

3. WHAT ARE THE OPERATIONS AND RESULTS OF THE ANTI-CORRUPTION TASK FORCE CREATED UNDER THE COMPETENCE OF THE ATTORNEY-GENERAL OFFICE, WITH SPECIALIZED OFFICERS FROM RELEVANT INSTITUTIONS?

The Anti-Corruption Task Force (Coordination Group on Investigating Cases of Corruption) was established in March 2022, with the mandate of supervising, guiding and coordinating the investigation procedures of serious criminal cases of corruption or cases which partially involve corruption, and also ensuring that there is no overlap between involved investigating authorities.

The Anti-Corruption Task Force is headed by the Attorney General or the Deputy Attorney General (or their representative), and consists of experienced legal counsels of the Law Office of the Republic and representatives from the FIU and the Police.

Additionally, ad hoc representatives from other investigating authorities or governmental departments, such as the Tax Department and the Department of Customs and Excise may participate, where their cooperation or information in their possession is deemed necessary for the investigation of a specific case.

The Force also cooperates with the Independent Anti-Corruption Authority, within the framework of the relevant legal provisions and the respective powers of the Authority and the Law Office.

According to the law, in case where, in the exercise of its powers to investigate and collect information, the Authority finds a possible infringement of the provisions of the Law which may constitute a criminal offence of corruption, it prepares a report and submits it, together with all other available data and/or information that has in its possession, to the Attorney General of the Republic.

An efficient and fruitful coordination with the Independent Anti - Corruption Authority is aimed, as the Law Office of the Republic - Prosecuting authority (responsible for the filing of criminal cases before the Courts), upon the receipt of the Authority's report,

will be able either to order further investigation, if needed, as quickly and efficiently as possible or to proceed with the prosecution of the case.

According to the mandate of the Anti-Corruption Task Force, all criminal cases involving corruption (either under investigation or before the court) have been collected, categorized and included in a single record which is being updated regularly and is being reviewed by the Anti-Corruption Task Force team during their regular meetings. The team has an overview control of those cases and it has been giving directions as far as their investigation and their handling before the court is concerned.

Cases related to corruption have already been investigated and filed before the Criminal Courts, including serious criminal corruption cases related to the Cyprus Investment program, as well as other corruption criminal cases concerning public officials.

The Anti-Corruption Task Force convenes at regular intervals, as well as on ad hoc basis if needed. The next meeting of the Force has been scheduled on the 4th of July 2023.