

## News

### Albania: Government determined to fight corruption in the justice system

Prime Minister Edi Rama said that his government is working intensively so that the State Department 2014 report to remove Albania from the list of countries in the survey. Speaking in the ceremony of presenting the new phone line 116006 and the "Report and Save" application to report the human trafficking, Rama said that the government will work to remove corrupted judges and prosecutors from the justice system, because they are the ones who set free criminals that kill people.

Albeu, 16<sup>th</sup> June, 2014.

### CoE committee puts BiH on financial blacklist

The Council of Europe's (CoE) Committee of Experts on the Evaluation of Anti-money Laundering and the Financing of Terrorism has warned its members against financial transactions with people and institutions in Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH) because the country has not adopted anti-money laundering and terrorism financing legislation.

SETimes.com, 12<sup>th</sup> June, 2014.

### EU project focuses on corruption in BiH

An EU project recently implemented in Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH) would help the country organise its institutions and government to end corruption by providing better support for the accountability, transparency and improvement of public finance management and the work of civil society.

The project will aid the country in preparing its strategy and action plan against corruption for the years 2015 to 2019.

SETimes.com, 11<sup>th</sup> June, 2014.

### Bulgarian MPs hastily approve National Audit Office members

Lawmakers have approved all members of Bulgaria's Audit Office following a nearly three-hour debate. With 111 to 80 votes, a total of nine people were appointed and sworn in, despite calls by the opposition that the ruling parties should not embark on such a move in the eve of resignation and early elections.

Novinite.com - Sofia News Agency, 11<sup>th</sup> June, 2014.

### Anti-Corruption Agency: More than 225 Serbian officials failed to report property

BELGRADE – Tatjana Babic, director of the Anti-Corruption Agency, stated on Thursday that in 2013 the Agency was nearly 10 times more active in the sphere of control of property and incomes of public officials compared to the previous period, and announced that an initiative for the adoption of a new law on the Agency will be submitted by the end of June.

inSerbia, 5<sup>th</sup> June, 2014.

### Corruption hampers Bulgaria's economic growth – IMF

**Economic growth** in Greece, Bulgaria, Romania and Hungary are hampered by **corruption**, according to Aasim Husain, Deputy Director in the European Department of the IMF.

Husain, as cited by Macedonian daily Utrinski vestnik, suggested that the fastest growing economies in Eastern Europe would be Poland and Latvia, which were recovering quickly from the big decline registered during the economic crisis in 2008.

Novinite.com – Sofia News Agency, 21<sup>st</sup> May, 2014.

### Balkans create regional network to manage confiscated assets

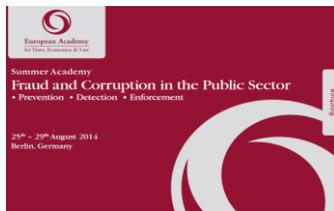
Balkan countries are making efforts to increase co-operation in the administration of sequestered and confiscated assets from criminals and organised crime groups.

Representatives from Albania, Croatia, Macedonia, Montenegro, Kosovo and Slovenia met in Pristina last month to create a network that will follow EU practices in confiscating and managing assets acquired through crime.

SETimes.com, 14<sup>th</sup> May, 2014.

## Upcoming Events

### 5TH GLOBAL FORUM ON **ANTI-CORRUPTION COMPLIANCE** IN HIGH RISK MARKETS



**5<sup>th</sup> Global Forum on anti-corruption compliance in high risk markets**, 15<sup>th</sup>-16<sup>th</sup> July, 2014 (Seminar on Global anti-corruption regulatory and enforcement update, 14<sup>th</sup> July, 2014, Washington, DC.), Washington, DC., USA

**Summer Academy: fraud and corruption in the public sector prevention, detection, enforcement**, European Academy for Taxes, Economics & Law, 25<sup>th</sup>-29<sup>th</sup> August, 2014, Berlin, Germany

### THIRTY-SECOND INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM ON ECONOMIC CRIME



**32<sup>nd</sup> International Symposium on economic crime: information – shield, sword and achilles heel in the fight against economic crime**, International Anti-corruption Academy (IACA), University of Cambridge, 1<sup>st</sup>-7<sup>th</sup> September, 2014, Cambridge, United Kingdom



**International Anti-corruption Conference – Ending Impunity: People, Integrity, Action**, 21<sup>st</sup>-24<sup>th</sup> October, Tunis, Tunisia

## Reports and Analyses

### **Nations in Transit 2014. Eurasia's rupture with democracy**

*The current crisis in Ukraine has focused the world's attention on the sharp ideological and political divide between Europe, which operates according to democratic principles, and Eurasia, where nearly four out of five people live under authoritarian regimes. In reality, the fault line between these two regions has been deepening for many years, and Russia's malign influence on the governance practices of its neighbours was rising long before the invasion of Crimea.*

Sylvana Habdank-Kořaczowska, Freedom House, June, 2014.

### **Report from the Commission to the Council and the European Parliament. Albania's progress in the fight against corruption and organised crime and in the judicial reform**

*In line with the Council's request this report focuses primarily on the fight against corruption and organized crime and judicial reform and highlights some additional key developments in areas, which are important for Albania EU integration.*

The European Commission, 4<sup>th</sup> June, 2014.

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