I - Information requested from States parties in relation to mandates of anti-corruption body or bodies in respect of prevention (art. 6)

1. Please describe the measures you have taken to implement art. 6 of the Convention.
In particular, States parties may wish to cite and describe measures that:
• Allocate responsibility to a specific body or bodies for the development and implementation of preventive anti-corruption policies;
• Outline the institutional structure and approach in relation to the monitoring and evaluation of the national anti-corruption strategy or anti-corruption policies;
• Outline the scope of the mandate of preventive anti-corruption bodies;
• Safeguard the independence of anti-corruption bodies, enable them to carry out their functions effectively and protect them from any undue influence;
• Establish focal points or units within government ministries and departments responsible for the implementation of anti-corruption policies;
• Establish structures to deal effectively with grievances and complaints from citizens, such as an anti-corruption commission, ethics office, auditor general’s office, ombudsman office, central procurement office, etc.

Lithuania has put in place a comprehensive institutional framework to address corruption. The main anti-corruption body is the Special Investigation Service (STT), an independent body accountable to the President of the Republic and the Parliament (Seimas), which was established in 1997 and in 2000 received a broad anti-corruption mandate. In 2000, STT became an institution independent from the executive branch, accountable to the President and the Seimas of the Republic of Lithuania. STT competence includes anti-corruption education and awareness raising of the public, corruption risk analysis, anti-corruption programmes and anti-corruption assessment of legal acts or their drafts as well as with pre-trial investigation of corruption-related offences, if the above-mentioned measures fail.

Other specialized anti-corruption bodies in the field of prevention of corruption are the Chief Institutional Ethics Commission (CIEC); the Seimas Anti-corruption Commission (SACC); the Interdepartmental Commission for Coordinating the Fight against Corruption (ICCFC). It should be noted that all line ministries and local authorities have an anti-corruption role to play.

Article 12 of the Law on Corruption Prevention of the Republic of Lithuania provides for the implementation of corruption prevention by the following bodies: the Government, Chief Institutional Ethics Commission, Special Investigation Service and other state and municipal and non-governmental institutions.

When implementing this Law, the task of the Government is to ensure that corruption prevention measures are implemented by the ministries and institutions subordinate to the Government; allocate the funds necessary for an effective implementation of corruption prevention measures; together with the Special Investigation Service develop the National Anti-Corruption Programme and submit it to the Seimas for approval, as well as make proposals as to the amendment of the said programme; make proposals to the Seimas as to the enactment and amendment of the laws and other legal acts necessary for the implementation of corruption prevention.
When implementing the present Law, the Chief Institutional Ethics Commission is tasked to analyse ethical problems confronting civil servants, and, seeking to eliminate the factors contributing to a conflict between public and private interests, make proposals concerning adoption and improvement of anti-corruption programmes and legal acts; make proposals to the Seimas, other state and municipal institutions related to the implementation of the provisions of this Law; implement the corruption prevention measures assigned to it together with the other state and municipal institutions.

Most of the state and municipal authorities within the scope of their competence implement the measures set down in the Plan of Measures for the Implementation of the 2011-2014 National Anti-Corruption Programme (further – NACP).

In order to ensure effective, targeted and useful implementation, administration and application of long-term anti-corruption measures in state or municipal institutions, state and municipal institutions adopt institutional anti-corruption programmes. It is noteworthy that state and municipal institutions regularly (most often at the end of each year) measure the efficiency of the anti-corruption activities they conduct (e.g. assess the quality and efficiency of measures provided for in the Plans of Measures of the Implementation of the anti-corruption programmes approved by their internal legal acts) and provide the public with information on their anti-corruption activities through the mass media (most often via the Internet).

STT, pursuant to the Law on Corruption Prevention and Law on Special Investigation Service, together with the Government performs the functions of coordination and control of state and municipal institutions activities in the area of corruption prevention. For example, STT regularly assesses how state and municipal institutions implement the measures provided in the Plan of Measures of the NACP for 2011-2014, Law on Corruption Prevention, their anti-corruption programmes and provide proposals concerning their improvement. Also STT analyses the efficiency of anti-corruption activities conducted by state and municipal institutions (e.g. anti-corruption reports made by the departments of these institutions, etc.) and regularly provides methodical assistance for the staff of state and municipal institutions performing the functions in the area of corruption prevention.

Following the practice of many European and world countries, to deal effectively with grievances and complaints from citizens, the Seimas Ombudsmen's Office was established in Lithuania on 8 December 1994. The Seimas Ombudsmen investigate complaints about the abuse of office by and bureaucracy of officers or other violations of human rights and freedoms in public administration.

NACP is the main inter-institutional action plan (adopted on 17 January 2002). The revised NACP was adopted on 16 June 2011 and covers the period from 2011 to 2014. At present, a new version of the NACP is being developed and is envisaged to cover the period from 2015 to 2025.

The NACP is aimed at ensuring an effective and targeted system of corruption prevention and control of corruption in the Republic of Lithuania. To achieve comprehensive corruption prevention and control of corruption, anti-corruption programmes adopted by other institutions must be oriented towards the objectives and goals specified in the NACP. NACP measures should attain tangible and measurable results (for example, amendments to the existing legal acts adopted), the NACP specifies clearer criteria of the results (for example, increase of confidence in state institutions, quick provision of public services,
simplification of the procedures for issuing licences and other administrative requirements laid down in legal acts, public involvement in the law-making process, etc.). NACP is developed and its implementation is organised and controlled by the Government with the participation of the STT. The implementation of the NACP is coordinated and the control of the implementation of the NACP Plan of Measures is made by the Inter-institutional Commission. As mentioned before, state and municipal institutions are responsible for the implementation of the NACP.

2. Please provide information demonstrating the impact of the work conducted by national bodies with mandates in respect of the prevention of corruption.
In particular, States parties may wish to provide information such as:

- Key conclusions and recommendations from reports prepared by anti-corruption bodies and institutions;
- Results of public perception surveys regarding the effectiveness and performance of the anti-corruption body or bodies;
- Results from public awareness surveys of the extent of public knowledge about the prevention of corruption;
- Key conclusions and recommendations from evaluation reports on the effectiveness and performance of relevant anti-corruption bodies.

A summary of the STT 2012-2013 performance results on Prevention of Corruption

For STT, it is important to find out the reasons and pre-conditions of corruption, observe changes and anticipate their impact to be able to implement its functions appropriately. In co-operation with other public and private sector organisations STT seeks to create and develop an effective corruption prevention system to be able to detect the systems and procedures contributing to corruption and to eliminate them.

Corruption risk analysis
Corruption risk analysis means an anti-corruption analysis of the activities of a state or municipal body in compliance with the procedure established by the Government and presentation of motivated conclusions about the development of an anti-corruption programme and proposals about the content of the programme. It also includes recommendations concerning prevention measures to state and municipal authorities that are responsible for their implementation.

During 2012-2013, STT performed corruption risk analysis in the following fields:

In the area of waste management and administrative monitoring of Vilnius Region Environmental Department of the Ministry of Environment

In the area of purchasing hip and knee endoprosthesis by the State Patients’ Fund

In the area of organisation and conducting public procurement as well as implementation of corruption prevention measures in a municipality

In the area of issuance of construction and other licences as well as implementation of corruption prevention measures in a municipality

In the area of administration and rent of social housing, issuance of licences and permits as well as implementation of corruption prevention measures in a municipality

In the area of organisation of social support provision, issuance of licences and permits and implementation of corruption prevention measures in a municipality

In the area of organisation of waste management services of one of the municipalities
In the area of execution of conditional release procedures by the Prisons Department under the Ministry of Justice and implementation of corruption prevention measures by the Prisons Department of the Ministry of Justice, the following tasks have been completed:

- Territorial planning and construction permits in six municipalities
- Permanent construction commission in one of the municipalities
- Organisation of public procurement in two municipalities and Customs Department
- Administration and use of social housing in Vilnius municipality
- Issuance of visas and residence permits in the Migration Department
- Customs offices in performing customs clearance procedures at the Customs Department
- Waste management services in one of the municipalities
- Licensing and monitoring of road transport activities in the Ministry of Transport
- Lithuanian fisheries sector in implementing the 2007-2013 action plan by the Ministry of Agriculture
- Public health control and administrative proceedings in a territorial public health centre.

Analysis of institutional anti-corruption programmes

The analysis of institutional anti-corruption programmes means examination of anti-corruption programmes developed and implemented by state or municipal authorities in order to identify their deficiencies, make proposals on how they should be improved and find out how STT proposals are followed. During 2012-2013, STT conducted 37 analyses of anti-corruption programmes and their drafts developed and implemented by state and municipal authorities. Such analyses include:

- 33 municipal programmes or their drafts;
- 3 ministerial programmes (1 of the Ministry of Culture and 2 of the Ministry of Justice);
- 1 on the Prisons Department.

Anti-corruption assessment of legal acts and their drafts

The anti-corruption assessment of legal acts and their drafts means assessment of the existing or proposed mechanism of legal regulation from the anti-corruption point of view as well as identification of shortcomings and preconditions of corruption risk and/or factors.

When performing an anti-corruption assessment STT seeks to assess the impact of legal regulation on the scope of corruption; identify legal corruption risk factors (loopholes, collisions, insufficiency of procedures and measures, etc.) and ensure that when a draft legal act is adopted, the possible consequences of its implementation is taken into account.

The key anti-corruption assessments have been conducted in the following fields:

- Healthcare;
- Public procurement in culture;
- Public procurement in the activities of political parties;
- Gambling;
- Compensation of real estate;
- Territorial planning;
- Protected territories;
- Social housing;
- Forests;
- Energy;
- Bailiffs

Provision of information about persons
The provision of information about a person is a corruption prevention measure, the purpose of which is to prevent unreliable persons or those of bad reputation to hold positions in a state or municipal body, obtain a state award, get access to secret information, purchase shares or long-term assets of public or private companies owned by the state or municipality. During 2012, STT submitted information about 1,587 persons and during 2013, STT submitted information about 1,974 persons seeking to hold or holding posts in a state or municipal authorities.

**Implementation of National Anti-Corruption Programme (NACP)**

When implementing the NACP and its action plan STT implemented the following measures: submitted overviews to the IACC, Judicial Council and the Ministry of Justice; provided assistance to the National Courts Administration which developed the methodology for assessing the probability of corruption in judicial activities; summarised information about protection of whistleblowers of corruption related offices and submitted this information to several state authorities; submitted its opinion to the Ministry of Environment about collegiate decision-making in approving detailed plans; submitted its opinion to the Ministry of Justice about integrity testing which would offer opportunities to develop such practice in civil service, etc.

Seeking to encourage public intolerance towards corruption and inform the public on how to report potential corruption cases, STT carried out an active awareness raising campaign in 2008–2009, including:

- broadcasting of video clips on the outdoor screens in major Lithuanian towns and on TV;
- anti-corruption information stickers on public transport in major Lithuanian towns prompting to report corruption cases to the STT;
- stickers on headrest casings for police cars with the record warning citizens against bribing police officers;
- drawing and essay contest for pupils “The World without Corruption” with the participation of 52 secondary schools and gymnasias;
- legal knowledge contest Themis for pupils;
- provision of answers by the STT officers to question related with corruption on the Internet news portal. This measure was very popular with an increasing growth in the number of questions.

The implementation of these initiatives resulted in the increased number of people who addressed STT in 2008, compared to 2007 the number of filed reports increased by 29%. The STT encouragement not to ignore the problem of corruption was noticed by 34.1% population of Lithuanian cities. Most of these measures are subject to implementation in the long-run with the achievement of long-term results.

With a view to regularly encourage the public to note and report potential corruption-related cases, STT officials take part in TV and radio programmes designated for discussing corruption-related issues. Since 2011, the public has been invited to demonstrate its active resistance and intolerance towards corruption on Facebook. Dissemination of information and anti-corruption ideas in the social network allows reaching a broad audience and communicating with citizens in an accessible and attractive manner.

In 2013, the Chief Institutional Ethics Commission (CIEC) adopted 116 decisions concerning the conduct of persons working in civil service. CIEC assessed the conduct of 141 persons and found that 53 of them acted counter the Law on Adjustment of Public of Private Interests in the Civil Service.

3. Please outline actions required to strengthen or improve the measures described above and
any specific challenges you might be facing in this respect.
Examples of the types of challenges States parties may have faced include:
• Coordination challenges between anti-corruption bodies and other government agencies;
• Communication challenges with regard to raising awareness of the existence, functions and aims of preventive anti-corruption bodies amongst the public;
• Implementation challenges with regard to the mandate of preventive bodies due to the interference of other branches of government; and
• Financial challenges with respect to maintaining sufficient and consistent funding for preventive anti-corruption bodies.

Seeking to improve the coordination of the activity of state and municipal or non-governmental institutions in the area of corruption prevention and detection of corruption-related legal acts, the Government of the Republic of Lithuania set up the Intergovernmental Commission for the Coordination of Fight against Corruption (further – Commission) by Resolution No. 179 of 3 February 2003. The main tasks of the Commission are as follows:
- coordination of the outlining and implementation of the National Anti-Corruption Programme;
- control of the implementation of the Plan of Measures of the Programme and the activity of state and municipal or non-governmental institutions in the area of corruption prevention and detection of corruption-related legal acts;
- deliberation of strategic anti-corruption issues;
- improvement of the activity of state and municipal or non-governmental institutions in the area of corruption prevention and detection of corruption-related legal acts.

The Lithuanian Government is very proactive in co-ordinating corruption prevention measures and the activities of different stakeholders in this field. The state authorities constantly informs the general public about the anti-corruption policy they pursue and the plan is to use the EU allocations during the period from 2014 to 2020 to strengthen this field, along with the other corruption prevention measures.

STT takes part in performing co-ordination and supervision functions of activities of state and municipal institutions in the field of corruption prevention carried out by the Government. STT participates in the development of the National Anticorruption Programme by the Government, makes recommendations concerning the amendments thereto and, together with other state and municipal institutions, implements National Anticorruption Programme and corruption prevention measures.

4. Do you require technical assistance in relation to the measures described above? If so, please specify the forms of technical assistance that would be required.

No technical assistance is necessary.

II - Information requested from States parties in relation to public sector legislative and administrative measures, including measures to enhance transparency in the funding of candidatures for elected public office and, where applicable the funding of political parties (arts. 5 and 7).
1. Please describe the legislative and administrative measures you have taken to prevent corruption in the public sector. In particular, please provide information on measures you have taken to enhance transparency in the funding of candidatures for elected public office and the funding of political parties.

States parties may wish to cite and describe measures that:

- Establish a legal definition of what constitutes a donation or contribution to a candidate for public office or a political party;
- Require public disclosure of donations received by candidates for public office and political parties, including the identity of individual and corporate donors;
- Establish a ceiling or limits on donations that can be made to candidates or political parties;
- Clarify the permissibility and limits applicable to donations by foreign donors or legal entities owned in whole or in part by the State;
- Establish regular financial reporting obligations of donations and expenditures, including pre- and post-election, for candidates and political parties;
- Apply sanctions for the violation of any relevant laws, rules and regulations applicable to political candidates or political parties; and
- Allow for the independent monitoring of financing of political candidates or political parties.

Funding of, and control over funding of, political parties and political campaigns is regulated by the Republic of Lithuania Law on Funding of, and Control over Funding of, Political Parties and Political Campaigns (hereinafter referred to as the “Law”), the Republic of Lithuania Law on Political Parties. The Law is equally applied both for the political parties and election campaigns organised both by parties (and candidates thereof) and independent candidates. The main institution executing control over funding of political parties and political campaigns is the Central Electoral Commission (CEC).

Legal framework

Financing of political parties set by the 2004 law on financing and financial control of political parties and political campaigns provides for detailed regulations and definitions, comprehensive list of the subjects of political campaigns and their responsibility, provisions aimed at financial transparency, caps on campaign expenditure, a control mechanism and sanctions.

Article 2 paragraph 3 of the Law lays down the definition of the donation to the political campaign participant (the political campaign participant means a person or a group of persons who seeks to be elected), namely, “Donations” shall mean cash, movables or immovables, information, property rights, results of intellectual activities, other material and non-material values transferred to beneficiaries without return consideration, actions and voluntary work carried out free of charge as well as results of such actions intended for funding a political campaign of an independent political campaign participant.

Following the provisions of the Law, all natural and legal persons making a donation must be made public publishing their main details. Accepted donations must be recorded in the donation sheet stating the value of a monetary donation, a non-monetary donation and its actual value, the details of the natural person. Exceptions are applied only to the entities whose donated amount is lower than 0.002 of the average monthly earnings (AMES).

Article 13 paragraph 3 of the Law sets forth that political party funding agreement or political campaign funding agreements which confirm property and non-property (political) obligations of a political party or a
political campaign participant (donor) and beneficiary must be drawn up in writing and all texts of the agreements must be published on the website of the CEC.

Another important aspect of control is that monetary donations of natural persons that exceed LTL 1,000 and all monetary donations must be donated only by bank transfers.

Few years ago, in the legal base there were taken away the possibility of financing the activities of political parties for legal persons. The present Law provides for the following sources of funding of political parties. The donations of natural persons to participants of political campaign, nevertheless, have been decreased by this Law from 20 average monthly earnings (hereinafter – AMEs) to 10 AMEs and it set forth that "during a calendar year the total amount of donations by one natural person for independent political campaign participants may not exceed 10 per cent of the amount of the annual income declared by the natural person for the previous calendar year" (Article 10(2) of the Law). Compliance with this requirement is verified by registering the donations received (the CEC information system sends an inquiry to the State Tax Inspectorate and gets a response in several minutes). After one more amendment to the Law, since 4 June 2012, before making a donation to a political campaign participant, a natural person should declare his/her assets and income in accordance with the procedure laid down by the law. (Article 10(4)). These provisions reduce the possibility of influence by donors for decision making.

The above amounts do not include small donations of natural persons. A small donation is considered a monetary donation (the sum of donations) made by a natural person for an independent political campaign participant during the political campaign where the donation is less than LTL 40.

The Law has been further amended to prohibit the funding of political parties and election campaigns by legal persons. According to the amendments, which came into force on 1 January 2012, article 7 of the Law includes an exhaustive list of permitted funding sources which excludes contributions by legal persons.

The Law puts emphasis only on possible sources of funding and prohibited sources of funding are not specified. Article 7 of the Law states that sources of funding of political campaign of the political party shall be as follows: funds of the political party received from the sources of funding of the political party and used to finance political campaigns of the party, lists of candidates nominated by the party and candidates nominated by the party; donations for political campaign to the political party during the political campaign period, given by natural persons who under this Law have the right to donate; loans received by the political party from a branch of the banks registered in the Republic of Lithuania or registered in another European Union member state or a member state of the European Economic Area operating in Lithuania during the political campaign period; interest on the funds kept in the political campaign account. It shall be prohibited to finance political parties or political campaigns of political parties with the funds which are not specified in this Article.

The provisions set out in Article 8 of the Law states that political campaigns of other independent political campaign participants (with the exception of political parties) shall be funded: with donations of natural persons who under this Law have the right to donate and donations of political parties to candidates, lists of candidates or political campaigns of referendums; with own (personal) funds; interest on the funds kept in the political campaign account. Furthermore, the above Article also establishes the provision that it shall be prohibited to finance other independent political campaign participants (with the exception of political parties) with the funds which are not specified in this Article.
Since 14 December 2013 funding of, and control over funding of, political parties has been governed by the Law on Political Parties (earlier regulated by the Law on Funding of, and Control over Funding of, Political Parties and Political Campaigns). Pursuant to Article 23 of the Law, political parties shall provide the CEC with an approved set of the financial statements of the political party of the previous calendar year including the following documents: balance sheet, income statement; explanatory notes; list of donors; report on the use of state budget appropriations and other relevant data in relation to control over funding of political parties on an annual basis, but not later than till 15th of March. All above data on funding of parties, sources thereof and use of funds are published and made available on the website of the CEC.

Where necessary, the CEC is entitled to familiarise with the documents substantiating the data of the set of financial statements of the political party in accordance with the procedure prescribed in the legislation. The CEC is responsible for constant provision of information of the violations of funding of political parties to the Special Investigation Service of the Republic of Lithuania, the Prosecutor General’s Office of the Republic of Lithuania.

The National Audit office of the Republic of Lithuania shall carry out an audit of the use of the state budget appropriations meant for political parties in accordance with the procedure prescribed in the laws and other legal acts. The legal acts in force set forth the mechanism of publicity of the funding of political parties, each person who, according to the law, may fund political campaign participants or a representative of public information producer or disseminator who submits the evidencing documents is entitled to familiarise with a set of financial statements of any political party and annex thereto and publish its data through any means of the mass media.

According to the provisions of Article 17 of the Law, an independent political campaign participant (a person or a group of person seeking to be elected, shall submit a political campaign funding report to the Central Electoral Commission not later than within 25 calendar days from the proclamation of the final results of the election (rerun election) or referendum. The political campaign funding report shall indicate all income and expenses of the political party as well as the assumed obligations (according to the groups of expenses). A list of donations and donors thereof or amounts of donations according to the groups of donors is provided separately.

In 2011 political parties submitted their financial statements for the first time; the financial statements are drawn up in accordance with the Rules for Accounting and Preparation and Submission of Financial Statements of Non-Profit Limited Civil Liability Legal Persons and for Assessing the Property and Services Received by Members of Political Campaigns Free of Charge as approved by the Minister of Finance of the Republic of Lithuania by Order No. 1K 372 on 22 November 2004 (hereinafter – the Rules). Paragraph 160 of the Rules specifies that "If legal entities have any branches according to the laws regulating their activities, the accounting information of the branch necessary for completing financial statements of the legal entity shall be submitted under the procedure specified by the legal entity". It follows that the accounting information of the divisions and branches of a political party has to be included into the financial statements of the relevant political party.

The CEC approved the Recommendations on the Submission of a Set of Financial Statements and Annexes thereto of Political Parties by its Decision No.Sp-12 of 7 February 2012. It is stated in the Recommendations that political parties should indicate in the notes the legal entities directly or indirectly associated with or otherwise controlled by the political party, as well as the legal entities the founder (one of the founders) whereof is the political party; in addition, political parties should record the funds of political campaigns of the political party: the funds received and used by the political party, the lists of candidates
and the candidates registered as individual participants in the political campaign for the purposes of the political campaign, the balance of such funds and liabilities.

Lithuania made big progress in regulating entities indirectly related to political parties. Rules were tightened for the handling of inadmissible donations, unused campaign funds, and in-kind contributions. Further amendments strengthened the role of campaign treasurers in controlling income and expenditure. Lithuania conferred a leading role in the supervision of political financing on the CEC (in cooperation with law enforcement bodies), empowering it to investigate violations of procedural rules or failure to file documents. Additional reforms strengthened requirements for the independence of auditors who certify party and campaign accounts. Lithuania also increased and clarified the sanctions for violating party and campaign financing regulations.

Thus, the system of penalties imposed for the violations committed in the area of political funding is rather comprehensive and, in principle, includes different possible violations committed by a party, leaders, and campaign participants thereof etc.

In practice, more often, the entities that commit violations of the provisions of the Law are subject to administrative liability. Following Article 9 paragraph 2 of the Code of Administrative Offences of the Republic of Lithuania (hereinafter referred to as the “CAO”), administrative liability for the violations provided for in the CAO shall arise where such violations do not entail criminal liability according to the laws in force. The CAO provides for administrative liability for violations of the procedure for funding of political campaigns (Article 207(10)) and procedure for funding of political parties (Article 207(12)). It is to be noted that if the CEC or any other competent authority establishes any elements of financial and other crimes for which liability is provided for in the Criminal Code of the Republic of Lithuania (hereinafter referred to as the “CC”), law enforcement authorities must be notified. The CC provides for criminal liability for fraudulent management of accounts (Article 222), negligent management of accounts (Article 223), provision of inaccurate data on income, profit or assets (Article 220) and misleading declaration about the activities of a legal entity (Article 205) which may be applied for the violations in relation to violations of the political funding rules.

2. Please provide information demonstrating implementation of the measures described above.
In particular, States parties may wish to provide information such as:
• Disclosure reports made by candidates for public office and/or political parties;
• Examples or statistics regarding cases involving violations of the political funding provisions, including any sanctions applied or criminal prosecutions that resulted;
• Key conclusions and recommendations from reports produced by government agencies responsible for oversight of the system applicable to the funding of election candidates and political parties; and
• Statistics regarding public perception of integrity and transparency in the funding of election candidates and political parties.

Pursuant to Article 23 of the Law on Political Parties, political parties each year, not later than March 15, shall present to the Central Electoral Commission an approved set of financial reports of the political party for the last calendar year, which shall consist of: balance; return report; explanatory memorandum; list of benefactors; report on usage of State budget allocations; any other data relevant to control the funding of political parties. All this data on funding of political parties, its sources and use of allocations is published on the website of the CEC.
There is growing recognition within Lithuania of the need to address problems with the funding of political parties and campaigns. These concerns were brought to the forefront when irregularities were discovered during the 2012 parliamentary elections. In particular, the elections raised concerns about vote-buying and the capacity of state institutions to effectively monitor and address such reports. Investigations into vote-buying led the Central Electoral Commission and the Constitutional Court to annul election results in several constituencies.
Political finance issues were also highlighted by the case of a major political party charged with failing to declare income and expenditure between 2004 and 2006. In July 2013, the party’s founder, an MP, was convicted and his successor as party leader was fined. The court case against the party itself was dropped after it merged with another party under a new name.

In the 2013 Eurobarometer, 17 % of respondents say there is sufficient transparency and supervision of political party financing (EU average 22 %) (2013 Special Eurobarometer 397.)

2. Please outline actions required to strengthen or improve the measures described above and any specific challenges you might be facing in this respect.

Examples of the types of challenges States parties may have faced include:
- Awareness-raising challenges with regard to ensuring that all candidates for public office and political parties are aware of their obligations under relevant rules and regulations or;
- Financial and technical capacity challenges with regard to the ability of agencies responsible for the enforcement of party political funding regulations to effectively monitor compliance.

Strict enforcement is still needed to detect shadow financing and donations through third persons, and to ensure compliance with deadlines for publication of donor lists.

More measures should be taken to ensure that political parties provide timely and adequate information on their sources of funding, strengthening of the monitoring of party expenditure and income, including membership fees, and assessing the monitoring capacity of the Central Electoral Commission (CEC).

4. Do you require technical assistance in relation to the measures described above? If so, please specify the forms of technical assistance that would be required.

No technical assistance needed