

# Anti-Corruption Forum

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## Press Release

15 September 2005

### UK businesses and associations unite to tackle corruption

UK businesses and associations with interests in the domestic and international infrastructure, construction and engineering sectors have come together to agree a robust and comprehensive anti-corruption action statement as part of a programme to promote industry-led actions which can help eliminate corruption.

The statement has been developed and endorsed by the Anti-Corruption Forum, which comprises the Association for Consultancy and Engineering (ACE), British Consultants and Construction Bureau (BCCB), Institution of Civil Engineers (ICE), Institution of Structural Engineers (IStructE), Transparency International (UK) (TI(UK)), and representatives of the business community.

The Forum's *Anti-Corruption Action Statement* calls on all those with interests in the infrastructure, construction and engineering sectors to take effective and co-ordinated action to reduce corruption, on both a domestic and international basis, and on both the supply and demand sides.

The *Anti-Corruption Action Statement* identifies the various categories of participant in the sectors, including governments, project owners, banks, export credit agencies, companies providing the equipment and services for a project, business associations and professional institutions. It recommends preventive and enforcement actions which could be taken by those participants. Recommendations include increasing awareness of corruption and its consequences through publicity and training; improved international co-operation; the adoption and enforcement by organisations of anti-corruption codes of conduct and management systems; fair, reasonable, objective and transparent procurement and project management procedures; the introduction of effective anti-corruption monitoring and reporting procedures on a project; and fair and effective prosecution and blacklisting procedures.

The Forum is already engaged in constructive discussions with the UK Government. It intends to continue this dialogue, and to co-operate as appropriate with other national and international organisations with a view to encouraging the development and implementation of these anti-corruption actions.

#### ENDS

For further information contact Andy Walker on 020 72271889 (07736 667591 - mobile). A series of quotes and contact details from the various organisations which make up the Anti-Corruption Forum are listed below.

### Notes to editors:

A copy of the *Anti-Corruption Action Statement* is attached.

The statement has been endorsed by the following organisations on behalf of the Anti-Corruption Forum:

#### **Association for Consultancy and Engineering (ACE)**

ACE represents the business interests of the consultancy and engineering industry in the UK. It is the leading business association in this field, and has over 800 member firms.

#### **British Consultants and Construction Bureau (BCCB)**

BCCB is the leading British trade association for the export of services. It has 280 member companies who work in a wide range of sectors and who have a common interest in selling their expertise abroad.

#### **Institution of Civil Engineers (ICE)**

ICE is the leading UK-based professional institution with a membership of over 70,000 professionally qualified civil engineers from over 140 countries.

#### **Institution of Structural Engineers (IStructE)**

IStructE is the world's leading professional institution for structural engineering, with a membership of over 21,000 structural engineers from 107 countries.

#### **Transparency International (UK) (TI(UK))**

TI(UK) is the UK chapter of Transparency International, which is the world's largest non-governmental anti-corruption organisation with chapters in 90 countries. It works with governments, business and civil society with the aim of eliminating corruption.

### Contacts and quotes:

#### **ACE – Spokesman - Nelson Ogunshakin – Chief Executive**

**Tel: 020 7227 1889 - e-mail: nogunshakin@acenet.co.uk**

**Quotation:** "ACE is a strong supporter of the worldwide fight against corruption in the construction sector. As the UK member of both the European Federation of Engineering Consultancy Associations and the international consultancy and engineering federation FIDIC we are already playing an influential role in that fight. The Anti-Corruption Forum's action statement is a declaration of intent by the UK infrastructure, construction and engineering business, is in line with ACE's business code of practice and we back it to the hilt."

#### **BCCB – Spokesman - Graham Hand – Chief Executive**

**Tel: 020 7222 3651 e-mail: gh@bccb.org.uk**

**Quotation:** "This is a most important initiative and I am proud that BCCB is associated with it. BCCB companies want to see an end to the cancer of corruption. Corruption damages development in the Third World and destroys business confidence all sides, as well as the quality of work that is done. We hope that Government will work with us to see the principles we have agreed accepted and applied by more and more countries and international organisations".

#### **ICE – Spokesman – Paul Taylor**

**Tel: 0207 6652064 - e-mail: paul.taylor@ice.org.uk**

**Quotation:** "In 2004 ICE placed an explicit requirement upon its members to refrain from any involvement in bribery and corruption. ICE regards the Forum as an essential component in the efforts of professional bodies to produce a corruption-free environment in the infrastructure, construction and engineering sectors".

#### **IStructE – Spokesman – Bob McKittrick**

**Tel: 01256 310338 - email: bob.mckittrick@lasalle.freemove.co.uk**

**Quotation:** "The Institution of Structural Engineers, through its then President Bob McKittrick, was instrumental in October 2002 in raising the need to take action against global corruption in the construction sector. The development and formation of the Forum is seen as a major step along this tortuous road."

#### **TI(UK) – Spokesman - Neill Stansbury – Project Director, Construction & Engineering**

**Tel: 01494 775309 - e-mail: neill.stansbury@transparency.org.uk**

**Quotation:** "Members of the Anti-Corruption Forum believe that existing anti-corruption mechanisms do not effectively prevent or detect corruption, and do not adequately support the many companies which wish to see a corruption-free environment. The Forum has therefore developed the Anti-Corruption Action Statement which we believe will make a significant contribution to the worldwide campaign to tackle corruption."