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**Title: “The CCECC must investigate only corruption cases”**

The Center for Combating Economic Crimes and Corruption (CCECC) must investigate only corruption cases and those that are related to corruption – this is the international experts’ opinion, participants at a working atelier on competence review of the law enforcement agencies involved in preventing and fighting corruption. At the atelier participated experts from the Council of Europe and European Commission.

Bertrand de Speville, Council of Europe expert, stated at a press conference that international practice proved that only one institution must exist to fight corruption, while other crimes must be investigated by other law enforcement agencies. Also, all the agencies must be obliged to refer all the complains received and corruption suspicions to the Center without a preliminary investigation. A clear delimitation of the competence would make fight with corruption to be more efficient, concluded the Council of Europe representative.

Other preliminary recommendations offered during the atelier, also, involved a deepen role of the CCECC in combating corruption. Beside that, it was mentioned that the Government should continue to invest substantially in the fight against this kind of crimes.

Being asked by the journalists to comment preliminary recommendations and the level of preparation of the Center to implement them in practice, the representative of the Center, Mr. Donciu stated that at this moment it is not known if the body that will have the qualities and authorities proposed will be the CCECC or other institution. “For sure it is going to be known in 2-3 weeks” mentioned cited source. Being asked to comment some declarations that the CCECC was transformed in a repressive gun of the governing party, Mr. Donciu replied that “this issue is not related to the topic of the press conference”.

Lately, a number of political people, but also representative of the civil society, stated that corruption in Moldova is supported by the state leadership of the country and that the CCECC became a repression gun of the state power against its economic and political competitors. According to some international statistics, Republic of Moldova is in the first places at the level of corruption in Europe.