

Speech by President K. Marcinkiewicz at a UN Conference on corruption. Hotel Victoria 8.XI  
from 9:30-10:50

***Mr. President,***

***Mr. Prime Minister,***

***Directors of the UN Office in Geneva***

***Honourable guests,***

***Ladies and Gentlemen,***

*When I held the office of the Polish Prime Minister in the fall of the last year, one of my first decisions, taken in the second week of office, was to appoint Mariusz Kamiński as a representative to develop an abuse prevention program for public institutions. The work led to the adoption of a legal act on the Central Anti-Corruption Office. In a period of less than one year this institution is up and running.*

*It is precisely this Office that will rigorously fight and eliminate all occurrences of corruption across the nation – in the capital city as well.*

*In Warsaw, a number of activities have already been undertaken, aimed at the systematic elimination of non-ethical and corrupt behaviour. In 2002, city authorities gave a clear signal that there is and will be no place for corrupt pathologies among municipal officials at all levels.*

*An Office of Internal Control and Audit was specially founded and set up. This efficient and superbly prepared section has conducted 600 audits over the last three years. As a result, the public prosecutor's office has initiated several dozen proceedings and prepared ten indictments.*

*There was a well-known case from 2004 when policemen from the anti-corruption unit, in cooperation precisely with the Office of Control, carried out a successful sting operation against a municipal director. This demonstrates the determination of the Warsaw municipal government in the fight against corruption.*

*In fighting corruption, Warsaw has focused on openness of procedures and prevention of this phenomenon. Resident Service Departments have been set up at in each of the city's eighteen districts. This makes it possible to separate officials receiving residents' petitions from those who review such petitions. The work of these departments is monitored. An electronic Public Purchasing Register has been in operation for the last four years. This system makes it possible for anyone to find information through the internet about city concluded contracts.*

*All these activities are reflected in the sentiments of Warsaw residents. Surveys from this year show that the "percentage of city residents who believe that corruption among officials is frequent, fell by 20 percentage points in just two years. Obviously, this is good news, but it doesn't go far enough.*

*In performing duties as the President of Warsaw, I am continuing anti-corruption and prevention activities. We are just starting work on an "e-office", that would see traditional document flows limited over the next few years. This would make it possible to achieve complete transparency, which, in connection with the internal registration and control system for official cases, would prevent or event eliminate many cases of corrupt behaviour.*

*At the same time I want to categorically emphasize that all corruption related crimes – whether at the government office I direct, or municipal offices*

*subordinate to me – will be tackled immediately and severely. I sincerely believe that we can remove non-ethical behaviour from spheres of public life in the city, and Warsaw will become an example to others. Our meeting today is the best proof of the fact that we are not alone in our efforts.*

*I extend my wishes for enlightening discussions and favourable impressions from your stay in the capital of Poland.*