



EUROPEAN UNION

**OSCE Permanent Council No 1138
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**EU Statement in Response to the Address by the Dean and
Executive Secretary of the International Anti-Corruption
Academy (IACA), Mr. Martin Kreutner**

The EU warmly welcomes Martin Kreutner, the Dean and Executive Secretary of the International Anti-Corruption Academy (IACA), to the Permanent Council and thanks him for his presentation. Corruption affects all OSCE participating States, including EU Member States. We are convinced that efforts to prevent and combat this global phenomenon must be stepped up.

The EU attaches great importance to combatting corruption, both through its internal and external policies. In the OSCE, it is one of our key priorities in the Economic and Environmental dimension.

In the EU we continuously work on further improving our rules and policies on combatting and preventing corruption. The European Commission is, for example, currently assessing the need for further steps on whistle-blower protection. Integrity and anti-corruption policies are also increasingly part of other EU policies, such as the new EU trade and investment strategy, legislation on anti-money laundering and public procurement as well as on confiscation of criminal assets, or the disclosure of information by private sector entities. Anti-corruption policy also plays an important role in our internal economic governance that aims at re-launching investment, pursuing structural reforms, and responsible fiscal policies.

We also attach importance to the fight against corruption in our neighbourhood policy as well as in the accession process to the EU. For example, regular Eastern Partnership panels on the rule of law facilitate the exchange of relevant information and best practices among Eastern Partnership countries and EU Member States. In addition, the EU supports and conducts concrete projects in this area. For example, a project has been funded to draw up National Integrity System Assessments of the

Eastern neighbours that guide our assistance to these countries including on anti-corruption. We also assist enlargement countries with the alignment of legislation and with strengthening anti-corruption institutions while paying close attention to concrete results.

As mentioned today by Mr Kreutner, as well as in his exchange with the Security Committee in October 2015, anti-corruption efforts are an essential part of Security Sector and Governance Reform. We believe the OSCE plays an important role in this area given its comprehensive approach to security and value the work of the OSCE field operations on these issues. In this regard, we highly value close co-operation across relevant actors, including IACA.

We are looking forward to the 11th annual meeting of the OSCE Border Security and Management National Focal Point Network meeting that will take place next week in IACA and thank you for your hospitality.

We would be interested to know how IACA can help participating states take effective steps to combat corruption. Could you also elaborate on whether IACA follows up on its activities by assessing the impact of its work on the ground? If yes, are there any lessons learned that other organisations could take into account when designing their anti-corruption policies?

In conclusion, we look forward to future cooperation with IACA in our common goal to prevent and combat corrupt practices in all forms and at all levels for the benefit of our societies and economies.

The Candidate Countries the FORMER YUGOSLAV REPUBLIC OF MACEDONIA*, MONTENEGRO*, SERBIA* and ALBANIA*, the Country of the Stabilisation and Association Process and Potential Candidate BOSNIA and HERZEGOVINA, and the EFTA country LIECHTENSTEIN, members of the European Economic Area, as well as the REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA, ARMENIA and GEORGIA align themselves with this statement.

* The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Montenegro, Serbia and Albania continue to be part of the Stabilisation and Association Process.