

Statement by Mr. Mehmet Ali Şahin, Minister of Justice, Republic of Turkey

Rome, 21 November 2007

Mr. Chairman, Esteemed Ministers and Delegates,

I am very pleased to be with you here in this Conference organized for the celebration of the Tenth Anniversary of the Anti-bribery Convention.

As it affects public administration and economic developments negatively and harms international competition environment, international cooperation in the fight against bribery and success in this combat deserves appreciation.

On behalf of the Republic of Turkey and on my own behalf, I would like to express my gratitude to the OECD, Italian Government and Mr. Mastella for hosting this event.

I attach as much significance to this Conference as the Convention signed ten years ago.

It is important to reach a decision on an issue. But the implementation of the decisions is much more important. As you all know an activity which is not monitored or assessed cannot be fruitful.

This Conference offers an opportunity to all Parties of the Convention to criticize themselves on the bribery of foreign public officials in international business transactions.

I started my office as the Justice Minister 4 months ago. I've had the opportunity to examine what could be done or could not be done in this field in Turkey. I noticed that we have done so much so far and I also noticed that there are still steps to be taken. If another similar meeting is to be held in the future, I'll feel the necessity to come having completed all the requirements.

The fight against bribery requires sincere transnational cooperation like combating terrorism. Corruption and bribery are serious offences as international terrorism. For this reason international cooperation is vitally important.

We should raise public awareness and get support for the cooperation and struggle against corruption. And this Conference will definitely serve for this.

I greet all of you with my best wishes.

Thank you.