

## CEI Conference on Anticorruption

### “Curbing Corruption: learning from the decade behind us and looking into the decade ahead”

#### JOINT DECLARATION ON FIGHT TO CORRUPTION

The anticorruption institutions of CEI Member States, meeting in Rome the 26<sup>th</sup> of November, in the framework of Italian Presidency of CEI, underline the importance of fighting corruption in our societies. Corruption limits economic and social growth, both in the public and private sphere, and weakens the democratic institutions. An effective fight of corruption is essential to reduce poverty and address serious and organised crime, and an essential step to enhance the positive cooperation between European Union (EU) and CEI in the perspective of the Eastern Partnership and of the EU enlargement to the Western Balkan region.

In this respect, the aforementioned anticorruption institutions call on an enhanced cooperation in the field of anti-corruption, as foreseen by CEI Trieste Declaration of the 12<sup>th</sup> of June 2019, reconfirming the commitments taken under the prominent anticorruption international fora.

The long-standing experience of CEI shows that reciprocal cooperation is absolutely necessary to achieve sizeable results, in all fields. Hence, to properly pursue a joint effort to tackle corruption, anticorruption policies should be enacted, in the preventive and repressive domains, able to trigger and strengthen social process having a positive impact on societies, improving social environment, rule of law, public trust of citizens, business environment.

In this respect, in the existing international normative framework, it is necessary to keep the fight against corruption as a top priority, making use of all the possible tools of regional and international cooperation. The anticorruption institutions of CEI member States could start a structured cooperation with existing international organizations to make concrete step forward in the fight against corruption, defining ambitious targets that respond to our citizens' expectations.

To achieve these objectives, in close cooperation with EU, Group of States against Corruption (GRECO) and Regional Anti-Corruption Initiative (RAI), it is possible to build upon existing international experiences and best practices, making use of all the possibilities that international cooperation could provide, in terms of existing tools and methodologies in education, training, preventing and exposing corruption.

A joint effort can immediately improve the overall capacity of our national systems to answer effectively to anticorruption, at the same time strengthening the cooperation within the CEI framework, including the specific added value CEI can ensure.

Rome (I), 26 November 2019