



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

Brussels, 23.03.2012
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Dear President,

The Commission thanks the Romanian Chamber of Deputies for the opinion on the Communication on Fighting Corruption in the EU {COM(2011) 308 final}. The Commission will carefully consider the views expressed and also takes note with satisfaction that the recommendations of the Communication are under consideration in the preparation of the Romanian national anti-corruption strategy.

As regards the specific issues raised in the opinion, the Commission would like to mention the following:

The Communication acknowledged that a uniform statistical system across the EU to measure the nature and extent of corruption or the effectiveness of anti-corruption measures is currently missing. To fill this gap, the Commission intends to set up a sub-group of experts in statistics dealing with corruption with a view to establishing a uniform EU statistics system on corruption.

Another key element of the renewed commitment to an EU anti-corruption policy consists of setting up an EU anti-corruption reporting mechanism ('EU Anti-Corruption Report') for periodic evaluation of EU Member States, responding to the requirements of the Stockholm Programme.

The EU Anti-Corruption Report will give a clearer overview of the nature and extent of corruption in the Union. The Communication sets out a number of concrete objectives in several areas related to EU internal and external policies. It also points to a number of actions, including closer judicial and police cooperation, modernised EU rules on confiscation of criminal assets, a revised public procurement legislation, better crime statistics, an enhanced anti-fraud policy to protect the EU financial interests, stronger focus on anti-corruption in the EU enlargement process, and greater use of conditionality in cooperation and development policies. The findings of the EU Anti-Corruption Report will help define further concrete actions to be taken at EU level.

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The Commission's Communication against corruption highlights the fact that political corruption is one of the most problematic aspects to be tackled and called in this context upon Member States, national Parliaments and the European Parliament to ensure more transparency and allow effective supervision of the political party financing. The Commission is committed to ensuring enhanced transparency, in line with its obligations set out in the Treaties, in its code of conduct, as well as other relevant rules.

The EU Anti-Corruption Report will focus on effectiveness of implementation, and will highlight in an objective manner achievements, as well as vulnerabilities in the Member States' anti-corruption efforts.

The EU Anti-Corruption Report will focus on a number of cross-cutting issues of particular relevance at EU level (including case studies, best practices and recommendations), as well as selected issues specific to each Member State, which will be highlighted in country analyses, including tailor-made recommendations. The effectiveness of implementation will be assessed against a number of indicators, both quantitative and qualitative. The Communication on Fighting Corruption in the EU gave some indicative examples of indicators that may be considered, but overall defining of indicators is a thorough process which will need careful consideration. When defining indicators the Commission intends to focus on the practical impact of anti-corruption measures and, as far as possible, look at how policies actually affect corruption on the ground. Once the indicators are identified, the Commission will collect and analyse information from various sources (including the existing monitoring mechanisms, such as GRECO, OECD, UNCAC, civil society, relevant anti-corruption networks, Commission services, EU agencies and other stakeholders).

The anti-corruption package is part of a wider initiative on the protection of licit economy, jointly with a new Commission Anti-Fraud Strategy (adopted on 24 June 2011) and an upcoming legislative proposal on confiscation and asset recovery (currently in preparation). The Communication on Fighting Corruption in the EU covers in a comprehensive manner issues related to the implementation of anti-corruption policies by the Member States, while the Anti-Fraud Strategy complements the former and focuses on measures under the responsibility of the Commission for the protection of EU financial interests. Moreover, some of the activities foreseen in the plan for the implementation of the Anti-Fraud Strategy will feed into the work on the EU Anti-Corruption Report.

I am looking forward to further pursuing our political dialogue.

Yours faithfully,

*Maroš Šefčovič
Vice-President*