
Mr Marina Matić
Institute of Comparative Law,
Belgrade

PRIKAZI - INFORMACIJE

**V- IAP REGIONAL CONFERENCE FOR EASTERN
AND CENTRAL EUROPE AND CENTRAL ASIA
"COOPERATION AGAINST CORRUPTION"**

Belgrade, 27 - 30 October 2010

The Association of public prosecutors and deputy public prosecutors of Serbia (PAS) hosted the V IAP Regional conference for Eastern and Central Europe and Central Asia from 27 - 30 October 2010 in Belgrade.

The conference was organized as part of regular activities of the International Association of Prosecutors (IAP), which is the only prosecutorial professional organization on a global scale and whose membership has more than 140 prosecution organizations from all around the world. It was decided jointly by the PAS and IAP that the conference subject should be focused on "Cooperation against Corruption". The Association of public prosecutors of Serbia applied as the candidate for hosting the conference and in May 2010 was elected to organize conference.

The International Association of Prosecutors (IAP) was established in June 1995 at the United Nations Offices in Vienna and was formally inaugurated in Budapest at the first General Meeting in September 1996. The IAP is an International Community of Prosecutors committed to setting and raising standards of professional conduct and ethics for Prosecutors worldwide; promoting the rule of law, fairness, impartiality and respect for human rights and improving international co-operation to combat crime.

One of the objectives of the IAP is *"To promote international co-operation in gathering and providing evidence; in tracking, seizing and forfeiting the proceeds of serious crime; and in the prosecution of fugitive criminals"*.

In today's world the need for cooperation between countries is of great importance. Due to the occurrence of cross-border crime, the need

for exchange of information and joint action is required. After many periods of crisis that hit the region, cooperation is set as a condition that would contribute to the strengthening of the state in this region, as well as further development of the region.

Corruption - Improper and usually unlawful conduct intended to secure a benefit for oneself or another. Its forms include bribery, extortion, and the misuse of inside information. It exists where there is community indifference or a lack of enforcement policies. In societies with a culture of ritualized gift giving, the line between acceptable and unacceptable gifts is often hard to draw.

Condemnation of corruption, Incrimination of such activities and harmful effect to the state - it is common to all societies. What makes them different in terms of social phenomena corruption is a way of fighting against it and its effectiveness in fighting. In previous years on the international and national level was launched a political action against corruption. At the international, European and national level there have been undertaken a series of measures adopted by different instruments that should be used in the eradication of this harmful phenomenon. Also, they are organized international conference at which discusses the previous results and adopt new directions in the fight against corruption and introduce mechanisms for monitoring, direction and increase the efficiency of this struggle.

Topics such as International conventions in the area of fight against corruption, Corruption criminal acts, Position of whistle-blowers, Corruption criminal acts and Experience in prevention of corruption in prosecution office, will come up for discussion during the Conference. These are familiar topics to us all but demand ever more sophisticated, clever and resourceful responses from prosecuting and law enforcement agencies

Participants at the Conference included two hundred prosecutors, judges, Governmental authorities, representatives of NGOs and Embassies from Serbia and abroad. There were representatives from thirty different countries around the world: Germany, Italy, Spain, Argentina, South Korea, United States, Czech Republic, Poland, Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, all countries in the region, and many others.

The conference was opened by **Goran Ilić, PhD** president of the Management board of the Prosecutors Association of Serbia and deputy Republic prosecutor, **H.E. Vincent Degert**, Head of EU Delegation to Serbia, **Thomas Moore**, Acting Head of OSCE Mission to Serbia and

Earl Licenberger, Deputy Chief of Mission at the U.S. Embassy in Serbia.

On the first day of the Conference attendees were addressed by Mr. **Derk Kuipers**, Secretary General of the International Association of Prosecutors, Ms. **Jadranka Jelinčić**, director of the Fund for Open Society, Mr. **Christian Hueck**, Program Manager of the IRZ Foundation, Mr. **Vito Monetti**, President of the European Association of judges and prosecutors for Freedom and Democracy (MEDEL) who spoke about the importance of international cooperation in asset confiscation, Ms. **Elizabeth Howe**, General Counsel of the International Association of Prosecutors, who spoke about experiences with internal control mechanisms to prevent corruption within the prosecution service, **Carlos Donoso**, a Vice President of the International Association of Prosecutors and President of the Prosecutors Association of Argentina gave lecture about the role of prosecutor in the fight against corruption from the Argentinean perspective. Participants had opportunity to hear speakers such as Mr. **Nemanja Nenadić**, Programme Director of Transparency Serbia and Mr. **Dimitrije Popić**, deputy special prosecutor for Organized Crime.

Attendees were able to exchange experiences with colleagues from EU countries: delegates had the benefit of hearing from Ms. **Adina Daria Lupea**, a judge from Romania, about Specialization vs. hierarchy – pro and cons for establishment of specialized prosecution office for fight against corruption. Mr. **Miroslav Specian**, a prosecutor from the Czech Republic spoke about the Czech experience with the EU's legal instruments in the field of criminal law.

Challenges in international judicial cooperation in forfeiting assets (with special emphasis on the EU), seizure of assets and confiscation were subjects of presentations of Mr. **Alberto Perduca**, a prosecutor from Italy and Director of Investigations and Operations in OLAF, Mr. **Vito Monetti**, Deputy Prosecutor general of the Supreme Court of Cassation, Italy and Mr. **Mark V. Vlasic**, adjunct professor of law at Georgetown University Law Center, USA..

Mr. Arthur Ozimek, a judge from Poland, spoke about Difficulties in collection of evidence and used techniques (labeling bill, telephone tap, etc), Ms. **Melinda Szabo**, a prosecutor from Hungary about the Corruption criminal acts – experiencing in trading of influence and abuse of office and **Eric Alt**, a judge of Court of Cassation from France about the Fight against corruption in the strategy of the European Commission programs and Council of Europe.

Coordination of corruption cases prosecution – coordination of practice, division of tasks, reporting, statistics was subject of the one panel. Ms. **Nora Kaiser**, Criminal Law Suppression of Economic Crime, Computer Crime, Corruption-Related Crime and Environmental Crime, Federal Ministry of Justice (ex prosecutor in Munich), presented experience from famous *Siemens case* and

Ms. Heike Gramckow, Ph.D., Senior Counsel, Legal Vice Presidency, World Bank, spoke about the Experience in prevention of corruption in prosecution office – internal control or other mechanisms.

The second day of the conference was dedicated to cooperation between prosecution services and anti-corruption authorities. Attendees were addressed by **Zorana Marković**, director of the Serbian Agency for Anti-corruption, **Xavier Sisternas**, Assistant Director of the Agency for fight against fraud in Catalonia, **Kendal Day**, Chief of the Anti-Corruption Department at the U.S. Embassy in Serbia, **Aleksandar Vujičić**, Director of the Agency for money laundering prevention, **Glyn Powell**, Serious Fraud Office of the United Kingdom, **Pedro Baranita**, Public Prosecutor from Portugal and **Ignacio Gonzales Vega**, judge from Spain. Representatives of Republic of Korea and Kazakhstan also addressed the participants about forthcoming IAP Conferences and The World Summit in Korea in 2011.

Assigning such an important conference to the Prosecutors Association of Serbia affirms that the efforts and contributions made by the Association, especially in investing in the process of judicial reform in the Republic of Serbia are recognized by the relevant actors in the field of justice at a global level. The importance of the conference in our country is reflected both in drawing public attention to the problems of corruption, as well as by establishing a platform for public and expert discussion at all levels of government. Also, the conference was an opportunity to exchange experiences with colleagues from abroad and to establish contacts with the aim of future cooperation.

The International Association of Prosecutors noted the excellent organization of the V IAP Regional Conference for Eastern and Central Europe and Central Asia, and awarded special recognition to Goran Ilić, PhD. The conference was very well covered by the media which is evidenced by numerous reports in almost all major electronic and print media in Serbia.