





Commission for Prevention and Ascertainment of Conflict of Interest

Republic of Bulgaria

Press Release

3rd REGIONAL MEETING of OVERSIGHT BODIES for ASSET DISCLOSURE and CONFLICT OF INTEREST

Follow-up to the Regional Meetings of Oversight Bodies held in <u>Zagreb in 2015</u>, and <u>Tirana in 2016</u> strengthening regional cooperation in line with the South East Europe 2020 Strategy

Sofia/Bulgaria, 14th October 2016: 3rd Regional Meeting of Oversight Bodies for Asset Disclosure and Conflict of Interest is taking place in the Conference Hall of Boutique Hotel Crystal Palace in Sofia on 20th and 21st October, 2016. The meeting is organized by the Regional Anti-corruption Initiative (RAI), in cooperation with the Commission for Prevention and Ascertainment of Conflict of Interest of Republic of Bulgaria, and supported by the Austrian Development Agency and Regional Cooperation Council (RCC).

The main objective of the event is to strengthen regional cooperation in the field of asset disclosure and conflict of interest, and discuss the mechanism enabling exchange between the Oversight Bodies of the South East Europe. High level representatives of ministries of justice and oversight bodies from South East Europe will discuss the draft regional legal instrument that will enable data exchange in the future.

Conflict of interest and asset disclosure have been identified as prominent issue in all National Anti-corruption Strategies in South East Europe. One of the aspects they address is regional cooperation and data exchange in this area. Regional legal instrument is supposed to apply to systems of disclosure of finances and personal interests of public officials for integrity purposes, as generally foreseen in Article 8 and 52 of the United Nations Convention against Corruption (UNCAC).

The 3rd Regional Meeting is part of the ongoing process of strengthening regional cooperation.