



CEDEK

UDRUGA ZA POVRAT ŽIDOVSKJE IMOVINE
THE ORGANISATION FOR THE RETURN OF THE JEWISH PROPERTIES IN CROATIA

Attn:

**Mrs Viviane Reding
Vice President of the European Commission**

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Your Excellency!

With this brief letter, we wish to inform you about the existence of the NGO (Non-Governmental Organization) CEDEK and shortly present its activities, as well as present to you the actual situation in the Republic of Croatia regarding the restitution of the confiscated Jewish properties.

As you probably know, the Republic of Croatia issued on the October 25th 1996 the «Law on the compensation for the confiscated properties during the Yugoslav communist ruling». As the title of the Law speaks, the Law which should deal with the property restitution mainly offers compensation solutions in money or state bonds, which in reality ends in compensation of 10 – 15% of the property market value. Further on – what is totally unacceptable – the Law is applicable for the period since 1945. Thus the properties confiscated during the period 1941-1945, under the rule of the puppet Quisling Nazi state N.D.H. (Nezavisna Država Hrvatska), are not covered by the mentioned Law. The Holocaust victims have never been mentioned in this Law. And last, but not the least: The Law approves the application only for heirs in the first knee (saying that two brothers cannot inherit each other's assets), which completely disavow the holocaust issue. SHAME!

The NGO CEDEK was organized with the task to lobby the changes of the injustices exercised since the acceptance of the Law (1996) towards the representatives of the Jewish community. Our goals and the program are contained in the Declaration of B'nai B'rith "Gavro Schwartz", Croatia since May 5th 2001 (please see the attachment)

We wish to inform you further on that NGO CEDEK spoke during this year with the President of the Republic of Croatia Mr Ivo Josipović, further on with vice Premier of Croatia Mr Neven Mimica and the Croatian Minister of Justice Mr Orsat Miljenic (please see the attachment) with a plea to finally propose the legal solution of the mentioned problem. We had only received nice words of promise that the solution is within grasp. The civilised society expects that a given word is maintained, but with our Croatian political representatives it seems that this quality doesn't exist. CEDEK addressed the vice-president of State and Minister of Foreign Affairs, Mrs Vesna Pusic firstly in the form of e-mail communication in August 2013, then with a letter in October but with no reply.



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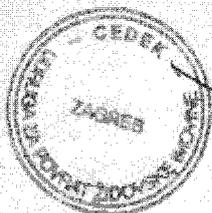
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Let us be free to point out that Republic of Croatia is a signatory party of TEREZIN DECLARATION, but as already proved Croatian signature has a feeble meaning – you have a personal experience of the same kind only months ago. But, your Excellency, we, the remaining Jewish population in Croatia do not have anybody to back us in our rightful demands!

This is the reason why, dear Madame, we appeal to your attention and your help, believing that our righteous efforts might motivate you to support us, and thus, with your help, we might achieve some results. This would mean that some justice would be attained after more than 60 years since the property confiscation and holocaust. The injustice regarding the Jewish population, after such a long time span, calls for a correct solution.

With respects,

Marko Ivanovic PhD
President



Dani Deutsch
Secretary

Attachments:

- Declaration of B'nai B'rith
- Memo of the meeting with Mr Mimica and Mr Miljenic
- Here, please find a part of the speech of Mr Josipovic, President of RH:

<http://embassies.gov.il/zagreb/Relations/Pages/Official-Visits.aspx#p>

*President of the Republic of Croatia Ivo Josipovic
Speech at Knesset
Jerusalem, February 15, 2012*

Mr. Speaker,
President Peres,
Mr. Prime Minister, Honourable members of the Knesset,
Members of the diplomatic corps,
Ministers, ladies and gentleman,

Ladies and gentlemen,

It is now that the future stands clear before us as an opportunity. Sensitivity and responsibility, justice and reconciliation are not just about admitting one's own wrongdoings and offering apology. This is also undoing injustices wherever possible. In reality, of course, nothing is simple. Criminal plunder and pillage of the property of the Holocaust victims during WWII, were, unfortunately, followed by the revolutionary communist disrespect for private property. The denationalization process has so far covered only victims of the communist disappropriation. The overall scope of injustice done was so great that justice can never be served in its entirety. However, it would be a just thing to do if the Holocaust victims were also included in the Croatian restitution legislation. Saying this, I am firmly convinced that amendments to the restitution law that would soon ensue should also include the Holocaust victims, either individuals or their heirs or local communities, and that the most appropriate ways of restitution or just compensations should be granted to them too.