Republic of Croatia
Ministry of Foreign Affairs
and European Integration

Yearbook 2010
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Dear readers,

In presenting the sixth Yearbook of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and European Integration, allow me first of all to emphasize that we can look back at the achievements of the Croatian diplomacy in 2010 with great satisfaction. In addition to numerous activities in NATO, such as participating in peacekeeping missions and contributing to the drafting of the New Strategic Concept, the Republic of Croatia has continued to strengthen its visibility in other international and regional organisations, enhancing relations with partner countries and encouraging different forms of cooperation with numerous countries around the world.

Of course, Croatia’s strategic priority has been focused on further progress towards achieving the goal of EU membership. And this progress has indeed been significant. During the year, six Intergovernmental Conferences were held, the largest number of meetings since the negotiations opened, and by the end of 2010, all 35 negotiating chapters had been opened and 28 were provisionally closed. Such momentum in the EU accession negotiations is the result of the continuous commitment to implement key reforms, the implications of which go beyond the framework of the negotiation process, benefiting the Croatian citizens above all. This is also evidenced by the fact that the European integration process, besides public administrative bodies, increasingly includes the participation of business associations, regional and local communities, and various non-governmental organisations. It is worth mentioning that the selection procedure enabling Croatian citizens to work in EU institutions has also taken place.

After the EU approved the financial package of EUR 3.5 billion in late 2009, intended for the first two years of Croatian membership, we have focused on strengthening our administrative capacities in order to use the available funds in the most efficient manner. We have also continued with the implementation of information and training programmes about the European Union, thus introducing the topic to a large number of citizens throughout Croatia.

The process of European integration has also been an important segment of cooperation with the countries of South East Europe. The Republic of Croatia has provided assistance by transferring its knowledge and experience and through concrete material aid, for instance, the donation of its translation of the EU acquis.

Cooperation with South East Europe has been increasingly intensive and diverse. Bilateral and multilateral contacts are frequent and committed to the improvement of relations, which also implies the resolution of outstanding issues as fundamental prerequisites for the process of reconciliation in South East Europe. Along with strengthening cooperation in justice, home affairs, defence, transport and energy, the focus has been placed on deepening economic cooperation.

Aware of the fact that the stability of the region is important for our own stability, as a NATO country we have been advocating and promoting membership in the Alliance among the countries of South East Europe. Croatia also transfers the NATO values to the countries of the region, being particularly active in that respect during its presidency over the US-Adriatic Charter in the first half of 2010.

Due to its role in South East Europe and globally, Croatia has distinguished itself in the international arena as a country that advocates peace and security, the political and diplomatic resolution of conflicts and crises, as well as the values of respect for human rights, democracy and the rule of law. It is precisely in this light that Croatia’s candidacy for new membership in the UN Peacebuild-
ing Commission in the period 2012–2013 and in the Economic and Social Council of the UN for the period 2013–2015 should be viewed. We are convinced that these candidacies are justified, considering our experience gathered through participation in numerous peacekeeping missions. In 2010, Croatia took part in 14 missions, with the most significant contribution given to the ISAF mission in Afghanistan. In this context, it is worth pointing out that international development assistance is becoming an increasingly important element of our foreign policy.

Economic diplomacy is taking an increasingly more prominent position in the overall foreign policy activities of the Republic of Croatia. Accordingly, in bilateral contacts with countries around the world, we have promoted the development of economic cooperation and the advantages of our country as an investment and tourism destination. The increase in exports of Croatian products, growing interest of foreign investors for investment projects in Croatia, and the fact that the Republic of Croatia was the most attractive tourism destination in the Mediterranean in 2010, indicate the success of such a comprehensive approach. This was further enhanced by the decision to send the first group of commercial attachés to diplomatic and consular missions of Croatia in the countries with the greatest potential for intensifying economic cooperation.

Finally, it should be noted that in the past year, the Croatian foreign policy continued to devote special attention to Croats outside of Croatia: Croats in Bosnia and Herzegovina as one of the three constituent peoples, Croatian minorities and emigrants. This is evidenced by the preparation of a relevant Strategy, pursuant to which the related law and implementing regulations will be adopted, thereby setting up a sound framework for the ongoing development of ties between the homeland and all Croats living outside the Republic of Croatia.

In 2011, we wish to successfully complete the EU accession negotiations and to sign the Accession Agreement. At the same time, we will continue all foreign policy activities in order to protect our national interests. We also want to further strengthen the political and economic position of Croatia on the international scene, thus ensuring a prosperous future for all our citizens.
European Integration Process

In 2010, Croatia took a major step forward in fulfilling the required criteria in the negotiations for its full membership in the European Union, thus bringing its European integration process into the final stage.

Negotiations open in all chapters, and provisionally closed in 28 chapters

The Council of the European Union was chaired by the Kingdom of Spain in the first half of 2010, and by the Kingdom of Belgium in the second half of the year. Both countries, together with the European Commission and other European institutions, encouraged Croatia's integration process. Throughout the year, Croatia continued working intensively towards fulfilling the remaining obligations from accession negotiations, opening and closing chapters, meeting political criteria and fulfilling other obligations from the accession process.

**Negotiations were opened in six chapters:** 8 - Competition Policy, 13 - Fisheries, 23 - Judiciary and Fundamental Rights, 27 - Environment, 31 - Foreign, Security and Defence Policy and 34 - Institutions. **Eleven chapters were provisionally closed:** 1 - Free Movement of Goods, 4 - Free Movement of Capital, 5 - Public Procurement, 12 - Food Safety, Veterinary and Phytosanitary Policy, 14 - Transport Policy, 16 - Taxation, 24 - Justice, Freedom and Security, 27 - Environment, 31 - Foreign, Security and Defence Policy, 32 - Financial Control and 34 - Institutions. By the end of 2010, Croatia had opened 34 negotiation chapters, and 28 were provisionally closed. These statistics indicate the increased dynamics of the integration process, which allowed for the opening of negotiations in all chapters and entering the final, and most demanding, stage in the negotiation process.

In late December, Croatia submitted 99 of 127 benchmarks (23 benchmarks set for the opening of eleven chapters and 76 benchmarks set for the closing of 25 chapters) to the European Union for verification. The remaining chapters, with benchmarks set for closing, involved their fulfilment and creating conditions for their provisional closure. The fulfilment of all benchmarks, including the most demanding ones, is additional confirmation of Croatia's commitment to full and effective implementation of reforms prior to its accession to the European Union.

Earlier this year, the Government appointed a working group for drafting the Treaty on Croatia's accession to the EU. This means that the initial preparations have begun for drawing up the Croa-

**OVERVIEW OF INTERGOVERNMENTAL CONFERENCES ON CROATIA’S ACCESSION TO THE EU**

- **19 February, Brussels** - Intergovernmental Conference at the level of deputy heads of the delegation: Chapters 13 - Fisheries and 27 - Environment opened
- **19 April, Brussels** - Intergovernmental Conference at the level of deputy heads of the delegation: Chapter 1 - Free Movement of Goods provisionally closed
- **30 June, Brussels** - Intergovernmental Conference at the ministerial level: negotiations in Chapters 5 - Public Procurement and 16 - Taxation provisionally closed; Chapters 8 - Market Competition, 23 - Judiciary and Fundamental Rights and 31 - Foreign, Security and Defence Policy opened
- **27 July, Brussels** - Intergovernmental Conference at the level of deputy heads of the delegation: negotiations in Chapters 12 - Food Safety, Veterinary and Phytosanitary Policy and 32 - Financial Control provisionally closed
- **5 November, Brussels** - Intergovernmental Conference at the level of deputy heads of the delegation: negotiations in Chapters 4 - Free Movement of Capital, 14 - Transport Policy provisionally closed; negotiations in Chapter 34 - Institutions opened
- **22 December, Brussels** - Intergovernmental Conference at the ministerial level: negotiations in Chapters 24 - Justice, Freedom and Security, 27 - Environment and 31 - Foreign, Security and Defence Policy provisionally closed
tian accession treaty. During the year, technical adaptation of the EU *acquis* has continued. During the Spanish Presidency of the European Union in the first half of the year, an initial boost was obtained in both processes; during the Belgian Presidency, further progress was made, following the general dynamics of the negotiations.

In November, Croatia welcomed the regular European Commission report on Croatia’s progress in 2010, highlighting the efforts put into all aspects of negotiations, and stating that progress has been made in all chapters, including the most challenging ones. In December, the General Affairs Council of the EU adopted the Enlargement Strategy and Progress Report on Croatia for 2010, and confirmed that the end of talks on Croatia’s accession to the EU is within reach.

In February and July, Croatia submitted reports to the European Commission, in the form of monitoring forms, on its progress in fulfilling the obligations from provisionally closed chapters. The ratings by the European Commission confirmed that Croatia has been consistent in fulfilling all obligations, and has consequently made progress in all provisionally closed chapters. This reinforced the credibility of Croatia and its readiness for full membership in the European Union.

**Adoption of 30 acts, 181 subordinate acts and 54 implementing measures**

Within the framework of the EU accession process, the Republic of Croatia fulfilled the majority of its obligations related to alignment of the national legislation with the EU *acquis*. However, as the legislation of the EU is constantly developing, Croatia will be obliged to harmonise its legislation with the *acquis* even after accession.

In cooperation with other state administration bodies, the Ministry coordinated the drafting of the *Programme of the Government of the Republic of Croatia for the Adoption and Implementation of the EU acquis for 2010*, adopted by the Government on 7 January. This document is similar to previous national programmes for the integration of the Republic of Croatia into the European Union. The changes in the concept of the document were introduced in order to prepare Croatia for its functioning as a full EU member. The Programme stipulates the adoption of an act on the implementation of the new EU *acquis*. Based on recommendations by the European Commission and through active monitoring of the development of the *acquis* by competent government authorities, Croatia amends its legislation simultaneously with the European Union Member States. In line with this, **30 laws, 181 pieces of subordinate legislation and 54 implementing measures were adopted in 2010.**

In order to monitor the progress of all remaining obligations under the negotiation process, on 7 January the Croatian Government adopted a *plan of legislative activities for the completion of Croatia’s accession negotiations with the EU for 2010*. The plan, ratified by the Croatian Parliament on 26 February, envisages the adoption of 17 acts that are a prerequisite for closing the remaining chapters. In 2010, the Croatian Government submitted all the planned legislative proposals to the Croatian Parliament.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs and European Integration is responsible for monitoring the implementation of the Croatian Government Programme for the Adoption and Implementation of the EU *acquis* and of the Plan of legislative activities for the completion of Croatia’s accession negotiations with the EU. The status of implementation for acts and subordinate acts was discussed on a weekly basis as the first item on the agenda of all working bodies of the Government.

The Ministry is the national coordinator for the implementation of the Technical Assistance and Information Exchange instrument of the European Commission (TAIEX). In 2010, Croatia was again provided with technical assistance through TAIEX, in line with the priorities identified through the commitments made in the negotiation process. The cooperation with TAIEX will continue to be available for Croatia three years after its accession to the EU. In addition to state ad-
ministrative bodies, TAIEX is also used by regulatory agencies, NGOs, the Croatian Chamber of Economy and other institutions in Croatia.

**Croatian – a future official language of the European Union**

Upon Croatia’s accession to the European Union, Croatian will become one of the official languages, and the Croatian version of the *acquis* will become an authentic and official text of EU legal regulations, in accordance with the principle of multilingualism. This was confirmed in the *European Union’s Common Position on Chapter 34 – Institutions* (6 October), which officially stated for the first time that «the EU considers that with the Croatian accession to the EU, the Croatian language should be recognised as the original language of the Treaties, that the acts adopted by the institutions should be drafted in Croatian and should be authentic under the same conditions as the texts drawn up in the current official languages. The EU therefore considers that Article 55 of the Treaty on European Union, Article 225 of the Treaty establishing the European Atomic Energy Community, and Council Regulation No. 1 of 15 April 1958, defining the languages to be used by the European Economic Community and the European Atomic Energy Community, should be amended accordingly.»

The Ministry’s Independent Service for Translation in the field of European Integration has gradually developed into the central Croatian unit for translation and coordination of translation of Croatian legal regulations and documents relevant to the EU accession negotiations into English. As the negotiations require fast, high-quality translations of legal and strategic documents in order to provide the European Commission with an insight into the level of alignment of Croatian and EU legal systems, and into the fulfilment of benchmarks set for the opening or closing of respective chapters, the Service also deals with linguistic editing of the translated documents, and, if necessary, coordinates their legal editing and proofreading.

For the purpose of the negotiating process, approximately 10,000 pages of Croatian legislation, negotiating positions, benchmarks, action plans, and strategies were translated into English in the course of 2010, with about 2,000 pages proofread by native speakers. Since 2008, draft versions of English translations of the Croatian legislation have been published on the Ministry’s website (www.mvepe.hr/zakoni/). The website already contains some 700 translated acts and pieces of subordinate legislation.

The knowledge and experience of the Independent Translation Service have been recognised in the neighbouring countries. Cooperation with Albania has continued on these grounds and, in 2010, the main topic of cooperation was the development of a methodology for translation quality assurance and the design of an on-line EU terminology database. At the regional conference entitled «Let’s Talk European», held in Belgrade in May 2010, countries from the region had an opportunity to exchange relevant experiences. By supporting the efforts of South East European countries in the EU accession process, Croatia presented the unofficial Croatian translation of the EU *acquis* to all interested countries of SE Europe at a regional conference held in Brdo near Kranj in March.
Implementation of the Stabilisation and Association Agreement

Croatia continued to implement the Stabilisation and Association Agreement within the framework of the defined mechanisms. At the meetings of bodies established by the Agreement (Councils, Committees and their subcommittees), positions were exchanged regarding the achievements of the Republic of Croatia in meeting all the obligations assumed under the accession talks and the Stabilisation and Association Agreement. European partners were informed about all the activities Croatia is implementing, with the aim of fulfilling political and economic criteria, and activities related to the legal harmonisation with the EU acquis and obligations ensuing from the related accession negotiations and the Stabilisation and Association Agreement.

As part of the implementation of the Stabilisation and Association Agreement, cooperation with all Stabilisation and Association Process countries in the region continued throughout 2010. Relations were based on the current bilateral protocols on cooperation in the field of European integration. In accordance with the priorities from the National Strategy for Development Cooperation of the Republic of Croatia for the period 2009–2014, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and European Integration and the United Nations Development Programme in Croatia jointly launched a series of seminars to transfer Croatian know-how on the Stabilisation and Association Process and EU accession negotiations to civil servants from other South East European countries.

Meeting Political Criteria

The meetings of the Council, Committee and sub-committees founded on the basis of the Stabilisation and Association Agreement included an exchange of positions on Croatia’s achievements in meeting the obligations ensuing from the Agreement and EU accession negotiations. The European Union acknowledged Croatia’s progress in 2010, a fact noted in the European Commission Annual Progress Report. Fulfilment of political criteria in the EU accession process was marked by intense activities.

Croatia continued with its judicial reform. In 2010, the Constitution and other relevant legislation were amended, thus ensuring judicial independence. A new version of the Judicial Reform Strategy for the period 2011–2015, including annual action plans, was adopted. Transparent and objective criteria for the appointment and promotion of judges and prosecutors were introduced. The system of training for judicial officials through the State School for Judicial Officials was improved. The system of distress has been changed, many acts of procedures improved and the administrative court system reformed in order to reduce case backlog. The court network has been reduced by some 40 percent, and the network of municipal state attorney’s offices by 24 percent. A series of digitalisation projects was launched in order to improve the efficiency of the judiciary. One of the most extensive among these is the «Single infor-

OVERVIEW OF THE STABILISATION AND ASSOCIATION COUNCIL AND COMMITTEE MEETINGS

23 March, Brussels – Minister Gordan Jandroković led the Croatian delegation at the sixth meeting of the EU–Croatia Stabilisation and Association Council

8 December, Zagreb – The sixth meeting of the EU–Croatia Stabilisation and Association Committee was chaired by State Secretary for European Integration Andrej Plenković

Prime Minister Jadranka Kosor met in Zagreb with Belgian Prime Minister Yves Leterme on the eve of the Belgian presidency of the European Union (source: Government of the Republic of Croatia)
mation system to support court file management», with files being randomly assigned to judges by a computer. This system has been introduced in almost all courts. In order to ensure access to justice for all citizens, regardless of their financial status, a modern and efficient system of free legal aid has been introduced, and is regularly evaluated and adjusted.

**Combating corruption** at all levels was an absolute priority and a large number of cases were prosecuted. Systematic efforts have been invested to enhance prevention measures, including the adoption of relevant acts for combating corruption. Operational capacities of the Office for the Prevention of Corruption and Organised Crime have been strengthened and inter-agency cooperation improved. In the area of prevention of organised crime, good regional cooperation has been established, and has shown satisfying results in practice.

The Republic of Croatia is committed to full cooperation with the International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia and fulfils assistance requests made by the Office of the Prosecutor and the Trial Chambers. The Task Force continued with its intensive activities, with regular and detailed reports submitted by Croatia to the Tribunal in The Hague.

In the prosecution of war crimes, the Republic of Croatia has strictly adhered to the relevant European and international standards, ensuring that war crimes are tried in an unbiased and professional manner and reviewing all cases where verdicts were rendered in absentia.

Throughout the year, the state administration reform has been systematically implemented, human resources developed and professional training of civil servants held at all levels. Particular attention was paid to transparency and integrity in the civil service, to attracting and retaining a sufficient number of civil servants and to the development of their skills. The focus was on the transfer of authority from central to lower levels and to bodies outside the administrative system, and the reorganization of public agencies.

The protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms remained in the focus of attention. The Republic of Croatia has been continuously improving its legal framework for preventing and combating discrimination, and has been working on efficient implementation of existing legislation. All forms of discrimination have been punished and vulnerable groups protected (children, women, persons with disabilities, members of ethnic and religious minorities, sexual and gender minorities, citizens whose rights are violated on the basis of race, age, political views, financial or educational status, etc.).

Special attention has been given to employment and strengthening representation of national minorities at the national, local and regional levels. There is continuous work on the integration of the Roma minority, with significant results achieved in education, health and legalization of Roma settlements.

The Republic of Croatia has continued to deal with the return of refugees, by achieving objectives set in the area of housing for former tenancy rights holders and creating conditions for their permanent return. In late November, the Croatian and Serbian presidents, Ivo Josipović and Boris Tadić, reached an agreement on the final resolution of the refugee issue, regarding it as a humanitarian issue, and on the preparation of an international donor conference.

The Republic of Croatia has remained committed to cooperation in the region as a key instrument of stability and prosperity of all countries in the region. By developing various types and forms of regional cooperation, democratic processes are strengthened, economies developed and Euro-Atlantic standards accepted in all countries of the region for the common good.

**Croatia to be represented by 12 MEPs at the European Parliament**

The European Parliament has continued to provide support to the Republic of Croatia on its path toward full membership in the European Union. In 2010, two meetings of the Joint Parliamentary Committee, composed of members of the Croatian Parliament and of the European Parliament were held. The first meeting took place in Zagreb in late March, and the second in Brussels at the
end of November. At these meetings, Croatia’s progress in the EU accession negotiations was welcomed. Expressing hope that the negotiations would be concluded in 2011, the representatives also welcomed the adoption of constitutional changes pertaining to the future of Croatian membership in the European Union, a clear sign of support to the rapid completion of negotiations. The progress in implementing reforms in the areas of the judiciary, public administration and combating corruption was praised, and Croatia has been encouraged to further fulfil the political criteria for EU membership.

In February, the European Parliament adopted the Resolution on the Progress Report of the Republic of Croatia in 2009, the year which saw continued progress in almost all areas, with precise identification of the areas where extra efforts need to be taken.

In the negotiation chapter 34 - Institutions, closed in November, it was defined that Croatia would be represented by 12 members of the European Parliament following accession.

Joint Committees for Cooperation with EU bodies

In 2010, a Joint Consultative Committee with Croatia at the Committee of the Regions of the European Union was established as a higher form of institutional cooperation, with the participation of an equal number of Croatian and European representatives. In this way, the existing cooperation between the Committee of the Regions and Croatian partners has been strengthened and the preparation of Croatian local and regional authorities for full EU membership has been stepped up. The first meeting of the new Bureau of the EU Committee of the Regions (CoR), and the operationalisation of the Joint Consultative Committee with Croatia was held during the CoR session in February. On that occasion, Linda Gillham was appointed chair of the CoR delegation for Croatia in the Joint Consultative Committee. In March and April, all members of the Joint Consultative Committee were appointed. The Committee is composed of the delegations of the CoR and Croatian representatives (11 members and 11 deputy members in each delegation).

The inaugural meeting of the Joint Consultative Committee was held in Dubrovnik on 15 June, at the invitation of Mayor Andro Vlahušić. In the negotiation Chapter 34 – Institutions, it was agreed that the Committee of the Regions would have nine Croatian representatives in the future.

The first plenary session of the European Economic and Social Committee in the new five-year term, which should see its reinforced role in accordance with the Treaty of Lisbon, was held in Brussels in October. A new presidency was elected and the composition of working bodies and joint consultative committees changed. A meeting of the EU-Croatia Joint Consultative Committee at the European Economic and Social Committee took place in Brussels in April. Discussed topics included economic and social rights, transport policy and the state of EU accession negotiations.

Croatia – a member of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Union for the Mediterranean

The Israeli-Palestinian conflict and the Middle East Peace Process had a direct impact on the intensity of activities of the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership – Union for the Mediterranean. Despite the sensitive political context, progress was made in 2010 regarding the institutionalisation
of the Union for the Mediterranean in line with the goals outlined by the Paris Declaration, i.e. the Secretariat based in Barcelona was inaugurated and its EUR 6.2 million budget for 2010 was adopted. Member states invested efforts into enabling the Secretariat to work at full capacity.

As an EU candidate and partner country of the Union for the Mediterranean, the Republic of Croatia actively participated in dialogue on the political, institutional and technical level of this EU Partnership. A series of activities was organised with the aim of increasing the Partnership’s visibility at home.

Through participation in the working group for drafting the Secretariat’s Statute, Croatian representatives actively advocated the implementation of conclusions adopted at the Paris Summit for the Mediterranean, and the implementation of the Joint Declaration of ministers of foreign affairs adopted in Marseille. After the adoption of the Secretariat’s Statute, appointment of its Secretary General and inauguration of its seat in Barcelona in March, the Republic of Croatia secured financial means for the Secretariat’s budget and resources for seconding national experts or diplomats to the Secretariat in the future.

Croatian representatives actively participated in all four ministerial-level conferences of the Union for the Mediterranean in 2010: the ministerial assembly on water and ministerial conference on tourism (both held in Barcelona in April), meeting of transport ministers and the conference of ministers for labour and employment (held in Brussels in November).

At the inaugural meeting of the Euro-Mediterranean Local and Regional Assembly in January, Croatia became a member of the Assembly’s Bureau, along with members from five other states. Croatia appointed Istrian County Prefect Ivan Jakovčić to the bureau as its representative. In March, during the plenary meeting in Jordan, Croatia also became a member of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Union for the Mediterranean.

The civil society in Croatia exhibits great interest for cooperation within the framework of the Anna Lindh Euro-Mediterranean Foundation for Dialogue between Cultures. The Croatian Anna Lindh Network, coordinated by the National Foundation for Civil Society Development, comprises 86 civil society organisations and is considered one of the fastest growing new national networks within the Anna Lindh Euro-Mediterranean Foundation. The Croatian Anna Lindh Network, in cooperation with national networks of Cyprus, Montenegro, Bulgaria, Greece and Lebanon, put on a photo exhibition in Zagreb titled «The Faces of the Mediterranean», which was also hosted by ten other Croatian cities by the end of the year. The Croatian non-governmental organisation Ekumenika ženska inicijativa (Ecumenical Women’s Initiative) received financial support for the project «Women’s Pathways to Peace», awarded via an annual call for proposals of the Anna Lindh Euro-Mediterranean Foundation. The project advocates peace building from a Christian and Muslim perspective.

In October, Croatia hosted a meeting between the Committee of Senior Officials of the Union for the Mediterranean and the Board of Governors of the Anna Lindh Euro-Mediterranean Foundation in Dubrovnik. A round table entitled «Croatia and the Union for the Mediterranean» was organised on the sidelines of the meeting, accompanied by the photo exhibition «Faces of the Mediterranean», organised in cooperation with the National Foundation for Civil Society Development and the European House in Dubrovnik. In his introductory address before more than 50 participants in the meeting, the State Secretary for European Integration Andrej Plenković presented Croatia’s priorities related to environmental protection, maritime transport, development of small and medium enterprises and tourism.
In December, the Ministry hosted a Theme day on the Union for the Mediterranean. The event was organised in cooperation with the International Organization of La Francophonie and the Alliance Française Zagreb, with the round table topic on the Union for the Mediterranean and Croatia’s role in the cooperation process in the Mediterranean region.

Pre-accession assistance – an important element of the European integration process

In the past 15 years, the European Union has allocated EUR 1.3 billion to projects in Croatia, financed through various assistance programmes. In the OBNOVA programme, most of the EUR 60 million made available was used to finance reconstruction projects in war-torn areas. CARDS 2001–2004 aimed at strengthening administrative capacities, with available funds totaling EUR 260 million. Both programmes were accessible to countries with no candidate status for EU membership.

Having obtained candidate state status on 18 June 2004, Croatia gained access to the first generation of pre-accession funds: PHARE, ISPA and SAPARD amounting to EUR 252 million for the period between 2005 and 2006. The PHARE programme was directed at the country’s capacity-building for membership in the EU, ISPA financed environmental and transfer infrastructure projects, and SAPARD was used to improve the country’s farming and agri-food products. The implementation of the first generation pre-accession programmes has mostly been completed. All payments for CARDS 2003, PHARE 2005 and SAPARD, contracted in previous report periods, have been made.

In a new EU financial perspective for 2007–2013, Croatia is eligible for a new pre-accession programme – IPA. The five components of IPA – Component I Transition Assistance and Institution Building, Component II Cross-Border Cooperation, Component III Regional Development, Component IV Human Resources Development, and Component V Rural Development – provide continued funding for projects in areas also covered by the first generation pre-accession programmes. Opening at the same time are new areas of human resources management and regional competitiveness, aimed at enhancing capacities for the future use of structural instruments. Management rights for IPA funds were conferred to Croatia during 2008 for components I-IV, and in 2009 for component V. Once the management rights were obtained, tenders and funding contracts have been initiated. Total funds available for Croatian projects in the IPA programme for the period from 2007 to 2011 amount to EUR 749.8 million.

From February 2006 to 31 December 2010, a total of EUR 392.74 million was requested for programmes funded by the European Commission and EUR 365.3 million was transferred. The difference in the amount of requested and transferred funds arose due to internal EC procedures which take three to four months for the transfer of funds to the National Fund.

Participation in eighteen EU Programmes

Croatian institutions are involved in the utilisation of EU Programmes. After the entry into force of the Lisbon Treaty, the former title Community Programmes has been replaced by the title EU Programmes (except in cases where the term Community constitutes a part of the programme name). Croatia is obliged to pay membership fees, which are financed within the framework of the IPA programme (previously through the PHARE programme) and partly from national funds. Participation in EU Programmes facilitates direct connections between institutions of the Republic of Croatia and those of Member States on specific projects, access is provided to additional funds allocated for the implementation of each programme, and non-refundable resources and financial incentives are available for individual programmes.
Membership fees are co-financed from the IPA component I, where the total of the co-financed amount for EU Programmes cannot exceed 10% of the annual allocation (whereby research and development programmes are not included in the 10%), and cannot exceed 90% of the contribution value for a specific programme.

A total of EUR 4.6 million was allocated from IPA I 2007 for membership fees in 2008 and 2009, of which EUR 4.27 million were transferred. A total of EUR 5.57 million was allocated from IPA I 2008 for membership fees in 2009 and 2010, of which EUR 5.19 million were transferred. A total of EUR 5.3 million was allocated in IPA I 2009 for membership fees. EUR 4.96 million were transferred by 31 December 2010.

Memoranda of Understanding were signed for participation in the following EU Programmes, for which membership fees are financed from IPA I 2007, IPA I 2008 and IPA I 2009:

1. Seventh Framework Programme of the European Union for Research, Technological Development and Demonstration Activities
2. Customs 2013
3. Fiscalis 2013
4. Community Programme for Employment and Social Solidarity (PROGRESS)
6. Europe for Citizens
7. Entrepreneurship and Innovation Programme (EIP)
8. Intelligent Energy Europe (IEE)
9. Information and Communication Technologies Policy Support Programme (ICT PSP)
10. Second Programme of Community Action in the Field of Health 2008–2013
11. Marco Polo II
12. Civil Protection Financial Instrument and Community Mechanism for Civil Protection
14. IDABC
15. EU Agency for Fundamental Rights
16. Lifelong Learning Programme
17. Youth in Action
18. Interoperability Solutions for European Public Administration

Preparation for the use of Structural Funds

Activities in the past period involved defining a national framework for the use of European funds, preparing operational programmes, preparing project applications and continuing with training of staff. In October 2010, the Government of the Republic of Croatia adopted a Decision on strategic documents and institutional framework for the use of European Union structural instruments in the Republic of Croatia. The decision identifies the EU structural instruments to be used by the Republic of Croatia, strategic documents for the use of structural instruments, bodies authorised for coordination, certification of payments and external audit, and bodies authorised for preparation, management and implementation of individual strategic documents.

The Republic of Croatia will be using funds from the European Regional Development Fund, European Social Fund and the Cohesion Fund. Strategic documents for the use of EU structural instruments include the National Strategic Reference Framework and operational programmes.

The final draft of the National Strategic Reference Framework was agreed with the European Commission, followed by the preparation of second draft operational programmes which identify investment priorities. These activities will be continued in 2011. National projects have been estab-
lished for the transport, environmental protection and water sectors, and project applications are underway. It is very important to prepare high quality projects as soon as possible in order to commence tender procedures and ensure timely absorption of allocated funds. The institutional framework for the use of EU funds is for the most part a continuation of the structure incorporated in the implementation of the IPA pre-accession programme.

In October, the Government of the Republic of Croatia adopted organisational development strategies for each institution intended to work with future EU funds. The Strategy for Institutional Development and Capacity Building was adopted in December.

**A total of 22,000 copies of informational publications distributed**

Informing the public and preparation for Croatia’s membership in the EU continued through a number of activities. Public opinion was monitored through opinion polls, quarterly by October and then monthly, carried out throughout Croatia with samples of 1,000 people over 15 years of age. Polls were also used to evaluate the implementation of the Communication Strategy Aimed at Informing the Croatian Public about the European Union.

In 2010, new print and electronic publications were issued: an updated and revised 5th edition of «Croatia on the Road to the European Union: From Candidacy to Membership» and a new revised edition of the «Small Glossary of European Integration.» In addition, the Ministry regularly updates its website with news and other content related to the EU and the integration process in Croatia.

A number of round tables on EU topics were held in Sisak, Karlovac, Vukovar, Pula, Koprivnica, Bjelovar, Krapina, Slavonski Brod, Čakovec, Dubrovnik, Split, Osijek, Zagreb, Virovitica, Požega, Gospić, Šibenik, Opatija, and Varaždin. Along with the State Secretary for European Integration Andrej Plenković, the members of the Negotiating Team and the representatives of state-administration bodies took part in round-table discussions and conferences. The project *Europe in Croatia – a Network of 129 Info Points* distributed throughout Croatia was continued. Info points are internet kiosks that are continually updated, and information stands displaying free brochures.

Wide availability of information is also enabled via the «Hello, EU» service, which enables citizens to obtain information about the European Union and the integration process in Croatia by dialling a toll-free phone number (0800 622 622). In 2010, 8,615 calls were recorded. Co-operation continued with electronic and print media at the national and local levels, regarding the presentation of topics related to the European Union and the process of Croatia’s accession. Co-operation also continued with radio stations and local radio networks which broadcast «EU News», and with the daily newspaper Vjesnik, in preparation of its weekly supplement «Croatia and the EU». The Ministry also financed 21 projects aimed at informing and educating citizens about the EU and the integration process, prepared and implemented by civil society organisations.

A number of activities were organised by the Ministry as part of Europe Week and Europe Day celebrations. The central celebration of the European Week was held on Zagreb’s Flower Square and in the area in front of the Museum of Contemporary Art. In co-operation with county councils for European integration, round tables and public discussions were organised for different target groups, focusing on the use of EU funds in local communities. These were attended by mem-
bers of the Ministry, EU Delegation, ambassadors of EU Member States, members of state administration bodies, local government and self-government, civil society organisations and local media, business people, and students. In total, 22,000 copies of free publications were distributed. In 2010, the Ministry continued to participate in the organisation of the EU Days conference, held at the Faculty of Economics in Zagreb, entitled «Croatian mentality and corruption.» Lectures at the Ministry during two MFAEI Open Door Days were attended by more than one hundred primary and secondary school students. A youth concert «A night in Europe» organised at the Pauk discotheque in Zagreb was supported by the Ministry, EU Delegation and the Embassy of the Kingdom of Spain. A special edition of the Croatian Radio Television show «Hrvatska uživo - Euromagazin» (Croatia Live - Euromagazine), broadcast live from Bale in Istra, was dedicated to Europe Week. It reported on successful projects in Istria financed from EU funds.

Over 5,400 people encompassed by educational programmes

An efficient state administration, trained to tackle all the challenges of future membership and to act effectively in the European administrative area, is one of the key criteria for accession to the European Union, which gains its full meaning through full membership and active participation in all structures and activities of the European Union. Therefore, in 2010, the Ministry continued with implementation of numerous and diverse training activities aimed primarily at civil servants and other target groups – regional and local self-government, pupils, students, teachers and the non-governmental sector. These involved a total of 191 educational events encompassing more than 5,400 attendees, the backbone being three different though compatible approaches: a series of seminars about the EU, professional training projects within the framework of bilateral cooperation with partners from EU Member States, and the Croatian Government programme of scholarships for post-graduate European studies abroad. The year 2010 also saw increased co-operation with county councils for European integration in the implementation of informative lectures and workshops about the EU in primary and secondary schools.

The series of EU seminars, given in Croatian, consists of eight modules involving a number of lectures and workshops that enable participants to acquire knowledge about different aspects of European integration – its historical development, institutions, legal structure, and EU policies – and about the skills necessary for successful future dealings in the complex inter-institutional reality of the EU, including negotiation, lobbying, searching and monitoring documents, and translation. In 2010, 37 seminars were organised at the central level and 11 at the regional and local levels, and were attended by 1,129 attendees.

Within bilateral cooperation with France, Ireland, the Netherlands, Luxembourg, Belgium and Germany, five seminars and two lectures were held in Croatia, and Croatian civil servants were given the opportunity to participate in ten seminars and courses abroad on specific topics related to European integration issues. In co-operation with the German Hanns Seidel Foundation, ten young diplomats made a study visit to Brussels.

Co-operation also continued with multilateral organisations. In collaboration with the Venice Commission of the Council of Europe, two seminars and a workshop were organised in Trieste.

By 2010, 277 scholarships have been awarded for prestigious European universities: in Austria, Belgium, France, Ireland, Italy, the Netherlands, Germany, Poland, Spain, Sweden and the UK, including University of Sussex, Collège d’Europe, Katholieke Universiteit Leuven, Université de Liège, Europa-Kolleg Hamburg, Dresden University, Utrecht University, Amsterdam School of International Relations, Zentrum für Europäische Integrationsforschung in Bonn, Berlin School of Economics, Institut européen des hautes études internationales, Institut d'études européennes de Paris, Université Paris I, Dublin European Institute, Karl-Franzens-Universität Graz.

Seven scholarships were awarded to civil servants for the academic year 2010/2011 in the field of European Union law and multidisciplinary European studies. These were in part co-financed by UK Foreign Office and the University of Sussex.
and Zagreb respectively, as part of the UniDem project. Co-operation with the International Organization of La Francophonie has resulted in the organisation of French language courses for civil servants, attended by 150 civil servants each year, and a theme day featuring the Union for the Mediterranean.

Since the publication of the first call for expression of interest for contract positions in early 2009, employment of Croatian nationals in EU institutions is a topic that has seized public attention because of the opportunities available to Croatian citizens with Croatia’s membership in the EU.

Pursuant to the Framework convention on co-operation between the French Embassy, the National School of Administration (École nationale d’administration - ENA) and the Ministry, signed in May for a period of three years, ENA experts held two seminars entitled «Preparation Course for the Competition». These were attended by about one hundred participants. Two public lectures, in Zagreb and Rijeka, organised for participants of «European Integration Winter School», were given by experts from ENA, who presented employment opportunities for Croatian citizens in EU institutions. The lectures attracted over two hundred people. A conference with the same topic, «Employment of Croatian citizens in EU institutions», was aimed at officials and higher management structures from state administrative bodies. About eighty participants attended the lectures of experts from EU institutions, Slovenia and Croatia.

The eighth international conference «Learning Europe» entitled «Challenges of training on EU funds» was held in Zagreb on 10 December. It was supported financially by bilateral partners and the Konrad Adenauer Foundation. The conference gathered experts from Croatian public administration and the administrations of other countries in the region. Together with their counterparts from EU Member States, they discussed their experiences in preparing for the use of EU pre-accession and Structural funds.

The conference «Communicating Europe» was organised to better prepare for the referendum on Croatia’s accession to the European Union. Director-General of Directorate General Communication at the European Commission and representatives from the Slovak Republic shared their thoughts and practical experiences on this topic with participants.

Following several years of tradition, the education of young people continued for 40 Croatian secondary school students and their teachers during the «European Integration Summer School» and, in co-operation with the Hanns Seidel Foundation, for 53 Croatian university students during the «European Integration Winter School». In co-operation with county councils for European integration, 87 lectures and workshops about the European Union were held in primary and secondary schools in the Lika-Senj, Brod-Posavina and Bjelovar-Bilogora Counties, and were attended by about 2,400 pupils. Thirteen informative lectures on the basic goals of the European integration process and on the development of relations between the Republic of Croatia and the EU were organised during Europe Week. The lectures were attended by 500 pupils and students.

Since 1998, the Department of Education and Training has implemented the Croatian Government programme of scholarships for one-year post-graduate European studies at universities across Europe, thus boosting Croatia’s administrative structure, whereby experts who already work or will be working in jobs related to Croatia’s accession to the EU are given advantage in the selection process.
Bilateral Relations with European Union Member States

Bilateral relations with EU Member States are taking place in the context of preparations for Croatia’s membership in the European Union, through the broad support and concrete assistance to that process in the Member States. Many meetings between Croatian and EU officials, and an increasing number of bilateral economic forums testify to a high degree of political and, increasingly, economic cooperation.

Contacts with European statesmen - Croatian negotiations and economic cooperation in the forefront

In 2010, Austria continued to provide its unwavering support for Croatia’s integration process, believing that its membership in the EU will contribute to the strengthening of political stability of South East Europe. An upward trend in bilateral relations was further underpinned by meetings of the leading politicians: visits by Croatian President Ivo Josipović to Austria (15 March, 16 July, 2 November), a visit by Austrian President Heinz Fischer to Croatia (17 August); visits by Prime Minister Jadranka Kosor to Austria (31 January, 13 December); a return visit by Federal Chancellor Werner Faymann to Croatia (12 July); a visit by President of the Croatian Parliament Luka Bebić to Austria (22 and 23 March); participation of Minister Gordan Jandroković at the European Forum Wachau (26 June); participation of Foreign Minister Michael Spindelegger at the Croatia Summit in Dubrovnik (9 and 10 July) and his visit to Zagreb (13 and 14 October); and a repeated meeting of the two foreign affairs ministers on the margins of the conference «Perspectives for Southeast Europe» in Berlin (10 and 11 December). Croatia was also visited by Austrian Vice Chancellor and Finance Minister Josef Pröll (14 and 15 May); Defence Minister Norbert Darađbos (16 and 17 September), and Minister of Agriculture Nikolaus Berlakovich (23 and 24 November). Meetings with other ministers have also contributed to interdepartmental co-operation (home affairs, justice, and others). This year also saw a rich cultural and scientific exchange. Intensive co-operation also continued with Burgenland Croats and Croatian emigrants. Cooperation between regional and local authorities intensified, especially cooperation with Austrian province of Styria, which has joint projects with several Croatian counties.

Economic relations between Croatia and Austria are also excellent and are continuously improving. This is reflected in over 50 existing agreements, a wide range of economic sectors in which Croatian and Austrian partners participate effectively, regular meetings of officials and businessmen, and economic co-operation ranging from the federal to the local level. Austria is the largest foreign investor in the Republic of Croatia. From 1993 to 2010, Austrian investors have put more than EUR 6 billion into Croatian projects. Austrian tourists rank fourth in the number of arrivals and overnight stays. New perspectives for economic relations between the two countries are seen in further investments by Austrian partners, particularly in the fields of energy, environmental protection technologies, and tourism. Croatian companies have shown an interest for programmes in Croatia, financed by the European Union, World Bank, European Investment Bank and others. This particularly applies to energy and infrastructure projects (modernisation of ports, power plants, etc.) and to projects related to environmental protection (water supply systems, waste disposal).

Croatia’s relations with Belgium are very good and friendly, and are equally well developed with the federation and the regions of Flanders and Wallonia. Communication between officials at all levels is frequent and open. The Belgian EU presidency in the second half of the year further intensified bilateral contacts. During meetings between senior officials, Belgium has expressed its position of a fair and reliable partner to Croatia on its path to the EU, respecting the opinions and experiences of Croatian diplomacy on the issues of South East Europe.
Belgian Prime Minister Yves Leterme paid a brief working visit to Zagreb before Belgium assumed EU presidency, and Prime Minister Jadranka Kosor met with him in Brussels in October. Minister Jandroković met with his Belgian counterpart, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs and Institutional Reform, Steven Vanackere, during an international conference held in Sarajevo in early June. State Secretary for European Integration Andrej Plenković held two meetings with Belgian State Secretary for European Affairs Olivier Chastel, in July and November. In October, Justice Minister Dražen Bošnjaković visited his counterpart in Brussels. Members of the Foreign Policy Committee and European Integration Committee of the Croatian Parliament paid a working visit to members of the Belgian Parliament in December.

In December, a Cooperation Agreement was signed between the Government of the Republic of Croatia, the Francophone Community, Wallonia, and the Commission of the Brussels-Capital Region’s Francophone Community.

Representatives of Croatian harbours received scholarships from the Flemish Government and participated in a harbour management training programme in Antwerp.

At the beginning of February, a Croatian Evening was organised in Brussels, as part of the promotion of Croatian economy and tourism.

Friendly relations with Bulgaria have been confirmed through intensive political dialogue. Prime Minister Jadranka Kosor visited Sofia in April, and Bulgarian Prime Minister Boyko Borisov attended the Croatia Summit in Dubrovnik in July. Bulgarian Foreign Minister Nikolai Mladenov officially visited Zagreb in June.

During Prime Minister Kosor’s visit to Sofia, a Memorandum of Understanding was signed between the Croatian Trade and Investment Promotion Agency and the Bulgarian Investment Promotion Agency. The memorandum, together with the agreement on co-operation between the two chambers of commerce, facilitates the creation of stronger ties between the Croatian and Bulgarian business communities. In early June, a session of the joint committee for economic co-operation pointed to the need of developing all forms of economic co-operation, ranging from joint investments and production to joint appearance on third markets. It particularly emphasized the potential for cooperation in the fields of chemical and petrochemical industries, agri-food industry, pharmaceuticals, mechanical engineering, telecommunications, wood processing industry and transport and energy infrastructure.

Trade exchange between Croatia and Bulgaria exhibited an upward trend. In 2010, it amounted to USD 141 million, up 16% over the previous year.

Croatia presented its heritage in Bulgaria at a number of exhibitions, including the «Glagolitic Renaissance», held at the National Assembly in Sofia.

Cyprus has expressed continuous support to Croatia in the process of its accession to the European Union. In 2010, negotiations began between the two countries on the signing of an Agreement on commercial maritime traffic. Negotiations also continued on the Agreement on Tourism Cooperation and the Agreement on Cooperation in the field of health and medical sciences. Due to internal political crisis in Cyprus in 2010, there were no major bilateral meetings.

In addition to a meeting between Croatian and Czech Foreign Ministers Gordan Jandroković and Karel Schwarzenberg held in Brussels and participation of Czech Minister for European Affairs Juraj Chmiel at the Croatia Summit, political consultations of the two foreign ministries took place in Prague. Director of the Directorate for Economic Cooperation and the Analysis Office of the Czech Ministry of Foreign Affairs also paid a visit to Zagreb. The Czech colleagues presented their experience in economic diplomacy and the role of the Analysis Office in the formation of the overall strategic concept of Czech foreign policy. A visit by Czech Justice Minister Jiří Pospíšil was the highlight of interdepartmental co-operation. Also worth noting is a visit by the President of the Chamber of Deputies of the Czech Parliament Miloslav Vlček, followed by establishment of a Croatian-Czech Parliamentary Friendship Group.

In the framework of economic cooperation between Croatia and the Czech Republic, special importance was given to energy supply routes. The commodity exchange between the two countries
Croatia and Finland have continued the positive trend in the development of bilateral relations through an ever-expanding range of cooperation. Finland has provided systematic support to Croatia in its accession negotiation process, and assistance in carrying out reforms and legislative adjustments.

In mid April, Prime Minister Jadranka Kosor officially visited Helsinki. In early February, Finnish Foreign Minister Alexander Stubb arrived in Zagreb, and Minister Gordan Jandroković made a return visit in October. The Croatian-Finnish Business Forum was also held at that time. Successful cooperation between two parliaments continued. At the end of January, members of the Grand Committee of the Parliament of Finland visited Zagreb.

In March, State Secretary for Political Affairs Davor Božinović held political consultations in Helsinki with his Finnish counterpart Pertti Torstila. In early May, Chief Negotiator Vladimir Drobnjak paid a working visit to Finland.

In addition to political relations, cooperation has also been enhanced in the fields of high technology, science and education. Institute «Ruder Bošković» continued its engagement with the Finns.
ish Nanotechnology Cluster, universities and institutes in the field of nano-science. In September, together with the Finnish Institute of Physics, it organised the first summer school of nano-science for more than 40 PhD students from 13 countries. The school took place in Dubrovnik. Contacts established by the scientific community resulted in concrete co-operation projects between research and educational circles.

A new stage in the development of Croatian–Finnish economic relations is marked by increased interest of Finnish entrepreneurs in Croatia. In June, Croatia was visited by a Finnish business delegation, and the Croatian–Finnish Economic Forum took place in Helsinki in October. Traditional trade exchange has been supplemented by other forms of economic co-operation, such as transfer of experiences from research to application of innovations and high technologies in industry, especially in nano-technology.

Excellent presentation of Croatian tourism has resulted in direct flights between Croatian coastal towns and the Finnish capital, a development surely to enhance further cooperation in the sector of tourism.

Croatia and France have reached a high degree of cooperation and understanding, and political bilateral relations have been brought to the level of high quality.

The first half of 2010 was marked by intense work on the completion of the Strategic Partnership Agreement between Croatia and France. The document covers the strengthening of political dialogue and consultations on all issues within the EU. The aim of the Partnership is to enhance economic and trade relations, through organisation of various activities of economic nature. The strategic partnership also includes very important aspects of cultural and scientific cooperation, inevitably underlining the promotion of the French language. In addition, the Partnership contains provisions on cooperation in the energy sector, environmental protection, in the fields of justice and home affairs, defence cooperation, as well as on development and international cooperation.

In July, French Prime Minister François Fillon made his first official visit to Croatia, which served as an opportunity to sign the Croatian–French Strategic Partnership Agreement with Prime Minister Jadranka Kosor.

Germany continued to support Croatia’s EU membership, underlining its growing importance as a promoter of stability and prosperity in South East Europe. Excellent cooperation between the Croatian Armed Forces and the German Bundeswehr in NATO is best demonstrated by their participation in the ISAF International Peace Mission in Afghanistan.

Excellent bilateral relations have been reinforced by a great number of mutual visits. Especially worth mentioning is the official visit of Prime Minister Jadranka Kosor to Berlin and the official visit of German Foreign Minister Guido Westerwelle to Croatia.

The German-Croatian economic forum, held in Zagreb on 15 and 16 June, is of great importance for the development of bilateral economic relations, reflecting the efforts of both countries to promote new aspects of economic cooperation. Prime Minister Jadranka Kosor opened the forum with a speech entitled «Croatia on the eve of EU membership». Over 350 company representatives from both countries participated in the forum, which resulted in many concrete business projects.

Accompanied by a strong economic delegation of 35 members, German Federal Minister of Economics and Technology Rainer Brüderle visited Croatia in November, continuing with activities agreed upon at the German-Croatian economic forum.
Bilateral relations with **Greece** are evaluated as very good, friendly and with no open issues. Greece continues to provide full and unconditional support to Croatia, on its path to EU membership. On the occasion of the inauguration of President of the Republic of Croatia Ivo Josipović, Minister **Gordan Jandroković** and alternate Minister for Foreign Affairs **Dimitris Droutsas** held a separate meeting.

In 2010, commodity exchange between Croatia and the Hellenic Republic totalled EUR 141.1 million. Croatian exports increased by 76.7% to EUR 66.79 million, while imports increased by 9.9% to EUR 74.3 million.

Relations with **Hungary** are highly developed and dynamic, with no open issues, and serve as an example of good neighbourly relations. The strategic partnership of the two countries is characterized by very good political, economic, cross border and cultural cooperation and by a high level of minority protection on both sides. Hungary is providing full and unreserved support to Croatia’s strategic goal and has included the completion of Croatia's negotiations for full membership in the European Union among the priorities of its 2011 EU presidency.

Frequent meetings between senior officials also testify to traditionally good bilateral relations. President of the Republic of Croatia **Ivo Josipović** paid an official visit to Hungary at the very beginning of his term (16 March). Speaker of the National Assembly and president-elect, and Reporter of the European Parliament for Croatia, **Pál Schmitt**, met in Zagreb with Prime Minister **Jadranka Kosor** and Minister **Gordan Jandroković** (13 and 14 July). This meeting saw the official closing of the IPA twinning light project for the support to the Parliament of Croatia in the preparation for EU accession, started in March 2010, with the Hungarian Parliament acting as partner to the Croatian Parliament. On 22 July, Prime Minister **Jadranka Kosor** held a working meeting with her Hungarian counterpart. The newly elected Hungarian President **Pál Schmitt** officially visited Croatia in early October. At the end of the month, Minister **Gordan Jandroković** met with his counterpart **János Martonyi** in Budapest, where they signed the Protocol between the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and European Integration of the Republic of Croatia and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Hungary on the Implementation of the Agreement between the Government of the Republic of Croatia and the Government of the Republic of Hungary on the Cooperation in the Field of Handling Visa Applications at the Embassy of the Republic of Hungary in the Republic of Moldova. President of the Croatian Parliament **Luka Bebić** paid an official visit to the Hungarian Parliament in early December.

Participation of Croatian cultural institutions in the project «Pécs - European Capital of Culture 2010» is singled out as an example of diverse cultural cooperation.

Total commodity exchange between the two countries amounted to EUR 620.6 million. Exports increased by 50.8%, amounting to EUR 199.7 million, and imports from Hungary decreased by 14.6% amounting to EUR 420.8 million.

Hungary ranks fourth among foreign investors in Croatia. Direct Hungarian investments since 1993, including the third quarter of 2010, amounted to EUR 2,407 billion. The largest investors are MOL and OTP Bank. In the first ten months of 2010, Hungarian investments totalled EUR 72 million.

The year 2010 saw the signing of two agreements in the field of energy between the Croatian and Hungarian governments: Agreement on Cooperation in the Construction, Use, Reconstruction and Repair of Hydrocarbon Transportation Pipelines Crossing the State Border, and the Agreement between the Government of the Republic of Croatia and the Government of the Republic of Hungary on Cooperation in the Construction, Use, Reconstruction and Repair of Electric Power
Transmission Lines Crossing the State Border. The double transmission line Ernestinovo – Pécs, a joint project implemented by the Croatian Power Company HEP and the Hungarian Power Company, was officially put into operation in November, and December saw the inauguration of the interconnection gas pipeline between the two countries.

Cooperation with Ireland, which strongly supports the Croatian accession process, has continued its positive trend. In July, vice-chairman of the Joint Committee on European Affairs of the Irish Parliament Timmy Dooley attended the Croatia Summit in Dubrovnik. In September, Foreign Affairs Ministers Gordan Jandroković and Michael Martin met in New York, expressing their satisfaction with the frequency of meetings between senior officials and with interdepartmental cooperation. A delegation of the Croatian Education and Teacher Training Agency visited the Irish Ministry for Education and Skills in September. In October, the Director General of the Directorate for Europe and North America, Aleksandar Heina, held political consultations with Director General of the Directorate for the European Union at the Irish Department of Foreign Affairs, Peter Gunning, Assistant Secretary to the Office of the Irish Prime Minister, John Callinan, and Minister of State for European Affairs, Dick Roche.

In November, a Memorandum of Understanding was signed between the Ministry of Culture and the Irish Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht.

Total commodity exchange amounted to EUR 87.6 million, a decrease of 4.8% compared to 2009. Exports from the Republic of Croatia amounted to EUR 14.4 million, and imports totalled EUR 73.1 million. The tourism sector recorded the arrival of 29,000 Irish tourists, a 3% decrease compared with the same period in the previous year, and 124,000 overnight stays from Ireland, which is 2% less than in 2009.

Overall relations with Italy are constantly on the rise and are developing in the spirit of good neighbourly and partner relations. An exchange of highest level visits and meetings has contributed to an intensification of political relations. Political consultations were held regularly and in accordance with the Memorandum on Cooperation between the Croatian Government and the Government of the Republic of Italy. Continued support for the Croatian accession negotiations is provided from the highest levels of official Italian politics.

Prime Minister Jadranka Kosor met with Italian Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi in Milan on 8 February. Croatian President Ivo Josipović, and the presidents of Italy and Slovenia, Giorgio Napolitano and Danilo Türk, attended a Concert of Friendship, held in Trieste on 13 July. This served as an occasion for a joint statement by the three presidents. Parliamentary cooperation has also been enhanced. President of the Chamber of Deputies of the Parliament of the Republic of Italy, Gianfranco Fini, paid a return visit to his colleagues at the Croatian Parliament in September.

The second meeting of the Coordinating Committee of Ministers was held in Zagreb on 15 September. On that occasion, Ministers of Agriculture Petar Čobanković and Giancarlo Galan signed a Memorandum of Understanding on Agriculture and Rural Development. Foreign Min-
isters Gordan Jandroković and Franco Frattini signed a joint statement on conclusions and further co-operation in individual areas. Among other things, it was agreed that the two sides would encourage major investment projects, Croatia’s main interests being related to investments in the manufacturing sector. Among the underlined common interest areas were the development of strategic infrastructure projects and further enhancement of cooperation in the field of energy.

Business forums form an important step in the implementation of the Memorandum on Cooperation. On 10 June, the second Croatian-Italian Business Forum was held in Milan.

Although Croatia’s relations with Latvia and Lithuania are generally good and with open issues, they were not intense in 2010. The visit by Speaker of the Latvian Parliament Gundārs Daudze to Croatia on 25 and 26 March, and political consultations of Director General of the Directorate for Europe and North America Aleksandar Heina held in Riga on 25 November can be highlighted as significant bilateral meetings. In May, State Secretary for Political Affairs Davor Božinović took part in a conference in Vilnius marking the 10th anniversary of the founding of the Vilnius Group, a political initiative gathering countries from Central and East Europe, of which Croatia has been a member since its inception.

Luxembourg’s continued support to Croatia on its path to full EU membership at all official levels testifies to excellent bilateral relations, with no open issues. Grand Duke Henri of Luxembourg paid his first official visit to Croatia on 10 June. Apart from meeting with Croatian President Ivo Josipović, he also met with President of the Croatian Parliament Luka Babić and Prime Minister Jadranka Kosor. The Grand Duke was accompanied by Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs Jean Asselborn, who met separately with Minister Gordan Jandroković. An economic forum for Croatian and Luxembourg entrepreneur, and a seminar about doing business with Luxembourg, was organised as part of the Grand Duke’s visit.

Malta also backs Croatia on its path towards full membership in the European Union. In April, Tonio Borg, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs of Malta, paid an official visit to Zagreb. Two bilateral agreements were signed: Agreement on the Fight against Illicit Trafficking in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances, Organised Crime and International Terrorism and the Agreement on Cultural, Educational and Scientific Cooperation. Both sides confirmed good bilateral cooperation and expressed their readiness for further exchange of experience in the field of European integration and other topics of joint interest.

Political relations with the Netherlands are good and continually improving, unburdened by open bilateral issues. The Netherlands still ranks high among foreign investors in Croatia, and is still one of the most significant donors of financial assistance through bilateral programmes and pre-accession programmes.

Director General for European Cooperation at the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs Ian de Jong paid a working visit to Zagreb on 31 May and 1 June. He met with State Secretary for Political Affairs Davor Božinović, State Secretary for European Integration Andrej Plenković, Director General of the Directorate for Europe and North America Aleksandar Heina, Chief Negotiator Vladimir Drobnjak, Presidential Foreign Affairs Advisor Joško Paro, and Minister of Justice Ivan Šimonović.

Within the framework of the bilateral pre-accession assistance programme (MATRA and G2G.nl), Croatia received a donation worth over EUR 1 million from the Dutch Government in 2010. The Dutch-Croatian project to establish a ferryboat connection between Vukovar and Bač ended in October with the donation of a ferryboat worth EUR 1 million, and operations commenced on 1 December.

Led by the Netherlands Foreign Investment Agency and the Netherlands Council for Trade Promotion, Dutch entrepreneurs visited Croatia for the first time in April. Their goal was to improve the position of Dutch companies on the Croatian market. The Dutch delegation was hosted by the Agency for Promoting Export and Investment, with participation of the Croatian Chamber of Economy and the Dutch Embassy in Zagreb.
Relations with **Poland** are good and stable, with frequent bilateral meetings of officials from both countries. Polish President **Lech Kaczyński** attended the inauguration ceremony of Croatia’s President **Ivo Josipović**. Polish Prime Minister **Donald Tusk** took part in the *Croatia Summit*, at the invitation of Prime Minister **Jadranka Kosor**. In early July, State Secretary for Political Affairs **Davor Božinović** participated in the High Level Democracy Meeting in Krakow, marking the 10th anniversary of the founding of the Community of Democracies. Polish Minister of Regional Development **Elżbieta Bieńkowska** visited Croatia in mid October. At the beginning of the same month, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Regional Development, Forestry and Water Management **Božidar Pankretić** visited Poland. Secretary of State at the Polish Ministry of Foreign Affairs **Jan Borkowski** took part in a seminar entitled «Exchange of good communication practice with farmers about the European integration – Polish experiences», hosted by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and European Integration on 15 and 16 June, and attended by a significant number of Polish experts.

On 17 June, Polish Minister of Justice **Krzysztof Kwiatkowski** attended a working meeting in Croatia at the invitation of Minister of Justice **Ivan Šimonović**.

On 1 February, the Polish-Croatian Chamber of Industry and Commerce was established in Krakow to promote and enhance mutual contacts and exchange of information. The Chamber comprises 30 members, 11 of which are Croatian companies: Dalekovod, Limex, Exportdro, Geneza, Aleflexpack, Plamen, Luje, Končar, LK graditeljstvo, Spin Valis and Zorman.

The year 2010 saw a slight recovery in commodity exchange which amounted to EUR 395 million. Croatian exports rose by 10% compared to 2009. The number of Polish tourists visiting Croatia continued to rise (9% increase in the number of tourists and 7.8% increase in the number of overnight stays compared with the previous year).

In 2010, political relations between **Portugal** and Croatia did not change significantly, but maintained the existing positive dynamics, with an expansion in the range of activities, from the exchange of students and junior researchers, participation of Croatian representatives in international conferences held in Portugal to regional initiatives, school competitions, etc. Regular diplomatic contacts increased significantly, owing to the fact that Portugal already perceives Croatia as an EU member. Consultations were held at the level of directors general of directorates of the ministries of foreign affairs. Cooperation at the parliamentary level and cooperation in the field of the judiciary remained at a satisfactory level, which was confirmed by the exchange of several delegations.

Economic relations were boosted by the establishment of the Portuguese-Croatian Chamber of Economy on 15 September in Lisbon. Negotiations on the Agreement on Avoidance of Double Taxation were finalised.

During his official visit to **Romania**, Minister **Gordan Jandroković** signed two interstate documents: Additional Protocol between the Government of the Republic of Croatia and the Government of Romania on Amendments to the Agreement between the Government of the Republic of Croatia and the Government of Romania on the Promotion and Reciprocal Protection of Investments and the Programme of cooperation between the Ministry of Science, Education and Sports of the Republic of Croatia and the Ministry of Education, Research, Youth and Sport of Romania. Prime Minister **Jadranka Kosor** took part in the Danube Summit in Bucharest. Addressing the participants, she expressed Croatia’s support for the EU Strategy for the Danube Region and voiced her hopes that, in the future, the countries of the Danube region will more efficiently coordinate cross border projects and transnational programmes in the fields of transport, energy, water management, environmental protection and culture.

In 2010, total commodity exchange between Croatia and Romania increased by a mere 1% in relation to the previous year. Croatian exports remained at the same level as the year before and amounted to EUR 61.5 million, while Croatian imports amounted to EUR 120 million.

**Slovakia** is a strong advocate of Croatia’s speedy finalisation of the accession process, which is a topic always discussed at meetings between highest ranking officials. President **Ivo Josipović** officially visited Slovakia to meet with Slovakian President **Ivan Gašparovič**, for their second meeting after his inauguration. Slovakia, as the presiding country of the Visegrad Group (V-4), encour-
Bilateral Relations

ages cooperation with the Republic of Croatia, and as such Minister Gordan Jandroković was invited to the Meeting of Foreign Ministers of V-4 countries and Western Balkans in Bratislava. Excellent diplomatic cooperation was reinforced by the visit of Slovakian Foreign Minister Miroslav Lajčák, when the Memorandum of Cooperation of Diplomatic Academies was signed, creating a framework for future joint projects. In Zagreb political consultations were held at the level of state secretaries, led by Davor Božinović and Milan Ježovica. On this occasion, Slovakian experts presented their experiences in the communication strategy during the pre-accession period.

Interdepartmental cooperation was marked by the visit of Slovakian Minister of the Interior Daniel Lipšic and the signing of the Agreement on Police Cooperation. The visit of Chairman of the Committee for European Affairs of the Slovakian Parliament Ivan Štefanec is significant for cooperation at the parliamentary level.

Commodity exchange in 2010 decreased by 21% compared to the year before, amounting to EUR 199.5 million. However, the number of Slovakian tourists spending their summer vacation in Croatia continued to increase. 310,000 Slovakian citizens arrived in Croatia, which is an increase of 6%. A total of 2,084 overnight stays were recorded, an increase of 5.6%.

All bilateral meetings related to economic cooperation were dominated by energy: connection of gas supply systems through the Hungarian gas pipeline system and the LNG terminal. These topics were also discussed at the meeting of the Visegrad Group.

Croatia and Slovenia have amicable political and highly developed economic relations. Bilateral talks and intense contacts between the two countries’ highest representatives continued in 2010. President of the Republic of Croatia Ivo Josipović visited Slovenia on 12 March. This was his first official visit to a foreign country after assuming office. At the invitation of the Italian President, President Josipović and his Slovenian counterpart Danilo Türk attended the Concert of Friendship held in Trieste on 13 July. On 2 October, Presidents Josipović and Türk opened a new bridge over the Sutla River, between Hum na Sutli and the Slovenian village Rogatec, connecting the glass container factory Vetropack Straža and its storage facility on the Slovenian side. On 18 October, Minister Gordan Jandroković and Slovenian Minister of Foreign Affairs Samuel Žbogar met in Split to attend the opening of new premises of the Consulate General of the Republic of Slovenia. During their meeting in Lovranske Draga on 23 October, Prime Minister Jadranka Kosor and her Slovenian counterpart Borut Pahor agreed to strengthen economic cooperation and to form a mixed committee with the task of preparing a joint appearance of the two countries on third markets. They also agreed on a joint appearance at the EXPO 2012 in Korea. Economic issues were discussed at a trilateral meeting between Prime Minister Jadranka Kosor, Slovenian Prime Minister Borut Pahor and Serbian President Boris Tadić, held in the town of Ptuj in March. Such meetings, later named «personal trilateral formations», are to become regular.

In February, the Croatian Government adopted a Decision on the Formation of the Croatian Committee as part of the Mixed Slovenian-Croatian Committee for open issues between the Republic of Croatia and the Republic of Slovenia, headed by State Secretary for Political Affairs Davor Božinović. The Mixed Committee held three meetings in the course of the year. Both sides concluded that joint work has resulted in positive developments in many fields. It is through the work of the Mixed Committee that the countries came to an agreement to make everyday life in the border region easier, and to make business operations for companies doing business in the border region less complex. More precisely, an agreement was reached on the regime for transport of goods for companies Kolpa d.d. from Metlika and Polira d.o.o. from Radatoviči. These solutions were presented to the public by ministers Gordan Jandroković and Samuel Žbogar on 21 May, during their visit to the said companies.
Slovenia is Croatia’s third most important trading partner, accounting for 6.6% of Croatia’s total foreign trade. The total trade exchange between the two countries in 2010 amounted to EUR 1.58 billion (an 11% increase compared to 2009). Exports to Slovenia amounted to EUR 697 million (a 25% increase), and imports were EUR 886 million (a 2% increase). The import-export coverage rate was 79%. Slovenian investments in Croatia amounted to EUR 86.6 million, while Croatian direct investments in Slovenia were EUR 315 million.

In 2010, Croatian tourism achieved record results on the Slovenian market. As many as 1.02 million Slovene tourists visited Croatia (a 6% increase compared to 2009), accounting for 5.9 million overnight stays (a 7% increase). In the number of overnight stays, Slovene tourists rank second (next to German tourists), and in the number of arrivals they rank third (following German and Italian tourist arrivals).

In 2010, bilateral relations with Spain gained new impetus in all fields of cooperation, which was confirmed by the June visit to Zagreb of Chairman of the Spanish Parliament Javier Roja García in February and Minister of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation Miguel Angelo Moratinos. The Spanish EU presidency also gave a boost to bilateral relations in the first half of the year, with more than 30 visits by Croatian delegations – from department directors to the Prime Minister – to Madrid and other parts of Spain. Spain proved to be a very cooperative partner, actively supporting Croatia in reaching the set goals for each segment. All negotiation chapters were opened and three were closed, which added to the dynamics of the accession process.

Several political consultations were held between Croatian and Spanish officials, both during the Spanish EU presidency and in the second half of the year. Bilateral cooperation also took place in the field of the judiciary and in home affairs. Negotiations on the Agreement on Police Cooperation were concluded. Excellent cooperation within international organisations is worth noting, with mutual support given to various candidacies.

The 2010 volume of commodity exchange amounted to approximately EUR 286.1 million, which is 3.5% less than in 2009 due to the general trends on the world market. However, Croatian exports increased by 19.5% compared to the previous year and amounted to EUR 59.9 million.

Activities related to the economic promotion of the Republic of Croatia were mainly oriented towards tourism, resulting in 209,791 visits by Spanish tourists to Croatia, an increase of 17% compared to the previous year. These accounted for 420,382 overnight stays, which is an 18% increase compared with 2009.

Significant progress in economic relations has been achieved between Sweden and Croatia. Intense political contacts in 2009 reinforced mutual relations and made room for expansion and strengthening of economic cooperation. The visit of Swedish Trade Minister Ewa Björing to Croatia at the beginning of the year reaffirmed Sweden’s perception of Croatia as an important economic partner. The Croatian-Swedish Chamber of Commerce, founded in March in cooperation between the Embassy of the Republic of Croatia in Stockholm and Swedish entrepreneurs of Croatian origin, forms an important contribution to the expansion of economic cooperation. At the close of the year,
the Croatian economic diplomacy organised the Croatian-Swedish Business Days, a meeting between Swedish and Croatian entrepreneurs in Zagreb and an opportunity to present the economic potentials of both countries. Positive reactions of Swedish entrepreneurs form the basis for the upcoming economic meetings, with investment projects launched after the conference concretely contributing to enhanced results of bilateral exchange.

The year 2010 also saw the launch of the most ambitious project so far, for the promotion of Croatian wines on the Swedish market.

In 2010, relations with the United Kingdom were characterised by further improvement of cooperation in various fields. The United Kingdom continued to provide full support for the completion of Croatian accession negotiations and successful implementation of the reform processes, with positive cooperation between the two countries within international organisations, especially the EU and NATO.

Croatian and British officials met several times at various international conferences and similar occasions. On 7 December, Minister Gordan Jandroković met with Foreign Secretary William Hague, British MPs and other officials in London. The visit also had an important economic dimension.

The value of commodity exchange in the first three quarters was EUR 283.9 million, down 14% compared to the same period in 2009. Exports accounted for EUR 103.4 million, down 17.5% compared to the same period last year, while imports totalled EUR 180.5 million, a 12% decrease compared to the previous period.

The number of British tourist arrivals on the Adriatic coast rose by 4% to 250,000, with a 5% increase (over 1.3 million) in overnight stays compared to 2009.
Bilateral Relations with Other Western European Countries

Croatia has developed comprehensive cooperation with states that are not members of the EU, but are closely affiliated with it and share common values and a common market, some as members of the European Free Trade Association (EFTA).

High level of mutual understanding

Good relations between Croatia and Andorra were reinforced during the October visit of Andorran Minister of Foreign Affairs and Institutional Relations Xavier Espot Miró, to Croatia. Both sides expressed similar views on many issues and underlined the steady progress of bilateral cooperation, which is especially evident in the mutual support of candidacies for membership in international bodies and an exchange of visits at all levels between the Ministries of Foreign Affairs of both countries.

Prime Minister Jadranka Kosor and Croatian President Ivo Josipović visited the Holy See, on 13 March and 9 October respectively, and both were received by Pope Benedict XVI. President Josipović’s visit ensued immediately following the 40th plenary session of the Council of European Bishops‘ Conferences held in Zagreb (30 September–3 October). The Secretary for Relations with States of the Holy See, Archbishop Dominique Mamberti, paid an official visit to Croatia from 19 to 23 October, thus reinforcing excellent relations between Croatia and the Vatican, prior to the visit of Pope Benedict XVI to Croatia in 2011.

After an exchange of visits by delegations of national parliaments in 2009, relations with Iceland were marked in 2010 by the first official visit of the Minister of Foreign Affairs Össur Skarphéðinsson to Croatia. This was the first visit of an Icelandic Minister of Foreign Affairs to Croatia since Croatia gained independence. During the visit, the Agreement on Avoidance of Double Taxation and the Memorandum of Understanding between the Icelandic Engineering Company EFLA and the Hrvoje Požar Energy Institute were signed.

As the European Union started membership negotiations with Iceland, Croatia offered to share its experiences of the negotiation process, a potential basis for further bilateral cooperation.

In 2010, relations with Norway were marked by an official visit by Minister Gordan Jandroković to Oslo. Minister Jandroković met with his Norwegian counterpart Jonas Gahr Støre and was also received by Norwegian King Harald V. The Chamber of Commerce in Oslo hosted the Croatian-Norwegian economic forum, attended by Norwegian entrepreneurs and representatives from 19 Croatian companies.

Partner economic relations are also reflected in the joint Croatian-Norwegian project iNavis, establishing a maritime innovation centre in the City of Šibenik. The first major business deals, closed in the sector of Croatian shipbuilding exports, were performed through iNavis.

Relations with the Sovereign Military Order of Malta were marked by the first visit of a Croatian President to that order. Croatian President Ivo Josipović met with the Grand Master of the Sovereign Military Order of Malta on 9 October in Rome. They discussed the future establishment of a Croatian Association of the Order of Malta, which will surely improve bilateral cooperation.

In 2010, many Croatian officials visited Switzerland: at the invitation of his counterpart Micheline Calmy-Rey, Minister Gordan Jandroković visited this country in January. Director General of the Directorate for Europe and North America, Aleksandar Heina, held political consultations here in June. In October, State Secretary for European Integration Andrej Plenković participated in the Ministerial Conference of La Francophonie in Montreux, while in November he met with
Director of the Integration Office Henri Gétaz and Director of the Political Directorate for Europe at the Swiss Federal Department of Foreign Affairs Christian Meuwly in Bern.

In the period from 1993 to 2010, Switzerland invested EUR 451.8 million in Croatia and ranks 11th among foreign investors to Croatia. Compared to 2009, the number of Swiss tourists increased by 15%, and the number of overnight stays increased by 11.5%.
South East Europe

Bilateral relations with the neighbouring states and countries of South East Europe have gained new momentum through a series of contacts and incentives for better cooperation, aimed at achieving individual progress and stability of all the countries, strengthening good neighbourly relations and regional cooperation, and faster progress in the Euro-Atlantic integration process. Croatia has provided strong support in the international community for countries in the region, as well as concrete assistance through the exchange of experiences and provision of the Croatian translations of EU *acquis* to all the countries which may find it useful. Great care has been invested to promote cooperation in combating organised crime and corruption and particularly to foster all forms of economic cooperation.

The European integration process – the backbone of cooperation

The importance of relations with *Bosnia and Herzegovina* is reflected both in a series of official visits at the highest level, and through meetings of expert groups in various fields of cooperation. In June, a joint session of the Croatian Government and Council of Ministers of Bosnia and Herzegovina was held. Prime Minister *Jadranka Kosor* paid four working visits to Bosnia and Herzegovina, while the Chairman of the Council of Ministers of Bosnia and Herzegovina, *Nikola Sprič*, paid an official visit to Croatia in March. On 14 April, President *Ivo Josipović* visited Sarajevo, where he met with the members of the Presidium of Bosnia and Herzegovina, and with the international community’s High Representative in that country, *Valentin Inzko*. The two countries pursue a responsible approach to the remaining open issues, investing every effort to resolve them in the spirit of good neighbourly relations, and providing mutual support in the process of Euro-Atlantic integration. Croatia supported Bosnia and Herzegovina in the award of the NATO Membership Action Plan in April 2010, and provided technical assistance in compiling the first Annual National Programme. Croatia has also provided assistance to Bosnia and Herzegovina concerning the return of the refugees and through various donor assistance programmes.

Last year, several bilateral acts were signed, among others the Agreement on Fighting Cross-Border Crime and the Agreement amending the Agreement on the Mutual Execution of Court Judgements in Criminal Matters.

Croatia is Bosnia and Herzegovina’s most important trade partner. In 2010, trade exchange between the two countries increased by 9%. Croatian exports to Bosnia and Herzegovina amounted to EUR 1.034 billion, and imports from Bosnia and Herzegovina totalled EUR 462 million.

In 2010, relations with *Serbia* were characterised by a mutual exchange of visits at the highest level. Croatian President *Ivo Josipović* visited Belgrade, Serbian President *Boris Tadić* visited Zagreb, and both presidents paid their respect to the victims at Ovčara and in Paulin Dvor during their joint visit to Vukovar. In May, Prime Minister *Jadranka Kosor* presented the Croatian translation of EU *acquis* to Serbian Prime Minister *Mirko Cvetković* during his visit to Zagreb.

In April, after a seven-year standstill, the Interstate Diplomatic Committee for the Identification and Marking of the State Border continued with its activities. The Intergovernmental Joint Committee for Minority Issues also continued its work. Further activities on the recovery and restoration of the remaining cultural heritage have been confirmed and agreement has been achieved to discontinue presenting the refugee issue as an open political issue.

In June, the Agreement on Extradition relating to criminal acts of organised crime and corruption and Agreement on Cooperation in Defence were signed, and a joint centre for combating organised crime was set up. In December, a protocol was signed between the Ministries of Internal
Bilateral Relations

Affairs of the Republic of Croatia, Police Directorate and the Ministry of Internal Affairs of the Republic of Serbia, Police Directorate, establishing a joint contact service at the Batrovci-Bajakovo border crossing.

Foreign trade between the two countries in 2010 amounted to EUR 580 million, with Croatian exports to Serbia amounting to EUR 340 million, and imports from Serbia to EUR 231 million.

Croatia continued to maintain good cooperation with Montenegro. Montenegrin President Filip Vujanović was present at the February inauguration of the President of the Republic of Croatia Ivo Josipović, who in turn travelled to Montenegro in July. In February, Prime Minister Jadranka Kosor visited Podgorica and met with Montenegrin Prime Minister Milo Đukanović, President Filip Vujanović and President of the Assembly Ranko Krivokapić.

Croatia continued to provide assistance to Montenegro within the framework of the Euro-Atlantic integration process. In March, the Croatian translation of EU acquis was presented and several rounds of technical consultations on the negotiation process were held in the course of the year. Cooperation in this field was additionally intensified after Montenegro was awarded candidate state status for EU membership and after it started its first cycle of the NATO Membership Action Plan.

In 2010, the Agreement on Extradition was signed, and negotiations were initiated on concluding the Agreement on Legal Assistance in Civil and Criminal Matters and the Agreement on Mutual Execution of Court Judgements in Criminal Matters.

With respect to the resolution of interstate border issues, the ministers of foreign affairs of the two countries, Gordan Jandroković and Milan Roćen, agreed at their July meeting that the border no longer represents an open bilateral issue. The commission in charge of drafting a Special Agreement for the submission of the frontier dispute before the International Court of Justice in The Hague is continuing its work.

In 2010, commodity exchange between the two countries amounted EUR 84 million, including EUR 81 million of exports from Croatia into Montenegro and EUR 3 million of imports.

Political and cultural cooperation between Croatia and Macedonia was successful. However, the economy remains a field in which, according to both sides, further development of cooperation is desirable and should be stimulated. A significant number of official state visits from both sides took place. It should be noted that Macedonian President Gjorge Ivanov attended the inauguration of the new Croatian President in February, and that the President of the Republic of Croatia, Ivo Josipović, paid an official visit to Macedonia in July. The dynamics were particularly reinforced by the Macedonian chairmanship to the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe and the US-Adriatic Charter. Minister Gordan Jandroković welcomed Macedonian Minister of Foreign Affairs, Antonio Milošoski, in his return visit to Croatia at the beginning of March.

Total trade exchange between Macedonia and Croatia amounted to EUR 192 million. Croatian exports to Macedonia amounted to EUR 85 million, while Croatian imports amounted to EUR 107 million. Macedonian investments in Macedonia amounted to EUR 3.1 million. Croatia was visited by 23,400 Macedonian tourists with 99,000 overnight stays.

Within the framework of cultural cooperation, the exchange of guest performances of the national theatres is noteworthy. Book promotions and exhibitions continued to be staged, and the Croatian Embassy organised traditional Easter and Christmas concerts with a good response of the audience.

The traditionally friendly relations with Albania have continued through permanent political dialogue. Several high-level visits took place in 2010. Albanian President Bamir Topi attended the inauguration of the new Croatian President in February, and the Deputy Prime Minister and the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Ilir Meta, visited Zagreb in March.

Croatia continued with its assistance to Albania in the EU accession process. The total trade exchange between Croatia and Albania amounted to EUR 64.4 million, which is twice as much as in 2009. Croatian exports increased by 126.4%, amounting to EUR 60.38 million. Imports to Croa-
Croatia increased by 92.1%, achieving EUR 4.1 million. Fields of economic cooperation include trade, investment, transport and energy connecting and strengthening the presence of Croatian companies in regional projects pertaining to construction and equipment. Also, both countries expressed their interest to participate in the regional energy projects, e.g. the Ionian-Adriatic gas pipeline and joint construction of the energy infrastructure in Albania.

A positive trend in the relationships with Turkey has continued in all the fields – political, parliamentary, defence and security. Minister Gordan Jandroković paid an official visit to Ankara in April and on that occasion, he met with his host, Minister Ahmet Davutoğlu, Chief Negotiator Egemen Bağış and State Minister of Foreign Trade Mehmet Çağlayan, and was also received by Turkish President Abdullah Gül. Prime Minister Jadranka Kosor paid an official visit to Istanbul in November at the invitation of the Turkish Prime Minister, Recep Tayyip Erdoğan, and a meeting was organised with Turkish entrepreneurs interested in investments in Croatia. On that occasion, Prime Minister Kosor presented a catalogue of the Government investment projects. Two events were held in December: the fifth session of the Croatia-Turkish Joint Economic Committee in Ankara, and the Croatian-Turkish business forum in Istanbul. On the sidelines of the 65th session of the UN General Assembly, Croatian President Ivo Josipović met with Turkish President Abdullah Gül.

In 2010, Croatia exported commodities to Turkey in the amount of EUR 84 million or 16% less than in 2009. Croatian imports from Turkey totalled EUR 440 million, twice the amount compared to the previous year.

With the opening of the Embassy of Kosovo in Zagreb in 2010, prerequisites for further development of bilateral relations have been created. In 2010, Croatia was very active in providing assistance and professional training to Kosovo personnel in various fields. Croatia made efforts to include Kosovo into regional initiatives, despite the differences in positions of the countries in the region regarding Kosovo’s independence, as Croatia deemed this important for further development, stability and security of the entire region. Croatian President Stjepan Mesić visited Kosovo on 8 January at the invitation of President Fatmir Sejdiu. On the occasion of the inauguration, a meeting between the newly elected president of Croatia, Ivo Josipović and the Kosovar President was held. Prime Minister Jadranka Kosor met with Kosovar Prime Minister Hashim Thaçi on the sidelines of the Croatia Summit at the beginning of July. Minister Gordan Jandroković met with the Minister of European Integration of Kosovo, Besim Beqaj, during the Bled Forum in late August.

Croatia is satisfied with the economic cooperation development of the two countries. The total exchange of commodities amounted to EUR 57.48 million (Croatian exports totalling EUR 54.7 million, imports EUR 2.78 million).

Regional Multilateral Cooperation

Within the framework of the South East European Cooperation Process, the most important political forum of South East Europe for the discussion of regional issues, Croatia continued throughout 2010 to be an active participant in regional political dialogue and contributed to the strengthening of good neighbourhood relations. Croatia provided strong support and assistance to the countries of the region on their path towards the European Union and Euro-Atlantic Integrations.

The project-oriented activity of the Regional Cooperation Council (RCC) is the key instrument of operational regional cooperation, with Croatia as an active participant in creating and adopting
the Strategy and Action Plan in the field of justice and cooperation among internal affairs authorities of South East European countries. In support of the policy of regional ownership of the cooperation processes among the countries of the region, Croatia advocated the transition of the «Ljubljana process» within the framework of the RCC and the establishment of a Working group for society and culture with a permanent seat of the Secretariat in Cetinje, Montenegro.

Croatia was also active in the process of drafting the EU Strategy for the Danube Region and the accompanying Action plan. The State Secretary for European Integration Andrej Plenković was appointed the National Coordinator for the EU’s Danube Strategy. In agreement with the 14 countries of the Danube Strategy and the European Commission (Directorate General for Regional Policy), Croatia has taken over the coordination of two of the 11 priority fields of the Action plan: Priority field 6 – Preservation of biodiversity, landscapes and quality of air and soils together with Bavaria, and Priority field 9 – Support to competitiveness of enterprises in conjunction with Baden-Württemberg.

Croatia has sent a new liaison officer to the regional centre of the Migrations, Asylum, Refugees Regional Initiative (MARRI). A Memorandum of Consent has been signed relating to the sustainability of the established cooperation network of border police units at international airports of the MARRI member states.

Negotiations on amendments to the changes to the Convention regarding the regime of navigation on the Danube (Belgrade Convention of 1948), already in 1993, are approaching their final stage. At the spring plenary session of the Danube Commission in June, Croatia advocated a speedy adoption of a new convention as a contemporary framework of its future work. The Commission also adopted a package of motions and a cooperation plan with the European Union for the development of the strategy for the Danube region.

During the Montenegrin chairing of the Central European Initiative in 2010, Croatia continued to foster projects and the exchange of knowledge with other member states, mostly in the fields of transport, economy, tourism, energy and parliamentary cooperation. Croatia strongly supported and actively participated in the Initiative’s reform process. At the ministerial meeting in Budva in June, the strategic document «The Budva Recommendations» was adopted, thereby directing the Initiative towards becoming a concrete and pragmatic project and programme-based cooperation. Croatia also supported projects that foster European integration processes in the countries of the region.

For the Republic of Croatia, the Adriatic-Ionian Initiative is an important instrument of Adriatic and Mediterranean policy. At the final meeting of the Italian chairmanship in May, which also marked the 10th anniversary of the establishment of the Initiative, a Declaration on support to the European Union Strategy for the Adriatic-Ionian region was adopted as a sign of support for the Italian initiative of macro-regional cooperation in the Adriatic-Ionian basin, backed by the European Commission.

Croatia has actively joined the transformation process of the SELEC (South East European Law Enforcement Centre) with the aim of further strengthening regional cooperation in the field of combating cross-border organised crime. Croatia intends to set up an institutional framework for cooperation between the future SELEC and the international prosecution bodies, Europol and Interpol, as soon as possible.

The Republic of Croatia was part of the three-member chairing group of the Presidium of the Alps-Adriatic Working Community. As a member, Croatia actively participated in discussions on the reorganisation of this initiative. At the last meeting under the chairmanship of the Italian region Friuli-Venezia Giulia, held in Trieste in November, Croatia took over the two-year presidency for the period 2011–2012.
East Europe

In addition to investing great efforts in the continuation of good relationships with Russia, the Republic of Croatia also strengthened contacts with states included in the European Neighbourhood Policy, i.e. the Eastern Partnership, in line with the policy for the most effective use of economic potential and improvement of economic cooperation. An important aspect of relations with these countries is Croatia’s readiness to share the experience gained in the EU accession process.

Increased dynamics of bilateral meetings

In 2010, important impetus to bilateral relations with Russia was given by two meetings between Prime Minister Jadranka Kosor and Prime Minister Vladimir Putin in Moscow (in March and June). The talks were dominated by the topic of reinforcing Croatian-Russian cooperation in the field of economy and energy, including larger implications of the said cooperation to the energy policy development of the entire Eastern European region and the future energy map of Europe. President of the Republic of Croatia Ivo Josipović and former Croatian President Stjepan Mesić attended the Victory Day celebration in Moscow on 9 May. President of the Croatian Parliament Luka Bebić and his delegation paid a working visit to Moscow and St. Petersburg in October, and Croatia was visited by the Russian Federation Presidential Envoy to the Central Federal District, Georgy Poltavchenko, and the Minister of Civil Defence and Emergency, Sergey Shoigu.

The total commodity exchange has been in stagnation for the second year in a row, due to a decrease in imports of Russian energy generating products. However, Croatian exports to the Russian market increased by 57%. There was also significant growth of tourist visits to Croatia from Russia (30.8% more than in the previous year), due largely to the decision of the Croatian Government to temporarily suspend the visa regime for Russian citizens in the period between 1 April and 31 October. A sixth session of the Russian-Croatian Intergovernmental Commission on Trade, Economic and Scientific Cooperation was held in Zagreb on 16 and 17 September, where the improvement of cooperation in a series of sectors was discussed: energy, industrial production, transport, tourism, financial sector, shipbuilding and others.

In 2010, political relations with Belarus continued to develop in accordance with the EU Common Foreign and Security Policy. With the focus placed on economic cooperation, and a Croatian business delegation travelled to Minsk in the first half of March, in a visit organised by the Croatian Chamber of Economy. State Secretary in the Croatian Ministry of Tourism Branko Grgić opened a tourism fair there and signed a bilateral agreement on cooperation in the field of tourism. During the year, Croatian companies held numerous meetings with their partners, with the aim of returning to the Belarus market, where they had traditionally been present.

During bilateral political consultations at the level of directors of political directorates of ministries of foreign affairs of Croatia and Azerbaijan, held in Baku at the end of October, both parties confirmed a mutual desire to further strengthen all forms of bilateral cooperation. Again, the inten-
tion to open an Azeri embassy in Zagreb was expressed. During the meeting between Minister for Environment Marina Matulović Dropulić and Azeri Minister of Economic Development Şahin Mustafayev, held in Zagreb in May, the need to enhance economic cooperation and cooperation in the field of environmental protection was emphasized.

An agreement to avoid double taxation has been prepared for signing. Commodity exchange, based on oil imports to Croatia, has been doubled and amounted to USD 440 million, making Azerbaijan one of Croatia’s largest foreign trade partners. The great potential for Croatian entrepreneurs has been recognized, particularly in the sector of infrastructure construction, in one of the rare countries that did not experience a recession in 2010.

Meetings of state officials held during the year contributed to an increased dynamics of bilateral relations with Armenia. Minister Gordan Jandroković met with the Armenian Minister of Foreign Affairs Edward Nalbandian in New York in September. Political consultations were held between the two ministries of foreign affairs in Erevan at the end of October. Since September 2010, the Armenian Embassy in Rome has replaced Athens to diplomatically cover Croatia.

Bilateral relations between the Republic of Croatia and Georgia have continued to be good. Since July, Georgia has diplomatically covered Croatia from its Embassy in Budapest (replacing Athens). In September, President of the Republic of Croatia Ivo Josipović and Georgian President Mikhail Saakashvili met in New York, while the ministers of foreign affairs, Gordan Jandroković and Grigol Vashadze, held a separate meeting. The Georgian Minister of Foreign Affairs, Grigol Vashadze, paid his first visit to Croatia in December. In late October, political consultations between the two ministries of foreign affairs were held in Tbilisi. In late December, Croatia cancelled visas for Georgian citizens holding diplomatic and service/official passports by virtue of the Regulation amending the Regulation on the visa regime.

The inaugurations of the new presidents were occasions for meetings and strengthening of connections with Ukraine. The Ukrainian delegation to the inauguration of the new Croatian President, Ivo Josipović, was headed by the Chairman of the Parliament, Volodymyr Lytvyn, who met with President of the Croatian Parliament Luka Bebić. At the inauguration of the Ukrainian President Viktor Janukovich, Croatia was represented by the special envoy of the Croatian President, State Secretary for Political Affairs Davor Božinović. Ukrainian Deputy Prime Minister Sergey Tigipko attended the annual meeting of the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development in Zagreb in May, meeting on that occasion with Deputy Prime Minister Ivan Šuker. In accordance with the Memorandum of Understanding on cooperation in the Process of European Integration of 2009, consultations between the two ministries of foreign affairs were held in Kiev at the end of May.
Transatlantic Partners

The multiannual rising trend of constructive relations with the United States of America was particularly obvious in the field of political and security cooperation in 2010. Cooperation within the framework of NATO is becoming more and more concrete, particularly in Afghanistan and within the stabilisation and Euro-Atlantic integration of the countries in the region. Strong American support for the completion of Croatia’s accession process to EU membership has been continued, as a clear indicator of the partnership relations between Zagreb and Washington.

Meetings with numerous US officials

The level of friendship and close relations has also been confirmed by the meeting of Prime Minister Jadranka Kosor and US President Barack Obama in Prague in April, and with US Vice President Joseph Biden during an official visit to the United States at the end of May. During her visit to Washington, the Prime Minister met with Deputy Secretary of State James Steinberg, Speaker of the US House of Representatives Nancy Pelosi and many members and senators of the US Congress. During the 65th session of the UN General Assembly in New York, President of the Republic of Croatia Ivo Josipović attended a dinner for foreign statesmen hosted by President Barack Obama, while Minister Gordan Jandroković attended the Transatlantic dinner of EU and NATO officials at the invitation of US Secretary of State, Hillary Clinton.

Croatia was visited by several American delegations. At the inauguration of the new Croatian President Ivo Josipović in February 2010, the United States of America was represented by the Deputy Secretary of State Jacob Lew, who met with Minister Gordan Jandroković on that occasion. During the Croatia Summit in Dubrovnik in July, Prime Minister Jadranka Kosor met with the American Ambassador-at-Large for War Crimes Issues, Stephen Rapp, while Minister Gordan Jandroković met with Senator Arlen Specter. In September, Croatia was visited by a Congressional delegation headed by William Delahunt, which met with the Croatian president, prime minister and minister of foreign affairs and European integration. In November, Zagreb was visited by Deputy Assistant Secretary of State Thomas Countryman. He held talks with Minister Gordan Jandroković and was also received by President of the Republic of Croatia Ivo Josipović.

Within the framework of very good cooperation between the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and European Integration and the American State Department, State Secretary for Political Affairs Davor Božinović visited Washington in June and December for consultations with the US Assistant Secretary of State for Europe and Eurasia, Philip Gordon. He also met with the special advisor to Vice President Biden, Taylor Ruggles, officials of the National Security Council, Assistant Secretary of Defense Alexander Vershbow and Senator Michael Begich.

Activities have continued to complete the legal framework of security cooperation as a prerequisite for Croatia’s entry into the USA Visa Waiver Program.
Economic cooperation has still not realised its full potential and the desire of both sides, particularly with regard to American investments in Croatia. Exchange of commodities amounted to USD 729.9 million, which is 6.4 per cent less than in 2009, whereby a larger increase, as much as 31.5%, in Croatian exports to the United States was recorded. Tourism recorded a solid recovery, with 132,751 American tourists visiting Croatia in 2010, 11.6% compared to 2009.

Increase of economic exchange

Good bilateral relations with Canada have continued to grow. A greater number of highest-level bilateral meetings were recorded, among which the first official visit of a Canadian Prime Minister to Croatia can be stressed. Prime Minister Stephen Harper visited Croatia on 7 and 8 May 2010, during the year in which Canada chaired the G-8 and G-10, adding importance to his visit. On many occasions, Canada confirmed its strong support for Croatia’s inclusion to Euro-Atlantic integrations.

In May, a Memorandum of Understanding on youth exchange was signed, enabling Croatian and Canadian young citizens between 18 and 35 years of age to acquire education and work experience in Canada and Croatia. A Memorandum of Understanding has also been signed between the Ministry of Science, Education and Sports of the Republic of Croatia and the Ministry of Advanced Education and Technology of the Province of Alberta on cooperation in the fields of education, science and technology. Another Memorandum of Understanding has been signed on cooperation between the University of Saskatchewan and the University of Zagreb.

Progress in the overall bilateral relations with Canada is also evident in economic cooperation. In 2010, commodity exchange achieved a level of USD 136.5 million, an increase of 10% compared to 2009. Exports from Croatia to Canada amounted to USD 38.1 million, an increase by 157.6% compared to 2009.

In the context of the progress made in bilateral economic relations between the two countries, the Croatian-Canadian Business Network (CCBN) of entrepreneurs of Croatian-Canadian origin takes an important place. In cooperation with the Canadian-Croatian Chamber of Commerce in Toronto, the network provides strong support to the development of economic cooperation. In October, CCBN held a seminar entitled «Doing Business With Canada», co-organised with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and European Integration, Croatian Investment Promotion Agency, Croatian Chamber of Economy, Embassy of the Republic of Croatia in Ottawa and Embassy of Canada in Zagreb.

First political consultations between Croatian and Mexican Diplomacy

Political relations between the Republic of Croatia and Mexico may be assessed as good, with an improvement recorded in 2010, when Mexico cancelled tourist and business visas for Croatian nationals for stays in the United Mexican States up to 180 days. Transit visas for stays up to 30 days have also been cancelled. The decision entered into force on 25 April 2010.

A parliamentary friendship group between Croatia and Mexico was established on 6 April 2010 with the aim of promoting inter-parliamentary relations. State Secretary for Political Affairs Da- vor Božinović held the first political consultations with the Mexican Undersecretary for Foreign Affairs, María de Lourdes Aranda Bezaury in Ciudad de Mexico. On the basis of mutually expressed interest for the enhancement of bilateral cooperation in the field of combating international organised crime, contacts were established between the offices of the Attorneys General of the two countries.
Exchange of commodities between Croatia and Mexico amounted to USD 33.7 million, an increase of 5.4 per cent relating to the same period in 2009. The largest Mexican investor in Croatia, CEMEX, is also one of the largest global cement companies. This company, active in the field of environmental protection, has invested over HRK 300 million in projects of environment and air quality protection in Croatia in recent years. Special note should be made of the project to plant 1,600 olive trees of indigenous varieties on the southern slopes of Kozjak Mountain.
Central and South America

The strong economic growth of Central and South America, based on the economic strength of the neighbouring countries, large infrastructural projects in the energy sector, exploration and exploitation of oil and gas, road construction, communications and housing, has attracted investors and contractors from all over the world. Although remote, the emerging markets of this region have also become interesting to the Croatian economy, just as Croatia, soon to become an EU Member State, is growing increasingly attractive to Latin American countries for various forms of cooperation. An important contribution to these trends is given by the Croatian community living in this area.

A region of great potential and growing stability

Relations between Croatia and Brazil are characterised by a mutual desire to intensify and enhance cooperation. In May, the third round of bilateral consultations of representatives of the ministries of foreign affairs was held in Rio de Janeiro. The Croatian delegation was headed by State Secretary for Political Affairs Davor Božinović who, on that occasion, signed a Memorandum of Understanding between the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and European Integration of the Republic of Croatia and the Ministry of External Relations of the Federal Republic of Brazil, for the establishment of bilateral consultations. Brazil is still the most important Croatian partner in the region.

In 2010, Croatia’s efforts were directed at the opening of a resident Argentinean embassy in Croatia and at strengthening bilateral cooperation in the fields of trade, science, and particularly the use of Croatian ports. In April, Croatia was visited by Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs Víctor Tacchetti. On that occasion, political consultations were held and a Memorandum of Understanding between the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and European Integration of the Republic of Croatia and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, International Trade and Worship of the Argentinean Republic was signed. At the European Union–Latin America and Caribbean Summit, held in Madrid in May, Prime Minister Jadranka Kosor met with Argentinean President Cristina Fernández de Kirchner. Bilateral relations with Chile were intensive, and the cooperation is traditionally good within international organisations. During the EU–Latin America and Caribbean Summit in Madrid, Prime Minister Jadranka Kosor met with newly-elected Chilean President Sebastián Piñera, who later met with President Ivo Josipović in New York in September. In February, Chile was hit by a catastrophic earthquake that inflicted enormous material damage. The Government of the Republic of Croatia granted aid in the amount of HRK 1 million through the Red Cross and Caritas. The 200th anniversary of independence of the Chile was scheduled to be celebrated with a series of cultural events, in which Croatia was also to have participated, however, the celebration was cancelled due to the earthquake. Nevertheless, the town assembly of the municipality of Vitacura in the cap-

At the end of May, State Secretary for Political Affairs Davor Bobinovic held political consultations in Rio de Janeiro with the Undersecretary for Political Affairs at the Brazilian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Vera Machado. A Memorandum of Agreement on the establishment of bilateral consultations between the two ministries of foreign affairs was signed.
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In Santiago, at the incentive of the Embassy of the Republic of Croatia to Chile, passed a decision to name one of its town squares after the Republic of Croatia.

Relations with Colombia have improved following the presentation of credentials by the non-resident Ambassador of the Republic of Croatia, Rade Marelić, in November 2009. Regular visits to Bogota by a consular staff member of the Croatian Embassy in Brazil were initiated, since the Croatian emigrant community expressed great interest to establish connections with their native homeland. Cooperation between Croatia and Colombia in combating illicit drug trafficking has taken on an institutional character through cooperation in the UN Commission on Narcotic Drugs and the UN Office for Drugs and Crime.

In June, non-resident Ambassador of the Republic of Croatia Vesna Terzić, with a seat in Santiago, presented her credentials to the President of Bolivia. The visit by the Ambassador as and consular staff members of the Croatian Embassy to Chile has facilitated initial contacts with Bolivian authorities and contributed to better ties of the Croatian emigrant community in Bolivia with Croatia, and provided an impetus to the economic, cultural and other relations between the two countries.

Ambassador Mira Martinec represented the Republic of Croatia at the formal inauguration of the new Uruguayan President Jose Mujica on 1 March, as Uruguay is covered non-residentially from Buenos Aires.

Croatia has been building its relations with the countries of Central America through its process of Euro-integration. The entry of the countries of this region into an Association with the European Union, which will enter into force during 2012, will serve as a framework for bilateral cooperation with these countries. Although bilateral contacts are rare for the time being, cooperation is successfully pursued within multilateral forums, respectively in the UN bodies. The new non-resident Ambassador of the Republic of Croatia to Jamaica with the seat in New York, Ranko Vilović, presented his credentials to the Governor-General Patrick Allen, whereby formal frameworks have been created towards the development of cooperation with this Caribbean country. After the devastating earthquake that hit Haiti in January 2010, Croatia donated a total of EUR 1.3 million to that country through the Red Cross and Caritas, and nearly half a million euro more through the UNICEF office.
Asia and Oceania

The foreign policy activities of the Republic of Croatia towards Asia and Oceania were directed towards the development and enhancement of political and economic dialogue with the most important countries of the region, particularly China, India, Japan and the Republic of Korea. Asian countries are Croatia’s important trade partners, as well as potential investors and outbound tourist markets. Activities have been continued to establish a legal framework for cooperation and to carry out procedures of honorary consul appointments (in Bangladesh, India, Nepal, Mongolia, Kazakhstan, Japan) that could significantly contribute to the strengthening of overall and, particularly, economic cooperation.

Focus on economically strongest states in the region

Substantial bilateral relations with the People’s Republic of China continued in 2010, with very dynamic dialogue at all levels. Special attention was directed towards the strengthening of economic cooperation, reducing the Croatian deficit in the trade balance, fostering investments and tourist cooperation. At the inauguration of the new Croatian president, China was represented by a special envoy of Chinese President Hu Yintao and Minister of Culture, Cai Wu, who met separately with Prime Minister Jadranka Kosor and Minister of Culture Božo Biškupić. Minister Gordan Jandroković paid an official visit to China from 28 February to 3 March. Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Finance Ivan Šuker visited China in July and met with the First Vice Premier of the People’s Republic of China Li Kequiang, Minister of Finance Xie Xuren, Minister of Trade Chen Deming, Governor of the Chinese Central Bank Zhou Xiaochuan and presidents of the Chinese Export-Import Bank and Chinese Development Bank. On the occasion of the joint Croatian-Slovenian promotional tourist campaign «Taste Croatia, Feel Slovenia», Croatian Minister of tourism Damir Bajs visited Shanghai and Beijing in May. As part of the official visit of Minister of Culture Božo Biškupić to Beijing at the beginning of November, a Programme of cultural cooperation between the Government of the Republic of Croatia and the Government of the People’s Republic of China for the period 2011–2013 was signed. Ismail Tiliwaldi, Vice President of the National People’s Congress paid a visit to Croatia at the beginning of November. At the invitation of the President of the People’s Republic of China, Hu Jintao, a group of fifty young people from Croatian state and public institutions went on a study visit to China in December, organised by the Chinese Government. Regular political and consular consultations between the two ministries of foreign affairs play an important role in the development of bilateral relations: consular consultations were held in Zagreb on 13 September, and consultations of the analytics departments took place in Beijing on 1 and 2 December. At the beginning of November, Rijeka mayor, Vojko Obersnel, and mayor of the Chinese
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town Ningbo, Mao Guangli, signed a Memorandum on Cooperation between the two towns in the fields of economy, trade and port activities. Zagreb Mayor Milan Bandić paid a visit to Shanghai in June.

Political dialogue with India, with which Croatia has traditionally fostered good and friendly relations, has intensified with the exchange of high-level visits. From 6 to 10 March, President of the Croatian Parliament Luka Babić officially visited India. Indian Vice President Hamid Ansari visited Croatia from 9 to 11 June. During his visit, two bilateral agreements were signed in the fields of health care and medicine, and culture. An agreement on cooperation was also signed between the two national televisions, Hrvatska radiotelevizija (Croatian Radio-Television) and the Doordarshan television. At the end of February, the sixth political consultations were held in Zagreb, chaired by Secretary (West) at the Ministry of External Affairs, Vivek Katju on the Indian side, and the State Secretary for Political Affairs, Davor Božinović.

A positive impetus in relations with Bangladesh was given by the first visit of a Bangladeshi delegation, headed by State Secretary at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Mohamed Mijarul Quayes, who held the first political consultations with the State Secretary for Political Affairs, Davor Božinović. On this occasion, a Protocol on cooperation of the two ministries of foreign affairs was signed. During the year, all preliminary activities for the opening of a Croatian consulate in Dhaka, headed by an honorary consul have been completed, on both the Croatian and Bangladeshi sides.

Sri Lanka has appointed Marko Vojković as its honorary consul in Zagreb. Chairman of the Croatian Olympic Committee Zlatko Mateša visited Sri Lanka from 9 to 24 January and signed a Memorandum of Understanding between the Croatian Olympic Committee and the Sri Lanka Olympic Committee.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs and European Integration of the Republic of Croatia has re-instituted the procedure to establish a Croatian consulate in Nepal, headed by an honorary consul. In that respect, preparations were carried out during 2010 on both the Croatian and the Nepali sides to open a Consulate in Kathmandu.

Relations between Croatia and Japan are very good and friendly, based on regular political dialogue. There is excellent cooperation in the fields of multilateral activities, culture and science, and at the local and regional levels. In 2010, the topic of strengthening economic relations prevailed in bilateral meetings. From 12 to 17 April, the President of Croatian Parliament, Luka Babić, visited Japan. Minister Gordan Jandroković officially visited Japan from 8 to 10 September and met with Japanese Minister of Foreign Affairs Katsuya Okada, the President of the House of Councillors of the Diet of Japan, members of the Parliamentary Friendship League Japan-Croatia and the President of the Japanese Agency for International Cooperation. Minister Jandroković delivered an address at the Japan Press Club, presented the Croatian economic potential at a conference held at the Japanese Association of Employers, and opened a Croatian-Japanese economic forum at the Japanese Chamber of Commerce. At the initiative of Croatian Ambassador Drago Stambuk, construction of a Japanese-Croatian House of Friendship began in the town of Tokamachi. The idea to build this house is related to the fact that the Croatian national football team stayed in this town during the 2002 World Cup, and the formal opening of premises scheduled for May 2012. In 2010, implementation began on the largest joint Croatian-Japanese research project to date. The project Risk Identification and Land-use Planning for Mitigation of Landslides and Floods in Croatia has a duration of five years, and is funded by the Japanese Government in the amount of EUR 4 million.
Croatia and **South Korea** are interested in extending and expanding their bilateral relations, particularly in the fields of economic cooperation and tourism. Minister **Gordan Jandroković** paid an official visit to the Republic of Korea from 6 to 8 September. During that time, he met with the acting minister of foreign affairs and trade, president of the Croatian-Korean Friendship Group at the National Assembly, and president of the Foreign Policy, Union and Trade Committee. He also held talks with the president of Hankuk University for Foreign Studies, where he gave a lecture for students on Croatia’s position in the contemporary world.

In August, Croatia was visited by a delegation of the Parliament of the Republic of Korea, headed by Parliament Vice President **Eui Hwa Chung**. In March, a Croatian delegation headed by State Secretary **Tamara Obradović Mazal** from the Ministry of Economy, Labour and Entrepreneurship paid an official visit to Seoul.

Bilateral relations between Croatia and **Indonesia** are good and friendly, and an additional impetus has been given by the opening of the Embassy of the Republic of Indonesia in Zagreb on 29 November 2010. The need to strengthen and further possibilities to develop economic cooperation were discussed during the visit of the Director-General for America and Europe in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Indonesia, **Retno L. P. Marsudi**, to Zagreb at the end of July. She met with Minister **Gordan Jandroković** and State Secretary for Political Affairs **Davor Božinović**.

Croatia and **Malaysia** are very interested in improving the economic dimension of their mutual relations. In July, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Malaysia **Anifah Haji Aman** paid an official visit to Croatia, and at the end of September Prime Minister **Jadranka Kosor** met in New York with Malaysian Prime Minister, **Mohd Najib bin Tun Abdul Razak**.

In March, Croatia and **Vietnam** mutually cancelled the visa requirement for holders of diplomatic and service/official passports. By presenting credentials to **Brunei Darussalam** in May and to **Myanmar** in June, Ambassador **Željko Bošnjak** took over the office of accredited non-resident Ambassador of the Republic of Croatia to these two countries with a seat in Kuala Lumpur.

Relations with **Australia** were marked with a successful visit by the delegation of the Association of Volunteers and Veterans of the Homeland War, Zagreb branch, in April, when cooperation with Australian veterans’ associations was established. In July, South Australian Minister for Emergency, Safety and Infrastructure **Michael Wright** travelled to Croatia, on which occasion he visited the Ministry of the Interior, the National Directorate for Search and Rescue, the Fire Fighting Service and the Croatian Trade Union of Firefighters. The successful presentation at the September fair **Perth Royal Show**, where Croatia performed as the partner country, was important for the Croatian economy, culture, tourism and hospitality industry. During the year, activities were intensified to harmonise provisions of the Agreement on Health Insurance, which is of utmost importance for members of the Croatian emigrant community in Australia.

The good and friendly relations between Croatia and **New Zealand** rely largely on the large and influential Croatian emigrant community. Current topics such as the visa regime, student internship exchanges, completion of the agreement on social security and economic cooperation, were discussed during the official visit to Croatia by the Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade **Murray McCully** on 22 November, when he met his host, Minister **Gordan Jandroković**, and also with President **Ivo Josipović**, President of the Parliament **Luka Bebić**, and Prime Minister **Jadranka Kosor**.

Among the central Asian countries, the most intense bilateral contacts in 2010 continued with **Kazakhstan** (several meetings with the highest Kazakhstani officials on the sidelines of multilateral meetings). A bilateral meeting of Croatian and Kazakhstani Presidents **Ivo Josipović** and **Nur-**
sultan Nazarbayev took place during the OSCE Summit in Astana at the beginning of December. On the sidelines of the UN General Assembly session in New York on 23 September, a meeting was held between Croatian and Kazakhstani Ministers of Foreign Affairs Gordan Jandroković and Kanat Sudabayev took place. In 2010, the Croatian Government temporarily cancelled visas for nationals of Kazakhstan during the tourist season for the first time.

Considering the fact that the international position of Iran has not improved, and that a new round of sanctions against this country has been introduced by the UN Security Council, the European Union and the United States of America, bilateral relations with Iran continue to be at a low level. At the inauguration of the new Croatian President, Iran was represented by Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs Ali Ahani, who met separately with State Secretary for Political Affairs, Davor Božinović, former Croatian President Stjepan Mesić and President of the Croatian Parliament Luka Bebić. The Croatia-Iranian Parliamentary Friendship Group paid a visit to Iran last September, and was also received by the President of the Iranian Parliament, Ali Larijani.

Croatia used to diplomatically cover Afghanistan from its Embassy in Tehran, while from 2010. it is being covered on a non-resident basis from Ankara. At the beginning of November, Ambassador Gordan Bakota presented his credentials to Afghan President Hamid Karzai, whereby Croatia accredited an Ambassador to Kabul for the first time. As Croatia participates in the ISAF operation in Afghanistan and is active in providing development assistance to this country, Minister Gordan Jandroković attended the International Conference on Afghanistan in Kabul on 20 July.

In 2010, no high-level bilateral meetings were held with representatives of Pakistan, due to the very unstable security and political situation in that country. At the beginning of August, Pakistan was also hit by great floods and some 1,500 people lost their lives, while almost 20 million suffered from the consequences of the floods. The Croatian Government allocated HRK 1 million of assistance to Pakistan through the Croatian Red Cross.
Africa and the Middle East

Croatia aligns its foreign policy activities in Africa and the Middle East according to its assessments of development potentials and strengthening economic cooperation.

**Emphasis on seeking economic cooperation potential**

Bilateral contacts in relations between Croatia and **Algeria** include a visit by the President of the Council of the Nation, **Abdelkader Bensalah**, as personal envoy of the Algerian President to the inauguration of President of the Republic of Croatia **Ivo Josipović** in February 2010, and the visit to Zagreb by the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Algeria **Mourad Medelci** in December. The visit of Minister Medelci was the first visit of an Algerian minister of foreign affairs to Croatia. The main topic of this visit was the consideration of possibilities to enhance economic cooperation. On this occasion, a Memorandum of understanding on bilateral consultations between the two ministries of foreign affairs was signed.

Continuation of strong and substantial relations with **Egypt** was confirmed by the February visit of Egyptian Minister of Foreign Trade and Industry **Rashid Mohamed Rashid**, who headed a delegation of entrepreneurs from all major sectors of the Egyptian economy. They met with Croatian President **Ivo Josipović**, Prime Minister **Jadranka Kosor** and Minister of the Economy, Labour and Entrepreneurship **Duro Popijač**. In May, the Egyptian delegation composed of representatives of the Ministry of Defence and Ministry of International Cooperation visited Croatia to be introduced to Croatian achievements in the field of humanitarian landmine clearance. Prime Minister **Jadranka Kosor** paid an official visit to Egypt on 1 and 2 December. She met with Egyptian Prime Minister **Ahmed Nazif**, President **Hosni Mubarak**, Speaker of the People’s Assembly **Ahmad Fathi Sorour** and Secretary General of the Arab League, **Amr Moussa**. On this occasion, a Croatian-Egyptian business forum was held and a series of bilateral agreements signed. During the Prime Minister’s visit, State Secretary for Political Affairs **Davor Božinović** met with **Ahmet Fathal**, Assistant Egyptian Minister of Foreign Affairs for Europe.

Relations between Croatia and **Iraq** have taken on a strong economic dimension. Croatian companies are actively participating in many projects in Iraq. In May, the First Croatian-Iraqi economic forum was held in Zagreb, hosting some 60 Iraqi and 200 Croatian entrepreneurs and companies.

Good and intense bilateral relations between Croatia and **Israel** continued in 2010 with an exchange of highest level visits. In May, Minister **Gordan Jandroković** paid an official visit to Israel, and Israeli President **Shimon Peres** visited Croatia in July. Members of the Knesset’s Foreign Affairs and Defence Committee visited the Croatian Parliament, and visits of Croatian-Israeli parliamentary friendship groups were exchanged. During the year, ministry-level political consultations of state secretaries, heads of directorates for multilateral affairs, and the two analytics depart-
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ments were held. Three bilateral agreements related to customs, economic and cultural-education-al cooperation were signed.

The economic relations between Croatia and Israel were characterised by constant growth in commodity exchange and an increase of Israeli investments in Croatia. During 2010, the number of Israeli tourists in Croatia increased by 14%.

In March, State Secretary for Political Affairs Davor Božinović paid a visit to the Palestinian Self-Government. Another round of consultations between the two ministries, at the level of heads of directorates, was held in Ramallah in May.

Prime Minister Jadranka Kosor visited Libya on 1 September to discuss common economic projects with Libyan Prime Minister al Baghdadi Ali al-Mahmudi. In late November, Croatian President Ivo Josipović participated in the 3rd Africa-EU Summit in Tripoli; on the sidelines of this meeting he had a separate working meeting with Libyan leader, Muammar Gaddafi.

Croatia and Syria continued to strengthen their bilateral economic cooperation. In March, Croatian Minister of Economy, Labour and Entrepreneurship Đuro Popijač visited Syria, which at that time hosted the Croatian-Syrian business forum. In December, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Finance Ivan Šuker visited Syria. The Croatian non-resident Ambassador to Syria, based in Cairo, organised the first celebration of Statehood Day and Croatian Armed Forces Day in Damascus. In June, a celebration was held to mark the handover of duties between commanders of the 4th and 5th Croatian Armed Forces contingents within UNDOF, a peacekeeping mission in the Golan Heights.

In 2010, Croatia intensified its bilateral contacts with the Persian Gulf countries, particularly Oman, Qatar and the United Arab Emirates. There has been an increase in the exchange of high-level delegation visits, and preparations have begun to open a diplomatic mission in one of the Gulf countries. President of the Croatian Parliament Luka Bebić paid an official visit to Qatar in February, signing a Memorandum of Understanding on cooperation in tourism between the Republic of Croatia and the State of Qatar. In September, a crossroad constructed by the Croatian company Konstruktor was opened in Doha. A delegation from Oman, led by Minister of the Economy Ahmed bin Abdulnabi Macki, paid an official visit to Croatia in February. In July, an honorary consul of the Republic of Croatia in Oman was appointed. The procedure initiated to appoint the first ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary of the United Arab Emirates to Croatia with the seat in Berlin, will improve the quality of relations with the United Arab Emirates. In April, the Government of the Republic of Croatia adopted a decision to initiate the procedure to enter into a General Agreement on Cooperation between the Republic of Croatia and Saudi Arabia, thereby establishing the legal framework for further development of bilateral cooperation in fields of common interest.
United Nations

After a successfully completed mandate in the Security Council, in 2010 the Republic of Croatia continued to build and strengthen its position as a responsible member of the international community, and to distinguish itself as a country that can contribute with its experience and understanding of complex international issues and situations to international efforts in achieving sustainable world peace. Special attention was given to activities directed towards finding comprehensive strategic responses to the socio-political and economic recovery of countries in the post-conflict period.

Croatia’s activities in building peace and democracy and solving global challenges

Throughout the year, Croatia continued its diplomatic activities directed towards re-election into the membership of the Peacebuilding Commission for the period 2012–2013. Recognizing that peace, development, security and respect for human rights are intertwined and complementary, at the same time it commenced preparations for re-election and membership in the Economic and Social Council for the period 2013–2015.

At the high-level meeting on the achievement of Millennium Development Goals, held in New York in September, Croatian President Ivo Josipović expressed the commitment of the Republic of Croatia to the full implementation of the Millennium Development Goals as one of the foremost priorities of the international community, particularly at a time when their achievement, originally planned to happen by 2015, was put into question due to the global economic and financial crisis, food crisis and negative impacts of climate change. The implementation of eight national objectives and 31 sub-objectives is of particular importance for the Republic of Croatia, as they also correspond with the priorities related to the EU accession process.

Prime Minister Jadranka Kosor headed the Croatian delegation at the opening of the 65th session of the UN General Assembly in September. In her address, she expressed the support of the Republic of Croatia for the systematic strengthening of the UN’s structure and Security Council reform, and welcomed the establishment of a UN body for the strengthening of the position of women. During the session of the high-level segment, the delegation of the Republic of Croatia also participated in thematic discussions on environment and development, climate change, preservation of biological diversity, combating desertification and others.

In 2010, Croatia was also active in the work of other UN bodies and international organisations. Participating at a high-level meeting in Krakow in July, on the occasion of the 10th anniversary of the establishment of the Union of Democracies, State Secretary for Political Affairs Davor Božinović emphasized Croatia’s full support to the development of democratic values, strengthening and respect for the rule of law, international standards and human rights. Croatia also participated at the high-level First Regional Conference for the Mediterranean of the UN Alliance of Civilizations, held in Malta in November.
Representatives of the Republic of Croatia participated at the 16th UN Climate Change Conference in the Mexican holiday resort Cancun in December. The conference gathered signatory states of the Kyoto Protocol with the aim of reaching an agreement on the reduction of the emission of greenhouse gases in the post-Kyoto period, i.e. after 2012. Aware of the problems caused by the negative consequences of climate change, the Republic of Croatia became actively involved in discussions, supporting the goals defined by the Kyoto Protocol, as the protocol marked a significant shift in the global policy against climate change and greenhouse gas emissions.


In accordance with its possibilities and planned activities, the Republic of Croatia provided financial support for the work of several UN funds and programmes, thereby additionally affirming its readiness to actively participate in resolving numerous challenges faced by the international community. Thus in 2010, it co-financed the activities of the Peacebuilding Fund, UN Population Fund, Central Emergency Response Fund, UN Children’s Fund, Support Fund for the Ottawa Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention and UN Sustainable Development Fund.
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NATO

With its activities within the North-Atlantic Alliance, the Republic of Croatia continued to affirm itself further throughout 2010 in foreign affairs, and it continued to do so in multiple ways, such as by contributing to the joint goals of NATO and to the safety of all its members through its engagement in Alliance operations in Afghanistan and in Kosovo. Once again, Croatia proved itself to be a credible stakeholder in international relations.

Croatia presided over the US-Adriatic Charter

Its participation in the work of key civil and military bodies of the Alliance has given Croatia an opportunity, equally with other allies, to put forth its views of the most important political and security issues of the Euro-Atlantic area and to become actively involved in the creation of policies and decision making in NATO.

Croatia continued to contribute actively to the stability of South East Europe, promoting Euro-Atlantic integration through very concrete, practical projects that it offered to the countries in the region on their path to NATO membership. In this regard, the Croatian presidency over the US-Adriatic Charter, a regional initiative for cooperation in Euro-Atlantic integrations, was particularly important and noted.

The Republic of Croatia presided over the US-Adriatic Charter in the first half of 2010. In February, it organised a meeting of political directors in Zagreb, where the future of the Charter was discussed in view of the changes in its membership (Albania and Croatia had become NATO members, while Bosnia and Herzegovina and Montenegro had just joined the Charter with a clearly expressed desire to join NATO). In late April, a symposium was held titled «Women and Security», which gathered participants from state administration bodies and from the non-governmental and scientific sectors of the Charter member states. In May, Zagreb hosted Charter members at a seminar on strategic communication, which was also attended by speakers from NATO and from the American International Republican Institute. Croatia concluded its presidency with a ministerial meeting of the Charter held in early July in Dubrovnik, where it presented the initiative to strengthen the joint activities of the countries of the region in the NATO operation in Afghanistan (training of Afghan security forces). In addition to the involvement of Kosovo as an observer in the work of the Charter, this initiative is considered the most important achievement of the Republic of Croatia during its presidency over the Charter.

Croatia also continued to participate in NATO peacekeeping operations in Afghanistan and in Kosovo. At the end of 2010, 319 members of the Croatian Armed Forces, four members of the Ministry of the Interior, and one diplomat were involved in the ISAF operation in Afghanistan, while 20 members of the Armed Forces with 2 helicopters were involved in the KFOR operation in Kosovo.

President Ivo Josipović led the Croatian delegation at the meeting of heads of state and governments of NATO members held in Lisbon in November. A new Strategic Concept establishing the vision of the Alliance for the forthcoming decade was adopted at the meeting. The most important
areas in the document are the relations of the Alliance with the European Union and with Russia, anti-rocket defence, nuclear deterrence and supervision of arms, reform of the Alliance and the operation in Afghanistan. Furthermore, although political expansions are no longer among NATO's top priorities, the countries of South East Europe received strong support at the summit for continued reforms, and a confirmation of the continuation of the «open door» policy.

During the year, Minister Gordan Jandroković participated in several important meetings and conferences within NATO: the conference on Afghanistan held in London on 28 January, the informal meeting of foreign ministers of NATO member states held in Tallinn on 22 and 23 April, the conference on Afghanistan held in Kabul on 20 July, and the NATO Summit held in Lisbon on 19 and 20 November.

NATO Secretary General Anders Fogh Rasmussen visited Croatia on 29 April and met with the highest Croatian officials – Croatian President Ivo Josipović, Prime Minister Jadranka Kosor and Ministers of Foreign Affairs and European Integration and Defence, Gordan Jandroković and Branko Vukelić, respectively.

The conference «NATO – Science and Economy», organised on 16 November in Zagreb in cooperation with the German Hanns Seidel Foundation, gathered over a hundred participants from Croatian scientific and economic circles. It was an opportunity to exchange experiences on scientific cooperation and economic affairs within NATO. The scientists highlighted NATO's financial assistance to scientific projects, international contacts on a high scientific level and the training of young scientists among the greatest advantages of cooperation with NATO. On the other hand, entrepreneurs emphasized the importance of aligning the quality of their products to NATO standards. This pertains both to the products intended for the markets of NATO countries and to those on the domestic market.

The Interdepartmental Committee for NATO, established by virtue of a decision of the Croatian Government in 2009, continued its work during 2010. The Council of the Interdepartmental Committee, as a political and operational body within the Committee, deliberated on 29 March on the possible contribution of Croatia to the building of the new NATO headquarters and on the promotion of the ISAF operation in Afghanistan among the Croatian public. In March, a survey was conducted on Croatian public opinion on NATO. The results demonstrated that 68% of respondents approved the participation of Croatian in the ISAF operation in Afghanistan, and that 63% believed the expansion of NATO membership to be important for the safety and stability of South East Europe.

With its accession to NATO, the Republic of Croatia obtained the right to become networked into the protected information system NS-WAN, which became operative in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and European Integration in November of 2010.
International security

Participation in international peacekeeping missions is an important instrument of the foreign and security policy of the Republic of Croatia. Since 1999, when Croatia first sent its armed forces to the UN Observer Mission in Sierra Leone (UNOM-SIL), it has made an important step forward in terms of the quality and quantity of its contribution to the establishment of peace in crisis spots. In the previous period, primarily members of the Croatian Armed Forces participated in peacekeeping operations. However, in line with the integral approach implemented by the international community, which combines the military, civil and development components in crisis management, members of the civil police, diplomats and representatives of other ministries gradually started to become involved.

Participation in 14 peacekeeping missions

During 2010, the Republic of Croatia participated in 14 peacekeeping operations: nine headed by the UN, two headed by NATO and three headed by the EU, with a total of 484 participants, 461 of which were members of the Armed Forces, and 23 civil experts (19 police officers, one representative of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and European Integration, and three representatives of the Ministry of Justice).

The greatest and most important Croatian contribution to peacekeeping operations is the participation in the ISAF operation in Afghanistan headed by NATO. As part of the integral approach of the international community to the stabilization and reconstruction of Afghanistan, the operation included not only members of the Armed Forces, but also Croatian police officers and diplomats. As part of the Provincial Reconstruction Team in Feyzabad, a Croatian diplomat who is also Deputy Head of Civil Affairs is working on development aid projects, a new form of Croatian participation in the activities of the international community in Afghanistan.

In 2010, Croatia continued to implement training and education programmes for Croatian and foreign officers before their deployment in peacekeeping missions, at the Croatian Army Peace Support Operation Centre (CAPSOC) in Rakitje near Zagreb. For these activities the Centre holds a UN certificate. Croatia also pays great attention to gender balance by also sending female personnel to peacekeeping operations.

Active participation in peacekeeping operations to date most certainly contributed to the election of the Republic of Croatia as a non-permanent member of the UN Security Council in the period 2008–2009, and to full NATO membership, and shall without a doubt reflect positively on the full Croatian membership in the European Union.

Long-term and implementing documents for better arms control

The Inter-ministerial Working Group for the development of a National Strategy to Combat the Proliferation of Weapons of Mass Destruction, and an Implementation Action Plan, which the Croatian Government established in 2009, continued its activities in 2010. As part of the work on the Strategy, a workshop Teaching Top Table Exercise was conducted for the participants of the Inter-ministerial Working Group in Zagreb, from 14 to 16 December, organised by the American Defense Threat Reduction Agency. The text of the National Strategy was harmonised at the end of the year and the Inter-ministerial Working Group embarked on the drafting of the Implementation Action Plan.
The Republic of Croatia has built UN Security Council Resolution 1540 (2004) on the non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction into its national legislation and continued to work actively on strengthening international and regional cooperation in this area. Within that framework, a workshop organised by the UN was held in Split, from 14 to 17 June, on the subject of the said Security Council Resolution.

Active cooperation with the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons was continued in the implementation of the Chemical Weapons Convention, and in the popularisation of its goals in industry and academic circles.

On 30 September, the Croatian Government adopted the first Report on the Implementation and Realization of the National Strategy and Action Plan for Small Arms and Light Weapons Control for the period from September 2009 to September 2010. In order to support the implementation of the National Strategy for Small Arms and Light Weapons Control in the Republic of Croatia, on 27 April the Government and UNDP signed the «Croatian SALW Control Project: Support to the Implementation of the National Strategy for Small Arms and Light Weapons Control».

Within the implementation of the Agreement on Sub-Regional Arms Control, pursuant to Article IV of Annex 1-B of the General Framework Agreement for Peace in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia participated in the Seventh Review Conference on the Agreement, held in Vienna on 7 and 8 July. Furthermore, it participated at the meetings of the Sub-Regional Consultative Commission (3–4 November in Kolašin, Montenegro) of the Permanent Working Group and in the annual information exchange in Vienna. At all of the above meetings, the parties discussed the modalities for the two phases of transfer of Agreement ownership on the participating parties with the Office of the Personal Representative of OSCE Chairman-in-Office for Article IV. The entire process of the transfer of ownership is expected to be completed by 2014.

During the year, Ministry representatives also participated in three rounds of negotiations on the future of the regime of conventional arms control in Europe, after the blockade of the Treaty on Conventional Armed Forces in Europe.
Human Rights

From repealing capital punishment to inter-religious tolerance

The protection and promotion of human rights, at both the global and regional levels, continued to constitute an important segment of Croatian foreign policy activities in 2010. Acting within the United Nations, the Council of Europe, the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe and other international organisations in this field, Croatia continued to advocate the repeal of capital punishment, prohibition of torture, protection of children's rights, gender equality and combating violence against women, combating against all forms of discrimination, including discrimination based on sexual orientation, protection of rights of national and ethnic minorities and promotion of inter-religious dialogue and tolerance. In this respect, two events in particular marked the activities of Croatia in the area of human rights during 2010: interactive dialogue in the procedure of the Universal Periodic Review of human rights records in Croatia, and the preparation and holding of an international conference on the permanent resolution for the issue of refugees in the region.

Deliberation on the Universal Periodic Review – commitment to the promotion and protection of human rights

Within the procedure of the Universal Periodic Review of the Human Rights Council (individual review of the human rights records in all countries), Croatia was the subject of the Universal Periodic Review in October 2010, and it successfully defended its report. During an interactive dialogue at the meeting in Geneva, the delegation, headed by State Secretary for European Integration Andrej Plenković, responded to all the questions posed by the interested countries. Upon deliberation on the report, Croatia was given recommendations (total of 116), and accepted the majority as they had either already been implemented or were being implemented in practice, while the status of the remaining 22 recommendations was left to be decided on during 2011.

Political framework reached for the resolution of the refugee issue

As part of the efforts to find a permanent solution for the refugee issue on the territory of the former Yugoslavia, at the beginning of the year preparations were completed for an international conference on refugees. During the preparations and at the conference itself, Croatia advocated the view that, in resolving the issue of refugees in the region, the focus should be on the actual needs of the refugees, and that in providing housing, priority should be given to persons placed in collective centres and to persons «in the greatest need». Intensive diplomatic activities of the Republic of Croatia contributed to the acceptance of such views by the international community, whose aim is to reach a comprehensive solution to the refugee problem and to end the refugee situation in the region by December 2011, when the commemoration of the 60th anniversary of the Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees is to be held.

The conference titled «Permanent Solutions for Refugees and Internally Displaced Persons – Cooperation of Countries of the Region» was held in Belgrade on 25 March. One of the results was the plan for an international donors conference (in the second half of 2011), at which countries of the region should present their programmes of providing housing solutions for refugees and displaced persons, with the aim of raising funds from international donors.

The presidents of the Republic of Croatia and the Republic of Serbia, Ivo Josipović and Boris Tadić, agreed at the meeting of 24 November on a political framework for the resolution of the
Multilateral Relations

refugee issue, based on which further activities will be undertaken at the operative and technical levels.

Activities within the UN and in relations with the EU

Within the activities of the UN Human Rights Council, special attention was given to the current revision of the Council. In July, Croatia was visited for the first time by Council Special Rapporteur on the right to adequate housing, Raquel Rolnik. At the UN General Assembly’s Third Committee, dealing with human rights issues, Croatia was one of the leaders in the presentation of the resolution on capital punishment. At the 54th session of the UN Commission on the Status of Women, it actively participated in the commemoration of the 15th anniversary of the Beijing declaration and the 30th anniversary of CEDAW. In the field of human rights protection, in the segment on women, peace and security and combating the use of sexual violence in conflicts, Croatia was active in the Group of Friends of UN Security Council Resolution 1325. Minister Gordan Jandrokić participated in the marking of the 10th anniversary of the resolution at the ministerial meeting in September, and the Ministry took over the coordination of the Working Group for the Drafting of a National Action Plan for the Implementation of the Resolution. As observer in the UNICEF Executive Board, Croatia continued to participate actively in its work, and successfully submitted a report on the implementation of the UNICEF programme for Croatia. The Ministry also cooperated in drafting a new five-year Action Programme for UNICEF in Croatia, for the period 2012–2016. Among special activities, based on its membership in the Group of Friends of the Alliance of Civilizations, the Ministry coordinated the Working Group for the Development of a National Programme for the Alliance of Civilizations (2010–2012), which was adopted by the Croatian Government, thereby strengthening the role of the Republic of Croatia in promoting intercultural dialogue and tolerance at the international and regional level.

In relations with the European Union and as part of negotiations in Chapter 23 - Judiciary and Fundamental Rights, the Ministry coordinated the negotiating Sub-Group for Fundamental and Minority Rights. On 1 July, Croatia became an observer in the European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights.
Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe

Croatian delegation at the Astana Summit

The Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE), which was paralysed for a while by the protracted reform process (necessity of reform, extended conflicts, war in Georgia, arms control), was marked by a certain positive dynamic in 2010, related to the activities of presiding Kazakhstan within the Corfu process. In addition to the Organization's regular activities, an informal meeting of foreign ministers was held in July in Almaty, Kazakhstan, and in early December, a summit was held in Astana which, with the adoption of the final declaration, marked the end of a period of several years in which OSCE was a hostage to political rivalries between the Russian Federation and the EU and other western countries over conflicts in Georgia and unresolved frozen conflicts in the Caucasus region. One of the results of the meeting was the adoption of the Astana Commemorative Declaration – Towards a Security Community, which almost entirely reaffirms the already existing principles and obligations of an integrated concept of security. However, the Action Plan was not adopted and therefore remains an important task in the continuation of the process which will most certainly be a long one. The Croatian delegation at the Astana summit was led by Croatian President Ivo Josipović, and the ministerial meeting in Almaty by the State Secretary for Political Affairs Davor Božinović.

The Republic of Croatia continued its participation in OSCE field activities, deploying personnel from the state and civil sectors in OSCE missions. On several occasions, it sent representatives of state bodies and non-government organisations to courses for participation in OSCE observer missions, and to observe elections in countries of the OSCE region.

At the 19th session of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly, the head of the Croatian delegation in the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly, Tonino Picula, was elected rapporteur of the First Committee on Political Affairs and Security. In addition, pursuant to the decision of the Standing Committee of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly, in May 2010 the Croatian Parliament took over the hosting and organisation of the Parliamentary Assembly’s Fall Meetings (to be held in Dubrovnik for the first time in October 2011).

In 2010, the OSCE office in Zagreb continued to monitor the trial proceedings for war crimes and the implementation of the Government’s programme of housing provision. In November, the Head of the OSCE office in Zagreb, Jose Enrique Horcajada Schwartz, submitted the annual report of the Office, emphasizing that the activities of Croatia in both areas of the Office’s mandate were of a self-sustainable and irreversible character, and in that respect expressed his opinion that the Republic of Croatia may pronounce the mandate to be finished at any point in 2011. At the OSCE Standing Council in December, a decision was adopted on extension of the mandate of the Zagreb Office until 31 December 2011.
Active involvement in the reform process of the European Court of Human Rights

At the Council of Europe, 2010 was marked by the implementation of reforms aimed at strengthening the organisation’s political profile, recognisability and efficacy, with a focus on those activities in which the Council of Europe possesses expertise and comparative advantages in relation to other international organisations. Negotiations commenced on the accession of the European Union to the European Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms, the 60th anniversary of which was celebrated in Strasbourg in October. There was also intensive work on the implementation of the Declaration and the Action Plan, both adopted in February at the Interlaken conference on the reform of the European Court of Human Rights. The implementation of the reform was made possible in part by the entry into force of Protocol 14 to the Convention on Human Rights, which introduced amendments to the Court procedure aimed at improving its efficiency.

Croatia continued to distinguish itself in the field of family law, being a leader in initiatives pertaining to the fight against violence towards women and to the exercise of children’s rights, and it was particularly active in the field of the protection of minority rights, fight against human trafficking, fight against terrorism and the reform of the European Court of Human Rights and systematic enforcement of its verdicts, thus providing a concrete contribution to the work of the Organisation and to the fulfilment of its basic objectives in the strengthening of democracy, human rights and the rule of law. In early April, Croatia ratified the Council of Europe Convention on the Exercise of Children’s Rights (entered into force on August 1), and thus by the end of 2010, was a party to 89 conventions, agreements and protocols (out of a total of 210 legal instruments) of the Council of Europe, and a party to 11 out of 13 existing partial agreements.

The Republic of Croatia, through its active participation in the reform process of the European Court of Human Rights, and the consistent implementation of the Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms at the national level in the manner of orderly enforcement of judgments, contributes to the disburdening of the Court. After the Court published the judgment of the Grand Chamber in the «Oršuš vs. Republic of Croatia» case (segregation of Roma students into special classes in Međimurje) in March, in December Croatia presented an Action Plan with general and specific measures that the Secretariat of the Council of Europe and several member states commended as being exemplary.

In June, the European Committee of Social Rights adopted the Decision on the Merit of the Collective Complaint «COHRE vs. Republic of Croatia» (former holders of tenancy rights of Serbian nationality). The key aspect is that the Committee established a violation solely in the case of those persons who had submitted a request for the provision of accommodation and who had already returned or wanted to return to Croatia. Experts were unequivocal in their finding that Croatia can-
not be responsible for those persons who do not want to come back and that it has no obligation of restitution or compensation towards them.

As part of the commenced new supervision cycle of reporting on the status of human rights in Europe, the Council of Europe Commissioner for Human Rights, Thomas Hammarberg, visited Croatia in April and met with the highest Croatian officials. Among other high level meetings, special mention should be given to the address by Croatian President Ivo Josipović to the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe at the summer session on 21 June, and meetings with the President of the Parliamentary Assembly Mevlut Çavuşoğlu, Secretary General Thorbjorn Jagland and President of the European Court of Human Rights Jean-Paul Costa. In November, Minister of Justice Dražen Bošnjaković participated in the specialized conference of ministers of justice of the Council of Europe member states in Istanbul, and State Secretary for Political Affairs Davor Božinović led the Croatian delegation at the 120th session of the Ministerial Committee.
Economic Multilateral Relations

Annual EBRD assembly held in Zagreb

Worldwide, 2010 was marked by attempts to overcome the economic crisis, establish positive economic trends and stabilise the world market, hence the monitoring of those processes held an important place in the activities of the Croatian diplomacy. In view of that, the Ministry followed and participated in the activities of international economic organisations and financial institutions, with the aim of implementing the Economic Recovery Plan and increasing foreign investments into the Republic of Croatia.

In May, Zagreb was host to the Annual Assembly of the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD), which was a great acknowledgement for Croatia and its good cooperation with EBRD. The event was important in the political, economic and social sense. Participants at the assembly included approximately 2000 people from the political and business world from over 60 countries of Europe and the world: prime ministers and ministers of finance, bankers and investors, representatives of international financial institutions and the academic community, as well as representatives of organisations and NGOs. A business forum entitled «Croatian Investment Forum» was also held and was opened by Prime Minister Jadranka Kosor in the presence of EBRD President Thomas Mirow, which was a good opportunity for Croatia to present its market and attract representatives of international financial institutions, business banks and investors.

In an effort to improve the cooperation between the Republic of Croatia and the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) with other state administration bodies, the Ministry began to coordinate activities directed towards intensifying that cooperation. In May, a presentation was given in Zagreb on the Investment Reform Index for 2010, the creation of which was the result of participation by all relevant state bodies. On that occasion, representatives of the OECD regional programme for investment stimulation (Investment Compact) presented the «Regional Competitiveness Initiative» project for South East Europe, aimed at strengthening the administration in public institutions and transferring technology into production companies.

The Ministry participated in the presentation of the first Trade Policy Review of Croatia, presented at the seat of the World Trade Organization (WTO) in Geneva in March (after nine years of membership, Croatia was obliged to commence the implementation of control mechanisms for its trade policy). The report received the highest grades, both from the WTO Secretariat and from other member states, which expressed their satisfaction with the professionally prepared text and additional explanations.

After an extended blockade of decision making within the Central European Free Trade Agreement (CEFTA 2006), caused by the non-participation of Kosovo representatives in the meetings, the joint delegation of UNMIK/Kosovo began to participate in the meetings, and at the end of the year took over the presidency over CEFTA from Serbia. On multiple occasions, the Ministry expressed its willingness to help Kosovo in presiding over CEFTA. During the year, the Ministry also participated in preparations for the signing of the Additional Protocol on Further Liberalisation of Trade in Agricultural and Food Products among interested CEFTA parties, which was signed in December.

In the field of coordination of bilateral technical assistance programmes, financed from bilateral sources of European countries and Japan, the last remaining projects were completed over the year, financed by the Federal Republic of Germany and the Kingdom of Denmark.
International Development Cooperation

HRK 450 million for development projects worldwide

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs and European Integration, as the coordinator of the Inter-ministerial Working Group for Development Co-operation and Humanitarian Assistance Abroad, participated in the preparation of conclusions on the sectoral, territorial and thematic frameworks of the Implementation programme of the Republic of Croatia for 2010. The territorial framework of official international development cooperation primarily encompasses the countries of the region, and through multilateral organisations Croatia also offers assistance to countries in Africa and Asia (primarily Afghanistan). Thematic priorities encompass three basic sectors: health, educational and the socioeconomic sector. The implementation programme for 2010 also includes activities in the field of development cooperation of the Croatian Government and civil society organisations, entrepreneurs and industry.

The total international development aid of the Republic of Croatia in 2010 amounted to almost HRK 450 million, which is about three and a half times more than the previous year. Furthermore, 6% of the total aid within international development cooperation was directed by the Ministry for the transfer of knowledge relating to the EU negotiation process to the countries in the region.

During 2010, several projects were realised within the framework of international development cooperation: aid to Afghanistan through financial support to the World Food Programme for the «Food for Education» project, trilateral cooperation in the health sector in Kosovo with the US Agency for International Development, and support to the World Health Organization project for monitoring the HIV/AIDS epidemic at the Andrija Štampar School of Public Health in Zagreb.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs and European Integration also implemented several smaller projects in Afghanistan: building of a facility for drinking water extraction in the village of Gowr-e-Mar near Mazar-Sharif (in cooperation with the Croatian Ministry of Defence), a Sewing and Tailoring course in cooperation with the Women’s Directorate of the province of Badakhshan, and the building of a protective wall around the primary school for girls in the village of Sayef-e-Shahid near Feyzabad.

Prompted by humanitarian disasters caused by catastrophic earthquakes during 2010, the Croatian Government donated humanitarian aid to Pakistan (HRK 1 million), Haiti (HRK 2 million) and Chile (HRK 1 million).
Taking Care of Croatian Nationals Abroad

The Ministry and diplomatic and consular missions work on protecting the rights of Croatian nationals while abroad, while also helping alien citizens who wish to visit or stay in Croatia.

Mexico lifts visa requirements for Croatian citizens

Among consular activities, one of the most extensive is the receipt of passport applications. In 2010, diplomatic missions and consular offices of the Republic of Croatia received 56,061 applications for new passports. The performance of this task was greatly facilitated when 72 diplomatic missions and consular offices became networked into the IKOS system for second generation ePassports. The passports issued now are biometric and aligned with the recommendations of the International Civil Aviation Organization and Council Regulation (EC) No 2252/2004 on standards for security features and biometrics in passports and travel documents, issued by EU Member States.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs and European Integration is the central state body competent for issuing visas and, as such, participated in the EU accession negotiations in Chapter 24 - Justice, freedom and security, in the area of visa policy. The Ministry has also coordinated the alignment of the Croatian legislation on aliens with the relevant *acquis* and EU standards. New Croatian visas, aligned with EU requirements, were introduced in October.

The Ministry is also competent for the development and establishment of a Croatian database on visas, a unique information system which links all state administrative bodies participating in the issuing of visas with Croatian diplomatic missions and consular offices, and international border crossings. The Croatian database contains all data on submitted visa applications, and on issued, rejected, cancelled or extended visas. In 2010, the system was successfully implemented in all diplomatic missions and consular offices. The establishment of such a system is a prerequisite for the future inclusion of the Republic of Croatia into the Visa Information System of the European Union.

Over the year, over 90,000 visa applications were submitted to Croatian diplomatic missions and consular offices. When it comes to the travel of Croatian citizens, the list of countries to which they can travel without a visa is growing. Owing to the efforts of the Croatian diplomacy, as of April, Croatian citizens can travel to the United Mexican States without a visa.

Taking care of Croatian minorities abroad

In international contacts, the Ministry advocates that the position and status of Croatian autochthonous minorities in Austria, Bulgaria, the Czech Republic, Hungary, Italy, Kosovo, Macedonia, Montenegro, Romania, Serbia, Slovakia and Slovenia be based on the application and observance of European standards in the field of minority protection. At the same time, it promotes the preservation of ethnic, religious, cultural and linguistic awareness, as well as the right of Croatian minorities to their own cultural life and the protection of national traditions, and monitors changes in the migration policy and legislation of the countries where Croatian minorities live. Furthermore, the Ministry has established and developed regular cooperation with representatives of Croatian minority organisations.

In the course of 2010, organisations and associations of Croats in neighbouring and other European countries discussed the Draft Strategy for the relations between the Republic of Croatia and Croatians outside the Republic of Croatia. The purpose of the Strategy is to forge effective connections between the Croatian society and Croats living abroad, creating a Croatian cultural unity,
advancing mutual cooperation, particularly in the preservation of the Croatian identity, developing the Croatian language, and enhancing legal protection of Croats living abroad.

On 17 and 18 June, the Croatian-Serbian Intergovernmental Mixed Committee for Minorities held its fourth session in Zagreb and Vukovar. The second session of the Croatian-Macedonian Joint Committee for Minorities was held in Zagreb on 25 November.

The Ministry co-financed various minority projects abroad. Funds were allocated to associations of Croatian national minorities through committees for the distribution of grants, established at Croatian diplomatic and consular missions, on the basis of criteria set for the allocation of financial aid, such as minority size, intensity of their activity, quality of projects, financial aid provided by states of residence, etc.

Taking care for Croatian communities abroad

The Ministry promotes the preservation of the national identity of Croatian emigrants and the development of various forms of relations between Croats abroad and their homeland. The aid provided to emigrants is directed towards the preservation of Croatian culture and language, and towards strengthening relations with the homeland. Moreover, efforts have been invested in strengthening relations between the Republic of Croatia and countries where Croatian emigrants live today, as a continuing task of the Croatian diplomacy in relation to emigrants. This should be facilitated by the Strategy for the relations between the Republic of Croatia and Croatians outside the Republic of Croatia. In the course of 2010, the Draft Strategy was discussed, among others, by numerous Croatian emigrant associations around the world.

The following projects were implemented in 2010:

386 scholarships were granted to pupils and students of Croatian origin who are attending schools or universities in Croatia.

A Croatian language course was organised at the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, University of Zagreb, for 86 members of the Croatian communities living abroad.

The web page «Information for Croats Abroad» has been regularly updated to provide data that could facilitate visits to the homeland or the return of emigrants, and help their integration in the economic, cultural, educational and other aspects of life in Croatia.

Financial aid funded from the proceeds of games of chance was granted to programmes or projects of friendship associations; in 2010, 26 programmes/projects by 21 NGOs were financed in the first tender, while the second tender provided funds for an additional 23 programmes/projects by 17 NGOs.

A public tender was published for the financing of education, cultural, scientific and health programmes and projects pertaining to the interests of Croats in Bosnia and Herzegovina (whereby a total of 353 programmes and projects were selected).
The recognisability of Croatia in the world

The Ministry regularly informs the domestic and foreign public about foreign policy events, Croatia’s positions concerning international issues and the diplomatic activities of Croatian officials. In addition to standard press releases and the websites of the Ministry and diplomatic and consular missions, other public diplomacy instruments have also been applied, ranging from international conferences to professional publications.

In the course of 2010, 651 press releases were prepared and published. Compared to 505 press releases published in 2009, this shows an increase in the overall activities of the Ministry and its officials. In addition to the usual contacts and cooperation with members of the domestic and foreign media, the accreditation of foreign reporters’ offices and correspondents continued in 2010. Queries for the provision of information continued to be received based on the Act on the Right of Access to Information. Thirty-one such requests were received, and of these 27 received responses, while 4 requests were passed on to other Croatian state administration bodies.

A total of 120 domestic and foreign journalists, photographers, cameramen and other reporting team members applied for accreditation to cover the Croatia Summit 2010 in Dubrovnik. Information packages on the conference, programme of events, topics of discussion and information on the conference sections open to the media were also prepared. In order to ensure smooth functioning of the press centre at the Dubrovnik Palace Hotel, a direct video link and other required technical and IT equipment was provided for live transmission of the conference sessions that were open to the media. The success of this international conference was proven by a number of affirmative newspaper articles and TV reports published and broadcast after the conference.

Croatia Summit 2010 – South East Europe Facing Global Challenges

The 5th Croatia Summit was held at the Dubrovnik Palace Hotel on 9 and 10 July 2010. The main topics of the conference were the economic crisis, global security, transatlantic relations and the position of the states of South East Europe. Senior officials from European countries and Canada and representatives of international organisations (the European Union, NATO and OSCE) gathered in Dubrovnik. Among the participants were the prime ministers of France, François Fillon, Poland, Donald Tusk, Slovenia, Borut Pahor, Bulgaria, Boyko Borisov, Albania, Sali Berisha, and Kosovo, Hashim Thaçi; the ministers of foreign affairs of Sweden, Carl Bildt, Austria, Michael Spindelegger, Bulgaria, Nikolaj Mladenov, Hungary, János Martonyi, Greece, Dimitris Droussas, Albania, Ilir Meta, Macedonia, Antonio Milošoski, Montenegro, Milan Ročen, Kosovo, Skender Hyseni; European Union officials: Enlargement Commissioner, Štefan Füle, and the Director-General for Enlargement, Michael Leigh, as well as the MEP and Rapporteur for Croatia, Hannes Swoboda. Furthermore, the conference was attended by other MEPs, line ministers, state secretaries and experts.
This international event was opened by Croatian Prime Minister Jadranka Kosor, and President of the Republic of Croatia Ivo Josipović. Following the plenary session, conference participants worked in three panels moderated by ministers. The first panel, entitled «Economic Governance/ Towards Prosperous Economies», was moderated by Minister of Economy, Labour and Entrepreneurship, Duro Popijač. The panel on «Global Security and Transatlantic Relations» was moderated by Minister of Defence, Branko Vukelić, while «Future Vision for South East Europe» was the central topic of the panel moderated by Foreign Minister Gordan Jandroković.

At the closing plenary session, participants were addressed by the President of the Croatian Parliament, Luka Bebić.

The public has been regularly informed of the activities of the Ministry and its diplomatic and consular missions on the Ministry website (www.mvpei.hr), which offers links to several specialised web pages (Croatia’s negotiations to the EU, www.eu-pregovori.hr; Croatia–EU, www.mvpei.hr/ ei/; Croatian Economic Diplomacy, hgd.mvpei.hr; Information for Croats Abroad, www.mvpei.hr/hmiu/ and Croatia–NATO, www.mvpei.hr/nato/). At the end of 2010, a new section was set up on the Ministry’s website entitled «Other Activities», providing information on the activities of diplomatic and consular missions, and the Ministry’s directorates and departments. Information has also been made publicly available through the websites of the Croatian diplomatic missions. In 2010, a website was set up for the Croatian Embassy in Finland.

The importance of this form of communication is reflected in the fact that in 2010, the official website of the Ministry recorded 606,000 individual visitors with 36 million hits. The web page ‘Croatian Economic Diplomacy’ recorded over 5 million hits by 160,000 individual visitors in the same period.

Conferences and seminars

Several international conferences, seminars and round tables dealing with topical European issues and other foreign policy matters were held in the course of the year. These were organised by the Diplomatic Academy, with the assistance and participation of international organisations, foreign institutions or foundations. The series of lectures by senior international officials, held for the Ministry’s employees and the general public, also continued. The main events are listed below:

- Zagreb, 18–19 March: International diplomatic francophone seminar on «European Strategies in the Field of Sustainable Development: Growth, Environment and Innovations», organised in cooperation with the International Organization of La Francophonie, the National School of Public Administration from Strasbourg and the French Embassy in Zagreb;
- Dubrovnik, 20–22 May: International conference, the 12th Dubrovnik Diplomatic Forum on «Public Diplomacy Strategy», organised in cooperation with the Central European Initiative (CEI);
- Zagreb, 1 June: Round table on «European Diplomacy (EEAS)», held in cooperation with the Hanns Seidel Foundation and the International Relations Institute of Zagreb;
- Dubrovnik, 11–15 October: the 12th Joint Seminar on European Integration Processes for Young Diplomats from Central, Eastern and South East Europe, organised in cooperation with the Hanns Seidel Foundation;
- Dubrovnik, 19–22 October: «Common Foreign and Security Policy», an international diplomatic francophone seminar, organised by the Diplomatic Academy in cooperation with the International Organization of La Francophonie, the National School of Public Administration from Strasbourg and the French Embassy to Croatia;
- Zagreb, 16–17 November: «External Relations of the EU after the Lisbon Treaty», a francophone seminar held in cooperation with the International Organization of La Francophonie and the European Institute of Public Administration (EIPA) from Maastricht;
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Lectures given by foreign ambassadors or senior officials in Zagreb, organised by the Diplomatic Academy, are listed below:

• 4 February: lecture entitled «The Spanish Presidency of the EU and Bilateral Relations with Croatia» was prepared by the Spanish Ambassador to Croatia, Manuel Salazar, at the beginning of the Spanish Presidency of the Union;
• 9 March: US Ambassador to Croatia, James Foley, gave a lecture about the relations between USA and Croatia;
• 15 March: Vivian Walker, Deputy US Ambassador to Croatia, spoke about the challenges facing the US public diplomacy;
• 29 March: lecture entitled «Albania and the EU: Albanian Perspectives of Regional Development» given by Ilir Meta, Albanian Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs (held at the Faculty of Political Sciences of Zagreb);
• 7 April: Victorio Taccetti, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs, International Trade and Worship, spoke about contemporary Argentina;
• 19 April: lecture entitled «Foreign Policy Transformation upon the State’s Accession to the EU» given by Miroslav Lajčák, Slovakian Minister of Foreign Affairs;
• 26 April: Mangasi Sihombing, Ambassador of the Republic of Indonesia in Zagreb, gave a lecture about the foundations and implementation of Indonesian foreign policy.

Publications

In addition to publications aimed at informing the Croatian public on Croatia’s accession to the European Union and the EU itself, 2010 saw the preparation of an electronic publication on the work of the Ministry and the foreign policy service, and Croatia’s international activities in 2009 entitled Yearbook 2009.

The fourth, revised edition of the brochure Official Abbreviated and Full Names of States in the Croatian and English Languages by Božidar Bakotić was also published in 2010.

Promotion of Croatian culture

Cultural events in Tel Aviv, Chicago, Rome, Vienna and Sarajevo

In 2010, foreign cultural policy was formulated so as to represent Croatian culture with a particular emphasis on cultural heritage, in line with foreign policy priorities. In cooperation with other institutions and relevant authorities, Croatia was promoted in the broadest terms, and more specifically as an attractive destination for cultural tourism.

2010 saw the implementation of 30 art, 16 music, one film and 10 other cultural promotion projects in about 30 states. In addition to standard-setup exhibitions, such as Croatian Submarine World, Croatian Lighthouses, Unseen Croatia, Colours of Croatia, Tie Challenge, Croatian Caricature and Miraculous Croatia, two new exhibitions were put on: an exhibition of photographs by Marko Vrdoljak en-
Public Diplomacy

titled Miraculous Croatia 2 and an exhibition on Split of Marulić’s Times (English version). Moreover, several film events were held in the course of the year, as well as concerts by the Zagreb Saxophone Quartet, Zagreb Guitar Quartet, Mario Perestegi, Tamara Jurkić-Sviben, Željka Caparin and Srđan Bulat. Cooperation was established with several other musicians and bands, such as Berislav Arlavi, Tomislav Vukšić and the Rucner String Quartet.

Croatian Film Week in Israel

At the end of December, the cultural event Croatian Film Week in Israel was held in Tel Aviv, Jerusalem, Haifa, Sderot, Rosh-Pina and Herzliya. This marked the first systematic presentation of modern Croatian cinematography in Israel. Through cooperation with domestic organisers of the film festival, all the films were subtitled in English and Hebrew, which facilitated their reception among the demanding Israeli film audience. In addition to seven films shown at the festival, a selection of cartoons produced by the Zagreb Cartoon School and Zagreb Film was presented in the special film evening called The Gems of Zagreb Film. Croatian Film Week featured the renowned Croatian writer Ante Tomić (one of the scriptwriters of the film Watch-Tower directed by Rajko Grlić). According to Israeli estimates, the event was attended by over 50,000 Israeli viewers, and was covered by the local media and regularly advertised in the Israeli media (i.e. the press, radio and TV).

Croatian American Days in Chicago, 14–17 May

For the sixth year in a row, all the Croatian associations, schools and parishes of Chicago, together with the Croatian Consulate of Chicago and the Ministry’s services, organised the Croatian American Days. The festivities included a series of cultural events and art shows.

The festivities began at the main city square, Daley Plaza, early in the morning on 14 May with the raising of the US, Croatian and the City of Chicago flags. The Croatian and US anthems were sung by members of the Croatian folklore groups Sacred Heart Kolo Group, Croatian Vines and Club Stepinac. The introductory speeches by John Vodopić, Chair of the Organisation Committee of the Croatian American Days, and Tony Perica, eminent lawyer and politician from Chicago, were followed by speeches delivered by City Councillor Alderman James Balcer and Croatian Ambassador to the US Kolinda Grabar-Kitarović. The performing folklore groups presented an impressive programme of songs and dances from all over Croatia, followed by a short performance by promising classical guitarist, Srđjan Bulat from Split. The event was enjoyed by several hundred people who had the opportunity to visit the stalls presenting Croatian tourism and to take brochures and information packages distributed by the Croatian National Tourist Board. Ten large boards carried posters presenting various parts of Croatia and the did-you-know-pictures of Janica Kostelić, the tie, the Dalmatian dog, the torpedo, Meštrović and his sculpture Indians, Marco Polo, etc.

On the following day, the Alma Matris Alumni Croatiae, the Association of the University of Zagreb Alumni Organisations (AMAC), celebrated its 20th anniversary. The Croatian-American Association (CAA), which had actively lobbied for Croatia, celebrated the 20th anniversary of its work on the same day. The promotion of the book The Croats of Chicago by Marija Dugandžić Pašić was held on 17 May. This is the first book on the topic, covering the life of Croats in the period spanning from the beginning of their settlement in Chicago in the 18th century to the present day.

Festa dei popoli at the Salesian Pontifical University of Rome

The event Festa dei Popoli, in which Croatia participated as a guest of honour, was held at the Salesian Pontifical University of Rome in May 2010. The exhibition of photographs Miraculous Croatia by Marko Vrdoljak was opened during the event, and the Croatian Ambassador to the Holy See, Emilio Marin, gave a lecture entitled «Vision of Europe and the Mediterranean». A concert by the Dalmatian a cappella singing group Grdelin of Zagreb was also organised during the festival.
Croatian Music Festival in Vienna

Over 140 musicians of diverse musical styles (ranging from classical and traditional music to jazz and popular music) performed at twelve concerts during the 6th Croatian Music Festival in Vienna at the close of 2010. The festival was held under the auspices of the Croatian President with the financial support of the Ministry of Culture, City of Zagreb, Zagreb Tourist Board and the Ministry, with the Zagreb Concert Management as the chief organiser.

Croatian Culture Days in Bosnia and Herzegovina

The event Croatian Culture Days in Bosnia and Herzegovina was held in Sarajevo, Usora and Žepče from 10 to 17 June. The festival was opened with the play Family in Dust, performed by the Croatian National Theatre at the National Theatre of Sarajevo. The same play was performed in Žepče, and the event also hosted the children’s play How Long Can a Story Be by the Zadar Puppet Theatre, an exhibition by Croatian art designer Boris Ljubičić and a concert by organist Mario Perestegi.
Development of the foreign affairs service

Training of diplomats

The 2009/2010 One-Year Professional Diplomatic Study Programme, organised by the Diplomatic Academy, covered 270 teaching hours through the following courses: Croatian Studies, International Relations and International Politics, European Integration and NATO, Diplomacy and Diplomatic Skills, International Law, Diplomatic and Consular Law. In addition to standard and special lectures, the Programme included workshops and study visits to various parts of Croatia. The participants were members of lower and middle-ranking diplomatic and consular staff, and those expecting to receive their first diplomatic rank. The 13th generation of students attending the Programme from 25 January to 14 May 2010 included 45 participants, 31 from the Ministry and 14 from other state administrative bodies.

In 2010, 12 candidates successfully completed their diplomatic advisor examination, having met all the requirements set out in the Ordinance on the Diplomatic Academy and the diplomatic advisor examination.

A total of 26 members of the Ministry staff were sent for professional diplomatic training through scholarship programmes to diplomatic academies in Berlin and Prague, to the Diplomatic Course for Young Diplomats organised by the Turkish Ministry of Foreign Affairs, to the National School of Public Administration in Paris (ENA), to the Marshall Centre in Garmisch, to the Clingendael Institute of International Relations in the Netherlands, to the International Diplomatic Seminars in Kuala Lumpur, to the Winter Diplomatic School in Bulgaria, and to the Summer School in Montenegro.

The Ministry’s Library continued to catalogue, process and update its materials and provide monthly reports on its activities, services, donations and new titles on the Ministry’s website in order to keep users up-to-date on its work and improve the quality of its services. Moreover, the Library maintained active cooperation with relevant libraries and publishers in Croatia and abroad, with a view to fulfilling the requirements for the functioning of the library service set for diplomats and other employees of the Ministry. Stages for the digitalisation of the library have been defined, including the creation of the library database and digital access to relevant advisor papers and final papers of the One-Year Programme attendants. In May 2010, the library donated about one hundred relevant publications to the libraries of Vukovar.

International cooperation of the Diplomatic Academy

2010 saw a continuation of activities in the framework of cooperation with the International Organization of La Francophonie. These included the organisation of an international diplomatic seminar in Dubrovnik in mid-October, and three short (one or two-day) seminars, including one international, on topical issues about the EU and European integration. Two French language courses were organised in cooperation with the Alliance Française. The Academy’s website in French was updated with information on current events.
All Academy activities are organised in cooperation with renowned international institutions, such as the National School of Public Administration in Paris (ENA), the College of Europe in Brugge, the European Institute of Public Administration in Maastricht (EIPA) and with the participation of international experts, scholars, diplomats and officials of the European Union and other state administrations.

Finally, the Academy’s international cooperation has been developed through international cooperation agreements, concluded with counterpart institutions and through exchange visits of academies’ directors. International events attended by the Academy’s Director in 2010 are listed below:

- Sofia-Sandanski, 21–23 March: participation at the opening of the 5th Winter School for Young Diplomats, a lecture on the «Challenges for Young Diplomats Today» and the exchange of experiences on potential joint projects at the invitation of the Diplomatic Institute of the Bulgarian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Hanns Seidel Foundation;
- Malta, 27–29 September: the annual meeting of diplomatic academies’ directors organised by the University of Georgetown and the Diplomatic Academy of Vienna, with an introductory paper entitled «Regional Diplomatic Training»;
- Rome, 22–24 October: Festival of Diplomacy, a round table on «Teaching and Learning Diplomacy» with the presentation on the «Regional Diplomatic Training: the Croatian Experience», at the invitation of the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the John Cabot University of Rome;

Preparation for postings in diplomatic and consular missions

The preparation of diplomats and administrative staff assigned to work in Croatian diplomatic and consular missions was organised for groups and individual employees. The preparation of representatives of line administration bodies sent to work abroad was conducted on the basis of specific, targeted programmes. The preparation of newly appointed chiefs of diplomatic and consular missions was organised in accordance with the time schedule of new appointments and was based on individual programmes that included all the aspects of diplomatic activities in the recipient country or international organisation.

The foreign language curriculum is based on the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages and is implemented through group or individual courses of English, German, French, Spanish and Italian ranging from A1.1 to C2.2 courses. Group courses at all levels are organised from September to June, following an internal competition. Targeted or specialist foreign language courses were adapted to the specific work requirements of attendees.

Computerisation of activities

The development of the information and communications system (IKOS) continued in 2010. The system was installed at the Office of the Croatian President and other locations.

The Croatian Visa Database, based on the IKOS system, the project of biometric e-passports for Croatian citizens and the system for e-passports have been successfully installed in all the Croatian diplomatic and consular missions around the world, as planned.

The system for central management, quality control, simple and efficient computer maintenance has been implemented in the scope of regular maintenance of IT equipment in diplomatic and consular missions in the course of 2010. This will ensure complete integration of the IT system into the entire foreign policy service.
Users at the Ministry were provided with constant IT support through a helpdesk, with 6,000 queries successfully handled in the course of the year.

The project of integrating Croatian diplomatic and consular missions into a single virtual private network, enabling toll-free telephone calls between missions and the Ministry, continued in 2010. Many diplomatic and consular missions have already been networked, leading to significant cost savings. The second stage of the project facilitating toll-free telephone calls among Croatian diplomatic and consular missions was launched in 2010.

In the first half of the year, the Ministry invested additional efforts into meeting the organisational and technical prerequisites for the establishment of an ICT system of data exchange with NATO. The information system for classified and unclassified data exchange with NATO was put into operation in mid-2010.

The harmonisation of classified and unclassified data processing in the foreign policy service and further implementation of information security measures and standards continued in accordance with the relevant regulations, and with NATO and EU security standards. The preparation for the implementation of an information system for classified and unclassified data exchange with EU institutions continued in line with the national plan for Croatia’s accession to the EU. In October 2010, EU representatives carried out surveillance of the implementation of information security measures for the processing of classified data that the Ministry receives from EU bodies.

Property investments

In 2010, the Ministry invested in its facilities abroad in order to improve working conditions and security criteria. The funds obtained from damages were used to renovate the building of the Croatian Embassy in Belgrade, while the Ministry’s own funds were used to refurbish the Croatian Embassy building in London. The Embassy building in Rome was partly modernised with funds obtained from insurance, while the Embassy building in Madrid was equipped with new furniture produced by Tvin from Virovitica. The Embassy building in Kosovo was moved to new leased premises, and the embassies in Egypt and Finland were provided with consular desks in accordance with the Schengen standards, which were financed with the Ministry’s funds.

The Expert Group for Art of the Joint Committee for Succession of the Diplomatic and Consular Property of the Former SFRY met at Croatia’s initiative in Zagreb. The distribution of the works of art agreed at the Group’s meetings in Ljubljana (2007) and Belgrade (2010) was verified and accepted. In addition, several graphics were acquired for the Ministry’s offices and diplomatic and consular missions.

Finally, 2010 saw the drafting of the Ordinance on the public procurement for Croatian diplomatic and consular missions abroad, and the Instruction on the application of the Ordinance.
Chronology of Events

Chronology of Important Events in 2010

January

8 JANUARY – PRISTINA
President of the Republic of Croatia Stjepan Mesić paid an official visit to Kosovo; he met with President Fatmir Sejdiu, addressed the members of the Kosovo Assembly and visited the Croatian soldiers in the KFOR mission

13 JANUARY – KRANJSKA
Gora Working meeting of Prime Minister Jadranka Kosor and Slovenian Prime Minister Borut Pahor

14 JANUARY – ZAGREB
Trilateral meeting between the foreign ministers of Croatia, Bosnia and Herzegovina and Turkey, Gordan Jandroković, Sven Alkalaj and Ahmet Davutoğlu

18 JANUARY – ZAGREB
Official visit of Hungarian Prime Minister Gordon Bajnai

21 JANUARY – BERN
Official visit of Minister Gordan Jandroković to the Swiss Confederation at the invitation of Minister of Foreign Affairs Micheline Calmy-Rey

28 JANUARY – LONDON
Minister Gordan Jandroković participated in the International conference on Afghanistan

February

3 FEBRUARY – BERLIN
Prime Minister Jadranka Kosor met with Federal Chancellor Angela Merkel

4 FEBRUARY – ZAGREB
Visit of Finnish Minister of Foreign Affairs Alexander Stubb to Croatia; he met with Minister Gordan Jandroković and Prime Minister Jadranka Kosor

8 FEBRUARY – MILAN
Prime Minister Jadranka Kosor met her Italian counterpart Silvio Berlusconi

18 FEBRUARY – ZAGREB
The inauguration of Ivo Josipović, the third President of the Republic of Croatia, was attended by a number of distinguished foreign guests: President of Albania Bamir Topi, Chairman of the Presidency of Bosnia and Herzegovina Željko Komšić, President of Bulgaria Georgi Parvanov, Pres-
ident of Montenegro Filip Vujanović, President of Kosovo Fatmir Sejdiu, President of Hungary László Sólyom, President of Macedonia Gjorge Ivanov, President of Poland Lech Kaczyński, President of Slovakia Ivan Gašparovič, President of Slovenia Danilo Türk, Swedish Foreign Minister Carl Bildt, Alternate Minister for Foreign Affairs of Greece Dimitris Droutsas, Secretary of State for European Affairs of France Pierre Lellouche, US Deputy Secretary of State for Management and Resources Jacob Lew; delegations from Germany, Oman, China and Iran were also led by their ministers; Ukraine and Spain were represented by the Chairman of the Parliament Volodymyr Lytvyn and President of the Senate Javier Rojo Garcia. European Commissioner for Enlargement Štefan Füle, the NATO Assistant Secretary General and others also attended the inauguration. Some were received by President of the Croatian Parliament Luka Bebić, Prime Minister Jadranka Kosor and Foreign Affairs Minister Gordan Jandroković.

22 FEBRUARY – PODGORICA

At the invitation of Prime Minister Milo Đukanović, Prime Minister Jadranka Kosor visited Montenegro, where she also met with President Filip Vujanović and President of the Assembly Ranko Krivokapić.

24 FEBRUARY – BUDAPEST

At the invitation of Gordon Bajnai, Prime Minister Jadranka Kosor participated in the Energy Security Summit.

28 FEBRUARY – 3 MARCH – BEIJING

Minister Gordan Jandroković paid an official visit to China, where he met Minister of Foreign Affairs Yang Jiechi, and was also received by Chinese Vice President Xi Jinping.

March

2 MARCH – MOSCOW

Prime Minister Jadranka Kosor discussed economic matters with Russian Prime Minister Vladimir Putin.

4 MARCH – BRUSSELS

President of the Republic of Croatia Ivo Josipović visited EU institutions and met with President of the EU Herman van Rompuy, President of the European Commission Jose Manuel Barroso and President of the European Parliament Jerzy Buzek.

5 MARCH – PTUJ

Prime Minister Jadranka Kosor participated in a trilateral meeting with her Slovene counterpart Borut Pahor and Serbian President Boris Tadić.

6 MARCH – CORDOBA

Minister Gordan Jandroković participated in an informal meeting of foreign affairs ministers of EU Member States and candidate countries, at the invitation of Spanish Minister of Foreign Affairs Miguel Ángel Moratinos.
9 MARCH – ZAGREB

Macedonian Minister of Foreign Affairs Antonio Milošoski paid an official visit to Croatia; he met with Minister Gordan Jandroković and Prime Minister Jadranka Kosor, and was also received by President Ivo Josipović

12 MARCH – BRDO KOD KRANJA

President of the Republic of Croatia Ivo Josipović paid an official visit to Slovenia; he met with Slovenian President Danilo Türk, Prime Minister Borut Pahor and President of the National Assembly Pavle Gantar

15 MARCH – VIENNA

At the invitation of Austrian President Heinz Fischer, President Ivo Josipović visited Austria, where he met with his host, and with Austrian Federal Chancellor Werner Faymann and President of the Parliament Barbara Prammer

16 MARCH – BUDAPEST

President of the Republic of Croatia Ivo Josipović paid an official visit to Hungary; he met with President László Sólyom, Prime Minister Gordon Bajnai, President of the Parliament Béla Katon and leader of the opposition party Fidesz, Viktor Orbán

16 MARCH – ZAGREB

Prime Minister Jadranka Kosor hosted the Chairman of the Council of Ministers of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Nikola Špirić

24 MARCH – OPATIJA

Informal meeting of Croatian President Ivo Josipović and Serbian President Boris Tadić

25 MARCH – BELGRADE

Minister Gordan Jandroković participated in the international conference «Durable Solutions for Refugees and Displaced Persons – Cooperation Among Countries of the Region», organised by UNHCR, EU, OSCE and the Council of Europe

26–27 MARCH – BRUSSELS

President of the Republic of Croatia Ivo Josipović participated in the forum dedicated to the European path of the Western Balkans, hosted by Belgian Prime Minister Yves Leterme; this served as an opportunity for brief bilateral meetings with Estonian President Toomas Hendrik Ilves, Serbian President Boris Tadić and Slovene Prime Minister Borut Pahor; the following day, Croatian President Ivo Josipović met with NATO Secretary General Anders Fogh Rasmussen

29 MARCH – BUDAPEST

Minister Gordan Jandroković participated in a quadrilateral meeting on the European future of South East Europe, hosted by the Hungarian Minister of Foreign Affairs, Peter Balázs, and attended by the Foreign Affairs Ministers of Serbia, Vuk Jeremić, and Greece, Dimitros Droutsas

29 MARCH – ZAGREB

Visit of Albanian Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Ilir Meta; the Albanian guest met with Minister Gordan Jandroković, Prime Minister Jadranka Kosor, and was also received by President Ivo Josipović
April

7 APRIL – ZAGREB
Visit of the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs of Malta, Tonio Borg

8 APRIL – PRAGUE
At the invitation of US President Barack Obama, Prime Minister Jadranka Kosor participated, with other representatives of Central European countries, at a formal dinner celebrating the signing of the new American-Russian Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty (Start II)

13 APRIL – HELSINKI
Prime Minister Jadranka Kosor visited Finland at the invitation of her counterpart Matti Vanhanen; she met with Speaker of the Parliament Sauli Niinistö and former Finnish President Martti Ahtisaari

14 APRIL – SOFIA
Official visit of Prime Minister Jadranka Kosor to Bulgaria; she met with Prime Minister Bojko Borisov, President of the State Georgi Parvanov, and President of the People’s Parliament (Sobranje) Cecka Cačeva

14 APRIL – SARAJEVO
Official visit of President of the Republic of Croatia Ivo Josipović to Bosnia and Herzegovina; in addition to meeting the Chairman and members of the Presidency of Bosnia and Herzegovina, he also met with the High Representative of the international community in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Valentin Inzko

16 APRIL – PÉCS
Trilateral meeting of the Presidents of Croatia, Hungary and Serbia, Ivo Josipović, László Sólyom and Boris Tadić; later that day, Presidents Josipović and Tadić met with representatives of the Croatian community in Vojvodina

19 APRIL – ZAGREB
Slovak Minister of Foreign Affairs Miroslav Lajčák visited Croatia

22 APRIL – TALLINN
Minister Gordan Jandroković participated in the meeting of ministers of foreign affairs of the NATO Member States

27–29 APRIL – ANKARA
Minister Gordan Jandroković paid an official visit to Turkey at the invitation of his Turkish colleague Ahmet Davutoğlu; in addition to meeting his host, Minister Davutoğlu, he also met with Turkey’s Chief Negotiator for EU accession, Egemen Bağış and Minister of the Economy Mehmet Çağlayan; Minister Jandroković was also received by Turkish President, Abdullah Gül

28 APRIL – ANKARA
A trilateral meeting was held of the foreign affairs ministers of Croatia, Bosnia and Herzegovina and Turkey, Gordan Jandroković, Sven Alkalaj and Ahmet Davutoğlu
29 APRIL – ZAGREB

NATO Secretary General Anders Fogh Rasmussen paid a visit to Croatia; he met with Prime Minister Jadranka Kosor, Ministers of Foreign Affairs and Defence Gordan Jandroković and Branko Vukelić and President Ivo Josipović

30 APRIL – BUCHAREST

Minister Gordan Jandroković visited Romania and met with his counterpart Teodor Baconschi

May

5 MAY – ANCONA

Minister Gordan Jandroković participated in the Ministerial meeting of the Adriatic–Ionian Initiative, where the ten years of the initiative’s activities and other issues were discussed

7 MAY – ZAGREB

At the invitation of Prime Minister Jadranka Kosor, Canadian Prime Minister Stephen Harper paid an official visit to Croatia; he was also received by Croatian President Ivo Josipović

9 MAY – MOSCOW

President of the Republic of Croatia Ivo Josipović participated in the celebration of the Victory Day at the invitation of Russian President, Dmitri Medvedev

14–17 MAY – BEIJING, SHANGHAI

President of the Republic of Croatia Ivo Josipović paid a visit to the People’s Republic of China and met with Chinese Vice President, Xi Jinping; he also visited the EXPO 2010 World Exhibition in Shanghai

14 MAY – ZAGREB

The Annual Meeting of the EBRD was held in Zagreb, it was opened by Prime Minister Jadranka Kosor, who held a separate meeting with EBRD President Thomas Mirow; on the sidelines of the assembly, a meeting of the region’s prime ministers was held, attended by Prime Minister Jadranka Kosor, as well as Prime Ministers Sali Berisha of Albania, Nikola Špirić of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Milo Đukanović of Montenegro, Nikola Gruevski of Macedonia, and Mirko Cvetković of Serbia

25–26 MAY – WASHINGTON

Official visit of Prime Minister Jadranka Kosor to the United States of America; she met with Vice President Joseph Biden, Speaker of the House of Representatives Nancy Pelosi, and Deputy Secretary of State James Steinberg

25 MAY – OSLO

Minister Gordan Jandroković paid an official visit to Norway and met his counterpart Jonas Gard Store; he was also received by Norwegian King Harald V
31 MAY – ZAGREB
Visit by the Bulgarian Minister of Foreign Affairs, Nikolaj Mladenov, who met with Minister Gordan Jandroković and Prime Minister Jadranka Kosor, and was also received by President of the Republic of Croatia Ivo Josipović

June

1 JUNE – ZAGREB
Belgian Prime Minister Yves Leterme visited Croatia and met with Prime Minister Jadranka Kosor; he also met with President Ivo Josipović

2 JUNE – ZAGREB
Minister of Foreign Affairs of Spain, Miguel Angel Moratinos, visited Croatia at the invitation of Minister Gordan Jandroković; he also met with Prime Minister Jadranka Kosor

2 JUNE – SARAJEVO
Minister Gordan Jandroković participated in a high level meeting on South East Europe, organised by the Spanish Presidency of the EU; he held separate meetings with Belgian Minister of Foreign Affairs Steven Vanackere and his British counterpart William Hague

5 JUNE – SARAJEVO
Prime Minister Jadranka Kosor met with members of the Presidency of Bosnia and Herzegovina

9 JUNE – ZAGREB
Official visit to Croatia of the Indian Vice President, Hamid Ansari, hosted by President of the Republic of Croatia Ivo Josipović, he was also received by Prime Minister Jadranka Kosor and President of the Croatian Parliament Luka Bebić

10–11 JUNE – ZAGREB
Henri, Grand Duke of Luxembourg paid an official visit to Croatia; his entourage included Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Jean Asselborn, who met separately with Minister Gordan Jandroković

11 JUNE – BRUSSELS
Prime Minister Jadranka Kosor met with EU President Herman van Rompuy and Commissioner of the European Commission for Enlargement and European Neighbourhood Policy Štefan Füle

19 JUNE – MOSCOW
Prime Minister Jadranka Kosor met with Russian Prime Minister Vladimir Putin

21 JUNE – SPLIT
The first joint session of the governments of Croatia and Bosnia and Herzegovina was held and was chaired by Prime Minister Jadranka Kosor and Chairman of the Council of Ministers Nikola Špirić
January

21–23 JUNE – ISTANBUL
President of the Republic of Croatia Ivo Josipović participated in the Summit of the South East Europe Cooperation Process and the conference «Cultural Corridors»; Minister Gordan Jandroković attended the meeting of the foreign affairs ministers of the Process.

21 JUNE – STRASBOURG
President of the Republic of Croatia Ivo Josipović spoke before the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe.

30 JUNE – BRUSSELS
Croatian delegation at the Intergovernmental Conference on Croatia’s accession to the EU was led by Minister Gordan Jandroković, while the EU party was represented by Spanish Minister of Foreign Affairs Miguel Ángel Moratinos, and EU Commissioner for Enlargement Štefan Füle.

July

1 JULY – PODGORICA, CETINJE, KOTOR
President of the Republic of Croatia Ivo Josipović paid an official visit to Montenegro, where he met with Montenegrin President Filip Vujanović, Prime Minister Milo Đukanović and Assembly President Ranko Krivokapić.

2 JULY – ZAGREB
Visit of the President of the European Council Herman van Rompuy to Croatia; he met with Prime Minister Jadranka Kosor and Croatian President Ivo Josipović.

6 JULY – ZAGREB
The Minister of Foreign Affairs of Iceland, Óssur Skarphéðinsson, paid an official visit to Croatia; he held talks with Minister Gordan Jandroković, and was received by Croatian President Ivo Josipović.

8 JULY – DUBROVNIK
Croatian and Montenegrin Foreign Affairs Ministers Gordan Jandroković and Milan Roćen discussed the preparation of an arbitration procedure for maritime delimitation between the two countries.

9 JULY – ZAGREB
Official visit of French Prime Minister François Fillon to Croatia; he held talks with Prime Minister Jadranka Kosor, and was received by President Ivo Josipović.

9 JULY – DUBROVNIK
Prime Minister Jadranka Kosor and President Ivo Josipović opened the 5th Croatia Summit entitled «South East Europe Facing Global Challenges»; the conference was attended by Prime Ministers Sali Berisha of Albania, Bojko Borisov of Bulgaria, François Fillon of France, Hashim Thaçi of Kosovo, Donald Tusk of Poland and Borut Pahor of Slovenia, and Foreign Affairs Ministers Ilir Meta of Albania, Michael Spindelegger of Austria, Sven Alkalaj of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Nikolaj Mladenov of Bulgaria, Milan Ročen of Montenegro, Dimitris Droutsas of Greece, Skender Hyseni of Kosovo, János Martony of Hungary, Antonio Milošoski of Mace-
Chronology of Events

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donia, and Carl Bildt of Sweden; senior officials from European countries, EU Commissioner for Enlargement Štefan Füle, and representatives of the European Union, OSCE, NATO and other international organisations also attended the conference.

9 JULY – DUBROVNIK

The meeting of foreign affairs ministers of member states of the American-Adriatic Charter was attended by Minister Gordan Jandroković, foreign affairs ministers of Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Macedonia and Kosovo and US ambassador to Croatia James Foley

12 JULY – SKOPE

Official visit to Macedonia by President of the Republic of Croatia Ivo Josipović, who met with Macedonian President Gjorge Ivanov, Macedonian Prime Minister Nikola Gruevski and Assembly President Trajko Veljanoski

12 JULY – ZAGREB

At the invitation of Prime Minister Jadranka Kosor, Austrian Federal Chancellor Werner Faymann paid a visit to Croatia

12 JULY – ZAGREB

Minister Gordan Jandroković was host to Malaysian Minister of Foreign Affairs Anifah Haji Aman

13 JULY – TRIESTE

Meeting between President of the Republic of Croatia Ivo Josipović, President of the Italian Republic Giorgio Napolitano and President of Slovenia Danilo Türk

13 JULY – ZAGREB

Prime Minister Jadranka Kosor welcomed the Speaker of the Hungarian Parliament and the European Parliament Rapporteur for Croatia, Pal Schmitt, at the time president-elect of Hungary; he also met separately with Minister Gordan Jandroković

18–20 JULY – BELGRADE, SUBOTICA

President of the Republic of Croatia Ivo Josipović visited Serbia and held talks with President Boris Tadić and Prime Minister Mirko Cvetković; in Subotica, he participated in the celebration of the 20th anniversary of the Democratic Alliance of Croats in Vojvodina

20 JULY – KABUL

Minister Gordan Jandroković participated in the International Conference on Afghanistan; he used the opportunity to visit the Croatian contingent in the ISAF mission

22 JULY – BUDAPEST

Prime Minister Jadranka Kosor held consultations with Hungarian Prime Minister Viktor Orban on joint projects in energy and infrastructure

23–25 JULY – ZAGREB

President of Israel Shimon Peres visited Croatia; he met with his host, Croatian President Ivo Josipović, and with Prime Minister Jadranka Kosor
Chronology of Events

31 JULY – BOHINJ

Prime Minister Jadranka Kosor met with her Slovenian counterpart Borut Pahor to discuss the remaining open issues, particularly the debt of Ljubljanska banka; three days before the meeting, the foreign affairs ministers of the two countries, Gordan Jandroković and Samuel Žbogar, met to prepare the meeting of the Prime Ministers.

August

25 AUGUST – ZAGREB

German Minister of Foreign Affairs Guido Westerwelle visited Croatia; the German guest met with Minister Gordan Jandroković, and with Prime Minister Jadranka Kosor, and was also received by President Ivo Josipović.

30 AUGUST – BLED

Minister Gordan Jandroković participated in the Bled Strategic Forum where he met his Slovenian host Samuel Žbogar; on the sidelines of the Forum, he also met with Canadian Minister of Foreign Affairs Peter McKay and Albanian Minister for European Integration Besim Beqaj.

September

1 SEPTEMBER – TRIPOLI

During celebrations of the Libyan revolution, Prime Minister Jadranka Kosor discussed economic cooperation with Libyan Prime Minister Ali al-Mahmoudi.

6–7 SEPTEMBER – SEOUL

Minister Gordan Jandroković paid an official visit to the Republic of Korea at the invitation of the Korean Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Shin Kak-Soo.

8–9 SEPTEMBER – TOKYO

Official visit of Minister Gordan Jandroković to Japan at the invitation of Japanese Minister of Foreign Affairs Katsuya Okada.

10 SEPTEMBER – ZAGREB

Prime Minister Jadranka Kosor opened the conference «Consequences of EU Membership for the Judiciary», also attended by the European Commissioner for Justice, Viviane Reding, and the Hungarian Deputy Prime Minister, Tibor Navracsics.

11 SEPTEMBER – BRUSSELS

Minister Gordan Jandroković participated in the informal meeting of foreign affairs ministers of EU Member States, at the invitation of the High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, Catherine Ashton.

15 SEPTEMBER – ZAGREB

Second meeting of the Croatian-Italian Coordinating Committee of Ministers, co-chaired by the foreign affairs ministers of the two countries, Gordan Jandroković and Franco Frattini.
Chronology of Events

20–26 SEPTEMBER – NEW YORK

Croatian President Ivo Josipović participated in the high-level UN meeting on the Millennium Development Goals; he also participated in the opening of the annual meeting of the Clinton Global Initiative, established by former US President Bill Clinton; he had a number of bilateral meetings and held a lecture at Columbia University.

21–28 SEPTEMBER – NEW YORK

Minister Gordan Jandroković participated in the 65th Session of the UN General Assembly and a series of ministerial meetings organised on this occasion; he also had several bilateral meetings.

26–28 SEPTEMBER – NEW YORK

Prime Minister Jadranka Kosor held a speech at the UN General Assembly.

October

1 OCTOBER – ZAGREB

The new Hungarian President Pál Schmitt paid an official visit to Croatia, where he met with Croatian President Ivo Josipović and Prime Minister Jadranka Kosor, and visited Osijek and Varaždin.

4–5 OCTOBER – HELSINKI

Minister Gordan Jandroković met with his Finnish counterpart Alexander Stubb, Minister of Migration and European Affairs Astrid Thors, Minister for Foreign Trade and Development Paavo Väyrynen and Deputy Speaker of the Finnish Parliament Sepp Kaariainen.

9 OCTOBER – VATICAN

President of the Republic of Croatia Ivo Josipović visited the Holy See, where he was received by Pope Benedict XVI; he also met with Secretary of State Tarcisio Bertone.

13 OCTOBER – ZAGREB

Austrian Federal Minister for European and International Affairs Michael Spindelegger, accompanied by a large parliamentary delegation, met with Gordan Jandroković and was received by Prime Minister Jadranka Kosor.

14 OCTOBER – BRUSSELS

Minister Gordan Jandroković participated in the meeting of the North Atlantic Council.

15 OCTOBER – ZAGREB

Minister of Foreign Affairs and Institutional Relations of Andorra, Xavier Espot Miró, visited Croatia and held talks with his host, Minister Gordan Jandroković.

18 OCTOBER – SPLIT

Minister Gordan Jandroković met with his Slovenian counterpart Samuel Žbogar; together they opened the new premises of the Consulate General of the Republic of Slovenia.
20 OCTOBER – ZAGREB

Secretary for Relations with States of the Holy See Dominique Mamberti met with Minister Gordan Jandroković, and was also received by President of the Republic of Croatia Ivo Josipović and Prime Minister Jadranka Kosor

22 OCTOBER – BRATISLAVA

At the invitation of his Slovak counterpart Mikulaš Dzurinda, Minister Gordan Jandroković participated in the enlarged Ministerial Meeting of the Visegrad Group

23 OCTOBER – LOVRAN

Working meeting of Prime Minister Jadranka Kosor and Slovenian Prime Minister Borut Pahor

25 OCTOBER – BRUSSELS

Prime Minister Jadranka Kosor met with President of the European Commission, José Manuel Barroso, and European Commissioner for Justice Viviane Reding; she held a separate meeting with Belgian Prime Minister Yves Leterme

28 OCTOBER – BUDAPEST

Minister Gordan Jandroković paid a working visit to Hungary and his colleague Janos Martony; they discussed Croatia’s path to the European Union

November

4 NOVEMBER – VUKOVAR

Joint visit to Vukovar of Croatian President Ivo Josipović and his Serbian counterpart Boris Tadić; Prime Minister Jadranka Kosor also met with the Serbian President in Vukovar

8 NOVEMBER – BUCHAREST

Prime Minister Jadranka Kosor participated in the EU Summit on the Danube strategy, at the invitation of Romanian Prime Minister Emil Boc

16 NOVEMBER – BRUSSELS

Minister Gordan Jandroković spoke on regional cooperation and the European perspective at the Conference on South East Europe, organised by the Group of the European People’s Party in the European Parliament

19–20 NOVEMBER – LISBON

The Croatian delegation at the NATO Summit was headed by President of the Republic of Croatia Ivo Josipović; Minister Gordan Jandroković was also a member of the delegation

22 NOVEMBER – ZAGREB

Minister of Foreign Affairs of New Zealand Murray McCully visited Croatia, and met with his host, Minister Gordan Jandroković, and with Prime Minister Jadranka Kosor; he was also received by Croatian President Ivo Josipović
24 NOVEMBER – ZAGREB

Official visit of the Serbian President, Boris Tadić; he met with Croatian President Ivo Josipović, and with Prime Minister Jadranka Kosor

26–27 NOVEMBER – ANKARA

Prime Minister Jadranka Kosor paid an official visit to Turkey, at the invitation of her Turkish counterpart Recep Tayyip Erdogan

28–30 NOVEMBER – TRIPOLI

President of the Republic of Croatia Ivo Josipović took part in the EU – Africa Summit

December

1 – 2 DECEMBER – CAIRO

Prime Minister Jadranka Kosor paid an official visit to Egypt; she held talks with Prime Minister Ahmed Nazif, Speaker of the People’s Assembly Ahmad Fathi Sorour, and was received by President Hosni Mubarak; she also met with Secretary General of the Arab League Amr Moussa

1–2 DECEMBER – ASTANA

President of the Republic of Croatia Ivo Josipović participated in the OSCE Summit in Kazakhstan; he held a separate meeting with his host, Kazakhstani President Nursultan Nazarbayev

6 DECEMBER – BANJA LUKA

President of the Republic of Croatia Ivo Josipović visited Republika Srpska and met with its President Milorad Dodik, Chairman of the Presidency of Bosnia and Herzegovina Nebojša Radmanović, and Presidency member Bakir Izetbegović

7–8 DECEMBER – LONDON

Minister Gordan Jandroković visited United Kingdom and held talks with his British counterpart William Hague; he also met with Minister for Business and Enterprise, Mark Prisk, and advisor to the Prime Minister, Jon Cunliffe

9 DECEMBER – COPENHAGEN

Minister Gordan Jandroković met with Danish Minister of Foreign Affairs Lena Espersen, and chairs of parliamentary committees for foreign affairs and European affairs, Eva Kjer Hansen and Anne-Marie Meldgaard

10–11 DECEMBER – BERLIN

Minister Gordan Jandroković took part in the international conference «Perspectives for South-east Europe: Germany, Austria, USA in dialogue with the heads of the region»; he held a separate meeting with German Minister of Foreign Affairs Guido Westerwelle

13 DECEMBER – VIENNA

Prime Minister Jadranka Kosor met with Austrian Federal Chancellor Werner Faymann
16 DECEMBER – ZAGREB

Georgian Minister of Foreign Affairs Grigol Vashadze paid an official visit to Croatia

18 DECEMBER – ZAGREB

Official visit of Algerian Minister of Foreign Affairs Mourad Medelci to Croatia

21–22 DECEMBER – NAMUR, BRUSSELS

Minister Gordan Jandroković and Minister-President of Valonia Rudy Demotte signed an agreement on cooperation with the Francophone Community, Region of Valonia, and the Commission of the Brussels-Capital Region’s Francophone Community; on the second day Minister Gordan Jandroković led the Croatian delegation at the Intergovernmental Conference on Croatia’s accession to the EU, where the EU party was represented by Belgian Minister of Foreign Affairs Steven Vanackere, and EU Commissioner for Enlargement Štefan Füle

23 DECEMBER – ZAGREB

Prime Minister Jadranka Kosor held talks with Hungarian Deputy Prime Minister Tibor Navracsics on the eve of the Hungarian presidency over the EU
## International Agreements and Documents

**Concluded in 2010**

### States

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<td>Czech Republic</td>
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