

Anti-Corruption Summit - London 2016

France Country Statement

1. Expose corruption

France is committed to the most advanced standards with respect to central beneficial ownership registers, covering companies and all types of entities and legal arrangements, including trusts. **France will establish as soon as possible beneficial ownership registers for legal persons as well as for trusts, that will be made accessible to the public.** This will ensure that information on beneficial owners of companies, trusts, foundations, shell companies and all other entities and arrangements are fully available for tax administrations, law enforcement authorities and financial intelligence units of any partner.

Consistently with the former paragraph, France will participate to the pilot initiative for **automatic exchange of beneficial ownership information.** To this end, we call on the OECD and the FATF to develop proposals for a new global standard for exchange of beneficial information between countries.

France will implement the principles of the International Open Data Charter. We will take steps to ensure transparency of the ownership and control of all companies involved in property purchase and public contracting. **As a founding member of the C5 initiative, we commit to implementing Open Contracting** and to take into account the principles of Open Contracting Data Standard into our domestic framework. We will work closely to join our efforts with other C5 countries, and call other jurisdictions to join us. We will meet regularly, so that procurement and policy officials can share their experiences and support peer learning within the C5. We will **improve and develop the auditing of public contracts performance**, and commit to standardise the format of data of public call for tenders and encourage increased publicity of awarded public tenders to foster transparency on public procurement.

France commit to 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. **France encourages the implementation of centralized bank account registers** to ensure full access by the financial intelligence unit and law enforcement authorities to the centralized bank account register, in a timely manner and respectfully of protected data, thus enhancing the tackling of financial crime, including corruption. We will work together with other countries to share information between respective public-private partnerships to ensure the most effective response to international money laundering.

We welcome voluntary disclosures through EITI reporting and by some major companies regarding payments to governments in the field of extractive industries. We welcome the new 2016 EITI Standard, in particular the requirements on beneficial ownership and the sale of the state's share of production. **France plans to be a full EITI member by the end of 2017.**

France has signed up to the **Common Reporting Standard** initiative and we commit to implement this standard by 2017. France has also joined the **Africa Initiative of the Global Forum** and the **Addis Ababa Tax Initiative** from the beginning. In addition, we commit to promote beneficial ownership transparency which is key to fight against tax fraud.

France commit to considering **defensive measures against non-cooperative jurisdictions** if progress as assessed by the Global Forum is not made. We commit to enhancing **penalties** and other action against professional enablers of tax evasion, including **for corporations that facilitate tax evasion** or fail to prevent their employees from facilitating tax evasion.

France supports the development of a global commitment for **public country by country reporting on tax information** for large multinational enterprises.

We commit to ensure that companies which were convicted for corruption, and sizeable companies, convicted or not, **implement internal procedures to prevent bribery**. We commit to adopt measures to **ensure the protection of persons reporting corruption against retaliatory measures** which might be taken against them by their employer. Persons reporting corruption will benefit from a tailored protection, regardless of the field of their company activity. **France will create a National Agency for the Detection and Prevention of Corruption** to monitor the implementation of internal procedures to prevent bribery by requested companies and provide appropriate assistance to persons reporting corruption.

To ensure transparent public decision making, France will ensure that lobbyists and their areas of intervention are correctly identified, for instance through the **establishing of a public register of lobbyists**, and that **lobbyists are subject to ethical rules**, in particular to prevent them from allowing material advantages to public decision makers.

2. Punish the corrupt and support those who have suffered from corruption

France will work with the UK and others **to design the concept of an International Anti-Corruption Coordination Centre** that aims at streamlining and focussing international cooperation in cases of corruption with international dimensions.

France supports **full enforcement of the UNCAC asset recovery provisions**, and commits to strengthen its asset recovery legislation, including through the developing of internationally-endorsed guidelines for the transparent and accountable management of returned stolen assets.

3. Drive out the culture of corruption, wherever it exists

France will instil a greater sense of responsibility and protect public agents regarding the **prevention of conflicts of interests**.

France will support the **International Sport Integrity Partnership**.

France will participate in **launching** an **Anti-Corruption Innovation Hub** to connect social innovators, technology experts and data scientists with law enforcement and civil society organisations to collaborate on innovative approaches to anti-corruption. We commit to leverage **open data, big data and datasciences** to foster data-driven anti-corruption policies. We will grow a **culture of openness, data literacy and digital technologies** by producing training modules on open data, the use of data and open government targeting public officials, and including more of these modules in initial and continuing civil service training programs.

Transparency of public and economic life will be one of the key components of France's presidency of the Open Government Partnership in end 2016.

France will work with others countries, civil society, and international organisations to **accelerate the implementation of the voluntary provisions of the UN Convention Against Corruption.**