

# COUNTER-MEASURES IN THE BALKANS AGAINST ORGANISED CRIME AND CORRUPTION



**Autumn 2010**

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# COUNTER-MEASURES IN THE BALKANS AGAINST ORGANISED CRIME AND CORRUPTION

Report of the high-level roundtable

co-organised by *Friends of Europe*  
and the Ministry of Justice of the Republic of Serbia

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## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

A roundtable discussion focusing on counter-measures against organised crime and corruption in the Balkans took place in Brussels on 28 October 2010. Ministers, officials and judges from Balkan countries joined members of the European Parliament, European Union officials, crime experts and representatives of business and non-governmental organisations to discuss initiatives to combat the phenomenon and identify what more needed to be done.

Two main themes were discussed during the day. Roundtable participants first reviewed some of the main legal and institutional changes achieved in recent years to tackle the problems of organised crime and corruption in the Balkans. They subsequently picked over the need to stamp out corruption in order to create the healthy investment climate needed to promote prosperity in the region.

Participants were urged to bring original, even controversial ideas and solutions to the debate, and some did. Others, though, tended to detail achievements, without focusing clearly upon future steps to complete the transition to a more normal situation.

However, it became clear that much has been achieved. The transition from centrally-planned to liberal economies was never going to be easy. In the Western Balkans it was compounded by the break-up of the former Yugoslavia, often involving conflicts and periods of sanctions in which lawlessness thrived and corruption became rooted.

Today, the prospect of accession to the European Union has motivated politicians to collaborate closely with the EU and neighbouring states in introducing laws and institutions tailored to combating organised crime and corruption. At the same time, Western Balkan states are working closely with crime-busters from Europol, Interpol, and the EU to improve the quality of policing and collaboration in the fight against cross-border crime.

One worry is that some 200 initiatives have created a web of duplication and unnecessary complexity. Today's imperative, discussants signalled, is to streamline these initiatives and accurately measure their effectiveness before launching any further radical measures.

Another is to ensure states sign-up to and implement cross-border measures, such as the new database created by Europol to enable states to share information on organised crime. But given the large number of small states, and the fact that criminals often have multiple nationalities, a regional arrest warrant is also urgently needed.

Reactive law enforcement needs to be replaced by proactive investigation of organised crime and corruption throughout the region, discussants said.

In the past, the round-table heard, involvement of corrupt officials has been an impediment to exchanging information on organised crime and corruption. Discussants clearly recommended that prosecutors, judges and police officers involved in the combat should be well-paid to avoid them being tempted to collaborate with wrong-doers. More training for these key officials is essential, the roundtable concluded. It is also essential for the media to help develop a climate in which organised crime and corruption are not tolerated.

More efforts are needed too to ensure criminals serve appropriate sentences and are stripped of assets gained from organised crime and corruption. Better protection for witnesses in these trials is also imperative.

Too often, the roundtable heard, politicians and political parties are financed from dubious sources. One solution suggested is to focus on bringing more citizens into the tax net, and creating more cross-border collaboration among tax authorities. Combating tax evasion and avoidance might not only prove a valuable tool against organised crime and corruption, but would provide more money to fund the police and judicial system in their drive against criminal behaviour.

In sum, the roundtable concluded that many pre-conditions for a radical reduction in organised crime and corruption are in place. What is needed now is a crackdown on the black economy, and for wrong-doers to be caught, sentenced and deprived of the proceeds of their crimes, sending a clear message to civil society that the rule of law must be respected.

Only once politicians and state institutions are seen to be transparent and effective will the foreign investment that is sorely needed flow freely into the region.





# BRINGING THE FULL FORCE OF LAW AGAINST ORGANISED CRIME

During the first session of the day, discussants reviewed the emergence of organised crime and corruption in the Western Balkans during their difficult transition from centrally-planned to free market economies. That transition, accompanied by conflicts leading to the creation of new states, often led to the breakdown of the rule of law, and created new borders behind which criminals could hide.

Setting the scene, co-moderator [Tim Judah](#), Western Balkans Correspondent for *The Economist*, highlighted the ongoing Serbian trial – in absentia – of Darko Šarić, who is alleged to have acquired a €1.3bn fortune through building an international drugs dealing network.

Three over-riding themes emerged during the morning session, which sometimes recurred later in the day. First were the strenuous efforts now being made by some states in the region and by European agencies to combat organised crime and corruption. Second was the need to continue developing effective international collaboration between agencies at many levels. Finally, participants focused upon the need to ensure organised crime and corruption are seen as unacceptable, and their proceeds are confiscated.

## Efforts to combat organised crime and corruption

[Snežana Malović](#), Serbian Minister of Justice, opened the panel by saying Serbia has made suppression of organised crime and corruption a top priority, as part of its preparations to join the European Union. “Serbia is not going to be a safe haven for criminals,” she said.

The first step, she insisted, was to establish the necessary legal framework, then develop institutions able to bring wrong-doers to book. “Experience has shown it is necessary to have specialised departments,” she noted.

Because organised crime is international in character, legislation and structures in different countries need to be harmonised with EU and international standards, so that criminals can't hide behind their citizenship in different jurisdictions, she pointed out.

**“Serbia is not going to be a safe haven for criminals.”**

**Snežana Malović, Serbian Minister of Justice**



**Radomir Diklić, Serbia's Ambassador to Belgium,  
and Vladimir Vukčević, Serbian Prosecutor for  
War Crimes**

A law on Seizure and Confiscation of the Proceeds from Crime, and another on International Legal Assistance in Criminal Matters were among those put in place to enable the special prosecutor's office and court department to be more effective. And these measures are now delivering “very good results” she insisted.

**Ivan Bizjak**, Director General for Justice & Home Affairs at the Council of the European Union, stressed that a high level of security in southeast Europe and other neighbouring countries is essential to the security of the European Union. Much better national legislation has now been adopted, he pointed out, cooperation agreements put in place between police forces, and training undertaken. For example, the Stability Pact Initiative against Organised Crime (SPOC), launched in 2002, has helped cut car theft.

Nonetheless, “A lot remains to be done both at national and international level,” he argued, and the region's states need to “intensify their efforts in this field”. “Organised crime doesn't recognise any state borders”, he said. The

Police Cooperation Convention for Southeast Europe to be implemented in accordance with an adopted roadmap sometime between 2011 and 2015 has agreed important cooperation measures including modern communications, hot-pursuit rules, witness protection measures and cross-border surveillance, Ivan Bizjak detailed.

**“Organised crime doesn’t recognise any state borders.”**

Ivan Bizjak, Director General for Justice & Home Affairs at the Council of the European Union



The Southeast Europe Cooperation Initiative for combating organised crime was complemented by a new convention signed December last year which provides for the analytical role of Europol in support of law enforcement.



Elizabetha Nikoloska, Project Manager for Organized Crime in South East Europe at INTERPOL, and Drew Engel, Special Adviser for Organized Crime in the Office of the Prosecutor, Bosnia and Herzegovina



REPUBLIC OF SERBIA  
MINISTRY OF JUSTICE

The Serbian government in 2008 defined the fight against organised crime and corruption as one of the key priorities for the Republic of Serbia. At this time the Ministry of Justice and other institutions undertook various activities and measures for strengthening the measures and initiatives against organised crime and corruption. Some of the most important steps taken in that respect are the following:

- *Law on Seizure and Confiscation of the Proceeds from Crime, Law on International Legal Assistance in Criminal Matters, Law on Amendments of and Supplements to the Criminal Code*, as well as the *Law on Amendments of and Supplements to the Law on Criminal Procedure* and the *Law on Public Prosecution*. These represent just some of the key pieces of legislation that have been harmonised with international jurisprudence. Along with their adoption preconditions were met for the Prosecutors for Organised Crime to combat all criminal offences according to the United Nations Convention Against Transnational Organised Crime, and other serious crimes, as well as to directly cooperate with other prosecutors' offices in gathering and sharing evidence, depositing statements and in activities related to seizure of assets.
- The *Law on Seizure and Confiscation of the Proceeds from Crime* established a legal and institutional framework for a more efficient fight against organised crime, corruption and other serious criminal offences. At this moment, the total value of confiscated assets managed by the Directorate is of the approximate value of two hundred million euros.
- Adoption of the *National Strategy for Combating Organised Crime* – a key document for the coordination of state efforts that synchronises the existing specific strategies for combating different aspects of organised crime.
- During the last two years the Ministry of Justice and the Republic's Public Prosecutor's Office signed a number of bilateral agreements with their respective counterparts from the Western Balkans as well as countries of the European

Union. The most significant step in this direction represents the Agreement between Serbia and Croatia enabling the two countries to extradite their own citizens indicted or convicted for organised crime and corruption.

- The Anti-corruption Agency, as an independent preventive body, was established in 2009 and became fully operational as of January 1<sup>st</sup> 2010.
- Serbia continues to be active in its cooperation with all relevant international organisations in the area of anti-corruption such as the UN, Council of Europe, OECD, etc.

In the forthcoming period the Ministry of Justice of the Republic of Serbia will continue to promote measures for a more efficient fight against organised crime and corruption such as:

- Improvement of international judicial cooperation in the region of the Western Balkans, along the following principles: direct communication between judicial authorities in criminal matters at regional level; extradition of nationals together with a simplification of the procedure for extradition;
- Initiating the introduction of LURIS software at the regional level;
- Drafting and adoption of the Western Balkan Arrest Warrant;
- Implementing measures envisaged by the Stockholm Programme;
- Continuing modernisation (development of e-justice, improvement of IT infrastructure, etc.), thus enabling all institutions to effectively respond to new forms of organised crime;
- Strengthening and consolidating the judicial system and all necessary fundamental rights as safeguards.

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Panellist **László Salgó**, Assistant Director in the Operations Department of Europol, agreed that “Organised crime poses a real threat to the European Union”. The Western Balkans, he noted, is both an origin and a transit point for trafficking drugs, cigarettes and arms into the region.



“Organised crime poses a real threat to the European Union.”

László Salgó, Assistant Director in the Operations Department of Europol

Sabine Zwaenepoel, Deputy Head of Unit for the Fight Against Organised Crime of the European Commission Directorate General for Home Affairs, intervened to detail five challenges law enforcers must overcome. These were barrier-free borders, frequent double-nationality enjoyed by criminals, tolerance among local communities that benefited from criminals’ spending, a flow of opportunities, and the capital infusions needed by Balkan economies, which opened the door to money-laundering.



“We need to expand our skills and knowledge – we need training.”

Slagjana Taseva, President of Transparency International Macedonia and Member of the Academic Advisory Board of the International Anti Corruption Academy

Another panellist, **Slagjana Taseva**, President of Transparency International Macedonia and Member of the Academic Advisory Board of the International Anti Corruption Academy, said that with legislation and institutions now in place, it was above all knowledge that was lacking to carry the fight forward. “We need to expand our skills and knowledge – we need training,” she continued.

## Developing effective international collaboration between agencies at many levels

Since 2009 the EU has participated in more than 200 projects in the Western Balkans, Ivan Bizjak revealed. “There exist enough initiatives. We need to make the full use of all of them”. And states in the region must “take ownership” of projects launched and work to streamline them and remove duplication to deliver results.

Drew Engel, Special Adviser for Organized Crime in the Prosecutor's Office of Bosnia and Herzegovina, argued strongly too that existing frameworks were adequate, even though “we have lost opportunities on cross-border cooperation at times simply because the person we knew is gone and the new person doesn't know they should cooperate.” He suggested that the international community has to offer concrete and consistent support in terms of political, logistical, monetary and cross-border assistance, and that institutions and individuals have to know to help each other out across borders.

There is a need for better training for police and prosecutors, he agreed. But above all: “We just need to roll up our sleeves and do the hard work”. He added that the Balkans generally don't need more legislation, they need more implementation. Relative to punishment and sentencing of wrongdoers, he opined that it has to be swift, certain, and severe, favouring long prison terms and divestment of illegal gains, otherwise there will be no deterrent effect of engaging in criminal acts.

Others insisted on the importance of more training, but also of deeper collaboration. László Salgó highlighted the ability of Europol to assist Western Balkan countries to meet international policing standards, and said Europol has a master-plan to help bring together existing projects and programmes to “maximise synergies”.

In January, he pointed out, Europol set up a new unit dealing with crime originating in the Western Balkans and set up a huge data-base and a computer programme for running ongoing investigations in the region, enabling states that sign-up to share information.

Cooperation is important at all levels, according to discussant Michèle Coninx, Vice-President of The European Union's Judicial Cooperation Unit (EUROJUST).

She was aware of 131 cases where there are links between the EU and Western Balkans, including crimes against property, fraud, swindling, and drug trafficking. Managing judicial cooperation more effectively, for example with Serbia and Bosnia and Herzegovina, is delivering benefits, she insisted.

Serbia has also achieved results from “amazing cooperation” with Croatia, pointed out discussant Elizabeta Nikoloska, Project Manager for Organized Crime in South East Europe at the International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL). In 2009 the two countries seized more than a tonne of drugs, up from 4kg the previous year, she said.

Miljko Radisavljević, Serbian Prosecutor for Organized Crime, declared that Serbia is tackling criminal gangs regardless of whether or not they are operating from its territory or abroad and that for Serbia, “international cooperation is an absolute priority”.



Tanja Fajon MEP, Vice-Chairwoman of the European Parliament Delegation to the EU-Croatia Joint Parliamentary Committee



## Ensuring crime and corruption is unacceptable, and doesn't pay

In her opening remarks Snežana Malović, Serbian Minister of Justice, had stressed that “the aim is to establish a system of values with zero tolerance for crime which is the only way to establish the rule of law and democratic societies”.

“The most important thing in fighting organised crime and corruption is money.”



Marin Mrčela, Vice President of the Council of Europe's Group of States Against Corruption (GRECO) and Justice at the Criminal Department of the Croatian Supreme Court

As the discussion progressed, [Marin Mrčela](#), Vice President of the Council of Europe's Group of States Against Corruption (GRECO) and Justice at the Criminal Department of the Croatian Supreme Court, developed the point, arguing that: “The most important thing in fighting organised crime and corruption is money. If you want to fight organised crime you have to find enough people, educate them and give them decent salaries as well as other appropriate resources. Otherwise there is no fight”.

He also stressed the importance of “finding a balance between law enforcement and human rights”, because respect for human rights was crucial to the legitimacy of the justice system.

Sabine Zwaenepoel insisted that whilst effective sentences were necessary, it is also imperative to confiscate the assets of those convicted of organised crime, because “many criminals are willing to spend a couple of years in prison”.

Isabelle Arnal, Head of SPRK, EULEX Prosecutor at the European Union Rule of Law Mission in Kosovo, noted the need to use criminal intelligence in criminal proceedings, and also to protect the witnesses.

Another discussant, Thierry Gillis, Deputy Inspector General at Belgium’s Inspectorate of the Federal and Local Police (AIG) agreed that there should be no benefits from crime. But he called for more thought about prevention. “If you don’t have millions of European who say no to corruption in their daily life we will achieve nothing.” He warned too, of the need to ensure policemen were sufficiently well-paid that they would reject bribes.



Mitja Mocnik, Slovenian Minister Plenipotentiary of Foreign Affairs, Salvatore Siena, Head of Italian European Police College (CEPOL) Unit, and Roksanda Nincic, Ambassador of Serbia to the EU.

Co-moderator [Giles Merritt](#), Secretary General of *Friends of Europe*, asked Minister Malović whether Serbia paid its police officers enough. She answered that since 2003 Serbian judges and prosecutors dealing with cases of organised crime have doubled salaries, but that doesn't yet apply to police officers.

However, Serbia is making asset seizures a key plank in its drive against organised crime and corruption. She stated that to date, Serbia has seized more than €200m of ill-gotten gains, including cars, companies, hotels and other real estate.

Zoran Thaler MEP, Member of the European Parliament Committee on Foreign Affairs, remarked that too often “the source of corruption and organised crime is in politics”. There is, he asserted, a “culture of cronyism, a grabbing mentality” in which a local mayor who didn't profit materially was regarded as stupid.

So it was critical to change public awareness, he said, and civil society, the media and the EU all had valuable roles in achieving that change in behavioural expectations. Sonja Licht, President of the Council of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and President of the Belgrade Fund for Political Excellence (BFPE), agreed that the media had a vital role to play, but said that too often it was controlled by criminals. So her organisation focused on ethical education for young politicians.

Drew Engel insisted though that citizens perfectly understand the evils of organised crime and corruption, but were scared to help. “The get it,” he asserted. “They are interested to help. But they aren't going to do anything about it until some really bad guys go away for a long time.”







Thierry Gillis, Deputy Inspector General of the Belgian Federal and Local Police (AIG)

## A HEALTHY INVESTMENT CLIMATE MEANS STAMPING OUT CORRUPTION

The second session of the day sharpened the focus on corruption. As states in the Western Balkans seek to develop their economies and close the gap with those of the European Union to facilitate accession, corruption is clearly a barrier to open markets and prosperity.

Co-moderator Giles Merritt reminded the roundtable of the astonishing progress achieved in the region. "It is only 15 years ago that people in the Balkans were actually shooting and killing each other," he noted. Yet to 'join the club', these countries need to attract the investment to modernise their infrastructure and economies, and corruption was scaring off many investors.



Luis Cortes, Assistant Director of the Criminal Intelligence Analyzes Sub-Directorate in the Specialized Crime and Analyzes Directorate of the International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL)

Participants first reviewed the problem and proactive efforts by states and companies to tackle it. They then debated the consequences of corruption, and the way it is perceived. In the final part of the session they discussed the importance of monitoring, both to measure and publicise progress in the fight against corruption.

## The problem of corruption - and moves to tackle it by governments and companies

[Zorana Marković](#), Director of Serbia's Anti-Corruption Agency, opened the afternoon session by setting out the need to diminish corruption through prevention and education. Only if corruption is curtailed, she argued, can people benefit from a democratic society. "Our goal is to raise the confidence of society in democratic institutions."



**"The goal of the Anti-Corruption Agency of the Republic of Serbia is to raise the confidence of society in democratic institutions."**

[Zorana Marković](#),  
Director of Serbia's Anti-Corruption Agency

This point was driven home by [Monica Macovei MEP](#), Member of the European Parliament Committee on Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs and Former Romanian Justice Minister, who said EU accession talks provided the opportunity for accelerated and essential reforms to stamp out bad practices.

"We cannot build anything if society has widespread corruption," she declared. "Corruption brings poverty, corruption distorts the market and competition, and corruption increases the prices of goods and services."

Monica Macovei noted that: "The highest risk of corruption is related to public procurement because a lot of money is involved, and the transition from a state-owned to a market economy means that a lot of assets moved from state to private hands".



Zorana Marković detailed how this was being tackled by Serbia's Anti-Corruption Agency, which began work in January with a mandate to stamp out corrupt practices among officials in both national and local government.

**“The highest risk of corruption is related to public procurement.”**

Monica Macovei MEP, Member of the European Parliament Committee on Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs and Former Romanian Justice Minister



All public officials must now declare their assets and any potential conflicts of interest, she reported. These are checked by the Agency, which has powers to

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investigate officials and track money flows through their accounts. Penalties for non-disclosure now reach five years in prison, and compliance has soared from 50% to 95%.

**Dragan Marković**, Serbian Interior Secretary of State, said such initiatives were essential because in Serbia corruption was the biggest category of economic crime, accounting for 40% of the total. Thanks to the government clamp-down, there had been a 44% increase in detected offences, and mounting arrests for bribery and forging official documents.

**“In Serbia, corruption is the most important form of economic crime.”**

Dragan Marković, Serbian Interior Secretary of State



**Stefano Sannino**, European Commission Deputy Director General for Enlargement

Abuses had been detected in public procurement in both the healthcare and education sectors, he revealed. Illegal leasing of city land, illegal licensing for construction and embezzlement had also been uncovered.

**François Vincke**, Chairman of the Anti-Corruption Commission of the International Chamber of Commerce (ICC), then turned attention to pro-active moves by the private sector to prevent corruption. “We recognise that we have a role in anti-corruption efforts,” he stressed. “For us in the business world corruption appears as a real danger for investment, a danger for competition, a danger for the companies.”

Companies can help stamp out corruption by refusing to pay bribes, including to other private entities, and by ensuring their officers comply with best practice throughout the firm.

“For us in the business world corruption appears as a real danger for investment, a danger for competition, a danger for the companies.”



François Vincke, Chairman of the Anti-Corruption Commission of the International Chamber of Commerce (ICC)

“Corporate governance must induce corporate anti-corruption and boards of companies must instigate anti-corruption measures,” he urged. “That means training, but also imposing disciplinary sanctions whenever there is an instance of corruption.”

In the Balkans, where companies are mainly small or medium enterprises, the ICC is working closely with local chambers of commerce. In one promising sign, the Serbian chamber is rallying local companies to a ‘global’ anti-corruption compact. “Local companies want to participate,” François Vincke noted.

## The consequences of corruption – and how it is perceived

**Robert Manchin**, Chairman and Managing Director of Gallup Europe, set the scene for a discussion about perceptions of corruption by detailing survey comparisons with European countries. Institutions need public trust to work effectively, he argued, but people in both the Balkans and across the EU often distrust political parties. “You can’t do much if you don’t have the full support

of the people,” he said. In fact, public confidence in politicians and public institutions tends to be highest in northern Europe, and decline further south. In most countries of the Western Balkans, only around one-third of respondents expressed some confidence in their national government.

**“You can’t do much if you don’t have the full support of the people.”**

Robert Manchin, Chairman and Managing Director of Gallup Europe

Gallup’s Balkan Monitor<sup>1</sup> also found 40% of respondents in Albania claimed to have needed to bribe officials in the past 12 months. But for Serbia the proportion was only 11%, compared with 7% for EU member Italy. For corruption, “Serbia is pretty much in line with neighbouring EU countries,” he noted.



Monica Macovei MEP observed that in the Balkans, confidence in politicians is undermined because sometimes they adopt laws designed to benefit special interest groups, rather than the wider community.

Meantime confidence in judicial systems is also undermined by corruption. Yet public confidence could be improved if judgements were published immediately and the cases were allocated randomly, she argued.

Giles Merritt asked whether the region had the rule-books it needed, and called for confrontational ideas.

Discussant Branislav Bugarski, Chief Executive Officer of Vojvodina Investment Promotion Fund, responded by rejecting the idea that corruption is blocking foreign investment. Rather, he said, potential investors are discouraged by political instability.

That said, he urged a much bigger role for tax authorities in the fight against corruption. "Al Capone was not sent to prison for a crime, but for not paying tax," he reminded the roundtable. "Perhaps the solution is a regional tax authority insulated from political influence. If we can bring people into the tax net we can pay higher salaries to policeman and doctors, and they will be less likely to get bribed or be corrupted."

Mitja Mocnik, Minister Plenipotentiary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Slovenia, highlighted perceptions that politicians or state-connected bodies were often involved in illicit practices.

"The most sensitive cases in the last 4-5 years were in financial fraud and money laundering," he remarked. "Countries didn't want to exchange information because other organisations in their countries were involved in this."

Corruption isn't only about money, Mitja Mocnik pointed out. The past four years have also raised concerns about "ecological" crime, and criminal behaviour in respect of countries' cultural heritage.

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1. To consult further data and reports on this subject please go to [www.balkan-monitor.eu](http://www.balkan-monitor.eu).

## Measuring and publicising progress in the fight against corruption

As the debate developed, it became clear that investor concern about corruption in the Balkans is a drag on investment, but that levels of corruption vary significantly from one country to another.

Andris Kesteris, Principal Advisor Civil Society and Inter-institutional Relations at the European Commission Directorate General for Enlargement, said Western Balkan countries have not only to clamp down on corruption, but also to convince the European Union that their actions are effective.

“It takes time to accumulate traction,” Kesteris noted. But it is important to focus on “what we can measure”. The frequency of public consultations and the openness of public officials to the media, along with the independence of the media are measurable signs of a more open, less corrupt society.



Isabelle Arnal, Head of the Kosovo Special Prosecution Office (SPRK) and EULEX Prosecutor of the European Union Rule of Law Mission in Kosovo (EULEX-Kosovo)

Marin Mrčela, Vice President of GRECO, triggered debate by arguing that levels of organised crime and corruption in southeast Europe were much lower than many claimed. “I disagree with all who think the situation is very bad,” he insisted.

A first evaluation round by GRECO of anti-corruption measures had found 87% had been fulfilled. A second evaluation round looking at steps to prevent people benefiting from corruption showed 71% fulfilment of required measures, and a third review was imminent.

François Vincke, from the International Chamber of Commerce, said that existing international and legal instruments are sufficient to pursue the battle. Monitoring of progress by GRECO, the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development and others is the most important step now to ensure action is effective.

Slagjana Taseva of Transparency International sided with the optimists. “I don’t agree there is a culture of corruption in the region,” she declared. Existing bodies are on the right path, and now it is important to monitor progress through existing mechanisms.

But Monica Macovei said that when she had been Romania’s Justice Minister “I followed all of GRECO’s recommendations, but the situation on the ground did not change. I think there is a problem with the evaluation done by GRECO, not that the situation has improved”.

Drew Engel suggested that “We are not collecting the right kinds of statistics”. To assess the effectiveness of initiatives and understand what more should be done, policy-makers and investors alike need to know both the good and the bad statistics. He also suggested that the Balkans need more than monitoring—they need monitoring with “teeth”, so that there are actual and implied consequences and punishment when wrongful behaviour is discovered.

Concluding the debate, Giles Merritt said what investors need above all is clarity – a simple coding scheme, like the EU’s Blue Flag for bathing beaches – to “tell them how safe the investment water is”.

## ANNEX I - List of Discussants

**Isabelle Arnal**, Head of the Kosovo Special Prosecution Office (SPRK) and EULEX Prosecutor, European Union Rule of Law Mission in Kosovo (EULEX-Kosovo)

**Branko Baricevic**, Ambassador, Mission of Croatia to the EU

**Ivan Bizjak**, Director General, Council of the European Union: Directorate General for Justice & Home Affairs

**Slobodan Boskovic**, Assistant Minister for EU Integration and International Projects, Ministry of Justice, Republic of Serbia

**Branislav Bugarski**, Chief Executive Officer, Vojvodina Investment Promotion Fund, Republic of Serbia

**Geert Cami**, Co-Founder & Director, *Friends of Europe, Les Amis de l'Europe*

**Bratislav Ceperkovic**, President of the Managing Board, Transnafta, Republic of Serbia

**Carla Ciavarella**, Regional Programme Coordinator for South Eastern Europe, United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) Regional Project Office for South Eastern Europe, Bulgaria

**Vincent Cillessen**, Criminal Investigations Officer, Netherlands Police Agency, National Crime Squad

**Michèle Coninx**, Vice-President, The European Union's Judicial Cooperation Unit (EUROJUST), The Netherlands

**Luis R. Cortes**, Assistant Director Criminal Intelligence Analyzes Sub-Directorate, International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL) Specialized Crime and Analyzes Directorate, France

**Thierry Cretin**, Director, Investigations and Operations I, European Anti-Fraud Office (OLAF)

**Stanislav Daskalov**, Ambassador & Deputy Head of Brussels Liaison Office, Regional Cooperation Council

**Humbert De Biolley**, Deputy Director, Council of Europe, Liaison Office to the EU

**Lutfi Dervishi**, Executive Director, Transparency International Albania

**Radomir Diklic**, Ambassador, Embassy of Serbia to Belgium

**Ovidiu Dranga**, Ambassador, Embassy of Romania to Belgium

**Drew Engel**, Special Adviser for Organized Crime, The Prosecutor's Office of Bosnia and Herzegovina

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**Tanja Fajon MEP**, Vice-Chairwoman, European Parliament: Delegation to the EU-Croatia Joint Parliamentary Committee

**Rafael Fernandez-Pita y Gonzalez**, Deputy Director General, Council of the European Union: Directorate General for Justice & Home Affairs

**Torbjørn Frøysnes**, Ambassador & Special Representative of the Secretary General, Council of Europe, Liaison Office to the EU

**Nathalie Furrer**, Director, *Friends of Europe, Les Amis de l'Europe*

**Thierry Gillis**, Deputy Inspector General, General Inspectorate of the Federal and Local Police (AIG), Belgium

**Heather Grabbe**, Executive Director, Open Society Institute (OSI) - Brussels

**Grigor Gradev**, Executive Secretary of the Pan European Regional Council, International Trade Union Confederation (ITUC)

**Andrej Groselj**, Head of Unit, Terrorism, Organised Crime, Police Cooperation, Permanent Representation of Slovenia to the EU

**Bernd Hemingway**, Regional Representative, International Organization for Migration (IOM), Regional Liaison & Coordination Office to the EU

**Nick Ilett**, Acting Director General, European Anti-Fraud Office (OLAF)

**Tim Judah**, Western Balkans Correspondent, *The Economist*

**Andris Kesteris**, Principal Advisor - Civil Society and Inter-institutional Relations, European Commission: Directorate General for Enlargement

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**Lucia Kronsteiner**, Counsellor, Coweb Delegate, Permanent Representation of Austria to the EU

**Rolf Landgren**, Senior Police Adviser, Council of the European Union: Civilian Planning and Conduct Capability (CPCC)

**Dirk Lange**, Head of Unit for Croatia, European Commission: Directorate General for Enlargement

**Sonja Licht**, President of the Council of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and President, Belgrade Fund for Political Excellence (BFPE), Republic of Serbia

**Monica Macovei MEP**, Member, European Parliament: Committee on Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs

**Snezana Malovic**, Minister, Ministry of Justice, Republic of Serbia

**Robert Manchin**, Chairman and Managing Director, Gallup Europe

**Zorana Markovic**, Director, Anti Corruption Agency, Republic of Serbia

**Dragan Markovic**, Secretary of State, Ministry of the Interior, Republic of Serbia

**Lawrence Meredith**, Head of Unit, Kosovo Issues, European Commission: Directorate General for Enlargement

**Giles Merritt**, Secretary General, *Friends of Europe, Les Amis de l'Europe*

**Nata Mesarovic**, President, Supreme Cassation Court, Republic of Serbia

**Jana Mittermaier**, Head of Brussels Liaison Office, Transparency International

**Mitja Mocnik**, Minister Plenipotentiary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Slovenia

**Silvana Mojsovska**, Associate Professor, University of Skopje, Institute of Economics, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia

**Marin Mrcela**, Vice President of the Group of States Against Corruption (GRECO) and Justice of the Supreme Court, Supreme Court of Croatia

**Miroslav Nikolic**, President, Appellate Commercial Court in Belgrade, Republic of Serbia

**Elizabeta Nikoloska**, Project Manager Organised Crime South East Europe, International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL) Specialized Crime and Analyzes Directorate, France

**Roksanda Nincic**, Ambassador, Mission of Serbia to the EU

**Liviu Popa**, General Director, Anti-Corruption General Directorate (AGD), Romania

**Sven Radke**, Senior Superintendent, Federal Criminal Police Office (BKA), Germany

**Milijko Radisavljevic**, Prosecutor, Prosecutor's Office for Organized Crime, Republic of Serbia

**Miloslav Ransdorf MEP**, Member, European Parliament: Committee on Industry, Research and Energy

**Laszlo Salgo**, Assistant Director, Operations, European Police Office (Europol), The Netherlands

**Stefano Sannino**, Deputy Director General, European Commission: Directorate General for Enlargement

**Joachim Schwanke**, Director, Ministry of Interior, Germany Department of Internal Investigation

**Salvatore Siena**, Head of Italian Cepol Unit, European Police College (CEPOL), Italy

**Cveto Stantic**, President of Western Balkans Contact Group, European Economic and Social Committee (EESC)

**Sorin Sterie**, Senior Advisor on Security, Defence, Justice and Home Affairs Policies, Regional Cooperation Council Brussels Liaison Office

**Slagjana Taseva**, President, Transparency International Macedonia

**Jovan Tegovski**, Special Envoy of the Secretary General for Relations with the Presidency of the Council of the European Union, Regional Cooperation Council, Brussels Liaison Office

**Zoran Thaler MEP**, Member,  
European Parliament: Committee on  
Foreign Affairs

**Osman Topcagic**, Ambassador,  
Mission of Bosnia and Herzegovina to  
the EU

**François Vincke**, Chairman of  
the Anti-Corruption Commission,  
International Chamber of Commerce,  
France

**Vladimir Vukcevic**, Prosecutor for  
War Crimes, Office of the War Crimes  
Prosecutor, Republic of Serbia

**René Wenk**, Deputy Director, Federal  
Bureau of Anti-Corruption (BAK),  
Austria

**Gordana Zrnic**, Director, Chamber  
of Commerce and Industry of Serbia,  
Brussels Office

**Sabine Zwaenepoel**, Deputy Head of  
Unit, Fight Against Organised Crime,  
European Commission: Directorate  
General for Home Affairs

## ANNEX II - Programme

10.30 – 11.00 Welcome and registration of participants

### SESSION I BRINGING THE FULL FORCE OF LAW AGAINST ORGANISED CRIME

11.00 – 13.00

Just as corruption is the enemy of economic and political governance, frontiers are the friends of organised crime. The lack of regional cooperation between national authorities in Balkan countries has severely hindered efforts to stamp out criminal activity, with Serbia and Croatia only recently setting an important example with their extradition pact for people wanted in connection with organised crime. Although the UN says the Balkans is not a high crime region, it warns that corruption and organised criminality that includes drug trafficking poses a major threat. The EU, meanwhile, has repeatedly warned that failure to tackle both problems could yet affect western Balkan countries' EU accession prospects, and is funding major anti-corruption drives. What further policy measures do Interpol and other cross-border agencies advocate to ensure that the rule of law will be unchallenged in a region still recovering from conflict?

Introductory remarks by:

<b>Ivan Bizjak</b>	Director General for Justice & Home Affairs at the Council of the EU
<b>Snežana Malović</b>	Serbian Minister of Justice
<b>Marin Mrčela</b>	Vice President of the Council of Europe's Group of States Against Corruption (GRECO) and Justice at the Criminal Department of the Croatian Supreme Court
<b>László Salgó</b>	Assistant Director in the Operations Department of Europol
<b>Slagjana Taseva</b>	President of Transparency International Macedonia and Member of the Academic Advisory Board of the International Anti Corruption Academy

Co-moderated by **Giles Merritt**, Secretary General of *Friends of Europe*, and **Tim Judah**, Western Balkans Correspondent for *The Economist*

13.00 – 14.00 Lunch

## SESSION II     A HEALTHY INVESTMENT CLIMATE MEANS 14.00 – 15.30     STAMPING OUT CORRUPTION

The western Balkans region is at the bottom of the foreign direct investment league in Europe, but at the top of the corruption league for bribery and corruption, with over 90% of citizens there accepting that illicit payments to people in business and government are a fact of life. Lack of investor confidence in Balkan companies is a direct consequence of widespread corruption, and is also a major factor in EU negotiators' assessments of Balkan countries' accession efforts. What regulatory norms and supervision practices can be envisaged that would put an end to the culture of corruption that is such a persistent feature in the region?

Introductory remarks by:

<b>Zorana Marković</b>	Director of Serbia's Anti-Corruption Agency
<b>Monica Macovei MEP</b>	Member of the European Parliament Committee on Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs and Former Romanian Justice Minister
<b>Robert Manchin</b>	Chairman and Managing Director of Gallup Europe
<b>François Vincke</b>	Chairman of the Anti-corruption Commission of the International Chamber of Commerce (ICC)
<b>Dragan Marković</b>	Serbian Interior Secretary of State

Co-moderated by **Giles Merritt**, Secretary General of *Friends of Europe*, and **Tim Judah**, Western Balkans Correspondent for *The Economist*

15.30                      End of roundtable

# ANNEX III - List of Observers

(For the List of Discussants see page 30)

**Sharon Abbas**, Business Development Manager, Raytheon International, Europe

**Christos Aivaliotis**, Assistant, European Commission: Directorate General for Enlargement

**Evren Akgün**, Counsellor, Mission of Turkey to the EU

**Manuela Alfe**, Scientific Officer, European Commission: Directorate General for Research

**Pedro Andreo Andreo**, Head of Sector, Evaluation, European Commission: Directorate General for Enlargement

**Milos Androvic**, Compliance Manager, Merck Sharp & Dohme (MSD), Republic of Serbia

**Marko Anzic**, IC & RA Specialist, Si.Mobil, Slovenia

**Mose Apelblat**, Senior Policy Officer, Institution Building, TAIEX, TWINNING, European Commission: Directorate General for Enlargement

**Angela Attolico**, Political Analyst, Unicredit Group, Italy

**Tomazs Banka**, Secretary of the Delegation for South East Europe, European Parliament Directorate General for External Policies

**Martin Banks**, Journalist, The Parliament Magazine, DODS EU, International Press Centre

**Lubomir Batary**, Third Secretary, Permanent Representation of the Slovak Republic to the EU

**Gerrit Bauwens**, Official Integrated Planning, Council of the European Union Crisis Management and Planning Directorate (CMPD)

**Stefania Benaglia**, Assistant, European Anti-Fraud Office (OLAF)

**Dragan Blagojevic**, Brussels Correspondent, Serbian BETA News Agency

**Wolfgang Bode**, Programme Officer, Governance and Ethics, European Commission: Directorate General for Research

**Kathrin Bolz**, Advisor, International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL), Office of the Special Representative to EU

**Adelaide Boodts**, Research Fellow, Institut français des relations internationales (IFRI)

**Mira Borrissova**, Journalist, Politika, Republic of Serbia

**Thierry Brack**, Market Specialist, Wallonia Foreign Trade and Investment Agency (AWEX)

**Eric Brassem**, Journalist, Trouw, The Netherlands

**Oleg Bredikhin**, First Secretary, Political Affairs, Mission of the Russian Federation to the EU

**Quentin Bucherer**, Assistant, Council of the European Union

**Stephen Burfitt**, Policy Liaison Officer, Council of the European Union: Civilian Planning and Conduct Capability (CPCC)

**Tamara Buschek**, Research Assistant, Notre Europe, France

**Neil Campbell**, Senior Policy Analyst, Open Society Institute (OSI) - Brussels

**Bo Caperman**, Programme Manager, European Commission: Directorate General for Enlargement

**Maria Manuela Chican**, Director of Brussels Office, Paneuropa Foundation Romania

**Cvetin Chilimanov**, Assistant, Office of the President, Republic of Macedonia

**Martina Chylkova**, Assistant, Representation of the South Moravian Region to the EU

**Philippe Claeys**, European Government Sector Advisor, PricewaterhouseCoopers

**Jasmina Colak**, Special Advisor to the Minister, Ministry of Justice, Republic of Serbia

**Jose Cueto**, Project Manager, Centralised Operations for the ACP Countries, European Commission: EuropeAid Cooperation Office (AIDCO)

**Katarina Cutuk**, Second Secretary, Mission of Croatia to the EU

**Vuk Cvijic**, Journalist, BLIC Magazine, Republic of Serbia

**Aleksandar Davidovic**, Founder, Emotion Production

**Gaspard de Bousies Borluut**, Deputy Delegate COWEB, Permanent Representation of Belgium to the EU

**Stojan de Prato**, Senior Correspondent on EU Affairs, Vecernji list

**Zoran Debeljak**, Journalist, Radio and Television Vrnjacka Banja, Republic of Serbia

**Muaz Dedajic**, First Counsellor, Mission of Bosnia and Herzegovina to the EU

**Joan Delaney**, Independent Consultant

**Alejandro Aarón Díaz León**, Assistant, Delegation of the Basque Country to the EU

**Aleksandar Djelosevic**, European Security Researcher, Republic of Serbia

**Alain Dijan**, National Expert, Council of the European Union General Secretariat

**Rüdiger Dohms**, Deputy Head of Unit, Antitrust (Other Services), European Commission: Directorate General for Competition

**Hubert Duchesneau**, Counsellor, Border Services, Mission of Canada to the EU

**Delphine Dupeux**, Policy Officer, European Historic Houses

**Andrei Enghis**, Former European Commission Official

**Lilla Etleva**, Collaborator, Adriatic Euroregion

**Stefano Failla**, Project Manager - Operation Section - Justice and Home Affairs, Delegation of the European Union to Albania

**Patsy Faynsztejn**, Manager, EU Business Development, Raytheon International, Europe

**Violeta Ferati**, Assistant, Caritas Europe, Liaison Office to the EU

**Elena Fernandez Frontan**, Assistant, European Commission: Directorate General for Enlargement

**Carlo Ferrari**, Liaison Officer, Permanent Representation of Italy to the EU

**Caspar Fithen**, Founding Director, Livingstone and Company, United Kingdom

**Una Forgie**, Assistant, European Commission: Directorate General for Enlargement

**Frédéric Gagnon**, Assistant, European Economic and Social Committee (EESC)

**Kurt Gaissert**, Advisor, Representation of Baden-Württemberg to the EU

**Dusan Gajic**, Chief Editor, South East Europe TV Exchanges (SEETV)

**Juan José García Sanchez**, Head of Sector for Enlargement - International Coordination, European Commission: Directorate General for Taxation and Customs Union

**Yoana Georgieva**, Assistant, European Commission: Directorate General for Enlargement

**Cynthia Gondi**, Assistant, Permanent Representation of Sweden to the EU

**Andrej Grebenc**, Research Programme Advisor, European Commission Research Executive Agency (REA)

**Mathieu Hoerbergs**, Principal Administrator, Tourism & International Relations, European Commission: Directorate General for Enterprise and Industry

**Carmen Raluca Ipate**, Policy Officer, International Affairs, Western Balkans, European Commission: Directorate General for Enterprise and Industry

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**Nenad Jelenic**, Journalist, Radio Television of Serbia

**Ruza Jeremic**, Journalist, Radio Television of Serbia

**Osaghiuwengie Eghoesa Jesuorobo**, Managing Director & Chief Executive, Creates, United Kingdom

**Vladimir Jokanovic**, Journalist, Politika, Republic of Serbia

**Ivana Jovanovic**, Journalist, BETA News Agency, Republic of Serbia

**Aurelien Juliard**, Administrator for Western Balkans, European Economic and Social Committee (EESC)

**Adam Juszcak**, Justice Expert, Council of the European Union: Directorate General for Justice & Home Affairs

**Janos Karpati**, Correspondent, Hungarian News Agency (MTI)

**Svetlana Katnic**, First Secretary, Mission of Montenegro to the EU

**Killian Kehoe**, Consultant, Public Affairs, Hill & Knowlton International Belgium

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**Ivana Kocova**, Assistant, Representation of the Usti Region in Brussels, Czech House

**Natasa Kocic**, Policy Officer, European Commission: Directorate General for Employment, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities

**Myrofora Kostidou**, Assistant to Michail Tremopoulos MEP, European Parliament

**Vedrana Kovacevic-Jalisi**, Associate, Electronic Money Association (EMA), United Kingdom

**Magdalena Kowalska-Hamadi**, Policy Officer, Business Continuity Management, European Commission Secretariat General

**Olsi Kristo**, First Secretary, Mission of Albania to the EU

**Sanja Laci**, Chief of Staff, Ministry of Justice, Republic of Serbia

**Christophe Lamfalussy**, Journaliste, Politique extérieure, La Libre Belgique

**Anna Lauridsen**, Operations Advisor, Development Gateway International

**Miodrag Ladic**, Inspector in the Cabinet of the Minister, Ministry of the Interior, Republic of Serbia

**Aline Lermusieaux**, Attaché Balkans, Wallonia Foreign Trade and Investment Agency (AWEX)

**Caroline Mahr**, Assistant, European Landowners' Organisation (ELO)

**Jacques Malache**, Senior Director, International Press Agency

**Anne Josephine Mannion**, Research Assistant, Mission of Japan to the EU

**Sena Maric**, Student, College of Europe

**Katrin Matthaei**, Freelance Journalist, Deutsche Welle

**Raphaël Metais**, Student, College of Europe

**Adrien Mexis**, Speechwriter for Commissioner Michel Barnier, European Commission: Directorate General for Internal Market and Services

**Irina Michalowitz**, EU Representative, Telekom Austria Group

**Alexandru Mihailescu**, Counsellor, Home Affairs, Embassy of Romania to Belgium

**Aleksandra Milosevic**, Conference Manager, EUobserver.com

**Ana Milosevic**, Delegate, Ministry of Diaspora, Republic of Serbia

**Aleksandar Musikic**, Assistant, European Parliament

**Adrian Nicolae**, Assistant, European Commission: Directorate General for Enlargement

**Nikolaj Nielsen**, Freelance Journalist

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**Gergana Noutcheva**, Assistant Professor, University of Maastricht, The Netherlands

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**Jonas Paul**, Advisor to Franziska Brantner MEP, European Parliament

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**Fabio Spadi**, Administrator, Council of the European Union General Secretariat  
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