

**15<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL PROFESSIONAL CONFERENCE AND GENERAL ASSEMBLY  
OF THE EUROPEAN PARTNERS AGAINST CORRUPTION (EPAC/EACN)  
FRANCE, 18-20 NOVEMBER 2015**

**PARIS DECLARATION 2015**

We, the heads and key representatives of the national Police Oversight Bodies and Anti-Corruption Authorities of the Member States of the Council of Europe and the European Union,

*Expressing* our solidarity with the French people and authorities following the recent terrorist attacks, and gratitude and admiration of the General Inspectorate of the National Police (IGPN), for generously hosting and efficiently organising this conference in this challenging period of time;

*Recalling* international conventions, instruments and mechanisms, in particular the United Nations Convention against Corruption (UNCAC), relevant Council of Europe conventions, GRECO monitoring mechanism and OECD Anti-Bribery Convention;

*Recalling* the EPAC/EACN Declarations adopted in Sofia 2014, Krakow 2013, Barcelona 2012, Laxenburg 2011, Oradea 2010, Nova Gorica 2009, Manchester 2008, Helsinki 2007, Budapest 2006, Lisbon 2005, and Vienna 2004, and *thanking* the International Anti-Corruption Academy (IACA) for hosting the Secretariat;

*Welcoming* the decision to launch a second cycle of the implementation review mechanism made during the 6th session of the Conference of the States Parties to the UNCAC held in St Petersburg in November 2015, and *emphasising* the importance of civil society involvement;

*Reiterating* the need to follow a holistic and comprehensive approach in the fight against corruption based on comprehensive prevention frameworks and efficient international cooperation among law enforcement agencies;

*Acknowledging* that corruption is a serious threat to development and stability which has harmful consequences at all levels of governance and undermines public trust in democracy and its institutions;

*Emphasising* the imperative need for our members to live up to strong public expectations to provide effective remedies against corruption;

*Taking into account* the conclusions of the conference workshops and plenary sessions, *emphasising* the need

- to reinforce the culture of ethics and transparency, in particular through training, and
- to ensure police integrity and strengthen objective, democratic and effective oversight of police services to reinforce public trust in institutions;

Based on the work and results of two EPAC/EACN Working Groups set up by the General Assembly in Sofia in November 2014 to develop policy recommendations for the EU Anti-Corruption Report, and to prepare a dedicated EPAC/EACN communication tool within the Europol Platform for Experts (EPE):

- **Call** for deterrent punishment of crimes of corruption through both custodial and financial punishments and effective systems of recovery of assets;
- **Call** for the introduction of a cross-border automatic exchange of financial information for the investigations of crimes of corruption by the law enforcement agencies;
- **Call** for the establishment of an appropriate tool at both national and transnational level for the protection of threatened key witnesses and disclosers of crimes of corruption;
- **Call** for further intensified co-operation and information sharing between anti-corruption authorities and police oversight bodies in Europe through the newly launched EPAC/EACN communication tool within the EPE;

The Declaration will be widely circulated by the members in their respective countries and submitted to relevant EU institutions and bodies, the Council of Europe's GRECO and UNODC.