

**REPUBLIC OF CROATIA
ETHICS COMMISSION**

Class: 013-01/07-03/01

Reg. No.: 5990-07-02

Zagreb, November 6, 2007.

Starting from freedom, equity, national equality, pacifism, respect for human dignity and rights, the rule of law and a democratic multi-party system as the highest values of the constitutional order of the Republic of Croatia, as well as the principles of tolerance, honesty and fair play, which must be observed by all elections participants in the Republic of Croatia so that, following a vigorous but fair electoral campaigns, the citizens may exercise their constitutional right to a free choice of their representatives to the Croatian Parliament and the will of the people may be expressed, the Ethics Commission has, on December 12, 1999, passed the following:

ELECTORAL CODE OF ETHICS

I. FUNDAMENTAL VALUES

1. For the purposes of this Code, the fundamental values shall include honesty, truthfulness, fairness, respect, responsibility, tolerance and the culture of dialogue.
2. During electoral campaigns, it shall not be allowed to incite violence, disseminate national, religious or racial hatred, or encourage sexual inequality.
3. Electoral campaigns shall be conducted freely, openly, publicly and in a well-argued manner and, in contesting with their opponents, the election participants shall tend towards well-founded and reasoned criticism.
4. Election participants shall have the freedom of opinion and expression, and electoral programmes shall be as open, transparent and credible as possible.

II. CONDUCT OF ELECTION PARTICIPANTS

During the election campaign and the electoral procedure, it shall be unethical to:

1. undermine the Croatian system of free elections or hamper or prevent a full and free expression of the will of the voters;
2. spread any malicious or unfounded accusations against any candidate, aimed at creating doubts on the part of the public as to the loyalty or patriotism of such a candidate;
3. put forth any falsehood or innuendo about political opponents or point out their physical or psychological characteristics with a view to disparaging them;
4. put forth any falsehood or innuendo about the private life of any electoral opponent or his or her family members;
5. insult or disparage members of any ethnic minority or group, and
6. use private data obtained in an illicit manner as well as those obtained from an organisation or service acting in compliance with the law, but for other purposes.

During the election campaign and the election procedure, political parties and candidates that act against The Electoral Code of Ethics shall be expected to apologize in public to those affected.

III. EQUITY AND EQUALITY IN THE PUBLIC MEDIA

1. All voters shall have the right to obtain, from all public media, impartial information on parties and candidates, and all parties and candidates shall have the right to equal conditions for their electoral campaigns. For this purpose, in presenting their programmes and candidates, all parties shall be treated in an equal manner and obtain their air-time on the Croatian Radio-Television under equal conditions.

2. In its programmes that are not connected with the presentation of party programmes and candidates, the Croatian Radio-television shall be expected not to use any material that may be construed as electoral campaign.

3. The commercial broadcast media shall be expected to respect and apply the principles of equal treatment to the paid political campaigns of all parties and candidates participating in the elections and to cover the election campaign in an objective, impartial and balanced manner.

IV. EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES FOR ELECTORAL PROMOTION

During the election campaign and the election procedure, it shall be deemed unethical to use for campaign-related activities or purposes any non-allocated funds, equipment, supplies or premises owned by the government or any local self-government unit.

V. CONDUCT OF ELECTION MONITORS

Election monitors shall not express their attitude about parties and individual candidates nor shall they influence the voters in any other manner.

This Electoral Code of Ethics shall enter into force on the date of its adoption and shall be published in *Narodne novine*, the official gazette of the Republic of Croatia.

MILAN MOGUŠ,
Academy Member

CHAIRMAN OF THE ETHICS COMMISSION
(signed and sealed)