



European Network for Public Ethics

**Annual Conference of
The European Network for Public Ethics**

**Rome, Italy
10 October 2024**

**Rome Declaration
on New Perspectives in Preventing Corruption and Promoting a Culture of
Integrity in Europe**

Members of the European Network for Public Ethics (ENPE), meeting in Rome, Italy, at its Annual Conference on 10 October 2024, adopts the following declaration:

Concerned by the seriousness of the challenges and threats posed by corruption to the stability and security of societies, which undermines the institutions and values of democracy, rule of law and ethics, and jeopardises sustainable development,

Emphasizing the relevance and importance of preventive measures to the effectiveness of anti-corruption strategies, in order to mitigate the risk before it arises, especially since globalisation has made corruption increasingly transnational and sophisticated,

Recognizing the indispensable role of anti-corruption authorities in effectively combating corruption through, preventive measures, engagement with different sectors of society, international cooperation, technical assistance and information exchange, and law enforcement,

Recognizing also the need for a legislative approach to preventive measures and measures for enhancing integrity, as well as the need to share definitions and policies



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in different Member States and to establish common minimum standards in order to place personal and public integrity at the heart of the values of the European Union,

Hoping for a successful outcome of the ongoing negotiations for the adoption of the European Commission's proposal for a directive on combating corruption, and aware of its importance for the effectiveness of a European anti-corruption strategy,

- 1. Emphasise* the importance of preventing corruption and enhancing integrity as it mitigates the need for criminal repression and has wider benefits in promoting public trust and managing the conduct of public officials;
- 2. Agree* on the need for greater coordination and definition of common standards across the EU, including facilitating cross-border cooperation, as required by the United Nations Convention Against Corruption (UNCAC), as well as a constantly updated collection of best practices, which are shared within the EU;
- 3. Express* our full support to the European Commission's proposal for a directive on combating corruption, which includes a range of effective preventive measures alongside repressive ones, in order to update the EU legislative framework;
- 4. Welcome* the comprehensive and multidisciplinary approach adopted by the European Commission in the proposal for a directive on combating corruption, which provides for a wide range of preventive measures, such as information and awareness-raising campaigns, research and education programmes, transparency and accountability measures in public administration and public decision-making, open access to information of public interest, effective rules for the disclosure and management of conflicts of interest in the public sector and effective rules regulating the interaction between the private and the public sector;



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5. *Reaffirm* the need for strengthening national bodies or organisation units specialised in the prevention and repression of corruption, through measures ensuring their effective independence and improving their capacity to act;

6. *Decide* that the text of this Declaration be widely disseminated by the competent authorities in their respective countries to raise awareness among institutions and civil society about the importance of developing and deepening a culture of integrity.