corruption Network (EACN) based upon the existing structures and would also welcome appropriate steps in this direction by incoming Presidencies of the European Union.
- 5.** A free and independent press and media are considered a major and indispensable means of fighting corruption in democratic societies. However, the Heads and key representatives of the Police Monitoring and Inspection Bodies as well as the Heads and key representatives of the Anti-Corruption Agencies also emphasize the responsibility of the media for unbiased coverage of such cases.
- 6.** The meetings of the Heads and key representatives of the national Police Monitoring and Inspection Bodies as well as the Heads and key representatives of the Anti-Corruption Agencies initiated by the Belgian EU Presidency in 2001 today permit enhanced cooperation in the fight against corruption, especially corruption and any (criminal) misbehaviour in the police forces and law enforcement agencies.
- 7.** Guided by the will to further strengthen the cooperation between their units, the Heads and key representatives of the Police Monitoring and Inspection Bodies as well as the Heads and key representatives of the Anti-Corruption Agencies fully support the idea of further enhancing their cooperation by various practical measures.



8. These may include, on a voluntary basis and subject to national legislation, the following:

- regular annual meetings of the Heads and key representatives of the national Police Monitoring and Inspection Bodies as well as the Heads and key representatives of the Anti-Corruption Agencies;
- additional meetings on general or specific topics as required;
- bilateral agreements on cooperation et altera between Member States / units;
- international agreements on cooperation et altera between Member States / units;
- bilateral agreements on cooperation et altera between Member States / units and third countries / units;
- international agreements on cooperation et altera between Member States / units and third countries / units;
- arrangements for and organisation of exchanges of staff between the relevant organisations in the Member States to encourage learning and sharing of information;
- arrangements for and organisation of the setting up of joint investigation teams as required (incl. with units from third countries);
- mutual exchange and common training programmes amongst the units and the general public;
- setting-up of a professional network of Police Monitoring and Inspection Bodies and Anti-Corruption Agencies;
- development of joint best practices, codes of conduct, hand books, etc.;
- publication and exchange of (scientific) papers on related topics (general and special reports, etc.);
- exchange of (annual) reports and statistics;
- contributions to situation reports, etc. on corruption and (criminal) misbehaviour, especially those published by police forces and law enforcement agencies;
- setting up and constant updating of a `contact catalogue´ covering all the national Police Monitoring and Inspection Bodies as well as the Anti-Corruption Agencies;
- definition of minimum structural, organisational, etc. requirements for Police Monitoring and Inspection Bodies as well as the Anti-Corruption Agencies (incl. third countries);
- development of proper mechanisms for whistle-blowing (and countering dishonest or malicious allegations);
- development of standardized recruitment and training programmes;
- definition of minimum standards for a professional Code of Ethics for police and law enforcement officials;



- proposals for Integrity Pacts (incl. for private entities);
- proposals for setting up common databases and networks and sharing information;
- proposals for setting up PPPs (public-private partnership initiatives) in the fight against corruption;
- researching the potential of a format for common professional training and qualifications for those engaged in combating corruption, and especially those involved in police monitoring and inspection duties;
- definition of minimum standards to ensure accountability and transparency in all aspects.

9. The 5th annual meeting of the Heads and key representatives of Police Monitoring and Inspection Bodies as well as the Heads and key representatives of the Anti-Corruption Agencies will be organised by Portugal in autumn 2005. IGAI, the Inspection-General of Internal Administration, Portugal, has kindly agreed to host this 2005 conference. It is planned that at this conference the discussion should focus, in particular, on issues related to human rights and the behaviour of police officers. Departments or units that have already organized conferences will gladly offer their experience and assistance.

All the a/m objectives and initiatives are to be understood as recommendations from a professional perspective and are subject to the national laws of the Member States.

The Heads and key representatives of both the
Police Monitoring and Inspection Bodies and the Anti-Corruption Agencies
of the EU Member States
(except: Greece, no representative present at the conference)