CPI 2006 Regional Results: EU and Other Western European

The **Nordic countries** dominate the top scores in the 2006 Corruption Perceptions Index for the European Union and other Western European countries. But they have no grounds for complacency as scandals in recent years have shown that there is sadly no such thing as a corruption-free zone.

As key Western European economies and members of the Group of Eight, **Germany** and **Italy** both have yet to demonstrate commitment to a global legal framework against corruption by ratifying the **United Nations Convention against Corruption**, and should do so without delay.

And among older members of the European Union, both **Italy** and **Greece** stand out with scores below five indicating a perceived serious corruption problem.

It is heartening to see that EU membership has had a positive effect on new member countries. Seven out of the eight former communist countries that joined the EU scored higher in 2006, with **Estonia** and **Slovenia** leading the pack. Among the new members, the largest economy, **Poland**, appears to be stagnating in its progress against corruption.

Overall Rank	Regional Rank	Country / territory	Score	Confidence range	Surveys Used
1	1	**Finland**	9.6	9.4 - 9.7	7
		Iceland	9.6	9.5 - 9.7	6
4	3	**Denmark**	9.5	9.4 - 9.6	7
6	4	**Sweden**	9.2	9.0 - 9.3	7
7	5	**Switzerland**	9.1	8.9 - 9.2	7
8	6	**Norway**	8.8	8.4 - 9.1	7
9	7	**Netherlands**	8.7	8.3 - 9.0	7
11	8	**Austria**	8.6	8.2 - 8.9	7
		Luxembourg	8.6	8.1 - 9.0	6
		United Kingdom	8.6	8.2 - 8.9	7
16	11	**Germany**	8.0	7.8 - 8.4	7
18	12	**France**	7.4	6.7 - 7.8	7
		Ireland	7.4	6.7 - 7.9	7
20	14	**Belgium**	7.3	6.6 - 7.9	7
23	15	**Spain**	6.8	6.3 - 7.2	7
24	16	**Estonia**	6.7	6.1 - 7.4	8
26	17	**Portugal**	6.6	5.9 - 7.3	7
28	18	**Malta**	6.4	5.4 - 7.3	4
		Slovenia	6.4	5.7 - 7.0	8
37	20	**Cyprus**	5.6	5.2 - 5.9	4
41	21	**Hungary**	5.2	5.0 - 5.4	8
45	22	**Italy**	4.9	4.4 - 5.4	7
46	23	**Czech Republic**	4.8	4.4 - 5.2	8
		Lithuania	4.8	4.2 - 5.6	6
49	25	**Latvia**	4.7	4.0 - 5.5	6
		Slovakia	4.7	4.3 - 5.2	8
54	27	**Greece**	4.4	3.9 - 5.0	7
61	28	**Poland**	3.7	3.2 - 4.4	8

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CPI 2006 Regional Results: Middle East

In the Middle East, **Lebanon** improved over last year's score. However, as most of the data used for the Corruption Perceptions Index was gathered prior to this year's conflict between Israel and Lebanon, corruption in the current reconstruction phase – known to be particularly vulnerable – may not be reflected. Future changes in the perception of corruption in the country should be monitored closely.

In this year's index, it is notable that **Jordan** sustained deterioration in its perceived level of corruption. This is a critical result given that the country is hosting both the **Conference of States Parties** to the **United Nations Convention against Corruption** and the G8 BMNENA reform-summit "Forum for the Future" at the end of this year. The government's delay in following through on some of the provisions set out by the UN Convention, such as establishing an anti-corruption commission, whistle-blower protection and freedom of information laws, may be a contributing factor. The country has also recently seen a number of corruption cases before its courts.

Overall Rank	Regional Rank	Country / territory	Score	Confidence range	Surveys Used
31	1	**United Arab Emirates**	6.2	5.6 - 6.9	5
32	2	**Qatar**	6.0	5.6 - 6.5	5
34	3	**Israel**	5.9	5.2 - 6.5	7
36	4	**Bahrain**	5.7	5.3 - 6.2	5
39	5	**Oman**	5.4	4.1 - 6.2	3
40	6	**Jordan**	5.3	4.5 - 5.7	7
46	7	**Kuwait**	4.8	4.0 - 5.4	5
63	8	**Lebanon**	3.6	3.2 - 3.8	3
70	9	**Saudi Arabia**	3.3	2.2 - 3.7	3
93	10	**Syria**	2.9	2.3 - 3.2	3
105	11	**Iran**	2.7	2.3 - 3.1	3
		Libya	2.7	2.4 - 3.2	3
111	13	**Yemen**	2.6	2.4 - 2.7	4
160	14	**Iraq**	1.9	1.6 - 2.1	3

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CPI 2006 Regional Results: Americas

Overall Rank	Regional Rank	Country / territory	Score	Confidence range	Surveys Used
14	1	**Canada**	8.5	8.0 - 8.9	7
20	2	**Chile**	7.3	6.6 - 7.6	7
		USA	7.3	6.6 - 7.8	8
24	4	**Barbados**	6.7	6.0 - 7.2	4
28	5	**Uruguay**	6.4	5.9 - 7.0	5
53	6	**Dominica**	4.5	3.5 - 5.3	3
55	7	**Costa Rica**	4.1	3.3 - 4.8	5
57	8	**El Salvador**	4.0	3.2 - 4.8	5
59	9	**Colombia**	3.9	3.5 - 4.7	7
61	10	**Jamaica**	3.7	3.4 - 4.0	5
66	11	**Belize**	3.5	2.3 - 4.0	3
		Cuba	3.5	1.8 - 4.7	3
		Grenada	3.5	2.3 - 4.1	3
70	14	**Brazil**	3.3	3.1 - 3.6	7
		Mexico	3.3	3.1 - 3.4	7
		Peru	3.3	2.8 - 3.8	5
79	17	**Trinidad and Tobago**	3.2	2.8 - 3.6	5
84	18	**Panama**	3.1	2.8 - 3.3	5
90	19	**Suriname**	3.0	2.7 - 3.3	4
93	20	**Argentina**	2.9	2.7 - 3.2	7
99	21	**Dominican Republic**	2.8	2.4 - 3.2	5
105	22	**Bolivia**	2.7	2.4 - 3.0	6
111	23	**Guatemala**	2.6	2.3 - 3.0	5
		Nicaragua	2.6	2.4 - 2.9	6
		Paraguay	2.6	2.2 - 3.3	5
121	26	**Guyana**	2.5	2.2 - 2.6	5
		Honduras	2.5	2.4 - 2.7	6
138	28	**Ecuador**	2.3	2.2 - 2.5	5
		Venezuela	2.3	2.2 - 2.4	7
163	30	**Haiti**	1.8	1.7 - 1.8	3

The correlation between corruption and poverty is again in evidence in the results for the Americas of the 2006 Corruption Perceptions Index (CPI). In countries such as **Haiti**, **Ecuador**, and **Honduras**, with highest levels of perceived corruption, corruption continues to be one of the biggest obstacles to effectively fight poverty.

The results again call attention to the need for greater efforts to strengthen democratic institutions and to install functioning systems of control and mutual accountability that ensure public resources are used effectively. While there are no winners in the Americas, the index shows substantially higher scores for countries with relatively strong democratic institutions, such as **Canada** and the **United States**, but also notably for **Chile**, **Costa Rica** and **Uruguay**. But as recent scandals show, they too must continue to strengthen their institutions. There is, for example, a strong sense in the **United States** that corruption is on the rise in Congress, with special interests able to buy access and Congress doing little to police itself.

Out of 30 countries in the Americas in this year's CPI, the great majority (25 countries) score below 5, which indicates serious perceived levels of domestic corruption. More than a third (11 countries) score below 3, which indicates a perception of rampant corruption. These include

Argentina Bolivia, **Ecuador**, **Guatemala, Haiti, Hodnuras, Nicaragua, Paraguay** and **Venezuela**. Clientelism and the abuse of discretionary power by leadership in these countries is prevalent, making public resources there subject to private interests.

The message from the 2006 CPI for the Americas is clear: **institutions matter** and are the main pillars in the prevention, detection and prosecution of corruption and, by extension, the fight against poverty and inequality. Countries in the region must support the implementation of global anti-corruption instruments such as the **Organization of American States** and **United Nations anti-corruption conventions**.

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CPI 2006 Regional Results: Eastern Europe and Central Asia

The transition countries of Eastern Europe and Central Asia are notable in that not one of them scores above five (considered a threshold for the perception of a serious corruption problem) on the Corruption Perceptions Index 2006.

The performance of both **Bulgaria** and **Romania** – candidates for entry into the European Union in 2007 - is not terribly convincing.

It is of great concern that Europe's major energy suppliers, **Russia**, **Kazakhstan** and **Azerbaijan** are still perceived as highly corrupt, with scores below three. Only Azerbaijan registers a slight improvement albeit starting from a very low score.

Country Rank	Regional Rank	Country / territory	2006 CPI Score	Confidence range	Surveys Used
57	1	**Bulgaria**	4.0	3.4 - 4.8	7
60	2	**Turkey**	3.8	3.3 - 4.2	7
69	3	**Croatia**	3.4	3.1 - 3.7	7
79	4	**Moldova**	3.2	2.7 - 3.8	7
84	5	**Romania**	3.1	3.0 - 3.2	8
90	6	**Serbia**	3.0	2.7 - 3.3	7
93	7	**Armenia**	2.9	2.7 - 3.0	6
		Bosnia and Herzegovina	2.9	2.7 - 3.1	6
99	9	**Georgia**	2.8	2.5 - 3.0	6
		Mongolia	2.8	2.3 - 3.4	5
		Ukraine	2.8	2.5 - 3.0	6
105	12	**Macedonia**	2.7	2.6 - 2.9	6
111	13	**Albania**	2.6	2.4 - 2.7	5
		Kazakhstan	2.6	2.3 - 2.8	6
121	15	**Russia**	2.5	2.3 - 2.7	8
130	16	**Azerbaijan**	2.4	2.2 - 2.6	7
142	17	**Kyrgyzstan**	2.2	2.0 - 2.6	6
		Tajikistan	2.2	2.0 - 2.4	6
		Turkmenistan	2.2	1.9 - 2.5	4
151	20	**Belarus**	2.1	1.9 - 2.2	4
		Uzbekistan	2.1	1.8 - 2.2	5

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CPI 2006 regional results: Asia-Pacific

Overall Rank	Regional Rank	Country / territory	Score	Confidence range	Surveys Used
1	1	**New Zealand**	9.6	9.4 - 9.6	7
5	2	**Singapore**	9.4	9.2 - 9.5	9
9	3	**Australia**	8.7	8.3 - 9.0	8
15	4	**Hong Kong**	8.3	7.7 - 8.8	9
17	5	**Japan**	7.6	7.0 - 8.1	9
26	6	**Macao**	6.6	5.4 - 7.1	3
32	7	**Bhutan**	6.0	4.1 - 7.3	3
34	8	**Taiwan**	5.9	5.6 - 6.2	9
42	9	**South Korea**	5.1	4.7 - 5.5	9
44	10	**Malaysia**	5.0	4.5 - 5.5	9
63	11	**Thailand**	3.6	3.2 - 3.9	9
70	12	**China**	3.3	3.0 - 3.6	9
		India	3.3	3.1 - 3.6	10
84	14	**Sri Lanka**	3.1	2.7 - 3.5	6
111	15	**Laos**	2.6	2.0 - 3.1	4
		Timor-Leste	2.6	2.3 - 3.0	3
		Vietnam	2.6	2.4 - 2.9	8
121	18	**Nepal**	2.5	2.3 - 2.9	5
		Philippines	2.5	2.3 - 2.8	9
130	20	**Indonesia**	2.4	2.2 - 2.6	10
		Papua New Guinea	2.4	2.3 - 2.6	4
142	22	**Pakistan**	2.2	2.0 - 2.4	6
151	23	**Cambodia**	2.1	1.9 - 2.4	6
156	24	**Bangladesh**	2.0	1.7 - 2.2	6
160	25	**Myanmar**	1.9	1.8 - 2.3	3

Despite ranking among the ten cleanest in terms of perceptions of corruption, the recent **Australian** Wheat Board Scandal and questions over the financing of election campaigns in **New Zealand**, underscore the importance of continuing to address the risk of corruption.

Singapore, an important international financial centre, maintains a high score in the CPI but should further demonstrate its international commitment to fighting corruption by ratifying the UN Convention against Corruption without delay.

Although **India** and **Japan** show small improvements in their score, the average score for the 25 Asian countries in the CPI 2006 (4.6 out of a clean 10) remains alarmingly low.

Macau and **Bhutan**, featured in the CPI for the first time this year, score better than a majority of countries. In Macau, this may be attributable to continuing efforts in recent years to enhance public administration effectiveness and to the creation of a strong independent anti-corruption commission.

Against a backdrop of a vigorous anti-bribery campaign in 2006, which attracted extensive media coverage, the perceived level of corruption in **China**, which shares its score with **India**, remains very high.

Timor Leste's first inclusion in the CPI regrettably increases to 12 the number of Asian countries scoring below 3.0, indicating that corruption in these countries is perceived as endemic.

Laos continues to see high levels of perceived corruption and this year registers a significant drop in score, in spite the implementation of new anti-corruption legislation.

Although **Pakistan** has made tangible efforts towards the strengthening of public procurement, the perception of corruption remains very high – a situation particularly worrying given the amount of humanitarian aid pledged for reconstruction following the October 2005 earthquake.

In countries with the highest perception of corruption, such as **Myanmar**, **Bangladesh** and **Cambodia**, the lack of political will to strengthen anti-corruption institutions perpetuates rampant corruption, undermining improvements in quality of life for the poorest citizens.

The fact that **Bangladesh** no longer occupies last place in the table is attributable more to the poor performance of several other countries, including **Myanmar** in Asia, than to a drop in corruption levels per se.

Taiwan's score remains the same although recent scandals have rocked the country, suggesting that grand corruption may be on the rise.

Australia, China, Indonesia, Mongolia and **Sri Lanka** are **the only 5 countries in Asia Pacific** to have ratified the UN Convention against Corruption to date, suggesting a lack of government determination in the region to tackle corruption.

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CPI 2006 Regional Results: Africa

Overall Rank	Regional Rank	Country / territory	Score	Confidence range
37	1	**Botswana**	5.6	4.8 - 6.6
42	2	**Mauritius**	5.1	4.1 - 6.3
51	3	**South Africa**	4.6	4.1 - 5.1
		Tunisia	4.6	3.9 - 5.6
55	5	**Namibia**	4.1	3.6 - 4.9
63	6	**Seychelles**	3.6	3.2 - 3.8
70	7	**Egypt**	3.3	3.0 - 3.7
		Ghana	3.3	3.0 - 3.6
		Senegal	3.3	2.8 - 3.7
79	10	**Burkina Faso**	3.2	2.8 - 3.6
		Lesotho	3.2	2.9 - 3.6
		Morocco	3.2	2.8 - 3.5
84	13	**Algeria**	3.1	2.7 - 3.6
		Madagascar	3.1	2.3 - 3.7
		Mauritania	3.1	2.1 - 3.7
90	16	**Gabon**	3.0	2.4 - 3.3
93	17	**Eritrea**	2.9	2.2 - 3.5
		Tanzania	2.9	2.7 - 3.1
99	19	**Mali**	2.8	2.5 - 3.3
		Mozambique	2.8	2.5 - 3.0
105	21	**Malawi**	2.7	2.5 - 3.0
		Uganda	2.7	2.4 - 3.0
111	23	**Zambia**	2.6	2.1 - 3.0
121	24	**Benin**	2.5	2.1 - 2.9
		Gambia	2.5	2.3 - 2.8
		Rwanda	2.5	2.3 - 2.6
		Swaziland	2.5	2.2 - 2.7
130	28	**Burundi**	2.4	2.2 - 2.6
		Central African Republic	2.4	2.2 - 2.5
		Ethiopia	2.4	2.2 - 2.6
		Togo	2.4	1.9 - 2.6
		Zimbabwe	2.4	2.0 - 2.8
138	33	**Cameroon**	2.3	2.1 - 2.5
		Niger	2.3	2.1 - 2.6
142	35	**Angola**	2.2	1.9 - 2.4
		Congo, Republic	2.2	2.2 - 2.3
		Kenya	2.2	2.0 - 2.4
		Nigeria	2.2	2.0 - 2.3
		Sierra Leone	2.2	2.2 - 2.3
151	40	**Côte d´Ivoire**	2.1	2.0 - 2.2
		Equatorial Guinea	2.1	1.7 - 2.2
156	42	**Chad**	2.0	1.8 - 2.3
		Congo, Democratic Republic	2.0	1.8 - 2.2
		Sudan	2.0	1.8 - 2.2
160	45	**Guinea**	1.9	1.7 - 2.1

In Africa, only two countries - **Botswana** and **Mauritius** - score above five, which is commonly seen as the threshold for serious corruption.

Corruption and lack of transparency clearly remain a major problem across the continent, with **Chad**, the **Democratic Republic of the Congo**, **Sudan** and **Guinea** at the bottom of this year's global ranking.

Although **Mauritius**' score improved this year, pledges to pursue rapid ratification of the African Union Convention against Corruption, made at a TI-organized event in December 2005, have yet to be honoured.

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