

Concerns over Romania's National Integrity System

Brussels, 26 January 2012

Full press release available at:

http://www.transparency.org/news_room/latest_news/press_releases_nc/2012/2012_01_26_tiromania_nis_release

Note to EU stakeholders:

Concerns remain over progress in the fight against corruption in Romania. A [new report released today](#) by Transparency International (TI) Romania identified **public administration, political parties and the business climate as the most vulnerable pillars** in the national integrity system analysis.

The [National Integrity System Assessment](#), a TI research tool, aims to identify the contribution and needs of each institutional actor in the fight against corruption. The assessment examines the integrity of key institutions and sectors of Romanian society.

In the context of elections this year, the poor performance of these pillars threatens not only public funds and the economy, but also the quality of democracy. This report also highlights that **Romanian institutions do not have the necessary resources and lack independence** to address corruption problems.

The **Cooperation and Verification Mechanism (CVM)** has applied to Bulgaria and Romania since they joined the EU in 2007, following concerns over their efforts in combating corruption. The CVM seeks to evaluate and guide reforms in anti-corruption.

The European Commission is currently preparing the **next CVM Progress Report** on judicial reform and the fight against corruption in Romania, expected in February. In July 2012, the Commission will publish its annual report on the CVM and will decide, depending on the results of its report, whether the mechanism is to be maintained in the future. TI-Romania hopes that the weaknesses of the system underlined by both the European Commission in previous CVM Progress Reports and the civil society report launched today will generate the needed policy changes.

Romania's poor performance in fighting corruption can also have indirect political consequences at European level. Some EU Member States, such as the Netherlands, have expressed their view that giving the green light for Romania to join **Schengen** will depend on the outcome of these reports, despite this proviso not being included in the official Schengen enlargement criteria.

Romania will need to prove its competence in the fight against corruption if it wants to achieve positive CVM Reports in February and June. Romanian citizens have also demonstrated their disappointment with the system, making the elimination of corruption in all sectors of Romanian society an even more pressing task.



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The report can be viewed on Transparency International's website and can be viewed at: <http://www.transparency.org/content/download/65905/1056510>

NB: This report is part of a pan-European anti-corruption initiative, supported by the DG Home Affairs of the European Commission.

Further information can be obtained by contacting:

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