

ANTI-CORRUPTION COUNTRY COMMITMENTS - ALBANIA

The following commitments are developed from commitments made as part of the London 2016 Anti-Corruption Summit, EU Commission reporting, the Council of Europe Group of States Against Corruption recommendations (GRECO) and suggestions from UK government departments.

1) On exposing corruption, the Government of Albania commits to:

[Public Private Partnerships]

- Deploying public private information sharing partnerships to bring together governments, law enforcement, regulators and the financial sector to detect, prevent and disrupt money laundering linked to corruption.
- Working together with other countries to share information between respective Public private partnerships to ensure the most effective response to international money laundering.
- Actively collaborate with and participate in initiatives led by the Egmont network of Financial Intelligence Units.

[Public procurement and Open Contracting]

- Reinforcing the independence of the public procurement procedures. [GRECO]
- Working towards a full implementation of the principles of Open Contracting Data Standard focusing on major projects as an early priority.
- Implementing the Open Contracting Data Standard as part of new e-government procurement work.
- Using the e-procurement systems to give standardized information of public procurement that can be easily used by the civil society.
- Working with the Open Contracting Partnership.
- Joining the Open Budgeting Partnership and commit to being reviewed under OBP survey.
- Embedding commitments into open government implementation plans being supported and monitored by OGP

[Tax]

- Signing up to the Common Reporting Standard initiative on taxation, as an essential tool for the proper automatic exchange of financial account information for tax matters.
- Joining the Addis Tax Initiative.
- Participating in IMF Fiscal Transparency Evaluation.

[Whistle blowing]

- Encouraging citizens and employees to report corruption, to promote action including by law enforcement on the information provided, and to protect “whistle blowers” in the public and private sector who take personal risks to provide critical information.

[Beneficial ownership]

- Establishing a public central register of company beneficial ownership Information.
- Ensuring that law enforcement agencies have full and effective access to beneficial ownership information for companies and other legal entities registered within their jurisdiction.
- Implementing bilateral arrangements that will ensure law enforcement in one partner country has full and effective access to the beneficial ownership information of companies incorporated in other partner country.

- Fully implementing the FATF recommendation on transparency and beneficial ownership of legal persons and arrangements.
- Implementing the Beneficial Ownership Data Standard (for modelling beneficial ownership as open data) and work with the Open Ownership Team to produce high quality open data.

[Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative]

- Creating a unified license register/cadastre system and consider using it as a platform for beneficial ownership disclosure.
- Using the EITI as a framework for transparency and accountability of the Trans Adriatic Pipeline (TAP) project in Albania.
- Reforming the system for allocating a share of royalties to local government units (LGUs) and ensuring that appropriate budgeting of the transfers and should use the EITI Reporting as a mechanism to track the gaps between the budgeted and actual transfers.

2) On punishing the corrupt and supporting those who have suffered from corruption, the Government of Albania commits to:

[Enforcement capabilities]

- Ensuring that all Anti-Corruption bodies are fully independent, capable, adequately resourced and receives the full support and cooperation from all branches of government and law enforcement in order to carry out their role.

[Asset Recovery and Asset Return]

- Strengthening asset recovery legislation, including through non conviction based confiscation powers.
- Working closely with our international partners to tackle corruption, and to ensure that all efforts are made to return illicit assets to the victims.

3) On driving out the culture of corruption, wherever it exists, the Government of Albania commits to:

[Media]

- Taking tangible measures to ensuring the media are able to report on corruption issues in an objective and independent manner.

[Institutional integrity]

- Introducing rules for members of parliament on how they interact with lobbyists and other third parties seeking to influence the legislative process. [GRECO]
- Improving the legal framework and organisational mechanisms of detecting and preventing conflict of interest in relation to public officials.
- Publicly disclosing the contents of asset declarations of members of parliament on an official website in a timely manner, with due regard to the privacy and security of deputies and persons related to them who are subject to a reporting obligation. [GRECO]
- Reviewing the effective implementation of the system of periodic evaluation of judges' performance, the criteria established for the evaluation of judges' and prosecutors' integrity and the enforcement of the ethical rules specifically with regard to judges. [GRECO]
- Training judges and prosecutors to adhere to codes of ethics and developing enforcement mechanisms with the power to initiate disciplinary cases.

- Strengthening the impact of ethical and moral standards on the adherence of bans, restrictions and requirements, established for the purposes of corruption prevention, by public officials.
- Implement digitalised inspection procedures with built-in GPS, standardised checklists, co-signing procedures and raise awareness of these new procedures to citizens and business community.
- Introducing risk based inspections that are planned and implemented based on risks collected by the digitalised system;
- Training and certifying inspectors to adhere to new procedures, code of ethic and conflict of interest and other integrity rules;
- Establishing institutional partnerships which promote integrity, in recognition of the fact that corruption in law enforcement institutions undermines their ability to counter the threats from crime and terrorism.
- Promoting stronger capabilities in the defence and security sectors that are vulnerable to the threat of corruption, through participation in UK-supported Building Integrity Centre.

[Anti-Corruption Education]

- Implementing anti-corruption education and outreach programmes which include engaging organisations in the public and private sectors in talks and dialogues on preventive measures.
- Strengthening the capacity of anti-corruption bodies, judges and prosecutors to undertake corruption investigations and enforce recognised anti-corruption plans.

[International System]

- Supporting international bodies, including the UN, European Commission, G20, FATF, World Bank, EBRD, IMF and OECD, and implementing their recommendations in a timely manner.
- Ensuring full implementation of all GRECO's recommendations in a timely manner.