

# **ANNEXES OF TITLE VI: FINANCIAL COOPERATION, WITH ANTI-FRAUD PROVISIONS**

## **ANNEX XLIII TO TITLE VI**

### **FINANCIAL COOPERATION, WITH ANTI-FRAUD PROVISIONS**

#### **Anti-Fraud and Control Provisions**

##### **Definitions**

For the purposes of Title VI (Financial Cooperation, with Anti-Fraud Provisions) of this Agreement the following definitions shall apply.

"Irregularity" shall mean any infringement of a provision of EU law, this Agreement or ensuing agreements and contracts, resulting from an act or omission by an economic operator, which has, or would have, the effect of prejudicing the general budget of the EU or budgets managed by it, either by reducing or losing revenue accruing from own resources collected directly on behalf of the EU, or by an unjustified item of expenditure.

"Fraud" shall mean any intentional act or omission relating to:

- (a) the use or presentation of false, incorrect or incomplete statements or documents, which has as its effect the misappropriation or wrongful retention of funds from the general budget of the EU or budgets managed by, or on behalf of, the EU;
- (b) non-disclosure of information in violation of a specific obligation, with the same effect;
- (c) the misapplication of such funds for purposes other than those for which they are originally granted.

"Active corruption" shall mean the deliberate action of whosoever promises or gives, directly or through an intermediary, an advantage of any kind whatsoever to an official for himself or for a third party to act or refrain from acting in accordance with his duty or in the exercise of his functions in breach of his official duties in a way which damages or is likely to damage the EU's financial interests.

"Passive corruption" shall mean the deliberate action of an official, who, directly or through an intermediary, requests or receives advantages of any kind whatsoever, for himself or for a third party, or accepts a promise of such an advantage, to act or refrain from acting in accordance with his duty or in the exercise of his functions in breach of his official duties in a way which damages or is likely to damage the EU's financial interests.

"Conflict of interest" shall be deemed to be present in any situation that could cast doubt on the ability of staff to act in an impartial and objective manner for reasons involving family, emotional life, political or national affinity, economic interest or any other shared interest with a tenderer, applicant or beneficiary, or that could reasonably appear to do so in the eyes of an external third party.

"Unduly paid" shall mean paid in breach of the rules governing EU funds.

The "European Anti-Fraud Office" is the European Commission's specialised anti-fraud

department. The Office has operational independence and is responsible for carrying out administrative investigations intended to combat fraud, corruption and any other illegal activity adversely affecting the EU's financial interests, as provided for in Commission Decision of 28 April 1999 establishing the European Anti-Fraud Office, Regulation (EC) No 1073/1999 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 25 May 1999 concerning investigations by the European Anti-Fraud Office and Council Regulation (Euratom, EC) No 2185/96 of 11 November 1996 concerning on-the-spot checks and inspections carried out by the Commission in order to protect the European Communities' financial interests against fraud and other irregularities.

"Financing governmental agency" shall mean the appropriate executive authority of Ukraine, which received financial resources from the EU with the aim to implement EU financial assistance.

### ***Article 1***

#### **Exchange of information and further cooperation at operational level**

1. For the purposes of proper implementation of this Annex, the competent Ukrainian and EU authorities shall regularly exchange information and at the request of one of the Parties, shall conduct consultations.
2. The European Anti-Fraud Office may agree with its Ukrainian counterparts on further cooperation in the field of anti-fraud including operational arrangements with the Ukrainian authorities as regards specific investigations.
3. For the communication of personal data, Article 10 of Annex XLIII to this Agreement applies.

### ***Article 2***

#### **Prevention of Irregularities, Fraud and Corruption**

1. Ukrainian and EU authorities shall check regularly that the operations financed with EU funds have been properly implemented. They shall take any appropriate measure to prevent and remedy irregularities and fraud.
2. Ukrainian and EU authorities shall take any appropriate measure to prevent and remedy any practices of active or passive corruption and exclude any conflict of interest at any stage of the procedure for the award of contracts or grants or in the implementation of the related contracts.
3. The Ukrainian authorities shall inform the Commission of any preventive measure taken. The Commission shall inform the Ukrainian authorities about the development of its preventive measures, as appropriate.
4. In the case of implementation of instruments of financial assistance through decentralized management and indirect centralized management, the Commission shall be entitled to obtain evidence in accordance with Article 56 of Regulation (EC, Euratom) No 1605/2002 of 25 June 2002.

It shall also be entitled to obtain evidence that procedures on procurement and grants satisfy the principles of transparency, equal treatment and non-discrimination, prevent any conflict of interest, offer guarantees equivalent to internationally accepted standards and ensure compliance with the provisions of sound financial management.

To this end, the competent Ukrainian authorities shall provide the Commission within reasonable time with any information related to the implementation of EU funds it requests and shall inform it without delay of any substantial change in their procedures or systems.

5. When introducing or implementing new preventive measures, the Ukrainian authorities may benefit from the expertise of the Commission.

### ***Article 3***

#### **Investigation and Prosecution**

The Parties shall ensure investigation and prosecution of suspected and actual cases of fraud, corruption or any other irregularity including conflict of interest, following national or EU controls. Where appropriate the European Anti-Fraud Office may assist the competent Ukrainian authorities in this task.

### ***Article 4***

#### **Communication of irregularities**

1. The competent Ukrainian authorities shall transmit to the Commission without delay any information which has come to their notice on suspected or actual cases of fraud, corruption or any other irregularity, including conflict of interest, in connection with the implementation of EU funds. In case of suspicion of fraud and corruption, the European Anti-Fraud Office shall also be informed.
2. The competent Ukrainian authorities shall also report on all measures taken in connection with facts communicated under this article. Should there be no suspected or actual cases of fraud, corruption, or any other irregularity to report, the competent Ukrainian authorities shall inform the Commission following the end of each calendar year.
3. The Commission will provide the competent Ukrainian authorities with relevant information on trends and modus operandi concerning fraud and corruption as appropriate.
4. The Association Council will define the modalities for transmission of information from the competent Ukrainian authorities to the Commission.

### ***Article 5***

#### **Audits**

1. The Commission and the European Court of Auditors shall examine whether all expenditure related to the implementation of EU funds has been incurred in a lawful and regular manner and whether the financial management has been sound.

Audits shall be carried out on the basis both of commitments undertaken and payments made. They shall be based on records and, if necessary, performed on-the-spot on the premises of any entity which manages or takes part in the implementation of EU funds. The audits may be carried out before the closure of the accounts for the financial year in question and for a period of five years from the date of payment of the balance.

Commission inspectors or other persons mandated by the Commission or the European Court of Auditors may conduct documentary or on-the-spot checks and audits on the premises of any entity which manages or takes part in the implementation of EU funds and of their subcontractors in Ukraine.

2. The Commission and the European Court of Auditors shall have appropriate access to sites,

works and documents and to all the information required in order to carry out such audits, including in electronic form. This right of access should be communicated to all public institutions of Ukraine and shall be stated explicitly in the contracts concluded to implement the instruments referred to in this Agreement.

3. The checks and audits described above are applicable to all contractors and subcontractors who have received EU funds directly or indirectly. In the performance of their tasks, the European Court of Auditors and the Ukrainian audit bodies shall cooperate in a spirit of trust while maintaining their independence.

## ***Article 6***

### **On-the-spot checks**

1. Within the framework of this Agreement, the European Anti-Fraud Office shall be authorised to carry out on-the-spot checks and inspections in order to protect the EU's financial interests against fraud and other irregularities on Ukraine's territory, in accordance with the provisions of Council Regulation (EC, Euratom) No 2185/96 of 11 November 1996.

While executing these on-the-spot checks and inspections the European Anti-Fraud Office's officials shall take into account the rules of Ukrainian legislation as appropriate.

2. On-the-spot checks and inspections shall be prepared and conducted by the European Anti-fraud Office in close collaboration with the competent Ukrainian anti-fraud authorities.

The Ukrainian authorities shall be notified of the object, purpose and legal basis of the checks and inspections, so that they can provide all the requisite help. To that end, the officials of the competent Ukrainian authorities may participate in on-the-spot checks and inspections.

3. If the Ukrainian authorities concerned express their interest, the on-the-spot checks and inspections may be carried out jointly by the European Anti-Fraud Office and themselves.
4. Where the beneficiaries of EU funds resist an on-the-spot check or inspection, the Ukrainian authorities, acting in accordance with national rules, shall give European Anti-Fraud Office's officials such assistance as they need, in order to allow them to discharge their duty in carrying out an on-the-spot check or inspection.

## ***Article 7***

### **Administrative measures and penalties**

Without prejudice to the application of Ukrainian law, administrative measures and penalties may be imposed by the Commission in accordance with Regulations (EC, Euratom) No 1605/2002 of 25 June 2002 and (EC, Euratom) No 2342/2002 of 23 December 2002 and with Council Regulation (EC, Euratom) No 2988/95 of 18 December 1995 on the protection of the European Communities' financial interests.

## ***Article 8***

### **Recovery**

1. The Ukrainian authorities shall take any appropriate measure to recover to the financing governmental agency EU funds unduly paid.

Where the Ukrainian authorities are entrusted with the implementation of EU funds the Commission is entitled to recover EU funds unduly paid, in particular through financial corrections. The Commission shall take into account the measures taken by the Ukrainian

authorities to prevent the loss of the EU funds concerned.

The Commission shall consult with Ukraine on the matter before taking any decision on recovery. Disputes on recovery will be discussed in the Association Council.

2. Where the Commission implements EU funds directly or indirectly by entrusting budget implementation tasks to third parties, decisions taken by the Commission within the scope of the chapter on financial cooperation of this Agreement, which impose pecuniary obligation on persons other than States, shall be enforceable in Ukraine in accordance with the following principles:
  - (a) Enforcement shall be governed by the rules of civil procedure in force in Ukraine. The order for the decision's enforcement shall be appended to it, without any other formality being necessary, other than verification of the authenticity of the decision, by the national authority which the government of Ukraine shall designate for this purpose and which it shall make known to the Commission and to the Court of Justice of the European Union.
  - (b) When these formalities have been completed on application by the party concerned, the latter may proceed to enforcement in accordance with Ukrainian law, by bringing the matter directly before the competent authority.
  - (c) Enforcement may be suspended only by a decision of the Court. However, the courts of Ukraine concerned shall have jurisdiction over complaints that enforcement is being carried out in an irregular manner.
3. The enforcement order shall be issued, without any further control than verification of the authenticity of the act, by the authorities designated by the Ukrainian government. Enforcement shall take place in accordance with Ukrainian rules of procedure. The legality of the enforcement decision shall be subject to control by the Court of Justice of the EU.
4. Judgments given by the Court of Justice of the EU pursuant to an arbitration clause in a contract within the scope of this Annex shall be enforceable on the same terms.

#### ***Article 9***

##### **Confidentiality**

Information communicated or acquired in any form under this Annex shall be covered by professional secrecy and protected in the same way as similar information is protected by Ukrainian law and by the corresponding provisions applicable to the EU institutions. Such information may not be communicated to persons other than those in the EU institutions, in the Member States or in Ukraine whose functions require them to know it, nor may it be used for purposes other than to ensure effective protection of the Parties' financial interests.

#### ***Article 10***

##### **Data protection**

1. The communication of personal data shall only take place if such communication is necessary for the implementation of this Agreement by the competent authorities of Ukraine or the EU as the case may be. When communicating, processing or treating personal data in a particular case, in line with Article 15 the competent authorities of Ukraine shall abide by the relevant legislation of Ukraine, and the EU Authorities shall abide by the provisions of the Regulation

(EC) No 45/2001 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 18 December 2000 on the protection of individuals with regard to the processing of personal data by the EU institutions and bodies and on the free movement of such data.

2. In particular, the standards of the Convention for the Protection of Individuals with regard to Automatic Processing of Personal Data, signed on 28 January 1981 (ETS No. 108) and of the Additional Protocol to the Convention for the Protection of Individuals with regard to Automatic Processing of Personal Data, regarding Supervisory Authorities and Transborder Data Flows, signed on 8 November 2001 (ETS No. 181) shall apply to such communication.
3. In addition, the following principles shall apply:
  - (a) both the communicating authority and the receiving authority shall take every reasonable step to ensure as appropriate the rectification, erasure or blocking of personal data where the processing does not comply with the provisions of this Article, in particular because those data are not adequate, relevant, accurate, or they are excessive in relation to the purpose of processing. This includes the notification of any rectification, erasure or blocking to the other Party;
  - (b) upon request, the receiving authority shall inform the communicating authority of the use of the communicated data and of the results obtained there from;
  - (c) personal data may only be communicated to the competent authorities. Further communication to other bodies requires the prior consent of the communicating authority;
  - (d) the communicating and the receiving authorities are under an obligation to make a written record of the communication and receipt of personal data.

## **ANNEX XLIV TO TITLE VI**

### **FINANCIAL COOPERATION, WITH ANTI-FRAUD PROVISIONS**

Ukraine undertakes to gradually approximate its legislation to the following EU legislation within the stipulated timeframes:

- EU Convention of 26 July 1995 on the protection of the European Communities' financial interests:
- Article 1 – General provisions, definitions;
- Article 2 (1) by taking the necessary measures to ensure that the conduct referred to in Article 1, and participating in, instigating, or attempting the conduct referred to in Article 1 (1), are punishable by effective, proportionate and dissuasive criminal penalties;
- Article 3 – Criminal liability of heads of businesses.

Timetable: these provisions shall be implemented within 5 years of the entry into force of this Agreement.

Protocol to the Convention on the protection of the European Communities' financial interests:

- Article 1(1)(c) and Article 1(2) – Relevant definitions

— Article 2 – Passive corruption

— Article 3 – Active corruption

— Article 5 (1) by taking the necessary measures to ensure that the conduct referred to in Articles 2 and 3, and participating in and instigating the conduct in question, are punishable by effective, proportionate and dissuasive criminal penalties.

— Article 7 as far as it refers to Article 3 of the Convention

Timetable: these provisions shall be implemented within 5 years of the entry into force of this Agreement.

Second Protocol to the Convention on the protection of the European Communities' financial interests

— Article 1 – Definition

— Article 2 – Money laundering

— Article 3 – Liability of legal persons

— Article 4 – Sanctions for legal persons

— Article 12 as far as it refers to Article 3 of the Convention

Timetable: these provisions shall be implemented within 5 years of the entry into force of this Agreement.