

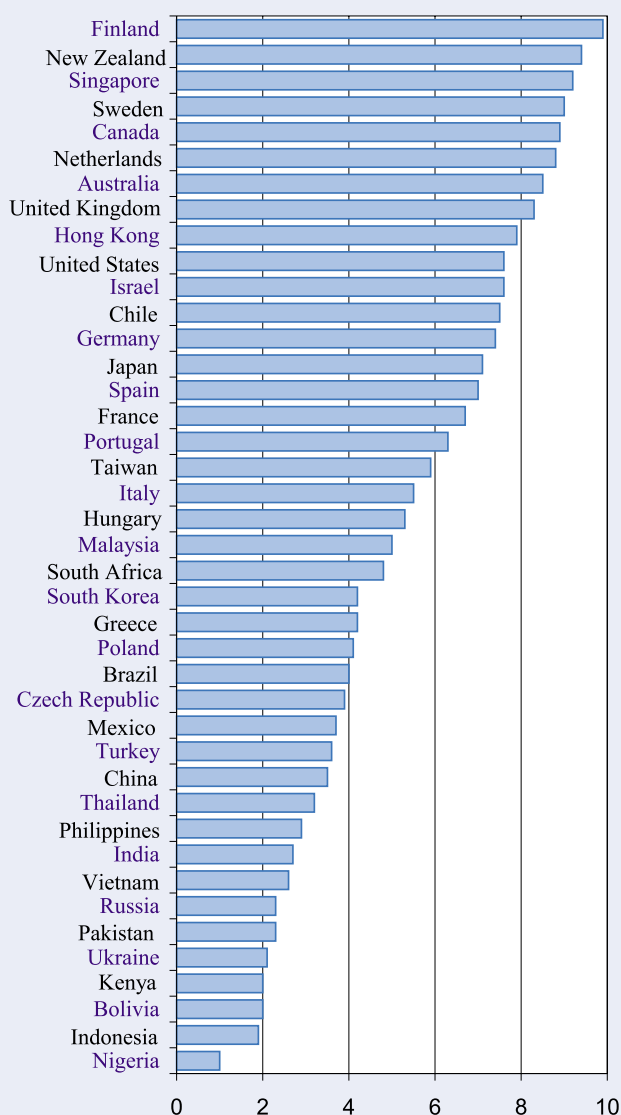
## SCANDINAVIA IS CLEANEST

Corruption levels are perceived to be as high as ever in both the developed and the developing countries. This is the finding of the Corruption Perception Index 2001 which mirrors a world-wide corruption crisis. The index reflects the degree to which corruption is perceived to exist among public officials and politicians. Scores of less than 5 out of a clean score of 10 are registered by countries on every continent.

This year's index, published by Transparency International, the Berlin-based non-governmental organisation devoted to fighting corruption, ranks 91 countries. Some of the richest countries in the world – Finland, Denmark, New Zealand, Iceland, Singapore and Sweden – scored 9 or higher, indicating very low levels of perceived corruption. But 55 countries – many of which are among the world's poorest – scored less than 5, suggesting high levels of corruption in government and public administration. The countries with a score of less than 2 include Azerbaijan, Bolivia, Cameroon, Kenya, Indonesia, Uganda, Nigeria and Bangladesh. The Index also registers very high levels of corruption in the countries in transition, in particular the former Soviet Union. Scores of 3 or less were recorded in Romania, Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, Russia, Ukraine and Azerbaijan.

The Corruption Perception Index, which was first launched in 1995, is a poll of polls, drawing on 14 surveys from seven independent institutions. The surveys reflect the perceptions of business people, academics and country analysts.

CORRUPTION PERCEPTION INDEX 2001  
where 10=least corrupt



Source: Transparency International.

While the index scores of most leading industrialised countries are quite high, the index focuses on corruption involving public officials. It does not reflect secret payments to finance political campaigns, the complicity of banks in money laundering or bribery by multinational companies. In 2002 Transparency International aims to publish a new Bribe Payers Index focusing on the propensity of western firms to use bribes in emerging market economies.

H.C.S.