



New Trends in Political Financing Regulation in Asia and Europe: The New Role of Monitoring and Enforcement Bodies

According to Global Integrity, an independent, non-profit organisation tracking governance and corruption trends around the world, the foremost corruption threat faced by many countries is the unregulated flow of money into political campaigns for general elections. Poor levels of public accountability run the risk of hindering prospects for long-term anti-corruption reforms.

On 18-19 February 2010, 20 experts from Asia and Europe will meet at the Portuguese Parliament in Lisbon, to deliberate upon current global practices and challenges of political financing. The workshop aims to distill lessons from different regulatory bodies and mechanisms that have evolved across countries in Asia and Europe as well as self-regulating systems.

"Mixing money and politics continues to be a recipe for corruption in both developed and less developed countries worldwide," said Mr Wolfgang Rau, Executive Secretary of the Group of States against Corruption (GRECO) - the Council of Europe's anti-corruption watchdog. He added: "I very much welcome the organisation of the workshop which usefully complements, from a multidisciplinary perspective, our own monitoring of the funding of political parties and election campaigns in 46 member States of the Council of Europe and the United States. This is why we support this event."

Ambassador Nguyen Quoc Khanh, Deputy Executive Director of the Asia-Europe Foundation noted that "even with limited resources, political will and strong leadership can prove effective in addressing governance challenges." He said: "Countries in Asia and Europe have had different experiences, and have therefore followed different trajectories towards democracy in their political development. There is much to gain from sharing these experiences. The Asia-Europe Foundation addresses this need of exchange by providing platforms for governments and civil society representatives of both regions to meet on specific issues related to democratic evolution and governance."

The workshop is organised by the Asia-Europe Foundation and the Instituto de Ciências of the University of Lisbon (ICS/UL) with the support of the Council of Europe and Transparency International.

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¹ ASEM now brings together 43 member states (Austria, Belgium, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Cambodia, China, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Indonesia, India, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Korea, Laos, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malaysia, Malta, Mongolia, Myanmar, the Netherlands, Pakistan, the Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Thailand, United Kingdom, Vietnam) plus the European Commission and the ASEAN Secretariat. www.aseinfoboard.org