

**PRESENTATION OF THE HEAD OF DELEGATION
AT THE HIGH LEVEL SEGMENT
OF THE TENTH UNITED NATIONS CONGRESS
ON THE PREVENTION OF CRIME AND THE TREATMENT OF
OFFENDERS**

The Republic of Croatia actively participates in the work of the Commission on Crime Prevention and the Criminal Justice System of the UN Economic and Social Council and the Ad Hoc Committee of the UN General Assembly for Drafting the Convention Against Transnational Organized Crime and its Protocols.

This is of special importance, as, in our opinion, success can be achieved only by the, consistent implementation of the following three activities:

- a) international cooperation in the creation of international sources of law to combat crime;
- b) the harmonization of national legislation with these sources of international law, and
- c) the consequent implementation of international instruments and national laws in the daily activities of every segment of the criminal justice system.

Despite numerous difficulties, the Republic of Croatia achieved a great deal during the previous decade, with regard to the first two activities.

Following the elections held at the beginning of this year, the new government is trying to improve the legislative basis for the functioning of the criminal justice system, with a special focus on its implementation. In this regard, it is determined to prevent any obstruction or slowing down of the implementation of the legislative basis for the fight against all forms of crime, especially extremely dangerous forms such as organized crime, trafficking in illegal drugs, smuggling arms and ammunition, illegal migration, corruption, money laundering, computer crime, etc.

The members of our delegation are participating in all aspects of the work of this Congress with their national position papers on all themes, which have been sent ahead. The stances of our Government regarding the most important problems in combating crime in the new

millennium at the national and international levels are clear from these papers. We do not need to repeat them here. However, we should emphasize that the main priority of our Government is the promotion of the rule of law and its direct influence on the more efficient functioning of the criminal justice system.

Our state, as all other states, members of the United Nations, must undertake further legislative improvement of democratic standards, providing, at the same time, for the implementation of the rule of law in practice.

The second priority, i.e. the fight against all forms of corruption, is connected with this. This fight can be carried out efficiently only in an organized and democratic state, and in cooperation with the international community.

The Republic of Croatia agrees with the UN Global Program against Corruption. The delegation of the Republic of Croatia has been actively participating in the work of the Ad Hoc Committee of the UN General Assembly for Drafting the Convention Against Transnational Organized Crime since its establishment. The Republic of Croatia agrees with the implementation of the 40 recommendations of the Financial Action Task Force on Money Laundering (FATF).

In the implementation of its internal criminal legal system the Republic of Croatia tries to implement, as much as possible, the so called Guiding Principles for Fighting Corruption and Safeguarding Integrity Among Justice and Security Officials (signed at the Global Forum on Fighting Corruption, Washington D.C., 1999).

As regards the adoption and implementation of European anti-corruption instruments, the Republic of Croatia, as a member of the Council of Europe, signed the Criminal Law Convention on Corruption soon after its adoption, and the process of its ratification is pending in the Croatian National Parliament.

The Republic of Croatia has signed, ratified and is actively implementing the Convention on Money Laundering, Search, Seizure and Confiscation of Proceeds of Crime of the Council of Europe. The Law on Prevention of Money Laundering was enacted in accordance with this and the Office for Prevention of Money Laundering was established in the Ministry of Finance of the Republic of Croatia.

In addition to the above-mentioned measures and activities, legal experts from the Republic of Croatia are actively participating in drafting the following documents of the Council of Europe: the Civil Law Convention on Corruption, the ratification of which by the Republic of Croatia is expected soon, and the Draft Code of Conduct of Public Officials and Criminalization of Illegal Acquisition of Interest, Insider Trading and Extortion by Public Officials, the drafting of which is still pending in the Multidisciplinary Group Against Corruption.

The Republic of Croatia welcomes the intention to adopt the Declaration on Crime and the Criminal Justice System at this Congress.

We fully agree with the starting point that every state is responsible for the establishment and maintenance of a responsible, ethical, just and efficient criminal justice system in accordance with the principles of the United Nations Charter and international law. The Republic of Croatia accepts and shares this responsibility with other states members of the UN and with other regional organizations (such as the Council of Europe, etc.), and it supports and as especially important the need for coordination and cooperation between the states in standing against crime as the common responsibility of the international community, as stated in the Preamble of the Draft Declaration.

We advocate an immediate completion of the drafting of the Convention Against Transnational Organized Crime and the three Protocols. With its active participation in the work of the Ad Hoc Committee, the delegation of our state will try to contribute to this.

I am stating here with full responsibility on behalf of our Government that after the adoption of this Convention we shall without delay do what is necessary for this Convention to be signed by our state and ratified in a legally conducted procedure.

Fighting crime during the entire history of and the results achieved, make us now, at the turn of the millennium, justly concerned about the current situation and the future. However, our efforts at the national level and these efforts which we as states are making at the international level justify realistic optimism that the new century will already at its beginning be more successful than ever before in the fight all forms of attacks on fundamental human rights and freedoms carried out through all forms of criminal acts. The UN members have enough knowledge, will and abilities for this historic enterprise.

Let me assure you that the Republic of Croatia will continue to be in the forefront of this fight.