Fight against organized crime: making corruption in the private sector a criminal offence

1997/0914(CNS) - 30/07/1997 - Legislative proposal

OBJECTIVE: Presenting of a draft joint action on making corruption in the private sector a criminal offence (Article K.3 of the Treaty on European Union). SUBSTANCE: Taking the view that action to combat corruption at international level is a matter of joint interest and that corruption is an obstacle to the smooth functioning of the internal market, the Member States decided to agree on a draft joint action to make corruption in the private sector a criminal offence. Under this draft common action, each Member State undertakes to ensure effective cooperation regarding offences arising from corruption and ensure that they are subject to penal sanctions throughout the Union. The draft defines corrupt activities which are subject to penal sanctions and requires Member States to determine a competent authority to judge such offences. Member States are required to take measures to implement the common action one year after its entry into force, failing which they must at least cooperate with other Member States in this area.