

**INTERVIEW Jorge Fuentes, Head of the OSCE Mission, expects fast completion of the process transferred to Croatia by The Hague**

**OSCE  
REQUESTS**

**1**

that the level of witness protection in Glavas case, which is currently 'not at the necessary level', is increased

**2**

that the Croatian Government undertakes all necessary efforts in order to implement the judicial reform

**3**

that the Government secures jobs, pensions and a positive social environment for returnees

## **Verdict in Ademi-Norac case by the end of the year**

**The security checkup of activists indicates that the Government still has a lot to do with regard to control of secret services**

**By Veronika Reskovic**

**After ten years, the mandate of the OSCE Mission to Croatia is approaching its completion. Its focus now is on the return and integration of refugees and the rule of law. We talked about these issues with Jorge Fuentes, the Head of the OSCE Mission to Croatia.**

- We will do everything in order to complete our tasks in 2007, but that also means that Croatia must exert a lot of effort in order to resolve the remaining issues of return, reconstruction, housing care and, of course, the judicial reform.

- **You also have an obligation towards the Hague Tribunal. You follow the trials transferred to the domestic judiciary from The Hague.**

- That is correct. Only the Ademi-Norac case has been transferred to Croatia so far. We also expect that it will be completed this year, that both the main hearing and the verdicts will take place. We also follow the Glavas case, which has opened a very significant issue of witness protection. We noticed that the protection of witnesses in some cases was not at the necessary level, although the legislative basis is good.

- **The issue of requests by former holders of occupancy/tenancy rights was made more topical by representatives of Serb refugees. In the Government's opinion, this issue was completed through the model of housing care. Does OSCE consider this story completed?**

- It seems to me that the principle of housing care has been accepted after all. However, what has not been resolved yet is what to do with those former holders of occupancy/tenancy rights who will not return; would they and in which manner also be provided with a possibility to exercise some form of right. We are still discussing this with Minister Bozidar Kalmeta. However, it is also urgent that refugees are

provided with information, with a possibility to obtain documents, jobs, pensions and with a positive economic and social environment.

- **The Government announced amendments to the electoral legislation, but minimal ones.**
  - We were assured by Prime Minister Ivo Sanader that the issue of administrative structuring of the State Electoral Commission would be resolved by the end of January. It is also necessary to set limits in campaign financing and clearly determine who can vote and where, in order not to repeat the situation from the former elections in which people were able to vote several times.
- **Great changes are about to take place in the media.**
  - We are following with full attention the situation related to the new election of the HINA Stirring Committee and the new HRT Director General, as well as the long awaited solution to the problem of Vjesnik. It is important that these processes are conducted according to democratic principles that experienced and politically independent persons are elected to top positions in HINA and the HRT and that elections are exempt from political influence.
- **The Government is shaken by the scandal about the security checks of activists of non-governmental organizations.**
  - It is unacceptable that this is happening. I am not pleased about that. Clearly, a lot still needs to be done in relation to controlling intelligence services. Associations are a very respectable part of the Croatian society and we have developed successful cooperation with them.

• **Warning**

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• **Request**

**The Government needs to set the limits in electoral campaign financing and clearly determine who can vote and where, in order not to repeat the situation from the former elections in which people were able to vote several times.**

• **Promise**

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