

THEMATIC COMPILATION OF RELEVANT INFORMATION SUBMITTED BY EUROPEAN UNION

ARTICLE 6

PREVENTIVE ANTI-CORRUPTION BODIES

EUROPEAN UNION (FOURTEENTH MEETING)

Point C The interlinkages between preventive and law enforcement approaches.

We recognise that a sharp distinction between preventive and repression of corruption cannot be made. The European Commission regularly organises experience sharing workshops, where we bring together national anti-corruption contact points for quarterly meetings on subjects falling within both categories. We also note that bringing authorities together that are normally focused on either the prevention or repression of corruption has beneficial effects. Lessons learned from either the preventive or the law enforcement approach to corruption inform efforts in the other. The Commission will also present a Communication on anti-corruption which will address corruption in a comprehensive manner, combining preventive and repressive aspects.

We conducted a questionnaire among our Member States to assess whether they have specialised bodies that deal with the prevention and/or repression of corruption. Some of the results will likely be published in the EU Justice Scoreboard 2023 (planned adoption May) and show that in many MS so-called preventive bodies also have repressive powers including investigatory powers; sanctioning powers; a role in the judicial process, etc. In essence, many national authorities already take into account synergies between “prevention” and “repression.”

We strongly support interlinking anti-corruption and fight against organised crime activities, including those carried out in the framework of EMPACT (European Multidisciplinary Platform Against Criminal

Threats). The current [SOCTA](#) (Serious and Organised Crime Threat Assessment) includes corruption elements (in particular: *Almost 60% of the criminal groups reported for the SOCTA 2021 engage in corruption*). Corruption remains a key area to target for two EMPACT priorities: criminal finances and high-risk criminal networks (HRCN). This EU Member States driven instrument meant to identify, prioritise and address threats posed by organised and serious international crime involved various actors, including the relevant Member States, EU institutions and agencies, associating non-EU countries, international organizations and other (public and private) partners.

The Commission has finalised the selection of projects under the 2022 call for proposals on the fight against corruption (ISF-2022-TF1-AG-CORRUPT) with 2.045.000 EUR in this intervention area. Three interesting and extremely promising projects are going to kick-off in early spring (they are currently being contracted).