

# **CHARTER**

## **EUROPEAN NETWORK FOR PUBLIC ETHICS**

The signatories, hereinafter "the members of the network",

**Have agreed as follows:**

EUROPEAN NETWORK FOR PUBLIC ETHICS

Article 1

Several public ethics authorities from Member States of the European Union create the European Network for Public Ethics (hereafter "the Network").

The Network will have its own logo.

AIMS AND ACTIONS

Article 2

The Network aims to promote a culture of public integrity and regulatory harmonization among the Member States of the European Union by identifying best practices in this area and by comparing the respective legislation in order to encourage exchanges among its members.

It also aims to develop a unique expertise in order to become the privileged interlocutor of the European authorities on the subjects of integrity, transparency and public ethics. To this end, the Network will encourage the authorities of member States of the European Union to join the Network or to obtain observer status.

Article 3

The Network may implement any appropriate action to achieve these objectives. To this end, it may in particular:

1. Organize meetings and workshops with its members on a specific topic related to public ethics in order to share best practices, exchange experiences, improve their mutual knowledge in order to achieve a progressive harmonization of their respective practices and regulations, and promote multilateralism;
2. Offer an assistance platform allowing its members to ask each other questions or consult with each other regarding topics that concern them;
3. Provide longer-term support to members wishing to develop new missions and to countries wishing to establish public integrity authorities;
4. Engage in a dialogue with the European authorities in order to represent the interests of the members and participate in their consultations on public ethics issues;
5. Identify experts within its members who could be mobilized in the framework of twinning or partnerships with the States applying for membership of the European Union;

6. Conduct studies and surveys, and issue articles or press releases on topics of common interest to the membership.

## COMPOSITION OF THE NETWORK

### Article 4

Any authority may, upon request, become a member of the Network, as long as it meets the following three criteria, intended to ensure a certain degree of homogeneity within the Network:

1. Be a national authority or ministerial department of a Member State of the European Union or an institution, body or agency of the European Union;
2. Carry out missions relating to transparency, ethics or public integrity, for example on the prevention of conflicts of interest or corruption and on the control of the assets of public officials;
3. Present functional guarantees of independence in order to allow the impartial exercise of its competences, in particular in the conduct of its investigations and in the performance of all its decisions.

Each institution is represented in the Network by its chief executive officer or, by delegation, by any other person.

### Article 5

Applications for membership, together with documentation on the legal status of the institution and its activity report for the past year, shall be sent to the presidency and the secretariat of the Network to verify that the criteria set out in Article 4 are fulfilled.

After this verification, the members of the Network vote electronically, by a two-third majority of the votes cast, to admit the new institution as a member. An absence of response from a member within a month is considered as agreement.

### Article 6

At the initiative of the presidency or at the request of at least three members, the Network may grant observer status to a non-member institution. The granting of this status is done through an electronic voting procedure by a two-third majority of the votes cast.

Observer membership may be granted to an institution or organization in charge of public integrity of a Member State of the European Union in order to be able to get involved in the activities of the Network without however participating in its governance.

## PRESIDENCY

## Article 7

The Network is chaired by a presiding member for a period of two years.

The Network meets annually in plenary session by a majority of its members. At every second plenary session, a member of the Network, with the exception of the immediate past president, is elected president for two years by a two-third majority of the members present.

During this plenary session, the Network adopts its strategic plan for the duration of the president's mandate. The plenary session is the primary decision-making forum for the Network. Members are represented by their respective leaders or their representatives.

The first president is elected at the first plenary session of the Network.

## Article 8

The president is responsible for the external representation of the Network.

The president is responsible for developing the Network's strategic plan for the duration of the mandate of the presidency and for defining its various activities.

The president ensures that the Network functions properly and that its members respect the commitments made.

During the plenary meeting at the end of the mandate of the presidency, which the president is responsible for organizing, the latter prepares and presents the results of the past two years, with regard to the objectives set in the strategic plan.

## SECRETARIAT

### Article 9

The secretariat of the Network is provided by a member for a period of three years. The member is elected at a plenary meeting by a two-third majority of its members.

In particular, the secretariat is responsible for:

- preparing the agenda for the meetings and writing the minutes;
- assisting the presidency in the different functions;
- assisting the members of the Network in the organization of events;
- receiving applications for membership in the Network and for the granting of observer status and ensuring their admissibility;
- coordinating the activity of the Network and the relationship between its members.

## FUNCTIONING

### Article 10

The working languages of the Network are French and English.

The Network's written productions (notes, publications, studies, etc.) are produced in French or in English but are all available in English.

#### Article 11

Decisions in the Network are taken by a two-third majority of the votes cast.

In particular, the following decisions are submitted to the deliberation of the members:

- the adoption or modification of the Network's founding and strategic documents;
- the attribution of a member or observer status to an organization;
- the adoption of common positions and the publication of press releases on specific events.

The vote takes place during the plenary sessions or, failing that, remotely by electronic means, in which case the votes are compiled by the secretariat.

Observer members may not take part in the vote.

#### Article 12

The Network is a non-profit organization.

Members are financially responsible for their participation in the activities of the Network. They may individually seek outside contributions to enable them to finance this participation.

With the exception of the plenary session, which is the responsibility of the president, Network events are organized on a voluntary basis. When a member of the Network proposes to take charge of the organization of an event, it may request financial assistance from a third party organization or from the other members.

### DISSOLUTION AND RIGHT TO EXIT

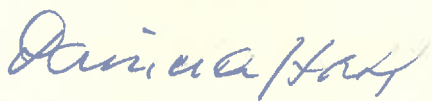
#### Article 13

The Network is dissolved by a decision at a two-third majority of its members, meeting in plenary session.

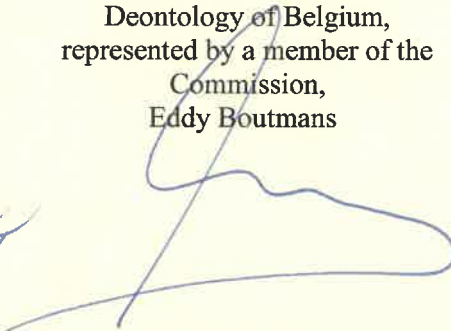
#### Article 14

Any member has the right to leave the Network by decision in accordance with the internal provisions of each member authority and must inform the secretariat.

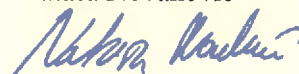
The Federal Anti-Corruption  
Bureau of Austria,  
represented by its head of  
corruption prevention  
department,  
Daniela Hatzl



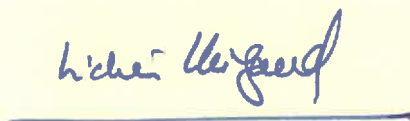
The Federal Commission of  
Deontology of Belgium,  
represented by a member of the  
Commission,  
Eddy Boutmans



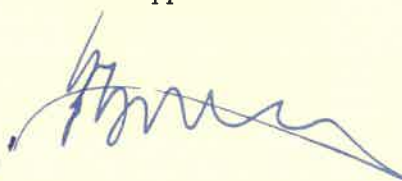
The Conflict of Interest  
Decision-Making Commission  
of Croatia,  
represented by its president,  
Nataša Novaković



The High Authority for  
Transparency in Public Life of  
France,  
represented by its president,  
Didier Migaud



The National Anti-Corruption  
Authority of Italy,  
represented by its president,  
Giuseppe Busia

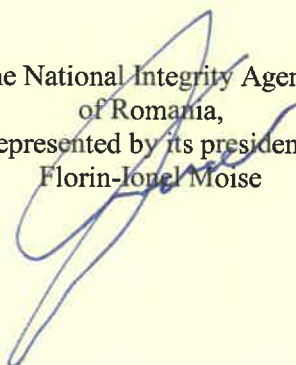


Chief Official Ethics  
Commission of Lithuania,  
represented by its deputy  
Chairperson,  
Evelina Matulaitienė

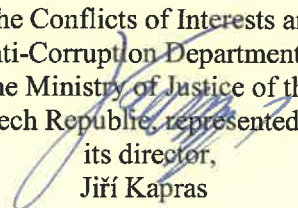


Commissioner for Standards in  
Public Life of Malta,  
represented by its general  
director,  
Charles Polidano

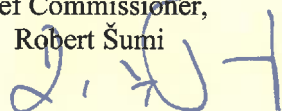
The National Integrity Agency  
of Romania,  
represented by its president,  
Florin-Ionel Moise



The Conflicts of Interests and  
Anti-Corruption Department of  
the Ministry of Justice of the  
Czech Republic, represented by  
its director,  
Jiří Kapras



The Commission for the  
Prevention of Corruption of  
Slovenia, represented by its  
Chief Commissioner,  
Robert Šumi



The Office of Conflicts of  
interest of the Ministry of  
Finance and Public Service of  
Spain,  
represented by its senior advisor,  
Carolina Gomez-Zarzuela  
Irigoyen