

## **Action Plan on the Implementation of the Benchmarks in the areas of judiciary reform and the fight against corruption and organized crime**

The current Action Plan is elaborated in furtherance to the EC Report of June 2007 by an interagency working group set up by the Council of Ministers Decision No 28 of 18 January 2007 on establishing a mechanism for strengthened monitoring and coordination of the implementation of the benchmarks set in the EC Monitoring Report of 26 September 2006 and for implementing the EC Decision of 13 December 2006 establishing a mechanism for cooperation and verification for Bulgaria.

The working group, which elaborated the Action Plan, will carry out permanent monitoring on its implementation thus ensuring the timely achievement of the set objectives, avoiding the duplication of activities and preventing eventual delays. The competent ministers are responsible for the implementation of the Action Plan and the Council of Ministers approves the Report on its implementation.

A horizontal working approach was applied in the course of drawing-up of the Action Plan. The Plan was widely discussed and consulted with the public. The overall drafting process was carried out in active dialogue with NGOs with proven experience in researches related to judiciary reform, fight against corruption and organized crime: their representatives participated in the formulation of concrete measures; the draft of the Action Plan was accessible by the public through Internet and open for recommendations by the civil society, professional circles and organizations; the draft of the Action Plan was amended and supplemented during a round-table discussion with non-governmental sector representatives. The members of the Supreme Judicial Council participated actively in the Action-Plan drafting process. The draft of the Action Plan was discussed and approved by the previous Supreme Judicial Council as well as by the newly appointed members of the standing Supreme Judicial Council after its constitution. The Action Plan was also consulted with the European experts working in the country as advisors in the field of Justice and Home Affairs, including the twinning advisors.

The Action Plan is based on a thorough analysis of the EC Report of June 2007 and addresses the recommendations set in the Report. It ensures relevance to the EC recommendations, efficiency of the measures, internal and external coordination.

All possible risks related to the implementation of the Action Plan were explored and it has been designed to minimize and to avoid any potential negative consequences. The objectives and measures set in the Action Plan are both realistic and achievable which has also been confirmed by the independent European experts, who participated jointly with the Bulgarian authorities in the finalization of the Action Plan.

The measures in the Action Plan are relevant, logically connected and coherent to the existing national strategies and government priorities in the appropriate fields. The quantitative and qualitative indicators incorporated within the measures will allow for a precise reporting of the results of their implementation and the efficiency of the Action Plan. Firm deadlines set in the Action Plan will ensure the achievement of the objectives by keeping the clearly defined time schedule and possibility for ongoing monitoring of the process of the Action Plan implementation.

During the joint work within the Technical Assistance Expert Mission (15-19 October 2007) carried out with the EC assistance the draft plan was subject to an independent review and analysis, and the quality of the Action Plan was confirmed. The European experts, who participated in the mission, made recommendations for improving the Action Plan. The recommendations were discussed with the Bulgarian authorities and wherever appropriate, they were included in the final version of the Action Plan. Thus added value was achieved from the joint drafting of the Action Plan.

The Action Plan was endorsed by the Council of Ministers, thus ensuring the necessary financial resources for its implementation. The Action Plan will be carried out in the framework of the budgets of the competent institutions and in case of necessity through financing by other financial sources.

\* \* \* \* \*

**BENCHMARK 1: ADOPT CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS REMOVING ANY AMBIGUITY REGARDING THE INDEPENDENCE AND ACCOUNTABILITY OF THE JUDICIAL SYSTEM**

OBJECTIVES	MEASURES	DEADLINE	RESPONSIBLE INSTITUTION	
<p><b>To ensure the independence of the budget of the judiciary</b></p>	<p>The Law on Amendment of the Constitution of the Republic of Bulgaria (the forth amendment) was passed by the National Assembly on 2 February 2007 (prom. SG No. 12 of 6 February 2007):</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b><u>Measures to be implemented:</u></b></p>			
	<p><b>1.1</b></p>	<p>Bringing the Unit on elaboration of the draft budget of the Judiciary out of the MJ General administration and subordinating it to the Minister of Justice</p>	<p>November 2007</p>	<p>MJ (competition procedure for filling the vacancies)</p>
	<p><b>1.2</b></p>	<p>Finalizing the competition procedure for filling the vacancies in Budget Unit up to 4 experts</p>	<p>December 2007</p>	<p>MJ</p>
	<p><b>1.3</b></p>	<p>Strengthening the SJC's Administration capacity for execution of the budget of the judiciary by i.a. setting up of a Standing Budget and Finance Committee to the SJC consisting of members of the SJC</p>	<p>November - December 2007</p>	<p>SJC</p>
	<p><b>1.4</b></p>	<p>Setting up a Standing Budget and Finance Committee to the SJC consisting of members of the SJC</p>	<p>November - December 2007</p>	<p>SJC</p>

OBJECTIVES		MEASURES	DEADLINE	RESPONSIBLE INSTITUTION
	1.5	Discussing the execution of the budget of the Judiciary in the SJC	monthly	Budget and Finance Committee to the SJC
	1.6	Reporting on the development of the administrative support for the Budget and Finance Committee to the SJC	Monthly – during the first 6 months after establishment of the Committee	Budget and Finance Committee to the SJC
	1.7	Analyze the needs and determine the capacity and level of the Standing Committee and SJC's Administration and identify shortcomings	June 2008	Budget and Finance Committee to the SJC
<p><b>To encourage and extend the dialogue in the civil society in the process of development of the secondary legislation</b></p>	<p>The new Judicial System Act was passed on 24 July 2007 (prom. SG No. 64/7 August 2007). The Law provides for adoption of eleven secondary legislative acts (9 Ordinances and 2 Regulations till the end of December 2007 and February 2008). The working groups on the elaboration of the acts have been established.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b><u>Measures to be implemented:</u></b></p>			
	1.8	Participation of representatives of specialized legal NGOs in the meetings of the working groups on drafting of the relevant secondary legislation provided by the law – Art. 385, paragraph 5 of the JSA	On regular basis	MJ and SJC

OBJECTIVES		MEASURES	DEADLINE	RESPONSIBLE INSTITUTION
	1.9	Bringing in the findings and results of the projects implemented by the specialized legal NGOs on the relevant topics in the drafts of the secondary legislation to the Judicial System Act	<b>Promulgation of the legal acts:</b> December 2007 February 2008	MJ and SJC
<b>Independent judicial inspectorate to be set up with the SJC in view of removing any ambiguity regarding the independence and accountability of the judicial system</b>	<p>Chapter III, Section II, Art. 42-46 of the Judicial System Act passed on 24 July2007 (prom. SG No. 64/7 August2007) provides for establishment of an Inspectorate to the SJC.</p> <p>The National Assembly shall elect the inspectors with 2/3 majority in November 2007.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b><u>Measures to be implemented:</u></b></p>			
	1.10.	Establishment of the Inspectorate - define the needs of human and material resources; - provision of material and technical equipment; - preparation of staff records and job descriptions; - launch competitions and select staff;	December 2007 - February 2008	Chief Judicial Inspector/ SJC
	1.11	Adopting Rules of Procedure of the Inspectorate	December 2007	SJC Inspectorate
	1.12	Approving Semestrial Working Plans for the activities of the Inspectorate	January and June 2008	SJC Inspectorate

OBJECTIVES		MEASURES	DEADLINE	RESPONSIBLE INSTITUTION
<b>Strategic planning of the activity of the judiciary and publicity of the results</b>	<b>1.13</b>	Using the summarized information from the courts, the prosecution offices and the National Investigation Service on their activities and the annual reports on the work of the bodies of the judiciary to develop a planning instrument (management and supervision over the performance of the judiciary) and enhance handling of the instrument.	March 2008  Permanently	SJC
	<b>1.14</b>	Regulating in the Rules of Procedure of the SJC the procedure of ensuring publicity of the SJC's activity (on the basis of Art. 54, paragraph 1, p. 10 of the JSA	December 2007	SJC
	<b>1.15</b>	Publishing the Rules of Procedure of the SJC on the web-page of SJC.	December 2007	SJC
	<b>1.16</b>	Publishing a Bulletin with the outcomes of the inspections on the SJC's and MJ's websites –	annually	SJC's Inspectorate MJ

**BENCHMARK 2: ENSURE A MORE TRANSPARENT AND EFFICIENT JUDICIAL PROCESS BY ADOPTING AND IMPLEMENTING A NEW JUDICIAL SYSTEM ACT AND THE NEW CIVIL PROCEDURE CODE.**

**REPORT ON THE IMPACT OF THESE NEW LAWS AND OF THE PENAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEDURE CODES, NOTABLY ON THE PRE-TRIAL PHASE.**

OBJECTIVES		MEASURES	Deadline	Responsible Institution
<p><b>To secure more transparent and efficient trial in the area of the civil law</b></p>		<p>The new Civil Procedure Code was passed by the National Assembly on 20 July 2007, prom. SG No. 59 of 20 July 2007, in force from 1 March 2008</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><u>Measures to be implemented:</u></p>		
	<p><b>2.1</b></p>	<p>Working groups have been set up involving representatives of the MJ, judges, lawyers and nongovernmental organizations to elaborate 4 secondary legislative pieces</p>	<p><i>Promulgation of the secondary legislation:</i> December 2007</p>	<p>MJ and SJC</p>
<p><b>To guarantee the independence of the judiciary</b></p>		<p>The new Judicial System Act was passed on 24 July 2007 (prom. SG No. 64/7 August 2007) reflects the amendments to the Constitution and the peer review experts' and European Commission's recommendations.</p> <p>Chapter II, Section I, Art. 16, paragraph 1 of the JSA passed on 24 July 2007 (prom. SG No. 64/7 August 2007) provides for the SJC to be a permanent body" <i>representing the Judiciary and securing its independence. It shall set the composition and work organisation of the Judiciary and shall manage its activities without interfering with the independence of the bodies thereof</i>".</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><u>Measures to be implemented:</u></p>		



OBJECTIVES	MEASURES	Deadline	Responsible Institution
<b>To avoid overlap regarding the functions of the Inspectorate to the SJC and the Inspectorate of the Ministry of Justice</b>	The new JSA removed the overlap of the powers of the Inspectorate to the Ministry of Justice and the Inspectorate to the SJC as evident from Art. 54 and Art. 372, paragraph 1 of the JSA ( <i>Please see the Annex</i> )		
<b>To strengthen the principle of competition in the judicial system in Bulgaria</b>	<p><b>2.6</b> Adopting an Ordinance in accordance with Art. 188, paragraph 2 of the JSA on the procedure of submission of documents for participation in the competition, the competition procedure and the procedure of evaluation of the candidates. (Section II, Art. 176 et seq. of the JSA regulates the procedure of conducting competitions for appointment, promotion and transfer of judges, prosecutors and investigating magistrates. Statistics on competitions' terms, list of candidates and the competitions' results are permanently published on the SJC's web-site: <a href="http://www.justice.bg">www.justice.bg</a>)</p>	December 2007	SJC
	<p>Working groups for monitoring the implementation of the Penal Procedure Code (PPC) and the Administrative Procedure Code (APC) have been established. They conduct regular analysis of the implementation of the new Codes. With an Order of the Minister of Justice dated 04 September 2007 a representative of the Bar Association has been appointed as a member of the group for monitoring the PPC implementation.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b><u>Measures to be implemented:</u></b></p>		

OBJECTIVES		MEASURES	Deadline	Responsible Institution
<b>To create prerequisites for a unified case-law and addressing of possible difficulties in the implementation of the newly adopted procedural legislation</b>	2.7.1	Publishing of the reports on the implementation of the PPC on the web-sites of the MJ and the Prosecution Office	Regularly	MJ and the Group on PPC monitoring
	2.7.2	Publishing the reports on the implementation of the APC on the Supreme Administrative Court and Ministry of Justice websites.	Regularly	MJ and Group on APC monitoring
	2.8.1	Setting up a working group to carry out monitoring on the implementation of the new CPC after its coming into force	November 2007	MJ
	2.8.2	Develop a Programme for the monitoring of the implementation of the CPC	December 2007	December 2007 Group on CPC monitoring
	2.9.	Introduction of a draft of an Administrative Penal Code for discussion in the Council of Ministers	December 2007	MJ

OBJECTIVES		MEASURES	Deadline	Responsible Institution
<p><b>Establishment of an unified and complete approach in the process of elaboration of and the monitoring over the implementation of normative acts</b></p>	<p><b>2.10</b></p>	<p>Complete solving of the issue concerning monitoring of the application of newly adopted legislation and modernising of the system of elaboration and follow-up supervision of normative acts;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- developing of a concept;</li> <li>- public discussions;</li> <li>- adoption of a new Law on the Normative Acts to regulate:</li> <li>- the procedure of making preliminary assessment of the impact of the normative act proposed</li> <li>- provisions for guaranteeing the technical standards of all normative acts</li> <li>- compliance with EU law;</li> <li>- and follow-up supervision on the application thereof</li> </ul>	<p>December 2008</p>	<p>MJ Parliament</p>
	<p><b>2.11</b></p>	<p>Strengthening the capacity of the Inspectorate to the MJ and of the Legislative Council for making preliminary assessment of the relevance of the normative acts proposed and follow-up supervision on the application thereof.</p>	<p>December 2008</p>	<p>MJ</p>

OBJECTIVES		MEASURES	Deadline	Responsible Institution
	2.12	<p>Monitoring on the implementation of the new legislation carried out in compliance with the criteria under Art. 6 of the European Convention on Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Administrative courts case-law on in/admissibility of complaints and the scope of the judicial supervision against acts affecting interests, rights and freedoms;</li>   <li>- Administrative courts case-law on the Law on the Liability of the State and Municipalities for Damages;</li>   <li>- Extension of the access to justice and possibility for judicial review of acts of the administration and the prosecutors affecting interests of the citizens and their fundamental rights and freedoms;</li>   <li>- Presence or lack of amendments to the law and the practice giving possibility to efficiently speed up the proceedings on initiative of the persons affected and/or compensation thereof;</li>   <li>- Measures undertaken to cope with the unreasonable term of the court proceedings as a requirement for efficiency of the justice (taking into account the solution of Art. 255 and etc. of Civil Procedure Code as a suitable example);</li> </ul>	Permanently	MJ SJC NGOs

OBJECTIVES		MEASURES	Deadline	Responsible Institution
	2.13	Establishing a permanent working group to the Minister of Justice with participation of agents of the Government from the Procedural Representation of the Republic of Bulgaria before the European Court of Human Rights Unit at the MJ and representatives of NGOs in view of making analysis of the European Court of Human Rights' and the European Court of Justice' decisions and develop a mechanism for alignment of the national legislation with those decisions	March 2008	MJ NGOs
	2.14.	Carrying out analysis of the prosecutors' acts out of criminal proceedings (e.g. supervision acts, legality acts, arbitrariness acts) and estimate the necessity of amending Art. 143 of the JSA.	June 2008	SJC's Inspectorate  NGOs

**BENCHMARK 3: CONTINUE THE REFORM OF THE JUDICIARY IN ORDER TO ENHANCE PROFESSIONALISM, ACCOUNTABILITY AND EFFICIENCY. EVALUATE THE IMPACT OF THIS REFORM AND PUBLISH THE RESULTS ANNUALLY**

OBJECTIVES		MEASURES	Deadline	Responsible Institution
<b>Transparent and efficient disciplinary procedure in the judiciary</b>	3.1.1	Adopting a Regulation on the organization of the activities of the Supreme Judicial Council and its administration, in accordance with Art. 30, paragraph 4 and Art. 355, paragraph 8 of the JSA	December 2007	SJC
	3.1.2	Provide for an obligation for the SJC's to publish on its website periodically updated statistics concerning violations of the Codes of Ethics by magistrates and the disciplinary sanctions imposed thereof in compliance with Art. 307, paragraph 3 of the JSA (in the Regulation on the organization of the activity of the SJC and its administration)	December 2007	SJC
	3.2.	Analysis and independent evaluation of the existing SJC's disciplinary practice, including analysis of the disciplinary proceedings on the basis of the Codes of Ethics	January 2008	SJC and NGOs
	3.3	Establishment of a permanent specialized Committee on Professional Ethics in the SJC	January 2008	SJC
<b>To raise the professionalism and accountability in the judicial system through strengthening the role of the codes of ethics for magistrates</b>	3.4	Round table to discuss the Codes of Ethics for magistrates and analysis of the disciplinary proceedings against magistrates to date	March 2008	SJC and Professional organizations

OBJECTIVES		MEASURES	Deadline	Responsible Institution
	3.5.	To hold a meeting of the SJC especially dedicated to the Codes of Ethics and the disciplinary practice of SJC.	March 2008	SJC
	3.6.	Creation and maintenance of electronic register of the disciplinary practices of SJC and publishing of a Sourcebook	May 2008	SJC
	3.7.	Extension of the specialized training on ethics and anti-corruption, provided in the Curricula of the National Institute of Justice, involving till October 2008 at least 20% (1/5) of the magistrates throughout the country – 800 people and providing such training for court administration as well;	October 2007	Managing Board of NIJ
	3.8.	Launching public campaigns to raise awareness about the Codes of Ethics for magistrates among the citizens in view of raising public awareness and opinion about judiciary	Since March 2008 permanently	Professional organizations and SJC
	3.9	Setting up a system for receiving complaints and signals from citizens against violations by magistrates and strengthen the professional organizations' capacity for establishment and sanctioning of violations of the Codes of Ethics.	November 2008	SJC

OBJECTIVES		MEASURES	Deadline	Responsible Institution
<p><b>To strengthen the principle of competition and career development of magistrates. To secure transparency and civil control</b></p>	<p><b>3.10</b></p>	<p>Adopting Ordinance on the procedure for submission of documents for participation in the competition, the formation of commissions, the procedure for conducting the competition and for evaluation of the candidates - Art, 188, paragraph 2 of the JSA</p>	<p>December 2007</p>	<p>SJC</p>
	<p><b>3.11.1.</b></p>	<p>Provide for an obligation to publish on its website information about the number of the complaints filed before the Permanent Committee on proposals and evaluation of judges when conducting competitions for appointment of magistrates (in the Regulation on the organization of the SJC's activity).</p>	<p>December 2007</p>	<p>SJC</p>
	<p><b>3.11.2.</b></p>	<p>Publishing information about the outcomes of the checks made by the Permanent Committee to the SJC and about the measures undertaken as a result thereof.</p>	<p>Permanently</p>	<p>SJC</p>
	<p><b>3.12. Programme for implementation of the Strategy for reform of the judicial system (2006-2007)</b></p>			
	<p><b>3.12.1</b></p>	<p>Assigning to an independent organization to make analysis of the outcomes of the Strategy for reform of the judicial system implementation</p>	<p>January 2008</p>	<p>MJ</p>
	<p><b>3.12.2.</b></p>	<p>Publishing the analysis of the outcomes of the implementation of the Strategy for reform of the judicial system on the SJC's and MJ's website</p>	<p>February 2008</p>	<p>NGOs</p>

OBJECTIVES	MEASURES	Deadline	Responsible Institution	
<b>To secure sustainability of the results obtained in the course of the judicial reform and create prerequisites for follow-up progress within the framework of the new strategic vision</b>	<b>3.13. Developing of a new Strategy for carrying on the reform of the judicial system (2008-2013)</b>			
	<b>3.13.1.</b>	Developing, considering and adopting the Strategy for carrying on the reform of the judicial system - for the period 2008-2013	March 2008	SJC and MJ
	<b>3.13.2.</b>	Adopting a Plan for implementation of the new Strategy for further reforming of the judicial system (2008-2013)	May 2008	SJC and MJ
	<b>3.13.3.</b>	Developing and adopting criteria for assessment of the progress in carrying on the Strategy for the reform;	June 2008 г.	SJC and MJ
	<b>3.13.4.</b>	Strengthening the MJ's capacity for implementation of the strategy for carrying on the judicial reform	June 2008 г.	MJ
	<b>3.13.5.</b>	Analysis of the implementation of the Strategy for carrying on the reform of the judicial system (2008-2013).	Annually	NGOs

OBJECTIVES		MEASURES	Deadline	Responsible Institution
	3.14.	<b>Establishing of an Consultative Council on Penal Policy with the following tasks:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- to outline the principles of the penal policy in Bulgaria;</li> <li>- to make analysis of the effectiveness of the pretrial and judicial proceedings;</li> <li>- to deliver opinions on the PPC monitoring working group proposals for amendments of the legislation.</li> </ul>	November 2007	MJ
	<b>3.15. Promotion of a closer cooperation with the civil society aiming at enhancing the efficiency of the administration of justice and law enforcement</b>			
	3.15. 1.	Discussing in the Advisory Civil society Council to the Minister of Justice the fulfillment of the Action Plan for implementation of the indicators for progress, of the Strategy for carrying on the reform of the judicial system and the Plan for Implementation of the Strategy.	Monthly	The Minister of Justice
	3.15. 2.	Round table with NGOs (including donor organizations) for discussing the responsibilities for the implementation of this Action Plan.	November 2007	The Minister of Justice
	3.15. 3.	Signing of an Agreement with NGOs on the Program for implementation of specific measures of the Action Plan.	December 2007 г.	The Minister of Justice

OBJECTIVES		MEASURES	Deadline	Responsible Institution
	3.15.4.	Developing a mechanism for mutual informing and cooperation with civil society organisation performing activities in the area of the judicial reforms and the other supervising systems.	December 2007	SJC, MJ and NGOs
	3.15.5.	Setting up and maintaining of a Register of the projects implemented by the governmental authorities and the NGOs in the area of the judicial reform and analysis of the results achieved	March 2008, updated on regular basis	SJC, MJ and NGOs
<b>3.16. Use of the Information technologies within the Judicial System</b>				
<b>Introduction of ITs and carrying out intensive training of magistrates – main prerequisites for establishment of a reliable, efficient and professional judicial system</b>	3.16.1.	Analysis of the expenditures allocated for IT in the Judiciary	November 2007	MJ
	3.16.2	Round table for discussing the results of the abovementioned analysis and assessing the effectiveness of the IT in the Judiciary	December 2007	MJ and SJC
	3.16.3.	Report by the Minister of Justice and Decision by the SJC on further actions for introducing the IT in the Judiciary	December 2007	Minister of Justice & SJC
	3.16.4.	Introducing software for random allocation of the case files in the prosecution offices	December 2007	The Prosecution Office of the Republic of Bulgaria

OBJECTIVES		MEASURES	Deadline	Responsible Institution
	3.16.5.	Developing and introducing software for information support of the activity of the newly established regional administrative courts throughout the country and connecting them to the Supreme Administrative Court	December 2008	SJC and MJ
	3.16.6.	Preparation of an instrument for analyzing costs and benefits of all IT systems in the field of the Judiciary	September 2008	SJC and MJ
	3.17.	Developing of a system for evaluation of the efficiency of training of magistrates and maintenance of a publicly available updated data base for the all performed and forthcoming trainings	February 2008	SJC and NIJ
	3.18.	Assessing at regular intervals the capacity of training organizations (of magistrates and lawyers)	On regular basis	SJC and NGOs
	3.19.	Developing of an Annual Training Programme for lawyers for the implementation of the newly adopted legislation	June 2008	Centre for lawyers training at the Supreme Bar Council
	3.20.	Adoption and publication of an Annual Programme on initial, continuing and European Law Training of magistrates by the Managing Board of the NIJ	permanently	NIJ
	3.21.	Annual meetings of acting junior magistrates who have completed their initial training in 2006 and 2007 on topical issues of the newly adopted procedural legislation	Since 2008 r. annually	NIJ

OBJECTIVES		MEASURES	Deadline	Responsible Institution
	3.22.	Providing in the Curricula of the National Institute of Justice for 2008 of at least 15 training courses on topical issues of the new legislation: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. PPC</li> <li>2. CPC</li> <li>3. APC</li> <li>4. Countering crime (designed with priority for prosecutors).</li> </ol>	December 2007	NIJ

**JUDICIAL INSPECTORATE**  
**(Supreme Judicial Council)**

**Article 54 JSA**

(1) The Inspectorate shall:

1. Check the organisation of administrative business in courts, prosecution offices and investigation bodies,
2. Check the arrangements made for the institution and progress of court, prosecution and investigation case files, as well as the disposal thereof within the established time limits,
3. Analyse and summarise the cases that have been disposed of by virtue of an effective judicial act, as well as the files and cases assigned to the prosecutors and investigating magistrates,
4. In the presence of contradictory jurisprudence the existence of which has been found in the course of business under Paragraph 3, it shall alert the competent bodies of the need to demand interpretative judgements or interpretative decrees,
5. In presence of violations in the discharge of business under items 1 - 3, it shall alert the administrative head of the body concerned and the Supreme Judicial Council,
6. Make proposals for the imposition of disciplinary sanctions on judges, prosecutors and investigating magistrates and on the administrative heads of judicial system bodies,
7. File tip-offs, proposals and reports with other state bodies, including the competent judicial system bodies,
8. Prepare and submit to the Supreme Judicial Council an annual programme and a report on its business,

**Inspectorate with the Minister of Justice**

**Article 372 JSA**

(1) There shall be an Inspectorate with the Minister of Justice that shall:

1. Store and summarise information received from judicial system bodies about the institution, progress and disposal of court, prosecutorial and investigating magisterial cases, of enforcement and recordation cases,
  2. Assist the Minister of Justice in the discharge of his powers to draw up proposals for the adoption of interpretative judgements or of interpretative decrees, as well as to draw up opinions on the proposals made for the adoption of interpretative judgements or of interpretative decrees,
  3. Inspect the institution, progress and disposal of: enforcement cases of the state enforcement agents, of the private enforcement agents, of recordation cases and summarise and analyse the practice in these cases,
  4. Inspect the business of private enforcement agents,
  5. Exercise control on a day-to-day basis, ensuring the right organisation and conduct of internships for obtaining legal competency and take part in the examination for obtaining legal competency,
  6. Carry out other inspections assigned by the Minister of Justice.
- (2) Inspections under Paragraph 1 shall be carried out on the basis of a plan endorsed by the Minister of Justice.
- (3) The Inspectorate with the Minister of Justice shall also inspect and analyse the business of the notaries public, acting together with inspector notaries public.

9. Discuss the draft budget for the Judiciary proposed by the Minister of Justice with regard to the budgetary account of the Inspectorate and submit it to the Supreme Judicial Council,

10. Provide on an annual basis public information about its business and publish the report on its business on the website of the Supreme Judicial Council.

(2) The Inspectorate shall adopt resolutions by a majority of more than half of its members.

**Benchmark 4: Conduct and report on professional, non-partisan investigations into allegations of high-level corruption. Report on internal inspections of public institutions and on the publication of assets of high-level officials.**

OBJECTIVES		ACTIONS	DEADLINE	RESPONSIBLE AUTHORITY
<b>1. Optimizing the mechanism for coordination between anticorruption bodies in the executive power.</b>	1.1	Adopting report on the implementation of the Strategy for Transparent Governance and for Prevention and Counteraction of Corruption for 2007.	30.01.2008	Commission for Prevention and Counteraction of Corruption; Chief Inspectorate - Council of Ministers
	1.2	Elaborating an action plan for the implementation of the Strategy for Transparent Governance and for Prevention and Counteraction of Corruption for 2008 with focus on strengthening the capacity, implementation of joint actions and improvement of the interaction between the institutions.	20.02.2008	Commission for Prevention and Counteraction of Corruption; Chief Inspectorate - Council of Ministers

OBJECTIVES		ACTIONS	DEADLINE	RESPONSIBLE AUTHORITY
<b>2. Optimizing the activities in the fight against corruption within the legislative, judicial and executive powers.</b>	2.1	Holding working meetings and information exchange between the Anti-Corruption Commissions at the Council of Ministers, the Supreme Judicial Council* and the National Assembly to enhance coordination of the judiciary and the legislative power for implementing effective penal policy against corruption.	ongoing <i>reporting every three months</i>	Anti-Corruption Commissions at the National Assembly, the Supreme Judicial Council and the Council of Ministers
	2.2	Guaranteeing transparency of the work of the Council for coordination of the activities in the field of fight against corruption in the Republic of Bulgaria and ensuring publicity of the Council's decisions.	ongoing <i>reporting every three months</i>	Anti-Corruption Commissions at the National Assembly, the Supreme Judicial Council and the Council of Ministers
<b>3. Strengthening the administrative capacity of the central administration for optimizing the work of the anticorruption units.</b>	3.1	Organizing a working seminar for discussing and analyzing the work of the anti-corruption units in the administration (methods of work, management, collaboration, decision making, achieved results, disciplinary measures, sanctions etc.).	30.01.2008	Chief Inspectorate - Council of Ministers

\* In case that the newly established Supreme Judicial Council decides that there is no need of establishing a special standing anticorruption commission because of the existing of an Inspectorate to the Supreme Judicial Council in accordance with the new Law on the Judiciary System, these functions will be performed by the Inspectorate.

OBJECTIVES		ACTIONS	DEADLINE	RESPONSIBLE AUTHORITY
	3.2	Implementing the Program for specialized training of heads and officials from the inspectorates and the Chief Inspectorate.	31.12.2007	Institute for Public Administration and European Integration; Chief Inspectorate - Council of Ministers
	3.3	Implementing the National plan for training on prevention and counteraction of corruption directed to high-level officials and officials working in areas with high corruption vulnerability.	31.12.2007	Ministry of State Administration and Administrative Reform; Institute for Public Administration and European Integration

OBJECTIVES		ACTIONS	DEADLINE	RESPONSIBLE AUTHORITY
	3.4	Introducing internet-based anti-corruption distance training for all levels of state administration officials (management-level officials and experts).	31.12.2007	Ministry of State Administration and Administrative Reform; Institute for Public Administration and European Integration
<b>4. Ensuring effective protection of the whistleblowers.</b>	4.1	Organizing a round table for discussing the existing legal framework for safeguarding whistleblowers and its implementation.	March 2008	Ministry of Justice; NGO's
	4.2	Organizing a campaign for raising public awareness concerning the existing legal framework for safeguarding whistle-blowers.	February – March 2008	Commission for Prevention and Counteraction of Corruption; Ministry of State Administration and Administrative Reform; Ministry of Labor And Social Policy

OBJECTIVES		ACTIONS	DEADLINE	RESPONSIBLE AUTHORITY
<b>5. Ensuring transparency in reporting the results of the disciplinary proceedings.</b>	5.1	Further improving the methodology for recording disciplinary measures and sanctions including data on the positions and rank of the officials involved.	November 2007	Commission for Prevention and Counteraction of Corruption
	5.2	Carrying out planned and ad-hoc checks. Reporting the results from these checks – providing detailed information on actions taken (rotation, mobility, control etc.), the level and rank of officials subject to disciplinary proceedings including measures taken to decrease corruption risk and imposed sanctions for corruption.	ongoing <i>reporting every three months</i>	Chief Inspectorate - Council of Ministers
	5.3	Elaborating and testing a methodology for carrying out administrative integrity tests for the central executive power.	March 2008	Chief Inspectorate - Council of Ministers; Heads of inspectorates in the administration in compliance with the Law on administration
	5.4	Carrying out planned and ad-hoc checks in regional and municipal administration structures for preventing and counteracting corrupt practices.	ongoing <i>reporting every three months</i>	Agency for State Financial Inspections

OBJECTIVES		ACTIONS	DEADLINE	RESPONSIBLE AUTHORITY
<b>6. Ensuring effective control on the file processing in the pretrial and trial phase.</b>	6.1	Reporting regularly on the file processing in the pretrial and trial phase.	ongoing <i>reporting every three months</i>	Supreme Judicial Council Inspectorate to the Supreme Judicial Council
<b>7. Effective implementation of the mechanism for checking the asset declarations of the high level state officials.</b>	7.1	Enhancing the professional qualification of officials from the National Audit Office, the National Revenue Agency and the Prosecutor's Office for checking assets declarations upon identifying declarations with untrue content or in cases of not submitting declarations, as well as in cases in identifying assets not in correspond to the person's income and coordination between the mentioned authorities: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Holding joint seminars;</li> <li>• Organizing a round table.</li> </ul>	April 2008	National Audit Office; National Revenue Agency; Prosecutor's Office
	7.2	Carrying out checks to verify the accuracy of submitted assets declarations.	31.12.2007	National Audit Office
	7.3	Publishing the results and the conclusions from the checks.	31.01.2008	National Audit Office
	7.4	Publishing a report on the results from conducted checks and audits of political parties.	30.10. 2007	National Audit Office
<b>8. Exchanging experience and best practices in the fight</b>	8.1	Working jointly and exchanging	ongoing	Supreme

OBJECTIVES		ACTIONS	DEADLINE	RESPONSIBLE AUTHORITY
against corruption with other EU Member States.		experience with expert(s) from other EU Member States.	<i>reporting every three months</i>	Cassation Prosecutor's Office
9. Strengthening the capacity of judiciary for investigation of corruption related crimes.	9.1	<p>Optimizing the penal practices in high level corruption related cases:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Regular discussions on penal practice in high level corruption related cases within the authorities of the pretrial proceedings;</li> <li>▪ Regular discussions on penal practice in high level corruption related cases within the penal judges.</li> </ul>	ongoing	Supreme Judicial Council Ministry of the Interior
		Holding joint conferences for exchanging information and analyzing the results of the regular discussions of the penal practice within the pretrial proceedings bodies and the penal judges.	once per year	Supreme Judicial Council Ministry of the Interior

OBJECTIVES		ACTIONS	DEADLINE	RESPONSIBLE AUTHORITY
	9.2	Organizing trainings / specializations of prosecutors and judges. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Conducting analysis;</li> <li>▪ If necessary – elaborating proposals for optimization;</li> <li>▪ Specialized training.</li> </ul>	in accordance with the agenda of the National Institute of Justice	Supreme Judicial Council; Supreme Cassation Prosecutor’s Office; National Institute of Justice
	9.3	Holding a public discussion on the subject: “Prevention and Prosecution. The deterring effect of sentences/judicial decisions in the fight against organized crime and corruption”.  <i>(the measure is also envisaged under benchmarks 5 and 6)</i>	February-March 2008	Ministry of Justice; National Institute of Justice
	9.4	Developing a register of received corruption signals and actions taken.	March 2008	Commission for Prevention and Counteraction of Corruption; Chief Inspectorate – Council of Ministers

OBJECTIVES		ACTIONS	DEADLINE	RESPONSIBLE AUTHORITY
	9.5	Elaborating and presenting regular reports on received corruption signals and actions taken.	every six months	Anti-Corruption Commission at the National Assembly; Anti-Corruption Commission at the Supreme Judicial Council; Commission for Prevention and Counteraction of Corruption with the Council of Ministers; Chief Inspectorate - Council of Ministers
<b>10. Ensuring publicity of the undertaken actions and results reached in the fight against corruption.</b>	10.1	Organizing a week dedicated to the fight against corruption (including taking note of the UN international anticorruption day).	December 2007	Commission for Prevention and Counteraction of Corruption; NGO's

OBJECTIVES		ACTIONS	DEADLINE	RESPONSIBLE AUTHORITY
	10.2	Implementing a wide anti-corruption campaign explaining the negative effects of corruption and the ways for submitting signals.	January 2008	Commission for Prevention and Counteraction of Corruption with the Council of Ministers; Anti-Corruption Commission at the National Assembly; Anti-Corruption Commission at the Supreme Judicial Council;

OBJECTIVES		ACTIONS	DEADLINE	RESPONSIBLE AUTHORITY
	10.3	Providing regular information to the public about the results of the work of the judiciary and law enforcement authorities in the fight against corruption aimed at strengthening prevention.	ongoing <i>reporting every three months</i>	Commission for Prevention and Counteraction of Corruption with the Council of Ministers; Anti-Corruption Commission at the National Assembly; Anti-Corruption Commission at the Supreme Judicial Council; Supreme Judicial Council Supreme Cassation Prosecutor's Office; Ministry of the Interior Ministry of Justice Ministry of Finance Commission for establishing property acquired through crime

OBJECTIVES		ACTIONS	DEADLINE	RESPONSIBLE AUTHORITY
	10.4	Updating regularly the internet site of the Commission for Prevention and Counteraction of Corruption to the Council of Ministers.	ongoing	Commission for Prevention and Counteraction of Corruption to the Council of Ministers

**Benchmark 5: Take further measures to prevent and fight corruption, in particular at the borders and within local government.**

OBJECTIVES		ACTIONS	DEADLINE	RESPONSIBLE AUTHORITY
<b>1. Applying the zero-tolerance principle to all forms of corruption behavior within the officials from the services of the compulsory border control and local authorities.</b>	1.1	Carrying out planned and ad-hoc checks. Reporting the results from these checks – providing detailed information on actions taken (rotation, mobility, control etc.), the level and rank of officials subject to disciplinary proceedings including measures taken to decrease corruption risk and imposed sanctions for corruption.	ongoing <i>reporting every three months</i>	Chief Inspectorate - Council of Ministers
	1.2	Carrying out regular inspections at the Border checkpoints by the competent bodies within the Prosecutor’s Office in the Republic of Bulgaria, the Ministry of the Interior, and the Ministry of Finance.	ongoing <i>reporting every three months</i>	The Prosecutor’s Office Ministry of the Interior Ministry of Finance
	1.3	Carrying out checks of the asset declarations of the officials of the services performing obligatory border control, if needed jointly with the competent bodies, based on the corruption risk analysis of the officials.	ongoing <i>reporting every 3 months</i>	Ministry of Finance – Customs Agency Ministry of Agriculture and Food Supply Ministry of the Interior

OBJECTIVES		ACTIONS	DEADLINE	RESPONSIBLE AUTHORITY
	1.4	<p>Carrying out surveys for measuring corruption risk and for preventing and counteraction of corruption practices.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Carrying out inquiries on the business satisfaction from the work of custom administration and for measuring the corruption risk;</li> <li>▪ Carrying out inquiries at the key Border checkpoints with passengers and carriers in order to receive feed-back, including about possible corruption behavior of custom officials;</li> <li>▪ Maintaining the existing channels for submitting corruption signals from citizens passing the Border checkpoints about corruption behavior of National Veterinary Service officials;</li> <li>▪ Keeping physical and legal persons passing the Border checkpoints informed about the taxes collected by the National Veterinary Service in accordance with the Law on Veterinary Activity.</li> </ul>	annually	<p>Ministry of Finance –  Customs Agency  Ministry of Agriculture and Food Supply –  National Veterinary Service  NGO’s</p>

OBJECTIVES		ACTIONS	DEADLINE	RESPONSIBLE AUTHORITY
	1.5	Reporting regularly on the files transferring in the pretrial and trial phase. Providing information about the enforced sentences for corruption of officials from the services of the compulsory border control and officials of the local authorities.	every six months	Inspectorate to the Supreme Judicial Council
	1.6	Carrying out planned and ad-hoc checks in regional and municipal administrations for preventing and counteracting of corruption practices.	ongoing <i>reporting every 3 months</i>	Public Internal Financial Control Agency
	1.7	Continuing the implementation of the proactive approach in observing the professional ethics and codes of ethics of police officials: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Carrying out regular psychological analysis among officials of the Ministry of the Interior working in areas vulnerable to corruption in view of assessing the corruption risks.</li> </ul>	ongoing <i>reporting every three months</i>	Ministry of the Interior – Inspectorate Directorate; Internal Security Unit; MoI Psychology Institute
<b>2. Curbing corruption practices and limiting corruption risk in delivering services at the border check points.</b>	2.1	Introducing improved payment system based on the “single fiche” principle at road border checkpoints at the EU external borders.	December 2007	Ministry of State Administration and Administrative Reform Ministry of the



OBJECTIVES		ACTIONS	DEADLINE	RESPONSIBLE AUTHORITY
	3.2	Organizing a working seminar for discussing and analyzing the work of the anti-corruption units in the administration (methods of work, management, collaboration, decision making, achieved results, disciplinary measures, sanctions etc.).	30 January 2008	Chief Inspectorate - Council of Ministers
	3.3	Developing and implementing a Program for specialized training of heads and officials from the inspectorates and the Chief Inspectorate.	31 December 2007	Institute of Public Administration and European Integration Chief Inspectorate - Council of Ministers
	3.4	Introducing internet-based anti-corruption distance training for all levels of public administration (management-level officials and experts).	31 December 2007	Ministry of State Administration and Administrative Reform Institute of Public Administration and European Integration



OBJECTIVES		ACTIONS	DEADLINE	RESPONSIBLE AUTHORITY
	4.2	<p>Enhancing the efficiency in the joint work of the Ministry of the Interior, Commission for establishing property acquired through crime, Financial Intelligence Agency, National Revenue Agency and Prosecutor's Office for identifying the financial and property status of persons when data show that their wealth does not correspond to their declared income (in the country and abroad; ways in which it was acquired etc.)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Holding regular meetings of interagency working groups for identifying measures and reporting on concrete cases.</li> </ul>	<p>ongoing</p> <p><i>reporting every three months</i></p>	<p>The Prosecutor's Office Ministry of Interior Commission for establishing property acquired through crime Financial Intelligence Agency National Revenue Agency</p>
	4.3	<p>Holding a public discussion on the subject: "Prevention and Prosecution. The deterring effect of sentences/judicial decisions in the fight against organized crime and corruption".</p> <p><i>(the measure is also envisaged under benchmarks 4 and 6)</i></p>	<p>February-March 2008</p>	<p>Ministry of Justice National Institute of Justice</p>

OBJECTIVES		ACTIONS	DEADLINE	RESPONSIBLE AUTHORITY
<b>5. Ensuring publicity of the undertaken actions and results reached in the fight against corruption.</b>	5.1	Organizing a week dedicated to the fight against corruption (including taking note of the UN international anticorruption day).	December 2007	Commission for Prevention and Counteraction of Corruption; NGO's
	5.2	Implementing a wide anti-corruption campaign explaining the negative effects of corruption and the ways for submitting signals.	January 2008	Commission for Prevention and Counteraction of Corruption with the Council of Ministers; Anti-Corruption Commission at the National Assembly; Anti-Corruption Commission at the Supreme Judicial Council;

OBJECTIVES		ACTIONS	DEADLINE	RESPONSIBLE AUTHORITY
	5.3	Providing regular information to the public about the results of the work of the judiciary and law enforcement authorities in the fight against corruption aimed at strengthening prevention.	ongoing	Commission for Prevention and Counteraction of Corruption with the Council of Ministers; Anti-Corruption Commission at the National Assembly; Anti-Corruption Commission at the Supreme Judicial Council; Supreme Judicial Council Supreme Cassation Prosecutor's Office; Ministry of the Interior Ministry of Justice Ministry of Finance – Customs Agency Commission for establishing property acquired through crime

OBJECTIVES		ACTIONS	DEADLINE	RESPONSIBLE AUTHORITY
	5.4	Updating regularly the internet site of the Commission for Prevention and Counteraction of Corruption to the Council of Ministers.	ongoing	Commission for Prevention and Counteraction of Corruption to the Council of Ministers

**Benchmark 6: Implement a strategy to fight organised crime, focussing on serious crime, money laundering as well as on the systematic confiscation of assets of criminals. Report on new and ongoing investigations, indictments and convictions in these areas.**

OBJECTIVES		ACTIONS	DEADLINE	RESPONSIBLE AUTHORITY
<b>1. Optimizing the mechanisms and further enhancing of the administrative capacity for effective counteraction of the serious organized crime.</b>	1.1	Drafting a Law on the Amendment of the Penal Procedure Code to provide for more effective police activities in the fight against organized crime.  Approval by the Council of Ministers	October 2007  December 2007	Supreme Cassation Prosecutor's Office Ministry of the Interior  Council of Ministers
	1.2.	Drafting a Law on the Amendment of the Law on the Ministry of the Interior and on the Regulation on the Implementation of the Law on the Ministry of the Interior in relation to the new Law on the National Security Agency.	December 2007	Ministry of the Interior
	1.3.	Drafting a Law on the Amendment of the Law on the Measures against Money Laundering in order to comply with the third EU Directive on money laundering  Approval by the Council of Ministers.	October 2007  November 2007	Financial Intelligence Agency – Ministry of Finance  Council of Ministers
	1.4	Reviewing and analysing the movement of the files in the pretrial and trial phase and report findings.	February 2008	Supreme Judicial Council



OBJECTIVES		ACTIONS	DEADLINE	RESPONSIBLE AUTHORITY
	1.8.	Carrying out trainings/specializations for prosecutors and investigators in the field of organised crime, corruption and money laundering.	during the academic year 2007-2008	National Institute of Justice Supreme Judicial Council Supreme Cassation Prosecutor's Office
	1.9.	Carrying out trainings/specializations for judges in the field of organised crime, corruption and money laundering.	during the academic year 2007-2008	Supreme Judicial Council National Institute of Justice
	1.10.	Holding a public discussion on the subject: "Prevention and Prosecution. The deterring effect of sentences/judicial decisions in the fight against organized crime and corruption".  <i>(the measure is also envisaged under benchmarks 4 and 5)</i>	February – March 2008	Ministry of Justice National Institute of Justice
	1.11.	Optimizing the mechanism for cooperation in prevention and fight against organized crime taking into account the competences of the new National Security Agency.	March 2008	Supreme Cassation Prosecutor's Office National Security Agency Ministry of the Interior
	1.12.	Organizing a round table with international participation for discussing the methodology for statistical processing of data on the crime situation and report findings.	October 2007	Ministry of the Interior

OBJECTIVES		ACTIONS	DEADLINE	RESPONSIBLE AUTHORITY
	1.13.	Establishing specialized units in all regional and appellate prosecutors' offices with specific prosecutors for investigation of crimes related to organized crime, corruption, money laundering and misuse of EU funds.	December 2007	Supreme Cassation Prosecutor's Office
<b>2. Neutralizing organized crime groups.</b>	2.1.	Applying the intelligence-led approach as basis in the counteraction of organized crime groups. - Carrying out preventive and targeted joint specialised police operations. - Increasing the number of effectively neutralized organized crime groups.	ongoing  March 2008	Supreme Cassation Prosecutor's Office National Security Agency Ministry of the Interior
	2.2.	Regular review of pending cases.	monthly	Prosecutor's Office Ministry of the Interior
	2.3.	Continuing the increase in the number of detected crimes related to factors facilitating organized crime groups: - counterfeiting official documents and identity frauds; - hi-tech crimes; - misuse of the transport sector; - exploitation of the financial sector.	March 2008	Ministry of the Interior

OBJECTIVES		ACTIONS	DEADLINE	RESPONSIBLE AUTHORITY
<b>3. Prosecution of organized crime group leaders and members, effective investigation of street murders and organized crime, including logistics, financing and facilitating activities. Passing deterring judicial decisions.</b>	3.1	Increasing the effectiveness of penal proceedings with focus on serious crimes. Reviewing of the passed convictions and analysing the motives for terminating of the penal proceedings and passing of acquittal.	ongoing <i>reporting on six month basis</i>	Inspectorate to the Supreme Judicial Council Supreme Cassation Prosecutor's Office Ministry of the Interior
	3.2	Holding monthly meetings between territorial prosecution and police structures for discussing concrete cases in the fight against corruption, serious and organized crime.	ongoing	Supreme Cassation Prosecutor's Office Ministry of the Interior
	3.3	Enhancing the joint actions with General Directorate Execution of the Penalties - Ministry of Justice in order to strengthen the control on the organized crime group members, serving a term of imprisonment. Adopting a joint instruction.	December 2007	Supreme Cassation Prosecutor's Office Ministry of Justice
	3.4	Holding meetings for discussing the state penal policy. Adopting law interpreting decisions when identifying contradicting and incorrect practices in interpreting and implementing the laws within the penal proceedings.	two times per year	Supreme Cassation Court
<b>4. Implementing a comprehensive approach towards forfeiture of criminal assets in view of preventing</b>	4.1.	Strengthening the capacity for identifying and forfeiture of criminal assets. Providing facilities and intensifying the recruitment procedures.	March 2008	Commission for establishing property acquired through crime

OBJECTIVES		ACTIONS	DEADLINE	RESPONSIBLE AUTHORITY
<b>criminals from profiting from their criminal activities.</b>	4.2.	Increasing the number of proceedings for freezing and forfeiture of criminal assets.	ongoing <i>reporting on six month basis</i>	Commission for establishing property acquired through crime National Security Agency
	4.3.	Increasing the amount of requests for securing assets related to serious organized crime.	ongoing <i>reporting on six month basis</i>	Commission for establishing property acquired through crime
	4.4.	Increasing the number of initiated proceedings under the Law on Forfeiture of Criminal Assets in areas with high concentration of cases of inexplicable wealth.	ongoing <i>reporting on six month basis</i>	Commission for establishing property acquired through crime
	4.5.	Reviewing the cases of crimes that are punishable by forfeiture of criminal assets.	ongoing <i>reporting on six month basis</i>	Inspectorate to the Supreme Judicial Council
	4.6	Ensuring remote access to the registers kept by the Registry Agency in order to make it easier to check the property status of organized crime group leaders and persons connected with them on central and territorial level.	March 2008	Ministry of Justice
	4.7	Increasing the number of investigations in corruption related to activities of organized crime groups.	ongoing <i>reporting on six month basis</i>	National Security Agency

OBJECTIVES		ACTIONS	DEADLINE	RESPONSIBLE AUTHORITY
	4.8	Providing information of the newly initiated/ongoing and completed proceedings for forfeiture of assets acquired through criminal activities.	ongoing <i>reporting on six month basis</i>	Commission for establishing property acquired through crime
	4.9	Analysing the implementation of the forfeiture regulations stipulated in the Penal Code and the Law on Forfeiture of Criminal Assets.  If needed – adapting instruments for monitoring the law implementation and possible improvements that must be introduced.	March 2008	Ministry of Justice- Council of criminological research Commission for establishing property acquired through crime
	4.10	Introducing special training programs for magistrates on the implementation of the legislation on forfeiture of criminal assets.	March 2008	Supreme Judicial Council National Institute of Justice
<b>5. Limiting criminal markets related to trafficking, production and dissemination of drugs; trafficking in human beings and illegal migration; money laundering; counterfeiting means of payment and goods.</b>	5.1.	Curbing drug crimes by increasing the quantities of seized drugs from drug distribution and from drug trafficking.	ongoing <i>reporting on six month basis</i>	Ministry of the Interior Customs Agency - Ministry of Finance
	5.2.	Increasing the penal proceedings effectiveness with focus on the crimes related to production, distribution and trafficking of drugs. Reviewing of the passed convictions and analysing the motives for terminating of the penal proceedings and passing of acquittals.	ongoing <i>reporting on six month basis</i>	Inspectorate to the Supreme Judicial Council Supreme Cassation Prosecutor's Office Ministry of the Interior

OBJECTIVES		ACTIONS	DEADLINE	RESPONSIBLE AUTHORITY
	5.3.	Endorsing a plan for communicating good practices, standards and procedures for preventing and countering trafficking in human beings and best practices for identifying victims of trafficking.	December 2007	Commission for Countering Trafficking in Human Beings
	5.4.	Increasing the number of checks at border checkpoints /land, air and maritime borders/ based on risk analysis and at green borders in view of detecting and preventing trafficking in human beings.	ongoing <i>reporting on six month basis</i>	Supreme Cassation Prosecutor's Office Ministry of the Interior
	5.5	Increasing the penal proceedings effectiveness with focus on the crimes related to trafficking in human beings. Reviewing of the passed convictions and analysing the motives for terminating of the penal proceedings and passing of acquittals.	ongoing <i>reporting on six month basis</i>	Inspectorate to the Supreme Judicial Council Supreme Cassation Prosecutor's Office Ministry of the Interior

OBJECTIVES		ACTIONS	DEADLINE	RESPONSIBLE AUTHORITY
	5.6.	<p>Intensifying activates for identifying suspicious revenues and for investigating money laundering:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Improving the level of observance of the reporting regime of suspicious activities by the competent reporting entities according to the Law on Measures against Money Laundering;</li> <li>▪ Increasing the already initiated investigations of economic crimes particularly those causing the biggest damages to the economy;</li> <li>▪ Increasing the on-site inspections in the non-financial sector /designated non-financial businesses and professions/;</li> <li>▪ Identifying the economic entities causing the biggest damages to the state budget;</li> <li>▪ Increasing the inspections carried out according to the rules for reporting suspicious financial operations and transactions;</li> <li>• Increasing the penal proceedings effectiveness with focus on the money laundering crimes. Reviewing of the passed convictions and analysing the motives for terminating of the penal proceedings and passing of acquittals.</li> <li>▪ Improving the interactions among the representatives of the insurers, bankers, notaries, and advocates as well as the representatives of the Bulgarian Industrial Association (BIA);</li> <li>▪ Strengthening the cooperation between the Financial Intelligence Agency and the Ministry of the Interior in relations to identifying suspicious incomes;</li> <li>▪ Monitoring the observation of the rules and procedures regulating the licensing authorities.</li> </ul>	<p>ongoing</p> <p><i>reporting on six month basis</i></p>	<p>S JC S CPO MF – FIA MoI and other competent authorities</p> <p>FIA The bodies under Art. 3 of the LMAML</p> <p>SCPO</p> <p>FIA</p> <p>MF</p> <p>FIA</p> <p>SJC SCPO</p> <p>FIA</p> <p>MoI ; FIA – MF</p> <p>MEE; MSAAR and the licensing authorities</p>

OBJECTIVES		ACTIONS	DEADLINE	RESPONSIBLE AUTHORITY
	5.7.	Increasing the penal proceedings effectiveness with focus on the crimes related to the production and use of counterfeited documents. Reviewing of the passed convictions and analysing the motives for terminating of the penal proceedings and passing of acquittals.	Ongoing <i>reporting on six month basis</i>	Inspectorate to Supreme Judicial Council Supreme Cassation Prosecutor's Office Ministry of the Interior
<b>6. Further enhancing the cooperation with the competent specialised police authorities of EU Member-States to counteract transnational organised crime</b>	6.1.	Exchanging information between the competent authorities of Member-States in real time: - Carrying out joint police operations (joint investigation teams, controlled purchases, controlled deliveries etc.) and exchanging information on the fight against organised crime; - Cooperating in the field of international legal assistance /European Arrest Warrant etc./.	ongoing	Supreme Judicial Council  Supreme Cassation Prosecutor's Office Ministry of Justice Ministry of the Interior
	6.2.	Extending the cooperation with Europol. Participation in analytical work files, enhancing information exchange and carrying out joint operations.	ongoing	Ministry of the Interior
	6.3.	Enhancing the cooperation with the countries of Southeast Europe and Bleak Sea Region.	ongoing	Ministry of the Interior
<b>7. Strengthening public-private partnerships in order to prevent</b>	7.1.	Intensifying the activity and effectiveness of the Public-Private Commission on Countering		Public-Private Commission on

OBJECTIVES		ACTIONS	DEADLINE	RESPONSIBLE AUTHORITY
<b>organised crime.</b>		Organised Crime for preventing organised crime activities and improving cooperation with the non-governmental sector: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Intensifying the activities linked to the development of the public-private partnership in order to focus efforts on the prevention of actions facilitating organised crime as follows: document fraud; technologies and misuse of legitimate business structures; grey economy;</li> <li>- Developing a network of experts from the national governmental and non-governmental organisations working in the field of organised crime prevention;</li> <li>- Involving representatives of the academic community and experts in the field of security issues in analysing tendencies in the development of organised crime through holding regular annual meetings;</li> <li>- Carrying out meeting with NGO's and other public structures for discussing the latest tendencies in the public-private partnership in the filed of organised crime prevention;</li> <li>- Providing sufficient and relevant information to the private sector in order to strengthened prevention.</li> </ul>		Countering Organised Crime <sup>1</sup>
	7.2	Intensifying the interaction between the competent	<i>ongoing</i>	Commission for

<sup>1</sup> The Commission has the following members: Ministry of the Interior, Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Labour and Social Policy, Ministry of Health, Ministry of Education and Science, Ministry of Culture, State Agency for Youth and Sports, State Agency for Child Protection, National Association of Municipalities in the Republic of Bulgaria, Bulgarian Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Bulgarian Industrial Association, Centre for the Study of Democracy

OBJECTIVES		ACTIONS	DEADLINE	RESPONSIBLE AUTHORITY
		authorities and Non-Governmental Organisations in the prevention of trafficking in human beings.	<i>reporting on six month basis</i>	Countering Trafficking in Human Beings
	7.3	Providing regular information to the public about the results of the work of the judiciary and law enforcement authorities aimed at strengthening prevention.	ongoing	Supreme Judicial Council Supreme Cassation Prosecutor's Office; Ministry of the Interior Ministry of Justice Ministry of Finance Commission for establishing property acquired through crime
<b>8. Provision of information about the progress on investigations into organised crime cases in order to have a correct assessment of the operational actions and judicial treatment of concrete cases</b>	8.1.	Elaborating a report on the implementation of the Action Plan on the Fight against Organised Crime for 2007.	end of January 2008	Supreme Judicial Council Supreme Cassation Prosecutor's Office Ministry of the Interior Ministry of Justice Ministry of Finance Commission for establishing property acquired through crime

OBJECTIVES		ACTIONS	DEADLINE	RESPONSIBLE AUTHORITY
	8.2.	Providing up-date information on new and ongoing investigations, indictment and convictions for serious and organised crimes, money laundering, and confiscated property acquired from criminal activity.	ongoing <i>reporting every six months</i>	Supreme Judicial Council Supreme Cassation Prosecutor's Office; National Investigation Service Ministry of the Interior Ministry of Justice Ministry of Finance Commission for establishing property acquired through crime
	8.3.	Organizing a round table for reviewing the system of witness protection.	March 2008	Ministry of Justice Supreme Cassation Prosecutor's Office
	8.4.	Organizing a round table for presenting the results in the fight against organised crime achieved in 2007 and the key priorities and objectives for 2008.	15 March 2008	Ministry of the Interior Supreme Cassation Prosecutor's Office Supreme Judicial Council Ministry of Justice Commission for establishing property acquired through crime