



**REGIONAL
ANTI-CORRUPTION
INITIATIVE**



WITH FUNDING FROM
**AUSTRIAN
DEVELOPMENT
COOPERATION**

1st NEGOTIATION MEETING

**International Treaty on Exchange of Data for the
Verification of Asset Declarations**

International Anti-Corruption Academy IACA
Laxenburg - Vienna, Austria

3-4 October 2018

Context

The Regional Anti-Corruption Initiative RAI¹ is an intergovernmental organization working in nine member states: Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Macedonia, Moldova, Montenegro, Romania and Serbia; and three observers: Poland, Georgia and Slovenia. RAI's mission is to lead regional cooperation to support anticorruption efforts by providing a common platform for discussions through sharing knowledge and best practices.

The Austrian EU Presidency is determined to continue supporting the countries in the SEE Region with concluding the International Treaty. For this purpose, Austria is hosting the first round of formal negotiations. The aim of the Meeting, and potentially one more in the near future, is to conclude and sign the International Treaty text in the course of 2018, and then to start the ratification processes in each of the participating states.

The purpose of the **International Treaty on Exchange of Data for the Verification of Asset Declarations**² is to prevent and to combat corruption by providing for direct administrative exchange of information concerning asset declarations between the Parties of the Treaty (for a on-page introduction see page 3 of the draft). The Treaty will enable anti-corruption bodies to communicate formally with each other regarding data on foreign assets and interests, and thus significantly enhance verification of declarations.

The basis of the Treaty is the United Nations Convention against Corruption (UNCAC) and States Parties Resolution 6/4, which encourages Member States to consider the possibility of concluding multilateral agreements on civil and administrative matters relating to corruption, including international cooperation.

The Treaty has been developed under the Southeast Europe Regional Programme on Strengthening the Capacity of Anti-corruption Authorities and Civil Society to Combat Corruption and Contribute to the UNCAC Review Process, which is being implemented by the Regional Anti-Corruption Initiative (RAI) in partnership with the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), and with financial support by the Austrian Development Agency.

The Treaty has been prepared following three regional expert meetings, attended by the integrity/anti-corruption authorities and ministries of justice from South East Europe. Significant contribution in developing the Treaty has been provided by the European Commission, UNODC, World Bank, United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), Basel Institute on Governance, Regional Cooperation Council (RCC) and the Regional School of Public Administration (ReSPA).

The International Treaty has been endorsed by the Heads of Governments at the Western Balkans Summit, held in July 2017 in Trieste. The European Commission 2018 Communication on EU Enlargement Policy³ from 17 April 2018, reaffirmed importance of the Treaty, as a mechanism which could contribute to improving the countries' track record of dealing with corruption cases in the Western Balkans region.

Strengthening the rule of law, good governance and the fight against corruption are core EU values and cornerstones of the EU's relations with its neighbours and closest partners.

¹ www.rai-see.org

² www.rai-see.org/regional-data-exchange-on-asset-disclosure-and-conflict-of-interest/

³ https://ec.europa.eu/neighbourhood-enlargement/sites/near/files/20180417_strategy_paper_en.pdf

Agenda

Wednesday, 3 October

08:15	Bus transfer from Novotel Wien Hauptbahnhof hotel to IACA
09:00 – 09:30	Arrival and registration of delegations and guests Opening statements
09:30 – 09:50	Mr. Oskar Benedikt, Advisor, Ministry of Europe, Integration and Foreign Affairs of Austria Mr. Todor Kolarov, Chairperson, Regional Anti-Corruption Initiative (RAI) Mr. Martin Kreutner, Dean, International Anti-Corruption Academy
09:50 – 10:30	Introductory statements by Heads of Delegations (3 minutes per delegation)
10:30 – 10:45	Introductory statements by international partners - United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime - Regional Cooperation Council - International Anti-Corruption Academy (5 minutes per organization) <i>Session facilitated by Mr. Vladan Joksimovic, Head of Secretariat, RAI</i>
10:45 – 11:30	Family photo and coffee break
11:30 – 12:30	Overview of the International Treaty on Exchange of Data for the Verification of Asset Declarations - Purpose and the scope of the Treaty - Benefits of the Treaty Mr. Tilman Hoppe, Expert on Asset Declarations, RAI Negotiation process of the Treaty - Introduction and way forward - International legal basis of the Treaty Prof. Bardo Fassbender, Expert on International Treaty Law, RAI <i>Session facilitated by Mr. Tomislav Curic, Anti-Corruption Expert, RAI</i>
12:30 – 13:30	Lunch break
13:30 – 15:00	Negotiations of the Treaty text: Preamble and Chapter I - General provisions <i>Discussion facilitated by Prof. Fassbender and Mr. Hoppe, RAI experts</i>
15:00 – 15:30	Coffee break

15:30 – 17:00	Negotiations of the Treaty text: Chapter II - Exchange of information <i>Discussion facilitated by Prof. Fassbender and Mr. Hoppe, RAI experts</i>
17:15	Bus transfer from IACA to Novotel Wien Hauptbahnhof hotel
19:30 – 22:00	Official Dinner at the Hotel restaurant

Thursday, 4 October

8:30	Bus transfer from Novotel Wien Hauptbahnhof hotel to IACA
09:30 – 09:45	Reflection of the previous day <i>Session facilitated by Prof. Fassbender and Mr. Hoppe, RAI experts</i>
9:45 – 11:00	Negotiations of the Treaty text: Chapter II - Exchange of information (continued) <i>Discussion facilitated by Prof. Fassbender and Mr. Hoppe, RAI experts</i>
11:00 – 11:20	Coffee break
11:20 – 12:30	Negotiations of the Treaty text: Chapter II - Exchange of information (continued) Chapter III - Final provisions (upon completion of Chapter II) <i>Discussion facilitated by Prof. Fassbender and Mr. Hoppe, RAI experts</i>
12:30 – 13:00	Closing remarks and next steps: Heads of Delegations Mr. Todor Kolarov, Chairperson, RAI <i>Session facilitated by Mr. Vladan Joksimovic, Head of Secretariat, RAI</i>
13:00 – 14:00	Lunch