





Setting the standards for protecting OUR and OUR CLIENTS' Reputation for Integrity





#### Introduction

- In conducting our business activities, coming into contact with third parties (subcontractors, intermediaries etc.) and serving our clients, it is essential that we adhere to certain code of practices and that we apply a high level of conduct standards.
- Proper conduct rules and strict observation of anti-corruption legislation is a cornerstone of our code of practice and a safeguard of our and our clients reputation of integrity.
- Walking away from conducts and businesses that are of questionable integrity is a MUST.
- Our and our clients' reputation is NON NEGOTIABLE.





# **Anti-Bribery and Anti-Corruption Policy**



#### **Anti-Corruption Legislation**

- During the last years, anti-corruption legislation has been enacted both on national and international levels in an attempt to combat corruption practices, bribery and improper contact.
- According to anti-corruption legislation, companies are held responsible for the business practices of their:
  - a) employees,
- b) agents, and
  - c) intermediaries (such as advisors, consultants, representatives etc.)
- Examples of such anti-corruption legislation are:
- 1) US Foreign Corrupt Practices Act (FCPA),
- 2) Council Framework Decision 2003/568/JHA of 22 July 2003 on combating corruption in the private sector,
- 3) European Anti-Corruption Conventions,
- 4) The United Nations Convention against Corruption (UNCAC), and
  - 5) OECD Anti-Bribery Convention Combating Bribery of Foreign Officials in International Business Transactions .





# 1. US Foreign Corrupt Practices Act (FCPA)

- The US Foreign Corrupt Practices Act (FCPA) is the most widely enforced anticorruption law.
- It is the first to introduce corporate liability, responsibility for third parties and extraterritoriality for corruption offences, meaning companies and persons can be held criminally and civilly responsible for corruption offences committed abroad.
- It was enacted in 1977 after foreign bribery scandals involving U.S. companies. The act was amended in 1988 and in 1998.
- The FCPA makes it illegal to corruptly give, offer or promise money or anything of value, directly or indirectly through agents or intermediaries, to foreign officials or political parties or candidates to obtain or retain business.
- Individuals are subject to criminal liability under the FCPA, regardless of whether the company is found guilty or even prosecuted.

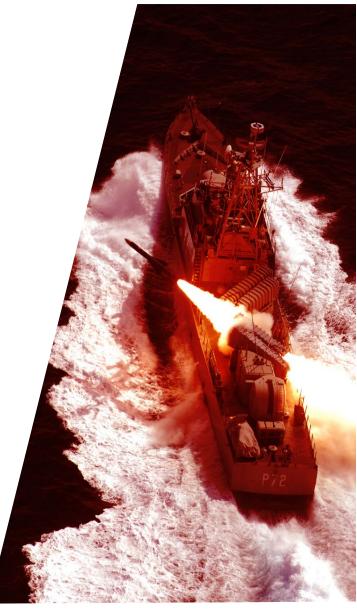




# 2. Council Framework Decision 2003/568/JHA of 22 July 2003 on combating corruption in the private sector

- Under Article 3 of the Treaty on European Union, it is the Union's objective to provide citizens with a high level of safety within an area of freedom, security and justice without internal frontiers, in which the free movement of persons is ensured in conjunction with appropriate measures with respect to external border controls, asylum, immigration and the prevention and combating of crime, organised or otherwise, including corruption.
- The aim of this Framework Decision is in particular to ensure that both active and passive corruption in the private sector are criminal offences in all Member States, that legal persons may also be held responsible for such offences, and that these offences incur effective, proportionate and dissuasive penalties.

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# 3. European Anti-Corruption Conventions

#### **SUMMARY**

<u>Council of Europe Criminal Law Convention on Corruption (COE Criminal Law Convention)</u>

The COE Criminal Law Convention aims to coordinate the criminalisation of corrupt practices, provide complementary criminal law measures and improve cooperation for the prosecution of offences. It entered into force in 2002, and compliance is monitored by the Group of States against Corruption (GRECO).

<u>Council of Europe Civil Law Convention on Corruption (COE Civil Law Convention)</u>

The COE Civil Law Convention aims to define common international rules of civil law and corruption. Parties are required to compensate persons who have suffered damage as a result of corruption. It entered into force in 2003, and compliance is monitored by the Group of States against Corruption (GRECO).

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# 3. European Anti-Corruption Conventions (cont.)

#### **SUMMARY**

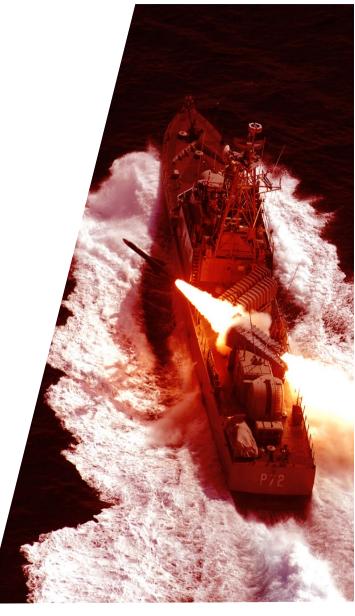
• <u>European Union Convention against Corruption Involving Officials (EU Convention against Corruption)</u>

The EU Convention against Corruption aims to fight corruption involving EU or Member States' officials. Member States must ensure that passive or active corruption by officials is a criminal offence. Heads of businesses are to be declared criminally liable for active corruption by a person under their authority acting on behalf of the company.

<u>European Union Convention on the Protection of the European Communities'</u>
<u>Financial Interests (EU Convention on Financial Interests)</u>

The EU Convention on Financial Interests aims to create a common legal basis for the criminal protection of the EC's financial interests. Fraud affecting expenditure and revenue must be punishable by criminal penalties.

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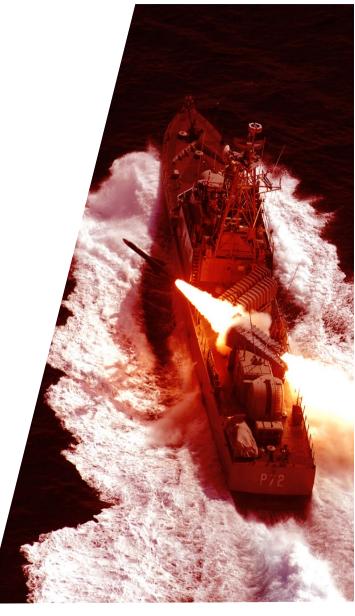




# 4. The United Nations Convention against Corruption (UNCAC)

- The United Nations Convention against Corruption (UNCAC) is the most comprehensive anti-corruption convention, entering into force in December 2005. It covers a wide-range of corruption offences, including domestic and foreign bribery, embezzlement, trading in influence and money laundering. The UNCAC provisions obligate State Parties to take a number of public and private anti-corruption measures:
  - a) Prevention: Countries are obligated to take anti-corruption measures in public and private sectors.
  - b) Criminalisation: Countries are required to establish a wide range of criminal offences, including basic forms of corruption (like bribery and embezzlement).
  - c) International cooperation: Countries agree to cooperate with one another in every aspect of the fight against corruption and are required to give mutual legal assistance in gathering information for use in court.
  - d) Asset Recovery: Effective asset-recovery provisions send the message that there is no place to hide illicit assets.

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# **5.** OECD Anti-Bribery Convention - Combating Bribery of Foreign Officials in International Business Transactions

#### **SUMMARY**

• The OECD Convention on Combating Bribery of Foreign Public Officials in International Business Transactions (OECD Convention), adopted in 1997, addresses bribery of foreign public officials. Its aim is to create a level playing field between OECD countries by subjecting countries to the same criminal standards. Before the OECD Convention, the US was the only OECD country that prohibited its companies from bribing foreign officials. The OECD Convention does not address private (business-to-business) bribery.



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# **5.** OECD Anti-Bribery Convention - Combating Bribery of Foreign Officials in International Business Transactions (cont.)

- OECD Anti-Bribery Convention has been signed by Australia, Austria, Belgium, Brazil, Canada, Chile, China, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Korea, Luxembourg, Mexico, The Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Russia, Slovak Republic, Slovenia, South Africa, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, United Kingdom, United States.
- Each signatory is committed to implement legislation making it a criminal offense for any person intentionally to offer, promise or give any undue pecuniary or other advantage, directly or through intermediaries, to a foreign public official in order to obtain or retain business or other improper advantage in conduct of international business.
- The OECD Convention does not address private (business-to-business) bribery.





#### **Elements of an Anti-Corruption Violation**

- The intentional promise, offering or giving and the intentional solicitation or acceptance,
- Directly or Indirectly (to a third party "knowing" that the third party will convey) of any:
  - a) payment and/or article of monetary value,
  - b) benefit, such as a favor or promise, and
  - c) pecuniary and/or undue advantage,

#### To:

- ✓ an "Official" or "Business Professional" or "Competitor"
- ✓ influence an act, decision, omission in the performance or to refrain from acting of an Official or "Business Professional" or "Competitor"
- ✓ secure "any improper advantage"
- ✓ obtain, retain or direct business





# **Key Definitions: Anything of Value**

# **Anything of value:**

- Not just money.
- Refers to any goods that have a certain utility to the recipient that is real and that is ordinarily not given away free but is purchased.
- Extends beyond cash to include improper gifts, entertainment, charitable and political contributions, and employment or internships for clients, officials, or their related persons.
- No de minimis exceptions.
- Anything of value includes:
  - a) Gifts (such as tickets, side trips, meals, family vacations).
  - b) A Stock, bond, note, or other investment interest in an entity.
  - c) Tangible good(s) and/or intangible benefit(s) (promises included).
  - d) Pecuniary item or other (it does not have to be of a certain value).





### **Key Definitions: Prohibited Practices**

- Bribery: the act of giving money, goods or other forms of recompense to a recipient in exchange for an alteration of their behaviour (to the benefit/interest of the giver) that the recipient would otherwise not alter.
- Influencing any act, decision or omission in the performance of the Official.
- Inducing an Official to influence a government decision.
- Securing any improper advantage to obtain, retain, direct business, or prohibiting others from conducting business.





# **Key Definitions: Official**

- Officer or employee of a government or any government department, agency or instrumentality (including government-controlled company).
- Public officials and officials of public international organizations.
- Person acting for or on behalf of a government or any government department, agency or instrumentality.
- Close relative of an Official.
- Any person that is likely to influence the opinion and acts of the Official in order to obtain an unfair benefit.





#### **Red Flags**

- For 3rd/other parties involved in international transactions extra caution is required when:
- The country or region is known for widespread corruption.
- There are news accounts of payoffs or bribes within the country or industry, or by this individual or sales representative.
- The industry has a history of corruption.
- The 3rd/other party involved refuses to provide detailed information about the specific services provided or how he conducts his activities on behalf of the company.
- The 3rd/other party refuses to confirm that he will abide by the FCPA or to execute the required certifications of compliance.
- Statements by the 3rd/other party that indicate a lack of truthfulness or lack of full disclosure.
- 3rd/other party has a bad reputation.



**EFA**GROUP



# **Red Flags (cont.)**

- Statements by the 3rd/other party that a particular amount of money is needed in order to "get the business" or "make the necessary arrangements".
- 3rd/other party has family, business or other close ties with government officials.
- 3rd/other party requires that his identity not be exposed.
- A potential foreign government customer recommends the 3rd party.
- The 3rd/other party lacks a "real office" and staff to perform the required services or is new to the industry.
- Any odd request by the 3rd/other party that reasonably raises suspicions.
- A commission that is substantial in absolute numbers or in relation to the business for which the 3rd/other party is retained.
- Payment that is disproportionate to the value of any services.
- Payment in a third country, especially in secrecy jurisdictions.

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# Red Flags (cont.)

- Payment through convoluted or confidential means, or a request that the payment not be fully disclosed in the written agreement.
- Over-invoicing or under-invoicing, or requests to back-date invoices or payments.
- Invoices that do not contain a detailed breakdown of the specific services provided.
- A request that a payment be made on an invoice that does not accurately reflect the services for which payment is requested.
- A request that checks be made out to cash or bearer. In addition, request that payments be made in cash.
- A request that payments be made in whole or part to a third party or to a person or entity not involved in the transaction.
- Requests for unusual bonuses or extraordinary payments as well as requests for an unorthodox or substantial up-front payment.

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#### **General Guidelines**

- Detect Early Warning Signals.
- Test an Action Before You Commit.
- Do an Ethics Check:
  - ✓ Is it legal?
  - ✓ Is it the right thing to do?
  - ✓ Does it enhance or diminish our company's reputation?
  - ✓ How will it be perceived by my superiors, our clients, the public authorities both in my country and in the foreign country?
- When in doubt, ask before you act.
- Suspected violations must be reported immediately.
- Remember: A risky choice or conduct puts in danger not only the particular transaction but the reputation and the entire well being of our company vis-a-vis the international business community.





# **CORRUPTION PERCEPTIONS INDEX 2021**

The perceived levels of public sector corruption in 180 countries/territories around the world.

#### SCORE COUNTRY/TERRITORY New Zealand Norway Singapore Switzerland Netherlands Luxembourg Germany United Kingdom Hong Kong Canada Iceland Ireland Estonia Austria Australia Belgium Japan Uruguay France Seychelles

United Arab Emirates

Bhutan

SCORE



0-9 10-19 20-29 30-39 40-49 50-59 60-69 70-79 80-89 90-100

Saudi Arabia

Oman

Slovakia

Armenia

Greece

Jordan

Namibia

Malaysia

Montenegro

Sao Tome and Principe

South Africa

Solomon Islands

Croatia

Cuba

China

Romania

Vanuatu

Jamaica

Tunisia

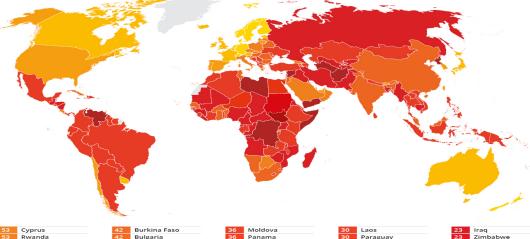
Ghana

Kuwait

Senegal

Bahrain

Hungary



42	Burkina Faso	36	Moldova
42	Bulgaria	36	Panama
41	Timor-Leste	36	Peru
41	Belarus	35	Albania
41	Trinidad and Tobago	35	Bosnia and Herzegovina
40	India	35	Malawi
	Maldives	35	Mongolia
39	Kosovo	35	Thailand
39	Colombia	34	El Salvador
39	Ethiopia	34	Sierra Leone
39	Guyana	33	Egypt
39	Morocco	33	Nepal
39	North Macedonia	33	Philippines
39	Suriname	33	Zambia
39	Tanzania	33	Algeria
39	Vietnam	32	Eswatini
38	Argentina	32	Ukraine
38	Brazil	31	Gabon
38	Indonesia	31	Mexico
38	Lesotho	31	Niger
38	Serbia	31	Papua New
38	Turkey		Guinea
37	Gambia	30	Azerbaijan
37	Kazakhstan	30	Polivia

Sri Lanka

Ecuador

Cote d'Ivoire

36	Moldova	30	Laos
36	Panama	30	Paraguay
36	Peru	30	Togo
35	Albania	30	Kenya
35	Bosnia and Herzegovina	29 29	Angola Liberia
35	Malawi	29	Mali
35	Mongolia	29	Russia
35	Thailand	28	Mauritania
34	El Salvador	28	Myanmar
34	Sierra Leone	28	Pakistan
33	Egypt	28	Uzbekistan
33	Nepal	27	Cameroon
33	Philippines	27	Kyrgyzstan
33	Zambia	27	Uganda
33	Algeria	26	Bangladesh
32	Eswatini	26	Madagascar
32	Ukraine	26	Mozambique
31	Gabon	25	Guatemala
31	Mexico	25	Guinea
31	Niger	25	Iran
31	Papua New Guinea	25	Tajikistan
		24	Lebanon
30	Azerbaijan	24	Nigeria
30	Bolivia	24	Central African
30	Djibouti		Republic

Cambodia

23	Iraq
23	Zimbabwe
22	Eritrea
21	Congo
21	Guinea Bissau
20	Chad
20	Comoros
20	Haiti
20	Nicaragua
20	Sudan
19	Burundi
19	Democratic Republic of the Congo
19	Turkmenistan
17	Equatorial Guinea
17	Libya
16	Afghanistan
16	Korea, North
16	Yemen
14	Venezuela
13	Somalia
13	Syria
11	South Sudan









