

White collar
crimes
Corruption



Corruption

- Interferes with the economic development of a Country
- Undermines democracy
- Damages social justice and the rule of law

To which extent does bribery distort global markets and destroy communities ?

What is corruption?

In line with international legal instruments, corruption in a broad sense must be intended as “**any abuse of power for private gain**”



The United Nations Convention against Corruption

In accordance with article 68 of resolution 58/4, the United Nations Convention against corruption entered into force on 14 December 2005

Chapter I

General provisions

Article 1. Statement of purpose

The purposes of this Convention are:

1. To promote and strengthen measures to prevent and combat corruption more efficiently and effectively
2. To promote, facilitate and support international cooperation and technical assistance in the prevention and fight against corruption, including in asset recovery;
3. To promote integrity, accountability and proper management of public affairs and public property, in line with international legal instruments



Convention Highlights

Prevention

Corruption can be prosecuted after the fact, but first and foremost, it requires prevention.

An entire chapter of the Convention is dedicated to prevention, with measures directed at both the public and private sector.

Criminalization

The convention requires countries to establish criminal and other offences to cover a wide range of acts of corruption, if these are not already crimes under domestic law

International cooperation

Countries agreed to cooperate with one another in every aspect of the fight against corruption, including prevention, investigation and the prosecution of offenders.

Asset recovery

In a major breakthrough, countries agreed on asset-recovery, which is stated explicitly as a fundamental principle of the Convention



•Prevention

Corruption can be prosecuted after the fact, but first and foremost, it requires prevention. An entire chapter of the Convention is dedicated to prevention, with measures directed at both the public and private sectors. **These include model preventive policies, such as the establishment of anticorruption bodies and enhanced transparency in the financing of election campaigns and political parties.** States must endeavour to ensure that their public services are subject to safeguards that promote efficiency, transparency and recruitment based on merit. Once recruited, public servants should be subject to codes of conduct, requirements for financial and other disclosures, and appropriate disciplinary measures. **Transparency and accountability in matters of public finance must also be promoted,** and specific requirements are established for the prevention of corruption, in the particularly critical areas of the public sector, such as the judiciary and public procurement. Those who use public services must expect a high standard of conduct from their public servants. Preventing public corruption also requires an effort from all members of society at large. For these reasons, the Convention calls on countries to promote actively the involvement of non-governmental and community-based organizations, as well as other elements of civil society, and to raise public awareness of corruption and what can be done about it. Article 5 of the Convention enjoins each State Party to establish and promote effective practices aimed at the prevention of corruption.





White collar criminality in business

*It is expressed most frequently in the form of misrepresentation in financial statements of corporations, manipulation in the stock exchange, **commercial bribery, bribery of public officials directly or indirectly in order to secure favourable contracts and legislation,** misrepresentation in advertising and salesmanship, embezzlement and misapplication of funds, short weights and measures and misgrading of commodities, tax frauds, misapplication of funds in receiverships and bankruptcies*



The financial cost of white collar crime

It is probably several times as great as the financial cost of all the crimes which are customarily regarded as “the crime problem”.



The damage to social relations

The financial loss from white-collar-crime, as great as it is, is less important than the damage to social relations. White collar crimes violate trust and therefore create distrust, which lowers social morale and produces social disorganization on a large scale



Cecilia Malmstrom

EU Commissioner for Home Affairs

So, why is anti-corruption policy a top priority for the Commission today? Well, corruption is a phenomenon which is difficult to tackle, and at the same time a problem we cannot afford to ignore.

Academic research has shown how severely corruption can affect the economy and society at large. It erodes trust in public institutions and political processes, and undermines the healthy functioning of markets and competition. It negatively affects already tight public budgets, and helps organised crime groups do their dirty work.

And the scale of the problem is serious. The Commission's best estimate is that 120 billion euros are lost each year to corruption in the 27 Member States of the EU. That is the equivalent of the whole EU-budget. In public procurement, studies suggest that up to 20- 25% of the public contracts' value may be lost to corruption.



Transparency International

Corruption is the abuse of **entrusted** power for private gain. It hurts everyone who depends on the integrity of people in a position of authority

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Our mission

Our Mission is to stop corruption and promote transparency, accountability and integrity at all levels and across all sectors of society.

Our vision

Our Vision is a world in which government, politics, business, civil society and the daily lives of people are free of corruption.

Our core values

Transparency

Accountability

Integrity

Solidarity

Courage

Justice

Democracy



Transparency International is best known for its annual **corruption perceptions index**, a worldwide survey that ranks countries according to the perceived levels of corruption in public life.

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European Commission

Corruption remains one of the biggest challenges for all societies, including European societies. Although the nature and scope of corruption may differ from one EU State to another, it harms the EU as a whole by lowering investment levels, hampering the fair operation of the Internal Market and reducing public finances. The economic costs incurred by corruption in the EU possibly amount to EUR 120 billion per year. This is one percent of the EU GDP, representing only a little less than the annual budget of the EU.

