



**Octopus Interface conference on**

## **Corruption and democracy**

**20 – 21 November 2006**

**Council of Europe**

**Palais de l'Europe, Strasbourg, France**

Version 16 November 2006

### **Background**

The previous, 20<sup>th</sup> century has been referred to as "democracy's century". Following the fall of the Berlin wall in 1989, democracy became the pre-dominant mode of political organisation in Europe. Key principles of democracy are the "sovereignty of equal citizens and the accountability of unequal rulers". In fact, preventing corruption and the abuse of power and holding political leaders accountable has been of primary concern to democracies since ancient Greece.

The Council of Europe disposes of a comprehensive set of standards on democracy which has evolved since the creation of the organisation more than fifty years ago and which guided countries of central and eastern Europe in their democratic transformation since 1989. During the past ten years, European countries furthermore adopted a range of common anti-corruption standards.

Today, democracies in Europe are confronted with numerous challenges, ranging from the impact of globalisation and threats to security, to the erosion of democratic decision-making and the declining trust and participation of citizens in democratic institutions. Corruption appears to be an important factor in this respect, thus representing a threat to the future of democracy.

### **Purpose**

The purpose of the conference is:

- To identify the risks that corruption poses to the future of democracy in Europe
- To share experience and good practice to prevent corruption from undermining democracy
- To determine whether current anti-corruption standards are sufficient to meet the challenges ahead or whether additional work would be required by the Council of Europe and other organisations.

Participants include representatives of ministries of justice, parliamentary assemblies, bodies monitoring political finances and conflicts of interest, criminal justice and law enforcement officials handling corruption cases, civil society organisations and researchers, business associations and interest groups, and international organisations. The following issues will be discussed in plenary and working group sessions:

**Political finance**  
**Conflicts of interest**  
**Lobbying**  
**Corruption and the independence of justice**

## Programme

Monday, 20 November

### Plenary session (Room 1)

9h30

#### Opening session

- Guy De Vel, Director General of Legal Affairs of the Council of Europe

Moderator of the morning session: Alan Doig, United Kingdom

#### Corruption and democracy: introduction to the issue

- Mikhael Grishankov, Chairman of the Anti-corruption Commission of the State Duma of the Russian Federation
- Presentation by the Council of Europe

#### International standards and the European acquis on democracy and corruption

- Jean-Louis Laurens, Director General of Political Affairs, Council of Europe
- Oliver Stolpe, United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, UNODC
- Thomas Markert, Deputy Secretary, Venice Commission, Council of Europe
- David Gaukrodger, Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development, OECD
- Wolfgang Rau, Executive Secretary, Group of States against Corruption, GRECO, Council of Europe

Coffee break  
11h00

#### Corruption and democracy in Europe – Assessment of the situation

- David Nussbaum, Chief Executive, Transparency International
- Erling Olsen, former Secretary General, International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance (IDEA)
- Drago Kos, Chairman of the Council of Europe Group of States against Corruption (GRECO)

### Workshops

14h30

#### Political finance (Room 1)

Moderator and introduction to the issue: Drago Kos, GRECO

Panel discussion:

- Yves-Marie Doublet, France
- Marcin Walecki, Poland
- Alvis Vilks, Latvia
- Tiziano Balmelli, Switzerland

Interventions and discussions by participants:

Lessons learned and good practices to be shared

#### Conflicts of interest (Room 2)

Moderator and introduction to the issue: Janos Bertok, OECD

Panel discussion:

- Alan Doig, United Kingdom
- Manuel Villoria-Mendieta, Spain
- Quentin Reed, United Kingdom

Interventions and discussions by participants:

Lessons learned and good practices to be shared

Coffee break  
16h00

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**Tuesday, 21 November**

**Workshops**

9h30	<b>Lobbying</b> (Room 1)  Moderator and introduction to the issue: Keir Fitch, European Commission  Panel discussion: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Rogier Chorus, President of the Society of European Affairs Professionals</li><li>▪ Thomas Leif, Germany</li><li>▪ David Miller, ALTER-EU</li><li>▪ Krzysztof Jasiocki, Poland</li></ul> Interventions and discussions by participants: Lessons learned and good practices to be shared	<b>Corruption, democracy and justice</b> (Room 2)  Moderator and introduction to the issue: Oliver Stolpe, UNODC  Panel discussion: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Piero Grasso, National Anti-Mafia Prosecutor, Italy</li><li>▪ Nihal Jayawickrama, Sri Lanka/UK</li><li>▪ Mark Richard, USA</li><li>▪ Pim Albers, Council of Europe</li></ul> Interventions and discussions by participants: Lessons learned and good practices to be shared
<i>Coffee break</i> 11h00		

**Plenary session (Room 1)**

14h30	<b>Enhancing transparency in Europe</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Siim Kallas, Vice-President of the European Commission for Administrative Affairs, Audit and Anti-Fraud</li></ul> <b>Investigating political corruption: the role of the media – Panel discussion</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Hervé Gattegno, Le Monde, France</li><li>▪ Thomas Leif, Netzwerkrecherche/SWR, Germany</li><li>▪ Sergiy Leshchenko, Ukrainskiy Pravda, Ukraine</li></ul>
<i>Coffee break</i> 16h15	<b>Results of working group discussions</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Presentations by workshop moderators</li></ul> <b>Conclusions: the way ahead</b>
18h00	<i>Conference ends</i>

**Contact**

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