

THE ANTI-BRIBERY AND
ANTI-CORRUPTION
REVIEW

NINTH EDITION

Editor
Mark F Mendelsohn

THE LAWREVIEWS

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PREFACE

The covid-19 pandemic has had a monumental and disruptive effect on practically all aspects of business, politics, law and daily life in nearly every corner of the globe. For companies conducting cross-border business, and legal practitioners who advise them, corruption remains a substantial risk area. And with national governments engaging in large-scale economic stimulus programmes and contracting on an emergency basis with a wide range of suppliers of critical goods and services, the opportunities for fraud, corruption and abuse are replete. The current global health crisis unfolded onto a world stage that is dynamic and roiling with anti-corruption activity and developments. This ninth edition of *The Anti-Bribery and Anti-Corruption Review* presents the views and observations of leading anti-corruption practitioners in jurisdictions spanning the globe, including new chapters covering Indonesia and Spain. The comprehensive scope of this edition of the Review mirrors that dynamism.

Over the past year, countries across the globe continued to investigate and prosecute a range of corruption cases – many involving heads of state and senior officials – strengthen their domestic anti-bribery and anti-corruption laws, and adopt important new law enforcement policies and guidance documents, though tumultuous international relations, rising economic competition and the effects of the pandemic are combining to threaten international cooperation and the progress of cross-border investigations more generally.

This past year saw French-headquartered Airbus SE reach a US\$3.9 billion coordinated corporate bribery and export controls resolution with authorities in France, the United Kingdom and the United States. The wide-ranging allegations involved alleged bribery of government officials in more than a dozen countries, as well as US export controls-related offences, and now other jurisdictions from Ghana to Malaysia are pressing forward with their own investigations. At the same time, the 1MDB scandal continues to play out, with still further US asset forfeiture actions, criminal charges against a major US Republican fundraiser for allegedly acting as an unregistered foreign agent in an attempt to illegally lobby the Trump administration to drop its probe into the 1MDB corruption scandal and an appeal by former Malaysian prime minister Najib Razak against his convictions on bribery and money-laundering charges and the resulting 12-year prison term. And in Brazil, which has for many years been a hotbed of anti-corruption investigations, President Jair Bolsonaro has taken the controversial step of ending his country's long-running Car Wash probe, following the resignation of his justice minister who, as judge, had previously presided over the probe.

Given the political turmoil and the global health crisis confronting us in the remainder of 2020 and into 2021, this book and the wealth of country-specific learning that it contains will help guide practitioners and their clients when navigating the perils of corruption in

foreign and transnational business, and in related internal and government investigations. I am grateful to all of the contributors for their support in producing this highly informative volume.

Mark F Mendelsohn

Paul, Weiss, Rifkind, Wharton & Garrison LLP

Washington, DC

October 2020

RUSSIA

*Alexei Panich and Sergei Eremin*¹

I INTRODUCTION

Although Russia was ranked 137 out of 198 countries on Transparency International's 2019 Corruption Perceptions Index,² sharing the spot with such countries as Mexico, Papua New Guinea and Paraguay,³ in its Third Round Evaluation Report published on 21 November 2016,⁴ the Group of States against Corruption (GRECO) considered Russian anti-corruption law to be fairly robust, as anti-bribery legislation has undergone significant development over the past years and continues to improve. However, levels of corruption and financial abuse remain abnormally high. GRECO in its fourth evaluation report acknowledged that 'there are a number of strong safeguards already in place, but, at the same time, some critical issues need urgent attention'.⁵

Russia is a member of all the main international organisations and conventions on countering corruption and makes efforts to implement all recommendations and comply with international standards. For instance, significant amendments are being introduced into national legislation aimed at combating bribery and corruption. The Supreme Court (the highest criminal justice body in Russia) redrafted its binding commentary on public and commercial bribery. Even the president and other state officials stipulate that combating corruption is the core goal of the government in the coming years: in June 2018 President Putin approved a National Plan to Counter Corruption for 2018–2020, providing a list of measures aimed at further improving the institutional framework for countering corruption in Russian subjects.

However, actual enforcement levels do not indicate a strong trend of the government cracking down on corruption.

Separately, information on particular criminal cases is only available to a limited extent. Unlike the rulings of arbitrazh courts, which consider commercial disputes, the rulings of general jurisdiction courts dealing with criminal proceedings are not generally available on legal databases, which makes researching this topic somewhat more difficult.

1 Alexei Panich is a partner and Sergei Eremin is a senior associate at Herbert Smith Freehills CIS LLP.

2 <https://www.transparency.org/en/cpi/2019/results/rus>.

3 According to the latest published Transparency International's Corruption Perceptions Index of 2018, Russia is ranked 138 out of 180 countries in terms of the levels of public sector corruption.

4 <https://rm.coe.int/16806cc128>.

5 <https://rm.coe.int/fourth-evaluation-round-corruption-prevention-in-respect-of-members-of/1680794c4f>.

II DOMESTIC BRIBERY: LEGAL FRAMEWORK

i Overview of the main legislation

Russian anti-bribery legislation comprises the following statutes:

- a* the Criminal Code of 1996;
- b* the Anti-Corruption Law of 2008;
- c* the Law on control over the spending of the state authorities of 2012;
- d* the Law banning certain categories of individuals from having foreign bank accounts of 2013;
- e* the Administrative Code of 2001; and
- f* the Anti-Money Laundering Law of 2001, as amended.

The 2008 Anti-Corruption Law sets out the general principles for fighting corruption. It provides a legal definition of ‘corruption’, which comprises active and passive bribery (including commercial bribery), misuse of public authority and other abuses of rights by an individual aimed at gaining monetary or other benefits contrary to state or public interests. This Law provides a general framework while leaving particular sanctions for corrupt activities to other pieces of legislation referred to above. One of the core ideas of this Law is transparency and control over gains made by public officials. The Law obliges certain state and municipal officials to disclose their property, income and financial obligations as well as those of their spouse and children who are minors. A separate duty exists to disclose any attempts to engage them in corruption. The Law also obliges them to disclose any conflicts between their personal interests and the public interest that may be affected.

The 2008 Anti-Corruption Law also imposes certain restrictions on the activities of officials such as receiving gifts or entertainment in connection with their official position, carrying on business activities, taking on any paid work except for teaching, science or arts, receiving remuneration for publications and presentations made in their capacity as an official, etc. However, officials are allowed to participate on a non-paid basis in the management bodies of ‘subsidiary’ organisations of state companies.

Bribery and money laundering offences are punishable under the Criminal Code. However, unlike in many other countries, in Russia only individuals can be criminally liable – legal entities cannot be. Both receiving and giving a bribe are punishable. The law provides for severe criminal sanctions (imprisonment, etc.) for individuals found guilty of these crimes.

Bribery within Russia is punishable irrespective of the nationality of the individuals involved. If bribery is committed by a Russian national outside Russia, he or she will be subject to liability under the Russian Criminal Code if there is no relevant foreign court sentence in relation to the crime. The same applies to foreign nationals who commit a crime of corruption outside Russia against the Russian state or against Russian nationals in the context of commercial bribery.

The Law on Control over the Spending of State Authorities of 2012 was widely announced as a novel anti-corruption measure aimed at reporting the earnings and spending of certain officials. While certain state and municipal officials are required to report their income, property and financial obligations (see above), not all of them are currently required to report their spending as well. This list includes high-ranking officials; for instance, officials appointed by the President, members of the board of directors of the Central Bank and officials designated by them, the Attorney General, high-ranking officials in state corporations, and judges. The reporting should cover not only the officials themselves, but also their spouses and minor children (recent amendments introduced in 2018 imposed reporting obligations

on former officials as well). Although widely advertised, this Law does not appear to be workable because of poor enforcement. Moreover, the Law does not capture the spending of officials' adult children and other relatives.

Another heavily promoted piece of legislation that was enacted in 2013 prohibits certain state and municipal officials, their spouses and minor children from opening and having accounts (deposits), keeping cash and valuables in foreign banks located outside the territory of Russia, and owning or using foreign financial instruments. The specified officials were required to close existing accounts (deposits) and cease any prohibited activity within three months of the law coming into force. The ban does not apply to officials who permanently hold public office outside the territory of Russia. So far, the only visible effect of this law was that several senators (members of the Federation Council, the upper chamber of the Russian parliament) retired or disposed of their offshore businesses.

In addition to criminal liability, the Civil Code of 1996 prohibits gifts exceeding 3,000 roubles being made to state officials and gifts between legal entities, and imposes civil law sanctions for violation of the above prohibitions. Special legislation (for instance, the Law on State Civil Service) provides for ways to deal with gifts received by governmental and other qualifying officials. Notably, irrespective of their value, gifts aimed at achieving corrupt goals are prohibited and may constitute criminal bribery. Whether the corrupt goal exists is a judgment that requires legal analysis on a case-by-case basis. For example, a gift provided to an official at the registration chamber with a view to facilitating the production of documents may be regarded as a bribe as the connection is pretty clear. The same gift to a high-level official on his or her birthday is unlikely to be regarded as a bribe unless it is evidently connected with his or her 'assistance' in a tender for a multimillion dollar contract.

The Administrative Code also provides for administrative liability (fines, injunctions, etc.) for certain misdemeanours (e.g., failure to comply with certain anti-money laundering legislative requirements (see Section iv)).

Disciplinary measures may also apply to civil servants accused of corrupt practices.

ii Definition of 'public official'

'Public officials' who may be criminally prosecuted for receiving bribes include, generally, persons who act as representatives of governmental bodies or have administrative or organisational power in governmental bodies, municipal bodies, state and municipal institutions, the army, state corporations and state companies, state and municipal unitary enterprises, joint-stock companies the controlling interest in which belongs to the Russian state, a Russian subject or a municipal body. Receiving a bribe is also punishable for individuals occupying 'state positions' (i.e., those established by the Russian Constitution, federal constitutional laws and federal laws for performance of the functions of governmental bodies). A similar provision relates to individuals occupying 'Federation subject positions'. Municipal servants may be subject to criminal prosecution for bribery only in specific cases.

Unlike the Criminal Code, which gives a descriptive definition of a public official, anti-corruption legislation pursues regulatory goals and consequently provides an exact list of persons deemed public officials. We note, however, that both definitions intersect to a significant extent. Under anti-corruption legislation, the term 'public officials' includes any elected or appointed official or employee in any Russian government body in the executive, legislative or judicial branches at any level of government as well as officials who perform municipal services. In the case of non-municipal officials, pursuant to the State Service Law, the Russian government maintains a listing of the categories of employees who are considered

civil servants subject to that law. In specific cases the employees of state corporations, public companies and certain other non-commercial state organisations (the Central Bank and governmental funds) should also be considered as public officials.

iii Public and commercial bribery

The Criminal Code distinguishes between bribes to state officials and bribes to officers of commercial entities (public and commercial bribery). The difference is in the identity of the person receiving the bribe. In the case of commercial bribery, the recipient is a person performing management functions in a commercial or other corporate entity, such as a CEO, board member, or a person otherwise performing organisational or management functions in such entities.

The Criminal Code provides a wide range of sanctions depending on elements of the crime and the amount of the bribe, however in this chapter we will focus only on the maximum sanctions for each crime.

iv Sanctions

The commission of a crime incurs a penalty set out in the Criminal Code. Sanctions vary depending on the gravity of the crime. Court may exercise discretion in applying a penalty within the limits set by the Criminal Code.

Apart from penalties, the Criminal Code provides for the imposition of other penal measures if certain conditions are met. One such measure is confiscation. Money, benefits or property obtained through crime are confiscated if one of the listed crimes is committed (e.g., receipt of a bribe); if these items are used to finance certain crimes (e.g., terrorism); or if the assets in question belonging to the accused are used as a means to commit a crime. When a corruption-related crime is committed, money, benefits or property conferred as a bribe are to be confiscated even if the accused is exempt from liability because of special circumstances (which are discussed in more detail below).⁶ As from 2018, public officials whose employment has been terminated because of loss of credibility as a result of committing corruption-related offences are listed in a public register available on the internet.⁷

Public bribery

Receiving bribes

The maximum sanctions for public officials receiving a bribe are as follows:

- a* a fine of up to 5 million roubles or of the amount equivalent to income for a period of up to five years, or up to 100 times the amount of the bribe; and
- b* imprisonment for up to 15 years.

These sanctions may be combined with disqualification for up to 15 years and may also include correctional work for up to two years and compulsory work for up to five years.

6 Paragraph 10 of the Resolution of the Plenum of the Supreme Court of the Russian Federation of 14 June 2018 No. 17 on Some Issues Related to the Application of Property Confiscation in Criminal Proceedings.

7 <https://gossuzhba.gov.ru/reestr>.

Giving bribes

The maximum sanction for giving bribes are as follows:

- a* a fine of up to 4 million roubles or of the amount equivalent to income for a period of up to four years, or up to 90 times the amount of the bribe; and
- b* imprisonment for up to 15 years.

These sanctions may be combined together or with disqualification for up to 10 years and may also include correctional work for up to two years and compulsory work for up to three years.

The giver of a bribe will be released from liability if he or she voluntarily reported the bribe to the authorities or if the bribe was extorted by the official and if he or she actively assists with case clearance or the investigation (or both).

The CEO of a company on whose behalf a bribe has been paid will only be criminally liable if he or she was personally involved in giving or concealing the bribe. The CEO will not suffer any criminal liability if he or she was not aware of the bribe.

Bribery intermediation

Bribery intermediation was introduced as a separate crime and is defined as direct delivery of a bribe to the receiver at the request of either the giver or receiver of a bribe, or assistance to the giver or receiver in the negotiation or performance of the agreement between them to give and receive a bribe. A proposal or promise of intermediation is also punishable.

The maximum sanctions are as follows:

- a* a fine of up to 3 million roubles or of the amount equivalent to income for a period of up to three years, or up to 80 times the amount of the bribe; and
- b* imprisonment for up to 12 years.

These sanctions may be combined with disqualification for up to seven years.

An intermediary would be released from liability if he or she actively helped to discover or prevent the crime, and voluntarily notified the authorities of the fact that he or she had acted as an intermediary for the bribery.

Minor public bribery

Like bribery intermediation, minor public bribery was recently introduced as a separate crime and is defined as giving or receiving a bribe personally or through an intermediary for a maximum amount of 10,000 roubles. A person found guilty of minor public bribery may be fined up to 200,000 roubles or of the amount equivalent to income of up to three months or sentenced to correctional work for up to one year or limitation of freedom for up to two years, or imprisonment for up to one year.

A person who has a criminal record for bribery or bribery intermediation is sanctioned more severely for minor bribery and may be fined up to 1 million roubles or of the amount equivalent to income for a period up to one year, or sentenced to correctional work for up to three years or limitation of freedom for up to four years, or imprisonment for up to three years.

A donor of a small bribe would be released from liability if he or she voluntarily reported the bribe to the authorities or if the bribe was extorted by the official and if he or she actively assists with case clearance or the investigation (or both).

Exemptions and defences

There is, however, an exemption under which a present to an official will not constitute a bribe. Providing common gifts (e.g., flowers, sweets, perfume) would not constitute a violation, and should be analysed in connection with the above-mentioned express allowance in the Civil Code for gifts of up to 3,000 roubles. In the absence of corrupt intent, and below the 3,000 roubles threshold, a gift or entertainment will fall within this exception. There is no 'facilitating payments' exception in Russian law.

A person that has committed public bribery has two available defences under the Criminal Code. The first defence, which applies if he or she is assisting with the prosecution of the bribery, constitutes proving that the public official insisted on receiving the bribe as a condition for the commission of a certain act (or for inaction). The second defence, which applies before initiation of criminal proceedings, constitutes the person who has given the bribe voluntarily reporting it to the authorities promptly after having given it. The first defence is most likely to arise where a facilitation payment has been made, since the situation may be connected with a refusal to perform a routine action rather than any illegal actions of the official.

Commercial bribery

Giver of the bribe

The maximum sanctions for the giver of a bribe are as follows:

- a* a fine of up to 2.5 million roubles or of the amount equivalent to income for a period of up to two and a half years or up to 70 times the amount of the bribe; and
- b* imprisonment for up to eight years.

These sanctions may be combined with disqualification for up to five years and may also include correctional work for up to two years and limitation of freedom for up to two years.

Receiver of the bribe

The maximum sanctions for the recipient are as follows:

- a* a fine of up to 5 million roubles or of the amount equivalent to income for a period of up to five years or up to 90 times of the bribe; and
- b* imprisonment for up to 12 years.

These sanctions may be combined with disqualification for up to six years.

Commercial bribery intermediation

The maximum sanctions for bribery are as follows:

- a* a fine of up to 1 million roubles or of the amount equivalent to income for a period of up to three years or up to 70 times the amount of the bribe; and
- b* imprisonment for up to seven years.

These sanctions may be combined with disqualification for up to six years.

Minor commercial bribery

Minor commercial bribery has been also recently introduced in the Criminal Code and its threshold is the same as for minor public bribery. A person guilty of minor commercial bribery may be fined up to 150,000 roubles or of the amount equivalent to income for a period of up to three months, or sentenced to compulsory work for up to 200 hours or correctional work for up to one year or limitation of freedom for up to one year.

As in cases of minor public bribery, if a person has a criminal record for commercial bribery or commercial bribery intermediation then sanctions are more severe: a fine of up to 500,000 roubles or of the amount equivalent to income for a period of up to six months or correctional work for up to one year or limitation of freedom for up to two years, or imprisonment for up to one year.

Defences

A person that has committed commercial bribery, including minor commercial bribery, has a defence if he or she actively helped discover or prevent the crime, and either he or she voluntarily reported the bribery to the authorities or the bribe was extorted by the official. An intermediary would also be entitled to a similar defence.

Bribery provocation

Criminal liability for bribery provocation has recently been introduced to the Criminal Code. It may arise, for example, for a person who attempts to bribe a public official or an official in a commercial organisation without their knowledge or consent with the purpose of artificially producing evidence of bribery or blackmail as a result of collaborating with law enforcement authorities trying to conduct an investigative action of doubtful legality.

Gravity

When a bribe is transferred in parts, the qualification of the gravity of the crime committed depends on the intended size of the bribe. This may be relevant in the situation where the payer of the bribe has not been able to pay the bribe in full because of the circumstances outside of his or her control.

Administrative liability

The Administrative Code imposes monetary sanctions on both public officials and private parties for a wide variety of minor offences that may fall under the umbrella of corrupt activities. Examples include bribing voters, customs violations, various types of non-performance of duties by public officials, failure to follow court and administrative orders, the use of false information, and public health violations. Furthermore, an offender can be subject to procedural provisional measures such as arrest, arrest of assets and temporary prohibition of a legal entity's activities.

As already mentioned, legal entities cannot be held criminally liable in Russia. To rectify this, in 2009 administrative liability was introduced in the form of a penalty that can be imposed on any legal entity found to have been involved in bribery. According to amendments in effect from January 2019, liability for these actions may be imposed on any legal entity even if they are committed in the interests of related entities, affiliated organisations, or subsidiaries.

A legal entity that benefits from a bribe given by its employee or an intermediary is subject to a fine that depends on the amount of the unlawful remuneration paid. The maximum sanction is a fine of up to 100 times the amount of the bribe, which cannot be less than 100 million roubles, plus seizure of the pay-off. In addition, the legal entity can be subject to an arrest of assets.

Both bringing an individual to criminal liability for giving a bribe or transferring an object of commercial bribery (while acting on behalf of or in the interests of a legal entity) as well as the absence of a guilty sentence against such individual do not exclude the risk of bringing the legal entity to administrative liability.

A legal entity has two available defences, which are generally similar to those set out in the Criminal Code. Exemption from liability would be granted to the legal entity that had committed the offence if it helped to uncover the offence, contributed to its administrative investigation and resolution; or if extortion had taken place in relation to the legal entity.

III ENFORCEMENT: DOMESTIC BRIBERY

As mentioned in Section I, information on criminal cases in Russia is only available to a limited extent.

Until a court ruling on the matter is issued, the case materials may be covered by investigation privilege. Information relating to investigations and any findings are required to be kept secret except in a limited number of circumstances. Unauthorised disclosure of such information would give rise to criminal liability.

The non-disclosure obligations apply to all persons involved in the investigation process (members of law enforcement agencies, suspects, victims, witnesses, etc.). The officials of the relevant investigating authority will notify other participants involved in the investigation that disclosure of any such information will incur criminal liability. The latter must acknowledge this notification in writing. Similarly, tipping-off in relation to anti-money laundering investigations is prohibited. Banks, credit institutions, accountants, lawyers, notaries and other persons may not disclose the fact that their client is being investigated. The above explains why very limited information may be publicly available at the investigatory stage.

After the case is considered by the court, a court ruling is published, but not necessarily in the aggregated databases. This adds difficulty to summarising the enforcement practices for these matters.

Occasionally the Supreme Court publishes its guidelines on various types of crimes. The latest guidelines on public and commercial bribery were published on 9 July 2013 and amended on 24 December 2019. Although largely reworded, they are more or less in line with the previous guidelines issued in 2000 and amended several times.

IV FOREIGN BRIBERY: LEGAL FRAMEWORK

Giving a bribe to a foreign public official or an official of an international public organisation is punishable in Russia under the Criminal Code in the same manner as giving a bribe to a Russian public official.

A foreign public official is any person appointed or elected to any position in a legislative, executive, administrative or judicial body of a foreign country, as well as any

person performing public functions for any foreign state, including for a public body or public corporation (the Supreme Court gives the following examples: a minister, mayor, judge or prosecutor).

Officials of an international public organisation are defined much more narrowly: these are the members of parliamentary assemblies of the international organisations that Russia is a party to, or the individuals occupying judicial positions in any international court acknowledged by Russia.

Russian legal entities conducting illegal activities outside Russia are subject to administrative liability if the violation is directed against the interests of Russia or in cases stipulated by international treaties ratified by Russia. The same approach is applicable to foreign legal entities that commit bribery acts counter to the interests of Russia. The provisions should not apply where the violating entity has already been brought to administrative or criminal liability by the foreign state.

V ASSOCIATED OFFENCES: FINANCIAL RECORD-KEEPING AND MONEY LAUNDERING

As mentioned in Section II.i, in Russia, a criminal prosecution may only be carried out against individuals and not companies. To that end, financial recording and internal compliance procedures would normally have nothing to do with the criminal prosecution of corruption and bribery. At the same time, if, for instance, the bribe is paid out of a company's funds, its management or other people involved in the payment could be accused of being complicit in the bribery.

The Anti-Money Laundering Law governs anti-money laundering activities and generally complies with international anti-money laundering standards, as confirmed by the Financial Action Task Force.

Pursuant to the Criminal Code, a money laundering offence is committed where financial operations and transactions involving property obtained by illegal means are entered into to make the possession, use and disposal of the property appear lawful. As such, where a company is in possession of the proceeds of a contract obtained by corruption, the possession is unlikely of itself to constitute money laundering (although corrupt individuals would be subject to criminal proceedings). However, where the proceeds are then used in subsequent transactions, the transactions would be deemed to be money laundering.

VI ENFORCEMENT: FOREIGN BRIBERY AND ASSOCIATED OFFENCES

In recent years, Russian investigatory authorities have not reported any successful foreign bribery investigations.

VII INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS AND AGREEMENTS

As mentioned in Section I, Russia is a member of all the main international organisations and conventions aimed at countering corruption activities.

On 9 May 2006, Russia ratified the UN Convention against Corruption (2003); on 4 October 2006 it ratified the Council of Europe Criminal Law Convention on Corruption; and on 1 February 2007 it became a member of GRECO.

Further, on 17 February 2012, Russia ratified the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development Convention on Combating Bribery of Foreign Public Officials in International Business Transactions (1997).

VIII LEGISLATIVE DEVELOPMENTS

On 9 January 2014, the Russian government issued a regulation relating to anti-corruption. According to the new regulation, public officials shall inform their employees of any gifts received in connection with their position. In light of the new regulation a possibility of interpretation exists whereby employees of state-owned legal entities would be subject to the same rules as public officials with respect to the prohibition on making gifts to them. No clarification has yet been given as to the operation of this regulation. The practice shows so far that these could be state-owned federal state institutions incorporated to perform not-for-profit activities.

The draft also broadens the disciplinary measures applied to individuals occupying state or federation subject positions who are accused of corrupt practices.

We note that Russian anti-corruption legislation continues to improve every year to fulfil the country's obligations under international agreements. However, the process takes time and the amendments proposed are not flawless.

Among the more successful, Federal law regarding the period of administrative investigations in cases of unlawful remuneration on behalf of a legal entity should be mentioned. Federal law extended the period from two to 12 months on the basis of a decision of the head of a higher-level prosecuting authority in cases related to the execution of a request for legal assistance sent to a foreign state. The draft has passed its first reading in the State Duma.

IX OTHER LAWS AFFECTING THE RESPONSE TO CORRUPTION

There are several issues that should be kept in mind with respect to the specifics of the Russian anti-corruption regime.

i Self-incrimination

Russian law recognises the privilege against self-incrimination in relation to all types of investigations in Russia. There is a right of silence for a suspect but no such right for a witness. If a witness avoids giving testimony without just cause, he or she may be compelled to attend court or meet with investigators to give evidence.

ii Advocates

As a general rule, in criminal investigations legal assistance is provided by qualified 'advocates'. Advocates are legal professionals admitted to advocacy practice upon passing the Bar exam. Communication between the advocate and his or her client is legally protected but to a much lesser extent than in certain Western jurisdictions where legal professional privilege applies. This legal protection covers all information connected with an advocate's legal assistance to the client. The advocate cannot be subject to interrogation concerning information he or she became aware of while providing legal assistance to his or her client. Documents and other

materials received from the client in connection with providing legal assistance cannot be seized. Any lawyers who are not advocates do not enjoy any legal privilege with respect to the communications and documentation between them and their clients.

iii Plea-bargaining

Although there is no formal plea-bargaining under Russian law, the Criminal Code provides for an option for the suspect or accused to minimise his or her liability for the bribery (and generally for other crimes) he or she committed if one of the following conditions is met:

- a* the accused comes forward with a plea and actively contributes to the detection and investigation of the crime;
- b* the accused enters into a pretrial agreement on cooperation with the prosecutor; or
- c* the case against him or her is examined in a special procedure (i.e., when accused agrees with the charges against him or her and applies for a special procedure without full investigation of the crime).

Depending on the specific type of crime and the applicable options (from those mentioned above), the sentence of the accused may be between half and two-thirds of the sentence that would have been imposed in the absence of the above-mentioned circumstances. It is, however, difficult to determine the length of the sentence in each case as this remains at the court's discretion.

iv Whistle-blowing

There is no general whistle-blowing obligation under Russian criminal law. However, such an obligation does exist under anti-money laundering legislation. Banks, lawyers, notaries, accounting organisations and certain other groups of persons are under an obligation to report to the regulator any transactions by their clients (without tipping their client off) that breach the anti-money laundering legislation and fall within certain categories, including:

- a* transactions involving 600,000 roubles or more;
- b* receipt of monetary funds in the amount of 100,000 roubles or more by Russian non-commercial entities from foreign states, international organisations, foreign companies, citizens of foreign states and stateless citizens, and expenditure of the same;
- c* receipt of cash by an individual with a payment card if the latter is issued by a foreign bank registered in the territory of a foreign state or administrative-territorial unit of a foreign state included in the list approved by the authorities;
- d* crediting and debiting accounts in an amount of 10 million roubles or more of Russian companies, federal unitary enterprises and state corporations and companies, as well as public law companies that are of strategic importance for the military industrial sector and security of Russia, and companies under their control;
- e* crediting and debiting special accounts of a head contractor or a contractor performing a state defence order; the first crediting of such accounts from other special accounts of 600,000 roubles or more; and the second and subsequent crediting and debiting of the above-mentioned accounts of the legal entity performing the state defence order from or to other special accounts of 50 million roubles or more;
- f* real estate transactions involving 3 million roubles or more if as a result of the transaction title to the real estate property would be transferred to another person;
- g* transactions entered into by a person or a legal entity known to be involved in extremism or terrorism;

- b* transactions entered into by an individual or a legal entity included in the list of individuals or legal entities implicated in the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, or a legal entity directly or indirectly owned or controlled by such listed individuals and legal entities, or any individual or legal entity acting on behalf or on the instructions of such individuals and legal entities; and
- i* any other suspicious transactions that could reasonably be related to money laundering or terrorist financing.

Failure to comply with this obligation may trigger an administrative liability, namely a fine of up to 1 million roubles, or result in the company's activities being suspended for up to 90 days. It may also trigger the revocation of a licence to carry out banking operations. Companies would not have to report themselves for money laundering if they suspect a contract had been obtained by bribery where they were in possession of the proceeds of a crime. While a money laundering offence might be committed by a company if it subsequently used that sum, there would be no obligation on the company to report itself for money laundering. However, it might be prudent for a company to consider reporting the matter to the authorities. Furthermore, in the absence of a general 'whistle-blowing' obligation under Russian criminal law, the concealment of a gravest crime (if not promised in advance) constitutes a crime itself. If the concealment was promised in advance, it may constitute crime complicity. Recently, the failure to report crimes connected with terrorism and certain other crimes was introduced as a separate crime into the Criminal Code.

X COMPLIANCE

The workability of compliance programmes in Russia is not guaranteed, in particular with respect to criminal prosecutions. At the same time, they could serve well before the regulator and investigators in anti-money laundering proceedings.

The changes to anti-corruption legislation in 2013 tried to encourage Russian companies (which thus far have not adopted any anti-corruption compliance measures) to change their mindset, as new provisions came into effect setting forth various anti-corruption measures that may be used by companies. This stimulus hardly worked because of the non-mandatory 'may' form of wording used by the law. However, unlike many Russian companies, the Russian Ministry of Labour did pay attention to the new amendments and prepared best-practice guidelines, the 'Methodical Recommendations on Development and Implementation by Organisations of Measures for Preventing and Counteracting Corruption' (the Recommendations), amended as of 8 April 2014. Although the Recommendations are not binding, the actions of the Ministry hint that the government may in the near future start enforcing the anti-corruption provisions of the legislation with respect to compliance programmes.

XI OUTLOOK AND CONCLUSIONS

As can be seen from the above discussion, Russian anti-corruption and anti-bribery legislation has developed significantly over the past few years.

Currently, the effective enforcement of the existing legal framework is a significant challenge for the government. It remains to be seen how it will work in practice.

We expect more clarity on the matter in the coming years.

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