

## **Anti-Corruption Summit - London 2016**

### **Bulgaria Country Statement**

#### **Exposing Corruption**

1. Bulgaria commits to exposing illicit financial flows through lifting the veil of secrecy over who owns and controls companies. It already has made public its registry for companies registered under its own jurisdiction and supports internationally recognised measures that ensure accurate and timely information on foreign-registered beneficial ownership is made available to all those who need it.
2. Bulgaria commits to actively investigating the link between corruption and organised crime. Organised criminals use the proceeds from illicit market activities and contraband to influence the judiciary, law-enforcement, central and local government, and the media in order to facilitate their criminal activities, launder proceeds, or win public contracts for their legal fronts. Profits from public contracts awarded to companies linked to organised crime are used to finance VAT fraud schemes or the illicit trade in excise tax goods or drugs. Seizing the profits of organised criminals and denying access to public contracts of their front companies is key to tackling corruption.
3. Bulgaria commits to keeping public contracting and government budgets open and transparent to prevent and expose the theft and misuse of taxpayers' money. Bulgaria commits to the implementation of the Open Contracting Data Standard as part of its new e-government procurement work.
4. Bulgaria commits to strengthening the capacity of national audit institutions and welcomes external assessment of the quality and effectiveness of their work.
5. Bulgaria commits to ensuring citizens are able to report incidents of corruption without fear of reprisal and with confidence that any credible information they provide will be acted on and their identity protected when necessary. Bulgaria's Draft Corruption Prevention and Confiscation of Criminal Assets Act has detailed provisions regarding the credibility and admissibility of anonymous signals aiming to encourage citizens to report corruption while protecting their identities.

#### **Punishing the corrupt and supporting those who have suffered from corruption**

6. Bulgaria welcomes the establishment of an International Anti-Corruption Law Centre which will work closely with relevant international organisations, Financial Intelligence Units and support countries that have suffered from grand corruption. Bulgaria undertakes to shore up support for the addition of high-profile organised criminals to the scope of the proposed work of the Centre.
7. Bulgaria commits to uncovering, seizing and returning the proceeds of corruption to their legitimate owners. Bulgaria's Commission for the Withdrawal of Criminal Assets has gained strength and considerable experience in recovering and confiscating illicit proceeds and will benefit from its proposed inclusion in a new powerful Anti-

corruption Bureau proposed under the Draft Corruption Prevention and Confiscation of Criminal Assets Act. The draft Law focuses on cases of unexplained wealth and allows for the reversal of burden of proof.

8. Bulgaria commits to providing technical assistance and expertise on asset recovery and welcomes international cooperation on transparent and accountable management of returned assets.

**Driving out the culture of corruption, wherever it exists**

9. Bulgaria commits to 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, Afghanistan and Bulgaria will build on existing capacity building programs between their Ministries of Interior, incorporating a new focus on practitioner exchange and trainings of internal anti-corruption bodies.
10. Bulgaria commits to building and maintaining security and justice sectors that are resilient to the threat of corruption, both domestically and in cooperation with other security forces.
11. Bulgaria calls on all UN member states to ratify and fully implement the provisions of the UN Convention against Corruption. Bulgaria commits to supporting international organisations, including the UN, G20, World Bank, IMF and OECD, in their efforts to tackle corruption.