The Permanent Mission of Austria to the United Nations (Vienna) presents its compliments to the United Nations Office on drugs and crime and with reference to the latter’s Verbal Note CU2011/211(A) from December 9, 2011 has the honour to submit pertinent information on Austria’s relevant initiatives and good practices regarding certain articles of the UN Convention against Corruption:

1. Statement regarding Articles 5, 7 and 8

The Austrian Federal Bureau of Anti-Corruption (BAK) has the statutory mandate to effectively prevent and combat corruption on the entire Austrian territory. It shall both analyse corruption phenomena and gather information and knowledge on preventing and combating them. Furthermore it develops appropriate preventive measures (§ 1 in conjunction with § 4 para. 3 of the Law on the BAK).

Code of conduct / Compliance

The project "Code of Conduct" has been launched within the framework of a comprehensive general strategy of the Ministry of the Interior. The goal of this particular project aims to illustrate the importance of ethical values for all employees of the Ministry while they are performing their tasks. The first part of the project was the creation of a concept in order to communicate the said project to all Ministry employees in a sustainable manner. The second part is to lay down fundamentals of a compliance concept individually fitted in to the Ministry’s special demands. With this initiative, the Ministry of the Interior now is playing a leading role among all other Government authorities.
No other Austrian public institution has followed this remarkable innovative path so far. It is however planned that the innovative code of conduct project very soon is going to be implemented on a nationwide basis using a comprehensive and sustainable concept including the application of both special trainers and an e-learning programme.

The mentioned compliance programme (2nd part) will be put into practice as part of a follow-up project and will be led by BAK too.

**Educational measures**

BAK offers a variety of measures in order to raise awareness and impart knowledge on phenomena of corruption. Special courses, seminars and lectures are being held for all public service employees on a regular basis.

To this regard members of BAK are giving lectures by organizing various training courses (both in the law enforcement and the administrative sector).

**Reporting centre for corruption and abuse of authority**

BAK maintains a reporting centre being responsible for corruption and abuse of authority- cases. Federal employees are able to report suspicious circumstances directly to the BAK.

**Prevention of corruption**

One of BAK’s main tasks is to focus on structural prevention: the Bureau thus develops prevention concepts and risk analysis tools and offers risk analyses for organizational units which are considered to be particularly prone to corruption. The strategy i.a. includes the compilation of vulnerability assessments based on a multidisciplinary approach. The results of these assessments then are forming the base for a subsequent development of specific preventive measures ranging from awareness-raising and training measures to tailor-made recommendations on organizational or legal adjustments.
European Anti-Corruption Training (EACT)

Most importantly, Austria has initiated a project (together with Slovenia and Slovakia) called European Anti-Corruption Training (EACT) aiming to find best practices in the areas of prevention, investigation & prosecution as well as international cooperation. The results of this project are being transformed into a usable manual.

Three working group meetings are going to convene this year and will bring together experts representing both anti-corruption authorities of EU members States and of countries from the Western Balkan region. The working group “prevention” in particular will deal with topics like transparency databases, compliance within the public sector, whistle-blower protection and other issues. In 2013 best practices learnt then will be disseminated to anti-corruption authorities and relevant bodies within the EU, other European countries and the UN.

2. Statement regarding Article 10

BAK publishes an annual report containing an overview of work being completed within the Bureau’s main areas of responsibility. This report is the result of both statistical treatment and individual case evaluation having been reported during a one year period.

Furthermore, the Bureau additionally publishes the law journal “Corruption and Abuse of Authority”. This jurisprudential journal normally uses case examples in order to illustrate and comment them on the basis of the Austrian criminal law on corruption. BAK is organizing an annual Austrian Anti-Corruption Day which has successfully developed into a communication platform for leading national anti-corruption experts during the last years.

Specialists from the entire public sector as well as renowned scientists are gathering there in order to discuss the most current aspects and challenges of the fight against corruption.
3. **Statement regarding Article 12**

Regarding anti-corruption measures for the private sector, BAK has only limited jurisdiction in this field. Nevertheless the Bureau maintains constant contact with representatives of the private sector and NGOs maintaining bilateral contacts on the occasion of anti-corruption events such the already mentioned Austrian Anti-Corruption Day.

4. **Statement regarding Article 13**

In this context, reference is made to the already mentioned publications.

The Permanent Mission of Austria to the United Nations (Vienna) avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the United Nations Office on drugs and crime the assurances of its highest consideration.

Vienna, May 22, 2012

To the
United Nations Office on drugs and crime
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