

## **17<sup>th</sup> ACN STEERING GROUP MEETING**

10 October 2014

OECD, 2 rue André-Pascal, 75016 Paris

### **SUMMARY RECORD**

The summary record was prepared by the ACN Secretariat. It summarises the discussion and decisions taken at the 17<sup>th</sup> ACN Steering Group meeting. For further information, please contact ACN Secretariat, tel.: 33 1 45 24 13 19, e-mail: [inese.kuske@oecd.org](mailto:inese.kuske@oecd.org).

## 1. INTRODUCTION

The 17<sup>th</sup> ACN Steering Group Meeting took place on 10 October 2014, at the OECD in Paris, back-to-back with the 14<sup>th</sup> Monitoring Meeting of the Istanbul Anti-Corruption Action Plan.

The 17<sup>th</sup> ACN Steering Group meeting was co-chaired by **Mr. Patrick Moulette**, Head of Anti-Corruption Division, OECD and **Ms. Maja Baričević**, Head of Independent Anti-Corruption Sector, Ministry of Justice, Croatia.

The Steering Group took note of the 16<sup>th</sup> Steering Group's meeting Summary Record and adopted the proposed agenda for the 17<sup>th</sup> Steering Group meeting.

## 2. 14<sup>th</sup> MONITORING MEETING OF THE ISTANBUL ANTI-CORRUPTION ACTION PLAN

The Steering Group took note that the 14<sup>th</sup> Istanbul Action Plan Monitoring Meeting was opened by **Mr. William Danvers**, OECD Deputy Secretary General. The meeting was chaired by **Mr. Daniel Thelesklaf**, Head of the Financial Intelligence Unit, Principality of Liechtenstein. The Steering Group welcomed the adoption of the third round monitoring reports on Armenia and Kazakhstan during the 14<sup>th</sup> Monitoring Meeting. The Group also welcomed the adoption of progress reports by Azerbaijan, Georgia, Kyrgyz Republic, Mongolia, Tajikistan, Ukraine and Uzbekistan.

## 3. MEETING OF THE PREVENTION OF CORRUPTION ADVISORY GROUP

The Steering Group took note that back-to-back with this plenary, on 8 October 2014, the Advisory Group of the ACN Cross-Country Thematic Study on Prevention of Corruption in Public Sector met. The Steering Group noted that the Advisory Group discussed the draft study on prevention of corruption and provided additional feedback on its results and draft recommendations.

The Advisory Group stressed that the report on prevention should be practical and focus on useful examples of existing initiatives to prevent corruption. Monitoring of implementation of anti-corruption measures and indicators to assess preventive measures and their impact they appear to be a common challenge in the region. Also, country risk mapping and case studies about countries that are making progress according TI CPI were suggested as topics for future work.

## 4. SPECIAL SESSION ON CIVIL SOCIETY ANTI-CORRUPTION MONITORING

The Steering Group noted that the special session on civil society role in monitoring anti-corruption efforts was organised on 8 October 2014. This session was attended by NGOs from the Istanbul Action Plan countries, including several participants from Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan. The OECD ACN Practical Guide - How To Conduct Civil Society Monitoring under Istanbul Anti-Corruption Action Plan was discussed. Presentations on civil society role in anti-corruption were made by civil society organisations from Georgia, Ukraine, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan.

## 5. PRESENTATION OF THE ANTICORRP PROJECT REPORT

During the Steering Group meeting, **Professor Alina Mungui-Pippidi**, the Hertie School of Governance, presented the second report in the Anti-Corruption Report Policy Series "The

Anticorruption Frontline. Volume 2” prepared in September 2014 in the framework of the ANTICORRP project<sup>1</sup>. The report contains case studies, including on Ukraine and Bulgaria, as well as analysis of causes of corruption and of the reasons why some anti-corruption measures work and others do not. Professor Mungui-Pippidi highlighted the importance of addressing anti-corruption reforms as part of broader state-building process and take into account elements of context as rule of law, active civil society, agencies in favour of change, etc. She stressed the importance of measuring the impact of anti-corruption reforms and of using existing indicators for this purpose. For instance, a new indicator of corruption in public procurement – corruption risk index – is proposed in this publication.

## 6. UPDATE ON OECD *CLEANGOVBI*Z INITIATIVE

Brief update on the OECD CleanGovBiz *Initiative* was provided by **Mr. Helge Schroeder**, OECD General Secretariat. Mr. Schroeder informed about CleanGovBiz Integrity scans, country reviews on integrity, including upcoming work on Kazakhstan and potential work with Mongolia and Lithuania. Mr. Schroeder highlighted the importance to work in co-operation with the ACN. Moreover, Mr. Schroeder informed about the Integrity Week in March 2015, part of which will be the next ACN plenary, and welcomed ACN countries to be part of it.

## 7. ACN WORK PROGRAMME 2013 – 2015: UPDATE ON IMPLEMENTATION

**Mrs. Olga Savran**, ACN Manager, provided an update on the implementation of the ACN Work Programme in 2014 and 2015. The Steering Group discussed this update; the main outcomes of the discussion are summarized below.

### Istanbul Action Plan

Mrs. Savran informed the Steering Group that in the framework of the Istanbul Action Plan in April - October 2014 the following activities had been conducted: third round of monitoring of Armenia and Kazakhstan; and progress updates by Azerbaijan, Georgia, Kyrgyzstan, Mongolia, Tajikistan, Ukraine and Uzbekistan according to the new methodology. In October 2014 – March 2015, the following activities will be organised: return missions to Mongolia and Tajikistan, third round of monitoring of Kyrgyzstan and Ukraine, progress updates by Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Mongolia, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan.

The Steering Group heard that special attention was paid to further support participation of the civil society in monitoring, in particular alternative monitoring by civil society organisations in the Istanbul Action Plan countries. Training and mentors will be provided for NGOs in Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan to build their capacity to conduct alternative monitoring.

### Thematic cross-country studies

The Steering Group was informed that in April – October 2014 works continued under each of the three thematic studies. *On prevention of corruption*, a regional seminar took place in Tirana on 26-27 June, the meeting of the Advisory Group of the Prevention Study took place in October 2014 and the draft report was prepared. *On criminalisation*, the Advisory Group

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<sup>1</sup> The ANTICORRP project is a European Union-funded research project in 2012-2017. The full name is “Anti-corruption Policies Revisited: Global Trends and European Responses to the Challenge of Corruption”. More information: <http://anticorrrp.eu>.

meeting took place in April 2014 and discussed the study on responsibility of legal persons for corruption; the draft report on corruption by legal persons and the questionnaire on foreign bribery were prepared. *On Business Integrity*, the questionnaires on business integrity were sent out in summer 2013, responses were collected and analysed and preliminary findings were prepared with the view to present them at the next Advisory Board scheduled for November 2014. In addition, a case study on Central Asia was prepared with the assistance of AmCham Kazakhstan, and, Lithuanian focus group meeting was organised together with the Investors Forum and Ernst and Young Baltics.

The Steering Group also took note of the Regional Anti-Corruption Initiative's (RAI) new study on Anti-Corruption Assessment of Laws (Corruption Proofing), Comparative Study and Methodology, which will be presented at a meeting of RAI in November 2014.<sup>2</sup>

#### ACN evaluation

**Mrs. Savran** reminded the delegates that according to the current Work Programme, the ACN conducts internal and external evaluations. **Mrs. Savran** noted that according to internal evaluations conducted through questionnaires to the Steering Group members and other experts involved in different ACN activities, respondents appreciated capacity building and networking events, provided examples of impact of such training and expressed their desire to continue, as well as interest to receive compilations of good practices and guidelines.

In addition to the internal evaluations, the ACN Secretariat has recruited an extern consultant to conduct the external evaluation. The consultant – Mrs. Marijana Trivunovic, presented the work plan of the external evaluation. She noted that objective of the evaluation was to assess the relevance, effectiveness, impact, sustainability and efficiency of ACN's work. The Steering Group heard that a series of interviews would be conducted and that the final report would be presented at the next ACN plenary meeting in March 2015.

#### ACN funding

Mrs. Savran informed about new voluntary contributions from the US, UK and from Liechtenstein for 2014 – March 2015 ACN Work Programme, as well as new voluntary contributions from US to support the anti-corruption project in Ukraine. Ms. Savran highlighted the need to further raise funds to fully implement the 2015 work programme, taking into account the increased scope of work.

During the discussion ACN donor countries expressed appreciation of ACN work and the work of countries involved. The Steering Group noted that it is important to further diversity ACN funding. The need to further involve civil society was supported, including through IAP monitoring. It is also important to support the involvement of businesses and citizens in general. Monitoring should focus on real, practical actions, less on regulations. Development of recommendations should be more interactive. The Steering Group members suggested that countries at ACN meetings present their initiatives in different areas. Finally, it was noted that it is important to further promote prevention, innovation, measuring of corruption (for instance, developing indicators based on IAP recommendations).

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<sup>2</sup> Full text can be viewed here: [http://www.rai-see.org/doc/Comparative\\_Study-Methodology\\_on\\_Anti-corruption\\_Assessment\\_of\\_Laws.pdf](http://www.rai-see.org/doc/Comparative_Study-Methodology_on_Anti-corruption_Assessment_of_Laws.pdf)