



TRANSPARENCY INTERNATIONAL | USA

Press release

2011 Bribe Payers Index Released

Washington, November 2, 2011

Transparency International released the 2011 Bribe Payers Index on November 2. The Index ranks countries based on the likelihood of their firms to pay bribes in international transactions. Companies from Russia and China, which invested \$120 billion overseas in 2010, are seen as most likely to pay bribes abroad. Companies from the Netherlands and Switzerland are seen as least likely to bribe. The United States appears 10th on the Index of 28 countries ranked. The report and interactive materials can be found at <http://bpi.transparency.org/>.

Those surveyed reported the widespread practice of companies paying bribes to public officials for a variety of purposes including to win public tenders, avoid regulation, speed up government processes and influence policy. Companies are almost as likely to pay bribes to other businesses, according to the report, which looks at business-to-business bribery for the first time. The Index also looks at 19 specific sectors for the likelihood of enterprises to engage in bribery and exert undue influence on governments.

The release of the report is an important reminder of the need for greater implementation and enforcement of anti-bribery laws around the world. While the OECD Convention against Bribery of Foreign Government Officials, the U.N. Convention against Corruption and other international agreements have been in place for over ten years, there has been little improvement in the perception of foreign bribery since the last Bribe Payers Index was published in 2008.

TI-USA works at home and abroad to combat corruption and promote transparency and integrity in government, business and development assistance.

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