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**Press release**

Transparency International Romania expresses its deep indignation for the manner in which the Superior Council of Magistracy' president, Mrs. Lidia Bărbulescu, understands to approach and to discourage the fight against corruption.

In several times, TI-Romania draw the attention over the true efficiency test for the fight against corruption is represented by the definitive convictions decisions, and not by the press releases concerning the investigations in course.

According to Mrs. President' s declarations made yesterday at "The role of the investigation journalist in the fight against corruption" conference, organized by the Ministry of Justice, the statistics of the National Anticorruption Directorate show that, in present, there are no alarming results regarding corruption. Such a statement can bring severe lesions to the credibility of the fight against corruption and endorses the low capacity the public institutions have in obtaining concrete results.

Independently of the structure and contents of the dates regarding corruption, that represents a extremely severe phenomenon by the consequences it can lead to – pauperizing, the distort of the public budget, and the misappropriation of the public institutions from their mission. Thus, the fight against corruption must be an important goal for the officials of any democratic state, regardless of the corruption dimension each of them presents.

With the same occasion, Mrs. Bărbulescu declares that she appreciates as being of a low professional level the files that have a proof assembly obtained mostly by technical means. We consider that such statements can become a means of pressure and interference in the legal process, as long as the only authorities invested with the attribute of valuating the proof assembly are the independent and impartial judicial instances.

Also, TI-Romania appreciates that this type of pressure can lead to consequences as fatal for the anticorruption fight, as the pressure exercised within the mass-media framework, accused of "judging corruption files before the courts do it".

Transparency International Romania highlights the fact that it is SCM's responsibility to discourage the "telejustice" cases Mrs. Barbulescu deplores, and underlines the fact that SCM also has the duty of preventing the judicial system corruption. Transparency International Romania requests to The Superior Council of Magistracy to adopt more efficient communication procedures for the Prosecutor's Offices and Courts in order to reduce the "telejustice" phenomenon and to lead to an increase of the fight against corruption's credibility.

Also, Transparency International Romania draws attention that in absence of firm reactions in this manner, this risks of becoming representative for Romania.