



**State-wide Anti-Corruption Conference**  
*Fighting Corruption through Improving Legislative Framework, Strengthening Institutions  
and Increasing Co-operation with Citizens*

**CONCLUSIONS**

Parliamentary Assembly of Bosnia and Herzegovina, 14 March 2017

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On 14 March 2017 in Sarajevo, the OSCE Mission to Bosnia and Herzegovina in co-operation with the BiH Agency for the Prevention of Corruption and Co-ordination of the Fight against Corruption (APIK) organized a State-wide conference on anti-corruption titled '*Fighting Corruption through Improving Legislative Framework, Strengthening Institutions and Increasing Co-operation with Citizens*'.

Following the presentations and panel discussions, conference participants, representatives of legislative and executive branches of authority, the judiciary, NGOs, embassies and international organizations in Bosnia and Herzegovina have concluded the following:

**Guest Speakers:**

Mr. Hasim Šabotić, Director of the BiH Agency for the Prevention of Corruption and Co-ordination of the Fight against Corruption (APIK); Mr. Šefik Džaferović, Speaker of the House of Representatives of the Parliamentary Assembly of Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH PA); Mr. Bariša Čolak, Speaker of the House of Peoples of the BiH PA; Ambassador Jonathan Moore, Head of the OSCE Mission to Bosnia and Herzegovina.

**Conclusions:**

- Greater support from decision-makers, as well as professional and technical support of international organizations is needed;
- It is necessary that BiH takes systematic measures to fight corruption and to empower all stakeholders in the prevention of corruption so as to continue building the integrity of the society;
- Although some progress has been made, all institutions are invited to adopt a zero-tolerance approach towards corruption, especially given that BiH is ranked 83rd according to the Corruption Perception Index;
- The fight against corruption is a top priority of the reform process in BiH and the OSCE Mission to Bosnia and Herzegovina will support all levels of authority in their role of providing for positive changes in this respect.

**Anti-corruption Structures and Activities in Parliaments and Assemblies in Bosnia and Herzegovina**

Panellists: Mr. Borislav Bojić, Chairman of the Joint Committee on Human Rights and Chairman of the Inter-Departmental Working Group (IDWG) on Developing Law on Parliamentary Oversight, BiH PA, Ms. Ljilja Zovko, Chairwoman of the Committee on



Finance and Budget House of Peoples of the BiH PA and Deputy Chairwoman of the GOPAC Group, BiH PA.

**Conclusions:**

- There is a need to strengthen parliamentary oversight through the adoption of the BiH Law on Parliamentary Oversight;
- BiH Law on Parliamentary Oversight should define standards for reporting and co-operation with other institutions;
- It is necessary to build the independence of institutions outside the context of parliamentary oversight, especially of ombudsmen institutions, the State Audit Office and the Agency for Prevention of Corruption and Co-ordination of the Fight against Corruption;
- On behalf of the BiH PA, members of the Global Organization of Parliamentarians Against Corruption (GOPAC) invite members of other parliaments and assemblies in BiH to become members of this organization;
- Positive changes and anti-corruption solutions should be evaluated and promoted, especially through the media.

**Key Legislation and Co-operation between Levels of Authority in Fighting Corruption in BiH**

Panellists: Mr. Dragan Mektić, Minister of Security of Bosnia and Herzegovina; Mr. Anton Kasipović, Minister of Justice of Republika Srpska; Mr. Aljoša Čampara, Minister of Interior of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina; Mr. Erduan Kafedžić, President of the Team for Monitoring and Co-ordinating the Implementation of the Action Plan for the Fight against Corruption of the Sarajevo Canton Government; Mr. Dragan Anđelić, Deputy Director of APIK

**Conclusion:**

- Anti-corruption laws are the main precondition for an effective fight against corruption and it is therefore necessary to strengthen the legal framework in BiH, as well as to harmonize anti-corruption legislation with EU regulations;
- It is necessary to amend and harmonize existing anti-corruption laws such as those on conflict of interest, protection of whistle-blowers (i.e. persons reporting corruption), court experts, attorneys, personal data protection, money laundering and financing of terrorist activities, freedom of access to information, criminal codes and others, to adopt new legislation, including on lobbying, origin of assets of public officials and others, and to work on measures that facilitate successful implementation of anti-corruption laws at all levels;
- It is necessary to harmonize the current laws on the protection of whistle-blowers in BiH, and expand protection to also include employees in the private sector in addition to public servants;
- It is necessary to introduce a legal obligation for development, adoption, implementation and monitoring of integrity plans at all levels of authority;



- In order to make the work of anti-corruption teams to repress corruption more efficient, members of teams at all levels of authority should be adequately motivated;
- Education of employees in public and private institutions and co-operation and the establishment of partnerships among all societal actors are necessary, with the aim of improving the legislation and ensuring more effective prevention of corruption and co-ordination of the fight against corruption;
- To the extent possible, it would be highly significant to, at the appropriate levels of authority and in order to reduce corruption and conflicts of interest, create databases of persons performing public functions, public procurement, conflict of interest, and property records ;
- Strengthen and implement mechanisms for structural dialogue in the fight against corruption at all levels of authority.

### **Good Practices and Experiences from the Region**

Panellists: Ms. Dubravka Filipovski, MP, Member of the GOPAC Group in the National Assembly of Republic of Serbia; Dr. Jure Škrbec, Chief International Relations Officer, Commission for the Prevention of Corruption from the Republic of Slovenia

#### **Conclusions:**

- A regional approach in the fight against corruption is necessary; no country alone, isolated from others, can achieve maximum impact in this respect;
- It is necessary to promote use of good practices from countries in the region (e.g. Portal on the Monitoring of Public Finances), in particular on raising public awareness of the fight against corruption, as well as on enhancing transparency of institutions and co-operation with civil society in anti-corruption activities.

### **Strengthening Capacity of Institutions to Prevent and Fight Corruption and Including Civil Society to Improve Citizens' Contribution**

Panellists: Mr. Fermin Cordoba, Head of the Human Dimension Department, OSCE Mission to Bosnia and Herzegovina; Mr. Mevludin Džindo, Assistant Director of the BiH Agency for the Prevention of Corruption and Co-ordination of the Fight against Corruption (APIK); Mr. Uglješa Vuković, Researcher/Analyst, Transparency International (TI) BiH; Mr. Milenko Đaković, Mayor of the City of Prijedor; Mr. Suad Huskić, Head of the Municipality of Tešanj.

#### **Conclusions:**

- It is essential that institutions and bodies for prevention of corruption intensify and standardize co-operation with civil society organizations (CSOs), including through ensuring CSO involvement in the implementation of preventive activities, acceptance of CSO expertise, articulating the interests of citizens, promotion of positive examples, through greater awareness and education of citizens, and with significant engagement of all media;
- It is important to encourage the development and improvement of tools, such as online reports of corruption, proactive monitoring of the implementation of anti-corruption strategic documents and the creation of different databases;



- Strengthening personal integrity of employees and officers to improve transparency of local authorities and the standardization and use of e-government are recognized as good tools for preventing corruption;
- The OSCE Mission to Bosnia and Herzegovina will continue to support legislative activities, co-ordination of activities of the APIK and anti-corruption bodies/teams, as well as activities that involve greater engagement and educating of the public about these processes.

*All views, statements or opinions contained in this document, which are not explicitly indicated as those of the OSCE Mission to Bosnia and Herzegovina, do not necessarily reflect the official policy of the Mission.*