

Incontro delle Autorità europee competenti per whistleblowing

L'Aia, 22 – 24 maggio 2019

The Hague: Nicoletta's speech

Good morning everyone.

First of all, let me express my heartfelt gratitude to Jitse Talsma and the Dutch Whistleblowers Authority for organizing this meeting and inviting anac. It is with great honor and commitment that Laura and I are here to contribute to this table and its future developments.

As you may know, the Italian Anticorruption Authority (ANAC) is an independent institution charged with the prevention of corruption in the Italian public sector. ANAC is responsible, among others, for the drafting and implementation of the national anti-corruption plan and has a supervisory, regulatory and sanctioning mandate in the areas of public procurement, transparency, conflicts of interest, codes of conduct and whistleblowing.

ANAC has been working on whistleblowing since 2012, when the first Italian anticorruption law was enacted, as (one of) the Authorities in charge of receiving complaints from whistleblowers and issuing guidelines to help public administrations in the interpretation and correct implementation of the law. ANAC's 2015 guidelines fulfilled this task and anticipated a broader interpretation of the whistleblower protection that was successfully transposed into the current legislation. Law 179 of 2017 is the first dedicated and comprehensive whistleblowing law in Italy and ANAC is proud to have contributed to its approval.

As Laura will explain, the law extends the mechanism to the private sector and greatly enhances ANAC's role. Beside its role as recipient of whistleblowing complaints, ANAC is now the sole recipient of complaints of retaliation against whistleblowers, as well as the issuer of pecuniary sanctions towards public administrations not in compliance with the law and public officers responsible for retaliatory actions or behaviors.

We are currently putting our efforts into enhancing the skills and resources of our whistleblowing office and issuing new guidelines for public administrators. We are also preparing for the legislative adaptation required by the recent EU Directive.

More in general, we are aware that much work is still needed in our country to make this mechanism understood and embraced. That is why we welcome this initiative, are honored to be part of it and look forward to building a more permanent forum of whistleblowing authorities.

Thanks again.