

Anti-Corruption Policy and Action in the EU





Almost 70%
of EU citizens believe that
high-level corruption is NOT
pursued sufficiently
by national authorities.

Almost 1 out of 2
businesses think it's **UNLIKELY**
that **police** or **prosecutors** will
catch those engaged in **corruption**
activities.



€120 billion
per year:

estimated cost of corruption
to the EU economy.





*Committed to Fighting
Corruption*



EU NETWORK Against Corruption



All stakeholders

national authorities, practitioners, civil society, international organisations, EU agencies and relevant services of the European Commission

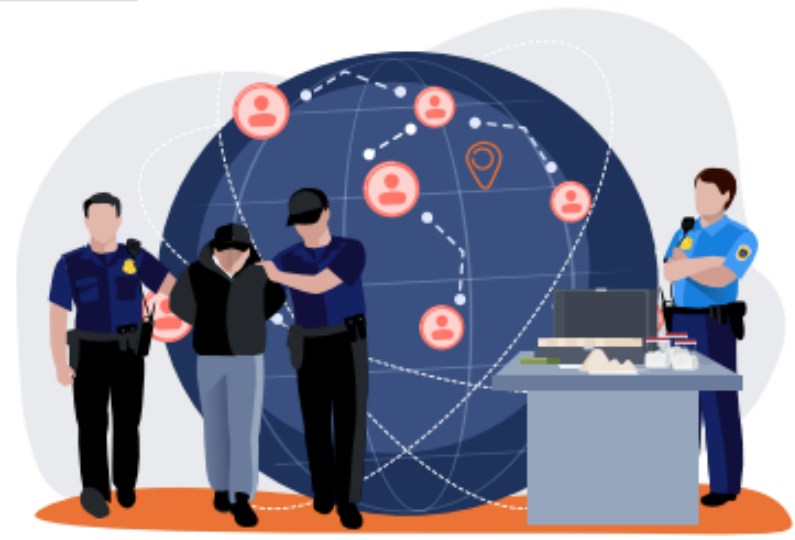
Exchange good practices and guidelines

mapping of high-risk areas of corruption



European
Commission

EU Roadmap to fight drug trafficking and organised crime





Proposal for a Directive on combating corruption

3 May 2023

Stepping up prevention of corruption

- **Strong preventive measures:**

- *information and awareness-raising campaigns*
- *effective rules for the public sector*
- *identification of corruption risks*



- **Specialised anti-corruption bodies**

- *independent bodies for both prevention and repression, with sufficient capacities and powers*

- **Adequate resources and training**

- *appropriate human, financial, technical and technological resources for MS authorities*
- *specialised anti-corruption training for competent authorities and their staff*

Harmonising corruption offences and sanctions

Why?

- Current **EU legislation is fragmented**, outdated and incomplete
 - *only two pre-Lisbon instruments from 1997 and 2003*
- Corruption is an increasingly **cross border crime**
 - *more than 500 such cases registered in the past five years by Eurojust*
- **Evolution** of corruption threats, national laws and international legal obligations
 - *UN Convention Against Corruption from 2003*

Harmonising corruption offences and sanctions

What we propose

- Harmonising definitions of **all corruption offences**

- *bribery, misappropriation, trading in influence, abuse of function, obstruction of justice, illicit enrichment from corruption offences*

- **Increasing sanctions on natural and legal persons**

- *natural persons: maximum level of imprisonment of 4 to 6 years*
 - *legal persons: fines, exclusion from public aid, disqualification from commercial activities*

- Harmonising **aggravating and mitigating circumstances**

- 9 - *aggravating: broader societal damage, commission by high-level official etc.*
 - *mitigating: provision of information or evidence, disclosure of offence etc.*

Facilitating investigation and prosecution

Why?

- Corruption offences are a **difficult category of crime** to identify and investigate
- **No immediate victim** who can complain
- Authorities in MS **struggle to investigate and prosecute** corruption
 - *limited access to relevant investigative tools*
 - *proceedings hindered by rules on immunities and privileges*
 - *short statutes of limitations*

Facilitating investigation and prosecution

What we propose



- **Investigative tools**

- *MS must ensure that authorities will have proper investigative tools to fight corruption*

- **Rules on **immunities and privileges** (MPs and other public officials)**

- *obligation for MS to ensure that immunities can be lifted through an effective process*

- **Limitation periods**

- *minimum limitation periods between 8 to 15 years*

Thank you

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