

Mister Vice-President of the United States,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

On behalf of the Government of the Republic of Poland, I should like to express my gratitude to the Government of the United States for the initiative to organize this international conference devoted to prevent corruption and secure honesty of justice and security services officials. My appreciation is also due for the invitation of Poland to participate.

We attend the proceedings in a deep belief of the soundness of a persistent implementation of the International Strategy of Crime Control, launched in May 1998 by President of the United States, Bill Clinton. The combating corruption crime, in particular among government officials, is a critical component of that strategy. We do share the view that corruption is destructive to the state from the inside and undermines the democratic legal order, depraves and hurts the social sense of justice.

Poland, which I have the honor of representing at this conference, in less than ten years ago, entered the family of democracies with economies based on market principles. In social life of a country in transition from a totalitarian system to democracy two parallel processes proceed: on the one hand, the process of eradicating of what was being shaped for over 40 years by the practice of the so-called real socialism and, on the other hand, of the emerging new rules and patterns of social coexistence and contacts between the authorities and society.

Our country is an initiator and organizer of undertakings to create a new political, legal, economic and social order.

The rules in the functioning of the state and economy, changing at a high pace, and the putting in order of the legal system — also open up possibilities for criminal activities, including corruption. Being fully aware of it, we undertake adequate measures to combat corruption.

The systemic transition is accompanied by an indispensable reconstruction of the state apparatus, jurisdiction, and the public safety and security services.

Of strategic significance for the combating corruption is also the development of new practices in managing government agencies and security services.

A special unit for combating organized crime has been instituted in the Police, supervised directly by Inspector General of the Police. One of its duties is to fight corruption among public servants and to disclose the mafia-like connections of the government authorities representatives with underworld.

A center to coordinate operations of all the services in charge of combat against crime, including corruption, has been organized at the Ministry of Internal Affairs and Administration.

In the legal system the key instrument in combat against corruption is the penal code in a separate chapter of which are covered the crimes that can be deemed as corruption-related and representing offenses against central and local governments. The penal code also provides for prosecution of such crimes as: attestation to an untruth, abuse of confidence, deriving profits from money laundering.

Public funds can be spent exclusively in compliance with the provisions of the Public Orders Act. Foiling or obstructing a public auction is in Poland an offense prosecuted on the strength of penal code.

Corruption crimes are revealed by the proceedings of the supervisory body directly subordinated to the Sejm, the Prime Minister, and heads of all ministries. Offences of this kind that are against state security are taken care of by special services (task forces).

Mr Vice-President of the United States, Ladies and Gentlemen,

The range and consequences of corruption crime arouse understandable concern. Corruption threatens stability of economic growth, undermines confidence in government and the rule of law. Corruption is dangerous everywhere and on any scale. Measurable harm is done by both corruption offenses of the honorable members of the International Olympic Committee and those committed by rank-and-file policemen.

Combat against corruption to be efficient requires disclosing of both the corrupt and the corrupting parties.

Opportunity makes the thief — according to the proverb in English and Polish alike. In fighting corruption such opportunities should be eliminated, the conditions favorable for the growth of corruption crime should be detected and done away with.

Therefore, we opt for implementation of all the key strategies in fighting corruption which we have been made acquainted with.

The government in Poland has a full social consent for an all-out war against all kinds of corruption crime. This is a great asset allowing to extend the range of the measures undertaken resorted to by the government.

I fully share the view that the fight against corruption necessitates being developed, within as large a scope as possible, coupled with a joint international effort. Poland is ready to participate in this effort under the suitable bilateral and multilateral agreements. I am convinced that the issue of fight against corruption taken on by the government of the United States and brought up on this wide forum will be a milestone in developing international cooperation along these lines.

Thank you for your kind attention.