

TO

MR. PLAMEN GEORGIEV

**CHAIRMAN OF THE COUNTER-CORRUPTION
AND UNLAWFULLY ACQUIRED ASSETS
FORFEITURE COMMISSION**

OPEN LETTER

DEAR MR. GEORGIEV,

Chosen by the parliamentary majority, you are the one to lead and be the first Head of the new anti-corruption body granted with expanded powers. This is a very serious responsibility, burdened with great expectations. We wish you to occupy this position with independence and firmness, and as well, we insist on the following:

One of the most important things in the work of the new Commission is protection of the public interest, which is achieved with maximum transparency and clear rules. Right from the outset, the Commission should indicate as its top priority the development of such rules and methodologies to ensure transparency of the decision-making. Moreover, transparency is an essential tool of preventing corruption; and prevention lies at the heart of the work of the newly created structure.

In this regard, there should be continuity between the Commission and some of the anti-corruption bodies that have merged in it, which is to continue the good practices already put in place. There is such a situation regarding the publication of all decisions of the Commission for preventing and detecting of conflict of interests by adhering to the requirements of the Personal Data Protection Act. We believe that it is more than logical to keep this practice in respect of all acts issued by the Commission for counteracting corruption and asset forfeiture. Only in this way the public will have a clear idea of the work of the Commission, the mechanisms by which its decisions are taken and the outcome of them. This is the only way to avoid the suspicions of manipulation of the rules and political interference in your work. From the beginning you will send a strong message to the public that the Commission will not just be the next body to execute orders of uncertain political origin.

Transparency and predictability in compliance with the law are the most indisputable safeguards for a successful start of the Commission - a body that is unprecedented in its structure and function.

09.03.2018

With best regards,

ACCESS TO INFORMATION PROGRAMME

ANTICORRUPTION FUND

BULGARIAN LAWYERS FOR HUMAN RIGHTS

BULGARIAN INSTITUTE FOR LEGAL INITIATIVES

BULGARIAN HELSINKI COMMITTEE

CENTRE FOR LIBERAL STRATEGIES

INSTITUTE FOR MARKET ECONOMICS

TRANSPARENCY INTERNATIONAL BULGARIA

RISKMONITOR