

OPENING SPEECH

Ladies and gentlemen, dear colleagues

I have accepted the invitation to participate in this conference with great pleasure. Of course, I've looked forward to meeting with colleagues who I haven't met for a long time, but especially intriguing to me are the topics of this conference.

Criminal offences by which unlawful material gain is acquired are on the increase, and the integration of countries within the European Union opens up, for people with "bad intentions", endless possibilities for criminal activity in a single country, with direct adverse effects on the financial interests of the entire European Union.

What are the mechanisms of financial investigations in each individual EU Member State and how to facilitate the functioning of the investigation teams, which often have to carry out their activities cross-border, become particularly important issues. Only through the effective international cooperation of the investigation teams which necessarily have to act cross-border, will it be possible to successfully address the more complex forms of criminal activities of individuals and organized criminal groups. Precisely in this regard, I find particularly interesting the section that will deal with these issues.

In the light of these issues, which could likely lead to restrictions on the rights of suspects, another section of the Conference has logically been assigned to the rights of the defence, which will consider questions on the post-administrative rights of the defence in the broader picture of the strengthening of the rights of suspects in criminal proceedings.

Precisely the connection of these two themes represents for me a particular challenge and gives me joy that I, as one of the conference participants, on the basis of the scheduled presentations and as a judge of the highest instance of the judicial authority in the Republic of Croatia, will be able to form my own picture of these issues, and find a proper balance between these two seemingly conflicting interests, and that this experience and knowledge I will share with other colleague-judges of the Supreme Court of the Republic of Croatia.

Once again, and with wishes for high quality and successful work, thank you for the invitation to participate in the work of the conference.

Damir Kos
Judge, Supreme Court of the
Republic of Croatia