

**Together we are stronger?
Harmonising the fight against fraud and corruption in Europe**

**“Co-operation between the various actors in the fight against corruption
- Polish experiences”**

*Dr. Wieslaw Jasinski
Cologne, 25-26 February 2008*

Abstract

- 1. Factors***
- 2. Solutions***
- 3. Methods***
- 4. Dilemmas***
- 5. Priorities***

Ad1) This part of the presentation will be the description of the main factors of the corruption phenomenon and of fighting it in Poland. We differentiate between internal and external factors. These have social, economic and political character. However, in this presentation the most important factor to be presented will be that systems of fighting organized crime, money laundering or corruption were established too late. Besides, the following other two factors will be presented: citizen's mentality and rate of policy in public and local administration.

The lack of a general system to fight organized crime, money laundering and corruption for 13 years determined the level of corruption and still causes / caused many difficulties in the fight against corruption

Ad2) The Anti-corruption Strategy established by the Polish Government in 2002 decided to construct an institution for the police to fight corruption. This institutional system was reconstructed in 2006 and the central point of the system is the Central Anticorruption Bureau (CBA). The Anti-corruption Strategy is weak at organising and co-ordinating the different bodies fighting corruption. More details of this will be discussed during the presentation. Apart from that I will present information about the construction as well as the tasks and functions of the CBA. The reasons behind the establishment of the CBA will also be presented in this section.

There being too many actors in the fight against corruption is a reason for conflict in the system and caused weak results of agencies' activities. There is a strong need to co-ordinate their activities.

Ad3) The Anti-corruption Strategy introduced new methods of fighting corruption. All of them are used by four different law enforcement agencies and they are very similar. The CBA has the most experience in this field, making use of: tapping, control giving and receiving of bribe and undercover operations. The investigation agencies use regulations concerning the exemption from punishment proposal to people who report bribers. New methods used by CBA are: a control of property statements of public persons and financial control of firms and persons.

Methods of fighting corruption used by Polish agencies are of a singular character in the EU. They are controversial, too.

Ad4) The following dilemmas will be commented on during the presentation: threats of political corruption, the relationship between prevention – repression accents in the fight against corruption and the media’s attitude to the agencies’ activity.

To solve the dilemmas of Polish anticorruption system is the crucial point for the future of CBA and other agencies.

Ad5) The following priorities will be commented on during the course of the presentation: corruption map (e.g. court’s activity and public order, political corruption), co-ordination (only two agencies – two levels of corruption), confiscation, protection for whistleblowers, education for specialists of agencies and the EU anticorruption network.

Most important will be to find the most successful balance between preventive and repressive accents in the activity of CBA and other agencies.