



CROATIAN PARLIAMENT
National Council for Monitoring
Anti-Corruption Strategy Implementation

***REPORT ON THE WORK OF
THE NATIONAL COUNCIL FOR MONITORING
ANTI-CORRUPTION STRATEGY IMPLEMENTATION
in the period from 21 May 2008 to 30 May 2009***

1. INTRODUCTION

In compliance with its obligation under the Decision of the Croatian Parliament Establishing the National Council for Monitoring the Implementation of the National Anti-Corruption Programme, the National Council submits the present Report on its work for the period from 21 May 2008 to 30 May 2009.

In June 2008, the Croatian Parliament and Government adopted a new Anti-Corruption Strategy and Action Plan with the clear objective of reinforcing an appropriate and efficient institutional framework as a factor of crucial importance to successful efforts to combat corruption. This implies appropriate coordination and cooperation among institutions implementing the anti-corruption policy and their efficient supervision. The experience gained in the implementation of the previous National Programme (2006-2008) has highlighted the need to strengthen the institutional framework with a view to increasing efficiency in the implementation of the Strategy and Action Plan.

The National Council for Monitoring the Implementation of the National Anti-Corruption Programme (hereinafter, the “National Council”) was established in June 2006 and its task was to supervise the implementation of the National Programme 2006-2008. The National Council is composed of parliamentarians, employers and union representatives, representatives of non-governmental organizations dealing with corruption issues, representatives of the academic community, professionals and media representatives. The National Council is chaired by a representative of the opposition in the Croatian Parliament. The experience gained in the implementation of the National Programme 2006-2008 has pointed out the need to reinforce the role of the National Council, which was formally achieved by preparing the new Strategy and Action Plan.

The 2006 Decision Establishing the National Council has defined a scope of work encompassing the activities of the National Council, as a part of which it, in particular:

- supervises and monitors the implementation of the National Anti-Corruption Programme;
- systematically follows up on any information on corrupt practices as may be delivered, at its request, by agencies responsible for implementing the National Anti-Corruption Programme;
- reviews the reports of competent agencies on the implementation of the National Anti-Corruption Programme and Action Plans, and evaluates implementation methods and results;
- proposes measures to increase efficiency in the implementation of the National Programme;
- fosters and directs cooperation between the Croatian Parliament, governmental and other agencies, and other actors responsible for implementing the National Anti-Corruption Programme;
- through its actions and organizational structure, reinforces supervision over agencies responsible for implementing the National Anti-Corruption Programme;
- considers, as required, any suggestion, complaint, view or opinion of citizens and undertakings; and
- submits annual reports on its work to the Croatian Parliament.

At its sessions during its past term (2006-2007), the National Council reviewed 17 reports submitted by programme implementing agencies. All of these were rated favourably (indeed, one conditionally), with additional comments being requested for three reports. The new Anti-Corruption Strategy and its accompanying Action Plan have been adopted based on the experience of work on the implementation of the previous programme (2006-2008) during the Council’s past term and, following the appointment of the National Council for its next term in 2008, all of the newly appointed members have unanimously concluded that the National Council will act by monitoring the implementation of strategic anti-corruption documents in a manner that

will be as active, efficient and enabling as possible, in keeping with the Decision of the Croatian Parliament as well as newly adopted instruments. In close cooperation with the national coordinator, more direct communication has been established with institutions bearing immediate responsibility for the implementation of measures under the Strategy, including more efficient supervision of their activities in order to maximize success in the implementation of the Strategy and Action Plan.

The constituent meeting of the newly appointed National Council was held on 21 May 2008.

2. ACTIVITIES OF THE NATIONAL COUNCIL IN THE PERIOD FROM 21 MAY 2008 TO 30 MAY 2009

Two working bodies play a crucial role in the operationalization and supervision of efforts to implement the Strategy: the Commission on Monitoring the Implementation of Anti-Corruption Measures of the Croatian Government and the National Council for Monitoring Anti-Corruption Strategy Implementation. With a view to a better understanding of their responsibilities, it should be noted that the Commission on Monitoring the Implementation of Anti-Corruption Measures (hereinafter, the “Commission”) was established by the Croatian Government on 10 April 2008. The Commission is an executive (governmental) body making on-going efforts to identify corruption risks. Since the highest representatives of all agencies responsible for the implementation of specific measures under the Action Plan also sit as members of the Commission, a concerted implementation of the Strategy and Action Plan is ensured. The Commission is chaired by the minister of justice as the Government’s national anti-corruption coordinator. In addition to coordination, the Commission’s tasks are to assess corruption risks, to design and propose measures for their prevention, to enhance the effectiveness of implementing measures under the Action Plan, and to strengthen inter-institutional cooperation. The competent ministries and other relevant government agencies responsible for the implementation of the Strategy and Action Plan are, pursuant to the Government’s decision, required to entrust a specific unit within their own organizational structure with the implementation of measures under the Action Plan and the submission of periodic reports to the Commission. The Commission is required to forward semi-annual reports on the implementation of the Strategy and Action Plan to the Croatian Government. In this way, the Government will be allowed to make periodic progress assessments and enhance the institutional framework. To ensure the Commission’s efficiency, the Ministry of Justice has established an Anti-Corruption Department within its Strategic Development Directorate to act as the Commission’s Secretariat. Unlike the Commission, which acts as an operational and coordinating agency of the Croatian Government, the National Council is a supervisory body of the Croatian Parliament. At the request of the National Council, the Commission forwards thereto the reports submitted by agencies responsible for the implementation of specific measures, on the basis of which the National Council holds discussions and reaches conclusions, makes proposals and takes initiatives with a view to increasing efficiency in the implementation all measures to combat corruption.

2.1 Amendments to the Decision Establishing the National Council for Monitoring the Implementation of the National Anti-Corruption Programme

The Decision Establishing the National Council for Monitoring the Implementation of the National Anti-Corruption Programme within the Croatian Parliament has been amended in keeping with the Strategy and Action Plan. The amendments were adopted in May 2009, whereupon the latter became the National Council for Monitoring Anti-Corruption Strategy Implementation (hereinafter: “National Council”) – a vigorous oversight body of the Croatian Parliament, which is expected to take an even more active part in supervising the implementation of the Strategy. The amendments to the Decision on the National Council for Monitoring the

Implementation of the National Anti-Corruption Programme, as well as those made to the Job Classification Rules of the Croatian Parliament, have created the conditions for reinforcing the Council's contribution and allowing its even more substantial and efficient supervision over the implementation of the Strategy. The National Council has been provided with financial, administrative and technical support (two staff members, with the possibility of hiring yet another two in the second half of 2009) in order to enable it to perform its tasks with greater efficiency and quality. In the past period, the National Council has also established closer communication with institutions responsible for the implementation of measures under the Strategy and commenced to supervise their activities more efficiently, proposing different measures and procedures aimed at the reduction and early detection of corruption risks in all bodies with public authority and state-owned enterprises.

Over the past year, the National Council has – in addition to supervising the implementation of the Strategy – encouraged and organised discussions on specific topics related to the prevention of corrupt practices, and proposed additional measures to further enhance the anti-corruption policy.

2.2 Work of the National Council at its sessions

From 21 May 2008 to May 30 2009, the Council was composed of the following members:

Željko Jovanović, Ph.D., SDP (Social Democratic Party), Chairman;

Ana Lovrin, HDZ (Croatian Democratic Union), Deputy Chairwoman;

Ingrid Antičević Marinović, SDP;

Prof. Emer. Željko Horvatić, Ph.D. (external member, academic community representative);

Stanko Grčić, HSS (Croatian Peasant Party);

Stjepan Kolaric (external member, union representative);

Nikola Kristić (external member, civil society representative – TIC);

Dragutin Lesar, independent deputy;

Branko Roglić (external member, employers' representative);

Damir Sesvečan, HDZ (until 24 October 2008);

Smiljanka Škugor-Hrnčević (external member, media representative);

Prof. Stjepan Turek, Ph.D. (external member, professional community representative).

During the said period, the National Council held 14 regular sessions and 4 sessions dedicated to specific topics. All sessions were attended by the majority of its members.

At its regular sessions, the National Council reviewed the implementation of anti-corruption measures by all agencies responsible for the Strategy as well as by ministries without direct responsibility for its implementation (but covering sectors exposed to an increased risk of corrupt practices). This was achieved by discussing reports and information on corrupt practices and corruption risks in government agencies and state-owned enterprises supervised by specific ministries.

In their discussions, the members of the National Council generally sought additional explanations and the introduction of new measures to enhance efficiency in detecting and combating corrupt practices.

On several occasions, the National Council expressed its dissatisfaction with the results achieved by responsible agencies in their efforts to combat corruption and called for an increase in the effectiveness of responsible government agencies in detecting and prosecuting corrupt practices, proposing measures to improve the Action Plan. In this respect, a high level of agreement was achieved for all proposals, and responsible government agencies accepted them and undertook to prepare additional analyses for the next report. Special attention was paid to the review of past efforts and the presentation of proposals for improvement measures within the jurisdiction of the

Ministry of Justice, the Anti-corruption and Organized Crime Office (hereinafter: “USKOK”), the Public Prosecution of the RoC, the Ministry of the Interior, the Police Directorate, the Supreme Court, the Ministry of Finance (the Customs Administration, the Tax Administration and the Anti-Money Laundering Office), the Public Procurement Office, the State Audit Office, the Ministry of Science, Education and Sports, the Ministry of Health and Social Welfare, the Ministry of the Sea, Transport and Infrastructure, the Ministry of Regional Development, Forestry and Water Management, and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and European Integration.

The National Council refused to accept the report submitted by the Ministry of the Sea, Transport and Infrastructure and asked said Ministry to make additional analyses of corruption risks in state-owned enterprises under its supervision and, accordingly, to prepare a specific Action Plan for each state-owned company (i.e. HC-Croatian Road Company, HAC-Croatian Motorway Company and HŽ-Croatian Railway Company). When discussing the work of the Ministry of the Interior, the Public Prosecution Service of the RoC and USKOK, special emphasis was placed on the need to improve inter-agency cooperation in order to raise the efficiency of preventive and repressive efforts to combat corruption as the best way of increasing the number of final convictions, which would, thus, also increase the citizens’ trust in agencies implementing the Strategy and Action Plan.

Four sessions dedicated to specific topics were used for discussing the following issues: corruption in business, the media and corruption, corruption in health-care, and corruption in local self-government.

Through the efforts made at these dedicated sessions, sound cooperation was achieved with the competent ministries and representatives of the professional and general community, and a major impact was made on the citizens by raising their awareness of the need to combat corruption. All regular and dedicated sessions were attended by representatives of the Government’s Commission, USKOK, the Public Prosecution and the ministries responsible for issues on the agenda.

Pursuant to conclusions reached at its regular sessions, the National Council will, by the end of the year, held special sessions dedicated to the issues of corruption at universities and whistleblower protection.

2.3 Cooperation of the National Council with government agencies involved in the implementation of the Anti-Corruption Strategy and the non-governmental sector

The National Council has established good cooperation with the minister of justice, who acts as the national anti-corruption coordinator and, at the same time, chairs the Commission which coordinates the efforts to combat corruption at the level of ministries, as well as the key staff of USKOK, the Public Prosecution Service and the Police Directorate. In addition, the National Council has also received all the required assistance from the State Secretariat of the Ministry of Justice as well as its EU and Human Rights Directorate.

Intensive cooperation has also been established with the non-governmental sector, especially with GONG (an NGO promoting civic participation in political processes) and TIC (Transparency International Croatia), regarding the issues of achieving the right of access to information, raising public awareness and combating corruption in local self-government.

The chairman and members of the National Council took an active part in round tables on corruption organized by TIC, GONG, the Association of Cities and the Varaždin County’s Anti-

Corruption Commission, where they presented the work, authorities and other features of the National Council.

2.4 Citizen complaints

The National Council receives letters, queries and complaints from citizens believing that competent government bodies have acted to their detriment in their cases, and refers such matters to relevant government agencies seeking their opinion on actions and measures taken.

In the period under review, the National Council received from citizens a total of 70 letters of different kinds, responded to all of them and, in most cases, asked the bodies against which citizens lodged their complaints to take appropriate action in line with their authority.

By way of example, we should mention the session dedicated to a complaint filed by Robert Matijević regarding oil smuggling and corruption risks in the Customs Administration, where the National Council asked the responsible agencies to make further analyses of corruption risks and introduce new measures to prevent them, and to notify it of the outcome of investigations related to the matter in question. The National Council reached the following conclusions:

- 1) *With regard to the complaint filed by Robert Matijević, the National Council has concluded that all relevant government agencies (the Ministry of the Interior, USKOK, the Public Prosecution, the Customs Administration, and the Domestic Policy and National Security Committee of the Croatian Parliament) acted in line with their authority, but without satisfactory promptness and results.*
- 2) *The complaint filed by Robert Matijević as well as the preliminary statements made by representatives of USKOK, the Customs Administration and the Tax Administration and the discussion held by members of the National Council at the session itself suggest the existence of a significant corruption risk in the Customs Administration system, and the National Council calls upon the Customs Administration to further analyse the risk of corruption and prepare an Action Plan for more effective prevention and early detection.*
- 3) *The National Council calls upon the Ministry of the Interior, USKOK, the Customs Administration, the Tax Administration and the Anti-Money Laundering Office to intensify their inter-institutional cooperation with a view to prosecuting, as promptly as possible, the perpetrators of any corrupt practices, whether they constitute criminal offences or misdemeanours.*
- 4) *The National Council will ask the Ministry of Economy to prepare an expert analysis of the quantity of oil products utilized (taxed) in the Croatian market with respect to the alleged loss of 2,736,607 litres of heating oil.*

The National Council has also responded in cases of attacks on citizens who, acting in good faith, reported corrupt practices as well as those on journalists who wrote about corruption and organized crime.

By hiring an advisor, the National Council expects to make an additional contribution to enhancing its efforts to address the issues highlighted by citizens in their complaints.

2.5 International cooperation of the National Council

The chairman and members of the National Council took an active part in international anti-corruption conferences (Paris, Vienna, Sarajevo, Podgorica, Belgrade), where they presented their experiences of the work of the National Council, arousing major interest and positive comments.

As foreign diplomatic representatives to the Republic of Croatia have expressed a great interest in the efforts of the National Council, meetings have been held with delegations from the Embassies of Norway, Denmark, Finland, Holland, Slovenia and France. On two occasions, the National Council presented its work to the delegations of the European Commission and the World Bank.

2.6 Media coverage of the work of the National Council

Journalists extensively cover the work the National Council, building its public profile and raising the awareness of corruption and its damaging effects. This is also one of the major tasks of the National Council: to educate citizens on the importance of participation by all segments of the society in the efforts to prevent and combat corruption.

3. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

By way of conclusion, we can say that, in the second half of 2008 and over the first six months of 2009, the National Council intensified its efforts in all activity areas, including cooperation with all government agencies with direct or indirect responsibility for implementing anti-corruption measures provided for in the Strategy and Action Plan.

In order to add stronger substance to its work and propose measures to enhance its efforts to combat corruption, the National Council will, from now on, present the Parliament with semi-annual rather than annual reports on its work, allowing thus the Parliament to assess the efficiency of all relevant government agencies in combating corruption every six months.

Citizens' perception of corruption in Croatian society, especially in the judiciary and governmental agencies, highlights the need for even more intense efforts to combat corruption, which are, in the first place, reflected in the demonstration of a strong political will and, then, the implementation of the Strategy and Action Plans. While most of the measures have been (85% of 195 measures) or are being implemented, we cannot be satisfied because their implementation has not led as yet to increasing public confidence in the system of legislative, executive and judicial power, nor to raising the number of final convictions of the perpetrators of corrupt practices.

While there is no absolutely reliable instrument to gauge or weigh corruption, the research efforts made by TIC, Gallup and GfK Croatia show that the perception of corruption is on the rise, but problems persist.

Although the TIC Index for 2008 is better than ever (4.4), it still constitutes a failing grade on a 1-to-10 scale, and all the more so since the citizens still view the judiciary and politicians as well as the police and physicians as the most corrupt segments of the society.

The Global Corruption Barometer 2009, a research and measurement of public perception of corruption, has shown that Croatia's citizens perceive the judiciary, civil service and the private sector to be most beset by corruption. They also believe that police officers are quite likely to take bribes. In Croatia, on a scale from 1 (corruption-free Utopia corruption) to 5 (extreme corruption), citizens rated the judiciary with 4.4. The civil service and private sector follow with 4.2, and the parliament/legislature with 4.1. Out of the six sectors covered by the research, Croatia's citizens consider the media to be the least affected by corruption. However, 3.7 – the score given to this sector – is still rather high.

Currently, when writing about recession is practically impossible to avoid, it is not surprising that Croatian citizens are most concerned about economic instability in our country. Asked what worries them most, i.e. which are the three areas they would highlight as their major concerns, the citizens participating in a survey conducted by GfK in a sampling of 1,000 responded as follows: economic instability in the country (50%); loss of jobs/increasing unemployment rate (36%); and decreasing living standards (33%). Increase in crime and corruption has been highlighted by 23% of the respondents, which suggests that this area still causes less concern for citizens than the actual instability which may lead to increased unemployment, a decline in the standard of living and inflation. In spite of the National Anti-Corruption Programme and Strategy, which underscore the importance for citizens to take a more active part in combating corruption themselves, citizens still seem to be unprepared to make greater personal contribution. One out of two citizens states that he/she would report a corrupt practice, but one third of citizens say that they would not report such a practice after all, even if they were in a situation of having certain information. Interestingly, one out of four citizens in the City of Zagreb is not sure as to whether he/she would report a corrupt practice or not, with the readiness to report such practices being the highest in Slavonia (59%), and the lowest in Lika (38%). Among those stating they would report a corrupt practice, the share of men is considerably higher than that of women (57% vs. 44%). The most senior age group (citizens above 60 years of age) seem to be less prepared to report corrupt practices. Executives, managers and professionals are much readier to report corrupt practices than entrepreneurs (63% vs. 41%). Employees with a somewhat lower occupational status (clerks, workers, farmers, etc.) are less prepared for such an act than executives, managers and professionals (50% vs. 53%), but more than entrepreneurs themselves (50% vs. 53%). As many as 57% of those stating they would not report a corrupt practice even if they had some information thereof claim they would be fearful (30% very fearful and 27% somewhat fearful). As many as 63% of the citizens hold that corruption – i.e. bribes – will increase over the next year.

A campaign launched by the Ministry of Justice under the motto “Corruption – That’s Not Me” has yet to demonstrate the results of efforts to raise public awareness of the need for active participation in combating corruption.

As the state of recession also gives rise to increased risks of corruption, all agencies implementing the Strategy and Action Plan should, in addition to a resolute political will, intensify all of their activities with a view to early detecting and promptly prosecuting any corrupt practice.

In order to enhance the Anti-Corruption Action Plan, the National Council deems it necessary to:

- commence immediately with the preparation of a new Anti-Corruption Action Plan for 2010, with clearly defined time-tables, implementing agencies and implementation criteria;
- accelerate the judicial reforms;
- increase public confidence in governmental agencies through concrete, everyday examples of detecting, prosecuting and sanctioning corrupt practices in order to demonstrate the functioning of the so-called USKOK vertical, i.e. a system of anti-corruption law enforcement agencies and judges;
- intensify inter-agency cooperation, especially between the Public Procurement Office, the National Public Procurement Oversight Commission, the State Audit Office, the Public Prosecution of the RoC, the National Tax Administration, the Customs Administration and the Anti-Money Laundering Office;
- further enhance inter-agency cooperation between the Ministry of the Interior (the National Police Office for the Prevention of Corruption and Organized Crime – PNUSKOK) and the Public Prosecution of the RoC;

- include all ministries in the Action Plan as agencies with immediate responsibility for implementing anti-corruption measures;
- develop special Action Plans with clear time-tables, implementing agencies and indicators for the Customs Administration, the National Tax Administration and all state-owned enterprises (e.g. Croatian Railway Company, Croatian Motorway Company, etc.);
- analyze implementation of the Media Act;
- analyze implementation of and amend the Access to Information Act in order to increase the accessibility of information to all citizens;
- consider international experiences in whistleblower protection and propose specific measures to raise the quality of whistleblower protection in Croatia, including both journalists writing about corruption and all citizens reporting corrupt practices;
- analyze the need and possibility of establishing an Anti-Corruption Agency in line with Article 6 of the UN Convention Against Corruption;
- build the administrative and professional capacity of the National Council.

4. APPENDICES

4.1 REGULAR SESSIONS OF THE NATIONAL COUNCIL IN THE PERIOD FROM 21 MAY 2008 TO 30 MAY 2009

NO.	DATE	AGENDA	GUEST RAPPORTEURS
1	21 May 2008	1. Constitution of the National Council 2. Report on the NC's work during its previous term 3. Draft Anti-Corruption Strategy	- <i>Ruža Tomašić</i> - Zorislav Antun Petrović - Marina Dujmović Vuković - Kristijan Turkalj - Constantin L. Barrio
2	11 June 2008	1. Reports by the PPS, USKOK and the MoI on the assault on Igor Rađenović	- <i>Dinko Cvitan</i> - <i>Gojko Marković</i>
3	16 June 2008	1. Proposal for the Anti-Corruption Strategy 2. Proposal for the Action Plan to accompany the Strategy	- <i>Tatjana Vučetić</i> - Dinko Cvitan
4	14 July 2008	1. Implementation of the National Programme in the first 6 months of 2008	- <i>Ana Lovrin</i> - Marina Dujmović Vuković - Dinko Cvitan
5	23 Sept. 2008	1. Implementation of anti-corruption measures in 2008 2. NC's Work Plan by the end of 2008	- <i>Ana Lovrin</i> - Marina Dujmović Vuković
6	22 Oct. 2008	1. Implementation of anti-corruption measures under the jurisdiction of the police, PPS and judiciary during 2008	- <i>Ivan Šimonović</i> - <i>Marina Dujmović Vuković</i> - <i>Branko Hrvatin</i> - <i>Mladen Bajić</i> - <i>Dinko Cvitan</i> - <i>Vladimir Faber</i>
7	21 Nov. 2008	1. Draft proposal for the Decision Amending the Decision Establishing the NC 2. Citizens' complaints	
8	21 Jan. 2009	1. Report on the implementation of anti-corruption measures under the jurisdiction of the Public Procurement Office 2. NC's Activity Plan for 2009	- <i>Tamara Obradović Mazal</i> - <i>Dražen Ivanušec</i> - Marina Dujmović Vuković
9	3 Feb. 2009	1. Report on the implementation of anti-corruption measures under the jurisdiction of the Ministry of Finance	- <i>Zdravko Marić</i>
10	24 Feb. 2009	1. Report on the implementation of anti-corruption measures under the jurisdiction of the Ministry of Science, Education and Sports	- <i>Želimir Janjić</i> - <i>Vito Turšić</i> - Marina Dujmović Vuković
11	6 March 2009	1. Proposal for the Decision Amending the Decision Establishing the NC	
12	31 March 2009	1. Consideration of the complaint by Robert Matijević	- Robert Matijević - Dinko Cvitan - Ivan Nad - Zvonko Sedmak
13	15 April 2009	1. Report on the implementation of anti-corruption measures under the jurisdiction of the Ministry of the Sea, Transport and Infrastructure 2. Report on the implementation of anti-corruption measures under the jurisdiction of the Ministry of Regional Development,	- <i>Branimir Jerneić</i> - <i>Zdravko Livaković</i> - <i>Herman Sušnik</i> - <i>Milivoj Mikulić</i> - <i>Luka Živanović</i> - <i>Ružica Drmić</i>

		Forestry and Water Management 3. Amendments to the NC's Rules of Procedure	
14	28 May 2009	1. Report on the implementation of anti-corruption measures under the jurisdiction of the Ministry of Health and Social Welfare 2. Report on the implementation of anti-corruption measures under the jurisdiction of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and European Integration	- <i>Ante Zvonimir Golem</i> - <i>Maja Vrtarić</i> - <i>Damir Božić</i>

4.2 DEDICATED SESSIONS OF THE NATIONAL COUNCIL IN THE PERIOD FROM 21 MAY 2008 TO 30 MAY 2009

	DATE	SESSION TOPIC	PARTICIPANTS
1	11 June 2008	Corruption – a Burden on Croatia's Economy	- respected Croatian and international experts who made a contribution – professionally, scientifically and by their personal example – to combating corruption in Croatia
2	30 June 2008	The Media and Corruption	- media professionals, representatives of the civil society, government agencies and the academic community
3	28 Oct. 2008	Anti-Corruption Strategy and Action Plan for the Health Sector	- leading health professionals from major health-care institutions, patients' associations, the Medical Chamber, media professionals
4	17 April 2008	The Role of Local Governments in Preventing Corruption	- representatives of the Association of Cities, GONG and TIC

4.3 IMPLEMENTATION OF MEASURES UNDER THE ACTION PLAN ACCOMPANYING THE ANTI-CORRUPTION STRATEGY – NATIONAL COUNCIL

PUBLIC AND INSTITUTIONAL FRAMEWORK						
	Enhance the legal and institutional framework to combat corruption efficiently and systematically	Strengthen administrative and technical support for the National Council (hire 4 new staff members)	PARLIAMENT	3 rd quarter of 2008	UNDER IMPLEMENTATION	Pursuant to Article 8 of the Decision on the National Council for Monitoring the Implementation of the National Anti-Corruption Programme (<i>Narodne novine</i> , no. 28/06) and Measures under the Action Plan Accompanying the Anti-Corruption Strategy, the Croatian Parliament has ensured premises, funding and two civil servants who currently perform all of the Council's operations. In line with the amendments to the Internal Organization Rules of the Croatian Parliament (Job Classification Rules), the procedure of admitting another two civil servants to the National Council is underway.
	Enhance the legal and institutional framework to combat corruption efficiently and systematically	Amend the Job Classification Rules of the Croatian Parliament to ensure administrative and technical support for the National Council	PARLIAMENT	3 rd quarter of 2008	COMPLETED	In October 2008, the Croatian Parliament adopted amendments to its Internal Organisation Rules (Job Classification Rules), providing for measures of technical and administrative support for the National Council, including the procedure for the admission of civil servants to the National Council.
	Enhance the legal and institutional framework to combat corruption efficiently and systematically	Implement the Croatian Government's Decision Establishing the Commission for Strategy and Action Plan Implementation	MoJ	Continuously	COMPLETED	Upon the adoption of the Action Plan accompanying the Anti-Corruption Strategy, the Commission held a session on 24 July 2008 to adopt its Rules of Procedure. According to these Rules, the Commission holds regular sessions, normally, on a monthly basis. In addition to its regular sessions, it may also hold extraordinary sessions. With regard to its work, the Commission reports to the Croatian Government.
	Enhance the legal and institutional framework to combat corruption efficiently and systematically	Amend the Decision on the National Council for Monitoring the Implementation of the National Anti-Corruption Programme and the National Council's Rules of Procedure	PARLIAMENT	3 rd quarter of 2008	UNDER IMPLEMENTATION	The Croatian Parliament adopted the Decision Amending the Decision on the National Council for Monitoring the Implementation of the National Anti-Corruption Programme, which was published in the Croatia's official journal, <i>Narodne novine</i> , no 35/09. The adoption of amendments to the National Council's Rules of Procedure is underway.