

Ambassador Hans Ola Urstad, Head of the OSCE Mission to Serbia

**Conference
on
"Improved Civil Procedure Code Implementation:
Practice in Serbia and the Region"**

Belgrade, 15 November 2006

- Welcome all participants.
- **H.E. Mr. Zoran Stojkovic**, Minister of Justice of the Republic of Serbia, **Ms. Vida Petrovic- Skero**, President of the Serbian Supreme Court.
- The OSCE Mission considers the Civil Procedure Code a fundamental legal basis for regulating the everyday rights and relations, resolution of disputes between citizens, as well as between citizens and the state.
- The Mission actively supported the extensive consultation process that preceded adoption of the Civil Procedure Code in 2004.
- The consultation process was transparent and pragmatic, and the new Code reflected the democratic transition that Serbia was undergoing.
- However, the drafting and adoption of the law is only the first step in the entire process. The implementation of the law is even more important and presents a true test for Serbia.
- I am pleased that the OSCE Mission has the opportunity to continue its support of the Supreme Court and Ministry of Justice in implementation and adaptation of the Code.
- Equally, as OSCE is a regional organization that draws upon the experiences of its participating states, I am pleased to see the regional expertise that is on participating in this conference.
- I trust that your discussions over the next two days will be very frank, pragmatic, and fruitful.
- In part, this is an opportunity to look back at the problems and successes in implementation of the Civil Procedure Code adopted two years ago.
- Along with the experience of neighboring countries, with their shared legal heritage but diverse solutions, this conference should provide a springboard for defining clear strategies to improve and accelerate civil procedure implementation in Serbia.

- The conference should also help further improve the efficiency of the courts, ensuring fair and effective protection of rights, and strengthening the rule of law in Serbia.
- The OSCE looks forward to working with all stakeholders to support Serbia's continued implementation of the CPC.