

CONCLUSIONS

From the Conference on Implementation and Incorporation of the UN Convention against corruption into Montenegrin Legislation

The Directorate for Anti-corruption Initiative of the Republic of Montenegro, in cooperation with OSCE Mission to Serbia and Montenegro/Office in Podgorica, United Nations Development Programme/LO in Podgorica and Stability Pact Anti-corruption Initiative/Regional Secretariat Liaison Office jointly organized the Conference on the implementation and incorporation of the UN Convention against Corruption into Montenegrin legislation, held in Podgorica, February 15-16 2006.

On behalf of the Government of the Republic of Montenegro, the Conference was opened by Mr. Igor Lukšić, Minister of finance. Opening remarks were also made by Ambassador Paraschiva Badescu, Deputy head of OSCE Mission to Serbia and Montenegro and Head of OSCE Office in Podgorica, Mr. Garret Tankosić-Kelly, Head of UNDP/Liaison Office in Podgorica, and Mr. Veselin Šuković, Executive Secretary of the Stability Pact Anti-corruption Initiative/Regional Secretariat Liaison Office (SPAI RSLO).

The Conference was attended by 50 participants, among which the representatives of competent bodies and institutions of the Republic of Montenegro, representatives of NGO sector and civil society, as well as relevant international organizations and institutions.

The Conference was organized following the recent ratification of the UN Convention against Corruption and was aimed at providing the forum for participants from the Republic of Montenegro (representatives of competent ministries, judiciary, specialized state bodies, NGOs and civil society) and the guests from Slovenia, Croatia and Serbia to exchange experience in implementation of international anti-corruption standards. In addition, the representatives of UN Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) presented the Global Programme Against Corruption. Furthermore, during the Conference, anti-corruption activities of OSCE, Council of Europe and SPAI were presented, while other international anti-corruption standards, apart from the UN Convention against Corruption, were also introduced. Additionally, the Conference focused on the activities of the Montenegrin state bodies dealing with prevention and suppression of corruption. After the assessment of the compatibility of the legislative framework of the Republic of Montenegro with the UN Convention, and the review of the institutional capacities in eradicating corruption, the following conclusions were reached:

- Republic of Montenegro, through comprehensive legislative reform and implementation of new provisions and relevant international standards, through establishment of specialized bodies in areas of anti-corruption, public procurement, prevention of money laundering and conflict of interest, through

introduction and use of special investigative techniques (protection of witnesses, measures of secret surveillance, etc) has already taken steps towards incorporating the UN Convention against Corruption into national legislation;

- Aiming at full implementation of this global instrument, it is necessary to establish a specialized, independent body for suppression of corruption, with investigative capacities (law enforcement);
- Over the following period, all competent state bodies will intensify their activities directed at further harmonization of national legislation with the mandatory provisions of the Convention and, especially, directed at implementation of the national Programme for the Fight against Corruption and Organized Crime;
- Enhancing preventive and promotional anti-corruption activities is necessary, particularly those by the media, NGO sector and civil society, as well as upgrading cooperation and communication between state bodies and mentioned subjects, with the goal of professionalism and objectivity in educating and informing the public;
- It is necessary to continue with the development of the legal system, education and training for representatives of the competent bodies and institutions which will participate directly in the implementation of this international document;
- These activities will continue to be undertaken in cooperation, and with the assistance of OSCE, UNDP, UN Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), Council of Europe, Stability Pact Anti-corruption Initiative (SPAI), OECD, USAID, and other international organizations and institutions active in the fight against corruption;
- It is necessary to organize a meeting on expert level, focusing on the Legislative Guide to Promote the Implementation of the UN Convention against Corruption, which will, as soon as it is finalized at the Conference of State Parties (Jordan, December 2006), serve as a tool for fast and full implementation of this international document.