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## **Collection of information prior to the thirteenth meeting of the Working Group**

With respect to the request for information regarding the topics

- (a) Promoting the use of information and communications technologies for the implementation of the Convention; and
- (b) Challenges to and good practices in anti-corruption awareness-raising, education, training and research

the Austrian Federal Bureau of Anti-Corruption (BAK), which forms part of the Federal Ministry of the Interior (Moi), would like to highlight the following initiatives:

### **Awareness raising programmes aimed at young people**

The Austrian Federal Bureau of Anti-Corruption (BAK) has in the past launched several initiatives specifically targeting young people and aimed at strengthening their skills to perceive and identify corruption and heighten awareness about the dangers of this criminal phenomenon. The idea is to prevent possible misconduct early on and promote integrity in the long term.

- **App „CORRECT OR CORRUPT?“**

The app „CORRECT OR CORRUPT?“ was developed by the BAK in cooperation with students of HTL (secondary technical school) in Mistelbach (Lower Austria) in 2018 in order to give teenagers and young adults the opportunity to acquire knowledge about corruption in a targeted and playful way. The app features twelve character levels to be explored and completed one after the other in a fun and playful way. Each character confronts the user with 10 to 15 different situations, with three possible solutions each, one of which the player will choose. The app puts users in everyday dilemma situations with regard to corruption or ethically correct behaviour. Once the player has decided, this choice has an impact on future decisions, which illustrates, among other things, the problem of structural corruption. Depending on decisions made, the app user wins a certain amount of points. Upon successful

completion of one character, the player unlocks the next level. The following hierarchy of characters (levels) is available: high school student – university student – insurance agent – teacher – athlete – car mechanic – bar owner – police officer – civil servant at a municipal authority – doctor – bank clerk – politician. In order to promote „CORRECT OR CORRUPT?“ in the best possible way among the target group, an animated promotion video (duration: approx. 45 seconds) was produced and shared via social media channels. In addition, in 2018, the BAK, together with the Ministry of the Interior, organized a competition related to the app. Youths between 14 and 20 years of age could win a day at the Austrian Airborne Police by submitting their highest score achieved in the game to the BAK. From numerous entries, two participants emerged as winners of the competition. They spent a day at the Airborne Police in the spring 2019 and were congratulated by Ms Karoline Edtstadler, then State Secretary at the Austrian Federal Ministry of the Interior.

- **Anti-corruption events for students**

The BAK offers various nationwide anti-corruption activities for students at upper secondary level in order to spread and strengthen the knowledge on corruption, raise awareness and point out possible ways to prevent this criminal phenomenon. In addition to enhancing cognitive and behaviour-oriented skills, the aim is to raise awareness, prevent any misconduct and promote integrity in action. In context of the COVID pandemic these activities had to be suspended however hopes are high that the work with students can soon continue as before. Workshops for students were held at the BAK's premises and included among other things an exchange with a BAK investigator who gave insights into his daily work and talked about exciting cases. A visit to an interrogation room illustrated the investigators' tasks.

Furthermore, the BAK offered anti-corruption events on school premises. During these events students learned about corruption along eight different stations. At one station, for example, they are asked to classify pictures on a „Corruption Scale“ from „Corruption“ to „No Corruption“. At the „Corruption Theatre“ students can put their acting skills to the test. They learn about corruption offences relevant to criminal law, take on leadership responsibility, slip into the profession of corruption investigator and are taught about different manifestations of corruption. In a role play, the participants are directly confronted with the effects of corruption. At another station criminal investigators and IT forensics experts describe their tasks, powers and daily work. Together with legal experts, students are requested to classify case studies according to certain criminal offences defined by law. The station „Beyond Austria's Borders“ presents interesting facts about corruption in other countries.

The BAK's student events are part of Austria's National Anti-Corruption Strategy and contribute to the prevention of and fight against corruption.

- **“fit4compliance – Find your VALUES”, the game about values**

In 2018 the BAK developed a non-electronic game entitled „fit4compliance – Find your VALUES“. The game is about finding solutions for certain dilemma situations taken from the everyday lives of young people. For this purpose, different perspectives must be adopted, which is symbolically reinforced by wearing glasses of different colours. Altogether, there are

six characters in the game, who argue from their points of view according to certain guidelines; they come up with different solutions which do not necessarily need to stand the test of reality. This leads to lively discussions revealing a wide variety of possible perspectives. In addition to the creative argumentation of proposed solutions for dilemma situations, another focus of the game is to think about and discuss values. After a period of discussion, the players must select, as quickly as possible, five values (such as honesty, helpfulness and solidarity) from a list, which they deem appropriate for the dilemma situation in question. The player who has first marked five values rings the table bell; the other players must stop marking immediately. Then, they discuss the marked values and the reasons for their choices. The game „fit4compliance – Find your VALUES“ was produced by the game publisher „White Castle“ and is now available at the BAK.

A special police edition was developed for police trainees. The dilemma situations for this edition originate from police practice and were designed by police students of the training centre of the Federal Police Academy (SIAK) in Absam, Austria.

### ***E-Learning tools***

Over the years the BAK participated in the development of various e-learning tools aimed at raising awareness and initiating (new) civil service staff to the topic of corruption prevention, integrity and compliance.

- **E-learning module “Code of Conduct, MoI” as part of “Our Values. Our Approach. Code of Conduct of the Austrian Federal Ministry of the Interior (MoI)”**

The Code of Conduct (CoC) is the main behavioural guideline for the staff of the Federal Ministry of the Interior. It includes, among other things, the three core values guiding the actions of the ministry’s staff: rule of law, loyalty and quality. The CoC deals with general obligations of conduct, lawful performance of duties, official secrecy, partiality, acceptance of gifts and other benefits, secondary employment, and correct action in case of misconduct. The e-learning module “Code of Conduct of the Austrian Federal Ministry of the Interior: ‘OUR VALUES. OUR APPROACH.’” was launched in July 2018. Together with the already existing written learning material “Code of Conduct of the Austrian Federal Ministry of the Interior“ and the compact “Code of Conduct to go“ brochure, this module completes the ministry’s task of raising awareness among its staff. This electronic learning programme deals with the themes of the CoC in more detail. A targeted combination of theoretical content and case examples enables users to quickly grasp or refresh the CoC teaching content. This e-learning module is a fixed part of the course elements the BAK provides for basic and advanced training courses for all staff grades.

- **E-learning module “Code of Conduct of the Civil Service: The RESPONSibility rests with me – a question of ethics“**

In 2020, the new “Code of Conduct to Prevent Corruption in the Civil Service” was adopted. This code supports civil service employees and senior officials in preventing corruption. It explains regulations of both penal law and civil service law that apply across departments and regional public entities, but does not itself create new standards. In particular, it provides members of the civil service with instructions, illustrative examples and checklists on how to deal with bribery attempts, gifts and invitations. In addition, the code gives practical information on, among other things, the cases in which secondary employment and work for associations must be reported and describes data protection and confidentiality obligations. In this way, all employees and senior officials will contribute to a corruption-free, well-functioning civil service in Austria. This code of conduct helps members of the civil service to align their personal ethical principles with those of corruption prevention. To complement the “Code of Conduct to Prevent Corruption in the Civil Service,” an e-learning tool was developed. The aim of this training is to enable members of the civil service to engage in an interactive and flexible approach to corruption prevention, compliance and integrity. The Federal Academy of Public Administration makes e-learning tools available across departments and regional public entities. In addition, there is the possibility to take a knowledge quiz and thus check one’s own knowledge. At the end of December 2020, the new e-learning module on the “Code of Conduct to Prevent Corruption in the Civil Service” was added to the e-campus of the Federal Ministry of the Interior and thus made available to the ministry’s staff. This module familiarizes employees with the importance of a code of conduct for their work in the civil service. Together with the code of conduct specially adapted to the Ministry of the Interior, the e-learning module forms the cornerstone of the BAK’s awareness-raising efforts in the area of corruption prevention. E-learning modules have been designed for two reasons: they act as a sound basis for the BAK’s and the ministry’s training measures in the area of corruption prevention and as a reference tool for everyday official use.

- **E-learning module “Criminal law on corruption for police basic training”**

The e-learning module „Criminal law on corruption for police basic training“ became an integral part of police basic training in 2018. Not only does it provide effective preparation for the period of attendance at basic training, but it is also a valuable reference tool for the theoretical part of criminal law on corruption. In addition, it describes various corruption phenomena on the basis of numerous examples. By completing this specialized module, the future law enforcement officers are expected to achieve a uniform level of knowledge. Even before the period of attendance, they have to acquire a certificate confirming the completion of the obligatory e-learning preparation course.

- **E-learning module “Corruption prevention” within the project “Security Partnership – Joining Forces for Security in Austria”**

The e-learning module “Corruption prevention” within the project “Security Partnership – Joining Forces for Security in Austria” pursues the goal of providing security officers and security coordinators with the necessary ability to act correctly in compliance-specific matters

when dealing with security partners and thus of ensuring common quality criteria throughout Austria.

The module, specially tailored to the needs of this target group, starts with a film providing insight into the phenomenon of corruption. For developing the submodule “Practice-oriented case examples of maintaining contact between security officers and security partners”, practical experiences of community policing were taken into account. The submodule is composed of case examples related to key issues of compliance, such as general obligations of conduct, lawful performance of duties, and partiality.

- **E-learning module “Criminal law on corruption, BFA” as part of the cooperation agreement on compliance advisory services and awareness-raising measures for the Austrian Federal Office for Immigration and Asylum (BFA)**

This module constitutes one of the four pillars of the comprehensive concept for awareness raising measures in the BFA and was specifically developed and implemented for the BFA. For the BFA’s basic compliance training and as support for compliance officers, the BAK’s Unit 2.2 (responsible for education) prepared case examples relevant to criminal law on corruption in addition to the theoretical part on criminal law. Among the topics covered were bribery in asylum procedures, acceptance of advantages when cooperating with interpreters, and disclosure of personal data in asylum procedures.