

CHAPTER 21

ORGANIZED CRIME IN CROATIA

by
Mladen Vulinec

CHIEF SUPERINTENDENT
HEAD OF NATIONAL CENTRAL BUREAU
INTERPOL ZAGREB, CROATIA

1. Introduction

Organized crime in Croatia has been neither systematically observed nor studied until a few years ago; the exceptions being occasional analysis, made inside the police structure. The aims of the monitoring have been oriented to particular cases. But, with the changes in society brought about various types of organized crime. Those types of organized crimes were new ones, until then unknown to the police and justice, which was specially manifested in the unpreparedness of the judicial system for the combat against those types of criminality, both in penal substantive law and in penal procedural law, where some limitations inherited from a socialist system penal law existed. For example, the use of some special methods (secret recording, surveillance, under cover agents etc.) in investigations, have not been foreseen by the law which made the citing of proofs of a criminal offences, discovering of real organizers and their connections with other offenders in a certain group, even more difficult.

But, regardless of the fact that the types of organized crime were the subjects of only partial monitoring, directed only to particular cases, the general view, present in the consideration of the said issues of the police experts and the jurists - theoreticians, results in the opinion that organized crime presents direct threat to internal security of many countries, especially in the countries with ongoing processes of global transition of social and economic systems, among which there is Croatia, too.

Regardless of the world phenomenon of organized crime, we still don't have uniform definition of the concept of organized crime, which would be widely accepted on the international level. The reason for this is the fact that there is no necessary conformity between criminal and penal-legal science regarding the essential characteristics of this type of criminal behaviour. I consider the defining of the concept of organized crime one of the first steps for its systematical suppression within and beyond national borders, because defining means its recognition. This done, normal sequence, would be harmonization of all necessary legal acts and by-laws, with which, adequate prerequisite conditions for suppression of organized crime both in Croatia and in the world, would be created.

Taking into consideration so far criminal analysis, made only in police structures by the law theoreticians, according to my opinion the definition of **Organized Crime** should read as follows:

“Organized Crime comprises systematically prepared and planned committing of serious criminal acts with the view to gain financial profits and powers and which were committed in a longer, undefined period of time by more than three accomplices united in hierarchy and job division organized criminal association in which the methods of violence, various types of intimidations, corruptions and other influences are used, with the view to secure the development of criminal activities.”

2. Nature and Extent of Organized Crime

The influence of warfare in 1991 and 1992 in Croatia and Bosnia and Herzegovina as well as the disintegration of the former Eastern block contributed to the appearance and transformation of certain types of crime which have basic characteristics of organized crime. This involves mostly thefts and smuggling of motor vehicles, arms trafficking, smuggling of people, travel document counterfeiting, extortion, blackmail, controlled prostitution etc.

The analysis have revealed that in Croatia, for now, there are no intelligence on the existence of classic criminal organizations similar to those in the other parts of the world. But the situation is that professional perpetrators are connected with criminal organizations abroad which are interested in being criminally active in Croatia. The initial forms of creation of criminal organizations have been noticed through the manifested mutual organizational links.

As for the motor vehicle thefts and trafficking, in 1992 we recorded a

significant increase of vehicle thefts in Croatia (5513 vehicles) which decreased in the following years (in 1993-2035 stolen vehicles). For this period of time it is characteristic that the vehicles were stolen abroad and smuggled into Croatia, using in this activity counterfeited purchase receipts from abroad. Currently, the situation is reverse, i.e. the vehicles have been stolen in Croatia (in about 20% of cases) and are smuggled out of the country mostly in East European countries. Of course, this percentage contains high standard vehicle marks like VW, Audi, BMW, Mercedes-Benz. A certain number of vehicles is also being smuggled in the so called FR Yugoslavia; this being the result of non existing bilateral relations and no police cooperation. With regard to the road traffic routes running through Croatia we have the situation that the smuggled vehicles are in transit by road or sea towards the the Near Eastern countries.

In the last few years, a special type of extortion appeared, so called "Interesteering". The diminished purchasing power of the citizens and the lack of money caused by the economic situation enabled some citizens to do dubious businesses, to lend the money (cash) to other people with enormously high interest, obtaining in such a way great profits with no effort in collecting the debts they use the Services of professional extortionists.

Despite the international embargo on the import of arms in the countries of the former SFR Yugoslavia, in 1991 and 1992 there were some cases of arms smuggling in Croatia. This phenomenon has been suppressed in the following years but now we have the reverse process - the arms are smuggled from Croatia abroad. This situation was favoured by the warfare in Croatia and Bosnia and Herzegovina where the citizens had a large number of weapons. Based on the legal provisions and methods the police managed to decrease the number of illegally possessed weapons by the citizens. The weapons are mostly smuggled in the West European countries where the organizers of such activities are foreign citizens.

In the last few years, the subject of trafficking are the goods having monopoly characteristics such as coffee, cigarettes, alcohol etc. The trafficking is mostly performed across land routes, while the trafficking by sea is in the slight increase as well. For example, there have so far been several cases of successful interception of cigarette trafficking route between the so called FR Yugoslavia and Italy, where the smuggling was done across Croatian territorial sea using specially designed boats with very powerful engines. In a great number of cases, the trafficking was performed by juristic persons - firms and the shipments were "laundered" with fictitious per-

taining documentation. In fighting against this type of smuggling particular problems are caused by the national regulations of foreign countries on account of which foreign police forces cannot carry out the checks and forward information important for the investigation. Explaining that these are fiscal duties of the countries in which the goods are imported it is also said that this is not the type of crime for which international police cooperation through Interpol has been foreseen. In those cases, we carry out the checks through the Ministry of Finance which are very long and ineffective.

Warfare and political situation in Bosnia and Herzegovina caused a large scale migration of people living there. Croatia, as well as some European countries, in accordance with international humanitarian obligations, offered shelter to a significant number of refugees. Protecting themselves from a flood of refugees, some countries restricted the entry in their respective countries for the citizens of Bosnia and Herzegovina. The refugees of Croatian nationality who had all necessary conditions, obtained Croatian citizenship and were able to go freely to other countries with Croatian passports. Because of the existing similarities in language, customs and others, some of the refugees were entering in other countries using counterfeited Croatian passports. Because of that, in criminal circles, some persons appeared who organized receiving of refugees, obtaining counterfeited passports and smuggling of those people in desired countries. Taking the advantage of jeopardized existence of the refugees and their families, the traffickers developed very profitable criminal activities such as transfer of the persons from Bosnia and Herzegovina in Croatia, their accommodation, obtaining of Croatian passports and their counterfeiting, transport across the state border and so on. Besides smuggling of people from Bosnia and Herzegovina, we have the information according to which Croatia is used as transit country for smuggling people from Asia in Europe but the consequences of those activities have not been directly manifested in our country. The reasons for smuggling of people, in some cases are connected with the organization of prostitution.

Speaking of prostitution, besides the so called "street prostitution" which is in Croatia in slight decrease, some new trends have appeared within legal jobs: erotic dance in night clubs, services of the erotic massage parlours, phone "hot lines", special escorts etc. Such services are advertised in ambiguous ads in daily papers and magazines. Besides Croatian prostitutes, foreign citizens mostly from East European countries, have been engaged as well. The control and the surveillance of the buildings where the prosti-

tution is performed under the cover of legal activities and the police work gave some positive results.

Almost every day, in Croatia, there are some cases of discovering of counterfeited foreign currency. The most frequent are the counterfeits of DEM and USD. The gathered information revealed that counterfeited currency has been smuggled in Croatia from abroad, which was confirmed by several cases in the last few years, when significant quantity of counterfeits was recovered and seized. After the discovery of a printing-office in Slavonski Brod, there are no information indicating the existence of other printing-offices of counterfeited money in Croatia. The developed, good cooperation with the banks and exchange offices, the police has great success in seizures of counterfeited money. With the suppression of illegal market of foreign currency, the prevention improved. The counterfeiting of domestic Croatian currency has not been so far very significant. The only case of domestic currency counterfeiting was quickly solved with timely seizure.

We have some new types of counterfeits, like phone "chip" cards. Recent successful action resulted in disclosing the organized group which ordered the creation of computer programme for programming chips on the cards and which dealt with the production and the sale of counterfeited cards in Croatia. About hundred counterfeits have been seized, the luck being in quick and timely police action since this criminal activity was just in its initial stage.

The problem of smuggling of works of art and the monuments of cultural inheritance have by no means avoided Croatia. It has been established for sure that during the war in Croatia a large quantity of the works of art and monuments of cultural inheritance have been taken out of Croatia. We have still some more information on smuggling of the objects of art from our country abroad. One of the biggest problems in suppressing this phenomenon is non existence of data base for stolen/missing objects of art. The initiative for the creation of such a computer programme has been set forward and we have received the assistance from Interpol Austria. In obtaining this, we made a step forward in connecting all national institutions in our country which in any way deal with the works of art and cultural inheritance.

What we have after 5 years of monitoring and analysing crime situation in our country, and after the first experience in fighting all types of crime including organized crime, is shown in the following:

In 1995, there were 62,937 criminal acts, which is 1.7% less than in 1994. Out of total number of criminal acts, 47,731 criminal acts were performed by unidentified perpetrator and subsequently 30,436 criminal acts or 63.8% were solved. In the first half of 1995, there were 30,127 criminal acts, which is 0.5% less than in the same period in 1995. Having in mind the fact that Croatia has 4.75 mil. inhabitants, the said figures show that we are among the countries in this region, with the lowest number of crimes per 100,000 inhabitants. 24.5% of the total number of crimes recorded in 1996, are related to the organized crime group.

The information gathered so far, show that, especially regarding motor vehicle crimes, the element of organization is present (tasks distribution perpetrators' links with foreign countries). The greatest number of aggravated thefts of motor vehicles was recorded in 1992 when 5,570 motor vehicles were stolen. Afterwards, due to numerous activities, the number of the thefts was cut down to 2,125 stolen vehicles in 1994, and 2,128 in 1995 which is not a very large number of stolen vehicles regarding about 1,200,000 registered vehicles in Croatia.

In the first half of 1996, total number of 1010 vehicles were stolen which is the same figure as in the same period of 1995. More disturbing thing is ever better trained vehicle thieves and their connections with foreign organized crime groups as well as their adaptability to deal with drug trafficking and currency counterfeiting too. In 1995 criminal police recovered 908 stolen vehicles, 129 of which were stolen abroad, which is, comparing to 1994, 12.5% more. In the first half of 1996, 434 vehicles (out of the previously mentioned number) were recovered which is 2.47% less than in the same period in 1995. But, the decrease of stolen passenger cars for 8.87% (comparing to the same period previous year) has been noted.

As for the analysis of the gathered data regarding vehicle thefts and trafficking, it can be concluded that the smuggling of vehicles from abroad in Croatia is still decreasing, and smuggling of stolen vehicles from Croatia mainly to the countries of Eastern Europe is increasing. In the last two years, besides the criminal acts regarding motor vehicles, there have been other criminal acts of smuggling and illicit traffic, smuggling of persons over state border which is linked with forgery and misuse of Croatian passports and counterfeiting of phone "chip" cards.

Since the combat against smuggling and illicit traffic is made more difficult on account of higher level of organization and professionalism of the perpetrators, internationalism, involvement of greater number of sub-

jects in certain phases of trafficking, among which there are authorized dealers, and having in mind "the dark figures", the real situation in this field is probably different from the data on the number of recovered and processed criminal acts. Last year, 496 criminal acts from this field, which is 8.4% less than in 1994, have been processed. In the first half of 1996, 174 criminal acts in this field have been processed, which is 46.62% less than in the same period in 1995.

The products which are most frequently smuggled are of monopoly character, coffee, cigarettes and alcohol but also other commercial products. Individual/classic types of smuggling are stagnant, while trafficking in companies is increased which is covered by the fictitious documentation and is presented as legal traffic. Besides fictitious import or export, ever most prominent type of trafficking is temporary product import as well as fictitious transit. False, incorrect or incomplete goods declaration regarding the quantity and kind of goods is becoming more and more present.

Better results are recorded in the field of suppression of illicit traffic and arms and explosive possession. There is also a phenomenon that the weapons and explosives are smuggled from Croatia to the West European countries where the links with foreign criminal groups are present.

Counterfeiting and circulating of false money presents a very dangerous phenomenon, especially in last few years, when the new counterfeiting techniques (especially colour copying) developed. Reproduction of the banknotes by means of scanners and lasers is very successful so the crimes regarding the production of false banknotes is changed because for production of counterfeits by means of colour copiers, as opposed to the classical printing techniques, doesn't require special technical skills and lots of time. Realization of counterfeited currency in 1995 decreased, since there were 121 such criminal act, and in the first half of 1996 31, which is 57.53% less than in the same period of 1995 when there were 73 criminal acts registered. As before, most frequently circulated counterfeited banknotes are American dollars and German marks but there are also smaller quantities of counterfeited domestic currency.

It is very profitable job and every good money can be made by selling of the objects of art, especially on the international market. This is the reason why the objects of art are stolen and smuggled. In 1995, 180 objects of art were stolen, thefts being the most frequent manner of obtaining the art objects which are smuggled. In the first half of 1996, the number of stolen objects of art is 87 which is 12.72% less than for the same period in 1995

when the number was 99. Cultural and art treasures trafficking are performed by Croatian citizens as well as foreign citizens who come to Croatia as tourists. Special problem is protection of the treasure on the sea bottom, which is inadequately protected due to the lack of assets. Misusing the hospitability of our country, foreign citizens, under pretences of spear-fishing, find antique and other objects and take unlawful possession of them.

Some of them do this to complete their private collections and others for good money they can make, selling them on illegal market of objects of art. The destruction and looting of cultural goods during the war in Croatia provoked intense interest, specially of foreign collectors, for stolen art collections and other precious objects which are already on illegal market abroad.

As for other criminal acts, I should highlight 73 extortions (in the first half of 1996 the extortions increased for 22.85% comparing to 1995), 75 kidnapping (in the first half of 1996 the number of kidnapping decreased for 22.22% comparing to 1995) and 5 blackmails (in the first half of 1996, the number of cases of blackmail increased comparing to 1995) which were mainly done in connection with illegal enforcement of debts, which we consider very dangerous, so in the so called "small-reform", such behaviour has been incorporated in legal provisions as a special criminal act.

3. Measures Including Legislation to Combat Organized Crime

Consideration of the described situation and ever greater appearance of various types of organized crime, the number of criminal offences which are considered as the acts of organized crime increased from 7,968 in 1991 to 15,723 in 1996, present to Croatian criminal officers the basic task to set up, based on the law provisions of Europe, adequate organizational measures within their organization as well as the measures concerning the change of existing law provisions in Croatia such as Penal Code and the Law on Penal Procedure.

Congruently, the criminal police structure has been changed, and a special **Organized Crime Division** has been set up, which controls the situation and the actions of organized groups in the field of vehicle thefts and trafficking, currency counterfeiting, copyrights and all kinds of documentation forgery, blackmails and extortions, racketeering, trafficking of all kinds, prostitution, organizing of hazardous games, corruption and so on, in order to, and due to the lack of legal provisions, try to at least partly process typical criminal acts which might be connected with organized crime.

In 1992, in accordance with the present situation and the anticipated crime developments, **Organized Crime Division** was formed within the Criminal Police Sector of the Ministry of Interior whose task is to fight against the following types of crime:

(a) motor vehicle thefts and trafficking; (b) extortion, blackmail, kidnapping, prostitution and gambling; (c) document and currency counterfeiting; (d) illegalities in trade and movement of objects of art; (e) goods and arms trafficking; (f) smuggling of persons.

As Ministry of the Interior is organized in 20 Police Counties, the organized crime sub-divisions are organized in the same way. A special unit for combating drugs was set up because of the specific characteristics of the conditions they work under, and the fight against the matters of corruption-like criminal acts and money laundering as well as ecological crimes are dealt with by the **Economic Crime Division** as one of the accompanying occurrence of organized crime, is put in the sphere of Economy and financial crime division on account of specially trained staff who can easily recognize such offences and act accordingly, applying the existing legal regulations. All these Divisions are parts of the Criminal Investigation Sector.

Our opinion is that with the view to improve the efficiency to combat organized crime, the following should be enhanced:

(a) quick exchange of information on criminal activities, persons, goods, vehicles etc.; (b) active participation of foreign police forces in implementing concrete criminal investigation; (c) exchange of intelligence and experience concerning new forms of criminal activities in view of timely preparation and organization for suppressing of such phenomenon; (d) education through various forms of activities.

Unfortunately, we must say that on account of objective reasons (aggression on the Republic of Croatia) new trends of crimes have not been followed by corresponding developments in penal legislation, which makes the combat against new crime developments, especially organized crime, more difficult.

This was the reason why criminal police took active part in drafting **new Penal Code** and the **Law on Penal Procedure, Law on Drugs** and **Law on Money Laundering**. Presently, in Croatia, Criminal Police Sector together with others law enforcement agencies including justice representatives is working on the changes of criminal substantive law and procedural law. We expect the foreseen changes to enable more efficient fight against organized crime since the possibility of using special methods and

means as evidence in criminal procedure (for example, **wiretapping, secret filming and tailing of persons, usage of undercover agents** etc.) is foreseen. We believe those new Laws will become effective in 1997.

For the purpose of combating most frequent and most dangerous new crime developments, this year so called "**small-reform**" of **penal legislation** was made (in which new crimes were incorporated, such as **money laundering, drug possession, extortion**).

One of the draw-backs which makes the performing of the job more difficult is lack of experienced criminal officers, as well as the lack of experienced state attorneys and judges. The problem is also the lack of corresponding technical equipment needed for operational/analytical control of developments and planning of investigations. Therefore, one of the most urgent tasks in 1996 is education of criminal officers regarding which we expect adequate assistance of the American, German, Austrian and Hungarian police forces. So far cooperation with those countries is very good.

4. Comparative Evaluation of Various Anti-Organized Crime Measures

Considering the period since 1991, when the first types of organized crime appeared in Croatia, and the present situation, which have been exposed in previous parts, we can see that undertaken measures have given certain results.

First, setting up of **special division for combating organized crime**, within criminal investigation sector, gave certain results in a short period of time. After the first initial difficulties in the very recognizing of the types of organized crime, we started with monitoring the problems of trafficking of motor vehicles stolen abroad and registered in our country. First, the groups of organizers were recognized, after which operational and criminal investigations followed. In the investigations, some special means were used, which, according to the present legislation (still in force), can be used only for police purposes, and not as evidence in court procedure.

After certain success has been achieved, although insufficient, **systematic education of police officers** working with the divisions and units of organized crime began, with the purpose of their successful fight against the phenomenon of organized crime. Besides, **international cooperation with the view** to gather experiences from other Countries, especially Austria, Germany, Italy, the Netherlands, Hungary etc., regarding suppression of organized crime has been intensified. This enabled better work of police

officers, which was shown in quality work and discovering of organized crime related crime. The fact that out of total number of criminal acts in 1991, 13.7% were related to organized crime, while in 1995 the percentage was 25.4%. This shows that criminal officers of Organized crime division, Drugs division and Economic crime division are more and more successful in recognizing criminal acts, since they are discovered by the work of criminal officers. (Considering criminal acts regarding organized crime related offences, the offences dealt by Organized crime division, Drugs division and Economy crime division were taken in the consideration).

The changes in legislation, suggested by Criminal Investigation Sector, which have now been discussed in Croatian Parliament, resulted in the so called “**mini reform**” of penal law, where, for the first time, criminal acts of **money laundering, drug possession, seizure of assets** derived from crime have been described. This gives us certain hopes that there will be some changes in Penal Code, which will regulate the concept of criminal organization. Criminal police proposed the following definition:

“**Criminal Organization** is association of at least three persons whose members associated for the purpose of committing criminal offences. One of the activities of criminal organization of higher level is directed towards establishing and keeping of control over certain economic and other activities with the use of intimidation and violence in order to force other persons to join them or to subdue themselves to them. Criminal organization is characterized by high level of mutual connections of their members, firm internal structure based on hierarchy and solidarity and strict division of work, which are the principles of the notion of organized crime.”

Considering the comparison of the notion of Criminal organization and the notion of Organized crime, one can note their close connection.

However, the lack of authorization foreseen by the Law on penal procedure is still present, since so far procedure hasn't foreseen **secret audio and video recording, wiretapping, use of under cover agents** as being evidence, neither the interview done by a criminal police officer on the occasion of arrest is evidence. Because of such legislation frequent occurrence was, that in the cases of the so called “**controlled delivery**”, which the police can perform based on its regulations, every drug seizure looked like accidental interception of drug trafficker during transport, so the couriers were often arrested, while the organizer used to remain inaccessible. Such situations are always present when any type of smuggling is concerned, and in case the organizer is not present at the arrest scene. It is very rare,

that a courier found in the possession of drug, becomes a witness at court. Although criminal officers, on several occasions, organized so called “**controlled delivery**” of various kinds of smuggled goods, the result being seizure of larger quantities, the organizer still remained inaccessible.

Since organized crime is a world problem encountered by all countries in the world, the connections of criminal groups are ever bigger with no obstacles encountered. **Quick exchange of information between police services** all over the world becomes a necessity and the approach to this problem should be more responsible. This includes implicitly the need for better mutual links between police services all over the world, with the view to exchange the information on criminal activities, persons, groups, goods, vehicles etc. Only timely transmitted information can result in disclosing of organized crime related criminal offence and in the arrest of direct perpetrator or organizer. Almost always, in conducting the investigation, timely transmitted information gave adequate results, while late information meant loss of time and quality investigation, or one must wait for a new favourable moment in the investigation.

Centralization of the data regarding the groups and individuals involved in criminal organizations and organized crime represents basic presumption for quality analytical study of organized crime, as well as forming of special groups of analysts who will deal exclusively with organized crime analysis.

In view of the above, I presume, that so far undertaken measures in the combat against organized crime, specially **police officers education**, contributed to ever better conception of the fight against organized crime in criminal police. Education and training was the basis for recognition of types of criminal offences which are linked with organized crime, because in such cases one couldn't wait for new laws to be brought. All this is shown in the information on a bigger total number of criminal acts connected with organized crime, which is for 100% bigger than in the period of last five years or from 13.7% in 1991 to 25.4% in 1995 out of total number of criminal acts.

All other measures which will originate from bringing new legislation, will, by all means, contribute to more quality work of the police, judicature and other law enforcement agencies.

5. Proposed Measures Including New Legislation to Combat Organized Crime

Criminal investigation services and other law enforcement agencies, who are entrusted with the fight against organized crime, have various tasks in organizational sense in order to enable them to use more successfully the existing possibilities such as:

1. methods of unique data gathering on organized groups with the use of computer systems and, based on the gathered data, to make adequate criminal analysis.

2. the use of police surveillance and supervision

3. secret audio and video recording

4. the use of undercover agents

5 suppression of money laundering and confiscation of illegally obtained assets in all forms

6. testifying of "protected witnesses" with the implementation of "witness protection-program"(although in Croatia, with only 5 mil. inhabitants, we don't believe in the efficacy of such a program)

- compiling of police work and coordination with all other bodies of state administration, such as Financial police, customs, inspection services, state attorney's offices, investigative judges etc.

- specialization of state attorneys and investigative judges who could conduct criminal prosecution of such types of criminal acts and last, but perhaps the most important

- the reform of whole criminal law, especially Penal Code where the phenomenon of Organized crime and criminal organization should be defined, and the Law on Criminal Procedure where the use of the so far illicit measures will be regulated in the items 2-5, because without such measures and their power as evidence in criminal procedure, the fight against the top of organized crime is impossible.

6. Conclusion

Organized crime is, all things considered, increasing in all countries with stable economic systems and with developed democratic traditions, but also in the countries of former socialist block and in the countries in transition where global changes began in late 80-ies.

Organized crime presents most serious threat to internal security and democratic acquirements of each country and it goes over its borders, the

phenomenon which by itself presents sufficient reason for harmonizing of strategy, methods and means in fighting it, with the help of international organizations whose basic aim is combat against crime and with the assistance of political organizations such as United Nations.

Each country encountering even the smallest type of organized crime should, as soon as possible, start considering newly created situation and prepare all its legal powers for counteracting forthcoming danger.

From the above said, it is visible that from all law enforcement agencies in Croatia, the police has been the only one to realize the fight against the organized crime. Partially speaking, we point out that with existing legal provisions, police and courts can tackle and process only the organized groups on the lowest level of hierarchy while the main organizers and financiers of certain criminal activities and corruption cannot be reached. Therefore, it is necessary to create legal prerequisites and put to function all law enforcement agencies in order to meet with and discover the wave of organized crime which, in the countries of global transition, is knocking on the door.

Holding of such a significant gathering as the Third International Police Executive Symposium, dedicated to organized crime and its perspectives in the world, is, by all means, another contribution in fighting it, while the exchange of experience, information, apprehension and evaluation of organized crime, which will be discussed at the symposium will make many people think about the forthcoming danger, about which so far, they haven't thought.

The Republic of Croatia, the same as any other country, as isolated unit, is not in the position to counteract organized crime alone, but, together with others, with universal international cooperation and support, it certainly can initiate the fight against the danger knocking on our door, but, we ourselves must try to keep this same door shut.