



European Union

**EU Statement on Agenda item 2:
Performance of the Mechanism for the Review of Implementation of the UNCAC**

Implementation Review Group (IRG)

United Nations Convention against Corruption (UNCAC)

Vienna, 13 June 2022

Mr President,

1. I have the honour to speak on behalf of the European Union and its Member States.
2. Under the Implementation Review Mechanism of the Convention, Ukraine was scheduled to be reviewed on its implementation of Chapters II and V in Year 4 of the Second Cycle. One of the reviewing countries, Latvia, is a Member State of the EU. Obviously, that review is not moving forward – and we all know why: Because Russia started an unprovoked and unjustified war of aggression against Ukraine. This consequence may pale in comparison to the unspeakable suffering in Ukraine and to the global food crisis that Russia has caused, but it shows that this unprecedented military attack has terrible consequences everywhere.
3. In our fight against corruption, the past year has been an eventful year for the United Nations and UNODC, but also for the European Union.
4. Last year, before the UN General Assembly Special Session (UNGASS) on corruption in June, the European Union announced that it would start its review under the **implementation review mechanism**. For the EU as a supranational organisation, this is a collective exercise, which involves all relevant institutions, bodies and offices of the European Union. As the first step of the implementation review, the European Commission is currently working on the draft of the self-assessment, in close collaboration with the other EU institutions, offices and bodies, and aims to submit this document shortly after the summer to the peer-reviewers. We are grateful to the Czech Republic and Niue, who will act as reviewers for the EU, and we are looking forward to cooperating in a collaborative and fruitful manner.
5. The European Commission and UNODC will also continue to work with UNODC on the preparation of a **dialogue on anti-corruption**. This is an initiative stemming from the last EU-UNODC Senior Officials Meeting in February and builds on the experience of similar dialogues on Africa and Latin America, following the

publication of UNODC's respective regional strategic visions. We are looking forward to exchanging views and discussing challenges and best practices, including in the area of corruption and crime in sports.

6. In June last year, the European Union celebrated the start of operations of the European Public Prosecutor's Office (**EPPO**). For the first time ever, a supranational organisation has established a supranational prosecution office. This is a great achievement also in the fight against corruption, which is one of the offences for which the EPPO has jurisdiction. In its first year of operations, the EPPO already started investigating 40 corruption cases, joined the Camden Asset Recovery Inter-agency Network (CARIN) as an observer, and engaged in first discussions with the Working Group on Bribery in International Business Transactions of the OECD (WGB), and with other institutions, like the Financial Action Task Force (FATF). From the corruption cases under investigation so far, we can already note some common typologies. These include:
 - Bribery of project officials in exchange for either awarding EU funds to specific companies, or for approving ineligible and inflated additional costs in the execution of projects; and
 - High-level public officials in charge of managing the anti-fraud division within an agency managing EU funds in the field of agriculture requesting and receiving bribes for failure to fulfil duties.

Mr President,

7. We cannot effectively fight corruption without the support of **civil society**. We have stated this many times before and we will keep repeating it. Unfortunately, we see recurrent attempts to block certain relevant and well-renowned non-governmental organisations from participating in the work of the Conference on the basis of unfounded allegations. The last Conference in Sharm el-Sheikh has tasked us to take a decision on the eight NGOs that were objected to by one member State [Turkey]. Therefore, we are looking forward to the informal consultations on that matter that have been scheduled for the end of the month. However, if these consultations prove unfruitful, we will need to bring this up for a decision of the Conference, in line with Rule 17(2) of the Rules of Procedure of the Conference.

Thank you, Mr President.