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BiH signs UN Convention against Corruption

The Convention was signed by 126 countries. BiH will join this group of countries soon and thus contribute to the anti-corruption efforts by introducing and promoting such new instruments.

Banja Luka, 8 September 2005 --- The second anniversary of UN Convention against Corruption adoption will be marked on 9 December this year. UN General Assembly proclaimed this date for an International Anti-corruption day two years ago. Transparency International (TI) contributed to the Convention negotiations and is now active in promoting its ratification and implementation.

Convinced that BiH should first sign and then also ratify the UN Convention, Bosnia and Herzegovina Chapter of Transparency International (TI BiH) commenced numerous activities in order to promote the purpose of the Convention, and to persuade the executive and the legislative authorities in BiH in inevitability of the Convention signing.

On the occasion of the first International Anti-corruption Day, TI BiH organised a conference "UN Convention against corruption" on 9 December last year. The joint conclusion of the governments, civil society and international community representatives, which participated at the conference, was that BiH should join the countries which adopted the Convention. In addition, TI BiH has been presenting to the BiH citizens the purpose and the necessity of the Convention adoption and ratification.

Having in mind that the Convention will close for further signing on this second anniversary, TI BiH send a letter on 23 August 2005 to the BiH Presidency, Council of Ministers, the state-level Parliamentary Assembly and parliaments and governments of the entities, describing the advantages that Convention could provide to the country's legal system. Eight days later, the Chair of the House of Representatives of the Parliamentary Assembly informed TI BiH that the legal commission of this institution requested from the Council of Ministers to take measures required for signing of the Convention.

On its meeting held on 1 September, the BiH Presidency decided to authorise the Minister of Foreign Affairs Dr. Mladen Ivanic to sign the Convention on behalf of BiH. Minister Ivanic, or any other authorised person should sign the Convention during the participation of BiH delegation at the 60th UN General Assembly session in New York from 14 to 23 September this year.

TI BiH congratulates to the BiH governments for acknowledgement of the civic initiative and adoption of this significant international document. expecting that the signing of the Convention will be followed by a reasonably quickly ratification by the Parliamentary Assembly.

Having in mind that the UN Convention is the first binding global instrument regarding corruption that sets new standards and introduces solutions for prevention of corruption and asset recovery and simplifies international co-operation in controlling and sanctioning corruption, rapid ratification and full implementation could lead to an improvement of the country anti-corruption rating and to the increase of public trust in the government institutions. Therefore, TI BiH will co-operate with the governments at all levels, in order to contribute to the Convention implementation and to the public benefit from this international document.