



FLASH SPAIgram

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

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THE CHAIRMAN OF THE STABILITY PACT ANTICORRUPTION INITIATIVE, PROFESSOR UGO DRAETTA

MET THE ROMANIAN AUTHORITIES INVOLVED IN THE FIGHT AGAINST CORRUPTION AND REFORM OF THE JUDICIARY

SPAI CHAIRMAN IN ROMANIA

On 14th of April 2005 the SPAI Chairman, Professor Ugo DRAETTA, met the main Romanian authorities having responsibilities in judicial reform and fight against corruption. His visit in Romania had been agreed by Dr. Erhard Busek, EU Special Coordinator of the Stability Pact for SEE, with the newly installed officials as a contribution to the Romanian efforts to fulfill the obligations assumed within the accession process concerning judicial reform and anticorruption measures. The Chairman was accompanied by Mr. Sorin Sterie, expert coordinating the initiatives on anticorruption, fighting organized crime and counterterrorism within the Office of the Special Coordinator for the Stability Pact in SEE and Mr. Cornel - Virgiliu Calinescu, Anticorruption legal expert within the Sarajevo-based Regional SPAI Office (RSLO).

BILATERAL MEETINGS

Professor Ugo Draetta, Chairman of SPAI, had bilateral meetings with:

- Gen. Constantin Degeratu, Counselor of the President of Romania on Security issues
- Mr. Ilie Botos, General Prosecutor of Romania;
- Gen. Tudor Munteanu, Secretary of State, Ministry of National Defense;
- Mr. Mihai Salagean, Director of the National Institute of Magistracy
- Mr. Razvan Rusu, General Director,

Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Representative of the SEECF's Romanian Chairmanship in Office and National Executive Coordinator of the Stability Pact

Furthermore, the SPAI Chairman delivered presentation in front of the alumni of the *National Institute of Magistracy*.

Within the meetings, the SPAI Chairman presented the initiative, its functional structure and on going projects developed by the Regional Office in cooperation with different international partners. The accent has been put on the following issues:

- the *High Level Anticorruption Events* (Business environment and JHA ministerial meeting), 11 – 12 May 2005, Brussels;
- *sharing best practices in fighting high level corruption* (lessons learned in transition period);
- implementing the *UN convention against corruption*;
- *raising public awareness campaigns*;
- *twinning assistance* for creating anticorruption structures in the Western Balkan countries;

TOP ISSUES FOR ROMANIA

The *new anticorruption strategy* was adopted in March; prior to this an *independent assessment* regarding the impact of the first National Strategy (2001- 2004) had been released by *Freedom House*, an active American NGO in this field;

According to the *National Security Strategy*, corruption has become a direct threat and, therefore, a task for the President (and its staff) as Chairman of the National Supreme Defense Council;

The Government has recently promoted a *new law on assets declaration* and it is under Parliament debate. The new system introduces the *one of the most strict control regime in Europe*.

ROMANIAN INVOLVEMENT

The SPAI Chairman made the following suggestions regarding the *envisaged role of Romania* within the Initiative:

- Romania could serve as a model for the Western Balkan countries in their efforts towards EU by *sharing the best practices and experiences in Justice and Home Affairs* as general Chapter for accession negotiations – anticorruption, antifraud, and justice system reform;
- Romania can serve as an example for the region by *supporting financially the internship programs* within the Regional Secretariat for Romanian junior lawyers;
- SPAI medium term priority is to further address the *relation between corruption and organized crime*. In this respect, Romanian suggestions for joint activities with participation of specialized prosecutors are more than welcomed;

- SPAI envisages a close cooperation with the regional prosecutors' network (SEEPAG) and is inviting Romania to further establish close contacts with similar structures from Western Balkans;
- SPAI RSLO is currently developing a twinning project for the Western Balkan countries, which may include study visits to the National Anticorruption Prosecutor's Office and Unit for the Fight against Organized Crime and Terrorism.

MAIN OUTCOMES OF THE MEETINGS WITH THE ROMANIAN AUTHORITIES

- Following the agreement reached with the National Institute of Magistracy, SPAI RSLO will assess the possibility of developing a joint training project for the junior prosecutors and judges from SEE countries;
- The General Prosecutor welcomed and supported the proposal to organize visit studies in Romania for the anticorruption prosecutors from the SPAI member countries;
- Romanian authorities requested SPAI support in achieving the goals of the new Anticorruption Strategy with focus on the components regarding the international cooperation and specialized training for magistrates, prosecutors, law enforcement, public officials
- Romanian Minister of Justice, Ms. Monica Macovei confirmed the participation to the ministerial meeting organized by SPAI, in May 2005, in Brussels and her full support for the SPAI projects, including the financing of internship programs within the RSLO.
- Romanian authorities designated a new SPAI senior representative, Ms. Laura Stefan, Director within the Ministry of Justice, Directorate for the Relation with the Public Ministry, Crime Prevention and Anticorruption (contact info: laura.stefan@just.ro)

THE SPAI CHAIRMAN

HAS THE PLEASURE TO INVITE ALL THE SPAI PARTNERS TO ATTEND THE " EXPERT AND MINISTERIAL MEETING ON MEASURES TO CURB CORRUPTION IN SOUTH EASTERN EUROPE"

THE MEETINGS WILL TAKE PLACE IN BRUSSELS, MAY 11 -12, 2005 WITHIN THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT BUILDING.

The main overall objective of the high level meeting is to discuss and identify common and practical measures to curb corruption in the participating countries of South Eastern Europe, with focus on improving business environment.

The specific objectives of the meeting are to:

- Discuss the costs of corruption for the business and investment environment in countries of South Eastern Europe and identify practical solutions for further improvement;
- Endorse at ministerial level the joint declaration on measures to curb corruption in the countries of South Eastern Europe.

For receiving the latest agenda, registration form and additional information do not hesitate to contact the SPAI Regional Secretariat



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