

P R E S S R E L E A S E

Delegation of the European Union to the Republic of Croatia

Zagreb, 10 June 2010

gb/MR *

FINAL EVENT AND PRESENTATION OF RESULTS OF THE “STRENGTHENING THE ENFORCEMENT OF INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY RIGHTS” PROJECT (EU PHARE 2006 PROGRAMME)

The official closure of the PHARE 2006 twinning project “Strengthening the Enforcement of Intellectual Property Rights” will be marked by a formal ceremony, to be held on Friday, 18 June 2010. Mr. Željko Topić, Director General of the State Intellectual Property Office of the Republic of Croatia, Mr. Keld Nymann Jensen, Deputy Director General of the Danish Patent and Trademark Office, Mr. Paolo Berizzi, Head of the Operations Section - Institutional Building, Finance, Justice, Freedom, Security and Twinning Coordination of the Delegation of the European Union to the Republic of Croatia, Mr. Oliver Grbić, General Police Director of the Republic of Croatia, Mr. Kruno Kovačević, Chief Inspector of the State Inspectorate of the Republic of Croatia, Mr. Mario Demirović, Assistant Director General of the Customs Administration of the Republic of Croatia and Mr. Kristian Turkalj, Director of the EU and Human Rights Directorate of the Ministry of Justice of the Republic of Croatia will address the participants. Following the same, high ranking officials of the twinning partners, the Danish Patent and Trademark Office and the State Intellectual Property Office of the Republic of Croatia, will present the project results.

The extent and effects of counterfeiting and piracy are so substantial that they require a strong and long-term action to be taken by the governments, business subjects and the users themselves. Therefore, an effective enforcement of laws, a support by the general public, and a closer cooperation between the state agencies and industry is imperative in the fight against counterfeiting and piracy.

This project worth € 1,000,000 was financed by the European Union with the aim to improve the enforcement of intellectual property rights in the Republic of Croatia and to harmonize the enforcement of such rights with the EU rules and practice. It was based on cooperation between Croatia and Denmark, with participation of experts from a series of European countries. The project was focused on the strengthening of the capacities of the central administration of the Republic of Croatia in the fight against counterfeiting and piracy in Croatia, capacity building and activities related to the Information Center for Intellectual Property situated at the premises of the State Intellectual Property Office of the Republic of Croatia. The project was implemented during 17 months, and included the State Intellectual Property Office of RC, the Ministry of the Interior of RC, the Customs Administration of RC, the State Inspectorate of RC and the Ministry of Justice of RC.

The project has improved the capacities of the Government Bodies and strengthened the cooperation among the institutions included in the project implementation. The project also included professional training of staff employed by the institutions protecting intellectual property rights, and measures aimed at raising awareness on the importance of intellectual property in the Republic of Croatia.

Date and time: 18 June 2010, 10:00
Place: EU Info Center, Trg žrtava fašizma 6, 10000 Zagreb

Further information: Name of the project leader, name of the institution, phone no or email address
Ms. Mirella Rašić, Delegation of the European Union, 4896 571

