



REGIONAL ANTI-CORRUPTION INITIATIVE  
◦ SECRETARIAT ◦

# 13<sup>th</sup> RAI STEERING GROUP MEETING

## *Summary, Conclusions and Decisions*

*Sofia, Bulgaria*  
*October 29 – 30, 2009*

The 13<sup>th</sup> Regional Anti-corruption Initiative (RAI) Steering Group (SG) Meeting took place in Sofia, Bulgaria, on October 29 – 30, 2009. It focused the discussions on the adoption of new RAI Work Plan for 2010 – 2011, which would set up the priority areas for support and development in the member states of the Initiative for the next two years.

### *Participants*

13<sup>th</sup> RAI SG Meeting was attended by 8 member states. The countries were represented by:

- *Albania* – Ms. Helena Papa – Coordinator/Inspector, Department of Internal Administrative Control and Anti-corruption, Council of Ministers;
- *Bosnia and Herzegovina* – Mr. Tomislav Curic – Expert Associate, Department for Combating Organized Crime and Corruption, Ministry of Security;
- *Bulgaria* – Mrs. Veselina Kicevska – Head of Sector, EU and International Cooperation Directorate, Ministry of Interior, Mr. Rosen Kukushev – Expert and Ms. Branimira Ignatova – Legal Expert;
- *Croatia* – Mr. Davor Dubravica – Head of Anti-corruption Sector, Department for Strategic Development, Ministry of Justice;
- *Macedonia* – Mrs. Mimoza Kikovska – Deputy Head of Department for International Cooperation, Ministry of Justice;
- *Moldova* – Mr. Radu Cotici – Chief of Legislation and Anti-corruption Proofing Directorate, Center for Combating Economic Crimes and Corruption;
- *Montenegro* – Ms. Vesna Ratković PhD – Director, Directorate for Anti-corruption Initiative (DACI) and RAI Chairperson;
- *Romania* – Mr. Sorin Tanase – Director, Department for the Reform of the Judiciary and Combating Corruption, Ministry of Justice and Citizens Freedoms.

RAI Secretariat was represented by:

- Mr. Edmond Dunga – Head of the Office;
- Mr. Stanislav Aleksandrov – Anti-corruption Expert;
- Ms. Dajana Stajic – Executive Assistant;
- Mr. Veselin Jovanovic – Fundraising and Outreach Assistant.

The 13<sup>th</sup> RAI SG Meeting was attended also by:

- Mr. Sorin Sterie – Senior Political Advisor, Security, Defense, Justice and Home Affairs, Brussels Liaison Office, Regional Cooperation Council (RCC);
- Hasan Preteni – Director of the Anti-corruption Agency of Kosovo (under 1244 UNSC Resolution);
- Mr. Krassimir Petrov – National Coordinator of RCC for Bulgaria, Ministry of Foreign Affairs;
- Ms. Carla Ciavarella – Regional Program Coordinator, Head of Regional Project Office for South-Eastern Europe (RPOSEE), UNODC;
- Mrs. Galina Samaras – Senior Program Expert in RPOSEE, UNODC.

### ***Summary of Discussion Part***

The Preliminary Meeting was opened by Mr. Boiko Slavchev – Chief of the Cabinet of the Bulgarian Minister of Interior, who welcomed the participants on behalf of the hosting country, highlighting the importance of the Anti-corruption Initiative for the region. Ms. Vesna Ratkovic addressed the participants as well, focusing on the sustainability of RAI and on the challenges that face the Initiative. The opening remarks were closed by Mr. Edmond Dunga, who pointed out the importance of the meeting and the decisions, which would be taken, for the future functioning of RAI.

Following the opening remarks, Mr. Stanislav Aleksandrov presented the ***agenda*** of the event, which was *adopted* by the Senior Representatives. The morning session started with presentation of the ***Financial Report*** on used countries and donors' funds for the period 01 January – 30 September 2009, made by Ms. Dajana Stajic. She reported the incomes that RAI Secretariat had, the expenditures made, the funds saved and the process of co-financing of events with RAI partners. Ms. Stajic underlined the fact that *the budget proposal for 2010 would be submitted to countries by the end of December, while the next audit of the Secretariat's financial functioning is envisaged for the first quarter of 2010.*

The morning session continued with presentation of national ***Progress Reports*** on the progress and developments on the anti-corruption field in RAI member states. *It was agreed that the format of reporting would be kept in the new Work Plan, as an important tool for submission of data on current state of play in SEE countries in regard to fight against corruption.* In addition, it was presumed that the inputs from the reports would be taken into consideration in identifying common developments and priority areas for intervention, which might serve as subject of future events. It was also agreed that *the*

*progress reports would be sent to the Secretariat in electronic form in order to be published on the Anti-corruption Resource Center.*

The discussions in the course of the afternoon session were focused on the adoption of the ***new RAI Work Plan for 2010 – 2011***. Mr. Aleksandrov presented the draft version of the document prepared by the Secretariat. He expressed the opinion that the structure of the current Work Plan was good, but the content needed to be amended in regard to the current trends and needs on the anti-corruption field in South – Eastern Europe (SEE). The major change proposed was to merge the 10 joint measures to curb corruption from Brussels’ Ministerial Declaration from 2005 and to underline them as guiding principles in the Work Plan, instead of selecting 3 priority areas for each RAI member state. Mr. Aleksandrov stressed on the practical approach in filling with content the Work Plan. He pointed out as crucial the need for feedback information in the respective part of the chapter, entitled “National Priorities”, which should be filled in by each country. Mr. Aleksandrov underlined that the member states should focus on reasonable and reachable items, which reflected the real needs and areas to address in the up-coming 2 years period. *RAI Senior Representatives approved the proposed structure of the Work Plan* and discussed the anti-corruption priority areas, in which they would like to intervene on national and/or regional level. *After the presentation of each country it was agreed that till 15<sup>th</sup> of November the Senior Representatives would send to RAI Secretariat in written form their proposals for regional and national activities, which would be summarized and transformed by RAI Secretariat’s staff into concrete events envisaged in the Work Plan for 2010 – 2011. Afterwards the documents would be submitted to the national representatives for final approval.*

The first day of RAI SG Meeting ended with the ***re-election*** of Ms. Vesna Ratkovic as RAI Chairperson and the ***renewal of the mandate*** of Mr. Edmond Dunga and Mr. Stanislav Aleksandrov for additional 2 years respectively as Head of RAI Secretariat and Anti-corruption Expert.

The second working day of the meeting started with amendments to the internal rules – ***Terms of Reference (ToR) for RAI Secretariat, Office Policies Manual and Finance Management Manual***. As far as ToR were concerned, amendments to its Chapter V (Human Resources) were adopted by adding requirements already existing in the Office Policies Manual as well as some additional requirements related to tasks of the Executive Assistant and Fundraising and Outreach Assistant and intern/s. Most of the discussions were focused on the status of ***interns*** in RAI Secretariat. In that regard the member states raised the question whether persons coming from countries, which were not members in RAI, could apply for internship program. Also, it was discussed whether the interns would be fully reimbursed in the course of the internship program or they would receive a lump sum as financial support during the entire period of the internship. After the exchange of opinions *the Senior Representatives decided that both*

persons from RAI member and non member states could apply for the internship program, but only those coming from RAI countries would be financially supported by RAI Secretariat. The order of preference in regard to the applicants would be: applicants from institutions providing RAI national focal points, applicants proposed by other institutions in member states, applicants from member countries in general and finally, applicants from non member states. It was also decided that the interns would be fully reimbursed during their stay in RAI Secretariat in accordance with financial resources approved and available. Taking into consideration the capacity of the Secretariat, it was agreed to have no more than two interns per year. Also, in addition to the way of financing and number of interns per year, it was agreed to proceed only with **on site internships** without e-internship as an alternative option initially proposed by RAI Secretariat.

*Amendments to the Office Policies Manual were adopted with slight changes concerning mainly the following issues:*

- Point 2.1: organizational structure and the title of the Executive Assistant;
- Point 2.2: Key positions (i.e. tasks of the Executive Assistant and Fundraising and Outreach Assistant as well as interns' subsection wherein);
- Points 4.5 to 4.8 (annual leave, special leave, sick leave and maternity leave);
- Point 5.1: Child's education allowance;
- Points 6.3.4 and 6.3.5: Security of the Secretariat's premises
- Point 8.3.4: Severance pay and
- Point 11.3: Additional annex

*An amendment to the Financial Management Manual was adopted containing an additional regulation that provides per diems in accordance with existing Secretariat rules for Senior Representatives or substitutes (one per country) for their participation in RAI SG Meetings, and for RAI Chairperson when she/he would travel on that quality and for the Initiative's representation.*

In regard to the **On-line Anti-corruption Resource Center** maintained by the Secretariat, all member states declared their support for providing respective countries' pages with relevant content and adopted the proposed methodological sheet, which would be filled twice per year (by June and by December) to facilitate that process.

The final panel of the 13<sup>th</sup> RAI SG Meeting was dedicated to **RAI up-coming events**. Regarding RAI SG Meetings, it was stated that *the next meeting would take place in Romania*, while Ms. Helena Papa proposed the 15<sup>th</sup> RAI SG Meeting to take place in Albania.

The staff of RAI Secretariat announced that in due time they will enter into negotiations with the Albanian Magistrates' School with the idea to organize the 5<sup>th</sup> edition of the Summer School for Junior Magistrates in 2010 in Durrës, Albania.

In regard to the Asset Recovery Conference (December 2-4, 2009) and the event on the occasion of marking the International Anti-corruption Day (December 9-10, 2009), which RAI Secretariat would co-organize with partner organizations, the floor was given to Ms. Carla Ciavarella to present UNODC point of view concerning regional cooperation on the anti-corruption field. Ms. Ciavarella recognized the crucial role of RAI in SEE and stated that with the support of all anti-corruption bodies in the region, RAI and UNODC should work for the establishment of format for exchange of good practices in relevant anti-corruption areas. In these lines, *RAI Senior Representatives were invited to take part in the event on the occasion of marking the International Anti-corruption Day, which would take place on December 9 – 10, 2009, in Sofia, Bulgaria.*

Concerning the marking of the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of RAI, Mr. Sorin Tanase reaffirmed the proposal of the Romanian Ministry of Justice and Citizens Freedoms to host the event. It followed the proposal submitted by Mrs. Oana Schmidt-Haineala during the Preliminary Meeting in Cavtat and showed the *strong Romanian institutional support for the organization of the forum, which would mark 10 years of existence of the Anti-corruption Initiative.* It was discussed that it was a very good occasion to merge the anniversary with the presentation of the results of the project “*Survey on Integrity and Resistance to Corruption of the Criminal Judicial System in SEE*”

Finally, on behalf of RCC the floor was taken by Mr. Sorin Sterie. In regard to the up-mentioned survey, he asked the Senior Representatives to check the current state of things, as in some countries the project was not implemented at all or with little success. In addition, in case there were no possibilities to fulfill the project, he asked them to prepare in due time reports on the reasons that ceased the project in the respective countries, in order to find a way how to overcome those obstacles in the future.

Mr. Sterie also described briefly the Strategic Planning Meeting, which RCC Secretariat would organize on December 16 – 17, 2009, in Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina.

In regard to IPA programs, the representative of RCC advised the participants in RAI SG Meeting to take all necessary measures to ensure better coordination with IPA national coordinators, who represent different institutions in their respective countries. He pointed out that apart from IPA and TAIEX, donors could be searched outside EU institutions as well, like UNODC and World Bank.

The Senior Representative of Croatia raised the need of regular participation, representation and active involvement of relevant stakeholders from Kosovo in RAI activities. The Secretariat explained the current practice that includes experts and practitioners from Kosovo in RAI programmatic events. As per its status of participation to RAI SG meetings, it was agreed to address this issue in the future through Secretariat with relevant authorities.

The results achieved at RAI Steering Group Preliminary Meeting are summarized in the following

### ***Conclusions and Decisions***

RAI Senior Representatives:

1. Adopted the structure of RAI Work Plan for 2010 – 2011 and agreed to send in written form till 15<sup>th</sup> of November their proposals for regional and national activities, which would be summarized and transformed by RAI Secretariat into concrete events envisaged in the Work Plan for 2010 – 2011. Afterwards the documents would be submitted to the national representatives for final approval;
2. Re-elected Ms. Vesna Ratković PhD as RAI Chairperson;
3. Renewed the mandate of Mr. Edmond Dunga and Mr. Stanislav Aleksandrov for another 2 years respectively as Head of RAI Secretariat and Anti-corruption Expert;
4. Approved the amendments to the internal rules – ToR for RAI Secretariat, Office Policies Manual and Finance Management Manual;
5. Decided to re-launch the Internship Program establishing clear rules for the applicants;
6. Declared their support for the Anti-corruption Resource Center, providing respective countries' pages with relevant content and adopted the proposed indicative methodological sheet, which would be filled twice per year (by June and by December) to facilitate that process.

Sofia, October 30, 2009