

**United Nations Convention against Corruption**  
**Initiatives and Practices in the area of prevention of corruption**

The Republic of Cyprus recognizes that corruption has been increasingly understood as one of the greatest challenges of the contemporary world and as a major obstacle to economic and social development. Indeed, corruption undermines good government, fundamentally distorts public policy, leads to the misallocation of resources, harms the private sector and private sector development.

As all Member States of the European Union, Cyprus supports and participates in the comprehensive E.U. anti-corruption policy and has thus signed and incorporated into national law, via ratification and introduction of implementing provisions, the following legal instruments:

- United Nations Convention against Corruption (Ratification Law 25(III)/2008).
  
- Convention on the fight against corruption involving officials of the European Communities or officials of Member States of the European Union (Ratification Law 2(III) of 2004). The Convention applies essentially on bribery (active and passive) and similar offences.
  
- Convention on the protection of the European Communities Financial Interests and its additional Protocols (Protocol of 27/9/1996, 29/11/1996 and 19/7/1997) (Ratification Law 37(III)/2003). This Convention addresses forms of malfeasance, which are harmful to the E.U's financial interests.
  
- Council of Europe Criminal Law Convention on Corruption (Ratification Law 23(III)/2000) and its additional Protocol with Ratification Law 22(III)/2006
  
- Civil Law Convention on Corruption (Ratification Law 7(III)/2004).

Apart from the international legal instruments against corruption, it must be noted that Cyprus has a comprehensive legal framework against corruption. As noted above, Cyprus has ratified the Council of Europe Criminal Law Convention on Corruption with the Law 23(III)/2000 and embodied all offences provided therein to domestic legal order. The Penal Code includes several offences of official corruption, such as active and passive bribery of public officials, extortion by public officers, abuse of office, or neglect of official duty. Regarding the corruption of police officers, apart from criminal liability pursuant to the Criminal Code or other relevant Conventions, corrupt practice in the performance of police duties establishes a disciplinary offence under the Police (Discipline) Regulations 1989 as amended.

In 2006, the Independent Authority for the Investigation of Allegations and Complaints was established under the Law 9(I)/2006, in an attempt to improve and further increase the monitoring and investigative environment towards the Police through a competent body completely independent of the Police. The

Authority investigates allegations and complaints regarding actions of members of the Police either upon an allegation or complaint or on its own accord.

It is noted that since 2010, a specific course titled “Police Ethics and Prevention of Corruption” has been incorporated in the basic training program and in Sergeants’ and Inspectors’ training programs, as well as other specialized programs. Also, Cyprus Police provide seminars on corruption to police officers dealing with financial crime investigations and to the members of the Unit for Combating Money Laundering (MOKAS), with whom Police has a close cooperation. Police officers attend several seminars organized by relevant International Organizations (OLAF, e.t.c), by Member States of the European Union and by third countries.

As regards the inspection of the assets in possession of officials of the Government, two legislative instruments have been enacted, the first regarding the President, Ministers and Members of the Parliament of the Republic (Law 49(I)/2004) and the second regarding other Officials of the Government (Law 50(I)/2004). These laws provide for the establishment of a Council responsible for the implementation of the legislation and imposes certain obligations for the persons previously mentioned to make a declaration of their assets upon appointment.

Moreover, Cyprus as a member of the Council of Europe participates in the Multidisciplinary Group on Corruption. In August 1998, Cyprus informed the Secretary General of the Council of Europe of its intention to join the “Group of States Against Corruption – GRECO”, a Council of Europe Committee, which monitors the application of the “Guiding Principles Against Corruption”, as well as the implementation of international instruments to be adopted pursuant to the “Programme of Action Against Corruption” of the above-mentioned group. Cyprus has been participating in GRECO since 1999 and it is one of its founding members.