



BENCHMARKING CORRUPTION IN THE EUROPEAN UNION BULGARIAN EXPERIENCE

*Round Table Discussion
March 22, 2007
Wappensaal, Rotes Rathaus, Berlin*

BACKGROUND

Matters of justice and home affairs, and in particular corruption, have been among the key challenges during the last wave of EU enlargement. Significant efforts have been invested by member states, the European Commission and Bulgaria in meeting these challenges. Efforts have borne results not least among which is an increased body of knowledge about tackling corruption in a transition environment. The European Commission's policy itself has been changing. While earlier priority had been given to input indicators (regulations, procedures, etc) focus now has shifted to output indicators (actual impact). Member states have also contributed to understanding corruption and recommending action through the mechanism of peer reviews.

Still, identifying anti-corruption progress remains largely arbitrary. Corruption – and this is true not just within the EU but worldwide - remains a fluid concept, signifying different things to different people. More importantly, it is an evolving concept. Understanding corruption and obtaining reliable information about its dynamics are crucial to the implementation of successful prevention and control policies.

Monitoring of the EU of Bulgaria's anti-corruption progress has not only encouraged reform policies but has motivated the perfection of domestic measurement instruments. These instruments have been developed by Bulgarian NGOs and applied for over eight years now. Thus, the Bulgarian experience has brought policy institutions and researchers a step closer to the development of a methodology of benchmarking corruption which could be the foundation of a future EU anti-corruption policy.

PURPOSE

Against this background, the round table aims to encourage an EU wide debate on an agreed methodology for benchmarking corruption by taking stock of the experience of Bulgaria's accession. The discussion is intended to contribute to a better understanding of the role of corruption monitoring thus further informing the evolving EU anti-corruption policies.

The discussion will benefit from a presentation of a comprehensive set of indicators (available at <http://www.csd.bg/infocusShow.php?id=8406>), developed by a Bulgarian think tank, the Center for the Study of Democracy, and the latest results of application of one particular measurement instrument – diagnostics of private sector corruption.

ORGANISATION AND CO-SPONSORSHIP

Bulgarian Ministry of Interior
Europäischen Akademie Berlin
Bulgarian Embassy in Germany
Center for the Study of Democracy

VENUE AND CONTACT

Wappensaal, Rotes Rathaus
Der Regierende Bürgermeister von Berlin
Senatskanzlei
10871 Berlin

Bulgarian Embassy in Germany
Mr. Georgi Nenov, Attache
Tel: +49 0302086885; Mobile: +49 0176 222 99 180;
Fax: +49 030 2086885; e-mail: nenov.polizeiattache.bg@web.de

Center for the Study of Democracy
Ms. Yanita Georgieva, Executive Assistant
Tel: +359 2 971 2323; Fax: +359 2 971 2233; e-mail: yanita.georgieva@online.bg;
www.csd.bg

AGENDA

- 17:00 *Opening*
- Professor Dr. Eckart D. Stratenschulte**, Europäischen Akademie Berlin
Ambassador Meglena Plugchieva - Alexandrova, Embassy of Bulgaria in Germany
Dr. Ognian Shentov, Chairman, Center for the Study of Democracy
- Keynote addresses*
- Roumen Petkov**, Minister of Interior of Bulgaria; Chair, Commission for the Prevention and Counteraction of Corruption with the Bulgarian Council of Ministers
- Boyko Velikov**, Chairman of the Bulgarian Parliamentary Anti-Corruption Committee
- 17:20 *Corruption monitoring – the Bulgarian experience*
Boyko Todorov, Program Director, Center for the Study of Democracy
- Diagnosing business corruption – methodology and latest results from Bulgaria*
Ruslan Stefanov, Economic Program Coordinator, Center for the Study of Democracy
- 17:45 *Discussion and Q&A*
- 18:30 *Closing*