

*Original Croatian text: OLAF se bavi Željkom Topićem*

<http://tjedno.com/index.php/arhiva/960-olaf-se-bavi-eljkom-topiem>

## OLAF TAKES AN INTEREST IN ŽELJKO TOPIĆ



*Numerous irregularities are alleged to have taken place at the State Intellectual Property Office.*

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In the past few weeks an increased nervousness has been observed among certain employees of the State Intellectual Property Office [Croatian: DZIV / Državni zavod za intelektualno vlasništvo]. For example, the secretary of the Director-General Željko Topić, Ms. Suzana Žeželj, announced her departure from this state agency rather unexpectedly. What exactly her next career move is going to be is, as yet, unknown, and in the meantime we can only speculate as to whether she intends to join the staff of the Authority for Combating Corruption and Organised Crime [Croatian: USKOK] or has perhaps decided to become a “penitent” with a prepared written confession\* in her pocket. If there is any truth to the allegations concerning irregularities at the DZIV which are attributed to its Director Željko Topić, it is self-evident that the aforementioned secretary, Ms. Žeželj, is a likely candidate for investigation - in view of the fact that all documents and decisions of the Director-General passed through her hands. Not to mention phone calls, written communications and verbal agreements ...

Particularly amusing is the fact that, a few years ago, a similar institution of an EU member state, equivalent to our DZIV but located in the Federal Republic of Germany, namely the German Patent and Trademark Office (DPMA), transferred several tens of thousands of Euros as financial assistance to Croatia. This money was intended, as part of a programme of international cooperation, to assist with the consolidation of documentation and automation at the DZIV. However, it appears that the transferred funds ended up in the private bank account of the Director-General. What exactly his private bank account details were doing in the official correspondence and documentation of the DZIV and whether this oversight has been corrected in the meantime remains unclear.

Unofficial and independent sources within the DZIV believe that a certain EU institution known by the acronym OLAF may take an interest in the case. This case is eerily reminiscent of that of Robert Ježić, who, in criminal proceedings relating to the "Sanader - INA" affair, was alleged to have illicitly received funds, which are still lying untouched in the bank account of that esteemed businessman and skipper from Rijeka. \*\*

## **SUICIDE OF AN EMPLOYEE**

Even the trade union which represents public officials and servants of the Republic of Croatia [Croatian: *SDLSN - Sindikat javnih službenika i zaposlenika*] appears to have made some new findings. It is to be expected that the trade union, acting in its capacity as an official institution, will soon initiate further criminal charges against Mr. Topić.

Having regard to the suicide of a DZIV-employee which apparently stands in a direct and causal connection to the treatment of DZIV-employees by the Director-General - it is possible that well over a hundred pages may be needed to document the charges to be raised in relation to these matters.

## **INVOLVED IN EVERYTHING: MINISTER JOVANOVIĆ**

According to unofficial sources at the Ministry of Science, Education and Sports which is headed by Minister Željko Jovanović and responsible for the actions and the oversight of the DZIV, the voluntary retreat of the Director-General to some "fall-back position" is now expected. However, those including first and foremost Minister Jovanović, who are under the impression that the Director-General was acting alone in relation to all of the irregularities of which he has been accused are completely deluded. Any police and judicial action aimed at neutralising this official "pest", will also have to include within its scope all of those associated with him.

This is especially true of those who in a "well-orchestrated action" were parachuted from the so-called HDS-ZAMP into the DZIV, in order to enjoy a more relaxed and less stressful way of life at the expense of the state budget.

According to our sources, in addition to the Director-General of the DZIV, the following persons could come under observation by the competent authorities and be the target of preliminary investigations: Romana Matanovac Vučković, Ana Marinković Rački, Višnja Kuzmanić, Jasmina Dervović and others.

It is noted in conclusion that Romana Matanovac Vučković was appointed a few days ago by the government of the Republic of Croatia for a period of six months to the position of Deputy Director at the DZIV which means that she is firmly seated in the saddle there.

The DZIV, however, is only the scene of the crime. It seems that the trail leading to the guilty parties heads towards ZAMP and from there onwards to much more exclusive and interesting political pastures.

### **Notes:**

\* A "prepared written confession" (Croatian: *oprosnica*) is a new colloquial term referring to the practice according to which the state prosecutor and USKOK may decide not to press charges against a witness whose statement contributes to the exposure of criminal activity, for example, if the statement leads to the exposure of the people at the top of a criminal pyramid.

\*\* For more details see:

<http://daily.tportal.hr/181156/Jezic-Sanader-wanted-to-use-my-bank-accounts-to-receive-MOL-bribe.html>