

COMPLIANCE | ANTI-CORRUPTION | GOVERNANCE

New EU Anti-Corruption Directive: what changes for compliance

The EU is harmonising offences, strengthening sanctions and raising expectations around prevention.

Point 1

The directive harmonises the fight against corruption

Public and private bribery, misappropriation, trading in influence, obstruction of justice and concealment move towards more aligned treatment across Member States.

Point 2

Sanctions become more intense

For individuals, maximum prison terms should range between three and five years. For companies, fines may reach 3% to 5% of worldwide turnover or fixed values between EUR 24M and EUR 40M, depending on the offence.

Point 3

Prevention is no longer merely defensive

Risk assessment, operational policies, whistleblowing, credible investigations and risk-based training become central mechanisms of integrity culture.

Point 4

Third parties become a critical exposure zone

Much anti-corruption risk enters through the value chain. Agents, consultants, distributors, intermediaries and partners need due diligence, monitoring, contracts and controls.

Point 5

Documentation becomes defence

Risk criteria, assessments, approvals, exceptions, refusals, investigations, corrective measures, training evidence, policy reviews and management reporting should be recorded.

Conclusion

The test is not documentary

The real question is whether the organisation can prove that it identifies, prevents, detects and responds to corruption risk. Ahkoris helps turn regulatory expectations into defensible and executable compliance programmes.