CONCLUSIONS OF THE THIRD MEETING OF THE FOREIGN AFFAIRS COMMITTEES OF SERBIA,

CROATIA, MONTENEGRO AND BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA

Belgrade, 5 July 2013

* The participants of the meeting noted that corruption and organised crime remain among the chief problems in the countries of South-East Europe and pose a serious threat to the rule of law in these countries.
* The participants concluded that corruption impairs the functioning of public institutions, disrupts the legislative process, has a negative impact on the principles of legality and legal security and undermines the citizens’ trust in institutions.
* The emergence of new types of corruption, along with the traditional ones, calls for intensifying regional and international cooperation, including the establishment of an international legal framework and swift implementation of relevant international instruments.
* The participants of the meeting noted that national parliaments play a significant role in the overall effort to suppress corruption. The parliaments should promote the commitment to the principles of integrity of political figures, institutions, especially their own working bodies in charge of preventing and suppressing corruption, civil servants, transparency in public administration, as well as spread awareness among the citizens about the dangers of corruption. Parliaments must have access to relevant information and draw attention to the actual situation in the sphere of anti-corruption.
* The participants of the meeting fully agreed that legislation should ensure maximum transparency in the political, administrative and economic sphere. Since corruption threatens public finance, the fight against corruption is a type of true patriotism and a fight for national security.
* The participants of the meeting noted that, despite a certain degree of improvement in the last few years, only a modest number of women take part in the political life in the region, and even fewer have leading, managing and decision-making positions.
* It was concluded that introducing minimum quotas for women on the ballots and when allocating terms of office allowed women to contribute more and have a stronger on political decision-making, from the local to the republic level.
* It was concluded that women have to win a better position in society by cooperation and unity, as well as building a female alliance in politics and civil society.
* The participants adopted the proposal to strengthen and empower the women MPs’ capacities through informal women’s parliamentary networks, groups and clubs, by joint actions (conferences, seminars, forums) of the four participating parliaments.