

***Jonathan Scheele, the Head of the European Commission Delegation in Bucharest***

Minister, ladies and gentlemen,

I am honoured and glad to be here together, at this session of conclusion of this project. At the same time, I am a little sad because this institutional twinning project ends, as it succeeded in creating a close relation between M.A.I. from Romania and the counterpart institutions from Great Britain and Spain. However, I do believe, especially after the intervention of Iain Lindsay, that these relations will be maintained long time from now on, and that they will represent a model for the European co-operation in the home affairs area.

It is not a secret for anyone that the fight against corruption represented one of the major concerns regarding Romania's capacity to be ready for the E.U. accession on the 1 January 2007. In this context, the Ministry of Administration and Interior has taken actions to prevent and counter corruption by creating a specialised structure, that is the General Anti-Corruption Directorate.

I would like to underline three essential elements that, I am sure, contributed to the success of this project. Firstly, the setting up, the endowment and the placing of G.A.D. in the organisation chart of M.A.I. proved the willingness of the ministry, without which such a structure could not have functioned effectively. In this respect, I would like to express my appreciations for you, Mr. Blaga.

Secondly, G.A.D. benefited from the expertise and the work methods in countering the inner corruption that the experts financed by the E.U. made available for the Romanian authorities. I would congratulate here the British and Spanish partners on the way they knew how to approach this sensitive issue and how to select the type of expertise suitable for the Romanian context.

I also want to congratulate the Romanian partners, the G.A.D. leadership and the managerial team of the Phare Project on the way they absorbed the expertise they were granted.

Thirdly, G.A.D. 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. The Strategic committee of the G.A.D. and the sub-committee are two mechanisms which can not but help G.A.D. and M.A.I. to adopt the best strategies for preventing and countering

corruption within the administrative and police structures of Romania. More than that, the process of getting representatives of the civil society involved, for the first time, in these two organisms prove the openness of the G.A.D., its transparency, and ensures an independent, permanent and responsible evaluation of the internal work methods.

Not the least, G.A.D. succeeded in establishing some parameters in the co-operation with the National Anti-Corruption Department and, as I know and it was confirmed by the minister, the two structures already work on some common criminal investigations regarding the corruption acts of some police officers. This essential institutional relation with N.A.D. has to be maintained in the future as well.

Finally, I would like to express my hope that G.A.D. will be able as soon as possible to sustain the efforts made by the judicial system in finding solutions to the files regarding high-level corruption acts, solutions that both the Romanians and the E.U. Member States are waiting for.

There is no need to repeat what the European Commission has already said several times, that the legislative reform and the setting up of new anti-corruption institutions do not necessarily represent the solution to this complex phenomenon. Only the way in which the state institutions co-operate and get some concrete results can prove that Romania is committed and has the necessary capacity to control corruption efficiently and effectively.

I finish my short intervention by wishing many successes to G.A.D. and its personnel, and by expressing my gratitude to the British, Spanish and Romanian partners, for the efforts and the work they invested, but especially for the very good results they achieved at the end of this project. Congratulations.