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reventing and combating corruption

Fight against corruption- Government's top priority

The fight against corruption has constantly been one of the Government's top priorities. Corruption, smuggling and organized crime are considered a direct threat to the state's security and further economic development. Efforts to coordinate and join activities of a number of institutions dealing with issues of fighting and preventing corruption are taking place.

Institutional Framework is Operational

The institutional framework for the fight against corruption has been in place already since 1997, however constant institutional improvements are taking place. At the end of 2002, the then newly elected Parliament established a permanent Standing Committee on Supervising the Prevention and Combating of Corruption, Smuggling and Organized Crime. The Committee is responsible for the national policy of the fight against corruption.

The political oversight of the daily processes to fight corruption is carried out by the Crime and Corruption Prevention Council chaired by the Prime Minister with the participation of all relevant ministers. The Bureau for the Prevention and Combating of Corruption, established in 2002, is the main institution performing and coordinating policy implementation with other responsible institutions. Close working relations are established with Police, Customs, General Prosecutors Office, and the Prime Minister's Office.

Strategy for corruption prevention and the fight against corruption and the National Program are developed to provide for coordinated activities in three main areas - corruption prevention, combating corruption and anti-corruption education.



Stricter anti-corruption measures are implemented in Customs and other institutions
/Photo: Raitis Puriņš, A/S "Diena"/

Legislative Framework in Place

The Government is further improving the legal framework. To provide transparency and involve society in preparing anti-corruption legislation, on-line access to the draft legislation is available. Compulsory consultations with NGO's are taking place.