

## **Strengthening of the role of supreme audit institutions in the prevention of and fight against corruption**

Input by the Commission for Anti-Corruption and Illegal Assets Forfeiture (CACIAF) of the Republic of Bulgaria

- Measures to increase trust in supreme audit institutions, anti-corruption bodies and state and public institutions in general;

The Commission for Anti-Corruption and Illegal Assets Forfeiture (CACIAF) implements a number of measures to increase trust in the institution by publishing on its website up-to-date information on the decisions taken by it related to conflicts of interest, forfeiture of illegally acquired property, prevention and counteraction to corruption. It also provides access to the declarations of the property and interests of the individuals holding senior public positions, as well as the results of the inspections of the declarations.

The CACIAF reports on its activity by annually submitting a report to the National Assembly, the President and the Council of Ministers. The report is also published on the Commission's website.

On the website of the CACIAF, an Internet Reception has been created, through which it is possible to electronically submit inquiries on the implementation of the Counter-Corruption and Unlawfully Acquired Assets Forfeiture Act (CCUAAFA), as well as providing summarized information on frequently asked questions.

Also, the website of the Commission maintains the functionality developed for electronic reporting of corruption or conflict of interest, on the basis of Art. 47 and Art. 48 of the CCUAAFA.

- Measures taken to strengthen national, regional and international coordination and cooperation between the bodies involved in the prevention of and fight against corruption;

In December 2021, a Cooperation Agreement was signed between the European Prosecutor's Office and the CACIAF. The Agreement aims to speed up the process of cooperation and exchange of information, within the established powers of the two institutions. In addition to criminal proceedings, interaction also takes place in the confiscation of illegally acquired property. The European Prosecutor's Office notifies the CACIAF through its Chairman of any charge raised, which, according to the CACIAF, requires the initiation of a property inspection. The bodies of the Commission can also be entrusted with actions on the imposition of garnishments and foreclosures, as well as on the management of the secured property. The two institutions have the opportunity to conduct joint trainings in order to enhance the training of prosecutors and Commission employees.

The Commission continues cooperation with international organizations and networks with which very good contacts and interaction have been established over the years: Interpol, Europol, KARIN, BAMIN, ALEFA, ARINSA, RRAG, Eurojust, Egmont Group, Regional Anti-Corruption Initiative (RAI), GRECO, GRETA, European Partners Against Corruption (EPAC), European Network of Contact Points Against Corruption (EACN), Network of Corruption Prevention Authorities - NCPA, Network for Integrity; the European Network of Integrity and Whistleblowing Authorities (NEIWA).

In December 2022, the CACIAF officially joined the International Association of Anti-Corruption Agencies (IAACA). The association was established in 2006 and plays an important role in the fight against corruption. It is an independent, supra-political, anti-corruption organization made up of institutions responsible for investigating, prosecuting and preventing corruption worldwide, with more than a hundred countries as members.

For the period 2018-2020, the CACIAF has concluded 24 memorandums and cooperation agreements with state bodies, local self-government bodies, non-governmental organizations, business representatives, as well as with international organizations.

- Measures taken to improve the exchange of information between anti-corruption bodies, supreme audit institutions and other state bodies operating in the field of combating corruption, including for advisory purposes;  
The information is listed in the above answer.
- Measures taken to promote transparency, including by publishing the findings of the two bodies - the anti-corruption bodies and the supreme audit institutions;

In order to ensure publicity and transparency in the work of the CACIAF and the decisions taken by it, the following information is promptly published and updated on the official website ([www.caciaf.bg](http://www.caciaf.bg)):

- Decisions on the coordination of draft laws prepared by the bodies of the executive power, regarding the presence of corruption risk;
- Decisions to establish a conflict of interest and effective court decisions to establish a conflict of interest;
- Decisions on court cases for confiscation of property;
- Definitions for termination of legal proceedings;
- Reports on the analysis of anti-corruption plans of primary and secondary budget managers and reports on their implementation;
- Reports on follow-up analysis of the impact of draft laws that have passed the conciliation procedure.
- News of the Commission's activities, representing public interest.

Through its website, the CACIAF gives access to the Register of persons holding senior public positions, which contains their declarations of property and interests. The register shows information regarding the submission of declarations of property and interests by the obliged persons within the statutory period or beyond it, as well as the results of the complete verification of the declared data with an indication of the cases in which the verification was concluded with a finding of non-compliance. The purpose of the Register is to ensure publicity and transparency of the property and income of persons holding senior public positions.

A systematized summary of the main judicial practice under Chapter Eight Conflict of Interest of the Civil Code and on procedural issues in court proceedings is also publicly available.

Information about the activity carried out by the CACIAF can also be obtained under the Law on Access to Public Information. Internal rules for the organization and procedure for providing access to public information are in force at the CACIAF.

- Measures taken to increase the capacity of supreme audit institutions and develop the skills of their members and employees to prevent and fight corruption, including through training, education and knowledge exchange;

In order to increase the institutional capacity, annually CACIAF approves an Annual Training Plan, which covers training for professional and service development of the employees of the Commission's administration.

- Reports prepared by supreme audit institutions, national legislative bodies or anti-corruption bodies;

Pursuant to Art. 18 of the CCUAAFA, the Commission annually submits a report on its activities to the National Assembly, the President and the Council of Ministers. It summarizes the results of the work of the Commission and its administration in the main areas of activity, reports the implementation of national priorities and commitments at the international level, and presents statistical data in a comparative plan, with analysis and comparison for a three-year period. The priorities for the next period are outlined.

The reported results in the activity of the CACIAF reflect the key developments during the respective year in relation to the prevention and counteraction of corruption, conflict of interests, the acceptance, verification and analysis of the declarations of property and interests of the persons under Art. 6 of the law, confiscation and management of illegally acquired property. At the same time, the report also provides information regarding the financial, economic and administrative activities of the Commission, the meetings held and the decisions adopted, the international cooperation and partnership interactions of the CACIAF.

In addition, the report contains information about the initiatives taken by the CACIAF to strengthen the capacity of the institution, increase transparency and accountability in work, confirm the principles of electronic management, increase the integrity of employees and strengthen interaction and cooperation between institutions.

- Internal policies, practices or requirements for periodic assessment of legal instruments and administrative measures with a view to determining their adequacy to prevent and fight corruption;

The CACIAF approves every bill prepared by the bodies of the executive power regarding the presence of corruption risk and, in case of identified deficiencies in the legal norms, makes proposals for anti-corruption measures.

- Structures or institutions responsible for evaluating relevant legal instruments and administrative measures with a view to determining their adequacy for preventing and fighting corruption;
- Processes for periodic assessment of relevant legal instruments and administrative measures with a view to determining their adequacy to prevent and fight corruption;

Completion of an annual report containing a follow-up analysis of the impact of bills that have passed the conciliation procedure, in which the effect of the anti-corruption measures taken by the CACIAF is analyzed. Requirements regarding the frequency of these assessments.