
Press release

GLOBAL CORRUPTION Barometer 2007

At less than a year from the adhesion, half of the Romanian public continues to perceive the governments' efforts in the fight against corruption as inefficient. The result shows that alongside the Corruption Perception Index according to which Romania gets 3.7 points in regard to the perceived corruption among the officials and politicians, the low credibility of the anticorruption reforms and raises serious question marks over their sustainability in time.

This year the most corrupted institutions remain the political parties and the Parliament with 3.9 points, justice with 3.8, and the police and the health system with 3.7 points (on a scale of 1 to 5, 1 meaning clean and 5, totally corrupt). In an absolute value though, the percentage is smaller than last year's, except the police, where a 0.1 increase was registered.

Worrying is also the public perception over the corruption from the business sector, mass-media, and the civil society, the three of them continuing to register high scores. The scandals that marked the public agenda in this year lead to the image deterioration both of the public institutions and of the entities from the private sphere, altering the citizens' trust in the potential of their actions following the politicizing the anticorruption discourse and the suspicions of partisanship in carrying on different actions.

Therewith, the results given by the Barometer show that both the public utility services and the document releasing ones obtained this year a higher percentage than last year, 2.4 points and 2.9 points, respectively. In the light of these things, Transparency International Romania draws attention upon the fact that the anticorruption efforts must be concentrated in the direction of a real reformation of the administrative system, as long as the citizen's corruption perception has at its basis mainly the personal experiences in the direct relation with the state's institutions.

It imposes therefore accountability from both the public and the private sectors, so as that the public institutions can accomplish their competences in integrity conditions and besides any pressures or intrusions.

In conclusion, TI-Romania requests to the Bucharest authorities to concentrate their efforts in the direction of ensuring the credibility, efficiency, and sustainability of the anticorruption reforms, maintaining them outside the political interests, approaching with priority the decisional levels of the public administration, regardless their area, and creating thus the premises for developing a correct, equitable, and transparent public system.