



Progress towards implementing the Council of Europe Strategy for the Rights of the Child 2012-2015

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Dear ministers,

Distinguished representatives of Council of Europe and our kind hosts from Croatia,

Dear guests,

Firstly let me express my great satisfaction about organization of this very important Conference here in Dubrovnik. I am deeply convinced this event will be an effective milestone in the history of fighting against sexual abuse of children, regarding Fundamental Children's Rights in developed countries.

In the area of Sexual Abuse of Children we have not accomplish a great success. Human integrity and the right to respect human dignity are two crucial rights which need to be provided by each government with special care for vulnerable groups as children are.

In the light of the implementation of the Council of Europe Strategy for the Rights of the Child 2012-2015 and the pledge contained therein to decide upon a European Day on the Fight against Sexual Abuse and Sexual Exploitation of Children by 2014 Slovenia would like to encourage Council of Europe to establish such a day.

A European Day on the Fight against Sexual Abuse and Sexual Exploitation of Children would not just promote the ratification and implementation of the Lanzarote Convention but furthermore support all those that work for and with children in this field to raise their the voices, also in countries that for any reason cannot ratify the Convention.

The main purpose of the Lanzarote Convention will be achieved if all countries will put all necessary effort and means to the implementation of its articles into daily practice, through education and preventive actions.

In Slovenia we will strive for active Protection of Children's Rights: not only with the establishing Special Day Against Sexual Abuse of Children but to open the public debate of the sexual exploitation of children to reduce the taboo of this issue. I am glad to inform you that our social workers, teachers, judges and doctors will be part of specific education on sexual abuse of children: how to recognize it, prevent it and how to help young victims in the most successful way. Specialists who deal with children need to be supported with different knowledge and tools to be successful at his work.

Distinguished guests,

I am strongly convinced that only focused actions such as all important activities of Council of Europe – Children's Rights Division are the best way to implement Lanzarote convention in the daily life all over the Europe.

I wish you a fruitful work at the conference for the benefit of all children in the years to come.

Thank you for your attention.