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HELD SEMINAR FOR JUDGES OF THE FIRST INSTANCE COURTS IN B&H

Sarajevo, 20-21 November 2008

Seminar for 40 judges of the first instance courts in B&H – “Article 10 of the European Convention on Human Rights in the context of application of the Law on Protection against Defamation in B&H” held in Sarajevo

“Article 10 of the European Convention on Human Rights gives absolute freedom to journalists in their reporting, commenting and analysis, especially in terms of public persons and politicians. Public persons and politicians must show more tolerance and readiness for criticism of common people, since in their public engagement and accepted responsibility towards the public, they have accepted the media exposure for results of their work and journalists’ critics”, said Dr Laurent Pech at the seminar on application of the Article 10 of the European Convention on Human Rights, organised for judges of the first instance courts from B&H. Seminar was held on 20th and 21st of November 2008 in organisation of the Press Council in B&H. This expert in freedom of expression from the Jean Monnet Chair in EU Public Law, has dedicated most of the time in his lecture to emphasize importance of respect of free journalistic reporting and freedom of editorial comment, demonstrating his lectures with practical examples from the European Court for Human Rights in Strasbourg.

Examples of repression of freedom of journalistic reporting and pressures at the editorial policy of media by public persons and politicians in B&H, unfortunately, were caused by still insufficiently good application of the Law on Protection against Defamation in B&H. Therefore, predisposition of judges for additional education on principles of free media reporting and provisions of the Press Code is valuable.

This is the second seminar, which, at request of judges, the Press Council in B&H organised during 2008. Participants were judges of the first instance courts from whole Bosnia and Herzegovina, as well as journalists and editors from B&H.