The European Union's Fight Against Corruption

The fight against corruption emerged as one of the most significant issues during the 2004 enlargement and gained even more importance with the accession of Romania and Bulgaria in 2007. In order to prepare candidate countries for membership, the EU found it necessary to create new institutions and mechanisms to address corruption. Patrycja Szarek-Mason traces the development of the EU anti-corruption framework, showing how recent enlargements transformed EU policy and highlighting inequities between the treatment of candidate countries and existing Member States. The experience gained during the 2004 enlargement led to a more robust anti-corruption stance during the accession of Bulgaria and Romania and will have implications for future enlargements of the EU. However, the framework can still be strengthened to address corruption adequately and promote higher standards among Member States, especially through greater use of 'soft law' in the form of mutually agreed, non-legally binding policy recommendations.

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The European Union’s Fight Against Corruption
The evolving policy towards Member States and candidate countries

Patrycja Szarek-Mason
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<tr>
<td>CEE</td>
<td>Central and Eastern European countries</td>
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<tr>
<td>CEWP</td>
<td>Collective Evaluation Working Party</td>
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<td>CPI</td>
<td>Corruption Perception Index</td>
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<td>EACN</td>
<td>European Anti-Corruption Network</td>
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<td>EC Treaty</td>
<td>European Community Treaty</td>
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<td>ENP</td>
<td>European Neighbourhood Policy</td>
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<td>EP</td>
<td>European Parliament</td>
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<td>EU</td>
<td>European Union</td>
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<td>EU Treaty</td>
<td>Treaty on European Union</td>
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<td>FATF</td>
<td>Financial Action Task Force</td>
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<tr>
<td>GRECO</td>
<td>Group of States Against Corruption</td>
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<tr>
<td>JHA</td>
<td>Justice and Home Affairs</td>
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<tr>
<td>NATO</td>
<td>North Atlantic Treaty Organization</td>
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<tr>
<td>NGO</td>
<td>Non-Governmental Organisation</td>
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<tr>
<td>OECD</td>
<td>Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development</td>
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<tr>
<td>OECD WG</td>
<td>OECD Working Group on Bribery</td>
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<td>OJ</td>
<td>Official Journal</td>
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<tr>
<td>OLAF</td>
<td>European Anti-Fraud Office</td>
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<tr>
<td>OMC</td>
<td>Open Method of Coordination</td>
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<tr>
<td>OSI</td>
<td>Open Society Institute</td>
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<td>TI</td>
<td>Transparency International</td>
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<tr>
<td>UN</td>
<td>United Nations</td>
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<tr>
<td>UNCAC</td>
<td>United Nations Convention Against Corruption</td>
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