Republic of Croatia
Ministry of Foreign Affairs
and European Integration

Yearbook
2011
Contents

An Introductory Word from the Minister ................................................................. 5

European Integration Process

Completion of accession negotiations ................................................................. 7
Treaty on the accession of the Republic of Croatia to the European Union .......... 8
Programme for the Adoption and Implementation of the EU acquis .................... 9
Document translation ............................................................................................ 9
Co-ordination of European Technical Assistance ............................................. 10
Implementation of the Stabilisation and Association Agreement ....................... 10
Meeting Political Criteria ..................................................................................... 11
Croatia firmly supported by the European Parliament ......................................... 12
Joint Committees for Cooperation with EU bodies ............................................. 13
Common Foreign and Security Policy ................................................................. 13
Union for the Mediterranean ............................................................................. 14
Education and training on the European Union and the European integration process in Croatia ................................................................. 15
Employment of Croatian citizens in European Union institutions .................... 16
Communication about the European Union and Croatian accession to the EU .... 17

EU Member States and other European countries

Diverse and rich relations with EU neighbours ................................................. 19
Close cooperation with all EU Member States and other European countries ....... 22

Countries of South East Europe

Croats in Neighbouring Countries – an Important Piece in a Mosaic of Bilateral Relations ........................................................................................................ 30
Progress of the region important for convergence with the European Union ....... 33
Regional multilateral cooperation ........................................................................ 34

United States of America and other countries of North America

Numerous meetings between officials and US tourist visits .............................. 37
Youth mobility – the basis for further improvement of relations with Canada ...... 38
First bilateral agreement with Mexico signed .................................................... 38

Russian Federation and the Eurasian area

Economy – focus of cooperation with the Russian Federation ................................ 39

Middle East and Africa

Middle East – desirable economic partnership ................................................... 41
Contribution to the stabilisation of Afghanistan and the region ......................... 42
Improved relations with African countries ......................................................... 43

Asia and Oceania

Closer cooperation with ASEAN countries ....................................................... 45
Strengthening economic cooperation and friendly relations with Japan, Korea and China ................................................................. 46
Distance is no obstacle for the development of good relations .......................... 47
Central and South America

Room for improvement in bilateral contacts ................................................................. 48

United Nations (UN)

Croatia – a member of important UN bodies .............................................................. 49

North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO)

Participation in NATO operations .............................................................................. 51
Development of the Smart Defence concept .............................................................. 51
US-Adriatic Charter ..................................................................................................... 52
Other Activities ........................................................................................................... 52

Human rights

The rights of children, women and minorities in the focus of attention .................... 53
Activities within the framework of international organisations ................................ 53
Refugees and displaced persons ................................................................................ 54
Plentiful activities in the field of education, remembrance and research about the Holocaust ................................................................. 54

Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE)

OSCE Office in Zagreb closed .................................................................................... 55
Other activities within OSCE ..................................................................................... 55

Council of Europe

15th anniversary of Croatian membership in the Council of Europe ......................... 56
Participation in reform processes .............................................................................. 56

International development cooperation

Objective – to consolidate peace and support the development of the economy, education and health ................................................................. 58

International security

Participation in 14 international peacekeeping missions .......................................... 59
Implementation of international documents for arms control ................................ 59
Demining .................................................................................................................... 60

Economic Multilateral Relations

Importance of global market shaping for the Croatian economy ............................. 61

Consular Affairs

Evacuation of Croatian nationals from Egypt and Libya ............................................ 62
Croatian parliamentary elections .............................................................................. 62
International consular cooperation .......................................................................... 62
Regular consular activities ...................................................................................... 63
Decisions on a new Croatian embassy and on consulates ....................................... 63
Assistance to Croatian minorities and communities abroad ................................... 64

Public Diplomacy

Croatia Summit 2011 ................................................................................................. 66
The project “Ruđer Bošković in the Diplomatic Service of the Dubrovnik Republic” 67
Diplomatic conferences, seminars and round tables ............................................... 67
Contents

Lectures by foreign officials for Croatian diplomats ......................................................... 68
Public relations .................................................................................................................. 69
Cultural promotion .......................................................................................................... 69

Development of the foreign affairs service

Full budget execution ........................................................................................................ 71
Training of staff .................................................................................................................. 71
Ministry Library .................................................................................................................. 72
Investing in ICT .................................................................................................................. 72

Chronology of important foreign affairs events in 2011

January ...................................................................................................................................... 74
February .................................................................................................................................... 75
March ......................................................................................................................................... 76
April ........................................................................................................................................... 78
May ............................................................................................................................................ 80
June .......................................................................................................................................... 82
July ............................................................................................................................................. 84
August ....................................................................................................................................... 86
September .............................................................................................................................. 86
October ...................................................................................................................................... 88
November .............................................................................................................................. 89
December .............................................................................................................................. 90

Bilateral International Agreements and Other Instruments Concluded in 2011

States ......................................................................................................................................... 92
International Organizations ................................................................................................. 97
Imprint ....................................................................................................................................... 101
An Introductory Word from the Minister

Dear Reader,

You are looking at the seventh Yearbook of the Ministry, which shows two things - that the tradition of informing the public about activities in foreign policy is now firmly established and, secondly, that the achievements in this area are the result of the year-long, persistent and dedicated work of all those involved. This is most evident in Croatia’s accession to the European Union. Foreign policy priorities that were set more than ten years ago have now been fulfilled - Croatia is a member of NATO, and, following ratification by all Member States, on 1 July 2013 it will become the 28th EU Member State. We are facing a new development stage in which Croatia will for the first time since its independence have the opportunity to lead a foreign policy with multiple goals.

In our EU integration process, the year of 2011 was crucial. We completed the accession negotiations and signed the Treaty of Accession of the Republic of Croatia to the European Union. We successfully prepared a referendum in which a convincing majority of citizens voted to join the European Union. We have now started with preparations for full membership and as an acceding country we are involved in all activities of the European Union, although with no decision rights for the moment. In this way, we are getting ready for full membership and are preparing the organisational and other structures of Croatian society for an active life in the European Union, by exploring in detail the structure and mode of action of the Council of the European Union and the European Council, the working bodies of the European Commission, the European Parliament, the Committee of the Regions and the European Social and Economic Committee. Naturally, a lot of work, learning and adjustments are still ahead of us in this area in order to achieve the best results for the whole of our society and for all of us to benefit from our commitment to be ranked alongside the most developed part of the world.

As a NATO member country, through the US-Adriatic Charter and in other ways, Croatia has been particularly engaged in issues of European security and NATO’s expansion into South East Europe. We have joined the search for an appropriate strategy for NATO’s exit from Afghanistan and for the formation of a new strategic concept and reform of the Alliance. In other multilateral activities, Croatia has sought to contribute to the resolution of crises and to world peace, dealing with new challenges and finding the best mode for global sustainable development.

Worth mentioning in this context is the sixth Croatia Summit, dedicated to completing the transition process in South East Europe, and the autumn session of the Parliamentary Assembly of OSCE, both held in Dubrovnik.

Ahead of us is further development of the positive achievements and introduction of new activities that will confirm Croatia as a valuable new member of the European Union and a positive example in the region. Croatia strongly supports the European integration of all countries in the region, which will have at their disposal our experience in the negotiation process. For Croatia, the EU accession process was actually a process of state building. The knowledge and experience of institutional reforms that we have gained in negotiations with the EU are valuable and useful for all countries in the region with the prospect of EU membership, and beyond, for all post-conflict societies and societies in transition, especially in the southern Mediterranean. Conveying that experience, Croatia will be an important factor of stability in the region, and may make an important contribution to the common foreign and security policy of the EU.

Vesna Pusić, Minister of Foreign and European Affairs
In about one hundred bilateral meetings held at the highest level, the Republic of Croatia has distinguished itself as a reliable partner in political cooperation, but also as a potential economic partner. In addition to regular contacts with the countries of the European Union, neighbouring countries and countries in the wider region, meetings held with the most important world leaders are reported in detail in the following pages of the Yearbook.

All this and even more can be found in the Yearbook before you, which testifies to the many accomplished tasks and activities of all the people throughout the foreign service, and to the implementation of our foreign policy in general.
European Integration Process

On 30 June 2011, after five years and eight months, Croatia finalised its accession negotiations with the European Union. The completion of negotiations coincided with the 20th anniversary of Croatia’s independence. In terms of their scope, difficulty, methodology and the conditions under which they were conducted, Croatia’s EU accession negotiations were one of the most complex in the history of EU enlargement. Their completion therefore represents even greater success for the Croatian Government and its negotiation team, and for the entire Croatian society. Both the Member States and the European Commission acknowledged this as a great success. Croatia met all the criteria and achieved a high level of alignment of Croatian national legislation with the EU acquis. The long continuity, sustainability and irreversibility of the reform process in the Republic of Croatia are an investment for the future effective functioning of Croatia as a full-fledged member of the European Union.

Completion of accession negotiations

In the first half of the year, Hungary presided over the European Union, followed by Poland in the second half of the year. During their presidency, both states offered concrete support to the Croatian integration process. At the last session of the Intergovernmental Conference on Croatia’s accession to the EU held on 30 June in Brussels, it was confirmed and subsequently announced that Croatia’s accession negotiations had been completed. The last day of Hungary’s presidency was thus marked with the closing of the four remaining negotiating chapters and the completion of Croatia’s accession negotiations. It was also decided that upon ratification of the Accession Treaty, Croatia would become the 28th Member of the European Union on 1 July 2013.

In 2011, three Intergovernmental Conferences on Croatia’s accession to the EU were held, two at ministerial level and one at deputy level. At the conference on 30 June, negotiations on Chapter 35 - Other Issues were opened and provisionally closed. Chapters 8 - Competition Policy, 23 - Judiciary and Fundamental Rights, and 33 - Financial and Budgetary Provisions were closed at the same session. Chapters 11 - Agriculture and Rural Development, and 22 - Regional Policy and Coordination of Structural Instruments had been provisionally closed at the conference held on 19 April, while Chapter 13 - Fisheries had been closed at the conference on 6 June.

Meanwhile, intensive work continued on the fulfilment of the remaining benchmarks for the closing of the negotiating chapters. Documentation on the fulfilment of the closing benchmarks was submitted to the EU for five chapters, including Chapter 8 - Competition Policy, Chapter 11 - Agriculture and Rural Development, Chapter 13 - Fisheries, Chapter 23 - Judiciary and Fundamental Rights, and Chapter 33 - Financial and Budgetary Provisions. The fulfilment of all other obligations of the Republic of Croatia also continued in other provisionally closed chapters.
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. In May and September, Croatia prepared and submitted to the European Commission a self-evaluation report on its progress in the implementation of criteria for EU membership as a contribution to drafting the Croatia 2011 Progress Report. On 12 October, the European Commission issued its regular report on Croatia’s progress for 2011, emphasising the overall notable progress made, particularly in Chapters 8 - Competition Policy, 23 - Judiciary and Fundamental Rights, and 24 - Justice, Freedom and Security. On the same day, the European Commission issued a favourable opinion on Croatia’s accession to the European Union.

In the second half of the year, during the Polish EU presidency, work on the finalisation of the Accession Treaty was intense, as was the process of its linguistic and legal editing and translation into all EU official languages, including Croatian.

Treaty on the accession of the Republic of Croatia to the European Union

Drafting of the Treaty closely followed the process of closing the remaining negotiating chapters, with the provisions of the Treaty being prepared successively, based on negotiation results. In the presence of firm support by the Polish Presidency, preparations considerably accelerated after the official completion of accession negotiations. The Accession Treaty was first drafted in its English version, which the Committee of Permanent Representatives (COREPER) approved on 14 September. The draft text then underwent further preparations for signing and for translation into the 23 official EU languages and into Croatian. Linguistic and legal editing was carried out simultaneously.

On 12 October, in line with Article 49 of the Treaty on European Union, the European Commission adopted and issued its final favourable opinion on Croatia’s accession to the EU. With the Decision to launch a procedure for signing the Croatian Accession Treaty to the EU, adopted on 6 October, the Government of the Republic of Croatia launched internal procedures necessary for signing the Accession Treaty.

On 27 October, the Croatian Government adopted a report on negotiations and the signing of the Accession Treaty, containing an overview and chronology of relations between Croatia and the European Union, and the process and results of negotiations on each negotiating chapter.

Upon finalisation of linguistic and legal editing of the English and Croatian versions of the text of the Accession Treaty, the Government of the Republic of Croatia received on 1 December the final agreed texts of the Treaty and the Final Act of the Intergovernmental Conference between Member States and the Republic of Croatia on Croatia’s accession to the EU.

In its plenary session held the same day, the European Parliament gave its consent for Croatia’s accession to the EU, while on 5 December the Council of Europe adopted the decision on accepting Croatia’s application for membership and on the admission of the Republic of Croatia to the European Union.
The Treaty of Accession and the Final Act were signed on 9 December during a special ceremony in Brussels by President of the Republic of Croatia Ivo Josipović and Prime Minister Jadranka Kosor on behalf of the Republic of Croatia, and by the heads of all 27 Member States. By signing the Accession Treaty, Croatia changed its status from candidate country to acceding country and became an active observer in the Council of the European Union and its preparatory bodies.

Because Croatia’s newly acquired status as acceding country calls for increased efforts in the national co-ordination of European affairs, in the second half of 2011 the Ministry started intensive organisational, technical and other adjustments required for the establishment of an efficient system for the future co-ordination of European affairs at national level.

In September, the development of software was started for an upgrade of the Ministry’s existing ICT system in order to enable receipt of EU documents and further distribution to relevant state administration bodies, implementing in this manner efficient national co-ordination of European affairs through the IT system. In October, Croatia received its first documents from the Council of Europe through electronic mail, but later switched to document distribution through the upgraded information system.

**Programme for the Adoption and Implementation of the EU acquis**

In its EU accession process, Croatia fulfilled the majority of its obligations concerning the harmonisation of the national legislation with the EU acquis. However, EU legislation is constantly developing and Croatia will be obliged to harmonise its legislation with the acquis even after accession.

In cooperation with other state administration bodies, the Ministry co-ordinated the drafting of the Programme of the Government of the Republic of Croatia for the Adoption and Implementation of the EU acquis for 2011, adopted by the Government on 17 January 2010. The purpose of this document was to prepare Croatia for its functioning as a full EU member. The Programme foresees the adoption of the new EU acquis following the example of other Member States. Based on this Programme, the Croatian Government drafted and submitted to the Croatian Parliament a Plan for the Alignment of the Legislation of the Republic of Croatia with the EU Acquis for 2011, which was adopted by Parliament on 11 February. In line with the Programme, 38 acts and 163 by-laws were adopted or amended and 37 implementing measures adopted in 2011.

The Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs is in charge of monitoring the implementation of the Government’s Programme for the Adoption and Implementation of the EU Acquis, while the implementation status of acts and by-laws is reviewed weekly as the first item on the agenda of all working bodies of the Government of the Republic of Croatia.

**Document translation**

Creating an authentic Croatian version of the EU legislation involves the translation into Croatian of the Treaties, Regulations, Directives, Decisions and Recommendations representing the legal framework of the European Union. In addition, the process also includes linguistic, technical and legal editing of the translated texts in order to ensure legal certainty and efficiency. However, it should be emphasised that Croatia only prepares draft versions, while the EU agencies create of-
ficial documents to be published in the Official Journal of the European Union on the date of Croatia’s accession to the European Union.

The Official Journal comprises over 140,000 pages that need to be translated and completely or partially edited. Since most of the acquis from the EU priority list has already been translated into Croatian, special attention is given to editing and aligning terminology. In mid 2011, the Government of the Republic of Croatia issued a Conclusion establishing cooperation with state administration bodies regarding the alignment of terminology and technical editing of the Croatian translation of the EU acquis.

Given these efforts, 2011 saw the translation into Croatian and editing of all Founding Treaties of the European Union and Accession Treaties of other Member States, i.e. the primary EU legislation. The Council of Europe's lawyer-linguists carried out all the necessary final editing covering 8,900 pages of translation of primary EU legislation, resulting in the Croatian version that has been appended to the Treaty of Accession of the Republic of Croatia.

The Section for Translation of EU documents continued its work as the central unit for translation and co-ordination of translation of Croatian legislation, documentation relevant for negotiations and other documents necessary for cooperation with EU institutions. For the purpose of the negotiating process, approximately 9,000 pages of Croatian legislation, negotiating positions, benchmarks, action plans, and strategies were translated into English in the course of 2011, with about 3,000 pages proofread by native speakers.

Since 2008, draft versions of the English translations of Croatian legislation have been published on the Ministry's website (www.mvpei.hr/zakoni/). The website currently contains some 700 translated acts and by-laws.

Co-ordination of European Technical Assistance

In 2011, the Ministry was the national co-ordinator for the implementation of TAIEX - the Technical Assistance Instrument of the European Commission. In the course of the year, three models of short-term technical assistance were implemented (expert missions, study visits, workshops), based on set priorities and obligations arising from the harmonisation of Croatian legislation with the legislation of the EU. TAIEX beneficiaries in Croatia (state administration bodies, regulatory agencies, non-governmental organisations, the Croatian Chamber of Economy and other institutions) took part in international TAIEX workshops. The Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs, as the national TAIEX co-ordinator, participated in TAIEX meetings between co-ordinators from EU Member States and beneficiary countries with the aim of summarising the results of implemented cooperation and defining the most useful modalities for future cooperation. Croatia will be entitled to TAIEX technical assistance for one year after gaining full EU membership.

Implementation of the Stabilisation and Association Agreement

Croatia continued to implement the Stabilisation and Association Agreement through 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 of all the activities Croatia is implementing to fulfil the political and economic criteria, and activities related to legal harmonisation with the EU acquis and obligations ensuing from the related accession negotiations and the Stabilisation and Association Agreement.

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 Europe-
the Union acknowledged Croatia’s progress in 2010, a fact noted in the European Commission Annual Progress Report.

Meeting Political Criteria

In 2011, the Republic of Croatia continued to fulfil the set political criteria. Judicial reform continued through systematic implementation of the Judicial Reform Strategy 2011-2015 and the revised action plan for 2011. Transparent and objective criteria for the appointment and promotion of judges and prosecutors were introduced through amendments to the Constitution and the relevant legislation framework. The systems of disciplinary proceedings and handling asset declarations of judicial officials, and the system of training judicial officials through the State School for Judicial Officials have been improved. The system of enforcement has been changed, many procedural acts improved and the administrative court system re-formed in order to reduce the case backlog. A series of digitisation projects was launched to improve the efficiency of the judiciary. Nearly all courts were equipped with the Integrated Case Management System (ICMS), with files randomly assigned to judges by a computer system. In order to ensure access to justice for all, regardless of financial status, a modern and efficient system of free legal aid has been introduced, and is regularly evaluated and adjusted.

In accordance with the zero tolerance principle, the fight against corruption continued at all levels throughout 2011. Comprehensive reform activities and good co-ordination of relevant institutions facilitated the completion of a greater number of anti-corruption criminal proceedings, including cases of corruption at high levels. Special attention was paid to the implementation of legislation in the field of financing political parties and election campaigns, conflict of interest, the right of access to information and public procurement procedures. Good collaboration in the fight against organised crime continued with the countries in the region.

Croatia continued to fully co-operate with the International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia, meeting assistance requests made by the Office of the Prosecutor and the Trial Chambers. In the prosecution of war crimes, the Republic of Croatia has strictly adhered to 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. Regional cooperation in the field of the judiciary continued, especially with regard to cooperation with the Prosecutor’s Office of the Republic of Serbia.

Throughout the year, the state administration reform was systematically implemented, human resources were developed and the professional training of civil servants was conducted 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 state administration reform continued with the aim of strengthening the capacities and efficiency of the co-ordination structure of the Ministry of Justice and of the Ministry of Public Administration, and improving the system of ethics and integrity in the public administration. The Act on Amendments to the Personal Data Protection Act was adopted, thus entirely aligning Croatian legislation in the
field of personal data protection with the EU acquis. The Regulation on the principles of the internal organisation of state administrative bodies was adopted with the aim of achieving greater efficiency, functionality and flexibility in the internal organisation of state administrative bodies. Information on employees continued to be entered into the public service employment database. The Government of the Republic of Croatia adopted the Regulation on the conditions and selection of persons for professional training without a work contract, and the Regulation on the procedure and evaluation criteria for civil servants, and continued with its activities in the field of the harmonisation of special laws with the new General Administrative Procedure Act. The Civil Service Training Centre, the Academy for Local Democracy and the State School for Public Administration actively participated in the training of civil servants.

The protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms has remained a focus of attention. Croatia has been continuously improving its legal framework for preventing and combating discrimination, and has been working on the 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, and financial or educational status).

Special attention has been given to employment and strengthening the representation of national minorities at the national, local and regional levels. The Act on the Register of Councils, Coordination of Councils and Representatives of National Minorities, and a long-term plan for the employment of members of national minorities in the civil service for the period 2011-2014 were adopted. Efforts continued for the integration of the Roma minority, with significant results achieved in education, health and the legalisation of Roma settlements. The proposed Action Plan for the Decade of Roma Inclusion for the period 2011-2012 and measures in the field of education, health, employment, and housing were accepted. Preparations for the Croatian presidency of the Decade of Roma Inclusion 2005-2015 were initiated and the development began of a new National Programme for Roma in line with EU guidelines for national Roma strategies for the period until 2020.

Croatia also continued its activities regarding the return of refugees and met all obligations assumed under the Action Plan for the speedy implementation of the Housing Programme inside and outside areas of special state concern for refugees - former tenancy right holders who seek to return to Croatia for 2007, 2008 and 2009. In early 2011 a sustainable plan was developed in the field of housing for housing applicants not encompassed by the Action Plan. Croatia continued to actively participate in the regional process with the aim of finding permanent solutions to refugee issues. At the ministerial conference held in Belgrade on 7 November, Foreign Ministers of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Montenegro and Serbia signed a Joint Ministerial Declaration on ending displacement and ensuring durable solutions for vulnerable refugees and internally displaced persons.

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

Croatia firmly supported by the European Parliament

The European Parliament has continued to provide firm support to the Republic of Croatia on its path toward full membership in the European Union. In 2011, there were two meetings of the Joint Parliamentary Committee, composed of members of the Croatian Parliament and of the European Parliament. The first meeting took place in Dubrovnik in May, and the second was held in Brussels in October.

On 16 February, the European Parliament adopted a resolution on the progress report on Croatia, reiterating its strong support for Croatia's accession to the European Union and welcoming Croa-
Croatia’s progress made in meeting the criteria in all areas and its obligations assumed under EU membership. At a mini-plenary session held on 1 December 2011 in Brussels, the European Parliament gave its consent for Croatia’s membership of the EU.

Joint Committees for Cooperation with EU bodies

The creation of a Joint Consultative Committee of the Republic of Croatia and the EU Committee of the Regions as a form of cooperation at a higher institutional level with the equal participation of Croatian and European representatives contributed to the strengthening of collaboration between the Committee of the Regions and Croatian partners and stepped up the preparations of Croatian local and regional authorities for full EU membership. Representatives from eleven Croatian towns, municipalities and counties, and eleven members of the Committee of the Regions participated in the work of the Joint Consultative Committee. The meetings were co-chaired by Linda Gillham, Member of Runnymede Borough Council, and Nikola Dobroslavić, County Prefect of Dubrovnik-Neretva County. A total of four meetings were held – two in Brussels and two in Croatia, in the cities of Dubrovnik and Vukovar.

President of the Committee of the Regions Mercedes Bresso visited Croatia in April and had a meeting with officials from the association of local and regional authorities in Zagreb, discussing the future delegation of observers to the Committee of the Regions, cooperation between Croatia and the Committee of the Regions and the importance of decentralisation and strengthening of administrative capacities in towns, municipalities and counties. Following her stay in Zagreb, she paid a visit to Vukovar where she participated in the Vukovar Danube Conference.

In 2011, the Joint Consultative Committee of the Republic of Croatia and the European Economic and Social Committee held two meetings. Emphasis was placed on the state of accession negotiations, rural development, communication on the European Union, social dialogue and reform of the pension system in Croatia and the European Union.

Common Foreign and Security Policy

Croatia regularly consulted with EU Member States on issues regarding the current international agenda, primarily in the Brussels office of the European External Action Service that has been operating since 2010, as well as through other international organisations. Croatia regularly shared EU positions regarding the resolution of crisis situations in the world and on the imposition of sanctions, and supported the EU in reaching other important decisions in the UN and other international organisations. In order to take part in the common foreign and security policy, Croatian diplomats continued to intensify political dialogue with the European Union through already established mechanisms of cooperation and at new levels. After signing the Accession Treaty in December 2011, Croatia obtained an opportunity to participate in the work of most working groups of the Council of the EU dealing with foreign, security and defence policy, as well as in meetings of the Political and Security Committee and working bodies associated with the European External Action Service.
Minister Gordan Jandroković attended informal meetings of EU Foreign Ministers under the so-called Gymnich formula. These took place in March in the Hungarian town of Gödöllő and in September in the Polish summer resort of Sopot near Gdańsk. He also headed the Croatian delegation at the seventh meeting of the Stabilisation and Association Council between the European Union and Croatia (in Brussels on 19 April). The EU was represented by Hungarian Foreign Minister János Martonyi as a representative of the EU presiding country and Commissioner for Enlargement and European Neighbourhood Policy Štefan Füle. They discussed mutual relations, the situation in the region and other topics of common interest.

Within the framework of informal consultations at the level of EU ministers and state secretaries for European affairs held in Budapest on 13 January, State Secretary for European Integration Andrej Plenković took part in consultations involving representatives of candidate countries. In December, Croatia for the first time participated in the meeting of the European Council on Foreign Relations on trade issues.

Croatia regularly took part in informal meetings of EU defence ministers, as well as in meetings between the defence ministers of candidate countries and non-EU NATO members, attended also by the High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Vice-President of the European Commission. Croatia also participated in meetings of the European Union Military Committee (EUMC) and in meetings of the Political and Security Committee that discussed missions and operations with Croatian participation.

Croatia actively participated in European security and defence activities. Croatia participates in the missions of the Common Security and Defence Policy with two Croatian police officers in Afghanistan (EUPOL Afghanistan), and three police officers in Kosovo (EULEX Kosovo). With the aim of strengthening the operational capacities of the European Union in Kosovo, the Croatian Government decided to sell six armoured personnel carriers needed for the EULEX mission in Kosovo. Croatian naval officers were involved in the fight against piracy with two Croatian officers active in the EUNAVFOR Atalanta operation off the coast of Somalia.

Croatia's first participation in European fighting groups was within the Nordic Battle Group which was on stand-by from the beginning of the year until 30 June 2011. Croatia contributed to the Nordic Battle Group through the engagement of two helicopters with MEDEVAC (medical evacuation) teams.

Union for the Mediterranean

Croatia was actively involved in the work of the Union of the Mediterranean at all levels throughout 2011. Croatian representatives attended the Conference of Industrial Cooperation Ministers in La Valetta, Malta, held on 11 and 12 May, the Conference of Economic and Finance Ministers in Brussels held on 12 July and the Conference of Sustainable Development Ministers in Strasbourg on 9 and 10 November.

One of three panel discussions at the Croatia Summit focused on the Mediterranean. The Summit was also attended by Secretary General of the Union for the Mediterranean Youssef Amrani. This was his first public appearance after assuming the duty of Secretary General at the beginning of July. Ahmed Fathallah, Egypt’s Deputy Foreign Minister representing the Egyptian co-presidenc-
European Integration

Istrian County Prefect Ivan Jakovčić hosted the meeting of the Euro-Mediterranean Regional and Local Assembly held in Poreč on 8 July.

The Croatian Anna Lindh Network and the National Foundation for Civil Society Development co-hosted an international conference focusing on the “Civil Society of the Mediterranean - a guarantee of dialogue and cooperation" held on 14 and 15 July in Zadar. The conference served as an occasion to exchange ideas on strengthening Euro-Mediterranean cooperation and the role of active citizenship following the events in the southern Mediterranean and to discuss possibilities of transferring Croatian transition experience regarding civil society to countries of the southern Mediterranean.

Participation in activities of the Union for the Mediterranean provided Croatia with the opportunity for institutional and equal involvement in the Mediterranean policy of the EU in the period prior to gaining the status of acceding country and for regular dialogue with the countries of the southern Mediterranean. This has paved the way for a new geostrategic perception of Croatia, which had previously been regarded solely as a Western Balkan country in the framework of European enlargement policy. Participation in the Union also led to the development of a more Mediterranean-oriented Croatian policy. The December secondment of a young Croatian diplomat Boris Dumančić to the Division of Social and Civil Affairs in Barcelona is an additional acknowledgement of Croatia’s activities.

Education and training on the European Union and the European integration process in Croatia

An efficient state administration and administrative capacity building, as one of the fundamental criteria for EU accession, has represented a challenge for all the candidate countries applying for membership in the European Union. The Ministry had an active role in preparing the Croatian state and public administration for EU membership and continued implementing a number of different training and information activities related to European integration issues, aimed primarily at civil servants, but also at other target groups - regional and local self-government, school and university students, teachers and the non-governmental sector.

Over 9,000 participants were included in 315 training and information activities in 2011. Stronger emphasis was given to the information projects aimed at young people and others, especially projects organised in cooperation with County Councils for European integration. The backbone of the training activities are three different, yet complementary, 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 postgraduate European studies abroad.

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 for and monitoring documents, and translation.

Throughout the year, the information campaign on the European Union was implemented across all segments of society. State Secretary for European Integration Andrej Plenković held a lecture for trade union activists.
In 2011, a total of 35 seminars were held at the central level, two at the regional and local levels and five tailor-made seminars, including elements of the above modules, but adjusted to the specific target groups. A total of 1,092 participants successfully completed the seminars.

As a result of bilateral cooperation with France, Luxembourg, Germany and the Netherlands, two professional seminars, one lecture and two study visits for civil servants were organised, and a dozen Croatian civil servants attended eight seminars and courses abroad covering specific issues related to European integration. Besides civil service training, cooperation with the Hanns Seidel Foundation also included training projects targeting young people.

Cooperation also continued with multilateral organisations. In collaboration with the Venice Commission of the Council of Europe, three seminars were organised in Trieste as part of the UniDem Campus Seminars. One of them hosted a Croatian speaker. Cooperation with the International Organisation of La Francophonie included French language courses attended by 142 civil servants, as well as a theme day dedicated to the challenges of EU membership.

The education of young people continued for 35 Croatian secondary school students and their teachers during the “European Integration Summer School” in Zadar and Dubrovnik and for 53 Croatian university students during the “European Integration Winter School”. A half-day seminar on European issues was held specifically for teachers. Organised in cooperation with County Councils for European integration, 184 lectures were given for primary and secondary school students in eight Croatian counties. The lectures were attended by more than 5,000 students. The “Open Door Days” project was launched, including 27 lectures on Croatian European integration (once a month throughout the academic year) for more than 1,100 final-year secondary school students in Zagreb.

Since 1998, the Department of Education and Training has implemented the Croatian Government programme of scholarships for one-year postgraduate European studies at universities across Europe, thus boosting Croatia’s administrative capacities for European integration. By 2011, a total of 284 scholarships were awarded for studies at prestigious European universities in Austria, Belgium, France, Germany; Ireland, Italy; the Netherlands, Poland, Spain, Sweden, and the United Kingdom. Eight scholarships were awarded to civil servants for the academic year 2011/2012 in the field of European Union law and multi-disciplinary European studies. Scholarships were partly co-financed by the UK Foreign Office and the University of Sussex, as well as by the College of Europe.

**Employment of Croatian citizens in European Union institutions**

The opportunity of employment for Croatian nationals in EU institutions has increasingly seized public attention in Croatia. Pursuant to the Framework convention on cooperation among the French Embassy, the French National School of Administration and the Ministry, two seminars were held entitled “Preparatory Course for EU Competition” and were attended by some one hundred participants. Another such course was organised thanks to the financial support of the International Organisation of La Francophonie. French experts also presented employment opportunities for Croatian nationals in EU institutions at five public lectures held in Zagreb, Zadar, Split, Dubrovnik and Varaždin, which were attended by nearly 500 interested people. Besides, the Ministry individually organised five lectures on this topic attended by several hundred participants. A representative of the European Personnel Selection Office also had three lectures for some 600 interested participants in Osijek, Vukovar and Zagreb.
Communication about the European Union and Croatian accession to the EU

Monthly polls carried out throughout Croatia with samples of 1,000 people over 18 years of age gauged public opinion and evaluated the implementation of the Communication Strategy Aimed at Informing the Croatian Public about the European Union and Preparation for EU Membership. A special poll monitored the information campaign.

A total of 50 television and radio clips were broadcast within the campaign launched in May. In the period from May to July there were 13,000 broadcasts on 80 radio stations and 2,300 broadcasts on three national and 14 local television channels, and the clips were also available on the Ministry’s website; in October there were 465 broadcasts on three national TV channels and 1,550 broadcasts on two national and eight local radio stations.

An advertisement “Why the European Union?” was published in nine daily and weekly papers (Vjesnik, Večernji list, Jutarnji list, Slobodna Dalmacija, 24 sata, Novi list, Glas Slavonije, Glas Istre, Glas koncila). Summaries of the negotiating chapters were published under the title “What We Agreed with Brussels” as a supplement to Vjesnik and Privredni vjesnik. The Ministry organised a public tender to select a logo and a slogan for the campaign. On the day when the Accession Treaty was signed (on 9 December), a 12-page brochure “Everything You Wanted to Know About the European Union” was published in 700,000 copies as a supplement to daily newspapers (24 sata, Jutarnji list, Večernji list, Novi list, Vjesnik, Slobodna Dalmacija, Glas Slavonije, Glas Istre). According to the monthly polls, public support for EU membership increased from the beginning of the media campaign to the end of the year: in May predictions for the referendum results had shown 59% in favour and 41% against EU membership, while in December the figures revealed that 65% were in favour and 35% against EU membership.

A series of round tables was organised in the counties covering various aspects of Croatian membership in the European Union. In this way, people were informed about the use of EU funds, working migration, science and research, transport, etc. The round tables took place in Zagreb, Karlovac, Otočac, Zadar, Šibenik, Split, Zaprešić, Varaždin, Varaždinske Toplice, Krševci, Požega, Višnjevica, Vinkovci, Vukovar and other towns. A number of lectures were also given in schools throughout Croatia. An important project within the context of decentralised communication about the European Union is “Europe in Croatia” – a network of 129 Info Points distributed throughout Croatia, which include internet kiosks and information stands displaying free brochures issued by the Ministry.

The info phone line “Hello, EU” recorded 28,578 calls in 2011. The service enables people to obtain information about the European Union and the integration process in Croatia by dialling a toll-free phone number (0800 622 622). In a public tender, the Ministry allocated HRK 835,000 to non-governmental organisations for 63 projects aimed at informing and educating people about the European Union and the integration process. The County Councils for European Integration were allocated HRK 2.5 million for information and education activities.

The Ministry organised or participated in a series of activities during the traditional Europe Week, marking Europe Day on 9 May. The central celebration of Europe Week was held on Flower Square and at Bundek Lake in Zagreb in cooperation with the EU Delegation, the embassies of EU Member States, ministries, other state administrative bodies and schools. Information stands offered citizens information about the EU and the accession process, and gave out free brochures and promotion materials. An art workshop was organised for young children, while primary school
students from Zagreb and Zagreb County made a presentation on the EU Member States through an educational entertainment programme. The Ministry also organised a futsal tournament with teams from the ministries of Foreign Affairs and European Integration, the Interior and Defence and an EU team composed of representatives from EU Member State embassies. The Ministry also co-organised EU Days, a conference held at the Faculty of Economics in Zagreb, dedicated to learning and the employment-related mobility of young people. A philatelic exhibition “Croatia and the European Union” was organised at the Zvonimir Gallery of the Ministry of Defence. In cooperation with County Councils for European Integration and with the participation of non-governmental organisations, schools and local media, Croatian counties hosted numerous activities, such as lectures, info stands and presentations of projects funded from EU funds. In total, 43,000 copies of free publications were distributed during Europe Week. The total investment for the information campaign in 2011 amounted to HRK 7.5 million, or HRK 1.74 per inhabitant.

The Ministry published five new printed and electronic brochures as part of its publishing activities, including “What Does EU Membership Bring: An Overview of Negotiation Chapters?”, “Croatia and the European Union”, “What we Agreed With Brussels?” “Everything You Wanted to Know about the European Union” and a new revised edition of “Myths and Legends about the European Union”. In 2011, more than 800,000 free copies were distributed. Documents covering the process of Croatian accession negotiations as well as the text of the Treaty of Accession were published on the Ministry’s website, which regularly published news and other contents related to the European Union and the European integration process in Croatia. The Ministry also prepared texts for a new web page dedicated to the EU accession referendum.
EU Member States and other European countries

Bilateral relations in 2011 were most strongly marked by two events - the completion of Croatia’s accession negotiations with the European Union and setting the date for accession. Through intensive bilateral contacts, expressions of welcome and willingness to strengthen cooperation, the Member States gave Croatia an additional incentive for the successful completion of negotiations and to achieve its most important strategic foreign policy goal. Croatia has also sought to transfer the high level of political consensus and cooperation with EU Member States and other European countries to bilateral economic cooperation. Even though it has not fully succeeded in this respect, European economic partners’ growing interest in Croatia and its good results in the field of tourism, with the EU Member States being by far its largest emissive tourist market, are reasons for optimism.

Diverse and rich relations with EU neighbours

Overall bilateral relations between Croatia and Italy are advancing and are developing in the direction of good-neighbourly and partner cooperation, which has been confirmed by a number of bilateral meetings. The official visit of Italy’s President Giorgio Napolitano to Croatia on 14 July focused on the 20th anniversary of Croatian independence and the 150th anniversary of the unification of Italy. President Napolitano met with his Croatian host Ivo Josipović, and delivered a speech in the Croatian Parliament. On 3 September the two presidents attended the concert “Croatia and Italy together in Europe” organised in Pula, and issued a Joint Statement containing messages of reconciliation and a common European future. On 2 June, President Josipović visited Rome to participate in the celebration of the Italian Republic Day and the 150th anniversary of Italian unification. Earlier in May he attended “The State of the Union” conference at the Festival of Europe in Florence, organised by the European University Institute. On that occasion, he was officially awarded the peace prize “Galileo 2000” by the Foundation bearing the same name.

Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs and European Integration Gordan Jandroković met with Italy’s Foreign Minister Franco Frattini on 14 July in Zagreb. On 5 July, the ministers of internal affairs Tomislav Karamarko and Roberto Maroni signed in Zagreb the Agreement on Cross-border Police Cooperation, and on 21 July a protocol was signed in Rome on police cooperation during the 2011 tourist season. Italy’s Minister of Economic Development Paolo Romani visited Zagreb on 18 May. A Memorandum of Understanding between the National Protection and Rescue Directorate of the Republic of Croatia and the Presidency of the Council of Ministers of the Italian Republic – Department of Civil Protection – was signed in Rome in November.

Total commodity exchange in 2011 between Croatia and Italy amounted to EUR 4.17 billion, an increase of 4.9% compared with the year before, making Italy Croatia’s number one foreign trade partner. Croatian exported goods worth EUR 1.51 billion, 9.9% less than in the previous year, while imported goods were worth EUR 2.66 billion, 13.3% more than in 2010. Italy is also one of Croatia’s most important emissive tourist markets, Italian nationals being the third most important group of foreign guests in Croatia in 2011. The third Croatian-Italian Economic Forum was held in Zagreb on 30 June.

Overall bilateral relations between Croatia and Hungary are highly developed and serve as an example of good neighbourly relations in the region. With strong political and technical support from
On 3 July, the Croatian President Ivo Josipović attended the opening of the “Ljubljana Festival” at the invitation of the Slovenian President Danilo Türk. The festival opened with Gustav Mahler’s “Symphony of a Thousand”, performed jointly by the Zagreb and Slovenian Philharmonic Orchestras. The following day, both presidents listened to the same concert in the Zagreb “Arena”. (Photo: FAH)

Yearbook 2011 | Ministry of Foreign Affairs and European Integration

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At the invitation of his Slovenian counterpart, on 3 July the Croatian president attended the opening of the Ljubljana Festival in Ljubljana, where the Zagreb and Slovenian Philharmonic Orchestras jointly performed Mahler’s “Symphony of a Thousand”. The following day both presidents attended the same concert in the Zagreb Arena.

The prime ministers of Croatia and Slovenia met on 8 June in Gospić and in July on the sidelines of the Croatia Summit. Minister Gordan Jandroković held a working meeting with Slovenian Foreign Minister Samuel Zbogar on the sidelines of an informal meeting of foreign ministers of EU Member States in Sopot, Poland, in early September. The Arbitration Agreement between the Government of the Republic of Croatia and the Government of the Republic of Slovenia was jointly submitted to the Secretariat of the United Nations on 25 May, as stipulated by Article 11 of the Agreement. All procedural timelines specified in the Agreement started to apply from the date of the signature of Croatia’s EU Accession Treaty on 9 December 2011.

Implementation of a joint initiative called the Brdo Process continued with a Conference of Justice Ministers held on 15 April in Brdo near Kranj. On 19 April, Ljubljana hosted the first meeting of Brdo Process coordinators, who agreed on a framework of further collaboration.

On 1 April, Smederevo hosted the second trilateral meeting between the prime ministers of Slovenia and Croatia and the Serbian president. A joint statement was published on strengthening economic cooperation.

Slovenia is Croatia’s third most important trading partner, accounting for 7% of Croatia’s total foreign trade. In 2011, commodity exchange totalled EUR 1.81 billion, an increase of 14% compared to 2010, with Croatian exports to Slovenia increasing by 14% to EUR 793 million, and Croatian imports from Slovenia amounting to EUR 1.01 billion, also a 14% increase. Croatian tourism in 2011 achieved record results on the Slovenian market, topping all forecasts. As many as 1.1 million Slovenian tourists visited Croatia, an 8% increase compared to 2010, accounting for 6.4 million overnight stays, which was a 9% increase compared to the year before.

Traditionally good and friendly relations with Austria and excellent cooperation in many areas marked the year 2011. Austria strongly supported Croatia’s EU integration process. Frequent meetings of leading politicians of the two countries, such as the joint visit of Austrian Vice Chancellor and Foreign Minister Michael Spindelegger and Slovak Foreign Minister Mikulaš Dzurinda to Zagreb on 26 April, contributed to the upward trend in bilateral relations. After the visit, the ministers sent a joint letter to European leaders pleading for the completion of Croatia’s accession negotiations. Minister Spindelegger also attended the Croatia Summit in July. A visit of the Austrian-Croatian Parliamentary Friendship Group in early May enriched dynamic parliamentary cooperation. During his visit to Austria on 12 and 13 July, Minister Gordan Jandroković addressed the participants of a symposium on the 20th anniversary of Croatian independence organised by the Diplomatic Academy of Vienna. Several successful meetings were organised between relevant ministries (internal affairs, justice, agriculture and others).

At its December session, the Croatian-Austrian Mixed Commission for Scientific and Technical Cooperation agreed on the co-financing of 26 Croatian-Austrian research projects in the period 2012-2013. Along with cooperation between central state institutions, the cooperation of re-
Bilateral Relations

Regional and local authorities also intensified, particularly that between the federal province of Styria and Croatian counties.

Very good bilateral economic relations have shown a rising trend. Total trade exchange amounted to more than EUR 1.2 billion. Croatian exports to Austria totalled EUR 547.3 million, a 16% increase compared to 2010, while imports from Austria were worth EUR 725.9 million, a 0.7% increase. The number of Austrian guests also increased and was 10% higher than in 2010, with 892,467 tourists accounting for 4.8 million overnight stays, which was a 9% increase. In overall tourist traffic in 2011, Austrians ranked fourth in the number of arrivals and overnight stays.

Close cooperation with all EU Member States and other European countries

Croatia and Poland have confirmed their good and friendly relations through frequent meetings, and it was during the Polish EU presidency that Croatia signed its Accession Treaty. Polish Prime Minister Donald Tusk met with Prime Minister Jadranka Kosor several times, and presented her with the draft text of the Treaty. Croatian President Ivo Josipović met with Donald Tusk and with his Polish counterpart Bronisław Komorowski. Interparliamentary cooperation was enhanced through meetings between President of the Croatian Parliament Luka Bebić and Polish Senate Speaker Bogdan Borusewicz, Marshal of the Sejm Grzegorz Schetyna and the Polish-Croatian Parliamentary Friendship Group, which visited Zagreb. Several meetings were held between relevant ministries (economy, agriculture, defence).

In the context of regional cooperation, Poland hosted in August the first meeting of the Association of Polish Voivodships and the Croatian Association of Counties. One of the goals of this cooperation was to provide assistance to Croatian local authorities in the use of EU funds. Polish Minister of Regional Development Elżbieta Bieńkowska visited Croatia, signing on that occasion a memorandum of cooperation between the two countries in the field of regional development.

Commodity exchange amounted to EUR 442.4 million. Exports to Poland increased by 15.2% compared to 2010 (EUR 103.3 million), while imports from Poland increased by 11.3% (EUR 339.1 million). The number of Polish tourists continued to increase in 2011 with an 8.9% rise in arrivals (494,000) and an 8.2% rise in overnight stays compared to the previous year. The Croatian-Polish Economic Forum was held in February during an official visit to Croatia of Polish Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of the Economy Waldemar Pawlak. In August, the Croatian Chamber of Economy appointed its honorary representative to Poland, Andrzej Zylak.

Croatian relations with Germany have traditionally been good and friendly, and Germany’s strong support of Croatian accession to the European Union and its role in the completion of Croatia’s accession negotiations is of special importance. The year 2011 saw a series of visits at the highest level. Croatian President Ivo Josipović and President of the Croatian Parliament Luka Bebić officially visited Germany in January and February respectively. Federal Chancellor Angela Merkel visited Zagreb in August. Preparations for her visit were ongoing in early August in Dubrovnik at the meeting of the foreign ministers of the two countries, Gordan Jandroković and Guido Westerwelle.
Intensive cooperation continued at regional level. The 6th meeting of the Joint Commission Croatia-Baden-Württemberg was held in Bad-Mergentheim in January, and in October Brandenburg’s Prime Minister Matthias Platzeck headed a delegation visiting Croatia.

Economic cooperation was characterised by an increase in commodity exchange. German tourists ranked first in number and overnight stays (1,661,346 tourists, an increase of 9%, and 12.6 million overnight stays, or 8.8% more than in 2010). German tourists’ share in the total number of foreign tourists’ overnight stays in Croatia in 2011 was about 23%. Total foreign trade amounted to EUR 3 billion, with Croatian exports to Germany amounting to EUR 968.324 million (5% more than in 2010), while imports from Germany were over EUR 2 billion (an increase of 8%). Germany is the third largest investor in Croatia. Germany’s biggest investments pertain to the telecommunications, banking and energy sectors. The growth of partner-relations in the field of the economy was emphasised at the Croatian-German Economic Forum held in Mainz on 21 January as part of President Josipović’s visit to Germany.

Croatia’s economic cooperation with Germany’s Free State of Bavaria is particularly active. Bavarian Economy Minister Martin Zeil visited Croatia in June, heading a strong economic delegation. The Bavarian-Croatian Economic Forum was held at the time. In October, Croatia was visited by representatives of Germany’s Committee on Eastern European Economic Relations, also accompanied by an economic delegation. Croatian companies participated in many fairs throughout Germany, assisted by the Ministry of the Economy, the Croatian Chamber of Economy and the Croatian Chamber of Trades and Crafts.

Bilateral relations with the Czech Republic are very good and friendly. Croatian President Ivo Josipović and President of the Croatian Parliament Luka Bebić visited the Czech Republic in March and September respectively. Czech Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Karel Schwarzenberg visited Croatia twice - in April during the Vukovar Danube Conference, and in July during the Croatia Summit. A delegation of the European Union Committee of the Chamber of Deputies of the Czech Parliament, led by President Jan Bauer, visited Croatia in May. The delegation met with the Head of the Committee for European Integration of the Croatian Parliament Neven Mimica, and with State Secretary in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and European Integration Andrej Plenković who represented Croatia at the meeting of foreign ministers of the Visegrad Group, the Western Balkans and Slovenia in November in Prague during the Czech presidency of the Group.

In 2011, commodity exchange totalled EUR 407.9 million. Croatian exports increased by 17.3% to EUR 93.9 million and imports by 8.8% to EUR 314.1 million. Czech tourists ranked fifth in the number of overnight stays and accounted for 638,000 visits, a 5.3% increase compared to 2010. In mid-October, Prague hosted the third session of the Mixed Economic Committee and a Business
Forum of Croatian and Czech companies. In October, Croatia and the Czech Republic signed a Protocol to the Agreement between the Republic of Croatia and the Czech Republic for the Avoidance of Double Taxation with Respect to Taxes on Income and on Capital.

Relations with Slovakia are assessed as outstanding in all aspects. During its presidency of the Visegrad Group up to mid-2011, Slovakia involved Croatia in the work of the Group. The long-standing practice of intensive bilateral meetings continued: an exchange of visits at the level of prime ministers included Prime Minister Jadranka Kosor’s visit to Bratislava, while Slovak Prime Minister Iveta Radičová visited Zagreb. Slovak Foreign Minister Mikulaš Dzurinda visited Zagreb together with his Austrian counterpart Michael Spindelegger, expressing in this way his strong support for the completion of Croatian accession negotiations with the European Union. Minister Dzurinda took part in the Croatia Summit in Dubrovnik. Consultations at the level of directors of the ministries of foreign affairs were held in Bratislava.

Sectoral cooperation was marked by a meeting of the defence ministers Davor Božinović and Lubomir Galko on the sidelines of the GLOBSEC conference and by the visit of the Slovak Minister of Defence to Croatia, who met with Minister Gordan Jandroković. Worth mentioning is also an exchange of visits of the interior ministers of the two countries, Tomislav Karamarko and Daniel Lipšic.

Progress was also made in economic cooperation. Commodity exchange totalled EUR 239.6 million with Croatian exports to Slovakia accounting for 88.8 million, an increase of 26.2%, and imports for 150.7 million, an increase of 16.8% compared to 2010. Slovakia ranked eighth in the number of tourist arrivals and seventh in the number of overnight stays, with a steady upward trend. The number of Slovak tourists rose to 335,000, or 8.1% more than in 2010. Slovakia was guest country at the Croatian Tourism Days in Šibenik, and the ministries of tourism signed a protocol on cooperation.

Very good bilateral relations with Greece show prospects of further progress. This was confirmed during the official visit of Greek Foreign Minister Stavros Lambrinidis to Zagreb on 6 September. Regular political consultations were held in February at the level of heads of directorates of the two ministries.

Croatia and Bulgaria continued the tradition of visits at the highest level. President Georgi Parvanov and Prime Minister Boiko Borisov paid return visits to Zagreb, and Prime Minister Borisov, together with Foreign Minister Nikolay Mladenov, participated in the Croatia Summit in Dubrovnik in July. Parliamentary cooperation included a meeting of the countries’ committees for European affairs in Zagreb. During his official visit to Sofia, Croatian Minister of the Interior Tomislav Karamarko signed an Agreement on Police Cooperation. The Programme of Cultural Cooperation between the Croatian Ministry of Culture and the Ministry of Culture of the Republic of Bulgaria was signed in April in Zagreb.

The Croatian-Bulgarian Economic Forum was held in Zagreb during the official visit of Prime Minister Borisov. It was concluded that Bulgarian exports

Friendly relations between the two countries were also reflected in cooperation in crisis situations. In February, sixty Croatian workers were transported from the turmoil in Libya by official aircraft of the Bulgarian Government. Croatia and Bulgaria issued a joint statement recognising the National Transitional Council of Libya as a legitimate authority.
Bilateral Relations

to Croatia have been increasing at a rate of 30%, while Croatian exports to Bulgaria have further decreased.

In 2011, relations with Romania remained stable and friendly. Prime Minister Jadranka Kosor visited Bucharest. Foreign Minister Teodor Baconschi paid a return visit to Croatia. Two rounds of political consultations were held between the ministries of foreign affairs and their legal departments. Within the framework of economic cooperation, a Memorandum on Cooperation between the Ministry of the Economy, Labour andEntrepreneurship of the Republic of Croatia and the Ministry of the Economy, Trade and Business Environment of Romania was signed. Cooperation in the field of justice was also significant, with President of the Croatian Constitutional Court Jasna Omejec attending the fifth meeting of European constitutional court judges in Romania. Romanian and Croatian institutions established cooperation to combat corruption. Unfortunately, opportunities for economic cooperation were still not fully exploited in 2011.

Croatia continued to take an active role in the support of the Croatian minority in Romania, especially in the field of education in the Croatian language.

France was consistent in providing support for the completion of Croatia’s negotiations with the European Union, which was also confirmed by a series of bilateral visits to Croatia. The year began with a visit by the joint Franco-German parliamentary delegation, then in April the Franco-Croatian Parliamentary Friendship Group paid a visit to Zagreb and Vukovar, followed by a visit of the Senate rapporteurs on Croatia in May, and at the end of the year by a visit of the delegation of the Committee for European Affairs of the French Senate.

The strategic partnership between Croatia and France became the framework of comprehensive cooperation. One of the concrete projects stemming precisely from this partnership is the Croatian Festival to be held in autumn 2012 in France. Preparations began in 2011. During his June visit to Paris, Minister Gordan Jandroković and his counterpart Alain Juppé signed a statement of intent on organising a Croatian cultural festival in France. The same statement was signed in July and August by the ministers of culture of the two countries, and during its first meeting in October the Joint Croatian-French Committee for the preparation of the Festival agreed on a programme framework.

There is also great potential for economic cooperation that can be seen from the increased interest of French businessmen to find business partners in Croatia. At the invitation of the French side, Secretary of State for Energy of the Ministry of the Economy Nataša Vujec officially visited France, discussing possible projects in the field of nuclear and renewable energy.

Compared to 2010, Croatian exports to France increased by 130%, while imports from France increased by 20.4%. The number of French tourists rose in 2011 by 1.6%, and the number of overnight stays by 1.3% compared to the previous year.

The process of the accession of the Republic of Croatia to the European Union was one of the main topics of discussion during the working visit of Prime Minister Jadranka Kosor to Denmark.

At the beginning of the year the French-Croatian Association of Industry and Commerce (Association France-Croatie pour l’Industrie et le Commerce) was established in Paris, aimed at promoting trade cooperation and exchange.
Economic relations strengthened and total trade exchange recovered and grew further. The overall increase was 23% compared to the previous year, while Croatian exports increased by 5%.

An important aspect of relations with Latvia is the exchange of experience regarding EU membership. Minister Gordan Jandroković met separately with his Latvian counterpart Ģirts Valdis Kristovskis during the Croatia Summit conference in Dubrovnik in July. Economic cooperation can also be assessed as positive. Croatian exports increased by 1.3% compared to 2010, amounting to EUR 6.5 million. Imports fell by 50.9%, totalling EUR 2.2 million. A total of 8,813 Latvian tourists visited Croatia, which is an increase of 23.4% compared with the previous period.

Bilateral meetings at the highest level testify to friendly relations with Lithuania. Croatian President Ivo Josipović visited Vilnius in late March, meeting with Lithuania’s highest officials. Total commodity exchange between the two countries amounted to EUR 24.8 million. Croatian exports fell by 12% to the year before, amounting to only EUR 7.3 million, while imports increased by 41.9%, amounting to EUR 17.5 million. A total of 20,674 Lithuanian tourists visited Croatia, which is 3.2% more than the year before.

Economic cooperation with Estonia was marked by a decrease in trade exchange. However, the number of tourists significantly increased (12.2%) compared to the previous year, with a total of 6,000 Estonians visiting Croatia in 2011.

Sweden has been a constant supporter of EU enlargement and provided active support for the completion of Croatia’s accession negotiations in 2011. Concrete results were achieved in the field of economic cooperation, including an increase in trade exchange and the number of tourist visits, the launching of new Swedish investments and, generally, the excellent cooperation of economic entities in Croatian and Swedish markets. A Croatian-Swedish business meeting was held in Malmö in January, and an economic seminar was organised in Stockholm in May. Thanks to the efforts by the Croatian-Swedish Chamber of Commerce, two new investment projects were launched – Croviva and Chambertech.

Good relations with Spain continued in all areas and on the basis of the Mediterranean orientation of the two countries. In February, Madrid hosted regular political consultations at the level of state secretaries of the ministries of foreign affairs and in November at the level of heads of directorates. Minister Gordan Jandroković met on the sidelines of the Istanbul UN Conference in May with his Spanish counterpart Trinidad Jiménez. Police and judicial cooperation has intensified, especially after Minister of the Interior Tomislav Karamarko signed the Agreement between the Republic of Croatia and the Kingdom of Spain on the Fight against Crime and on Security Issues in October in Madrid.

In 2011, commodity exchange between Spain and Croatia fell by 2.5% and amounted to EUR 271.9 million. Croatia exported goods worth EUR 43.8 million, which is a decrease of 27%, while imports from Spain amounted to EUR 228.1 million, an increase of 6% compared to the previous year. A total of 220,957 Spanish tourists visited Croatia, a 4.7% increase compared to 2010, with a total of 437,258 overnight stays, a 3.3% increase compared to the previous year. Croatia and the Spanish province of Extremadura intensified cooperation in the field of transfer of knowledge and experience in agriculture, fisheries and rural development.
There were no significant changes in political relations between Portugal and Croatia in 2011, although there is a willingness to bring overall bilateral cooperation to a higher level. Portugal’s decision to retain its Embassy in Zagreb while reducing its diplomatic network in Europe in this respect will certainly prove helpful.

Croatian exports to Portugal in 2011 were EUR 5.9 million, decreasing by 10.3%, while imports amounted to EUR 23.7 million, increasing by 1.3% compared to the previous year. A total of 29,319 Portuguese tourists visited Croatia, a 4.1% increase compared to the year before.

Croatia and Finland continued the positive trend of strengthening cooperation in numerous areas, especially those related to membership in the European Union. Croatian President Ivo Josipović visited Helsinki in late May, and in October Finnish Foreign Minister Erkki Tuomioja officially visited Zagreb.

Three group visits of Finnish businessmen to Croatia contributed to the strengthening of economic cooperation. Representatives of the Ruissalo Foundation paid a visit to Dubrovnik in April to get acquainted with investment opportunities in medical tourism and shipbuilding. In late April, a group of nearly one hundred Finnish CEOs and directors of leading Finnish companies visited Dubrovnik. The third group of representatives of Finnish companies visited Zagreb in May. The Croatian companies Đuro Đaković, Monting and Končar Grupa also recorded positive results on the Finnish market. The collaboration of research communities takes place within the framework of specific projects, including scientific research and educational institutions. A considerable increase was observed in the number of Finnish tourist arrivals in Croatia, nearly 30% more than the year before, and a certain recovery in commodity exchange was also seen.

Good and friendly relations exist with Belgium, and equally so with the federation and regions of Flanders and Wallonia. State Secretary for European Integration Andrej Plenković met in Brussels in April with Minister for Development Cooperation and European Affairs Olivier Chastel. Prime Minister Jadranka Kosor visited Belgium, meeting with Belgian Prime Minister Yves Leterme in late June.

The preparation of a new programme of cooperation between the Croatian Government and the Government of Flanders was agreed in November. The Belgian Embassy in Zagreb organised in October a visit of representatives of Wallonian companies to Croatia to discuss joint business interests. Compared to 2010, Croatian exports to Belgium increased by 27.4%, while imports decreased by 4.7%. The number of Belgian tourists in Croatia increased by 16.1%, and the number of overnight stays by 10.9%.

Political relations with the Netherlands are good and constantly improving, which has been confirmed by bilateral meetings held in the course of the year. In mid February, Minister Gordan Jandroković paid an official visit to the Netherlands. In late April, President of the Dutch Senate René van der Linden visited Croatia. Croatian Justice Minister Dražen Bošnjaković visited The Hague in May.

The Netherlands stands out for its assistance programmes. In 2011, the Dutch Government approved seven short-term projects in Croatia within the framework of the Matra and G2G Environment programme, totalling EUR 713 million.

In 2011, the Netherlands was the largest foreign investor in Croatia. Comparing to the 2010 commodity exchange, exports increased by only 0.5% while imports decreased by 3.2%. The Netherlands ranked seventh in the number of tourists who visited Croatia.
Relations with Luxembourg were also characterised by Luxembourg’s consistent support for Croatia’s membership in the European Union. Croatian President Ivo Josipović and Luxembourg’s Prime Minister Jean-Claude Juncker met in May in Florence at the Festival of Europe where they were both awarded the peace prize “Premio Galileo 2000”. Luxembourg continued its financial support to demining in Croatia. Good economic relations between the two countries were confirmed by a relatively stable trade exchange, a steady increase in tourist visits by Luxembourg’s citizens to Croatia (in 2011 there were 4.6% more tourists from Luxembourg and 9.2% more overnight stays), and by expressions of interest in further improving economic cooperation.

Croatia and Ireland have traditionally had good and friendly relations. During the May session of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe in Istanbul, Minister Gordan Jandroković met with Irish Minister of State for Trade and Development in the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade Jan O’Sullivan. In September, President of the Croatian Parliament Luka Bebić officially visited Ireland. The Head of the Committee for European Integration Neven Mimica paid a working visit to Dublin.

In 2011, trade exchange between Ireland and Croatia decreased significantly. There was also a 2.2% decrease in the number of Irish tourists visiting Croatia (28,284), who accounted for fewer overnight stays than in the previous year.

Bilateral relations with Malta are largely influenced by the context of the European Union. During the annual conference of presidents of national parliaments of EU Member States and candidate countries, President of the Croatian Parliament Luka Bebić separately met with Speaker of the House of Representatives of Malta Michael Frendo.

Croatian exports to Malta amounted to EUR 179.1 million, an increase of 15.9% compared to 2010, while imports amounted to EUR 37.6 million, which is 0.4% less than the year before. Croatia hosted 1,358 tourists from Malta or 7.4% more than in 2010.

Bilateral relations with Cyprus are continuously improving. In May, Minister Gordan Jandroković met with his Cypriot counterpart Markos Kyprianou during a UN Conference in Istanbul on the Least Developed Countries. Minister Kyprianou participated at the Croatia Summit in Dubrovnik. Chief Negotiator Vladimir Drobnjak paid a working visit to Nicosia in November.

Croatian exports to Cyprus were worth EUR 14.4 million, only one quarter of the 2010 amount, while imports increased by 363.8% amounting to EUR 8.1 million. A total of 1,505 tourists from Cyprus visited Croatia, which is 16.5% more than in 2010.

The increased intensity of bilateral relations between Croatia and the United Kingdom in 2011 was influenced by the context of Croatian accession to the European Union. In addition to several visits by Chief Negotiator Vladimir Drobnjak to London (in March, July, and October), Prime Minister Jadranka Kosor visited the United Kingdom. She met with Prime Minister David Cameron in London on 10 June, which coincided with the European Commission’s decision on Croatia’s fulfilment of all requirements for the completion of accession negotiations. Traditionally emphasising the importance of reforms in the field of the judiciary, British Secretary of State for Justice Kenneth Clarke visited Croatia in April. In the course of the year, several important visits of parliamentary delegations took place. The Committee on European Integration of the Croatian Parliament visited the British Parliament, and a delegation of the Parliamentary Friendship Group visited Croatia, paving the way for more intensive exchange of parliamentary officials in the future.

Total commodity exchange amounted to EUR 348.4 million, a decrease of 6.9% compared to 2010. Croatian exports decreased by 2.8%, amounting to EUR 128 million, and imports from Great
Britain were EUR 219 million, a 9.2% decrease. A total of 256,264 British tourists visited Croatia, an increase of 6.2%, who accounted for 5.5% more overnight stays (1,223,855) compared to the previous year. This was the first increase in the number of British tourists since 2006.

The mutual desire to strengthen bilateral cooperation, with special emphasis on a continued exchange of experience in matters relating to EU membership, is typical of relations between Croatia and Iceland. In autumn 2011, President of the Croatian Parliament Luka Bebić officially visited Reykjavik. The impetus for strengthening bilateral cooperation was provided by a 32% increase in trade exchange, which includes a significant increase in Croatian exports to Iceland (nearly 400% compared to the previous year) and 48% more Icelandic tourists to Croatia.

Relations between Croatia and Norway in 2011 were particularly marked by a two-day visit of Norwegian King Harald V to Croatia in May. In addition to meetings with Croatian President Ivo Josipović, President of the Croatian Parliament Luka Bebić and Prime Minister Jadranka Kosor, the visit also had an economic aspect. The Economic Forum “Croatia-Norway Forum of Excellence” was held in Zagreb and the Norwegian sovereign attended the opening ceremony of the maritime innovation centre iNavi in Šibenik. On 3 May, on the eve of this state visit, Oslo hosted a seminar introducing the Croatian renewable energy sector. Norwegian Foreign Minister Jonas Gahr Store visited Zagreb in April.

Bilateral economic cooperation has been showing a positive trend for the past few years. In 2011, commodity exchange increased by 193%, amounting to a total of EUR 182.4 million. Croatian exports to Norway increased significantly (by more than 600%), totalling EUR 143 million. Imports from Norway, however, were 7% lower than in 2010. A total of 92,276 Norwegian tourists visited Croatia, an increase of 8.4% compared to the previous year, accounting for 11.4% more overnight stays.

Relations with Switzerland were primarily marked by the visit of Swiss President Micheline Calmy-Rey in November. It was the first visit of a Swiss president to Croatia. She met with Croatian President Ivo Josipović, and with President of the Croatian Parliament Luka Bebić. Acting also as the Foreign Minister, Calmy-Rey met separately with Minister Gordan Jandroković.

In 2011, the Croatian Embassy in Bern served as NATO Contact Point Embassy for Switzerland. Total commodity exchange increased, amounting to EUR 363.7 million. Croatian exports to Switzerland increased by 5% to EUR 78.6 million compared to 2010, and imports from Switzerland increased by 9.6% to EUR 285 million. A total of 161,511 Swiss tourists visited Croatia, an 8% increase from the year before.
In 2011, there were no bilateral meetings of representatives of Croatia and Liechtenstein, and economic cooperation was also modest. Total commodity exchange amounted to EUR 11.8 million, with Croatian exports increasing by 51% and amounting to EUR 11 million. Imports from Liechtenstein fell by 57% and amounted to EUR 800,000.

Relations with the Holy See reached their peak during the June visit of the Holy Father Benedict XVI. The Pope’s visit to Croatia meant strong moral and spiritual support of the Holy See for Croatian accession to the European Union. The celebration of the 300th anniversary of the birth of the Croatian Jesuit and humanist Ruder Josip Bošković contributed to the strengthening of bilateral relations between the two sides. The final celebration of the 300th anniversary of the birth of Ruder Bošković was organised at the Pontifical Gregorian University in Rome, which originates from the Roman College where Bošković studied and taught.

Relations with San Marino are friendly and rooted in deep historical ties. In 2011, Croatian exports amounted to EUR 75 thousand and were 32.7% lower than in 2010. Imports from San Marino were worth EUR 854 thousand, which is 7.2% lower than the year before.

Relations between Croatia and Monaco are friendly, as evidenced by the fact that the first foreign statesman to be received by Prince Albert II after his wedding was Croatian President Ivo Josipović, who officially visited Monaco in October. Monaco provides continuous support to the demining of Croatia’s nature parks and to the work of the Centre for the Psychosocial Reintegration and Rehabilitation of Children Victims of Land Mines in Rovinj. Both sides are interested in improving economic cooperation. Compared to 2010, Croatian exports increased by 2.8%, while imports from Monaco increased by 280.4%.

Croatia has also continued to maintain good relations with Andorra and with the Sovereign Military Order of Malta, although no high-level meetings were held in 2011.
Countries of South East Europe

In its relations with neighbouring and other countries of South East Europe, Croatia seeks continuous improvement in all areas, and the stabilisation and growth of the whole region through integration into a common European space. In 2011, Croatia’s foreign policy particularly focused on neighbouring countries and other countries in the region. Bilateral contacts at all levels were intensified, support was provided in their Euro-Atlantic integration process, a constructive approach was promoted to resolve outstanding issues, and considerable effort was invested to improve economic and overall cooperation.

Croats in Neighbouring Countries – an Important Piece in a Mosaic of Bilateral Relations

Bilateral relations with Bosnia and Herzegovina were intensive and neighbourly, with consistent commitment to achieving the full equality of the Croatian people as one of the three constituent peoples in Bosnia and Herzegovina. In 2011, Croatia continued to advocate the granting of EU candidate status to its neighbouring country, and implementing the Action Plan for membership in NATO as soon as possible. This support was formalised on 12 January 2011 in a joint statement on support for the Euro-Atlantic path of Bosnia-Herzegovina, issued by Croatian President Ivo Josipović and Prime Minister Jadranka Kosor.

The year 2011 also saw a dynamic exchange of visits by high-level officials. These included visits to Bosnia and Herzegovina by the Croatian President, with trips to Sarajevo, Mostar, Bihać and Srebrenica organised on several occasions, an official visit to Croatia by the Presidency of Bosnia and Herzegovina consisting of Željko Komšić, Nebojša Radmanović and Bakir Izetbegović from 31 January to 1 February, a visit by Prime Minister Jadranka Kosor to Mostar on 5 April on the occasion of the opening of the 14th International Economy Fair Mostar 2011, and an informal trilateral meeting of the presidents of Croatia and Serbia, and members of the Presidency of Bosnia and Herzegovina held on the Brijuni islands on 18 July.

Two agreements were signed on 3 November in Sarajevo between the Council of Ministers of Bosnia and Herzegovina and the Government of the Republic of Croatia to build the southern border motorway sections on the Corridor Vc and to construct a bridge over the Sava River near Gradiška and access roads for the interstate motorway E-661.

Bosnia and Herzegovina is Croatia’s fourth largest trading partner, while Croatia remains the main trading partner of Bosnia and Herzegovina. In 2011, trade exchange between the two countries increased by 15%, amounting to EUR 1.7 billion. Croatian exports to Bosnia and Herzegovina amounted to EUR 1.17 billion, and imports totalled EUR 544 million. Croatia’s trade surplus in 2011 amounted to EUR 630 million. In 2011, EUR 39.6 million from Croatia was invested in Bosnia and Herzegovina.
In addition, 222,978 tourists from Bosnia and Herzegovina visited Croatia (a 2.7% increase), accounting for 1,061,467 overnight stays (a 1.3% increase compared to 2010).

Bilateral relations between Croatia and Serbia in 2011 were marked by a positive trend and a mutual desire to raise the relationship to partnership level. Intensive high-level meetings testify to the will and readiness for further improvement and indicate commitment to resolve bilateral issues through dialogue.

An informal meeting between Croatian President Ivo Josipović, Serbian President Boris Tadić and members of the Presidency of Bosnia and Herzegovina was held on the islands of Brijuni on 18 July. On the sidelines of the UNESCO World Summit of Heads of States of South East Europe, the Croatian and Serbian presidents held a separate meeting in Belgrade on 2 September. A meeting at prime ministerial level was held in Smederevo on 1 April, when Croatian Prime Minister Jadranka Kosor participated in a trilateral meeting with Serbian President Boris Tadić and his Slovene counterpart Borut Pahor. The fifth meeting of the Mixed Intergovernmental Committee for the Protection of Minorities of the Republic of Croatia and Serbia was held in Belgrade and Šid on 19 and 20 September. Attention is still focused on education in the Croatian language and on the lack of Croatian language textbooks in the Autonomous Province of Vojvodina.

After years of delays, a meeting of the Joint Committee for the succession of diplomatic and consular properties of the former Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia - Annex B was held in Belgrade on 19 May. On this occasion, deadlines were agreed for the handover of 44 real estate properties from the OECD region, while the Joint Working Commission for the Implementation of Annex B of the Agreement on the Succession of Former Yugoslavia reached an agreement on the division of diplomatic and consular missions at a meeting held on 9 June.

Between April 2010 and September 2011, four meetings were held of the Interstate Diplomatic Commission for Identifying and Establishing the Border and Drafting an Agreement on the State Border between the Republic of Croatia and the Republic of Serbia.

A meeting of the interstate Commission for the Return of Cultural Property was held in Zagreb on 25 November. A cumulative list of cultural assets from the Republic of Croatia still held in cultural and other institutions in the Republic of Serbia (a total of 1,065 remaining cultural assets) was verified on this occasion. A draft proposal was also discussed of the Protocol on the Return of Cultural Assets from the Republic of Serbia to the Republic of Croatia, which specifies a schedule for the return of the remaining cultural assets.

At the January meeting of the extended Mixed Commission for the preparation and exchange of the list of persons accused or convicted of war crimes, Croatia and Serbia agreed to mutually exchange lists of persons accused or convicted of war crimes.

Total trade exchange between the two countries in 2011 amounted to EUR 662 million, an increase of 7% compared to 2010. EUR 375 million worth of goods were exported from Croatia to Serbia, while imports from Serbia amounted to EUR 287 million.

Croatia and Montenegro have fostered good relations and mutual cooperation, with no open issues burdening bilateral relations. The highest-level bilateral meetings continued to be held in 2011. President of Montenegro Filip Vujanović visited Croatia on 10 and 11 October, and President of the Croatian Parliament Luka Bebić paid a visit to Montenegro in March.
Montenegro ratified the Agreement on the Protection of the Croatian minority in Montenegro and the Montenegrin Minority in Croatia. Agreements were also signed on police cooperation and on cooperation in judicial and consular affairs.

In the area of border traffic control, the Croatian side in May submitted a draft Agreement on Border Crossings and a draft Agreement on Border Traffic, both aligned with the Croatian legislation and European Union standards governing this matter. The Agreement on Border Traffic aims to facilitate traffic for residents of the border areas between Croatia and Montenegro even after Croatia’s accession to the European Union, and also once Croatia becomes part of the Schengen Area.

Croatia is interested in strengthening and intensifying its economic cooperation with Montenegro. Commodity exchange in 2011 increased by 7% compared to 2010. Croatian exports increased by 6%, amounting to EUR 86 million, while imports from Montenegro totalled EUR 3.6 million, which was a 32% increase.

Progress of the region important for convergence with the European Union

Croatia has rich bilateral relations with Kosovo and supports its European orientation as a guarantee of stability of the newly independent country and the whole region. Several Kosovo officials visited Croatia in 2011 – Minister of Foreign Affairs Enver Hoxhay in March, Minister of Economic Development Besim Becq in May and the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Local Government Administration Slobodan Petrović in June. Prime Minister Hashim Thaçi participated at the Croatia Summit in Dubrovnik in July, while the Croatian Prime Minister Jadranka Kosor was on an official visit to Kosovo in August. Luka Bebić, President of the Croatian Parliament visited Kosovo in November. Croatia continuously promoted inclusion of Kosovo into regional associations. It was also active in assisting and educating members of Kosovo administration, with particular attention being paid to institution-building process. Support was extended at all levels both to the authorities of Kosovo and to EULEX in the fight against organized crime, corruption and trafficking. Croatia has strong interest in better economic cooperation with Kosovo and more than eighty Croatian companies are already present there. Trade exchange in 2011 amounted to EUR 65.9 million, which is 14.7% more than the year before.

Cooperation with Macedonia was successful in both the political and cultural spheres, but there is still room for relations to improve in economic cooperation. Macedonian President Gjorge Ivanov visited Croatia in October. The new Minister of Foreign Affairs, Nikola Poposki, chose Zagreb for his first official foreign visit in August. Macedonian Prime Minister Nikola Gruevski attended the Croatia Summit in Dubrovnik. Croatia has continuously supported Macedonia’s path and accession to the European Union and NATO.

Croatia and Albania continued to foster good relations based on common strategic interests. Consultations were held in February between Secretary of State for Political Affairs Mario Nobilo and Albanian Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs Edith Harxhi. Albanian Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Edmond Haxhinasto attended the Croatia Summit in Dubrovnik. Croatian high-level officials participated in the meetings of ministers of foreign affairs and defence dur-
Bilateral Relations

The positive trend in bilateral relations with Turkey continued in all fields – political, parliamentary, defence and security, with the perspective of improving economic relations. At the invitation of Turkish President Abdullah Gül, Croatian President Ivo Josipović officially visited Turkey in March. He met with Speaker of the Parliament Mehmet Ali Şahin, Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdoğan, and with former President Suleyman Demirel. During the 121st session of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe, held in May in Istanbul, Minister Gordan Jandroković held separate meetings with his Turkish counterpart Ahmet Davutoğlu. During the 4th UN Conference on the Least Developed Countries, also held in May, Minister Jandroković met in Istanbul with Turkish President Gül and Turkish Prime Minister Erdoğan. Regular political consultations were held with representatives of the Turkish Foreign Ministry in Ankara.

Total trade exchange between Croatia and Turkey amounted to EUR 417.7 million, which is 25.7% less than in 2010. Croatia exported goods worth EUR 173.5 million (an increase of 105%), while imports from Turkey were worth EUR 244.2 million (a decrease of 80.5% compared to the previous year). A total of 44,278 Turkish tourists visited Croatia, a 17.8% increase compared to the year before.

Regional multilateral cooperation

In the framework of the South East European Cooperation Process, Croatia has actively contributed to political dialogue, good neighbourly relations and cooperation between the countries of the region by providing support and technical assistance to the countries of South East Europe on their path towards European and Euro-Atlantic integration. Croatia participated in all meetings during the Montenegrin presidency of the South-East European Cooperation Process. At the final ministerial conference in late June, it took part in the shaping of the Budva Declaration, the final conference document.

Croatia has been actively involved in project activities under the Regional Cooperation Council, which were carried out on the basis of a previously agreed Strategy and Work Programme. Particular progress was made in cooperation in the area of justice and home affairs, with an important role played by the establishment of a Steering Group tasked with the implementation of the Regional Strategy Document and Action Plan for the period from 2011 to 2013. Croatia is also involved in the so-called Ljubljana Process, a project for the protection of the cultural and traditional heritage of the region. A permanent Secretariat based in Cetinje, Montenegro, was established for the implementation of this project.

Croatia has been active in the transformation of the Southeast European Cooperation Initiative into the Southeast European Law Enforcement Center. A number of statutory documents were
adopted that supplement the Convention of the Center. In this way, conditions have been created for the Center to develop and operate as a regional organisation with clear responsibilities in the fight against organised and cross-border crime. By endorsing the candidacy of the diplomat Boris Belanić for the position of director of the Southeast European Law Enforcement Center, Croatia has confirmed its support towards further strengthening regional cooperation in this area.

In the framework of the Migration, Asylum, Refugees Regional Initiative (MARRI), Croatia participated in the project of the cooperation of police services in the airports of the member states. During the year it submitted its responses to an extensive questionnaire on the migration profile of the country to the MARRI Regional Centre in Skopje. An analysis of the responses collected in all member states is expected to result in a unique and accurate picture of migration processes in the region.

Further enhancement of cooperation between members in the European integration process forms the backbone of Croatian activities in the Central European Initiative. The focus of Croatian interests in the recent period has been on strengthening synergy among different initiatives and forms of cooperation in the region. In particular, this refers to better coordination of regional activities regarding the project cooperation plan. Within the policy of European macro-regional strategies, Croatia advocates a stronger role for the CEI in further connecting regions, subregions and local communities.

The Adriatic-Ionian Initiative is an important instrument of the Adriatic and Mediterranean policy. Cooperation within the Initiative is aimed at strengthening mutual relations between member countries and encouraging growth, the sharing of knowledge and information, and the preparation of infrastructure and other specific development and commercial projects. In addition to cooperation at the transnational level, conditions have been created for improving cooperation between local and regional authorities, and the civil sector in the member states. In 2011, dialogue was conducted on the Adriatic-Ionian macro-region, including a joint strategy of cooperation between the countries of the Adriatic and Ionian seas, where Croatia is committed to establishing a balance between territorial and sectoral policies, so that selected projects may serve the region as a whole.

In the framework of the European Union Strategy for the Danube region, the Vukovar Danube Conference, hosted by Prime Minister Jadranka Kosor, was held in Vukovar on 29 April. Along with high-level representatives of fourteen countries involved in the Danube Strategy, the conference was also attended by EU Commissioner for Regional Policy Johannes Hahn and President of the EU Committee of the Regions Mercedes Bresso. The Conference expressed political support for this joint initiative and for the implementation of projects identified in the Strategy Action Plan, which will contribute to the development of the whole Danube basin. In the process of preparing for the implementation of the Danube Strategy, the Republic of Croatia has assumed coordination of the priority area “Preservation of biodiversity, landscapes and the quality of air and soil”, together with Bavaria, and the priority area “Competitiveness of en-
enterprises including cluster development”, together with Baden-Württemberg. Croatian representatives from relevant sectors have also been active in the remaining nine priority areas of the Action Plan.

During its first year of presidency of the Alps-Adriatic Working Community, Croatia, together with other member states, worked to reaffirm this regional initiative that has existed for many years. Discussions to adapt the organisational structure and set new political goals have not yet been completed, but the aim is to find and choose a quality solution to adapt the Working Community to fit the current regional processes in the European Union. The focus of the Croatian presidency is placed on sports, cultural and tourism events, at the same time encouraging project cooperation directed towards economic development in the region.
United States of America and other countries of North America

The long-term positive trend of alliance and partner relations with the United States of America has continued, especially in the area of political and security cooperation. Through a constructive approach towards its neighbours and to the Euro-Atlantic integration of South East Europe, Croatia has confirmed itself as a reliable partner of the United States and the international community in the region. Strong US support for the completion of accession negotiations and Croatia’s accession to the European Union is also confirmation of excellent bilateral relations.

Numerous meetings between officials and US tourist visits

Intensive political dialogue is evident from a series of meetings between high-level officials of the two countries. During his May visit to the United States, Croatian President Ivo Josipović met with Vice President Joseph Biden and Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton, as well as with members of the Congress, Senator Mark Begich and Representatives Elton Gallegly and Dennis Kucinich. Key topics discussed were the completion of Croatia’s EU accession negotiations and the situation in the region, particularly in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

In February, Minister Gordan Jandroković and Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton signed an Air Transport Agreement in Washington. On that occasion, the Minister also met with Senior Director for European Affairs at the National Security Council Elizabeth Sherwood-Randall, Chairwoman of the Senate Subcommittee on Europe Jeanne Shaheen and Chairman of the Subcommittee on Europe and Eurasia of the House of Representatives Dan Burton. A delegation of the European Integration Committee of the Croatian Parliament, headed by Vice President of the Parliament and Chairman of the Committee Neven Mimica, paid an official visit to the US in May.

During the Croatia Summit in Dubrovnik in July, Prime Minister Jadranka Kosor met with Under Secretary for Political Affairs William Burns.

The Croatian side has continued to be eligible for inclusion in the US Visa Waiver Programme under which an agreement on security cooperation in the fight against serious crime was signed in February. This rounded off the legal framework for this cooperation. Initiated by the US, informal talks on the draft of a new extradition agreement were held in Zagreb in October.

The US interest to promote economic cooperation with Croatia and South East Europe was confirmed by the organisation of the Brown Forum, a Regional Conference on Trade and Investment, in Dubrovnik in April. This was an occasion to commemorate the 15th anniversary of the tragic death of US Secretary of Commerce Ron Brown. The Chicago Week was held in Zagreb in October. The event had a political, cultural and business dimension.

Despite the abolition of tariff preferences from January 2011, trade in goods grew by 20.4% compared to the previous year and reached USD 874.6 million. The positive trend also continued in the
area of tourism. The number of American tourists visiting Croatia increased by 13.6% compared to 2010. Following the commercial interests of the airlines, the possibility of establishing direct flights between Croatia and the USA received a major boost thanks to the award of category “1” for the safety of civil aviation in Croatia given by the US Federal Aviation Administration in January and the entry into force of the Air Transport Agreement in September. However, economic cooperation has still not achieved its full potential or fulfilled the desires of both sides, particularly with regard to American investments in Croatia.

Youth mobility – the basis for further improvement of relations with Canada

Good relations between Canada and Croatia at the political level were also indicated through political consultations of the two ministries in Ottawa in March, and the meeting of Minister Goran Jandroković with his Canadian counterpart Lawrence Cannon in Zagreb on 9 November.

With a view to further developing the potential for economic cooperation, a Croatian economic delegation visited Canada to attend a business forum “Croatia: Your Gateway to Europe” in September. The Croatian-Canadian Business Network (CCBN), which brings together entrepreneurs of Croatian-Canadian origin, and the Canadian-Croatian Chamber of Commerce in Toronto have contributed to the enhancement of economic cooperation. A Memorandum of Understanding between the Government of the Republic of Croatia and the Government of Canada concerning Youth Mobility, for which there is great interest, came into force in May.

First bilateral agreement with Mexico signed

Political relations between Croatia and Mexico can be called successful, and cooperation was further developed in 2011. Consulates of Mexico, headed by honorary consuls Ljerka Cerc and Marin Bosotina, were opened in Zagreb and Split in April.

In early July, Minister of Culture Jasen Mesić and Mexican Ambassador Bárbara Isabel Tellez Roseto signed in Zagreb an Agreement between the Government of the Republic of Croatia and the Government of the United Mexican States on Cooperation in the Fields of Education, Culture and Sports. This is the first bilateral agreement between the governments of the two countries. In order to expand bilateral cooperation in the field of combating international organised crime, contact was established between the Offices of the Attorneys General of the two countries.

Economic cooperation remains quite modest. In 2011, trade exchange amounted to USD 35.4 million, a positive increase of 12.9% compared to 2010. Despite an increase of 116.5%, Croatian exports to Mexico totalled only USD 5.7 million.
Bilateral Relations

Russian Federation and the Eurasian area

In relations with the countries of the Eurasian area, especially with the Russian Federation, economic cooperation remains a priority, as evidenced by a series of bilateral economic and business contacts during 2011. Croatia has continued to strengthen and enrich relationships with the countries of the Eastern Partnership in view of confirmed mutual interest, with an emphasis on the Euro-integration process.

Economy - focus of cooperation with the Russian Federation

Relations with the **Russian Federation** were marked by the resumption of talks on increasing business cooperation, with an emphasis on energy, a sector of strategic importance to overall relations.

In May, Deputy Prime Minister for Investment **Domagoj Milošević** paid a working visit to Moscow, where he met with Russian ministers and heads of major Russian companies in the energy sector, with the goal of improving overall economic cooperation. An Agreement on Cooperation in Education and Science was also signed in May. Minister of Tourism **Damir Bajs** participated in MITT, an international tourism fair in Moscow, and held talks with his Russian counterparts about cooperation in the field of tourism. In October, State Secretary for Energy **Nataša Vujec** headed the Croatian delegation at a working meeting of energy groups of the Commission for Economic Cooperation in Moscow. At the international trade fair held in Moscow in November, 22 wineries from Croatia exhibited their products and a “Croatian gastronomic festival” was held.

A number of Russian investors participated in an investment forum in Zagreb in October, and Croatian shipbuilders were presented collectively at the largest Russian shipbuilding fair in St. Petersburg “Neva 2011”. In May, Zagreb was visited by Russian Energy Minister **Sergei Shmatko**, who attended the signing of an important Memorandum on Cooperation between Janaf and Zarubezhneft. The two countries resolved an open issue - the Russian clearing debt, as the Russian side settled its obligations in full. Negotiations have been resumed on the remaining bilateral economic agreements, of which particular importance is given to the Investment Protection Agreement.

The year 2011 was marked by a number of meetings between Croatian and Ukrainian officials. In the framework of regular parliamentary cooperation, Chairman of the Ukrainian Parliament **Vołodymyr Litvin** paid a visit to Zagreb and met with President of the Croatian Parliament **Luka Bebić**, Croatian President **Ivo Josipović**, Minister **Gordan Jandroković** and President of the Social Democratic Party **Zoran Milanović**. In June, a delegation of the parliamentary Committee on European Integration, headed by Committee Chairman **Borys Tarasiuk**, visited Zagreb. Croatian and Ukrainian Presidents **Ivo Josipović** and **Viktor Yanukovych** held a brief meeting in Kiev in April on the sidelines of the Kiev Nuclear Security Summit and the Chernobyl Donors Conference. At that conference, the Republic of Croatia donated HRK 1.1 million for the rehabilitation of the Chernobyl Nuclear Power Plant.

Cooperation in the field of European integration also continued. Such was the purpose of the visit of Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine **Pavlo Klimkin** to Croatia in February. He held political consultations with State Secretary for European Integration **Andrea Plenković**, and met with Chairman of the Committee for European Integration **Neven Mimica** and Chairperson of the National Committee for Monitoring the Accession Negotiations with the European Union **Vesna Pusić**. In April, consultations were held between the Head of the Directorate for Europe
and North America and the Director-General of the Directorate for Security and Political Affairs of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine.

The Croatian company Dalekovod won an important business project through an international tender in the framework of the modernisation of Ukraine’s power grid. In early October, a Croatia-Ukraine business forum was held in Kiev, with the participation of the national chambers of economy and dozens of companies on both sides.

Cooperation with Belarus developed in line with the EU Common Foreign and Security Policy towards this country, which means that Croatia joined the EU sanctions against Belarus. However, Croatia remained open for forms of cooperation that were not covered by the sanctions. In March, a Croatian Consulate was opened in Minsk headed by an honorary consul. On that occasion, a meeting was held at the level of heads of directorate of the two foreign ministries. In view of Croatia's interest to expand economic cooperation, consultations between relevant ministries related to the continuation of negotiations on the Protocol on the Amendments to the Agreement on Protection of Investment and the Agreement on Economic Cooperation were held in Zagreb in September.

Cooperation between Croatia and Azerbaijan has developed in all areas. In March, the Republic of Azerbaijan opened its embassy in Zagreb, headed by the first Ambassador Kamil Khasiyev. In February and March, President of the Supreme Court of the Republic of Croatia Branko Hrvatin responded to an invitation to visit the Supreme Court of Azerbaijan in Baku. In May, political consultations between State Secretary for European Integration Andrej Plenković and Azerbaijani Deputy Foreign Minister Khalaf Kalafazov were held in Croatia. Both sides confirmed the desire to strengthen cooperation within a bilateral and multilateral framework.

In 2011, cooperation between Croatia and Armenia was further strengthened through the mutual appointment of honorary consuls. Armenia opened a consulate in Zagreb, headed by Honorary Consul Vedran Buratović, and preparations took place for the formal opening of the Croatian Consulate in Yerevan, headed by Honorary Consul Artashes R. Kazakhetsyan. At the invitation of the President of the Republic of Armenia National Assembly Hovik Abrahamian, President of the Croatian Parliament Luka Bebić paid an official visit to Armenia in February. Both sides emphasised the need to sign an agreement to regulate economic relations.

Parliamentary cooperation with Georgia was enhanced in 2011. In March, President of the Croatian Parliament Luka Bebić visited Georgia, and Chairman of the Georgian Parliament David Bakradze paid a return to visit to Croatia in July. Vice President of the Croatian Parliament and Chairman of the Committee for European Integration Neven Mimica visited Georgia in October. State Secretary for Political Affairs Mario Nobilo met with Deputy Prime Minister of Georgia Ekaterine Tkeshelashvili in New York in September.

Bilateral relations between Croatia and Moldova are good, with cooperation in the field of the European integration process representing an important aspect of these relations. Bilateral political dialogue in 2011 took place on the margins of multilateral meetings.

Of all the Central Asian countries, Croatian relations with Kazakhstan have been the most developed, particularly in the field of the economy. An economic delegation headed by the Vice President of the Croatian Chamber of Economy and a representative of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs visited Kazakhstan from 18 to 21 May. Representatives of eight Croatian companies, primarily engaged in construction activities, participated in the 4th Economic Forum in Astana in May. During the tourist season, the Croatian Government temporarily lifted visa requirements for citizens of Kazakhstan for the second time. The Agreement on International Transport of Passengers and Goods by Road came into force in August.
Middle East and Africa

The Republic of Croatia continues to develop good and friendly relations with the countries of the Middle East and Africa. Cooperation encompasses the more influential countries in the Arabian Peninsula as well as those going through a period of political and social transformation. In 2011 the accent was put on the strengthening of political dialogue and economic cooperation.

Middle East - desirable economic partnership

Bilateral relations with Qatar are developing well both in the political and economic sphere. In May, Doha hosted political consultations between representatives of the ministries of foreign affairs of the two countries, while in December State Secretary for Political Affairs Mario Nobilo participated in the fourth annual forum of the Alliance of Civilizations. Following the President’s Decision of 21 October 2011, the process of opening the Croatian Embassy in Doha is underway. This will contribute to further improving economic relations with other Persian Gulf countries with which Croatia already shares extensive commodity exchange or where there is a substantial potential for boosting economic cooperation.

The positive trend in the development of state relations with Kuwait was confirmed by political consultations held in September in Kuwait.

The appointment of a non-resident Ambassador of the United Arab Emirates to Croatia, based in Berlin, has raised bilateral relations to a new level. In February, a delegation of the Croatian Ministry of Defence, led by Minister Davor Božinović, attended the international exhibition of military equipment and weapons systems “IDEX 2011” in Abu Dhabi, where visitors expressed great interest in Croatian defence industry products.

Riyadh hosted the first round of negotiations on the General Agreement for Cooperation between the Republic of Croatia and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to regulate interstate relations in the area of the economy. In 2011, Croatian exports to Saudi Arabia increased, amounting to USD 25 million as opposed to USD 15 million the year before.

Political consultations with Oman held in Muscat in February provided impetus to the development of bilateral relations between the two countries, especially those in the field of the economy. On this occasion, the Croatian Consulate in Oman was opened, headed by Honorary Consul Juma Darwish Al Bulushi. Consultations were held between the Croatian Secretary of State for Political Affairs Mario Nobilo, and the Secretary-General of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Sultanate of Oman Sayyid Badr Bin Hamad Bin Hamoud Al-Busaidi. The Oman delegation, headed by Undersecretary for Civil Aviation Affairs Sheikh Said bin Ali bin Al Nafal Al Mashali, visited Croatia in September to finalise negotiations regarding the Air Services Agreement and define concrete cooperation opportunities.

Bilateral relations with Bahrain and Yemen are not particularly well developed due to existing instability in these countries.

The activities of the Special Mission of the Republic of Croatia in Baghdad and the Croatian House in Erbil have largely contributed to the development of relations with Iraq. The Iraqi delegation, headed by Minister of Environment Sargon Lazar Slewa, visited Croatia in July and signed a Cooperation Agreement in the field of humanitarian demining. In the course of the year, several Cro-
At the 17th International Mediterranean Tourism Market – IMTM 2011, the largest tourism fair in Israel, Croatia successfully presented its tourism sector. A total of 34,200 Israeli tourists visited Croatia, 5% more than in 2010. Commodity exchange amounted to USD 50 million, an increase of 26% compared to 2010. Israeli investors showed increased interest in investing in Croatia.

In 2011, Croatia and the Palestinian Authority exchanged political visits and maintained contacts through the Croatian Embassy in Tel Aviv and regular consultations with Wadie Abunassar, Director of the International Center for Consultations (assistant to the Palestinian president and government, informally representing the Palestinian Authority in Israel). In March, Prime Minister Jadranka Kosor officially visited the Palestinian Authority and announced the appointment of a non-resident representative of the Republic of Croatia to the Palestinian Authority.

**Contribution to the stabilisation of Afghanistan and the region**

Croatian President Ivo Josipović visited Afghanistan from 18 to 20 February, holding several meetings with the highest ISAF officials. He also met with Afghanistan’s President Hamid Karzai, discussing the possibilities of further economic cooperation, Afghanistan’s needs in the area of infrastructural development, and particularly the possibility of young Afghans receiving education at Croatian universities. President Josipović visited members of the 16th contingent of the Croatian Armed Forces stationed in the capital Kabul and in Mazar-e-Sharif.

Since the international position of Iran has not improved, bilateral relations with this country are still of low intensity. The return visit of the Iranian-Cro-
Bilateral Relations

atian Parliamentary Friendship Group took place in June. Parliamentary representatives were received by President of the Croatian Parliament Luka Bebić and Croatian President Ivo Josipović. In July, a delegation of the City of Shiraz, led by the President of the Shiraz Chamber of Commerce, Industries & Mines, visited Zagreb. Due to international sanctions, economic cooperation between Croatia and Iran is difficult, but it is still developing, with trade exchange totalling USD 39.5 million (248% more than in 2010).

The difficult political and security situation in Pakistan makes it difficult to maintain contacts and develop bilateral relations. In 2011, total commodity exchange between Croatia and Pakistan amounted to USD 45.5 million (or 152% more than in 2010), the highest level for the past ten years. Croatian exports to Pakistan amounted to USD 26 million, which is a good result compared to 2010 when exports totalled USD 592,000.

Improved relations with African countries

Croatia actively supported Libya during the crisis, as well as in its transition to a democratic society and in its economic recovery in the post-war period. Croatia provided humanitarian aid to the Libyan people (in the form of medicine and medical supplies) on a number of occasions, and offered help in the treatment of wounded Libyans. On 11 October, Croatia reopened its Embassy in Tripoli, which had been temporarily closed on 31 March 2011 due to the security situation. Croatian President Ivo Josipović attended a high-level meeting dealing with the reconstruction of Libya, which was held in New York on 20 September.

During the conflicts, Croatian nationals were successfully evacuated from Libya, given that almost all Croatian companies temporarily closed their local offices. Once the situation eased, all Croatian companies sent their representatives to Libya in order to examine the state of equipment at construction sites and to discuss damage assessment and the continuation of work. In order to prepare entrepreneurs for business challenges in the new conditions in Libya, the Croatian Embassy to Libya organised a seminar on "How to do business in Libya", in cooperation with the Croatian Chamber of Economy.

With the goal of facilitating stability and boosting the democratisation process in Tunisia, Croatia supported the initiative for the setting up of a Working Group on Tunisia at the meeting of the Community of Democracies held in July in Vilnius.

In bilateral relations with Algeria and Morocco, emphasis was placed on strengthening economic relations and enabling interested Croatian companies to do successful business in these countries.

Croatia has been closely following developments in Egypt, after former President Hosni Mubarak was ousted in the February revolution. Croatia supports the establishment of a new democratic government in Egypt as this will allow for the strengthening of bilateral relations and ensure respect for human rights and freedoms, and due to Egypt’s important role in the region. Egypt is an important export market with which economic cooperation is to be continued. In 2011, Croatian exports amounted to nearly USD 90 million.

The dominant issue in bilateral relations with Syria is the protection of Croatian economic interests in view of the escalation of the conflict and the country’s uncertain political future.

Croatia’s Honorary Consulate opened in Ethiopia, contributing to strengthening economic relations which have so far been neglected.

Croatia recognised South Sudan immediately after its official declaration of independence on 9 July 2011. Opportunities for economic cooperation will depend on local stability.
The year 2011 saw an increase in Croatian exports to South Africa, amounting to USD 26.5 million, a significant increase compared to USD 8.4 million in the previous year.

Commodity exchange between Croatia and Nigeria also had positive results, with Croatian exports to Nigeria totalling USD 37 million.
Asia and Oceania

Croatia’s bilateral political relations with the countries of Asia and Oceania are good and friendly, and efforts are increasingly directed towards exploiting extensive opportunities for economic cooperation. Asian countries, especially the G-20 members, can be considered as very interesting potential investors in Croatia, important trading partners, and a growing emissive tourist market. Since the legal framework is very important for cooperation, negotiations on and the conclusion of bilateral agreements continued with a number of countries of Asia and Oceania. The appointment of honorary consuls can help strengthen overall, and especially economic, cooperation.

Closer cooperation with ASEAN countries

In early May, Kuala Lumpur hosted political consultations between the ministries of foreign affairs of Croatia and Malaysia at the level of state secretaries. The consultations confirmed very good bilateral relations and the Malaysian side expressed great interest in intensifying economic cooperation. Meetings were also held with businesspeople and officials from the economic sector. Successful cooperation continued in the field of culture, science and education, including diplomatic education. A Memorandum of Understanding on Academic Cooperation was signed between the University of Zagreb and the University of Malaya.

Political consultations between the ministries of foreign affairs of Croatia and the Philippines were held in early June in Zagreb. The two countries confirmed very good political relations and discussed opportunities to further strengthen bilateral and multilateral cooperation within international organisations.

The year was marked by good cooperation between Croatia and Indonesia in the field of culture. On 27 June, the Indonesian Embassy to Zagreb organised the “Indonesian Culture Night” in the Vatroslav Lisinski concert hall, and Croatian orchestras and ensembles performed in Indonesia on three concert tours. A delegation of the Budget Committee of the House of Regional Representatives of Indonesia paid a working visit to the Croatian Ministry of Finance at the end of the year.

In order to enhance bilateral relations, especially economic cooperation, a delegation from Thailand, headed by Deputy Secretary of State of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Pravit Chaimongkol, visited Croatia on 8 and 9 September 2011. Members of the delegation met with Secretary of State for Political Affairs Mario Nobilo, and visited the Port of Rijeka, the Croatian Chamber of Economy and the logistics and distribution centre in the town of Sr. Nedelja. The Thai delegation of the King Prajadhipok Institute, headed by Vice President of the National Assembly Teeradej Meepien, visited the Croatian Parliament in mid-September 2011.
In late April, for the first time since the establishment of diplomatic relations in 1996, Croatia hosted a high-level official from the Kingdom of Cambodia, namely the Secretary of State in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Special Envoy of the Cambodian Prime Minister Ouch Borith, who met with State Secretary for European Integration Andrej Plenković. They discussed possibilities of expanding bilateral cooperation through political consultations and strengthening economic relations. Bearing in mind the war and a large number of minefields in Cambodia, Borith and Plenković exchanged experiences in demining, focusing on the advanced mechanical mine clearance technology used in Croatia.

Strengthening economic cooperation and friendly relations with Japan, Korea and China

Located in Osaka in the Kansai region, on 15 July Croatia opened its first consulate in Japan headed by Honorary Consul Hiroshi Ojima. Celebrating 30 years of friendship between Kyoto and Zagreb, from 29 August until 1 September 2011 Zagreb hosted a high-level delegation of the city of Kyoto, led by its Mayor Daisaku Kadokawa. In February and March, two Japanese economic delegations visited Croatia, meeting with representatives of relevant ministries and economic institutions in order to explore investment opportunities in Croatia. The trend of Croatia’s major trade balance deficit continued, as did the unfavourable structure of Croatian exports to Japan. Tourism holds a potential for increasing bilateral economic cooperation, owing in part to a very active branch of the Croatian Tourist Board in Tokyo.

The Croatian Government provided aid, through the Croatian Red Cross, in the amount of HRK 3.5 million, to the citizens of Japan after the devastating earthquake and tsunami. The Government also provided accommodation in Croatia for 30 Japanese nationals from the most affected areas, and financed the stay of 25 children, accompanied by five adults, from the town of Sendai in the Osijek Red Cross resort in Split from 9 to 23 August.

High-level friendly relations are also confirmed by the continued allocation of donations from the Japanese government to the Republic of Croatia, aimed at various valuable infrastructural and similar projects in less developed areas of Croatia. Owing to a Japanese donation, the International Centre for Rehabilitation of Children Victims of Land Mines has been completed after five years of construction works in the Orthopaedic and Rehabilitation Hospital in Rovinj.

In 2011, contacts with the Republic of Korea were more frequent. In January, the Speaker of the National Assembly of the Republic of Korea Park Hee-Tea visited Croatia. He was received by President of the Croatian Parliament Luka Bebić, Prime Minister Jadranka Kosor and Croatian President Ivo Josipović. The third round of consultations between representatives of the two ministries of foreign affairs was held on 3 June in Zagreb. In May, Croatia was visited by a delegation of the Committee on Culture, Sports, Tourism and Broadcasting of the National Assembly of the Republic of Korea, and in July by the delegation of the Finance and Strategy Committee. The Croatian-South Korean Economic Forum was held on 30 September at the Croatian Chamber of Economy in Zagreb.
Croatia and China continued to enjoy dynamic relations in 2011. At the invitation of Defence Minister Davor Božinović, a high military delegation headed by General and Vice Chairman of the Central Military Commission of China Xu Caihou officially visited Croatia. In May, a delegation of the Chinese People’s Political Consultative Conference visited Croatia, headed by Zhao Jinjun, president of the Committee on Foreign Affairs. Regular political and consular consultations between the two ministries of foreign affairs play an important role in the development of bilateral relations. Political consultations were held in Beijing on 14 October. Deputy China International Trade Representative Chong Quan paid an official visit to Croatia from 25 to 27 April, meeting with State Secretary of the Ministry of the Economy, Labour and Entrepreneurship Ruder Friganović. China’s customs administration delegation, led by Sun Yibiao, Deputy-Director of the General Administration of Customs, visited the Croatian Customs Administration in late June where they were received by Director General Hrvoje Čović.

Croatia was visited by several Chinese municipal and provincial delegations accompanied by representatives of the business community. Traditionally, these delegations are hosted by the Croatian Chamber of Economy. The visits are an opportunity for organising business forums. In the course of 2011, Croatia was visited by Deputy Governor of the Sichuan and Jilin Province and the City of Guangzhou, and several times by China’s major state-owned companies exploring investment opportunities in Croatia. Croatia continued to express interest in cooperation at the local level. A delegation from the City of Rijeka paid a visit to the harbour city of Ningbo and attended the opening of the 10th International Consumer Goods Fair with the participation of several Croatian companies. The promotion of tourism also continued, with the successful participation of the Croatian Tourist Board at two tourism fairs in Beijing and Shanghai.

Distance is no obstacle for the development of good relations

Bilateral relations with Mongolia increased in intensity. The first visit of Mongolia’s President Tsakhia Elbegdorj to Croatia on 19 and 20 October 2011 represents an important milestone in further strengthening friendly relations and increasing the level of economic and other forms of cooperation. The Mongolian President met with his host, President Ivo Josipović and President of the Croatian Parliament Luka Bebić. The second round of political consultations was held between the foreign affairs ministries on 11 October in Ulanbator. On this occasion, the Croatian Consulate in Ulanbator, headed by Honorary Consul Bat-Erdene Purevdagva, was officially opened.

Croatian relations with India were marked by the 7th round of political consultations, held in New Delhi in May. Delegations were led by Secretary of State for Political Affairs Mario Nobilo and Secretary of the Indian Ministry of External Affairs Vivek Katju. They expressed satisfaction with the quality of political cooperation within international bodies. On 12 August, the Republic of Croatia opened a consulate in Calcutta (West Bengal), headed by Honorary Consul Arun Poddar, who participated in the preparation of an exhibition entitled “Croatian Monuments on the UNESCO List of World Heritage Sites”, also held in Calcutta.

The Croatian Consulate in Kathmandu in Nepal was opened on 29 September. The consulate is to be headed by Honorary Consul Amir Rana. The procedure for opening the Honorary Consulate of the Republic of Croatia in Dhaka in Bangladesh is also underway.

Bilateral relations between Croatia and Australia, and Croatia and New Zealand are good, with a great potential for strengthening economic cooperation. In 2011, Croatian exports to Australia were at a relatively satisfactory level, with a trade surplus. In addition, the number of Australian tourists is gradually increasing, as is the number of some, mostly Croatian emigrant, investments. An important aspect of Croatian-Australian relations is cooperation at the multilateral level. The Australian Government decided that from 1 July 2011 Croatian citizens may submit online requests for the issuance of electronic tourist visas when travelling to Australia (e676 Tourist visa).
Central and South America

In its relations with the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean, Croatia’s bilateral efforts focused on maintaining political dialogue and finding concrete opportunities for economic cooperation that is not yet satisfactory. In 2011, multilateral cooperation with most Latin American countries was successful, and this trend is expected to continue. Croatia cooperates with the countries of this region within the framework of the UN peacekeeping mission in Haiti (MINUSTAH). Croatia’s imminent accession to the European Union will strengthen its position as a desirable partner at the bilateral and multilateral level.

Room for improvement in bilateral contacts

Relations between Croatia and Chile are still most intensive in their political dimension. In October, Croatia hosted President of the Chilean-Croatian Parliamentary Friendship Group Miodrag Marinovic.

Relations with Brazil, Croatia’s most important economic partner in Latin America, are characterised by a mutual desire for general improvement. Within the framework of cooperation with Argentina, Croatia has been focusing on the opening of an Argentine Embassy in Croatia. Visits of Croatian officials to Argentina, Brazil and Chile planned for 2011 were cancelled due to Croatia’s intensified efforts in the EU accession process and preparations for parliamentary elections.

In May 2011, Zagreb hosted political consultations with Bolivia, held between Secretary of State for Political Affairs Mario Nobilo and Bolivian Vice-Minister of Foreign Affairs Juan Carlos Alurralde Tejada. This was the first visit of a high-ranking Bolivian official to Croatia for thirteen years.

In December, the Republic of Croatia established diplomatic relations with Trinidad and Tobago.

In 2011 the drafting began of a Memorandum of Understanding on Cooperation between the ministries of foreign affairs of Croatia, Bolivia, Venezuela and Peru. In addition, a decision has been reached for the Croatian diplomatic mission in Chile to include Ecuador as well. Due to geographical distance and diverging interests, bilateral relations with other countries in the region are not sufficiently developed, but they are friendly and communication takes place at the multilateral level. The fact that Croatia has not had a significant political presence in Central America and the Caribbean is a reflection of current needs and possibilities, but leaves room for possible improvement.
United Nations (UN)

Throughout 2011, Croatia’s activities within the UN were dynamic and diverse. During the General Assembly and ECOSOC sessions, and in the work of a number of committees and expert commissions, Croatian diplomats focused equally on issues of international peace and security and on the economic and social dimension of the UN.

Croatia – a member of important UN bodies

Drawing on national experience and experience acquired in the work of the Security Council, as well as through participation in numerous thematic debates, the Republic of Croatia continued to distinguish itself in the field of post-conflict management, resulting in its re-election as member of the Peacebuilding Commission for the period 2012 and 2013. Lobbying for Croatia’s membership in the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) for the period 2013–2015 continued in 2011, based on an awareness of the interrelatedness of peace, development, security, respect of human rights and experience gained during the establishment of the modern Croatian state.

President of the Republic of Croatia Ivo Josipović headed the Croatian delegation at the opening of the 66th session of the UN General Assembly in September. Addressing the plenary session, he spoke about the importance of mediation in the peaceful resolution of conflicts and highlighted among other things the need for strengthening peace in post-conflict countries, emphasising that only justice can ensure true reconciliation and lasting peace. Along these lines he also expressed Croatia’s support for the international criminal courts.

The Croatian President was also involved in the formation of a new multilateral initiative ‘Open Government Partnership’, initiated by Brazil and the United States of America. The initiative may significantly contribute to major global changes by promoting transparency, openness and responsibility of governments, the fight against corruption, the participation and empowerment of citizens and civil society, and the application of new technologies to increase the quality of public administration services delivered to citizens.

At the 6th Ministerial Conference of the Community of Democracies held in Vilnius in July, the initiative gained new momentum. Its importance has been growing not only because of turmoil in the Arab world, but also because of unresolved issues in the countries of Eastern Europe. The Community’s activities are therefore expected to intensify in the future. The declaration adopted at the Ministerial Conference pointed out the need for the protection of democratic values in countries with unstable democracies, and for co-ordination of political activities aimed at strengthening democratic governance. The Croatian delegation, headed by State Secretary Mario Nobilo, indicated that in the past twenty years Croatia had suffered through a war, had resolved the conflict and had implemented post-war reconstruction. It had simultaneously conducted very demanding negotiations for membership in Euro-Atlantic organisations, undergoing domestic social catharsis and deep transformation. The State Secretary added that Croatia was now ready to share its unique experiences and lessons learned with the countries of South East Europe.
In late October, Geneva hosted the 2nd Ministerial Review Conference of the *Geneva Declaration on Armed Violence and Development*. The Conference served as an occasion for presenting the conclusions of the Zagreb Regional Seminar on good practices in the reduction of armed violence with the aim of promoting growth. The Zagreb Seminar had been held at European level the previous month in September.

At the most well-attended ministerial debate of the 4th Annual Forum of the *Alliance of Civilizations* entitled “Ten Years Past 9/11: What about Muslim/Western Relations?” held in December in Doha, Croatian participants emphasised that no fatal conflict exists between the two religious and cultural circles. They pointed out that common efforts are required to combat exclusivity and fundamentalism, which is possible through the strengthening of dialogue, mutual trust, common interests and respect of international law.

Croatian representatives attended a number of other conferences held under the auspices of the UN. Two worth singling out are the first session of the Assembly of the *International Renewable Energy Agency - IRENA* (2–5 April in Abu Dhabi) and the 17th *UN Climate Change Conference* (28 November – 9 December in Durban).

Many activities in 2011, both at national and international levels, were devoted to preparations for the *UN Conference on Sustainable Development - “Rio+20”* to be held in June 2012 and already referred to as the event of the decade. Tania Valerie Raguž, a diplomat at the Permanent Mission of Croatia to the UN in New York, was appointed member of the Conference’s Preparatory Bureau. In addition, on Croatia’s initiative lasting for many years, the year 2011 was declared the *International Year of Forests* (UN General Assembly Resolution 61/193). Emphasising the mutual relationship and dependence of mankind and forests, the initiative contributed to raising public awareness of the key role of mankind in sustainable management and to steering actions towards the preservation and development of forest areas.


In accordance with its capabilities and planned activities, Croatia financially supported the work of several UN funds and programmes in 2011. Croatia co-financed the Peacebuilding Fund, the United Nations Trust Fund for African Development, the Office of the High Commissioner for Refugees, the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, the Trust Fund for the United Nations Forum on Forests having regard to the International Year of Forests (2011), the Trust Fund supporting the Ottawa Treaty on the prohibition of the use of anti-personnel mines, and the Alliance of Civilizations.

Bearing in mind the EU’s strategic determination to solve global challenges through the United Nations system, the signing of the Accession Treaty, which opens new possibilities of cooperation between Croatia and the Member States and enhances multilateral relations, represents a crucial turning point for Croatia’s work and efforts to be delivered through the UN in the future.
North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO)

Membership in the North Atlantic Treaty Organization offered new opportunities for Croatia’s affirmation at the international level in 2011. During its third year of full membership in NATO, Croatia continued to distinguish itself as a reliable and trustworthy member committed to operations in Afghanistan, Libya and Kosovo, constructively contributing to debates on the reform and transformation of NATO, and advocating South East European countries. The appointment of former Minister of Foreign Affairs and European Integration Kolinda Grabar-Kitarović as NATO’s Assistant Secretary General for Public Diplomacy proves that Croatia’s involvement is recognised and valued.

Participation in NATO operations

In 2011, Croatia continued to participate in the ISAF operation in Afghanistan. In December, the Croatian contingent, including 345 members of the Croatian Armed Forces, four members of the Ministry of the Interior and a diplomat, was deployed in Regional Command North in Mazar-e-Sharif and in the Regional Command Capital in Kabul.

In line with the ISAF operation priorities, Croatia’s activities focused mainly on the training and capacity building of Afghan security forces by sending teams for the training of military personnel and police officers, and by providing instructors and mentors for specific types of training, related, for instance, to the military police, logistics or aviation. Over time, members of the Croatian contingent have assumed more complex tasks and have taken on greater responsibilities, such as the management of the Military Police School in Kabul.

During his visit to Afghanistan in February, Croatian President Ivo Josipović visited Croatian soldiers stationed in Mazar-e-Sharif. On this occasion, he met with ISAF Commander General David Petraeus and NATO’s Senior Civilian Representative Mark Sedwill.

Twenty Croatian soldiers, along with two military transport helicopters, are engaged in the KFOR operation in Kosovo. The decision to participate in this operation was motivated by assuming responsibility for security in South East Europe, a region crucial for the stability of Croatia itself.

The determination and unity of the allies, as well as cooperation between NATO and the Arab countries, was the key to success of NATO’s Operation Unified Protector in Libya. Croatia contributed to this operation by seconding two officers of its Armed Forces to the Air Operations Centre in Italy. At the same time, Croatia was involved in delivering humanitarian aid.

Development of the Smart Defence concept

In 2011, implementation of the so-called Smart Defence concept gained momentum, which concerns the cooperation of the Allies on concrete projects aimed at strengthening the defence capa-
bilites of the Alliance. Croatia expressed interest in a number of projects, mainly related to training and logistics, to which it could contribute in a specific way. The greatest progress in implementation was made in the bilateral project between Croatia and the Czech Republic, which prompted the establishment of a NATO training centre for the training of helicopter instructors where these two countries would share their specific knowledge with other members. The initiative was presented to the Steering Committee of NATO’s Multinational Helicopter Initiative on 12 December 2011.

US-Adriatic Charter

By promoting European integration through specific, practical projects offered to countries in the region on their path towards membership in NATO, Croatia actively contributes to the stability of South East Europe. Within the framework of the US-Adriatic Charter, at Croatia’s initiative, a Military Police School was launched in Kabul for the training of Afghan security forces. In March, Croatia took over the command of the School where 35 mentors were hired in the course of the year (one from Albania, six from Bosnia and Herzegovina, two from Montenegro, 21 from Croatia, three from Macedonia, two from Slovenia). The training of Afghan police-force trainers is a direct contribution to NATO’s goal in Afghanistan: the training of Afghan security forces to enable them to assume responsibility for security in their own country.

Other Activities

Minister Gordan Jandroković attended an international conference on Libya held on 29 March in London, a meeting of NATO Foreign Ministers on 14 and 15 April in Berlin, a meeting of the US-Adriatic Charter Partnership Commission held on 29 June in Budva, and the meeting of NATO Foreign Ministers on 7 and 8 December in Brussels.

Co-organised by NATO, the Ministry of Defence and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and European Integration, a conference on “Emerging Security Challenges: Prospects for Energy Security in South-Eastern Europe” took place in Zagreb on 26 and 27 May. The conference discussed growing security challenges, particularly in the field of energy, and their impact on security in a global and regional context. It gathered participants from NATO member states, NATO partner countries and the countries of South East Europe.

The February seminar “NATO’s Crisis Response System”, organised by the Ministry in Zagreb, served as an opportunity for acquiring new knowledge about the NATO crisis management system and exchanging experiences in implementing the NATO crisis management simulation exercise CMX09. Attended by representatives of relevant Ministries and other state bodies of the Republic of Croatia, Bosnia and Herzegovina and Montenegro, and by speakers from the NATO headquarters in Brussels, the event also served as preparation for the upcoming NATO crisis management simulation exercise CMX11.

Croatia successfully participated in NATO’s crisis management simulation exercise CMX11, held from 19 to 26 October. The purpose of the exercise was to train in conducting NATO’s crisis management procedures at both the strategic and political levels. The exercise involved civilian and military personnel located in NATO headquarters and in the capital cities of participating countries.
Human rights

In 2011, Croatia continued to strengthen its foreign policy activities in the field of the protection and promotion of human rights at the global and regional levels, working actively with the United Nations, Council of Europe, the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) and with other relevant international organisations.

The rights of children, women and minorities in the focus of attention

Croatian representatives worked on the promotion of the following priority areas: the abolition of capital punishment, the prohibition of torture, children’s rights protection, gender equality and ending violence against women, the fight against all forms of discrimination, including discrimination based on sexual orientation, the protection of national and ethnic minorities, promoting interfaith dialogue and tolerance, freedom of religion and belief, and determination in the protection of human rights of all people in all countries of the world.

The year 2011 was marked by a number of events in the area of human rights: along with meeting the benchmarks for closing negotiations with the European Union on Chapter 23 - Judiciary and Fundamental Rights, Croatia also successfully completed the first cycle of reporting according to the Universal Periodic Review procedure regarding the implementation of international standards of human rights protection in Croatia, and made progress within the framework of the regional process devoted to achieving sustainable solutions for refugees and internally displaced persons in South East Europe. The latter particularly applies to the harmonisation of the joint multi-annual Regional Programme dedicated to achieving sustainable solutions for refugees and internally displaced persons and the adoption of the Joint Ministerial Declaration at the Belgrade Conference on 7 November.

The final document for Croatia under the Universal Periodic Review procedure (the review of human rights conditions in each country) was adopted in March at the UN Human Rights Council. Croatia accepted and committed itself to implementing most of the received recommendations (116), refusing only five recommendations pertaining to criteria for acquiring citizenship, providing free legal aid to all categories of persons and to joining the UN Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of their Families. The system of human rights protection in Croatia was positively evaluated by all countries participating in the process.

Activities within the framework of international organisations

Activities in the UN Human Rights Council included the active lobbying in the region and signing of a declaration on combating violence against persons of different sexual orientation and gender identity (LGBT). Croatia is also a member of the so-called Blue Group that promotes the right of access to water. Special attention was paid to the situation in countries where serious and massive violations of human rights have occurred, such as Belarus, Libya and Syria. As part of its activities in the Council, Croatia strongly condemned the violation of human rights and endorsed joint statements and resolutions.

At the Third Committee of the UN General Assembly, Croatia continued its previous activities, supporting EU statements, and co-sponsoring and voting in favour of resolutions on human rights, in line with its chief foreign policy priorities, and resolutions on countries stricken with serious and
massive violations of human rights (North Korea, Myanmar, Iran and Syria). Regarding its activities within the Group of Friends of Security Council Resolution 1325, the Ministry, acting as national co-ordinator of the Working Group, drafted the National Action Plan for the implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 1325 (2000) on women, peace and security, which was adopted by the Croatian Government in July. Acting as observer, Croatia continued to actively participate in the work of the UNICEF Executive Board, adopting also a new Country Programme Document for the period 2012–2016.

Relations with the European Union were marked by the signing of the Accession Treaty securing for Croatia the status of acceding country, and enabling it to observe and participate in the EU Council Human Rights Working Group (COHOM), and in EU coordinations within relevant international organisations in the field of human rights.

Refugees and displaced persons

In 2011, the Republic of Croatia became a party to the Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness and member of the Executive Committee of UNHCR. Activities within the framework of the regional process dedicated to sustainable solutions for refugees and internally displaced persons were stepped up. Progress made in this field was particularly visible after the adoption of a joint multi-annual Regional Programme on sustainable solutions for refugees and internally displaced persons that was agreed between four countries of the region – Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro, Croatia and Serbia. The Programme is part of the Joint Ministerial Declaration adopted at the Ministerial Review Conference on solving the refugee situation in the region held in Belgrade on 7 November.

The Regional Programme, agreed for a period of up to five years and prepared on the basis of the individually identified needs of each of the four countries, focuses on the housing issues of particularly vulnerable refugees and displaced persons by applying UNHCR’s vulnerability criteria. The Programme funded by the countries of the region and (to a smaller extent) by international donors, places emphasis on enabling displaced persons to freely choose their housing location. This ensures support for local integration and is also a key step towards ending the refugee situation in the region.

Plentiful activities in the field of education, remembrance and research about the Holocaust

Participating in the Task Force for International Cooperation on Holocaust Education, Remembrance and Research (ITF), Croatia joined international efforts against racism and anti-Semitism, xenophobia, intolerance, and religious and racial discrimination. The Ministry co-ordinated the work of the Croatian delegation to the ITF, with the aim of encouraging activities in the field of education, remembrance and research of the Holocaust and providing political support for these activities at national and international level. Members of the Croatian ITF delegation actively participated in a number of international activities, while projects in the field of research, museum and memorial cooperation and education led to fruitful cooperation between Croatian institutions and various international partners (the Yad Vashem Memorial Centre in Jerusalem, the US Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington, the Shoah Foundation and the Jewish Foundation for the Righteous in New York, Anne Frank House in Amsterdam and international institutions and organisations such as the Council of Europe, OSCE, ODIHR and others). Croatian representatives also participated in the implementation of joint ITF projects.
Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE)

After 15 years, OSCE’s field presence in Croatia ended in late 2011. The closure of the OSCE Office in Zagreb has been recognised as a “success story” both for Croatia and the OSCE.

OSCE Office in Zagreb closed

The closing of the OSCE Office in Zagreb was an exceptional occasion in so far as this was the first time an OSCE field mission was closed upon the agreement of all its 56 member states.

OSCE’s long-time presence in Croatia undoubtedly contributed to the democratic development of the country, particularly in the field of human rights protection, and in the establishment of stability and security in this part of Europe. Good cooperation between Croatian institutions and the Organization in the fulfilment and implementation of the OSCE mandate in Croatia led to the successful resolution of two remaining issues: the question of the prosecution of war crimes committed on Croatia’s territory between 1991 and 1995, and the return of refugees and the implementation of housing programmes. The Croatian example also sets clear standards applicable to the closure of other OSCE field missions in the region. Croatia has gained valuable experience regarding the processes of post-conflict recovery and strengthening of democratic institutions, which can be passed on to neighbouring countries and its Mediterranean partners.

Other activities within OSCE

Croatia actively participated in debates on topics relevant to the Organization and in OSCE activities in all three dimensions of security. The Croatian delegation, headed by Secretary of State for Political Affairs Mario Nobilo, participated in the OSCE Ministerial Council meeting in Vilnius in December. Unfortunately, the meeting once again revealed certain weaknesses of OSCE as an organisation, with decision-making based on the consensus of all 56 member states.

In 2011, Croatia continued to deploy personnel from the state and civil sectors in OSCE missions. Representatives of state bodies and non-government organisations regularly participated in election observation missions in the member states.

In October, the Croatian Parliament hosted and co-organised the fall meeting of the Parliamentary Assembly of the OSCE in Dubrovnik. More than 200 parliamentary representatives from OSCE countries, Mediterranean partner states and officials and experts from other international organisations attended the meeting on “Regional Development in South-East Europe: Challenges, Opportunities and Prospects”. The importance of this event was underlined by the participation of the highest Croatian officials - President Ivo Josipović, Prime Minister Jadranka Kosor and President of the Croatian Parliament Luka Bebić. In view of the completion of the accession negotiations with the European Union, the meeting was held at an almost historic moment for South East Europe. Special attention was given to current issues and the regional development of South East Europe, to OSCE’s role in restoring post-conflict societies, and to economic cooperation between the countries in the region.
Council of Europe

Croatia marked the 15th anniversary of its membership in the oldest European organisation which saw the active participation of Croatian representatives in various fields, especially in the reform of the Court of Human Rights.

15th anniversary of Croatian membership in the Council of Europe

As a full member of the Council of Europe since 6 November 1996, Croatia marked 15 years of membership in 2011. On 16 November, the Ministry organised a debate on “Fifteen Years of Croatian Membership in the Council of Europe: Achievements, Experiences and Expectations”. This was an opportunity for reviewing overall experiences and assessing Croatian cooperation with the Council of Europe, from initial steps in the process of building democratic institutions to a pro-active and distinctive role within the Council of Europe, as well as for discussing future challenges and cooperation.

Participation in reform processes

The entire year was marked by the reform of the Council of Europe, covering programme activities and institutional structures. The reform focused mainly on the organisation’s three key pillars (human rights, democracy and the rule of law), re-organisation of the operational structures of the Secretariat and rationalisation of the extensive network of intergovernmental committees.

The High Level Conference held in April in Izmir gave new impetus to the reform of the European Court of Human Rights by reaffirming the measures agreed at the Conference in Interlaken (Switzerland) through the adoption of a political Declaration and Follow-up Plan. The Croatian delegation at the conference was headed by Justice Minister Dražen Bošnjaković. Along with its active involvement in the Court reform process, pleading for the upholding of the principle of individual application as a key feature of Strasbourg’s unique system of human rights protection, Croatia also seeks to contribute to the disburdening of the Court through consistent implementation of the Convention at national level and through the orderly execution of the judgments of the Court.

In 2011, Croatia was a leader in initiatives pertaining to family law, especially those related to the fight against violence against women and to the exercise of children’s rights. In October, Zagreb hosted the “Regional Conference on Stopping Sexual Violence against Children - Ratifying and implementing the Council of Europe Convention on the Protection of Children against Sexual Exploitation and Sexual Abuse”. Croatia ratified this important Convention on the eve of the Conference, becoming its 15th signatory and a party to a total of 90 legal instruments of the Council of Europe. Anica Džamić, Permanent Representative of the Republic of Croatia to the Council of Europe, was appointed Thematic Co-ordinator on Children within the Committee of Ministers, which also indicates recognition of Croatian efforts in this area.
The activities of Croatian representatives in other areas included the appointment of Supreme Court Judge Marin Mrčela, member of GRECO (partial agreement of the Council of Europe “Group of States against Corruption”), to the position of Chairman of this esteemed body in late 2011. Minister Gordan Jandroković participated in May in the 121st session of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe held in Istanbul, and State Secretary for European Integration Andrej Plenković met in November in Strasbourg with Deputy Secretary General of the Council of Europe Maud de Boer-Buquicchio and Director General of Programmes Gabriella Battaini-Dragoni. President of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe Mevlüt Çavuşoğlu officially visited Croatia in April, and Deputy Secretary General Maud de Boer-Buquicchio visited Zagreb in October during the Regional Conference on Stopping Sexual Violence against Children.

In 2011, Croatia supported five programme activities of the Council of Europe by voluntarily contributing a total of EUR 19,802.78.
International development cooperation

Croatia directed its development cooperation towards the states of South East Europe and countries where it contributes to international peacekeeping missions and operations, while priority sectors targeted by official development assistance included social and economic development, education and health.

Objective – to consolidate peace and support the development of the economy, education and health

Along with these three key sectors, Croatian development cooperation with the countries of South East Europe was also intensified in the transfer of specific knowledge and experience.

Development cooperation between Croatia and Afghanistan focused on three priority sectors: state-building (EUPOL and POMLT), education (the construction and furnishing of a primary school for 250 boys and girls, support to the United Nations World Food Programme in securing the nourishment of school children and their families, the construction of a protective wall around a primary school, the donation of teaching materials and other school equipment) and the development of small entrepreneurship. Croatia also implemented several pilot-projects in the area of humanitarian demining (the development of a legal framework and education on mine dangers).

Cooperation with the US Agency for International Development (USAID) was established within a common health project in Kosovo. Cooperation with the World Bank’s Foreign Investment Advisory Service was initiated in the area of tourism, with the objective of identifying further steps in the transfer of Croatian knowledge and experience in post-war reconstruction to the countries of Sub-Saharan Africa.

Croatia launched the procedure of acceding to the Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness, the Accra Agenda for Action and the ‘New Deal’ on Fragile States Initiative, as well as to the initiative Good Practice of Humanitarian Donorship. Through its participation in international forums on development assistance in the framework of the United Nations and the European Union, Croatia has proved itself as a new donor state respecting the key principles of development assistance effectiveness, including local responsibility, harmonisation and avoiding fragmentation, and building a results framework.

As a response to humanitarian crises caused by natural disasters or human activity, Croatia offered humanitarian assistance to Japan, Libya, Turkey, the Horn of Africa, Kenya and Ethiopia. Humanitarian assistance in a total amount of HRK 7,096,710 was directed through bilateral channels or by financial contributions to the relevant international humanitarian organisations and agencies.
International security

In the area of international security, the Republic of Croatia continued to comply with its obligations assumed in the areas of conventional arms control, disarmament, trade in arms and dual-use goods, non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and co-operative security. Croatia took part in negotiations on future regimes of control over conventional weapons in Europe and in initiatives related to international security. Still, participation in international peacekeeping missions remained one of the most important instruments of Croatian foreign security policy.

Participation in 14 international peacekeeping missions

The Republic of Croatia participated in 14 peacekeeping operations: nine led by the UN, two led by NATO and three led by the EU, with a total of 504 participants, 481 of whom were members of the Croatian Armed Forces and 23 were civilian experts (21 policemen, one diplomat and one representative of the Ministry of Justice). In comparison to the year before, the number of members of the Croatian Armed Forces participating in the peacekeeping missions increased by 20. When deploying staff in peacekeeping missions, Croatia also pays great attention to gender balance.

Again, the major contribution to peacekeeping operations was participation in the ISAF operation that included, in addition to the members of the Croatian Armed Forces, policemen and one diplomat who acted as a Deputy Civilian Representative, first at the Provincial Reconstruction Team in Feyzabad and then in Mazar-e-Sharif. This was Hrvoje Ćurić Hrvatinić, who was also in charge of the development assistance projects.

Education and training programmes for Croatian and foreign officers prior to their deployment in peacekeeping missions are conducted at the Croatian Army Peace Support Operations Centre in Rakitje near Zagreb, which holds a UN certificate for these activities.

Implementation of international documents for arms control

As an active member in the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons, Croatia also takes part in the popularisation of the Organisation’s objectives, especially through the National Commission for the Implementation of Chemical Weapons Control and by participating in seminars, workshops, exercises and conferences. There were five such events in 2011, and standing out among them was the 7th Review Conference of the Signatories of the Biological Weapons Convention in Geneva and the Australian Group Annual Plenary Meeting in Paris in June.

Within its international activities in the areas of arms control and trade in arms, as a co-ordinator of the National Commission for the Implementation of the Action Plan for Control of Small Arms and Light Weapons, the Ministry submitted several annual reports of the Republic of Croatia in accordance with assumed international obligations: to the UN (Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons; the Convention on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Certain Conventional Weapons which may be deemed to be Excessively Injurious or to have Indiscriminate Effects), to the OSCE (Document on Small Arms and Light Weapons; Document on Stockpiles of Conventional Ammunition), and to the NATO Ad Hoc Working Group on Small Arms and Light Weapons.

Croatia also continued with its involvement in international efforts to conclude a legally binding Arms Trade Treaty (ATT), the adoption of which is foreseen at the UN Conference in New York in July 2012. It also participated in a meeting of the states adhering to the UN Convention on Pro-
hibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Certain Conventional Weapons and its protocols held in Geneva in November. The Ministry also played an active role in the area of the so-called Wassenaar Arrangement on export controls of conventional arms and dual-use goods and technologies.

The Ministry’s involvement in all regional activities related to the control of small arms and light weapons in South East Europe arises from the interest of the Republic of Croatia to transfer its experience to other countries of the region and thus contribute to the strengthening of security in the region. It was also involved in the implementation of the Agreement on Sub-Regional Arms Control (in accordance with Article IV Annex 1-B of the General Framework Agreement for Peace in Bosnia and Herzegovina).

Representatives of the Ministry held consultations concerning international security with their counterparts from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation.

As part of its cooperation with the European Union in the area of Common Foreign and Security Policy, Croatia joined the international restrictions defined by EU Council decisions. Once the Accession Treaty was signed, Croatian diplomats started to operate as observers in working group meetings on the non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, global disarmament and weapons export control.

**Demining**

In the area of demining, the Ministry continued its cooperation with RACVIAC – the Centre for Security Cooperation, co-organising an international symposium entitled “The Oslo Convention: Workshop on Cluster Munitions”, held from 23 to 26 May in the premises of the Centre in Rakitje near Zagreb. As the workshop lived up to expectations both in the number of attendees and in the selection of speakers and topics, RACVIAC has included the activity in its four-year action plan (until 2014).

Representatives of the Ministry were involved in the work of the Coordinating Body for Helping Mine and Unexploded Ordnance Victims in the Republic of Croatia, especially in the implementation of the Action Plan for Helping Mine and UXO Victims 2010–2014. Cooperation also continued between the Ministry, the Croatian Mine Action Centre, and the Cluster for Humanitarian Demining in creating an image for the Republic of Croatia as a globally recognisable centre for mine action, primarily within the framework of the UN.
Economic Multilateral Relations

Together with other state administration bodies, the Ministry began to co-ordinate activities between the Republic of Croatia and the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) to strengthen cooperation with this international organisation and raise it to a higher level. On 24 January, in a lecture organised by the Ministry, Austria’s representative to the OECD in Paris Wolfgang Petritsch spoke about “Croatia Approaching the OECD”.

Importance of global market shaping for the Croatian economy

A Croatian delegation participated in the 8th Ministerial conference of the World Trade Organization (WTO) held in December in Geneva, which adopted policy guidelines confirming the importance of the multilateral trading system, and of trade and development as the foundation of WTO operations. However, no agreement was reached on the continuation of negotiations under the Doha Development Agenda. A number of decisions were adopted and the accessions to the WTO of Russia, Samoa and Montenegro were approved. On the eve of the Conference, after ten years of negotiations, the revised Government Procurement Agreement and its annexes were adopted.

The Croatian delegation at the March session of the UN Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) held in Geneva consisted of representatives from the Ministry of the Economy, Labour and Entrepreneurship and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and European Integration. They discussed economic issues relevant to the European region and the UN Special Programme for the Economies of Central Asia (SPECA).

Representatives of the Ministry attended the annual session of the Central Committee on Trade and Development of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) held in Geneva in June, focusing on the current state of the global market and post-crisis challenges in the global economy, with an emphasis on the least developed countries. The meeting demonstrated the potential that the UN and UN bodies have in the post-crisis regulation of global markets and in providing assistance to developing countries in their integration into the world economy, which makes the role of UNCTAD ever more important.

A regular expert meeting and meeting of Deputy Ministers of the Central European Free Trade Agreement (CEFTA 2006) was held in Priština on 30 June. The Ministry participated in preparations for the signing of the Additional Protocol on further trade liberalisation of agricultural and food products among interested CEFTA parties, and in Priština it highlighted the need for the speedy completion of the ratification process, in order to start the application of the agreed concessions as soon as possible (only Croatia and Albania had ratified the protocol, while provisional application from 1 July 2011 was agreed with Montenegro). Upon its accession to the European Union, Croatia will have to abandon the preferential, almost free export regime to CEFTA member countries, and accept the bilaterally agreed trade regime with each of these states.
Consular Affairs

The consular affairs of 2011 were marked by two extraordinary situations – the evacuation of Croatian nationals from Egypt and Libya, and elections for the Croatian Parliament in Croatian diplomatic and consular missions around the world.

Evacuation of Croatian nationals from Egypt and Libya

The beginning of turmoil in Arab countries placed a demand on Croatia to rescue its citizens from those areas. The Crisis Centre established at the Ministry’s Directorate of Consular Affairs organised the successful evacuation of Croatian nationals from Egypt in early February and from Libya in March. This included the evacuation of foreign nationals and employees of Croatian companies in those countries. Naturally, an important role was played by the Croatian embassies in Cairo and Tripoli. The embassy in Cairo was in operation at all times, while the one in Tripoli was temporarily closed between 30 March and 10 October due to armed conflict.

In cooperation with the two embassies, the Crisis Centre first identified the Croatian citizens who were working or living in Egypt and Libya at the time. Contact was then established and maintained both with them and their families, and with Croatian companies operating in the area. Having arranged for evacuation, the air transport of evacuees was organised. Cooperation was established with crisis staffs of other foreign affairs ministries. Activities were co-ordinated with other Croatian diplomatic missions involved in the evacuation of Croatian nationals, especially from Libya, where more than 400 Croatian citizens were working at the time of the outbreak of the conflict, through agreements with the competent authorities of the countries that enabled unhindered crossing of their borders. These authorities included the Croatian embassies in Rome, Athens, Kiev, Madrid, etc. The Crisis Centre also co-operated with other Croatian ministries and regularly informed the public about the progress of the evacuation.

Evacuation was carried out successfully, and permanent contact was maintained with Croatian citizens who refused to be evacuated (notification of families, assistance in obtaining medications, etc.), either directly or through diplomatic missions and consular offices.

Croatian parliamentary elections

The prior registration of voters was organised in Croatian diplomatic missions and consulates-general, in cooperation with the State Election Commission, the Ministry of Administration and the City Department for General Administration of the City of Zagreb. Parliamentary elections were held on 3 and 4 December. The election was successfully organised at Croatian diplomatic missions and consular offices in 52 states with a total of 124 polling stations.

International consular cooperation

In the framework of international cooperation, an agreement was signed between Croatia and Montenegro on 28 January in Bečići (Montenegro), on providing consular assistance and on representation in issuing visas. Two implementing acts were signed along with the agreement: A Protocol between the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and European Integration of the Republic of Croatia and the Montenegrin Ministry of Foreign Affairs and European Integration related to the implementation of Articles 3 to 6 of the Agreement between the Republic of Croatia and Montenegro on Providing Consular Assistance and on Representation in Issuing Visas, and a Protocol be-
between the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and European Integration of the Republic of Croatia and the Montenegrin Ministry of Foreign Affairs and European Integration on the implementation of Article 7 of the Agreement between the Republic of Croatia and Montenegro on Providing Consular Assistance and Representation in Issuing Visas.

Regular consular activities

In 2011, some 40,000 visa applications were filed in 72 Croatian diplomatic missions and consular offices, which is 50 percent less than in the previous year. This decrease is a consequence of the liberalisation of the Croatian visa system, implemented as part of the Croatian Tourism Action Plan for 2011. This has greatly facilitated the arrival of foreign tourists in Croatia.

During the year, the Ministry participated in drafting a new Aliens Act for the purpose of further harmonising Croatian visa legislation with the relevant EU acquis and EU standards. A legal framework was set up by the Act for the development and establishment of a Croatian visa information system, based on the existing Croatian visa database. This unique information system connects all visa authorities in the Republic of Croatia, Croatian diplomatic missions and consular offices, and international border crossings. Additional system functionalities have been developed to enable the collection of biometric data, which is also one of the prerequisites for the inclusion of Croatia into the European Union Visa Information System.

Croatian biometric passports have been created to comply with the recommendations of the International Air Transport Organization and Council Regulation (EU) No. 2252/2004 of 13 December 2004 on standards of security features and biometrics in passports and travel documents issued by the Member States. The Regulation obliged Member States to integrate the facial image into a chip inside the passport by June 2006, while the deadline for implementation of fingerprints was June 2009.

In the framework of its regular activities, a total of 31,411 cases were filed at the Directorate for Consular Affairs during the year, representing a total of 55,983 documents, of which 20,415 cases and 36,569 documents were related to international legal assistance. These mainly concerned legalisation of documents, applications for international legal assistance, international legal transactions with national registries, protection of the interests of Croatian citizens arrested abroad, extradition, deportation, the transfer of convicted Croatian citizens abroad, property claims relating to real estate, customs requirements, child support claims, inheritance, restitution of confiscated property, and other related legal matters.

The Ministry regularly performs the duties pertaining to the protection of the rights and interests of the Republic of Croatia and its nationals residing or travelling abroad. The extent of this work is illustrated by the fact that during 2011 a total of 2,444 persons obtained Croatian citizenship in the diplomatic and consular missions of the Republic of Croatia, and 55,002 new e-passport applications were received. In addition, 2,600 emergency passport forms were sent for the return of Croatian citizens who had travelled abroad without a valid passport, 2,421 applications were received for the approval of flights and landings of foreign state aircraft in the Republic of Croatia, together with 111 applications for obtaining approval for flights and landings of Croatian state aircraft abroad. Fifty annual permits for the flying or landing of state aircraft were issued or obtained.

Decisions on a new Croatian embassy and on consulates

In order to provide improved services to Croatian nationals and businesses abroad, in 2011 the Ministry initiated and implemented procedures for the establishment of diplomatic missions and consular offices abroad and the appointment of honorary consuls of the Republic of Croatia. Decisions were made on the establishment of the Croatian Embassy in the State of Qatar, based in Doha, and 13 Croatian consulates headed by honorary consuls. Newly appointed honorary consuls of
Consular Affairs

the Republic of Croatia thus include Dr. Peter Neuman in Dresden (Germany), Yerkin Dauletovich Israilov in Alma-Ata (the Republic of Kazakhstan), Amir Pratapa J. Ran in Kathmandu (the Federal Democratic Republic of Nepal), Arun Poddara in Calcutta (the Republic of India), Hiroshi Ojima in Osaka and Koichi Takakura in Naha (Japan), Bat-Erdenea Purevdagva in Ulaan Bator (Mongolia), Artashes R. Kazakhetsyan in Yerevan (the Republic of Armenia), Henryk Maciejewski in Bydgoszcz (the Republic of Poland), Kanan Mammadov Hafiz Oglu in Baku (the Republic of Azerbaijan), Alexandr Sergeyevich Rotov in Donetsk (Ukraine), Getachew Ayel in Addis Ababa (the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia) and Alexei Poltavchenko in St. Petersburg (the Russian Federation).

Assistance to Croatian minorities and communities abroad

In April, the Croatian Parliament adopted a Strategy on the Relations of the Republic of Croatia with Croatians outside the Republic of Croatia. The Act on Relations between the Republic of Croatia and Croatians outside the Republic of Croatia was adopted in October. Article 12 of the Act provides for the establishment of a Central State Office for Croatians outside the Republic of Croatia. The office should become the central place for the co-ordination of activities related to developing relations and cooperation with Croatians abroad. Because of these changes, preparations were carried out during the year to redefine responsibilities within the Ministry and establish a new operational structure related to the care of Croatians outside Croatia.

In 2011, the Ministry also looked after the position and status of Croatian indigenous minorities in European countries and the exercise of their minority rights. It supported the raising of ethnic, religious, cultural and linguistic awareness and the right of people to their own cultural and national traditions. It monitored changes in the migration policies and legislation of the receiving states, and the legal and political positions of specific minority groups. The Ministry also collaborated with representatives of Croatian minority organisations.

In 2011, projects related to minority activities abroad were co-financed with over EUR 460,000. The following amounts were allocated for the work of Croatian associations in various countries: EUR 45,000 for Austria, EUR 1,200 for Bulgaria, EUR 32,500 for Montenegro, EUR 9,000 for the Czech Republic, EUR 38,000 for Italy, EUR 19,000 for Kosovo, EUR 140,000 for Hungary, EUR 22,200 for Macedonia, EUR 21,000 for Romania, EUR 11,450 for Slovakia, EUR 20,000 for Slovenia and EUR 104,000 for Serbia.

A Joint Commission to Implement the Agreement on the Protection of Minorities between the Republic of Croatia and Serbia met at its Fifth Session in Belgrade and Šid on 19 and 20 September. The exercise of minority rights of minority communities in both countries was discussed.

There are various forms of assistance that the Republic of Croatia provides to Croatians abroad to preserve their cultural and linguistic heritage, strengthen ties with their homeland, and help deepen relations between Croatia and the countries in which they live. Fostering better relations, mutual respect and understanding between members of the Croatian diaspora and their homeland is an ongoing task of Croatian diplomacy concerning Croatians abroad. The following projects were implemented in 2011:

- scholarships for Croatian pupils and students from abroad, who are studying in the Republic of Croatia (414 scholarships granted)
- the Croatian language course Croaticum for Croatians from abroad, organised by the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences in Zagreb (111 scholarships granted for 76 participants)
- updating the website “Information for Croats abroad” with the aim of informing Croatians abroad about everything that could facilitate their visit or permanent return to their homeland, and enable easier integration into the economic, educational, cultural and other aspects of life in Croatia
• a tender for programmes/projects by friendship associations applying for financial aid from the proceeds of games of chance (HRK 1,460,500 allocated for programmes and projects by 31 organisations)

• a public tender to provide funding for educational, cultural, research and health programmes and projects pertaining to the interests of Croatians in Bosnia and Herzegovina. (In 2011, HRK 16 million was allocated to 373 programmes and projects - 180 programmes in the field of culture, 159 programmes in the field of education and research, and 34 programmes in the field of health.)
Public Diplomacy

Croatia is recognised worldwide as a country that has successfully implemented its transition policies and is intensively preparing for membership in the European Union. It is active in its environment, building relationships and developing cooperation based on equality and European democratic standards, it strives for economic growth, especially in the field of tourism, and is proud of its heritage and culture. Public diplomacy activities have largely contributed to these achievements.

Croatia Summit 2011

Organised by the Government of the Republic of Croatia and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and European Integration, the sixth Croatia Summit was held in Dubrovnik on 8 and 9 July. The conference focused on “A New Decade for South East Europe – Finalising the Transition”. It was attended by six prime ministers and five deputy prime ministers, eleven foreign affairs ministers and several ministers from other departments, representatives of the European Union and NATO, officials from the wider region, and from the Southern and Eastern Mediterranean and the Caucasus, representatives of civil society organisations and financial institutions. Judging by the turnout of dignitaries and their attendance over several years, the Croatia Summit has become an important international conference marked in political calendars as a regular annual meeting in early summer.

The conference started with opening remarks made by Prime Minister Jadranka Kosor and President of the Republic of Croatia Ivo Josipović, followed by talks given by the prime ministers of Albania Sali Berisha, Bulgaria Boyko Borisov, Belgium Yves Leterme, Montenegro Igor Luksić, Kosovo Hashim Thaçi, Macedonia Nikola Gruevski, and Slovenia Borut Pahor. Poland was represented by Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of the Economy Waldemar Pawlak. Speakers at the plenary session also included the Speaker of the Knesset Reuven Rivlin, President of the EU Committee of the Regions Mercedes Bresso and US Under-Secretary for Political Affairs William Burns. Also attending were the ministers of foreign affairs of Albania Edmond Haxhinasto, Michael Spindelegger of Austria, Sven Alkalaj of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Nikolai Mladenov of Bulgaria, Markos Kyprianou of Cyprus, Karel Schwarzenberg of the Czech Republic, Urmas Paet of Estonia, Enver Hoxhaj of Kosovo, Girts Krisovskis of Latvia, János Martonyi of Hungary, Mikulás Dzurinda of Slovakia, Carl Bildt of Sweden and Konstantin Grishenko of Ukraine, as well as Senator Mark Begich and Canadian Minister of Labour Lisa Raitt, and others. Among the participants were European Commissioner for Enlargement and Neighbourhood Policy Štefan Füle and Managing Director for the Western Balkans at the
Public Diplomacy

European External Action Service Miroslav Lajčak and several MEPs. The conference also served as an opportunity for a number of bilateral meetings with Croatian officials and foreign guests.

In three panel discussions, other participants actively discussed the new frameworks of economic development and new investments to increase the overall competitiveness of the countries of South East Europe after the global crisis, the security issues caused by changes in the Mediterranean, and the future of the EU enlargement policy that has been a catalyst of change throughout the European continent during the last six decades. With a total of 47 speakers in two days, the Croatia Summit proved to be an excellent platform for establishing and deepening dialogue on a range of topics, and Croatia was established as an important and compelling partner on the international stage. With its selection of relevant topics, the conference was confirmed as a place of gathering and sharing of ideas, initiatives, and potential solutions and models for overcoming the crisis and solving contemporary issues. It has become a meeting place for the representatives of the countries of the region and the Member States, and other officials from the European Union, NATO, and other international and civil society organisations.

The conference also had good media coverage. Speeches and other supporting events were followed by more than one hundred local and foreign reporters who published a number of positive newspaper articles and television reports.

The project “Ruder Bošković in the Diplomatic Service of the Dubrovnik Republic”

On the occasion of the 300th anniversary of the birth of the Croatian and world scholar, citizen of Dubrovnik and Jesuit, Ruder Josip Bošković (1711 - 1787), the Diplomatic Academy prepared and published Stjepan Špoljarić’s “Ruder Bošković in the Diplomatic Service of the Dubrovnik Republic”, a publication printed in Croatian and English editions. The publication was presented to the public on 14 September in Zagreb and on 12 October in Dubrovnik, then in Brussels (24 November), Paris (30 November) and Rome (10 December), where the Pontifical Gregorian University hosted an international conference “Ruder Bošković - il cultore della verità”.

As part of its publishing activities, the Diplomatic Academy also published a collection of papers on “European Diplomacy: Regional Cooperation, Lifelong Learning and Diplomatic Training” and the brochure “Official Abbreviations and Full Names of the States in Croatian and English” (4th revised edition) prepared by Božidar Bakotić.

Diplomatic conferences, seminars and round tables

The Diplomatic Academy has expanded its international cooperation with the conclusion of two new international agreements. A Memorandum of Understanding was signed on 10 May in Zagreb between the Diplomatic Academy and the China Foreign Affairs University of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the People’s Republic of China. On 9 November, a Memorandum of Cooperation was signed between the MESEURO Center for Mediterranean Europe Foundations, the City of Dubrovnik, Dubrovnik-Neretva County, EMUNI-I, the University of Zagreb and the Ministry’s Diplomatic Academy.

In 2011, the Diplomatic Academy organised the following conferences and discussions, either alone or in collaboration with other institutions:

• The “Communication Strategy for Croatian Accession to the EU”, discussed in Zagreb on 25 February at the round table “EU – Breakfast & Debate”, held in cooperation with the Hanns Seidel Foundation
• A round table on “Croatian - An Official Language of the European Union”, organised on 8 April in Zagreb in cooperation with Matica hrvatska
Public Diplomacy

• “Diplomatic Communication and Culture as a Means of Promotion”, an international diplomatic francophone seminar organised in cooperation with the French Embassy to the Republic of Croatia, the *École Nationale d'Administration* from Paris, and the International Organization of La Francophonie, held on 18 and 19 April in Zagreb

• An international round table on “Public Diplomacy: Image and Branding of the Nation”, organised in Zagreb on 3 May in collaboration with the Hanns Seidel Foundation

• “European Diplomacy”, discussed at the international round table “EU Lunch & Debate”, organised with the Hanns Seidel Foundation on 1 June in Zagreb

• The 13th Joint Seminar on European Integration Processes, held in Dubrovnik from 10 to 14 October, in collaboration with the Hanns Seidel Foundation

• The “10th International Francophone Seminar - Diplomatic Relations: the Emergence of New Actors and the Development of Influence Strategies”, a seminar prepared in cooperation with the French Embassy, the *École Nationale d'Administration* from Strasbourg, and the International Organization of La Francophonie, held in Zagreb from 17 to 19 October

• A rhetoric seminar in German, organised in cooperation with the Hanns Seidel Foundation, held in Zagreb on 27 and 28 October

• A seminar and workshop on the “Preparation of National Positions for the Foreign Affairs Council - the French Experience”, organised in collaboration with the Ministry’s Directorate for Europe and North America and the French Embassy to the Republic of Croatia, held in Zagreb on 18 November

• A seminar on the “Status of an Acceding Country – Preparing for Future Membership in the EU”, held in Zagreb on 13 and 14 December in cooperation with the *École Nationale d'Administration* from Strasbourg and the International Organization of La Francophonie

• “Public Diplomacy: Cultural Diplomacy, Image and Branding of the Nation”, an international round table prepared in cooperation with the Hanns Seidel Foundation, held in Zagreb on 14 December

Lectures by foreign officials for Croatian diplomats

The tradition of inviting distinguished foreign guests and ambassadors to hold lectures on specific topics and their countries’ positions continued in 2011. Lectures covered a range of interesting topics:

• 10 January – Ambassador Ahmed Fathalla, Assistant Minister for European Affairs at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Egypt, spoke about Egyptian foreign policy and the Middle East crisis

• 31 January – Lamberto Zannier, United Nations Special Representative for Kosovo, spoke about “Recent Events in Kosovo and the development of institutions”

• 22 March – Julie Mercier from the French Ministry of Defence spoke on the “Common Foreign and Security Policy - strategic planning and implementation of operations”

On 13 July the Diplomatic Academy of Vienna hosted a conference ‘Croatia – Twenty Years of Independence: The Potential of Croatia’s Contribution to the European Union’. In his speech, Minister Gordan Jandroković pointed out that in this period Croatia went through three transitions: from communism to democracy and a free market economy, from the Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia to an independent and sovereign state, and from war to peace. In the first decade of its independence, Croatia was dedicated to defending its sovereignty and territorial integrity, in the second it focused on achieving strategic goals - membership in NATO and the EU, while the third decade will be devoted to economic growth.
• 28 March – Enver Hoxhaj, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Kosovo, spoke about state-building in Kosovo
• 1 April – Ambassador of Brazil to the Republic of Croatia, Luiz Fernando Gouvêa de Athayde, spoke about Brazil’s growing presence on the world stage
• 2 May – Professor Alan Henrikson from the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy at Tufts University in the United States gave a lecture on “Public Diplomacy in the US and the EU: Challenges of small states”
• 10 May – Zhao Jinjun, chairman of the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the National People’s Council of the People’s Republic of China gave an overview of the main objectives of Chinese foreign policy
• 7 September – Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Hellenic Republic Stavros Lambrinidis spoke about “Our neighbourhood’s European prospect in the time of crisis”
• 27 September – Minister of Foreign Affairs of Romania Teodor Baconschi spoke about EU enlargement, European assets and regional benefits
• 14 October – “The Union for the Mediterranean, activities and the project dimension of the Secretariat” was the title of a lecture given by Rafiq Husseini, Deputy Secretary General of the Secretariat of the Union for the Mediterranean for Water and Environment
• 16 November – Gerard Limburg, chief legal adviser at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Netherlands gave a lecture on The Hague as the legal capital of the world
• 23 November – “Arab-Israeli relations in the context of current Middle East turmoil” was the title of a lecture given by Professor Raphael Israeli of the Hebrew University in Jerusalem

Public relations

The public was regularly informed of the activities of the Ministry and the Croatian diplomatic-consular network through the media, with 427 press releases prepared by the Office of the Spokesperson during the year. Thirty-nine websites of the Ministry and the Croatian diplomatic missions around the world are available to the public, providing information about travelling, visas, international treaties and other content, as well as updated information about the negotiations on Croatian accession to the European Union, relations with the European Union and NATO, economic diplomacy and information for Croats living abroad. The web pages of the Diplomatic Academy in French were updated and preparations were completed for the launching of an independent website of the Diplomatic Academy that will offer publications produced within its publishing programme. The website will target both professionals and the general public.

Cultural promotion

The overall foreign cultural policy, implemented by the Ministry in cooperation with the diplomatic and consular network, was formulated so as to present Croatian culture abroad with particular emphasis on the cultural heritage, in line with foreign policy priorities. As many as 130 projects and programmes were organised, including exhibitions, concerts, film production, book presentations, various lectures, and ethnic and gastronomic projects.
Fourteen exhibitions were put on in different parts of the world and on different occasions. These included:

- Photographic works by Marko Vrdoljak: “Miraculous Croatia 1” and “Miraculous Croatia 2”
- “Split in Marulić’s Time”
- Representative graphic design works by Boris Ljubičić: “New Look Croatia”
- A photographic exhibition by Vladimir Novak: “Croats in America”
- Photographic exhibitions by Ivo Pervan: “Unseen Croatia” and “Colours of Croatia”
- “Tie Challenge” – prepared in cooperation with the Academia Cravatica
- “Croatian Lighthouses” – prepared in cooperation with Plovput d.o.o.
- “Croatian Philately” – prepared in cooperation with the Croatian Post
- “Croatian Caricature”
- “The Croatian Righteous among the Nations”
- A photographic exhibition by Miro Andrić: “Croatia’s Sea and Undersea World”
- “Croatian Archaeological Heritage” – in cooperation with the Archaeological Museum in Zagreb

The exhibition “Tie Challenge” was set up in Budapest and Santiago de Chile. With this exhibition, which has so far toured a number of cities, the tie is recognised as a garment of Croatian origin and has been successfully promoted as a Croatian brand. The Croatian archaeological heritage was presented in Brussels and Dublin, an exhibition of the heritage listed by UNESCO was put on at the National Museum in New Delhi and at the Rabindranath Tagore Centre in Calcutta, and the Croatian monuments from UNESCO's World Heritage List were presented in London.

A series of successful concerts were prepared in cooperation with Croatian musicians, soloists and ensembles. Several events are worth mentioning: “Croatian Music Days” in Vienna, “Croatian Music Days” in Paris, Monika Leskovar and Ivana Švarc-Grenda in Dublin, the Zagreb Saxophone Quartet in London, the String Quartet in Beijing, Sydney, Melbourne, London and Thessaloniki, pianist Tamara Jurkić Sviben in Copenhagen and Reykjavik, and a performance by the opera singer Dubravka Šeparović-Mušović in Vienna, Copenhagen, Salzburg and Munich. To celebrate the completion of Croatia’s EU accession negotiations, Monika Leskovar (cello) and Ivana Švarc-Grenda (piano) performed in the John Field Room at the National Concert Hall in Dublin. Good relations and cooperation between the Croatian and Polish embassies in Madrid led to a concert held by Croatian pianist Bruno Vlahek in Madrid at a joint celebration of the signing of Croatia's EU Accession Treaty on 9 December. The signing of the Accession Treaty also served as the occasion for a concert by Javor Bračić (piano) held on 14 December in New York at the Polish Center.

The year 2011 was dedicated to the 300th anniversary of the birth of scientist and Jesuit Ruđer Bošković. The Ministry was involved in the organisation of an exhibition on this great scientist at the UNESCO headquarters in Paris and the Royal Academy in London. Preparations are nearly completed for the setting up of Bošković's monument, a work by Ivan Meštrović, in front of the observatory in Milan.

The Croatian Film Retrospective in 2011 was screened in six Israeli cities.
Service Development

Development of the foreign affairs service

The Ministry continued, within its possibilities, with the development of its human resources and investment into the development of its working conditions, primarily in respect of the information and communications system, which is important for good connections between all parts of the service, regardless of geographic distance.

Full budget execution

The 2011 budget of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and European Integration amounted to HRK 555,244,000 and was fully executed. Having analysed the financial factors for 2010 and the first semester of 2011, the Ministry prepared a Strategic Plan for the period 2012-2014.

In order to secure transparency, a new Ordinance on public procurement in diplomatic missions and consular offices was drafted, which created a less complex legal framework for the public procurement procedures abroad, maintaining at the same time the principles of transparency, control and use of budget means according to specified purposes.

The succession of diplomatic-consular property of former SFRY continued and in 2011 the Republic of Croatia took possession of two apartments in Trieste, residences in Madrid, Oslo and Helsinki, and embassies in Vienna and Lisbon.

Training of staff

In managing human resources of the Ministry and the diplomatic network, special attention was given to the training of staff, the mobility system and promotions, and to lifelong learning and training. Individual career development of the Ministry’s staff continued to be harmonised with service needs, especially focusing on the planning and performance evaluation for each employee.

Together with various seminars, workshops, lectures and other forms of education and training, the activities in 2011 also included the one-year professional diplomatic course for young diplomats. The 14th generation of students attended classes at the Diplomatic Academy from 15 December 2010 to 25 May 2011, along with their regular job tasks. The programme was successfully completed by 44 participants, 30 from the Ministry and 14 from other Croatian state administrative bodies.

A two-month diplomatic course attended by professional diplomats at the rank of 1st Secretary as a preparation for the diplomatic advisor examination was completed by 21 participants, 17 from the Ministry and 4 from other Croatian state administration bodies. In 2011, a total of 33 candidates successfully completed their diplomatic advisor examination.

Staff were also able to attend foreign language courses organised by the Diplomatic Academy, including English, French, German, Spanish, and Italian. The learning curricula follow the Framework Strategy for Multilingualism through which the European Commission invites the Member States to contribute to teaching, learning and using different languages. Following an internal selection procedure, courses were organised in groups at six levels (A1 - C2) from September to June.
The Ministry also organised highly specialised courses for target groups in need of acquiring specific vocabulary, and individual classes.

Members of diplomatic and administrative staff sent to work abroad also received professional training on a regular basis. Group and individual preparations according to specific programmes were held for representatives of line ministries sent to work in diplomatic missions. Preparations for heads of diplomatic and consular offices were organised according to individual programmes and following the sequence of their appointment.

In 2011, the Ministry awarded 29 scholarships to diplomats for professional training programmes at the Centre for Diplomatic Training of the Turkish Ministry of Foreign Affairs, for a diplomatic course at the Diplomatic Academy in Berlin, the Summer School of the Diplomatic Academy of the Montenegrin Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Professional Course for Diplomats at the Foreign Service Institute in India, the International Course at the Mexican Diplomatic Academy, the Winter School of Diplomacy at the Diplomatic Institute of the Bulgarian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the International Diplomatic Seminar at the Institute of Diplomacy and Foreign Relations of the Malaysian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, various specialised courses at the Marshall Centre in Garmisch and the Mediterranean Academy of Diplomatic Studies in La Valetta, Malta, and seminars on specific topics at the International Institute of Public Administration in Paris, and the Netherlands Institute of International Relations Clingendael in The Hague.

Ministry Library

The inventory and digitisation of library materials is in its final stage and an Instruction on the Work of the Ministry Library has been drafted. Some 500 publications pertaining to the Croatian Foreign Service were donated to the Ministry. For the third time, the Library itself donated about one hundred publications to libraries in the town of Vukovar. Together with the planning, elaboration and implementation of the public procurement policy, the Ministry continued its cooperation with relevant libraries and publishers in Croatia and abroad, and with representatives of international organisations in Zagreb, in order to secure the functional operation of the library service for diplomats and other staff at the Ministry.

Investing in ICT

In 2011, the MFAEI Information and Communications System (IKOS) was upgraded with a module for the co-ordination of European affairs. Its function is to receive, register and publish drafts of legislative acts and other decisions in which the Croatian Government takes part within the EU Council, and to prepare, harmonise and adopt national positions, decisions and other documents necessary for the participation of Croatian representatives in the Council. Users of the subsystem are all state administration bodies of the Republic of Croatia involved in the process of creating national positions and other documents relevant for the participation of Croatian representatives in the work of the Council of the EU.

The IKOS software has been continually upgraded, with an emphasis on the Croatian visa database, political documentation and office procedures.

The Ministry regularly maintained ICT equipment in diplomatic and consular missions, and continued with the implementation of a domain environment that enables high quality control and maintenance of computers to be conducted by means of central administration (with so-called ‘remote access’) at 24 locations abroad. In accordance with procurement needs, the Ministry purchased new computers to replace old ones and allow for new users. It also purchased special biometric equipment. User support was offered through HELPDESK, with more than 6,000 queries successfully handled in 2011.
Service Development

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 2011. By the end of the year, 66 diplomatic missions and consular offices were networked, leading to significant cost savings. The second phase of the project was launched, enabling toll-free calls between different embassies and consulates of the Republic of Croatia.

In 2011, the harmonisation of processing classified and unclassified data in the foreign policy service and further implementation of information security controls and standards continued in accordance with regulations, and with NATO and EU security standards. In the second half of 2011, the ACN information system in the Ministry and in the Croatian Mission to the EU in Brussels was upgraded to the ACD information system, fulfilling the conditions for an electronic exchange of a portion of classified documents between Croatia and the European Union. Working consultations with competent services of the Council of the EU were held throughout the year and preparations for installing the remaining EU information systems in the Ministry and the Mission in Brussels continued.

In 2011, the Office of the National Security Council conducted inspection of the work of the Ministry’s Registry and confirmed that the Registry operates in accordance with regulations. The Ministry’s Registry received security accreditation certificates for the distribution and handling of NATO COSMIC TOP SECRET and EU SECRET classified data.
Chronology of important foreign affairs events in 2011

January

8 JANUARY – ZAGREB
President of the Republic of Croatia Ivo Josipović met with President of the Social Democratic Party of Bosnia and Herzegovina Zlatko Lagumdžija to discuss the process of establishing a government in that country following the elections.

10 JANUARY – ZAGREB
Minister Gordan Jandroković welcomed Egypt’s Assistant Foreign Minister Ahmed Fathalla, who held political consultations with MFAEI’s Director General of the Directorate for Multilateral Affairs Mario Nobilo.

12 JANUARY – ZAGREB
President of the Republic of Croatia Ivo Josipović and Prime Minister Jadranka Kosor met with Dragan Ćović, President of the Croatian Democratic Union of Bosnia and Herzegovina, and Božo Ljubić, President of the Croatian Democratic Union 1990. They reiterated their support of the integrity of Bosnia and Herzegovina and of its efforts in the European integration process; they also emphasised the need to establish the institutional equality of Croats in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

13 JANUARY – ZAGREB
President of the Croatian Parliament Luka Bebić hosted a high-level delegation of the South Korean Parliament headed by Speaker of the National Assembly of the Republic of Korea Park Hee-Tea; South Korea’s high-level official was also received by President Ivo Josipović and Prime Minister Jadranka Kosor.

14 JANUARY – ZAGREB
Minister Gordan Jandroković met with European Parliament Rapporteur for Croatia Hannes Swoboda.

17 JANUARY – ZAGREB
Delegations of parliamentary committees on European Affairs of Germany and France, headed by Günther Krichbaum and Michel Herbillon, paid a joint visit to Croatia; the German-French parliamentary delegation met with their hosts at the Croatian Parliament, and with Minister Gordan Jandroković and Prime Minister Jadranka Kosor; the guests from Germany and France were also received by Croatia’s President Ivo Josipović.

19 – 21 JANUARY – BERLIN
At the invitation of German President Christian Wulff, President of the Republic of Croatia Ivo Josipović paid an official visit to Germany; on this occasion he met with Chancellor Angela Merkel and President of the Bundestag Norbert Lammert and attended the German-Croatian Economic Forum in Mainz; the President was accompanied by Minister Gordan Jandroković, who met with his German counterpart Guido Westerwelle.
Chronology of Events

February

28 JANUARY – BUCHAREST
Prime Minister Jadranka Kosor officially visited Romania at the invitation of Romanian Prime Minister Emil Boc; during her visit Prime Minister Kosor was also received by Romanian President Traian Băsescu

28 JANUARY – BEČIĆI
Minister Gordan Jandroković participated in the ministerial meeting of the South-East European Cooperation Process; meeting with his Montenegrin counterpart Milan Ročen on the sidelines of the meeting, he signed an Agreement between the two ministries on Consular Assistance and Representation in Issuing Visas

31 JANUARY AND 1 FEBRUARY – ZAGREB
Members of the Presidency of Bosnia and Herzegovina – Nebojša Radmanović, Bakir Izetbegović and Željko Komšić – officially visited Croatia, discussing with Croatian President Ivo Josipović bilateral relations and open questions, forming a government in Bosnia and Herzegovina following the elections, and regional cooperation; they also met with Prime Minister Jadranka Kosor

February

2 – 3 FEBRUARY – WASHINGTON
Minister Gordan Jandroković visited the United States of America at the invitation of State Secretary Hillary Clinton, signing on that occasion an Air Transport Agreement; Minister Jandroković also met with Special Assistant to the President and Senior Director for European Affairs at the National Security Council Elisabeth Sherwood-Randall, Chairwoman of the Subcommittee on European Affairs of the Senate Committee on Foreign Relations Jeanne Shaheen, Senator Marc Begich, and others

8 FEBRUARY – ZAGREB
Hungarian Prime Minister Viktor Orbán visited Croatia during Hungary’s EU Presidency and during a meeting with Prime Minister Jadranka Kosor announced that the date for the completion of Croatia’s accession negotiations with the EU would be set soon

8 – 11 FEBRUARY – NEW YORK
At the invitation of former US President Bill Clinton, President of the Republic of Croatia Ivo Josipović attended the Clinton Global Initiative conference commemorating 15 years of the signing of the Dayton Agreement

15 FEBRUARY – STRASBOURG
Prime Minister Jadranka Kosor visited the European Parliament at the invitation of its president Jerzy Buzek; she talked with leaders of all parliamentary groups: Joseph Daul, Martin Schulz, Daniel Cohn-Bendit and Guy Verhofstadt; she also met with EU Enlargement Commissioner Štefan Füle

15 – 16 FEBRUARY – THE HAGUE
During his visit to the Netherlands, Minister Gordan Jandroković met with Minister Uri Rosenthal, President of the Dutch Senate René van der Linden, and talked to representatives of the Committee on Foreign Affairs and the Committee of European Affairs, and also with Chief
Prosecutor of the ICTY Serge Brammertz; he held a lecture at the Clingendael Institute of International Relations

18 – 19 FEBRUARY – KABUL

President of the Republic of Croatia Ivo Josipović visited Afghanistan at the invitation of President Hamid Karzai; he met with his host and with ISAF Commander David Petraeus, NATO’s Senior Civilian Representative Mark Sedwill and visited Croatian soldiers stationed in Mazar-e-Sharif

25 FEBRUARY – ZAGREB

Minister Gordan Jandroković held talks with Deputy Prime Minister for European Affairs of the Macedonian Government Vasko Naumovski

25 – 26 FEBRUARY – MOSTAR, BIHAĆ

President of the Republic of Croatia Ivo Josipović participated in the “Pečat” award ceremony organised by the daily newspaper Večernji list and met on that occasion with the Chairman of the Presidency of Bosnia and Herzegovina Nebojša Radmanović and Macedonia’s President Gjorge Ivanov; on the 751st anniversary of the City of Bihać, the President met with leaders of the Una-Sana Canton

March

3 MARCH – ZAGREB

Croatia hosted the Bureau meeting of the European People’s Party chaired by Joseph Daul, EPP Group Chairman; the participants of the meeting were addressed by Prime Minister Jadranka Kosor; the meeting was also attended by Viviane Reding, European Commission Vice-President and Commissioner for Justice, who met separately with Croatian President Ivo Josipović; Valentin Inzko, High Representative of the International Community in Bosnia and Herzegovina, held a separate meeting with Minister Gordan Jandroković

4 MARCH – BRATISLAVA

Prime Minister Jadranka Kosor officially visited Slovakia at the invitation of Slovakia’s Prime Minister Iveta Radičova; Prime Minister Kosor also met with the Speaker of the Slovak Parliament Richard Sulík

8 MARCH – PRAGUE

President of the Republic of Croatia Ivo Josipović visited the Czech Republic and met with his counterpart Vaclav Klaus, Speaker of the Chamber of Deputies Miroslava Němcová, President of the Senate Milan Štěch and Prime Minister Petr Nečas; he met also with representatives of the Croatian minority and with representatives of Charles University

10 MARCH – ZAGREB

Chairman of the Ukrainian Parliament Volodymyr Lytvyn met with President of the Croatian Parliament Luka Bebić and Minister Gordan Jandroković; he was also received by Croatian President Ivo Josipović
Chronology of Events

12 MARCH – BUDAPEST

Minister Gordan Jandroković attended an informal meeting of foreign ministers of EU Member States hosted by Hungarian Foreign Minister János Martonyi and the European Union’s High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy Catherine Ashton; the main topics of the meeting were the events in Northern Africa and in the Middle East.

14 MARCH – ZAGREB

Minister Gordan Jandroković met with the Rapporteur for Croatia in the European Parliament Hannes Swoboda to discuss the reforms to be implemented in order to complete accession negotiations; Rapporteur Swoboda and the delegation of the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the European Parliament also met with Prime Minister Jadranka Kosor.

14 – 15 MARCH – ANKARA

President of the Republic of Croatia Ivo Josipović paid an official visit to Turkey at the invitation of President Abdullah Gül; on this occasion, he met with the Speaker of the Grand National Assembly Mehmet Ali Şahin and held a lecture at Bilkent University in Ankara.

17 MARCH – SARAJEVO

Minister Gordan Jandroković participated in a seminar for foreign ministers organised by the European People’s Party; the ministers discussed the future and EU perspective of the countries in South-East Europe and the situation in Northern Africa and in the Middle East.

20 MARCH – ZAGREB

President of the Republic of Croatia Ivo Josipović and Prime Minister Jadranka Kosor met with Dragan Ćović, President of the Croatian Democratic Union of Bosnia and Herzegovina, and Božo Ljubić, President of the Croatian Democratic Union 1990; they discussed problems in the establishment of legislative and executive authorities in the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

21 MARCH – ZAGREB

Bulgaria’s President Georgi Parvanov paid an official visit to Croatia.

22 MARCH – COPENHAGEN

At the invitation of Danish Prime Minister Lars Rasmussen, Prime Minister Jadranka Kosor paid a working visit to Denmark.

23 MARCH – ZAGREB

President of the Republic of Croatia Ivo Josipović received Stéphane Abrial, NATO’s Supreme Allied Commander Transformation, who had earlier met with State Secretary for Multilateral Affairs Mario Nobilo at the Ministry.

23 MARCH – OTOČEC NA KRKI

The presidents of Croatia and Slovenia, Ivo Josipović and Danilo Türk, held an informal meeting.

24 MARCH – BRUSSELS

On the eve of the European Council meeting, at the invitation of the President of the European People’s Party Wilfried Martens, Prime Minister Jadranka Kosor participated in a meeting of Heads of State and Government of EU Member States.
### Chronology of Events

**28 March – Vilnius**

President of the Republic of Croatia **Ivo Josipović** visited Lithuania at the invitation of his counterpart **Dalia Grybauskaitė**, meeting also with Parliament Speaker **Irena Degutienė** and Prime Minister **Andrius Kubilius**; he held a lecture at the Institute of International Relations and Political Science in Vilnius.

**28 March – Zagreb**

Kosovo’s Foreign Minister **Enver Hoxhaj** officially visited Croatia and met with Minister **Gordan Jandroković**; the two ministers signed a Protocol on Cooperation between the two Ministries; Minister Hoxhaj was also received by Croatian President **Ivo Josipović**.

**29 March – London**

Minister **Gordan Jandroković** attended the International Conference on Libya at the invitation of British Foreign Secretary **William Hague**; the participants discussed the situation in Libya, the implementation of the UN Security Council resolution, humanitarian needs and manners of providing support to the Libyan people.

**30 – 31 March – Jerusalem**

Prime Minister **Jadranka Kosor** officially visited Israel; she met with Prime Minister **Benjamin Netanyahu**, Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister **Avigdor Liberman** and with opposition leader **Tzipi Livni**; she also participated in the Croatian-Israeli Economic Forum; on the second day she visited the Palestinian National Authority and held talks with President **Mahmoud Abbas** and Prime Minister **Salam Fayyad**.

### April

**1 April – Belgrade**

Prime Minister **Jadranka Kosor** visited Serbia and met with her Serbian counterpart **Mirko Cvetković**; she held a trilateral meeting with Serbia’s President **Boris Tadić** and Slovenian Prime Minister **Borut Pahor** that focused on strengthening economic and other areas of cooperation aimed at the development of the region.

**1 April – Zagreb**

Minister **Gordan Jandroković** hosted a meeting with UN Assistant Secretary General and Assistant Administrator of UNDP and Director of the Regional Bureau for Europe and the Commonwealth of Independent States **Kori Udovički**, discussing international development assistance and cooperation between Croatia and the UNDP; Ms Udovički was also received by President of the Republic of Croatia **Ivo Josipović**.

**5 April – Dubrovnik**

The Brown Forum was held to commemorate the 15th anniversary of the death of US Secretary of Commerce Ron Brown and a group of American businesspeople; some 200 participants gathered at the international conference on trade and investment between the United States and South-East Europe opened by Croatian President **Ivo Josipović** and Prime Minister **Jadranka Kosor**.

**7 April – Zagreb**

President of the European Commission **José Manuel Barroso** visited Croatia, expressing the EU’s full support to Croatia in the final stage of its accession negotiations.
12 APRIL – TUHIELJSKE TOPLICE

Croatian and Slovenian Presidents Ivo Josipović and Danilo Türk participated in a round table on strengthening cooperation between the two neighbouring countries, particularly in the field of tourism; they laid the foundation stone of a new hotel in Tuheljske Toplice to be built by the owners of Terme Olimia, a Slovenian resort.

13 APRIL – BIHAĆ AND RIJEKA

President of the Republic of Croatia Ivo Josipović and member of the Presidency of Bosnia and Herzegovina Bakir Izetbegović talked in Bihać with leaders of the Una-Sana Canton about possible joint business projects (the Una railway, construction of gas pipelines, Željava airport, border crossings) and later visited the construction site of the future Islamic centre in Rijeka.

13 APRIL – ZAGREB

British Secretary of State for Justice Kenneth Clarke paid a visit to Croatia; besides a meeting with his host and counterpart, he also met with Prime Minister Jadranka Kosor, and was received by Croatia’s President Ivo Josipović.

15 APRIL – BERLIN

Minister Gordan Jandroković participated in a meeting of NATO foreign ministers; in addition to the North Atlantic Council, meetings were also held regarding the situation in Libya, the peacekeeping mission in Afghanistan (ISAF), as well as meetings of the NATO-Georgia Commission, the NATO-Ukraine Commission and the NATO-Russia Commission.

18 APRIL – KIEV

President of the Republic of Croatia Ivo Josipović participated in an international donors’ conference on Chernobyl; this served as an occasion for a separate meeting with Ukrainian President Viktor Yanukovych.

18 – 19 APRIL – BRUSSELS

Minister Gordan Jandroković headed the Croatian delegation at the seventh meeting of the Stabilisation and Association Council; the European Union was represented by János Martonyi, Foreign Minister of Hungary, the EU presiding country, and by EU Commissioner for Enlargement and European Neighbourhood Policy Štefan Füle; at the Intergovernmental Conference on Croatia’s accession to the EU held the following day, another two negotiating chapters were closed; Minister Jandroković met separately with the Chairman of the European People’s Party in the EU Parliament Joseph Daul and Slovenian MEP Ivo Vajgl.

20 APRIL – ZAGREB

Norway’s Foreign Minister Jonas Gahr Store paid a working visit to Croatia; he met with Minister Gordan Jandroković and Croatian President Ivo Josipović.

26 APRIL – ZAGREB

Foreign Ministers of Austria and Slovakia, Michael Spindelegger and Mikuláš Dzurinda, jointly visited Croatia, expressing in this way their support for the completion of Croatia’s accession negotiations; the ministers held talks with their host Gordan Jandroković and Prime Minister Jadranka Kosor, and were received by Croatian President Ivo Josipović.
Chronology of Events

27 APRIL – ZAGREB

Bulgarian Prime Minister Boyko Borisov visited Croatia, discussing with Prime Minister Jadranka Kosor bilateral cooperation and Croatia’s accession process; Bulgaria’s Prime Minister was also received by President of the Republic of Croatia Ivo Josipović

27 APRIL – ZAGREB

President of the Dutch Senate René van der Linden visited Croatia at the invitation of President of the Croatian Parliament Luka Bebić; Prime Minister Jadranka Kosor and Minister Gordan Jandroković also met with the high-level guest

28 APRIL – ZAGREB

President of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe Mevlüt Çavuşoğlu held talks with Minister Gordan Jandroković on Croatian activities in the field of human rights and cooperation with the Council of Europe, especially regarding the reform of this organisation; he also met with Prime Minister Jadranka Kosor

29 APRIL – VUKOVAR

Within the framework of the EU Strategy for the Danube Region, Prime Minister Jadranka Kosor opened the Vukovar Danube Conference; among many participants were EU Commissioner for Regional Policy Johannes Hahn and President of the Committee of the Regions Mercedes Bresso

May

1 MAY – ROME

Prime Minister Jadranka Kosor attended the beatification ceremony of John Paul II; on that occasion, she had a short meeting with Pope Benedict XVI and French Prime Minister François Fillon

1 – 4 MAY – CHICAGO; WASHINGTON

President of the Republic of Croatia Ivo Josipović paid a visit to the United States and met in Chicago with representatives of the Croatian community, held a lecture at the Chicago Council for Global Affairs, and visited the De Paul University; in Washington, he held talks with Vice President Joseph Biden and Secretary of State Hillary Clinton; in Congress he met with members of the Croatian Congress Club and delivered a talk at the German Marshall Fund

4 MAY – ZAGREB

Prime Minister Jadranka Kosor met with the Prosecutor of the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia Serge Brammertz

7 MAY – ZAGREB

Polish Prime Minister Donald Tusk visited Croatia on the eve of the Polish EU presidency; he talked with Prime Minister Jadranka Kosor about Croatia’s accession to the EU and about bilateral political and economic cooperation; the Polish Prime Minister was also received by the Croatian President Ivo Josipović
8 MAY – FLORENCE

President of the Republic of Croatia Ivo Josipović attended the Festival of Europe and the State of the Union conference; on that occasion, he was awarded the Italian peace prize Premio Galileo 2000; he met separately with President of the European Parliament Jerzy Buzek, Prime Minister of Luxembourg Jean-Claude Juncker and Italy’s Foreign Minister Franco Frattini.

9 MAY – ZAGREB

Minister Gordan Jandroković received Deputy Foreign Minister of Azerbaijan Khalaf Khalafov.

10 MAY – ISTANBUL

Minister Gordan Jandroković participated in the 4th UN Conference on the Least Developed Countries, presided over by UN Secretary General Ban Ki-Moon and Turkish President Abdullah Gül; on the sidelines of the Conference, Minister Jandroković met separately with the Foreign Ministers of Slovenia, Estonia and Cyprus, Samuel Žbogar, Urmas Paet and Markos Kyprianou.

11 MAY – ISTANBUL

At the invitation of Turkey’s Foreign Minister Ahmet Davutoğlu, Minister Gordan Jandroković participated in the 121st session of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe; on the sidelines of the session, Minister Jandroković held bilateral meetings with the Foreign Ministers of Spain Trinidad Jiménez García-Herrera, Lithuania Audronius Ažubalis, Sweden Carl Bildt, Luxembourg Jean Asselborn, and with the Irish Minister of State for Trade and Development Jan O’Sullivan.

12 – 13 MAY – ZAGREB

Norwegian King Harald V officially visited Croatia, meeting with Croatian President Ivo Josipović, Prime Minister Jadranka Kosor and President of the Croatian Parliament Luka Bebić; he opened the Croatian-Norwegian Economic Forum and, together with President Josipović, the maritime innovation centre i-Navis (a project implemented jointly by the two countries) in Šibenik.

14 MAY – ZAGREB

During his visit to Croatia, Kosovan Minister for Economic Development Besim Beqaj was also received by Croatian President Ivo Josipović.

16 MAY – KATOWICE

At the invitation of the Prime Ministers of the Visegrad Group and President of the European Parliament Jerzy Buzek, Prime Minister Jadranka Kosor participated as a guest in the Third European Economic Congress.

16 MAY – ROME

Minister Gordan Jandroković attended the UN conference on Global Governance and Security Council Reform; on the sidelines of the conference, he met with Chairman of the UN General Assembly Joseph Deiss, Foreign Ministers of Italy, San Marino and Malta, Franco Frattini, Antonella Mularoni and Tonio Borg, and with the Foreign Minister of the United Arab Emirates Anwar Gargash.

18 MAY – ZAGREB

During his visit to Croatia, Italian Minister of Economic Development Paolo Romani met with Minister Gordan Jandroković.
### Chronology of Events

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<th>Event Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>19 MAY – ZAGREB</td>
<td>A delegation of the French Senate led by Vice President of the Foreign Affairs Commission Jacques Blanc and Vice Chairman of the Committee on Foreign Affairs Didier Boulaud paid a visit to the Croatian Parliament; they were also received by Croatian President Ivo Josipović; Minister Gordan Jandroković met separately with Senator Boulaud.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21 MAY – ZAGREB</td>
<td>President of the Republic of Croatia Ivo Josipović and UNESCO Director General Irina Bokova discussed cooperation between Croatia and UNESCO and regional cooperation in the field of the protection and promotion of cultural heritage.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>23 MAY – BRUSSELS</td>
<td>Minister Gordan Jandroković attended the ministerial meeting of the Adriatic-Ionian Initiative co-chaired by Montenegrin Foreign Affairs Minister Milan Ročen and President of the Committee of the Regions Mercedes Bresso; participants of the meeting voiced their support for the development of an EU Strategy for the Adriatic-Ionian Macregion; Minister Jandroković held a bilateral meeting with his counterpart on the preparation of legal proceedings for sea demarcation between the two countries.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>24 – 25 MAY – HELSINKI</td>
<td>At the invitation of Finnish President Tarja Halonen, President of the Republic of Croatia Ivo Josipović paid an official visit to Finland; he also met with Prime Minister Mari Kiviniemi and Speaker of the Finnish Parliament Ben Zsykowicz; he held a lecture at Helsinki University and visited the town of Turku, the European Capital of Culture 2011.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>26 MAY – TALLIN</td>
<td>During his official visit to Estonia, President of the Republic of Croatia Ivo Josipović met with President Toomas Hendrik Ilves, Prime Minister Andrus Ansip and Speaker of the Parliament Ene Ergma. He also visited the NATO Cooperative Cyber Defence Centre of Excellence, as well as the Estonian ICT Demo Centre.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>27 MAY – WARSAW</td>
<td>At the invitation of Polish President Bronislaw Komorowski, Croatian President Ivo Josipović participated in the 17th Central European Summit; he also attended a dinner with US President Barack Obama.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>31 MAY – ZAGREB</td>
<td>Minister Gordan Jandroković met with Defence Minister of the Slovak Republic L’ubomir Galko who paid an official visit to the Croatian Ministry of Defence.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### June

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event Description</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1 JUNE – ROME</td>
<td>President of the Republic of Croatia Ivo Josipović participated in the celebration of the 150th anniversary of Italian unification at the invitation of Italian President Giorgio Napolitano.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Chronology of Events

4 – 5 JUNE – ZAGREB

Pope Benedict XVI made an official and pastoral visit to Croatia; he had an official meeting with President of the Republic of Croatia Ivo Josipović, and also met with Prime Minister Jadranka Kosor

7 – 8 JUNE – BRUSSELS

President of the Republic of Croatia Ivo Josipović visited the EU and NATO; President Josipović met with the President of the European Council Herman van Rompuy and NATO Secretary General Anders Fogh Rasmussen, and attended the World Copyright Summit organised by the International Confederation of Societies of Authors and Composers (CISAC)

8 JUNE – GOSPIĆ

Prime Minister Jadranka Kosor met with her Slovenian counterpart Borut Pahor to discuss the completion of Croatian EU accession negotiations; on that occasion, they laid the foundation stone for the Calcit Lika Factory, a Slovenian investment in the town of Gospić.

8 – 9 JUNE – PARIS

Minister Gordan Jandroković paid a working visit to France at the invitation of his counterpart Alain Juppé; besides a meeting with his host, Minister Jandroković also met with the Chairman of the French Senate’s European Affairs Committee Jean Bizet, the Chairman of the French National Assembly’s European Affairs Committee Pierre Lequiller and the French President’s diplomatic advisor Jean-David Levitte

10 JUNE – TRIESTE

Minister Gordan Jandroković took part in the ministerial meeting of the Central European Initiative

10 JUNE – LONDON

During her working visit to the United Kingdom, Prime Minister Jadranka Kosor met the British Prime Minister David Cameron

15 JUNE – ZAGREB

An all-party delegation of the Croatian-British friendship from both Houses of the British Parliament, headed by the Earl of Dundee, visited the Croatian Parliament; the British MPs were also received by Croatian President Ivo Josipović

17 JUNE – BRUSSELS

Completion of the Croatian EU accession negotiations was the main topic on the agenda at the meeting between Croatian President Ivo Josipović and President of the European Commission José Manuel Barroso

20 JUNE – LUXEMBOURG

Minister Gordan Jandroković spoke about the completion of the Croatian EU negotiation process at the forum of European Union and Central and Eastern European countries chaired by EU High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy Catherine Ashton

23 – 24 JUNE – BRUSSELS

On the eve of the European Council, Prime Minister Jadranka Kosor participated in the meeting of the European People’s Party at the invitation of EPP President Wilfried Martens; subsequent-
ly, Prime Minister Kosor attended a meeting of the European Council, which invited the Council of the EU to take all the necessary steps to complete the accession negotiations with Croatia

24 JUNE – LJUBLJANA
At the invitation of his Slovenian counterpart Danilo Türk, President of the Republic of Croatia Ivo Josipović participated in the commemoration of the 20th anniversary of Slovenian independence

27 JUNE – ZAGREB
Israeli Minister of Foreign Affairs Avigdor Liberman paid an official visit to Croatia; he met with Minister Gordan Jandroković, and with Prime Minister Jadranka Kosor and Croatian President Ivo Josipović

27 JUNE – ZAGREB
President of the Republic of Croatia Ivo Josipović talked to the World Bank Vice President for Europe and Central Asia Philippe Le Houere about possible projects in the areas of ecology, science and infrastructure

27 JUNE – ZAGREB
The Croatia-Iran Friendship Group of the Iranian Parliament, headed by Heshmatoliah Falahatpishe, visited the Croatian Parliament. The group was also received by Croatian President Ivo Josipović

29 JUNE – SVETI STEFAN
The Croatian delegation at the South-East European Cooperation Process Summit was headed by President of the Republic of Croatia Ivo Josipović; besides a meeting with Montenegrin President Filip Vujanović, President Josipović had bilateral meetings with Albanian President Bamir Topi and Bosnian-Herzegovinian Presidency Chairman Nebojša Radmanović; Minister Gordan Jandroković participated in the ministerial SEECP meeting and had bilateral meetings with Turkish Foreign Minister Ahmet Davutoğlu and Macedonian Foreign Minister Antonio Milošoski

29 JUNE – BEČIĆI
Minister Gordan Jandroković participated in a meeting of foreign ministers of the US-Adriatic Charter countries chaired by Montenegrin Minister of Foreign Affairs Milan Ročen. The meeting was also attended by NATO Secretary General Anders Fogh Rasmussen

30 JUNE – BRUSSELS
Minister Gordan Jandroković headed the Croatian delegation at the last Intergovernmental Conference on Croatian accession to the European Union where the last negotiating chapters were closed; the IGC was co-chaired by Hungarian Foreign Minister János Martonyi and European Commissioner for Enlargement and European Neighbourhood Policy Štefan Füle

July

4 JULY – ZAGREB
President of the Republic of Croatia Ivo Josipović received the Chief of General Staff of the Armed Forces of the Kingdom of Norway General Harald Sunde, who was on a visit to the Croatian Armed Forces
6 JULY – ZAGREB
Minister Gordan Jandroković met with Deputy Prime Minister of the Republic of Kosovo Slobodan Petrović during his visit to Croatia; the guest was also received by Croatian President Ivo Josipović

6 JULY – ZAGREB
Chairman of the Georgian Parliament David Bakradze visited Croatia at the invitation of the President of the Croatian Parliament Luka Bebić. The Georgian guest was also received by Prime Minister Jadranka Kosor and Croatian President Ivo Josipović

7 JULY – ZAGREB
Speaker of the Knesset of the Republic of Israel Reuven Rivlin visited the Croatian Parliament; Speaker Ravlin met with his host Luka Bebić and with Prime Minister Jadranka Kosor and Croatian President Ivo Josipović

7 JULY – ZAGREB
Minister Gordan Jandroković met with the President of the International Crisis Group Louise Arbour, who was also received by Croatian President Ivo Josipović

8 – 9 JULY – DUBROVNIK
The Sixth Croatia Summit focused on “A New Decade for South-East Europe - Finalising the Transition”. The summit was attended by Prime Ministers of Albania Sali Berisha, Bulgaria Boyko Borisov, Belgium Yves Leterme, Macedonia Nikola Gruevski, Montenegro Igor Lukšić, Kosovo Hashim Thaçi and Slovenia Borut Pahor; it was also attended by the Speaker of the Israeli Knesset Reuven Rivlin, European Commissioner for Enlargement and Neighbourhood Policy Štefan Füle, Head of the EU European External Action Service Department for Relations with the Western Balkans Miroslav Lajčák, President of the EU Committee of the Regions Mercedes Bresso, Foreign Ministers of Austria Michael Spindelegger, Bosnia-Herzegovina Sven Alkalaj, Bulgaria Nikolay Mladenov, Cyprus Markos Kyprianou, the Czech Republic Karel Schwarzenberg, Kosovo Enver Hoxhaj, Latvia Girts Krivokļsvis, Hungary János Martonyi, Slovakia Mikulás Dzurinda, Sweden Carl Bildt and Ukraine Kostyantyn Gryshchenko, US Under Secretary of State for Political Affairs William Burns and Senator Mark Begich, Canadian Minister of Labour Lisa Raitt, and others

11 JULY – SREBRENICA
President of the Republic of Croatia Ivo Josipović participated in a commemoration on the anniversary of the Srebrenica genocide

12 – 13 JULY – VIENNA
Minister Gordan Jandroković visited Austria; on the first day he paid a visit to Eisenstadt, where he met with representatives of Burgenland Croats, and on the second day he met his Austrian counterpart Michael Spindelegger and gave a lecture at the conference “Croatia – 20 Years of Independence: The Potentials of Croatia’s Contributions to the European Union” at the Diplomatic Academy in Vienna

14 JULY – ZAGREB
Italian President Giorgio Napolitano paid an official visit to Croatia at the invitation of President of the Republic of Croatia Ivo Josipović; during his visit, he met with Prime Minister Jadranka Kosor; Minister Gordan Jandroković held a separate meeting with his Italian counterpart Franco Frattini who was accompanying the Italian President
Chronology of Events

18 JULY – BRIONI

An informal trilateral meeting was held among the Presidents of Croatia Ivo Josipović, Serbia Boris Tadić and members of the Bosnian-Herzegovina Presidency Željko Komšić, Bakir Izetbegović and Nebojša Radmanović.

20 JULY – WARSAW

Prime Minister Jadranka Kosor spoke to her Polish counterpart Donald Tusk about the signing of the Accession Treaty after Poland had taken over the EU Presidency.

22 JULY – ZAGREB

Minister Gordan Jandroković talked with the new OSCE Secretary General Lamberto Zannier about the completion of the OSCE Zagreb Office’s mandate and about other topics relevant for the stability of the region.

August

10 AUGUST – DUBROVNIK

Minister Gordan Jandroković spoke to German Foreign Minister Guido Westerwelle about preparations for the German Chancellor’s official visit to Croatia.

22 AUGUST – ZAGREB

At the invitation of Prime Minister Jadranka Kosor, German Chancellor Angela Merkel paid an official visit to Croatia; Chancellor Merkel was also received by Croatian President Ivo Josipović.

24 AUGUST – PRISTINA

Prime Minister Jadranka Kosor paid an official visit to Kosovo; she met with Kosovan Prime Minister Hashim Thaçi, attended a Croatia-Kosovo Economic Forum in Prishtina, visited members of the Croatian Armed Forces involved in KFOR and spoke to KFOR Commander General Erhard Bühler; she also met with representatives of the Croatian minority in the village of Janjevo.

29 AUGUST – ZAGREB

Macedonian Foreign Minister Nikola Poposki paid an official visit to Croatia at the invitation of Minister Gordan Jandroković; the Macedonian guest was also received by Croatian President Ivo Josipović.

September

1 SEPTEMBER – ŠID

President of the Republic of Croatia Ivo Josipović met with Vojvodina’s Prime Minister Bojan Pajtić and President of the Croatian National Council Slaven Bačić; they discussed the position and preservation of the identity of the Croatian minority in Vojvodina.
## Chronology of Events

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2 SEPTEMBER – BELGRADE</td>
<td></td>
<td>At the invitation of Serbian President Boris Tadić, Croatian President Ivo Josipović attended the 9th Heads of State Summit of South-East Europe focused on “Contemporary Art and Reconciliation in South-East Europe”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 SEPTEMBER – PULA</td>
<td></td>
<td>President of the Republic of Croatia Ivo Josipović and Italian President Giorgio Napolitano met with representatives of the Italian community, signed a joint statement condemning totalitarian ideologies, and attended a concert “Croatia and Italy together in Europe”, marking 20 years of Croatia’s independence and 150 years since the unification of Italy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 SEPTEMBER – SOPOT</td>
<td></td>
<td>At the invitation of his Polish counterpart Radoslaw Sikorski, Minister Gordan Jandroković participated in an informal meeting of the ministers of foreign affairs of the EU Member States</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6 SEPTEMBER – ZAGREB</td>
<td></td>
<td>Following his appointment as Greek Minister of Foreign Affairs, Stavros Lambrinidis visited Croatia at the invitation of Minister Gordan Jandroković, which was his first visit to a South-East European country</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9 SEPTEMBER – BELGRADE</td>
<td></td>
<td>Minister Gordan Jandroković participated in the Serbia - EU Forum, opened by President of Serbia Boris Tadić and President of the European Council Herman van Rompuy; he also met with Macedonian Deputy Prime Minister for European Affairs Teuta Arifi</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9 SEPTEMBER – ORAŠJE</td>
<td></td>
<td>Prime Minister Jadranka Kosor visited the County of Posavina in Bosnia and Herzegovina and attended the economic forum “Opportunities and perspectives for the economic development of the County of Posavina”; Prime Minister Kosor also paid a visit to the Franciscan monastery in Tolisa</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13 SEPTEMBER – ZAGREB</td>
<td></td>
<td>President of the Republic of Croatia Ivo Josipović welcomed the Chinese military delegation headed by General Xu Caihou, Vice Chairman of the Central Military Commission (CMC) of the Communist Party of China</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17 SEPTEMBER – ZAGREB</td>
<td></td>
<td>Polish Prime Minister Donald Tusk visited Croatia as a representative of the EU presiding state and presented the draft of Croatia’s EU Accession Treaty to Prime Minister Jadranka Kosor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19 – 22 SEPTEMBER – NEW YORK</td>
<td></td>
<td>Croatian President Ivo Josipović headed a delegation to the 66th Session of the UN General Assembly; President Josipović addressed the General Assembly, participated in the presentation of the Open Government Partnership initiative, had several bilateral meetings and met with representatives of the Croatian Diaspora</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>23 SEPTEMBER – WARSAW</td>
<td></td>
<td>President of the Republic of Croatia Ivo Josipović was the main guest at the conference Music and Politics organised at the Institute of Musicology of the University of Warsaw; the President formally opened Croatian Square in Warsaw and attended a concert of contemporary music at the interna-</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
tional festival Warsaw Autumn; he visited Krakow where he laid a wreath at the tomb of President Lech Kaczyński and posthumously presented his daughter with an order of the Republic of Croatia.

26 SEPTEMBER – ZAGREB

Slovakian Prime Minister Iveta Radičová paid a return visit to Croatia at the invitation of Prime Minister Jadranka Kosor; the Slovakian guest was also received by President Ivo Josipović.

27 SEPTEMBER – ZAGREB

President of the Republic of Croatia Ivo Josipović hosted Wolfgang Ischinger, Chairman of the Munich Security Conference.

27 SEPTEMBER – ZAGREB

Romanian Foreign Affairs Minister Teodor Baconschi visited Croatia; he met with Minister Gordan Jandroković and Croatian President Ivo Josipović, and held a talk on EU enlargement at Europe House in Zagreb.

29 SEPTEMBER – BUDAPEST

At the invitation of President Pál Schmitt, Croatian President Ivo Josipović officially visited Hungary. He held meetings with his host, with the Speaker of the Hungarian National Assembly László Kövér and with representatives of the Croatian national self-administration.

October

3 OCTOBER – BYDGOSZCZ

Minister Gordan Jandroković met with his Polish counterpart Radoslaw Sikorski and opened the new Honorary Consulate of the Republic of Croatia in Bydgoszcz.

4 OCTOBER – MONACO

President of the Republic of Croatia Ivo Josipović visited Monaco, where he met with Prince Albert II and Prime Minister Michel Roger.

4 OCTOBER – ZAGREB

Minister Gordan Jandroković met with Prime Minister of the German Federal State of Brandenburg Matthias Platzek, who proceeded to visit Vukovar and presented a donation for demining.

6 OCTOBER – ZAGREB

French Minister for European Affairs Jean Leonetti visited Croatia and met with Minister Gordan Jandroković.

7 OCTOBER – DUBROVNIK

The fall meetings of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly, hosted by the Croatian Parliament, focused on “Regional Development in South-East Europe - Challenges, Opportunities and Prospects”; introductory speeches were given by President of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly Petros Efthymion, Croatian President Ivo Josipović and Prime Minister Jadranka Kosor.
Chronology of Events

10 OCTOBER – ZAGREB

President of Montenegro Filip Vujanović visited Croatia at the invitation of Croatian President Ivo Josipović; the Montenegrin guest was also received by Prime Minister Jadranka Kosor

11 OCTOBER – ZAGREB

Prime Minister Jadranka Kosor opened the International Investment Forum

12 OCTOBER – ZAGREB

A delegation of the German Committee on Eastern European Economic Relations headed by its Chairman Eckard Cordes visited Croatia and was received by Prime Minister Jadranka Kosor

14 OCTOBER – BELGRADE

At the invitation of Serbian President Boris Tadić, Croatian President Ivo Josipović participated in the 22nd meeting of the Igman Initiative, also attended by President of Montenegro Filip Vujanović, Chairman of the Presidency of Bosnia and Herzegovina Željko Komšić and European Commissioner for Enlargement and European Neighbourhood Policy Štefan Füle

19 OCTOBER – ZAGREB

Finnish Foreign Minister Erkki Tuomioja visited Croatia at the invitation of Minister Gordan Jandroković; Foreign Minister Tuomioja was also received by Croatian President Ivo Josipović

19 OCTOBER – ZAGREB

Mongolian President Tsakhia Elbegdorj paid an official visit to Croatia; the Mongolian guest met with Croatian President Ivo Josipović, President of the Croatian Parliament Luka Bebić and Prime Minister Jadranka Kosor

21 OCTOBER – BRUSSELS

Prime Minister Jadranka Kosor attended the meeting of the European People’s Party prior to the meeting of the Council of the European Union.

31 OCTOBER – ZAGREB

Macedonian President Gjorge Ivanov officially visited Croatia; President Ivanov met with Croatian President Ivo Josipović, Deputy President of the Croatian Parliament Vladimir Šeks, Minister Gordan Jandroković, and members of the Macedonian minority; he also attended a meeting of Croatian and Macedonian businesspeople at the Croatian Chamber of Economy

November

1 NOVEMBER – ZAGREB

During his visit to Croatia, President of the European Parliament Jerzy Buzek was received by Croatian President Ivo Josipović, President of the Croatian Parliament Luka Bebić and Prime Minister Jadranka Kosor
Chronology of Events

7 NOVEMBER – BELGRADE

Minister Gordan Jandroković attended the ministerial conference on refugees and displaced persons, which defined the final framework for resolving the refugee situation in the countries of the region.

8 NOVEMBER – ZAGREB

President of the Republic of Croatia Ivo Josipović spoke with the leader of the Party of Democratic Action in Bosnia and Herzegovina Sulejman Tihić about the cooperation of the two countries in the area of European integration.

14 NOVEMBER – ZAGREB

A delegation from the French Senate’s Committee on European Affairs visited Croatia, headed by its chairman Simon Sutour; they were received by President Ivo Josipović, who thanked France for its support to Croatia on its road to the European Union; at the Ministry, the French delegation was received by State Secretary for European Integration Andrej Plenković.

14 NOVEMBER – ZAGREB

President of the Swiss Confederation Micheline Calmy-Rey paid an official visit to Croatia, symbolically marking the 20th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between the two countries; the Swiss President met with President Ivo Josipović, President of the Croatian Parliament Luka Bebić and Minister Gordan Jandroković.

22 NOVEMBER – ZAGREB

President of the Republic of Croatia Ivo Josipović met with NATO’s Allied Joint Force Commander Samuel Locklear.

December

7 – 8 DECEMBER – BRUSSELS

Minister Gordan Jandroković attended a Ministerial Meeting of the North Atlantic Council that focused on the situation in Afghanistan, in South-East Europe (Kosovo) and on preparations for the 2012 NATO Summit Meeting; a meeting between foreign affairs ministers from NATO member states and their counterparts from non-member states contributing to ISAF peacekeeping mission was held on the second day of the ministerial meeting.

9 DECEMBER – BRUSSELS

President of the Republic of Croatia Ivo Josipović and Prime Minister Jadranka Kosor, and heads of state or government of all 27 EU Member States, signed Croatia’s Treaty of Accession to the European Union; Croatia thus acquired the status of EU acceding country.

16 DECEMBER – ZAGREB

President of the Republic of Croatia Ivo Josipović met with Dragan Čović, President of the Croatian Democratic Union of Bosnia and Herzegovina and Co-chairman of the House of Peoples of the Parliamentary Assembly of Bosnia and Herzegovina; they discussed relations between the two countries and the establishment of a government in Bosnia and Herzegovina.
20 DECEMBER – ZAGREB

President of the Republic of Croatia Ivo Josipović met with Member of the Presidency of Bosnia and Herzegovina Bakir Izetbegović with whom he discussed bilateral relations and the process of establishing a government in the neighbouring state.

23 DECEMBER – ZAGREB

The Ministry held a ceremony to mark the transfer of power from Minister Gordan Jandroković to newly appointed Minister of Foreign and European Affairs Vesna Pusić.
## Bilateral International Agreements and Other Instruments Concluded in 2011

### States

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>STATE</th>
<th>DATE</th>
<th>TITLE OF AGREEMENT/OTHER INSTRUMENTS</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bosnia and Herzegovina</td>
<td>11/3/2011</td>
<td>Agreement between the Government of the Republic of Croatia and the Council of Ministers of Bosnia and Herzegovina on Readmission of Persons whose Entry or Stay is Illegal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bosnia and Herzegovina</td>
<td>26/7/2011</td>
<td>Memorandum of Cooperation between the Commission on the Conflict of Interest of the Republic of Croatia and Central Electoral Commission of Bosnia and Herzegovina</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bosnia and Herzegovina</td>
<td>3/11/2011</td>
<td>Agreement between the Government of the Republic of Croatia and the Council of Ministers of Bosnia and Herzegovina on the Construction of the South Border Sections of the Highway on the Corridor Vc</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bosnia and Herzegovina</td>
<td>27/12/2011</td>
<td>Memorandum on Cooperation in the Field of Health between the Ministry of Health of the Republic of Croatia and the Federal Ministry of Health of Bosnia and Herzegovina</td>
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<tr>
<td>STATE</td>
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<td>TITLE OF AGREEMENT/OTHER INSTRUMENTS</td>
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<tr>
<td>Montenegro</td>
<td>28/1/2011</td>
<td>Agreement between the Republic of Croatia and Montenegro on Providing Consular Assistance and Representation in the Issuance of Visas</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Montenegro</td>
<td>9/9/2011</td>
<td>Agreement between the Republic of Croatia and Montenegro on Mutual Execution of Court Decisions in Criminal Matters</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Czech Republic</td>
<td>12/5/2011</td>
<td>Memorandum of Understanding on Cooperation between the Ministry of the Interior of the Republic of Croatia General Police Directorate and the Ministry of Interior of the Czech Republic Represented by the Police Directorate of the Czech Republic during the Tourist Season 2011</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Czech Republic</td>
<td>4/10/2011</td>
<td>Protocol between the Republic of Croatia and the Czech Republic to the Agreement between the Republic of Croatia and the Czech Republic for the Avoidance of Double Taxation with Respect to Taxes on Income and on Capital</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Czech Republic</td>
<td>18/10/2011</td>
<td>Protocol of the Third Session of the Joint Committee on Economic Cooperation between the Ministry of Economy, Labor and Entrepreneurship of the Republic of Croatia and the Ministry of Industry and Trade of the Czech Republic</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>France</td>
<td>12/5/2011</td>
<td>Joint Declaration on Cooperation between the Minister of the Interior of the Republic of Croatia and the Minister of Interior, Overseas Territories, Territorial Communities and Immigration of the French Republic during the Tourist Season 2011</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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<tr>
<td>Italy</td>
<td>21/7/2011</td>
<td>Protocol of Understanding between the General Police Directorate of the Ministry of the Interior of the Republic of Croatia and the Department of Public Security of the Ministry of the Interior of the Italian Republic on Police cooperation during the 2011 tourist season</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Italy</td>
<td>11/11/2011</td>
<td>Memorandum of Understanding between the National Protection and Rescue Directorate of the Republic of Croatia and the Presidency of the Council of Ministers of the Italian Republic—Department of Civil Protection</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>China</td>
<td>10/5/2011</td>
<td>Memorandum of Understanding between the Diplomatic Academy of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and European Integration of the Republic of Croatia and China Foreign Affairs of the People’s Republic of China</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>China</td>
<td>19/9/2011</td>
<td>Protocol of the 5th Session of the Croatian-Chinese Scientific and Technological Cooperation Committee</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kosovo</td>
<td>24/8/2011</td>
<td>Protocol on Cooperation in the Process of European Integration between the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and European Integration of the Republic of Croatia and the Ministry of European Integration of the Republic of Kosovo</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Libya</td>
<td>28/6/2011</td>
<td>Joint Statement of the Republic of Croatia and the Republic of Bulgaria on the recognition of the National Transitional Council in Libya as a legitimate representative of the Libyan people</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Libya</td>
<td>25/8/2011</td>
<td>Joint Statement of the Republic of Croatia and the Republic of Bulgaria on the recognition of the National Transitional Council as the legitimate authority of Libya</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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<tr>
<td>Macedonia</td>
<td>31/10/2011</td>
<td>Agreement between the Republic of Croatia and the Republic of Macedonia on Extradition</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Morocco</td>
<td>27/1/2011</td>
<td>Agreement between the Government of the Republic of Croatia and the Government of the Kingdom of Morocco on Cooperation in the Field of Marine Fisheries</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Germany</td>
<td>12/5/2011</td>
<td>Memorandum of Agreement on the cooperation between the Ministry of the Interior of the Republic of Croatia, General Police Directorate and the German Federal Police Headquarters during the 2011 tourist season</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Poland</td>
<td>17/2/2011</td>
<td>Memorandum of Understanding between the Ministry of Regional Development, Forestry and Water Management of the Republic of Croatia and the Ministry of Regional Development of the Republic of Poland in the field of Regional Development</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Poland</td>
<td>21/1/2011</td>
<td>Memorandum of Understanding between the Embassy of the Republic of Croatia and the Public Library of the City of Warsaw for the Praga Poludnie District</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Poland</td>
<td>5/7/2011</td>
<td>Memorandum of Understanding between the Ministry of Defence of the Republic of Croatia and the Minister of National Defence of the Republic of Poland on Cooperation between the Croatian Special Operations Forces Battalion and the Polish Special Operations Command</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Poland</td>
<td>12/5/2011</td>
<td>Protocol between the Ministry of the Interior, Republic of Croatia, General Police Directorate and the Commander-in-Chief, Polish National Police on rules and conditions of service of Polish police officers in the Republic of Croatia during the tourist season</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Romania</td>
<td>28/1/2011</td>
<td>Memorandum on Cooperation between the Ministry of Economy, Labor and Entrepreneurship of the Republic of Croatia and the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Business Environment of Romania</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>STATE</td>
<td>DATE</td>
<td>TITLE OF AGREEMENT/OTHER INSTRUMENTS</td>
</tr>
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<tr>
<td>Romania</td>
<td>28/1/2011</td>
<td>Protocol on Cooperation between the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and European Integration of the Republic of Croatia and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Romania</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>USA</td>
<td>9/6/2011</td>
<td>Understanding between the Government of the Republic of Croatia and the Government of the United States of America on mutual determination of the application of procedure for the reporting of lost and stolen passport data via the INTERPOL Stolen and Lost Travel Documents database as set forth in the Memorandum of Understanding for the Reporting of Lost and Stolen Passport (LASP) Information</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Slovenia</td>
<td>12/5/2011</td>
<td>Protocol between the Ministry of the Interior of the Republic of Croatia, General Police Directorate and the Ministry of the Interior of the Republic of Slovenia, General Police Directorate on rules and conditions of service of Slovenian police officers in the Republic of Croatia during the tourist season</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Slovenia</td>
<td>25/11/2011</td>
<td>Protocol of the 13th Session of the Joint Commission for Scientific and Technological Cooperation between the republic of Croatia and the Republic of Slovenia</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**International Agreements**
## International Agreements

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>STATE</th>
<th>DATE</th>
<th>TITLE OF AGREEMENT/OTHER INSTRUMENTS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Spain</td>
<td>24/10/2011</td>
<td>Agreement between the Republic of Croatia and the Kingdom of Spain on Fight Against Crime and on Security Issues</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trinidad and Tobago</td>
<td>14/12/2011</td>
<td>Joint Communique on the Establishment of Diplomatic Relations between the Republic of Croatia and the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Turkey</td>
<td>7/10/2011</td>
<td>Decision of the Joint Committee of the Free Trade Agreement between the Republic of Croatia and the Republic of Turkey No. 1 of 2011 amending Protocol III to the Free Trade Agreement, concerning definition of concept of “originating products” and methods of administrative cooperation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ukraine</td>
<td>30/6/2011</td>
<td>Protocol between the Ministry of Interior of the Republic of Croatia and the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Ukraine on cooperation during the tourist season 2011</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## International Organizations

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ORGANIZATION</th>
<th>DATE</th>
<th>TITLE OF THE AGREEMENT / DOCUMENT</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ECMWF – European Centre for Medium-Range Weather Forecasts</td>
<td>8/11/2011</td>
<td>Agreement between the Government of the Republic of Croatia and the European Centre for Medium-Range Weather Forecasts (ECMWF) on the accession of the Republic of Croatia to the ECMWF Convention Establishing the European Centre for Medium-Range Weather Forecasts and related terms and conditions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EIB – European Investment Bank</td>
<td>15/9/2011</td>
<td>Island &amp; Coastal Infrastructure Facility (Infrastructure development project on islands and in the coastal area) Finance Contract between the Republic of Croatia and the European Investment Bank</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ORGANIZATION</td>
<td>DATE</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>EU – European Union</td>
<td>25/3/2011</td>
<td>Decision No 1/2011 of the EU-Croatia Stabilisation and Association Council of 5/5/2011 amending Protocol 4 to the Stabilisation and Association Agreement between the European Communities and their Member States, of the one part, and the Republic of Croatia, of the other part, concerning the definition of the concept of “originating products” and methods of administrative cooperation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EU – European Union</td>
<td>21/7/2011</td>
<td>Addendum to the Financing Agreement between the Republic of Croatia and the European Commission concerning the Cross-border Programme Croatia - Bosnia and Herzegovina under the IPA Cross-border Cooperation Component for the year 2008</td>
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<td>Addendum to the Financing Agreement between the Republic of Croatia and the European Commission concerning the Crossborder Programme Croatia - Montenegro under the IPA Cross-border Cooperation Component for the year 2008</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EU – European Union</td>
<td>25/7/2011</td>
<td>Agreement for the implementation of the Commission Decision of 17 June 2011 awarding a grant from the European Union Solidarity Fund to finance emergency measures in the Republic of Croatia following the flooding disaster of May/June 2010</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EU – European Union</td>
<td>28/10/2011</td>
<td>Financing Agreement between the Government of the Republic of Croatia and the European Commission Concerning the Cross-border programme Croatia - Bosnia and Herzegovina under the IPA-Cross-border Cooperation component, for the year 2010 (Decentralised Management)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EU – European Union</td>
<td>16/11/2011</td>
<td>Agreement for the implementation of the Commission Decision of 19 August 2011 awarding a grant from the European Union Solidarity Fund to finance emergency measures in the Republic of Croatia following the flooding disaster of September 2010</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EU – European Union</td>
<td>8/12/2011</td>
<td>Understanding regarding the application of the provisions of the Agreement between the Republic of Croatia and the European Union on security procedures for the exchange of classified information to take into account the entry into force the Treaty of Lisbon amending the Treaty on European Union and the Treaty establishing the European Community</td>
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<td>EU – European Union</td>
<td>15/12/2011</td>
<td>Memorandum of Understanding between the Republic of Croatia and European Union on the participation of the Republic of Croatia in the EU programme Criminal Justice</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EU – European Union</td>
<td>15/12/2011</td>
<td>Memorandum of Understanding between the Republic of Croatia and European Union on the participation of the Republic of Croatia in the Specific Programme Civil Justice</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EUROPOL</td>
<td>22/2/2011</td>
<td>Bilateral Agreement between the Republic of Croatia and Europol for Interconnection of Computer Networks</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>INTERPOL</td>
<td>24/5/2011</td>
<td>Memorandum of Understanding on the cooperation between the Ministry of the Interior of the Republic of Croatia, General Police Directorate and the International Criminal Police Organization-INTERPOL during the tourist season 2011</td>
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</table>
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Compiled and edited by: Ivana Bokatić-Požarić, Stribor Kikerec, Olga Kresović-Rogulja (editor), Neda Milišić, Ivana Morić, Dubravka Plejić-Marković, Maja Šimunić, Viktor Tadić, Jure Vujić

Croatian language editor: Kristian Lewis
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