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To UN Convention against Corruption/VIENNA/UNO@UNOV
cc
bcc
Subject reply of Latvia to CU 2011/45 (A)

History:  This message has been forwarded.

To the Secretary of the Conference of the States Parties to the United Nations Convention against

Corruption, Corruption and Economic Crime Branch, United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime

Dear colleagues,

allow me to forward the input on the two items of interest to the Working Group's meeting on August 22-24, 2011, received from the Corruption Prevention and Combating Bureau (KNAB) upon your request CU 2011/45 (A), dated 18 march 2011:

a) **Awareness-raising policies and practices**

Apart from its two core activities– prevention and investigation – KNAB also is responsible for the education and information of the society. It is an increasingly important part of Bureau work. KNAB is responsible for education of the public in the areas of respect of law and ethics. KNAB is also in charge of informing the public on trends in corruption and cases of corruption detected, as well as overall steps taken to prevent corruption and enforcement of law. This information is published and updated on the web site of KNAB at www.knab.gov.lv.

First anti-corruption social campaign was launched by KNAB in 2007 with the aim to improve the public awareness of risks and negative consequences of corruption and promote intolerance towards different forms of corruption.

The advertising campaign embraced video spot with the slogan "Corruption is the Prostitution of the Entrusted Power" commissioned by KNAB and developed by the advertising agency "McCann-Erickson Riga" and other elements of the advertising campaign, including the website www.pretkorupcija.lv. The aim of the video spot, which was broadcasted on TV, was to highlight the essence of corruption: buying and selling of the power entrusted to public officials for private gain. Overall purpose of the campaign was to promote public opinion on corruption as an immoral action and to draw society's attention to the destructive effect of corruption.

Since then other methods of reaching the audience have been used: regular training seminars for public officials, in 2008 and 2010 KNAB organised open doors day. Three times drawing competition among school children was organised.

In 2010 KNAB carried out comprehensive corruption risk assessment in law enforcement institutions and provided recommendations to prevent identified risks.

b) **The public sector and prevention of corruption: codes of conduct and public reporting**

Each institution of public administration and local government in Latvia has code of ethics. KNAB has also developed code of ethics of the Government which has to be adopted.

Latest developments in the area of public reporting was adoption of provision stipulating that information concerning communication with lobbyists has to be provided on the web site of the institution concerned.

It must be noted that in Latvia all public administration institutions have to publish annual budget and paid remuneration of employees. In addition to that Latvia has annual reporting system. Information concerning the agenda of the Government and the Parliament of Latvia is available on web sites of both institutions.

Sincerely,

Raimonds Oskalns

Deputy Head of Mission

Permanent Mission of Latvia to the UN, OSCE and other International Organisations in Vienna