

RESOLUTION ON THE PREVENTION AND SUPPRESSION OF CRIME

On 31.3.2006 the Slovene National Assembly adopted the Resolution on the Prevention and Suppression of Crime. The complete version is available on: <http://www.dz-rs.si/index.php?id=101&vt=6&sm=k&q=Resolucija+o+prepre%C4%8Dvanju+in+zatiranju+kriminalitete+&mandate=-1&unid=SAJC12565E2005E8311C1257145002C2C28&showdoc=1>.

The summaries of the Resolution are presented below.

1. INTRODUCTION

The Resolution on the Prevention and Suppression of Crime is based on the Resolution on the Security Strategy of the Republic of Slovenia, taking into consideration also the already adopted strategies as well as guidelines in individual partial areas that either indirectly or directly shape the national security and safety environment.

Living in a safe environment is a fundamental human right and a priceless social value. Due to countless negative social economic and moral consequences crime can affect a significant proportion of inhabitants and undermine national security as a whole. Besides classical forms of crime, international organised crime, illegal migrations, trafficking in human beings as well as illicit trafficking in drugs, weapons and artefacts belonging to cultural heritage in particular can also endanger national security in our globalisation era. Since they are an element of international economic, financial and political flows, money laundering, corruption and terrorism can also challenge the internal stability. Ecological crime in the broadest sense of the term presents a special danger to health and life whereas the national identity is being impoverished by various forms of threats to cultural heritage.

2. GOALS OF THE RESOLUTION

The Resolution has three goals:

1. To focus the endeavours of national institutions and civil society on **creating the circumstances** that will allow a high quality level of individual as well as social life thereby reducing crime and ensuring life in a safe environment;
2. To ensure a **coordinated action** of the legislative, executive and judicial branch as well as other institutions and their cooperation with non-governmental organisations and other civil society bodies in shaping and implementing prevention policy and suppressing crime;
3. To define **key areas** of national security and elaborate **guidelines** in the area of preventing and suppressing crime, thereby creating conditions for the integration of policy against crime in all the policies, particularly in the area of preventing crime.

3. GUIDELINES CONCERNING CRIME POLICY

- 1) Important matters:
 - Coordinated action of:
 - o the legislative, executive and judicial branches,
 - o Efficient economic policy and respective policies regarding welfare, health, employment, education and other sectors,
 - Forms of situation prevention that eliminate possibilities and opportunities to commit criminal offences; and
 - Social reintegration of perpetrators.
- 2) Combating crime is a planned and guided long-term process of activities in the area of preventing and suppressing crime. It is necessary to create conditions for a

coordinated operation of all social actors in which primary values and norms can be shaped.

- 3) It is important to seek a balance between the efficiency of combating crime and regulations required by the rule of law and the respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms.
- 4) Cooperation and coordination of work between all the creators and operators of crime policy encourages future common seeking forms and possibilities to deal with security and crime problems and contributes to a current evaluation of practices and the development of new programmes on all social levels.
- 5) Social relations should be based on trust and that can importantly contribute to reduce material and moral harm as a consequence of crime. The successful implementation of anti-crime policy requires public support.
- 6) A particular attention should be paid to vulnerable groups of the population and to establishing mechanisms for their social integration.
- 7) An efficient prevention of crime requires the monitoring of movement, structure and scope of crime and the victimization of citizens.
- 8) Besides primary socialisation and internalisation of social values, the secondary socialisation should also play a significant role. Professional and laic public should be systematically informed on all the emerging forms of violence against children and therefore build intolerance towards these phenomena, also in order to reduce such crime.
- 9) People's interests and initiatives are most directly reflected precisely on the local level. Partnership on a local level can contribute to greater safety because it allows a comprehensive insight into security problems and crime.
- 10) Perpetrators of criminal offences should be integrated according to re-socialisation and rehabilitation programmes to a much larger extent. This should become an integral, mandatory element in serving the sentence in case of violent crimes. It is also necessary to build a network of professional services for the rehabilitation of perpetrators of acts of violence.
- 11) The implementation of programmes to prevent crime recidivism and ensure alternative shorter prison sentences as well as other preventive activities requires a coordinated operation of institutions and a partnership between the state and civil society organisations. This applies also to the victims of crimes who need specific treatment at all stages of the procedure.
- 12) Through an active participation in international integrations the internal security of the Republic of Slovenia is now an element of a broader security environment. After becoming a full member of the European Union and the NATO, Slovenia also shares the responsibility for the security of other Member States and for the global security.
- 13) In the area of combating crime the will of the holders of state powers is reflected in a comprehensive material support and control over the implementation of strategies and programmes on the state, regional as well as local levels.

4. EVALUATION OF THE SITUATION IN THE AREA OF CRIME

The evaluation of the scope of crime is based on several sources of information, namely on formal statistics, victimisation studies, subjective risk assessments with respect to citizens and evaluations available to non-governmental organisations. In Slovenia formal or official statistics include: police statistics, criminal investigation statistics and judicial statistics from filing a criminal information until the procedure is finally closed. Enclosed please find a detailed assessment of the situation in the area of preventing and suppressing crime that served as the basis for the draft Resolution.

5. GUIDELINES IN THE AREA OF COMBATING CRIME

Based on the assessment of crime in Slovenia, international circumstances and Slovenia's obligations vis-à-vis international community, the activities regarding the prevention and suppression of crime should be focused particularly on terrorism, economic crime, organised crime, corruption, domestic violence, neglect and sexual abuse of children and minors as well as on the protection of cultural heritage and environment.

To achieve this goal (i.e. to manage and restrict the scope of crime) it is necessary to define the guidelines, activities and measures in the area of preventing, detecting and investigating criminal offences, prosecution of perpetrators as well as sanctions. The Resolution therefore lists only general, principal guidelines whereas the activities and measures will be made concrete in the national plan, strategies and implementation plans.

6. IMPLEMENTATION OF THE RESOLUTION

The Resolution is based on the assessment of the crime situation and defines general principles as well as strategic objectives which serve as a cornerstone of the national plan and strategies as well as the implementation plans in the respective areas. The authorities of the security system in a narrow meaning of the term (police, intelligence and security services, state prosecutor, judicial bodies, surveillance and inspection authorities) are responsible for the implementation of the Resolution as well as other national bodies and institutions that contribute to internal stability and safety in a broader sense (education, health, welfare and other sectors), non-governmental organisations, civil society (economy, religious, cultural, ethnic and other organisations) as well as the citizens themselves.

On 14.4.2007 the Slovene Government adopted the Resolution on the national programme for preventing and suppressing crime for the period from 2007 to 2011 that concretely defines the tasks and measures of national authorities, cooperation of non-governmental organisations and civil society.

In order to monitor the implementation of the Resolution the Government established a consultation-coordination body, composed of the representatives of national authorities, professional public, local communities, civil society and others. It will be possible to measure the implementation results on the basis of surveys and common actions. Once a year the Slovene Government reports to the National Assembly on the implementation of the national plan for the prevention and suppression of crime.