



INTEGRITY PACTS: A HOW-TO GUIDE FROM PRACTITIONERS

Transparency International is a global movement with one vision: a world in which government, business, civil society and the daily lives of people are free of corruption. Through more than 100 chapters worldwide and an international secretariat in Berlin, we are leading the fight against corruption to turn this vision into reality.

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IN GERMANY, IF EVERYTHING GOES WRONG...

Transparency International Germany withdrew from the Integrity Pact for the Berlin-Brandenburg Airport in spring 2015, after 10 years. The Board of Transparency International Germany reached this decision based on its view that the airport authority was not taking corruption risks seriously. This decision was reached within a context where:

- Transparency International Germany did not enter into a specific agreement with the airport authority, which set out their rights and obligations. The only agreements entered into were between the airport authorities and bidders, and the airport authority and the external monitor who reported directly to the airport authority;
- Transparency International Germany felt that the airport authority had failed on numerous occasions to keep us up-to-date on events including corruption allegations;
- Transparency International Germany felt that the airport authority failed to take steps to address alleged irregularities brought to its attention by Transparency International Germany in June 2013;
- The airport consistently failed to notify Transparency International Germany of enforcement of their compliance activities.

In 2014 a serious conversation took place between Transparency International Germany and the airport authority and it was agreed by both sides that should future concerns be raised directly to the authority, Transparency International Germany would be informed.

Following events which led Transparency International to believe that this commitment was breached, the chapter finally wrote a letter announcing its withdrawal from the Integrity Pact, citing the airport as “not being serious about corruption”.

After five days of silence from the airport authority, Transparency International Germany went to the media to announce the withdrawal in March 2015. There has been no official reaction by the airport authority up to this date. Nevertheless, the media continues to approach Transparency International Germany to comment on the ongoing public procurement process.

Similar to Latvia’s experiences described above, from this experience Transparency International Germany learned that it is necessary to ensure that a thorough written agreement is in place that defines information rights and obligations, as well as the reasons and the process for a potential withdrawal. The flexibility in regard to working with the media must be maintained, and there must be more incentives and sanctions at hand to influence the Integrity Pact implementation in order to avoid the ultimate sanction of withdrawal.