

## **Inara Vilkaste addresses the European Council regarding the unlawful actions of KNAB (Corruption Prevention and Combating Bureau)**

**The entrepreneur Inara Vilkaste has addressed the organization “Group of States against corruption” (GRECO), which is a sub-organization of the European Council, with a complaint in order to have the unlawful actions of the Corruption Prevention and Combating Bureau assessed on an international scale.**

“If we take into consideration that KNAB has acted unwarrantedly and violated my rights for over seven years, as well as the fact that the Prosecutor General Office has not been reacting to mine or my lawyers’ complaints, always supported by factual proof, I believe that appropriate measures should be taken by an international institution,” the entrepreneur Vilkaste explains.

Vilkaste expressed a hope that addressing them would encourage GRECO to explore the actual situation which hides behind loud anti-corruption claims in Latvia, and would stimulate change within the normative acts operating in Latvia, such that it would become possible to lessen the possibility of KNAB to be acting in unwarranted ways.

„Even though the law states that KNAB is being supervised by the Cabinet of Ministers, the Prime Minister stated in his recent reply to the organization „Justice for Inara”, that it is not in his power to initiate the check of the lawfulness of the actions of KNAB’s employees – only the Prosecutor General Office possesses such right. In the mean time the Prosecutor General Office is taking a favorable stance when it comes to KNAB on a regular basis or else they appoint the employees of KNAB itself to evaluate the complaints which have to do with misconduct of KNAB. If this is not completely unwarranted and outrageous, I don’t know what is,” Vilkaste comments.

In her complaint addressed to GRECO the entrepreneur Inara Vilkaste points out such violations, carried out by KNAB, as tapping her phone in order to follow her private conversations and following her since the year 2005; attempts to extort money from her and fabricate the testimonies of various persons against I. Vilkaste and members of her family; systematic legal pursuit.

“And this is only the visible part of this iceberg. It has to be mentioned that Stalbergs was extorting money from me, the lives of my family members were in danger, but KNAB was tapping my phone and yet was doing nothing to avert these crimes. Their idleness as well as other pieces of evidence in my possession is a source of warranted belief that the employees of KNAB are actually collaborating with criminals, providing them with information they need,” Vilkaste explains.

At the same time the former director of KNAB Normunds Vilnitis said in an interview for the newspaper “Neatkarīga Rita Avīze” (“The Independent Morning Paper”) on June the 20<sup>th</sup> this year that “he is at this point completely certain that KNAB is a repressive political institution, which operates in the interests of a certain political power and the economical organizations which support it.”

Vilkaste in her complain to GRECO is asking that the actions of KNAB be evaluated in accordance with the guidelines for fighting against corruption, established on the 6<sup>th</sup> of November, 1997 by the committee of Ministers of the European Council, and that an opinion is voiced with regards to the situation described by Vilkaste and that relevant actions also be taken.

The European Council founded GRECO on the year 1999 in order to monitor that the member states are acting in accordance with the standards of anti-corruption. At the same time GRECO helps to identify the areas (related to fighting off corruption) which need to be improved, via implementing changes within the national normative acts, processes and institutions. More information can be found [here](#).

Additional information:

Tija Ezeriņa

Project director at „Public ID group”

Phone number: 29719893, e-mail: [tija.ezerina@publicid.lv](mailto:tija.ezerina@publicid.lv)