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CROACIA

CROATIA

First time candidate
for the UN Security Council
2008-2009

CROATIE

HRVATSKA



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REPUBLIC OF CROATIA



ХОРВАТИЈА





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Foreign Policy

Croatia's foreign policy goals are guided by our dedication to effective multilateralism and the international rule of law. Our foreign policy priorities include achieving membership in the **European Union (EU)** and the **North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO)**, serving as a leading nation in the permanent stabilization of South East Europe, as well as active and focused participation in the work of the **United Nations** and other international institutions of significance to Croatia, primarily the **Council of Europe** and the **Organization of Security and Cooperation in Europe**. Additionally, Croatia's strategic location as a Central European and Mediterranean country provides added value in bilateral and multilateral relations through numerous regional organizations and

initiatives in which we participate, including 2006/2007 Chairmanship of the **South East European Cooperation Process (SEECP)**. Ensuring regional stability and cooperation is of prime political and economic interests for the Republic of Croatia .

Croatia's foreign policy priorities and activities stem from our dedication to assuming responsibility for strengthening global security. The extensive post-conflict management experience that Croatia unfortunately gained on its own territory during the mid 1990s provided us with a unique and insightful perspective for resolving post-conflict situations around the globe. That is why Croatia is particularly honoured to have been elected a member of the newly established **Peace Building Commission**.



Prime Minister of the Republic of Croatia, Ivo Sanader at the 61st session of the General Assembly, September 2006





Croatia's knowledge in post-conflict management lies in the areas of: the return of displaced persons, confidence building, processing war crimes and economic reconstruction.

Having successfully evolved through the peace building spectrum, Croatia is now playing its part as a security provider with its contribution to eleven of eighteen United Nation's peacekeeping operations around the globe and our participation in peace support operations in Afghanistan. We are examining opportunities for increasing our participation in peacekeeping operations while at the same time we have been providing training to peacekeepers from emerging troop-contributor countries. Recently, Croatia contributed to E-Learning courses of the UN Program of Correspondence Instruction in Peacekeeping Operations (POCI) for African Peacekeepers (ELAP).

The Croatian Government is currently engaged in designing a comprehensive development strategy. This effort is in keeping



Delivering a Croatian donation to the "Aziz Afghan" school, September 2006

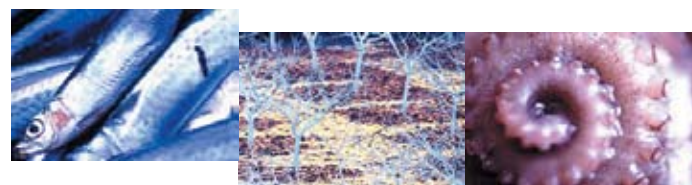
with our commitments to assist those nations less fortunate and takes into account the objectives of the European Commission and its Member States in the context of the UN. The Croatian government has committed itself to reaching the 0.17% **Official Development Aid** target by 2010, in line with those countries that have joined the EU since May 2004.

Croatia regularly contributes to UN programs and funds, and will continue to do so. During the past few years, Croatia has begun making **voluntary contributions** to select UN activities, programs and bodies, such as: the Peace Building Fund, the Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF), the Democracy Fund, the Children's Fund (UNICEF), the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, as well as the Trust Fund for African Development, to mention only a few.

As a country with an economy in transition and as a candidate country for EU and NATO membership, Croatia is undergoing significant, internal



Croatian soldier serving with the UN mission in Sierra Leone





structural change and external policy scrutiny. We seek to balance these often competing demands by including our obligations to the **Millennium Development Goals (MDGs)**, in the transition and EU accession processes. A National MDG Interim Progress Report was completed in 2006 and Croatia is considered to be a country well on its way to achieving its specified MDGs.

The protection of **human rights** in the Republic of Croatia is enshrined in the Constitution, as well as in major international treaties including: six UN human rights treaties and the key Council of Europe Convention - the European Convention on Human Rights. Croatia recently signed the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance, as well as the International Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Rights and Dignity of Persons with Disabilities. The established system of minority protection in the Republic of Croatia through the Constitutional Law on Human Rights and Freedoms and Rights of Ethnic and National Communities or Minorities, along with international instruments for the protection of human rights and minority rights the



implementation of which Croatia has committed to – offers the highest standards in minority rights. Apart from the guaranteed protection of basic human rights, it offers a legal framework for the realization of cultural autonomy of minorities for self-organizing and uniting with the aim of promoting minorities' national values, the right to take part in political life, territorial autonomy for those minorities whose members make up more than eight per cent of the total population of Croatia, financial support from the State Budget and funds from local government and other rights. Croatia actively participates in the work of the UN Committee for the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) through its independent expert who currently presides over the Committee. During the 2007-2009 period, Croatia serves on the Executive Board of UNICEF for the first time.



Minister of Foreign Affairs and European Integration Kolinda Grabar-Kitarović, during her visit to Afghanistan, April 2006

Croatia remains determined to continue supporting peace efforts and a strengthened role for the United Nations on a regional and global level. The crown jewel of all these activities, and the true measure of Croatia's international responsibility and credibility, would be for Croatia to succeed in its efforts as a **first time candidate for a non-permanent seat on the UN Security Council for the 2008-2009 term.**





Candidature for a non-permanent seat on the Security Council 2008-2009

Croatia is a **first time candidate** for the Security Council from the Eastern-European Group of countries for the period 2008-2009. Elections are scheduled to take place during the 62nd session of the United Nations General Assembly later in 2007. Croatia announced its candidacy on February 25, 1999.

Croatia's candidature is strongly founded in our successful national experience in **post-conflict management** and our desire to put that experience to use for the cause of international peace, security and development. In its 15 years as a member of the United Nations, the Republic of Croatia has continuously been increasing its activities within the UN, as well as in other multilateral fora. Croatia now stands ready to take the next step in additionally strengthening its global responsibilities as a non-permanent member of the Security Council.

If elected to the Security Council, Croatia will focus its efforts on the following:

- Strengthening the pivotal role of the UN in the **prevention of conflicts and the peaceful resolution of existing ones**. Croatia would particularly emphasize the mutual interdependence of economic and social development, combined with regional and global peace and security. This would ensure a continuity of Croatia's policy, dating back to our ECOSOC Presidency in 2002, in the strengthening of the working relationship between the two bodies.
- Thematic debates regarding the **most vulnerable elements of the population** in cases of conflict – Children and Armed Conflicts, Protection of Civilians in Armed

Conflicts, Women and Peace and Security, as well as Post-conflict Peace-building.

- Retaining and reinforcing the central role of the UN in the coordination of global efforts in the **suppression of international terrorism and the non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction**. Croatia considers terrorism and weapons of mass destruction to be the biggest threats to international peace and security. Croatia welcomes the recent adoption of the UN Global Strategy against Terrorism and hopes for the successful conclusion of negotiations on the Comprehensive Convention on Terrorism, in the very near future. Croatia supports the most urgent entry into force of the Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty (CTBT). Furthermore, as a member of the Board of Governors of the International Atomic Energy Agency, in its 2007 – 2008 mandate Croatia will advocate for absolute respect of international obligations regarding the non-proliferation of nuclear weapons.
- Croatia strongly advocates **the reform of the Security Council** and sees this as central to the overall reform of the Organization. Reforms should ensure a balanced regional distribution of seats which would more adequately reflect the world of today. Croatia considers it particularly important that the Council's work and efficiency of its decision-making process become more transparent. Furthermore, Croatia supports the more efficient coordination of work between the Security Council and other bodies within the UN system.





Croatia and the United Nations

The history of Croatia's membership in the United Nations (UN) although somewhat short, has been nonetheless intensive. It is worth noting that Croatia is one of the successors of the Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, a country that was among those that helped lay the foundation of the United Nations. Since its admission to the UN as independent state in 1992, Croatia has strived to play an active and constructive role in all aspects of the work of the United Nations – in not only the peace and security domain, but economic and social ones as well. Croatia supports a fundamental role for the UN in the promotion of international cooperation for development and the achievement of the development goals agreed to by the international community. Croatia acknowledges that peace and security, development and human rights are pillars of the United Nations system and the basis for our collective security and well-being. We recognize that development, peace, security and human rights are interdependent and mutually reinforcing.

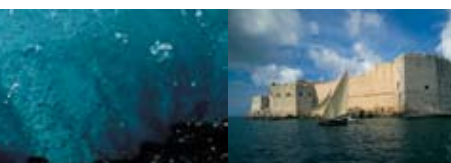
PEACE AND SECURITY

As a theatre of UN **peacekeeping activities** in the early 1990s, Croatia successfully overcame the challenges of that period and achieved peace, stability and the protection of human rights on its territory. Today, Croatia is sharing acquired knowledge, wherever needed, in the interests of international peace and security. Croatia currently **participates in eleven UN peacekeeping missions worldwide, as well as in peace support operations in Afghanistan**. In addition to providing training for officers and soldiers from prospective United Nations troop contributing countries, as well as contributing to the UN Program of Correspondence Instruction in Peacekeeping Operations (POCI) for courses on E-Learning for African Peacekeepers (ELAP), the Croatian government is considering a further expansion of our participation in other peacekeeping operations. Croatia stands determined to continue to support peace efforts and a strengthened UN role on a regional and global level. In this regard, Croatia was one of the first advocates for establishing **the UN Peace Building Commission** and became a member for the 2006-2007 term. Croatia is ready to share its experience, which it believes can benefit future Security Council deliberations on conflict management, conflict prevention and post-conflict peace-building.



President of the Republic of Croatia Stjepan Mesić at the 61st session of the General Assembly, September 2006

The fight against terrorism and transnational organized crime is among the greatest challenges facing the international community today. Croatia strongly condemns international terrorism in all its forms and manifestations. We believe that responsibility for world peace and security, respective rules and standards, must be globally accepted the United Nations must continue to play a pivotal role thus, we look forward to the





Former Secretary General Kofi Annan meets with the Minister of Foreign Affairs and European Integration Kolinda Grabar-Kitarović in New York, September 2006

adoption of a final Comprehensive Convention on International Terrorism, in the very near future. Croatia enjoys excellent cooperation with the **Security Council's Counterterrorism Committee** and its Executive Directorate. We also work continuously with the Terrorism Prevention Branch of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime.



Croatian flag in the Provincial Reconstruction Team (PRT) in Feyzabad, the province of Badakhshan, UN-mandated ISAF peace-support mission, Afghanistan

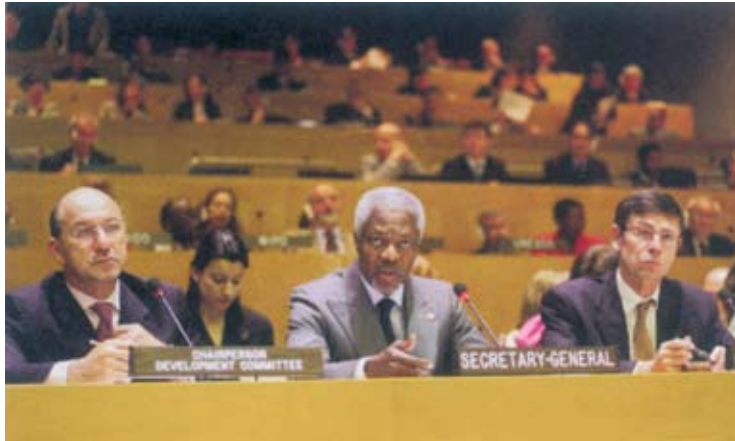
The Non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction,

as well as of strategically sensitive and dual use goods, technology, equipment and their means of delivery are among Croatia's top security policy priorities. Croatia considers efforts and activities aimed at preventing WMD proliferation crucial in the fight against contemporary security threats, particularly the threat of terrorism and the risk of non-state actors, terrorist groups or individuals acquiring weapons of mass destruction. The Republic of Croatia is a state party to and an active participant in all major international treaties and conventions related to the non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction. This includes: the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT); the Comprehensive Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT); the Convention of the Physical Protection of Nuclear Materials (CPPNM) as well as its amendments; the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on their Destruction (BTWC); the 1925 Geneva Protocol; the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production, Stockpiling and Use of Chemical Weapons and on their Destruction (CWC). As a State Party to the CWC, Croatia is an active member of the Organization for the Prevention of Chemical Weapons (OPCW).

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL ISSUES

Croatia was a member of the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) from 2000-2002. In **presiding over ECOSOC in 2002**, Croatia assumed an important role not only in ECOSOC, but as a key contributor to the strengthening of the role of the UN in general. Under the Croatian presidency, ECOSOC focused on furthering the implementation of UN Global Conferences and Summits, in particular the Millennium Summit (2000), the International Conference on Financing for Development (2002), and the World Summit on Sustainable Develop-





ECOSOC's 2002 spring meeting with the Bretton Woods institutions during the Croatian presidency over ECOSOC

ment (2002); the implementation of Millennium Development Goals with particular attention to the issue of human resources development, including health and education; as well as making progress in the area of peace building and conflict prevention where an **Ad Hoc Advisory Group for African Countries Emerging from Conflict** was established. This framework allowed for a comprehensive approach to the humanitarian and development needs of individual African countries allowing for the development of a long term program of support integrating relief, rehabilitation, reconstruction and development. Furthermore, Croatia's presidency priorities included: **strengthening cooperation with Bretton-Woods Institutions** when, for the first time, the World Trade Organization participated in a meeting of the Council with the aim of contributing to a deepening of the Monterrey Process; strengthening the Council's coordination function within the UN, as well as strengthening coordination among the main UN bodies. During Croatia's presidency over ECOSOC, the precedent of addressing the Security Council in the capacity of President of the Economic and Social Council was established. Mindful that peace and security are prerequisites for economic and social prosperity, Croatia initiated meetings between the Presidents of the General

Assembly, Security Council and ECOSOC. In light of this, Croatia is determined to remain engaged with and responsive to the global challenges of the 21st century.

MILLENNIUM DEVELOPMENT GOALS OFFICIAL DEVELOPMENT AID

In fulfilling the commitments made pursuant to the **Millennium Declaration**, Croatia has completed a **Millennium Development Goals National Interim Progress Report** in close collaboration with governmental and inter-agency bodies, as well as civil society groups. This strategy is in keeping with steps we needed to undertake on our EU accession path. Croatia is a country well on its way to achieving its specified Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).

Apart from our own national development targets based on MDGs, we have undertaken intense efforts on how to best assist developing countries in achieving MDG targets by 2015. To this end, a **Department for Development Aid** is in the process of being created within the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and European Integration. Until now, development assistance has mainly focused on countries in the region. However, Croatia has recently been extending



General Assembly Vice-President Mirjana Mladineo of Croatia presides over meeting, at UN Headquarters in New York, December 2006





Minister of Foreign Affairs and European Integration Kolinda Grabar-Kitarović meets with Massouda Jallal, Afghan Minister of Women Affairs, Kabul, April 2006

diplomatic training to diplomats from Iraq and Afghanistan through our Diplomatic Academy in Zagreb. In December 2006, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and European Integration of the Republic of Croatia hosted female representatives of the Ministry of Women's Affairs from Afghanistan for a one-week study visit to Croatia in order to acquaint them with Croatian achievements in the area of human rights, gender equality and the empowerment

of women. A similar visit was realized for female officials from Iraq in April of 2007.

Croatia recognizes that the current level of aid is not adequate enough to achieve the MDGs. That is why it is necessary to look at ways of increasing the effectiveness of existing aid, introducing innovative sources of financing, and adhering to the agreed timetable for progressively increasing flows. In this regard, we support the **Declaration on Innovative Sources of Financing for Development** and strongly welcome a development levy on airline tickets. Croatia recognizes the needs of Africa, and particularly Sub-Saharan Africa and the Least Developed and Landlocked Developing States, including the special vulnerabilities of Small Island Developing States. We are therefore pleased that the Outcome Document emphasizes their particular needs and circumstances.

REFORM OF THE UNITED NATIONS

Croatia welcomes the creation of the **Human Rights Council**, as well as the establishment of the **Peace Building Commission**, to which Croatia is proud to have been elected a Member-State. Croatia is a strong advocate of the **enlargement of the Security Council, improvement of its working methods and increased transparency of its work**. Croatia would like to see the enlargement of the Security Council in both permanent and non-permanent categories of membership, based on appropriate regional representation and in which the Eastern European Group would have two non-permanent seats. It is of utmost importance to ensure an appropriate number of representatives of developing countries of the South and better representation of small and medium sized countries. No less important is the need to improve UN management practices and working methods that would bring transparency and accountability to a higher level.

As a result, Croatia is following the **System**



Former Secretary General, Kofi Annan with Croatia's President Stjepan Mesić opening the monument in honour of the fallen members of the UN peace keeping mission in Croatia, November 2002





Wide Coherence processes very closely and with great interest. At the moment, Croatia is presiding over one of the five working groups for the reform of the Security Council.

PROMINENT ACTIVITIES

Since becoming a United Nations Member State in 1992, Croatia has held a number of prominent functions. Namely, Croatia has served as a member of several ECOSOC functional commissions: the Commission for Social Development (1999-2003), the Commission for Population and Development (1999-2002), the Commission on the Status of Women (2000-2004), the Commission on Human Rights (2002-2004), the Commission for Sustainable Development (2002-2005), and the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice (2003-2005). Currently, Croatia is a member of the Statistical Commission (2004-2007), the Commission on Narcotic Drugs (2004-2007) and the Commission on the Status of Women (2006-2009). Croatia is once again preparing to become a member of the Commission for Population and Development (2007-2011), as well as for the Commission on Sustainable Development (2008-2011). During the 37th session of the **Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women**, Croatia's representative was elected as Chair of the Committee, with a two-year mandate. This is the first time that a candidate from Croatia and the Eastern European Group has been elected as President of that Committee.

During the 2007-2009 period, Croatia is serving on the **UNICEF Executive Board** for the first time. Croatia looks forward to being more actively engaged in the work of this highly respected Agency. We are also pleased to be able to announce an increase in our voluntary contribution to UNICEF this year.

With respect to the implementation of the

non-proliferation aspect of the Non-Proliferation Treaty, Croatia's commitment and active role will intensify during our 2007-2008 membership term on the **Board of Governors of the IAEA**, to which Croatia was elected in September 2006. Croatia was one of the first member states to have signed and ratified the Model Additional Protocol, as well as the amendment to Article VI of the Statute. Croatia supports the Code of Conduct on the Safety and Security of Radioactive Sources, and the supplementary guidance on the import and export of radioactive sources. Since 2005, Croatia has been participating in informal, non-proliferation and arms control regimes: **the Wassenaar Arrangement (WA)**, **the Nuclear Suppliers Group (NSG)**, and **the Zangger Committee (ZC)**. Croatia is also active in the **Proliferation Security Initiative** and the **Australia Group**.

During 2005-2006, Croatia was member of the Bureau of the United Forum on Forests (UNFF). In December 2006, **following Croatia's initiative, 2011 was declared the International Year of Forests** with the adoption of resolution A/RES/61/193 by the UN General Assembly.



"Peace" of the Croatian contemporary sculptor Antun Augustinčić in front of the UN Headquarters, New York





Croatia in the UNESCO Heritage list of Cultural Sites

Five historic Croatian sites, of “universal outstanding value” appear on the UNESCO Heritage List of Cultural Sites.

Another twelve Croatian sites appear on the UNESCO tentative list. The city of Dubrovnik and the Diocletian Palace in Split secured their place on the UNESCO list in 1979, while the remaining three – the historic centre of the city of Trogir, the Cathedral of St. Jacob in Šibenik and the Euphrasian Basilica in Poreč, were added after Croatia attained independence in 1992.

The City of Dubrovnik

Dubrovnik is a city of exceptional history, as well as one of the most attractive and famous cities on the Mediterranean. The city walls of Dubrovnik’s Old Town encompass a complex of public and private, sacral and secular constructions from all periods of the city’s history, beginning from its very inception in the 7th century. The city walls are 25 m high, 6 m thick and include 36 forts, towers and fortresses. The Republic of Dubrovnik represented its own political and territorial entity. To walk through Dubrovnik today, to



The City of Dubrovnik

drink coffee on the Stradun (Plaza), to stroll along the old town walls is like visiting a live gallery of styles and periods.

Diocletian’s Palace in Split

Diocletian, the Roman Emperor, spent the final years of his life near Aspalathos (Split) in Dalmatia, where he was born. There, during the years 295 to 305, he constructed a luxurious and massive palace, the original architecture of which although altered over time, has



Diocletian’s Palace in Split

changed very little in its overall structure. The palace has a quadrangular ground-plan and occupies a surface of 38 500 m². This best preserved antique building in Croatia was built of stone from the Island of Brač. The palace displays the elements of an ancient villa and a fortified castle and comprises the nucleus of today’s Split. During the 5th and 6th centuries the palace became a dwelling object, while more than 2600 people lived there at the end of the 19th century. Today, its cellars have been transformed into exhibition areas, and the open squares of the monumental palace have become attractive summer stages for cultural





events. Walking through the historical core of today's Split, one can enjoy the sights of Diocletian's mausoleum, the Temple of Jupiter, the colonnade along the streets, the early Christian churches, the Romantic houses, the gates by Andrija Buvina and the architectural works of Juraj Dalmatinac.

Euphrasian Basilica, Poreč

The Euphrasian Basilica in Poreč is one of the best preserved monuments of early Byzantine art in the Mediterranean. The construction of the basilica began in the 6th century, during the time of Bishop Euphrasius. The Basilica is richly ornamented in Byzantine style mosaics which makes it one of the most significant monuments of mosaic art in Europe.



Euphrasian Basilica, Poreč

The city of Trogir

The old town of Trogir represents a culmination of stone-mason's art. The most significant edifice is represented in the Trogir Cathedral with its portal of the west gate, a masterpiece by Radovan, depicting scenes from the Gospel. This portal, originating in the 13th century, is only an element of virtuoso-chiseled sculptures and relief which transform the streets of this town into a monument of human Mastery.



The city of Trogir

St. Jacob's Cathedral, Šibenik

The Šibenik cathedral is the most significant architectonic monument of the Renaissance in Croatia. The construction of this church of lime stone and marble from the island of Brač began in 1431 and lasted until 1536. It was consecrated in 1555. The last phase of building was supervised by Masters Juraj Dalmatinac and later Nikola Firentinac who gave the cathedral its monumental appearance. The outside border of the church is decorated with 72 Renaissance portraits of the outstanding individuals of that period. The first-rate art of Dalmatian masters has been recognized with the inclusion of the Šibenik cathedral into the registry of the world monument heritage of UNESCO.



St. Jacob's Cathedral, Šibenik





Basic information:

Official name: Republic of Croatia
Official language: Croatian
Official script: Latin
Official currency: Kuna (kn)
Population: 4,437,460 (according to the 2001 census)
Women: 52 %; Men 48 %
Capital: Zagreb; 779,145 inhabitants (according to the 2001 census)
Number of inhabitants per km²: 78.5
Majority population: Croats
National minorities: Serbs, Bosnians, Slovenians, Hungarians, Czechs, Slovaks, Italians and others



Territorial structure:

The Republic of Croatia is divided into 21 counties including the City of Zagreb, 122 towns, 424 municipalities, and 6,767 settlements.

Political organisation:

The political system of Croatia is a parliamentary democracy. The President of the Republic is Stjepan Mesić. The Prime Minister is Ivo Sanader. The Speaker of Parliament is Vladimir Šeks.



Climate:

A continental climate prevails in the north of Croatia, a semi-highland and highland climate in central areas, and a Mediterranean climate in the Adriatic area. On average, Croatia has 260 days of sunshine per year.

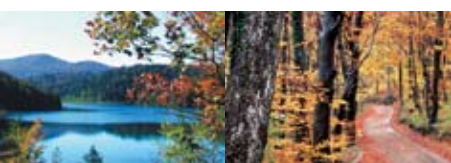
Geographic data:

Total surface area: 87,609 km²
Land surface area: 56,542 km²
Territorial sea area: 31,067 km²
Total economic area: 113,680 km²
Total length of coast: 5,835 km
Length of mainland coast: 1,777 km
Length of island coast: 4,058 km

Total number of islands: 1,185
Number of inhabited islands: 47

Religion:

Predominantly Roman Catholic; other religious communities include the Orthodox, Muslim, Jewish, Protestant and other communities.





Government

Croatian Parliament

Address: Trg svetog Marka 6,
Phone: +385-1-4569-222, +385-1-6303-222,
Fax: +385-1-6303-018,
E-mail: sabor@sabor.hr,
Web: www.sabor.hr

Croatian President

Address: Pantovčak 241,
Phone: +385-1-4565-135,
Fax: +385-1-4565-299,
Web: www.president.hr

Government of the Republic of Croatia

Address: Trg svetog Marka 2,
Phone: +385-1-4569-222,
Fax: +385-1-6303-022,
E-mail: office@vlada.hr,
Web: www.vlada.hr

Ministries

Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Maritime Affairs

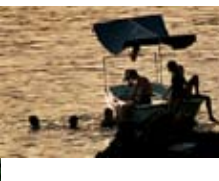
Address: Vukovarska 78,
Phone: +385-1-6106-111,
Fax: +385-1-6109-201,
E-mail: office@mps.hr,
Web: www.mps.hr

Ministry of Culture

Address: Runjaninova ulica 2,
Phone: +385-1-4866-666,
Fax: +385-1-4610-489, +385-1-4610-480,
E-mail: web@min-kulture.hr,
Web: www.min-kulture.hr

Ministry of Defence

Address: Trg kralja P. Krešimira 1,
Phone: +385-1-4567-111, +385-1-4567-412,
Fax: +385-1-4567-963,
E-mail: infor@morh.hr,
Web: www.morh.hr





Ministry of Environmental Protection, Physical Planning and Construction

Address: Ulica Republike Austrije 20,
Phone: +385-1-3782-444,
Fax: +385-1-3772-822,
Web: www.mzopu.hr

Ministry of Finance

Address: Katančičeva 5,
Phone: +385-1-4591-333,
Fax: +385-1-4922-583,
Web: www.mfin.hr

Ministry of Foreign Affairs and European Integration

Address: Trg N. Š. Zrinskog 7-8,
Phone: +385-1-4569-964, +385-1-4599-222,
Fax: +385-1-4551-795, +385-1-4920-149,
Web: www.mfa.hr

Ministry of Health and Social Welfare

Address: Ksaver 200A,
Phone: +385-1-4607-555, +385-1-4677-005,
+385-1-4677-100, +385-1-4677-093,
Fax: +385-1-4677-091

Ministry of Interior Affairs

Address: Savska 39,
Phone: +385-1-6122-111,
Fax: +385-1-6122-771,
E-mail: pitanja@mup.hr,
Web: www.mup.hr

Ministry of Justice

Address: Dežmanov prolaz 6, 10,
Phone: +385-1-3710-666, +385-1-3782-111,
Fax: +385-1-3710-602,
Web: www.pravosudje.hr

Ministry of Science, Education and Sport

Address: Trg hrvatskih velikana 6,
Phone: +385-1-4569-000,
Fax: +385-1-4569-097,
Web: www.mzos.hr



Ministry of the Economy, Labour and Entrepreneurship

Address: Vukovarska 78,
Phone: +385-1-6106-111,
Fax: +385-1-6109-110,
E-mail: info@mingo.hr,
Web: www.mingo.hr

Ministry of the Family, Veterans' Affairs and Intergenerational Solidarity

Address: Park Stara Trešnjevka 4,
Phone: +385-1-3657-800,
Fax: +385-1-3657-852,
E-mail: mobms@mobms.hr,
Web: www.mobms.hr

Ministry of the Sea, Tourism, Transport and Development

Address: Prisavlje 14,
Phone: +385-1-6169-150, +385-1-6169-111,
+385-1-6169-100,
Fax: +385-1-6196-519,
Web: www.mppv.hr





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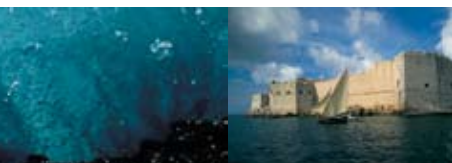
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СРОАСІА

СРОАТІА

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ХОРВАТІЯ

СРОАТІЕ



HRVATSKA

克罗地亚