



## **BULLETIN**

### **THE PROJECT “DEVELOPING ANTI-CORRUPTION MECHANISMS WITHIN MAP” HAS SUCCESSFULLY CONCLUDED**

Today, February 22 2006, at the headquarters of the M.A.I., in the presence of Jonathan Scheele – the Head of the European Commission Delegation in Bucharest, Vasile Blaga – the Minister of Administration and Interior, Pablo Garcia Berdoy - the Ambassador of the Spanish Kingdom in Romania, Iain Lindsay – Deputy Head of Mission from the Embassy of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, has taken place the Session of conclusion of the Institutional Twinning Project – PHARE RO/02/I.B./J.H./07 “Developing anti-corruption mechanism within M.A.I.”

After 24 months of project development, the representative of the European Commission Delegation said that the PHARE Programme was successful because the General Anti-Corruption Directorate was set up and made operational, as it proves the institutional willingness of M.A.I.; he also said that this project was successful thanks to the mechanisms of transparency in the activity of this institutions, ensured by the Strategic Committee.

*“I strongly believe (...) that these relations will be maintained for a long time from now on, and that they will represent a model of European co-operation in the home affairs area”,* has stated Jonathan Scheele, the Head of the European Commission Delegation in Bucharest.

At the same time, Mr. Scheele has shown that: *“The General Anti-Corruption Directorate had the capacity and the willingness to introduce in its internal organisation system some concepts of transparency and responsibility which the Romanian administration has never met before.”*

Appreciating the involvement and co-operation of the Spanish and English partners in the Project’s success, the Minister of Administration and Interior, Mr. Vasile Blaga expressed his support of and trust in the General Anti-Corruption Directorate - the first institution of this kind in M.A.I., which represents a necessity in the current context of the fight against corruption.

*“In 2005, the Ministry of Administration and Interior forwarded 2,455 notifications towards the Prosecutor’s Offices; out of them, 700 refer to corruption acts, the rest of them referring to different acts of misconduct regarding the professional ethics. At the same time, a series of files concerning major crimes committed by former workers of the ministry are in different stages of the criminal proceedings and will soon get to the judiciary’s table. You know very well the important case which is currently underway in the zone of Satu-Mare County, where almost all those working within the Border Police will be brought to justice. In addition to all of these, there will soon come the concrete results of the activity of General Anti-Corruption Directorate, institution set up within the framework of this Twinning Project”,* Vasile Blaga has also mentioned during this meeting.

Considering, as so far, corruption as the milestone of the process of Romania's accession to the European Union, the representative of the Embassy of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland appreciated the results of the Project and stated that *“The success of this Directorate (G.A.D.) will highly depend on the sustained so-operation between all the institutions with responsibility in the corruption countering. It is about working in team, a team with a common goal.”*

At the end of his speech, Mr. **Iain Lindsay** has announced that the Embassy of the United Kingdom of the Great Britain and Northern Ireland supports the launching of an anti-corruption campaign for getting the general public aware of the risks raised by this phenomenon.

This event was also attended by Javier Garcia Briongos, project co-ordinator on behalf of Spain, Stephen Foster, pre-accession counsellor, general questor Virgil Ardelean, director of the General Directorate for Information and Internal Protection, questor Corneliu Alexandru – director of the General Directorate for European Accession and International Relations. At the same time, in this event also participated representatives of the General Anti-Corruption Directorate, directors of some directorates of the Central Apparatus from M.A.I., the National Customs Agency, as well as leaders of some NGOs.

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The Institutional Twinning Project “Developing anti-corruption mechanisms in M.A.I.” started in February 2004 and has been developing for 24 months, being granted the important support of the British and Spanish partners. The funds of this project were as follows: 1 million euros - the Phare funds and 150,000 euros - the Romanian contribution.

One of the main purposes of this project was the future development of M.A.I., its subordinated components and authorities, and it aims at strengthening the capacity of countering corruption effectively and efficiently, for a better harmonisation with the law enforcement standards, the procedures and best practices of the E.U. It also aims at improving the existing legislation, the Code of conduct and the strategies in the area, as well as at developing the partnership with the civil society in the future.

Among the finalised results of the project, from the point of view of the legal framework, we mention the passing of Law No. 161/06.06.2005 concerning the establishment of some measures for preventing and countering corruption within M.A.I., of Government Emergency Ordinance No. 120/01.09.2005 regarding the functioning of the General Anti-Corruption Directorate, of Government Emergency Ordinance No. 124/06.09.2005 for amending and supplementing Law No. 78/2000 for preventing, identifying and punishing the corruption acts,, as well as other internal regulations of M.A.I.

At the same time, as regards the institutional development in this area, the General Anti-Corruption Directorate was set up and made functional based on Law No. 161/2005, at the central and territorial level, taken into consideration the criteria of selecting workers for the General Anti-Corruption Directorate and the conditions that they has to meet.

During the project development, have taken place different training activities in specific domain, within the framework of some workshops, the signing of some collaboration protocols between G.A.D. and other M.A.I. structures or institutions, the drawing up of a communication strategy of G.A.D., the setting of some essential procedures within G.A.D. – information flow, using the resources, decision making process etc.

The development of the partnership with the civil society materialised in the setting up of the Counselling Forum for Transparency in the project enforcement including eight important NGOs, which contributed to the establishment of the reference terms from the Strategic Committee, created at the level of M.A.I., as well as of the Strategic Committee for supporting and evaluating the activity of G.A.D. The Strategic Committee includes three representatives assigned by the NGOs that are part of the Transparency Forum as well. For raising awareness, G.A.D. designed and disseminated some posters and brochures on the fight against corruption.

Not least important, the Strategy of M.A.I. regarding the corruption prevention and countering within M.A.I.'s personnel was cancelled by the Order of the Minister of the Administration and Interior, drawn up within the framework of some workshops.

## **PUBLIC COMMUNICATION DEPARTMENT**