



**GOVERNMENT OF
THE REPUBLIC OF MACEDONIA**

Prime Minister

Skopje, 05 July 2018

Your Excellency,

I express my gratitude for organizing the Berlin Process Summit in London this year. Let me express my conviction that this event will be a success in terms of the deliverables.

Within the framework of the Berlin Process, the Western Balkan region have confirmed their commitment to common democratic values, but also the readiness to address the challenges that are shared with their EU partners.

Besides many areas of regional cooperation that have been improved through this Process, stability and security that you have included as main topics represent complementary value of the Summit. I do firmly believe that enhanced cooperation in this area is essential for our region as well as for EU.

All our integration efforts are in an appropriate way linked to the improving the governance and the rule of law. In that direction and in line with the Trieste Summit conclusions, fight against corruption is an essential requirement for building better economies, better societies.

Ahead of London 2018, the Government of the Republic of Macedonia commits to a comprehensive anti-corruption agenda, in particular to improving our exposure of corruption and corrupt practices, punishing the corrupt and supporting those who have suffered from corruption and rooting out the culture of corruption. Our specific commitments are in agreed Annex of this letter.

With deep conviction that this Summit will bring additional quality in the relations between all the participants in the Berlin Process, please, Your Excellency, accept the assurances of my highest consideration.

Zoran ZAEV

**The Right Honourable Theresa MAY
Prime Minister of the United Kingdom of Great Britain
and Northern Ireland
LONDON**

ANTI-CORRUPTION COUNTRY COMMITMENTS – REPUBLIC OF MACEDONIA

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.

The Government of Macedonia commits to a comprehensive anti-corruption agenda as part of its participation in the Berlin Process series of Western Balkans Summits. Ahead of London 2018, in particular we commit to improving our exposure of corruption and corrupt practices; punishing the corrupt and supporting those who have suffered from corruption; and driving out the culture of corruption. Our specific commitments are as follows:

- **Enhancing the information flow between the financial sector and the Financial Intelligence Unit** to provide law enforcement with intelligence needed to detect and disrupt money laundering linked to corruption.
- **Establishing an anti-corruption body** that is 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.
- Ensuring that the re-established anti-corruption body demonstrates a proactive and balanced approach in the areas of conflicts of interest, lobbying and asset declarations.
- **Strengthening asset recovery legislation** and working closely with our international partners to tackle corruption, and to ensure that all efforts are made to deprive convicted criminals of illicit assets.
- Ensuring the **media** are able to report on corruption issues in an objective and independent manner, in particular through making available to the public the Public Accounts as part of the Open Government agenda; and making available to the public information on the assets of public officials, searchable over a reasonable number of years as defined within the law.
- Supporting **international bodies**, including the UN, European Commission, G20, FATF, World Bank, EBRD, IMF and OECD, and implementing their recommendations in a timely manner. In particular, we commit to ensuring **full implementation of Council of Europe’s Group of States against Corruption (GRECO) recommendations** in a timely manner, including through:
 - Ensuring compliance by parliamentarians with the “**Code of ethical behaviour of the members of Parliament**”, including through a more developed sanctions’ regime.
 - Introducing rules for members of parliament on how they **interact with lobbyists** and other third parties seeking to influence the legislative process.
 - Strengthening the **independence of the judiciary** from undue political influence.
 - **Reconsidering the concept of the Judicial Council** so it can serve the purpose of **ensuring independent and professional judiciary**.
 - Defining clearly **disciplinary infringements applicable to judges and prosecutors** and extending the range of sanctions to ensure better proportionality.
 - Ensuring appropriate legal, institutional and operational measures to guarantee a more **in-depth scrutiny of statements of interest and asset declarations** submitted by members of parliament, judges and prosecutors.

- Streamlining the arrangements for investigation and enforcement of the rules on **political financing** to improve efficiency.
 - Increasing the **financial and personnel resources of the anti-corruption body** in the areas of conflicts of interest, lobbying and asset declarations.
 - Streamlining the **verification process of statements of interest and asset declarations** of members of parliament, judges and prosecutors.
- 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.