



REPUBLIC OF SLOVENIA

OFFICE OF THE PRIME MINISTER

ADDRESS

BY THE PRIME MINISTER OF THE REPUBLIC OF SLOVENIA JANEZ JANŠA AT THE 10th EUROJUSTICE CONFERENCE

Portorož, 25 October 2007

*Madam Prosecutor General,
Distinguished Guests,
Ladies and Gentlemen!*

I am honored to welcome you to the 10th Eurojustice Conference, this year taking place in Portorož, Slovenia. Topics that are on the agenda of this year's conference express your aspiration to find answers and exchange experiences in important fields of prosecutor's work.

Aristotle once said: "It is in justice that the ordering of society is centered." Today, however, the modern society is not just centered in justice, but it also focuses attention on environmental care. States, as well as international organizations dedicate a great deal of attention to the protection of the environment. Therefore I am very pleased that the main topic of this conference is environmental protection through criminal law. For Slovenia, the protection of the environment is of great importance as it is shown in our legislation as well as in the process of harmonization and implementation of European laws. However, despite our efforts, we are sometimes reminded that we still have not accomplished everything in the field of environmental protection.

Prosecutor's competences and your responsibility for expert and efficient work begin when the consequences of violations have already occurred. The public's expectations to detect, prosecute and convict responsible perpetrators are very high, especially in cases of crimes where the consequences are of great proportions.

We live in an age when the care and protection of the environment is not always given the attention it rightly deserves. Our society often forgets how important it is to at least maintain, if not improve, the quality of the environment. This is an issue that concerns us all, regardless of our nationality, race, age or beliefs. Care and protection of the environment is an issue of extreme importance for the Slovenian Government.

Environmental crime is a serious and growing international problem, with criminals violating national and international laws put in place to protect the environment. International cooperation in this field is therefore necessary in order to face this challenge. I am convinced that the cooperation of judicial officials such as the cooperation of prosecutors general is a step in the right direction towards efficient protection of the environment through criminal law. I am certain that this conference will contribute significantly towards an effective fight against environmental crime.

The sense of legal certainty in a state is reflected also in the efficient settlement of the so-called petty crime where from an individual's standpoint even such crimes are significant and response from a competent authority is expected. Meetings of the highest ranking prosecutors are an excellent opportunity for the exchange of experiences when dealing with such crimes, with the emphasis that this is also an opportunity to organize the cooperation of the prosecution when fighting serious crime.

The tenth reunion is also an appropriate time to discuss the future of the conference in view of EU structures. I know you will also discuss other fora, important for prosecution services in Europe. I hope your conference will lead to new cooperation in this field as I am certain that the cooperation of prosecutors general is essential for a successful fight against international organized crime.

I would also like to stress that the Slovenian Government supports the effort of bringing prosecutors general of EU closer to EU structures and therefore supports the discussion in this direction.

*Madam Prosecutor General,
Distinguished Guests,
Ladies and Gentlemen!*

Law is the art of the good and the just, and I am sure that this principle will guide you through the conference. I declare the 10th Eurojustice Conference open, and as Horace once said: "He has the deed half done, who has made a beginning." I wish you every success at the conference and a pleasant stay in Slovenia.