PRESS RELEASE

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**TI Ukraine is against the anti-corruption chambers which have to replace the independent anti-corruption court**

*Transparency International Ukraine categorically denies the idea to replace the existing courts by the anti-corruption chambers.* *The anti-corruption court is the only one Ukraine really needs.* *The chapter of the global network is certain that there are no good alternatives exist to replace the Supreme Anti-Corruption Court and the system of independent anti-corruption courts in Ukraine.*

Today, the President of the European Commission, Jean-Claude Juncker, said that he accepted the decision "to create anti-corruption chambers as a part of the Supreme Court", and the Commission has already informed the President Poroshenko that " we created an interim solution to the problem."

TI Ukraine is really surprised by the statement of Jean-Claude Juncker. The organization is confident that the Ukrainian authorities mislead the European partners convincing them that the launch of anti-corruption chambers aimed to replace the independent judicial institutions is a quick and effective solution to the problem of legal proceedings in Ukraine.

*"Chambers which have to replace the existing courts are dependent and subjected to the external control.* *They will fail to guarantee fair punishment for corruption crimes, but will also become effective instruments of bribe-takers.* *It is expected* *the chambers will be formed, actually, of judges currently delaying and obstructing legal cases submitted by the National Anti-Corruption Bureau (NABU) and anti-corruption prosecutor's office (CAP)*," explained the executive director of TI Ukraine **Yaroslav Yurchyshyn.**

Also, Ukraine has already developed a strong legal framework for the independent anti-corruption judicial system. Namely, the updated law "On the Judiciary and the Status of Judges" already foreshadowed the launch of the Supreme Anticorruption Court of Ukraine. It is important to the law that has already been adopted instead of finding alternative ways to escape it.

The fundamentals of the anti-corruption judicial system should be:

* Legal cases submitted by NABU and the CAP should be considered by the anti-corruption court only;
* The Independent Appeal Chamber should be established as a part of the Supreme Anti-Corruption Court;
* Judge candidates should be elected by an open competition. International partners should form the majority of a collegial panel appointing judges;
* Anti-corruption judges shall receive a high salary and allowances. In addition, judges and members of their families should be protected by the state.

Transparency International Ukraine urges the Ukrainian authorities stop playing an intricate game with the European partners but to focus on the development of the anti-corruption court, as stipulated by law, taking into account the proposed issues. Also, the organization urges the European partners to be consistent in their demands and do not make concessions. The consequences of such actions cannot be the expected reforms but imitations of such reforms only.

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