



**16TH ANNUAL PROFESSIONAL CONFERENCE AND GENERAL ASSEMBLY
OF THE EUROPEAN PARTNERS AGAINST CORRUPTION (EPAC/EACN)
LATVIA, 15-17 NOVEMBER 2016**

RIGA DECLARATION 2016

We, the heads and key representatives of the national Police Oversight Bodies and Anti-Corruption Authorities of the Member States of the Council of Europe and the European Union,

Expressing the gratitude to the Corruption Prevention and Combatting Bureau of Latvia (KNAB) for generously hosting and efficiently organising this conference;

Recalling international conventions, instruments and mechanisms, in particular the United Nations Convention against Corruption (UNCAC), relevant Council of Europe conventions, GRECO monitoring mechanism and OECD Anti-Bribery Convention;

Recalling the EPAC/EACN Declarations adopted in Paris 2015, Sofia 2014, Krakow 2013, Barcelona 2012, Laxenburg 2011, Oradea 2010, Nova Gorica 2009, Manchester 2008, Helsinki 2007, Budapest 2006, Lisbon 2005, and Vienna 2004, and *thanking* the International Anti-Corruption Academy (IACA) for hosting the Secretariat;

Welcoming the decision to launch the second cycle of the implementation review mechanism made during the 6th session of the Conference of the States Parties to the UNCAC held in St Petersburg in November 2015, and *emphasising* the importance of civil society involvement;

Acknowledging that corruption is a serious threat to development and stability which has harmful consequences at all levels of governance and undermines public trust in democracy and its institutions;

Reiterating the need to follow a holistic and comprehensive approach in the fight against corruption based on comprehensive prevention frameworks and efficient international cooperation among law enforcement agencies;

Emphasising the imperative need for our members to live up to strong public expectations to provide effective remedies against corruption;

Taking into account the work and results of the two EPAC/EACN Working Groups: on Corruption within the healthcare system and on Criteria for evaluation of efficiency of a Police Oversight Body, set up by the General Assembly in Paris in November 2015, as well as the conclusions of the Riga conference workshops and plenary sessions,

- **Commit** to develop a shared tool for the self-evaluation of Police Oversight Bodies;
- **Call** for the adoption at national and international level of comprehensive policies to fight corruption within the healthcare system, based on a thorough analysis of the weaknesses and vulnerabilities of that system, while taking into considerations and addressing the specific economic and cultural conditions;
- **Call** for high levels of transparency and effective administrative control in the management of the public healthcare system, mainly with regard to the allocation and use of public resources, the conclusion of public-private partnerships, the involvement of the medical and pharmaceutical industry, the use of the health insurance system;
- **Call** for transparency of financial transactions by promoting the disclosure of information on the beneficial ownership registers on companies and business-related trusts.

The Declaration will be widely circulated by the members in their respective countries and submitted to relevant EU institutions and bodies, the Council of Europe's GRECO and UNODC.

Janis ROZE
KNAB Deputy Director

Giovanni KESSLER
EPAC/EACN President