



COUNCIL OF
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NOTE

from: General Secretariat of the Council
to: Delegations
Subject: Summary record of the meeting of the European Parliament **Special committee on organised crime, corruption and money laundering (CRIM)**, held in Brussels on 3 December 2012

The meeting was chaired by Mr TAVARES (Greens/EFA, PT). The agenda was adopted as proposed. The minutes of the meeting of 12 November 2012 were approved.

Item 4 on the agenda

Report of the CRIM delegation visit to Italy (28-31 October 2012)

Ms WEILER (S&D, DE) explained that Italy had certainly the most efficient legislation for the prevention of organized crime and a number of very efficient tools to combat this phenomena, however one had to measure this against the real life fact that organised crime was involved in important infrastructural projects. Ms MATTHIEU (EPP, FR) wondered why all the legislation and the measures taken did not seem to have had any impact, and proposed that other Member States' legislation and experiences be examined as well. Ms WEILER replied that nowadays the mafia was involved in white-collar crime, which was very difficult to uncover.

The CRIM Secretariat prepared a detailed written report.

Item 5 on the agenda

Presentation of four Thematic Papers on Corruption followed by an exchange of views

Mrs Gabriel (EPP, BG) presented her thematic paper on "**Corruption crimes in relation to public procurements**". In her paper she examined definitions of such crimes, the EU legislative framework and relevant international instruments. She recommended that public procurement should be regulated with a view to improving transparency, that oversight bodies should be reinforced, that indicators should be established and that the monitoring mechanism should be strengthened.

Mrs Weiler (S&D, DE) presented her thematic paper on "**European funds and their use by organised crime**". She stressed that EU funds fraud was investigated by OLAF but prosecuted by national authorities. She proposed that, in view of the flagrant misuse of EU funds in various Member States, efforts to create a European Public Prosecutor's Office (EPPO) should be stepped up. She highlighted the fact that there would be additional funds for the EU budget if various kinds of fraud detrimental to that budget could be stopped.

Mr Skylakakis (ALDE, EL) presented a thematic paper on "**Areas of systemic corruption in the public administration of the Member States and measures in order to counter its negative effect for the EU**". He stressed that corruption was a phenomenon which was not easy to measure and was widely overlooked in the EU, as testified by the fact that there was no specific EU system for monitoring corruption. He also stressed that there was a rather low conviction rate in the end for cases investigated by OLAF. He welcomed the initiatives proposed by the Commission and called for a much stronger European Prosecution Authority in order to break the vicious circle of systemic corruption in Member States.

Mr DE JONG (GUE/NGL, NL) presented a thematic paper on **Corruption by private companies disturbing the level playing field in the internal market**. He spoke about the poor track record in implementing the OECD conventions and other anti-corruption instruments and recommended that the Commission should adopt detailed guidelines on enforcement.

During the discussion the following issues were raised: strong support for a future EPPO, proper transposition of relevant EU legislation in all Member States (Ms MATTHIEU and Ms FAJON); concerns about the UK distancing itself from closer EU cooperation in justice and home affairs matters (Mr NEWTON-DUNN); the delays by the Commission in reporting to the UNCAC monitoring mechanism (Mr DE JONG); and the use of EU funds for the financing of political parties (Mr TAVARES).

The Commission representative explained that they were working on an anti-corruption reporting mechanism for the EU and its Member States and that the first report was due in 2013. She explained that the Commission's efforts would focus on the impact of anti-corruption policies and implementing measures. She said that the EU was indeed a Member of a UN Convention against Corruption and that the delays regarding the EU report were only due to legal and technical issues on evaluating the EU institutions, which still needed to be clarified.

Item 7 on the agenda

Next meeting(s)

23 January 2013, 9.00-12.30 and 15.00-18.30
