



EUROPEAN UNION

Delegation of the European Union

Skopje, 12 November 2012

**Celebration of the 10th anniversary of the State
Commission for Prevention of Corruption
(Army Hall)**

**Speech by
H.E. Mr. Aivo Orav
Head of EU Delegation**

Dear President of the State Commission for Prevention of
Corruption,
Dear Ministers,
Honourable Colleagues,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

I would like to thank for the invitation to celebrate together the 10th anniversary of the State Commission for Prevention of Corruption.

I warmly congratulate the State Commission and wish its members and staff all the best in their meaningful work!

10 years for an institution, just like for a human being – is not a very long time. Just as human beings, the institution needs to grow, to mature, to find and assert its place within the complex web of public and social structures, to gain citizen's trust.

However, despite this short existence, the Anti-Corruption Commission has managed to achieve a lot and deserves praise: it has gradually strengthened its legal and institutional framework, grew in terms of personnel and functions, not to mention professionalism and institutional culture.

Preventive mechanisms to control assets and interests of state officials have taken shape and started being applied in practice.

Cooperation with various national and international partners has been successfully established and further expanded.

We have been also enjoying our close cooperation with the Anti-Corruption Commission ever since its inception.

And we do hope to continue this cooperation in the same good spirit !

Dear Ladies and Gentlemen,

Looking at the recent EU Progress Reports, we can notice that they do mirror the developments that the State Commission itself has been undergoing.

Progress has been achieved on the legislative and institutional front, as laws and policy documents were adopted and institutions were reformed and received more powers to fight corruption.

E-Governance and smart governance initiatives reduced instances of corruption.

Trainings were carried out and anti-corruption partnerships within public sector, NGO and business sector were built.

Much of praise for all these encouraging achievements goes to the Anti-Corruption Commission that was at the front of most of these developments.

Good job creates expectations, and not only for the State Commission, but for the entire area of anti-corruption.

As our Progress Report and our High Level Dialogue indicate, there are clear efforts by the Anti-Corruption Commission and other relevant bodies to fulfil these expectations and to address the remaining challenges in the sector.

The EU expects that this positive trend of taking anti-corruption policy seriously continues and that it translates into concrete, practical results, into what we call a "track record" of effective prevention and fight against corruption.

We can all agree that a solid track record in detection, investigation and trial of corruption cases, including high level cases, is a powerful prevention tool, along with strong internal control and human resource management standards,

systematic verification of asset declarations and conflicts of interest and application of sanctions.

Proving to citizens that the state is willing and most importantly - able to prevent and combat corruption, not only stimulates citizens' trust in the state, but also generates behavioural changes and "Zero Tolerance for Corruption".

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Let me finish by stressing that the EU will continue to provide its full support to your country and people in achieving these two crucial goals – effective and independent institutions and Zero Tolerance to Corruption in the society.

For this end, next year we are launching several large EU Projects. One will focus on the completion of the ongoing criminal justice reform by providing advice and modern equipment to criminal justice actors.

Another Project will deal with comprehensive review and modernisation of the Anti-Corruption policy, and will include analysis, training, legal, institutional and IT solutions, not to mention awareness raising campaigns that you will surely hear about.

It is our pleasure that State Commission will be the main beneficiary of this Project.

And the third project will be directed towards the consolidation of judicial independence through capacity building, legal and technological support.

We do hope that these three Projects we allow to achieve substantial progress in the area of judiciary and anti-corruption which are considered Priority Areas on the Road to EU Accession.

Once again – my warmest congratulations and best wishes to the State Commission and to all of you - and I look forward to our successful cooperation!

Thank you for the attention.