



## Budapest Declaration 2006

Heads and key representatives of national Police Monitoring and Inspection Bodies, PMIBs, as well as Heads and key representatives of national Anti-Corruption Agencies, ACAs, of the EU Member States met in Budapest on 22-24 November 2006 for their 6<sup>th</sup> annual professional Conference. Heads and key representatives of national Police Monitoring and Inspection Bodies as well as Heads and key representatives of national Anti-Corruption Agencies warmly welcome the achievements that already have been accomplished and declare as follows:

*Recalling* the former Declarations, especially the Vienna Declaration 2004 and the Lisbon Declaration 2005,

1. *Express* their gratitude to the Hungarian "Protective Service of Law Enforcement Agencies" (RSZVSZ) for having taken the initiative for hosting the Conference, as well as their deepest appreciation to the Ministry for Justice and Law Enforcement of the Republic of Hungary for their gracious hospitality that made the Conference a resounding success;
2. *Welcome* the attendance of the relevant units from Bulgaria and Romania, and *look forward to* their full participation in the network's activities by beginning of 2007;
3. *Stress* the foremost importance of the central points and interests they and their organisations have in common and therefore *reaffirm*, in full knowledge of the different competencies, tasks, structures and jurisdictions of the various EPAC members, their general agreement and endorsement on the necessity to maintain and strengthen the existing network, and *welcome* the new approach taken in Budapest to ensure that both the PMIB and ACA strands of EPAC are given parallel attention as well as being considered together, and *believe* this provides a useful model for future events;
4. *Agree*, as far as membership is concerned, to address gaps in EPAC's membership so that ultimately the network includes any PMIBs and ACAs with substantive jurisdiction within existing EU-Member States. Candidate States, non-EU Schengen partners and organisations with more limited jurisdiction are welcomed to join the network in accordance with the network's agreement;



5. *Encourage further* Police Monitoring and Inspection Bodies as well as Anti-Corruption Agencies to participate actively in the network's activities;
6. *Recognise* the continuing threat of organised crime and terrorism in Europe and elsewhere, the crucial role of the police and security services in preventing organised crime and terrorist acts and arresting and prosecuting those responsible, and the importance of retaining public confidence in these vital services. In doing so, *acknowledge* the risk that especially anti-terrorism powers and related security activities could alienate the community and therefore *affirm* the independence of PMIBs should not be curtailed or undermined. The Conference *asserts* the importance of all such bodies having the requisite independence, powers and resources to meet these challenges;
7. *Recognise* the fact that police cross-border activity is both permitted and encouraged in bilateral and multilateral treaties and *recommends* that PMIBs should be empowered to investigate such activity without any restriction *ratione personae*;
8. *Believe* that work should be undertaken to identify and agree minimum standards for police monitoring and inspection modelled, where relevant, on the UN's Paris Principles for national human rights bodies. These standards should reflect and comply with relevant human rights norms, especially the European Convention on Human Rights;
9. *Welcome* the entry into force on 14 December 2005 of the United Nations Convention against Corruption [UNCAC] and the convening of the first session of the Conference of the States Parties to the Convention, to be held in Jordan from 10 to 14 December 2006, *welcome with satisfaction* the high rate of ratifications of and accessions to the UNCAC, and also *welcome* the ongoing progress;
10. *Encourage* Anti-Corruption Agencies to make every possible effort to participate in the delegations of their respective countries to the first session of the Conference of the States Parties to the UNCAC. *Encourage further* Anti-Corruption Agencies to participate actively in the Conference of the States Parties, and in particular ensure that there will be substantive discussion and concrete outcomes from the side events designed for Anti-Corruption Agencies at the Conference;



11. *Welcome* Interpol's initiative to set up the first ever worldwide Anti-Corruption Academy as the future international centre of excellence and competence on corruption. Given the complexity of the phenomenon of corruption, the Academy will follow a comprehensive interdisciplinary approach, based upon research and education, and will deal with sociological, political sciences, criminological, economic, legal, law enforcement and other aspects;
12. *Note with great concern* that in individual European countries, including EU countries, successful instruments and mechanisms of fighting corruption are questioned and anti-corruption efforts are substantially reduced;
13. *Confirm by an overwhelming majority* their commitment to supporting the initiative on the setting up of a more formal European Anti-Corruption Network (EACN). This EACN has been launched by Austria, Finland, Greece, Hungary, Lithuania, Luxembourg and Slovakia with the support of various other nations such as Belgium and France, during the Austrian EU-Presidency and is being followed up by the current Finnish EU-Presidency. This initiative is based on the recommendation of the Declaration of the 4<sup>th</sup> EPAC-Conference in Vienna in 2004. The Conference *believes* that any such future, more formalised network must reflect the different competencies, tasks, structures and jurisdictions of the various EPAC members and the Network's *sui generis* nature and, consequently, cannot be subordinated or attached to existing European networks or specifically-focused entities;
14. *Acknowledge* and *welcome* the efforts and contributions of the Austrian and Belgium Members, BIA and Committee P, in providing the joint secretariat and acting as Co-Chairs to the Network;
15. *Acknowledge* and *welcome* the recent major worldwide initiatives with a potential interface with EPAC.
16. The Conference *endorses* the initiative on setting up an International Network for the Independent Oversight of Policing (INIOP);
17. *Take note of* the Chinese initiative of setting up an International Association of Anti-Corruption Authorities (IAACA), which has had its first general meeting in Beijing in October 2006;



18. The Conference, aside from respective national standpoints, *agrees* on using and facilitating the EPAC contacts, amenities and channels in the coordination of common positions within these future international networks. The Conference also *welcomes* and *mandates* the ongoing involvement as well as the secretarial and other support EPAC members, particularly the Chairs and the IPCC of England & Wales, already provide to the international inception group of INIOP;
19. *Support* - guided by the will to strengthen further contacts and communication between their members - the idea of further enhancing their cooperation by various practical measures;
20. *Agree*, on a voluntary basis and subject to national legislation, to set-up working groups with partners of various members to work on specific topics of relevance and importance to the network. These working groups will present their results to the next conference in 2007 at the latest. Such working groups will be implemented on 'Evaluation of Achievements of and Future Perspectives for EPAC' (Chair: EPAC Chairs), 'International Standards on Police Oversight' (Chair: England & Wales), 'Common Standards and Best Practice for Anti-Corruption Agencies' (Chair: Latvia/Lithuania), and '2007 Conference' (Chair: Finland);
21. *Welcome* that the 7<sup>th</sup> annual meeting of Heads and key representatives of Police Monitoring and Inspection Bodies as well as Heads and key representatives of national Anti-Corruption Agencies will be organised by Finland in autumn of 2007. The Ministry of the Interior of Finland has kindly agreed to host this 2007 conference. Members that have already organized conferences as well as the two Chairs will gladly offer their experience and assistance;
22. *Recommend* that the text of this Declaration be widely circulated by the relevant Police Monitoring and Inspection Bodies as well as by the Anti-Corruption Agencies in their respective countries and that it be submitted by the Host Country of this Conference to the EU-Presidency and the European Commission.