

30th Council of Europe Conference of Ministers of justice
“transparent and efficient justice”
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SPEECH

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CROATIA

Distinguished fellow Ministers,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

I am extremely honoured and pleased to attend this high level Conference.

I would like to thank our host, the Minister of Justice of the Republic of Turkey, Mr. Sadullah Ergin, for the hospitality and great effort invested in organizing this important Conference.

We all know that efficient and transparent justice, which makes confidence of all citizens justified by providing justice for all efficiently and according to the principle of the rule of law is one of the main strategic goals to which we continuously strive in our efforts to modernise our judiciary systems.

We recognise the goals of this Conference in the context of general goals of the Council of Europe, in the sense of achieving even better connections among its members, which will enable our economic and social prosperity.

In addition, precisely because of the fact that the improvement of efficiency and transparency is one of our most important priorities at the moment, we welcome the proposal for adopting the Resolution on a transparent and efficient justice.

Allow me to use this opportunity to express our support to further successful work of CEPEJ.

We think that CEPEJ reports on European judicial systems are of extreme importance, results of these analyses provide a comprehensive and unique insight in the real efficiency of judicial systems of the Council of Europe's member states.

We believe that the Council of Europe, being the main safeguard of the protection and improvement of respect of fundamental human rights, including the right to access to justice, will continue to offer valuable support to the promotion of ethics and strengthening transparency on all levels.

I am grateful to have an opportunity to inform you of the results Croatia has achieved within this important segment of the modernisation of justice.

At this moment we are at the end of the EU membership accession negotiations and we find that this is the crucial year for us to reaffirm all efforts we have been investing in the judicial reforms from 2005.

We deem that the process of accession had positive impact on the acceleration of reform processes in the area of justice.

We are aware that strengthening efficiency in justice is a very demanding task, we have been directing our work in this area to two main strategic goals: decrease of the backlog and shortening the duration of procedures.

In this sense, we also perceive modernisation of Justice, through an increased possibility for the citizens to get information on their rights on time and in an efficient manner, primarily by creating a wider range of possibilities to use the internet.

Introduction of modern information technologies, is a major tool citizens will be able to use for having direct insight into specific segments of the judicial system.

Activities which we have been implementing for several years are producing very good results in practice.

To be more specific, I would like to present our positive experiences in the area of Land register and Cadastre digitalisation.

At the moment all land registry files in Republic of Croatia have been made available on the internet.

We have also found the use of video-conferences very useful, especially in achieving successful cross-border cooperation with many countries.

In addition, a large progress has been achieved in the modernisation of the judicial system with the introduction of the Integrated case management system a software application developed with the purpose of improvement of case monitoring and management.

By this system, cases are assigned to the judges randomly, using a computer programme which also allows monitoring of the work of individual judges and the court as a whole.

In addition, we have been developing the Case Tracking System as a separate system for monitoring cases of the State Attorney's Office.

I would like to stress out that the Ministry of Justice of Republic of Croatia has been following the development of e-Justice Portal with utmost attention. In that sense we support the initiative of Portugal to introduce an e-justice Portal for the Council of Europe.

Finally, allow me to stress once more that Croatia will continue to invest efforts in systematic and efficient implementation of reforms which include strengthening efficiency and transparency of the judicial system.

Thank you for your attention!