



# FLASH SPAIgram

This newsletter is a periodic update on the activities of the SPAI RSLO

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## SPAI RSLO REGIONAL TOUR February 10 - 11, 2005, BUCHAREST, ROMANIA

### SPAI RSLO's VISIT TO BUCHAREST

The second capital visited by the SPAI RSLO within the regional tour was Bucharest. With this occasion the SPAI RSLO team - **Mr. Veselin Sukovic**, Executive Secretary and **Mr. Cornel - Virgiliu Calinescu**, anticorruption expert - were accompanied by **Mr. Sorin Sterie**, expert coordinator within the Stability Pact Special Coordinator Office. The SPAI delegation, following the same structure for the visit as in Zagreb, met high level Romanian officials and participated in a roundtable with representatives from governmental authorities, civil society, local and international NGOs and business environment representatives.

### HIGH LEVEL ANTICORRUPTION EVENT

The main topic discussed during the bilateral meetings was the High Level Conference on "Fighting corruption to improve business/ investment climate", followed by a **ministerial meeting** where a regional joint action plan will be endorsed. These events will take place in Bruxelles, May 11-12, 2005.

Having the same positive approach as the Croatian authorities, the Romanian hosts were fully supportive and ready to have an active role.

### BILATERAL MEETINGS

SPAI delegation had bilateral meetings with:  
- **Ms. Cristina Coteanu**, State Secretary, Ministry of Justice;  
- **Mr. Virgil Constantin Ivan - Cucu**, SPAI Senior Representative;  
- **Mr. Razvan Rusu**, Director General, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and personal representative of the SEECPCiO;  
- **Mr. Adrian Horia Miculescu**, Deputy General Prosecutor, National Anticorruption Prosecutor's Office (NAPO);  
- **Mr. George Muscalu**, Chief Prosecutor, Department for Combating Organized Crime;



### ROUNDTABLE

The second day of the visit to Bucharest was dedicated to a public debate with representatives of public institutions, national and international NGOs, business environment - **Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, NAPO, The League for Defending the Human Rights, ABA CEELI, Transparency International, Open Society Foundation, The Alliance for Economic Development.**

### MAIN OUTCOMES

- Ministry of Justice will support the activities of SPAI RSLO and encouraged the Office to become a **regional focal point** for all relevant projects;
- **SEECPCiO** will actively contribute to the success of the high level events planned for May 2005;
- **NAPO** is considering **RSLO's** proposal of providing expertise to similar offices in the region within **twinning projects**;
- **RSLO** was tasked to further address the **relation between organized crime and corruption** and to further facilitate **connections among similar law enforcement agencies**;
- **RSLO** has been encouraged to continue the

**public awareness campaign** currently promoted in partnership with **UNODC**;

- **TI Romania Chapter** asked **RSLO's involvement in three projects** regarding the business principles, justice integrity and index of vulnerability to corruption;

### ANTICORRUPTION NEWS

- **Freedom House** will finalize by the end of March an independent audit of the **National Anticorruption Strategy**. Based on findings of this assessment Romanian authorities, assisted by representatives of civil society, NGOs and business environment, will develop a follow up strategy;
- **UK** appointed a **senior advisor** on anticorruption within the Cabinet of the Romanian President;
- In March 2005 the **Romanian Minister of Foreign Affairs** will start a **regional tour** in his SEECPC Chairman capacity;
- According to **GRECO** recommendation, the legislation was amended in order to **eliminate the immunity** of former high governmental officials (EO 4/2005);
- This month **TI Romania** will release, the annual report of the **Advocacy and Legal Advice Center** (SPAI project for civil society)

### NEXT SPAI RSLO VISITS

- SKOPIE, 14 February
- TIRANA, 16 - 17 February
- BELGRADE, 18 February



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