

11th International Anti-Corruption Conference: Workshop 8.3

Presentation Abstract

1. Panelist Name: Arnauld Miguet	2. Workshop Title: Monitoring political party financing and curbing electoral corruption - The role of civil society
3. Title of case-study or paper: Political corruption in Western Europe	

In Western Europe in the 80s 90s and even today there has been a proliferation of corruption scandals. What is happening to Europe? How corrupt is Europe? Is Europe corrupt? From Italy to Germany from France to Ireland it may look as if corruption is endemic in European politics.

Up until recently it was thought to be a serious problem only in non-democratic states or in developing countries. Yet after the multiplicity of sleaze in political life, no wonder citizens have less and less faith in the integrity of their representatives and articles in the press do not encourage them to admire the disinterested attitude of our political class. Today it seems to go on and on. There are even books and fictions films on the subject. Of course needless to say that political corruption is not a new phenomenon. Anywhere it has always existed. But it is the extent of corrupt practices that distinguishes today's corruption. The last report by Transparency International reveals that some African countries are seen as less corrupt than European ones. That countries of Western Europe of the old European democracies are not as clean and white from corruption as one would have thought they would be

This paper aims at comparing and analyzing the different patterns of political corruption in selected Western European countries with special reference to the funding of political parties and electoral campaigns. It also aims at evaluating the effects and successes of the different regulations introduced to restore transparency and morality back into political life and the mechanisms of monitoring and control put in place as a result.

What have been the effects of the different laws introduced to regulate political activities in Western Europe? How successful have the regulations been, has political corruption been reduced?