



**Bilateral meeting between the Italian National Anti-corruption  
Authority (ANAC) and the Deputy Prime Minister Ms. Slavica  
Grkovska of the Republic of North Macedonia – Rome**

**12 July 2022**

***Opening remarks***

It is my pleasure to welcome you in the Italian National Anti-corruption Authority (ANAC) headquarter for this meeting.

Bilateral relationship between Italy and North Macedonia are strong and fruitful as well as those between the ANAC and the homologous North Macedonian authority, the State Commission for Prevention of Corruption (SCPC) of the Republic of North Macedonia.

A memorandum of understanding was signed between the two authorities in 2021. ANAC and the SCPC immediately wanted to implement the agreement, not to leave it only as a formal and symbolic act, but to give life to forms of substantial collaborations. Over time,

numerous online meetings have been held with the heads of the authority and collaborative activities have been launched, culminating just last week with the study visit to Italy of a high-level delegation of the SCPC, headed by its president. The study visit, funded by the European Commission and organized by ANAC for the institutional point of view, was a fruitful opportunity to take stock of the collaborative activities between the two authorities, to present the characteristics of the Italian model of prevention of corruption and procurement supervision, to exchange considerations and experiences on the various aspects of integrity, corruption prevention, transparency, digitization. The delegation of the SCPC, in fact, in addition to ANAC, also met, high-level delegations from Italian institutions such as: Italian Financial Policy, Agency for the management and assignment of saved and confiscated assets, Ministry of Public Administration, Italian National School of public administration, Suprem Audit Institution.

It is the intention of ANAC to continue to implement the MoU, and to support the SCPC and the institutions of North Macedonia, especially in view of the pre-accession process to European Union.

I know that the path is ongoing and that the country will continue in its efforts to comply with European Union and other international organization recommendations, such as the ones included in the

recent European Parliament resolution of 19 May 2022 on the Commission's 2021 report on North Macedonia and in the Council of Europe GRECO recommendations.

In this path, please consider Italy and ANAC, in its scope of competencies, on your side.

I deeply believe that through continuous dialogue we are not only advancing the fight against corruption, but we are also building mutual understanding and trust by learning from each other's experience.

The process of spreading the culture of transparency and legality has prompted the Authority to adopt "systemic" strategies for corruption prevention, initiating the development of a solid network of relationships and collaboration, at both national and international level.

Corruption, which undermines the rule of law and weakens the citizens' trust in public institutions, is a widespread and trans-national problem. So, trans-national must be the efforts to fight and eradicate it.

We consider multilateral and bilateral cooperation a fundamental tool for institutions like ours to learn from one another and to also strengthen our position at the national level. ANAC is actively involved in international fora and organizations such as the United

Nations, the Council of Europe, and the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development.

In the last years, ANAC has received many delegations of anti-corruption bodies from all over the world. Moreover, ANAC has conducted several technical assistance projects, especially through the EU Twinning and TAIEX programmes.

Regarding our activities, ANAC was vested right from the start with competencies relating both to the prevention of corruption and to the regulation and supervision of public procurement.

Italy has decided to centralize both the fight against corruption and the regulation and supervision of public contracts in the National Anti-Corruption Authority, given that public procurement represent the area most exposed to the risk of corruption.

ANAC has vast experience on the oversight of public procurement, which we have been working on for the past 20 years. During this time our powers and competencies have grown and expanded. Since 2014, the purview of the Authority has been extended as to include competences on anti-corruption, such as the approval of the National Anticorruption Plan, and oversight over conflict of interests of public officials. ANAC plays a pivotal role in the Italian legal system and it is

a well-recognised example of an efficient and effective anti-corruption body at the national and international level.

I must also emphasize ANAC's experience in measuring the risk of corruption through public procurement monitoring, based on our strategic asset, the National Public Procurement Database.

Our Database collects data from over 5 million public procurement procedures registered in 2020 and around 60 million contracts over the last 10 years for a total value of approximately 2,240 billion euros.

Thanks to the National Public Contracts Database, all procurement activities are transparent and available to auditors and citizens in real time so that they can monitor spending in order to prevent cost inefficiencies and corruption.

Having open and transparent data throughout the process serves various purposes. For example, the data can be used as a tool for tracking and comparing processes relating to essential goods to avoiding unnecessary spending. Having this data makes it possible to detect cases of overcharging and potential fraud.

ANAC is also at the forefront of creating a national platform for transparency. The strategic idea is to create a platform based on interconnection with other public databases, capable of simplifying and making the publication of data less onerous, facilitating their

usability and comparability. This is a gradual process that will require the involvement of various institutional actors.

I am fully convinced that transparency, if well organized and adequately targeted, does not slow down the administrative machinery, but, on the contrary, facilitates civic participation and access to services, guaranteeing full respect for the fundamental rights of the persons concerned. This also applies to the National Recovery and Resilience Plan, the implementation of which is the goal of the ANAC; this will be pursued not only through the traditional oversight, but also, and above all, by supporting public administrations and economic operators in this stimulating challenge.

We strongly believe that events like the one taking place today provide unique opportunities to learn from each other and to study our respective legal systems and good practices in implementing our mandates.

***Mr. Giuseppe Busia – President of ANAC***