The Croatian delegation, headed by Prime Minister Zoran Milanović, outlined Croatia's priorities at the UN and held a series of bilateral meetings on the margins of the UNGA. Prime Minister Milanović also met with the Croatian communities in New York and Pittsburgh.

Croatian Prime Minister Zoran Milanović, accompanied by Minister for Foreign and European Affairs Vesna Pusić, led the Croatian delegation at the 67th UN General Assembly, held in New York on September 24-28.

Prime Minister Milanović kicked off his week in New York at a high-level panel discussion on the rule of law, held before the General Debate at the UN General Assembly. PM Milanović said on that occasion that Croatia and its government are fully committed to respecting the rule of law recognizing it as the core of any democratic society. The Prime Minister welcomed the declaration on the rule of law that was to be adopted at the end of the panel discussion, stressing that the rule of law remains the fundamental pillar of Croatia's home and foreign policy.

Prime Minister Milanović also attended the high-level meeting "Peacebuilding: Way towards Sustainable Peace and Security" which was organized by Bangladesh as the chair of the UN Peacebuilding Commission. As a co-chair of the Commission, Croatia is ready to take its share of responsibility in creating more relevant, effective and stronger peace building structures, PM Milanović said in his speech.

During his time in NY, Prime Minister Milanović met with U.S. President Barack Obama at a reception in honor of heads of delegation attending the United Nations General Assembly. Prime Minister (also had a meeting with Deputy Secretary of State William Burns. Alongside several statesmen and world-known politicians, Prime Minister Milanović also attended events marking UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon's initiative "Education First", voicing Croatia’s strong support to this initiative.

Prime Minister Milanović concluded his visit to New York by addressing the 67th session of the United Nations General Assembly. We have great expectations of the UN as the only universal framework for seeking common solutions to international crises and current challenges, PM Milanović said among other things. He thanked the UN for its role in Croatia's struggle for independence, adding that Croatia had made great progress since the early 1990s, joining NATO in 2009 and due to become the 28th member of the European Union next July. Croatia has undergone a comprehensive and successful political, economic and social transition within a very brief period of time. That is why we have a special understanding and first-hand experience concerning the interrelatedness of peace, security, development and human rights promotion. Today Croatia shares that experience with the countries of Southeast Europe as well as with countries emerging from conflict, the Croatian PM said. Croatia wants its neighbors to travel the same road successfully; it does not want to take on the role of regional mentor, but wishes to help with its experience because a peaceful and prosperous neighborhood is in Croatia's interest, Prime Minister Milanovc concluded.
**In Memoriam: Boris Šprem**

In the period behind us, we had the sad duty to pay our final respects to Speaker of the Croatian Parliament Boris Šprem.

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**Busy Schedule in New York for Croatian Foreign Minister Pusić**

Croatian Foreign Minister Pusić participated in the work of the UN General Assembly, held series of bilateral meetings

As part of her activities at the 67th UN General Assembly, Croatian Minister of Foreign and European Affairs Vesna Pusić attended the high level meeting marking the first anniversary of the Open Government Partnership.

The reception was organized by Great Britain and initiated by US President Barack Obama, who on his first day in office had signed the Memorandum on Transparency and Open Government, designed to bridge the gap between a government and its citizens, and usher a new era of open and responsible government. Croatia acceded in September last year, when President Ivo Josipović attended the launch of the initiative.

At the invitation from the US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton, FM Pusić attended the launch of the Equal Futures Partnership initiative, through which the U.S. intends to create a partnership network of states which would guarantee on the highest, presidential level that the assumed responsibilities regarding the enhancement of the position of women are met.

At the informal ministerial-level meeting of SEECP members, the participants expressed support to the European prospects of the countries in the region, pointing out that stability was crucial for the prosperity of Europe’s southeast.

FM Pusić stressed the importance of mutual support within the region, “not because we are generous, but because it is in our natural interest.”

FM Pusić also took part at a breakfast meeting on the occasion of the Rule of Law High Level Meeting titled “Peaceful settlement of conflict: the elegant way out; the role of the International Court of Justice and the Permanent Court of Arbitration”, organized by Dutch Foreign Minister Uri Rosenthal. The goal of the meeting was to discuss peaceful conflict settlement and stress the need to avoid force and affirm the rule of law, in support of the UN Secretary-General’s efforts to launch a campaign to increase the number of Member States that accept as compulsory the jurisdiction of the International Court of Justice.

FM Pusić also attended the Rule of Law High Level Meeting themed “Women’s Access to Justice”, organized by Finland and South Africa. The meeting aimed to draw attention of the UN member states, the UN itself, regional organizations and civil society to the need to improve women’s access to justice worldwide, as well as a stronger political and financial commitment to concrete activities. Human rights, namely the rights of women and girls, are one of Minister Pusić’s foreign-policy priorities and to that end, Croatia passed the 2011-2015 National Gender Equality Strategy, which includes the implementation of the Gender Equality Law.

FM Pusić participated in a meeting themed “Civil Society and Human Rights Education as a Means of Promoting Religious Tolerance”, organized by Italian and Indonesian foreign ministers Giulio Terzi and Marty Natalegawa. The goal of the initiative is to promote religious tolerance, freedom of belief and the protection of religious minorities, as well as extend support to programs of civil society organizations dealing with human rights. The Croatian foreign minister expressed support for the initiative and emphasized that cooperation between the state, religious communities and civil society was paramount in promoting common values.

At the ministerial-level meeting entitled “Capital Punishment: from Moratorium to Abolition”, organized by France and Benin, inviting UN member states to consider a moratorium on the death penalty and take steps towards its abolishment, FM Pusić said Croatia strongly supported the abolition of capital punishment, which is in accordance with our laws, stressing that Croatia is against it in all cases and circumstances. Since 2007, Croatia has been one of the principal co-sponsors and one of the initiators of the first resolution on the death penalty moratorium.

While in New York, Minister Pusić also held numerous bilateral meetings at the margins of the UNGA. At meeting with U.S. Deputy Assistant Secretary of State Philip Reeker, both officials agreed that the European prospect of all the Southeast European countries was crucial for its stability. FM Pusić also met with Deputy Assistant Secretary for Energy Diplomacy Amos Hochstein to discuss the importance of energy diversification in terms of safety, as well as the country’s foreign and economic policy.

FM Pusić pointed out Croatia’s national and regional energy potential, underscoring the significance of building a LNG terminal in Omisalj, on the Island of Krk. Linking that terminal with the Central European gas corridor would connect the Adriatic and the Baltic, contributing to more secure energy supply routes.

At the meeting with Serbian Foreign Minister Ivan Mrkić, the two ministers identified three groups of topics which the two governments considered interesting and important. The first group concerns problems relating to the past, the second group relate to economic cooperation when Croatia joins the European Union next year and the third group of issues concern the two countries’ common future within the EU and the need to assume responsibility for the stabilization of the region.

Minister Pusić also held talks with her Russian counterpart Sergey Lavrov, focusing on the South Stream project, a proposed gas pipeline to transport Russian natural gas through the Black Sea to south and central Europe, as well as on Croatian-Russian relations and the situation in the southeastern European region. The two ministers also talked about plans for opening Croatia’s consulate in Moscow and a Russian trade centre in Zagreb as well as the prospects of bilateral economic cooperation upon Croatia’s entry into the European Union.

Albanian Foreign Minister Edmond Panariti informed FM Pusić about the current state of affairs in Albania, namely the reforms being implemented to meet the EU membership criteria. He stated Croatia’s pre-accession experience could be of great use to Albania, to which Pusić expressed Croatia’s willingness to transfer the acquired knowledge.

At meeting with the Chilean Foreign Minister Alfredo Moreno Charme, the two ministers agreed that Croatia and Chile could form strategic partnership in areas of mutual interest, such as energy, tourism or higher education.

FM Pusić also met Kuwaiti Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs, Sheikh Sabah Khalid Al-Hamad Al-Sabah. The two ministers pointed out the possibilities of cooperation in energy, tourism and transport, which opens up the possibility of establishing residential embassies in both countries.

At the meeting with Azerbaijani Foreign Minister Elmar Mammadyarov, the two ministers discussed bilateral relations and European integration, as Azerbaijan is a member of the Eastern Partnership. Pusić said Croatia was willing to assist Azerbaijan through seminars and training organized by the Croatian MFA’s Centre of Excellence.

During talks with Special Adviser and Assistant UN Secretary-General for Civilian Capacities Sarah Cliffe, FM Pusić said one of Croatia’s foreign-policy priorities was precisely creating its own civilian capacities.

Meeting with UN Women Executive Director Michelle Bachelet, FM Pusić expressed Croatia’s strong support to the activities of UN Women, adding that human rights, namely the rights of women and girls, played a major role in Croatia’s domestic and foreign policy. She said Croatia promotes gender equality at all international forums, as well as through development aid.
Bilateral defense consultations with the U.S.

Assistant Minister for Defense Policy Dragan Lozančić visits Washington and New York

Croatia’s Assistant Minister for Defense Policy Dragan Lozančić held regular bilateral defense consultations from 24 to 27 July 2012 in Washington, as part of the regular Plan of bilateral defense cooperation between the Croatian Ministry of Defense and the U.S. Department of Defense. Bilateral defense consultations are conducted regularly every two years, with the last one having been carried out in Zagreb in May 2010.

The majority of this year’s consultation was conducted in the U.S. Department of Defense through meetings with the Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense Joseph McMillan, Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense Celeste Wallander, Commander of the Minnesota National Guard Maj. Gen. Richard Nash, and with the representative of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Rear Admiral Harberson. During the meetings both sides confirmed a strong partnership between the two countries, and shared the intention to further develop bilateral relations and defense cooperation. The American and Croatian sides expressed readiness to continue cooperation regarding participation in operations, in building defense capabilities and in the preparation and joint training of forces. Both sides confirmed the common commitment to maintaining security and stability in South-eastern Europe and the intention to provide full support for Euro-Atlantic integration of the countries in the region.

During the consultations, the Croatian delegation also held separate meetings in the U.S. State Department with the Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for South and Central Europe, Philip Reeker, together with the Head of the Office for European Security and Political Affairs Brent Hartley and Head of the Office for Afghanistan James DeHart.

Meetings were also held with representatives of the U.S. Congress Elton Gallegly (Chairman of the Congressional Croatian Caucus in the House of Representatives) and Michael Turner, Head of the U.S. delegation to NATO Parliamentary Assembly, who is also a member of the Armed Forces Committee and a member of the Congressional Croatian Caucus.

During his visit to the United States, on 27 July 2012 Assistant Minister of Defense Lozančić also met with UN Assistant Secretary General Dmitry Titov. During the meeting, they discussed the situation in Syria and Croatia’s participation in the UNDOF and UNSMIS peacekeeping operations in Syria where Croatia currently has a total of 98 members of the Croatian Armed Forces deployed.

Bringing Croatia closer

The State Office for Croatians outside the Republic of Croatia, led by former Ambassador to Bosnia and Herzegovina, and member of the Croatian Chamber of Commerce since 2008, Ms. Daria Kristicevic, began its work in May 2012

The establishment of the State Office will contribute to protection of the rights and interests of Croatians outside Croatia and will strengthen and promote cooperation within various Diaspora communities in areas of culture, education, economics and sports. Besides maintaining and fostering links with all groups of Croats outside of Croatia, and giving them support in the promotion of the Croatian language and culture, the office will perform tasks related to creating conditions for their return to Croatia and involvement in economic and social life. The Office will also coordinate and monitor activities between other ministries and government bodies and cooperation associated with the Croatian Diaspora.

The fact that more than three million Croats, along with their descendants, are living outside Croatia presents a great potential. Adoption of the Law regulating the relations of the Republic of Croatia and Croats outside the country and the founding of the Office has created the basic legal and institutional framework to build systematic and effective cooperation with Croatians living outside Croatia.

The State Office, among other services, features the Welcome Office, responsible for preparing welcoming programs for returnees, as well as helping with the familiarization of local and state rules and regulations. Since the opening of the office, it has received daily calls from Croatian emigrants, Croatian minorities outside Croatia and Croats in Bosnia and Herzegovina. It will also help in entrepreneurial ventures by promoting the financing of microcredit programs for small businesses and the establishment of guaranteed funds for insurance and loans to small and medium enterprises of returnees and immigrants.

The State Office’s contact information is:
Address: Trg svetog Marka 2, 10000 Zagreb;
Phone: 01 4569 334;
Fax: 01 4569 325;
https://www.mvep.hr/hmiu/;
Email: inozemstvo.kultura@mvep.hr
Croatia hosted Open Government Partnership Conference

The Republic of Croatia was selected as the host country for the Open Government Partnership (OGP) Second European Outreach and Support Meeting, which was held in Dubrovnik on 4 and 5 October this year. The meeting was convened jointly by Croatian civil society organizations and the government, in cooperation with the United Kingdom Cabinet Office as OGP co-chair, with the support of the European Union Project of Technical Assistance to Civil Society Organizations (TACSO), gathering European Government and CSO participants within the initiative.

The Open Government Partnership is a multilateral initiative that aims to secure concrete commitments from governments to promote transparency, empower citizens, fight corruption, and harness new technologies to strengthen governance. It aims at building more transparent, inclusive and participatory policy making processes, and contributes to strengthening the overall cooperation of citizens, civil society and governments in boosting economic and social growth. So far 35 governments have committed to join the initiative.

A member of the Open Government Partnership global initiative since September 2011, Croatia has expressed its readiness to support the principles of transparency, fight against corruption, empowering citizens and using the capacity of new technologies to enable public authority bodies on all levels to have better efficiency and accountability and create prerequisites for more efficient and innovative public service provisions and public resource management. Croatia adopted its national Action Plan for the implementation of the OGP initiative in April this year. The choice of Croatia as the host confirmed its engagement in the OGP initiative, the quality of its Action Plan and the exemplary cooperation between the government and civil society organizations.

Since the stronger involvement of civil society in all OGP activities is one of the pre-requisites for successful implementation of national OGP action plans, the purpose of the meeting in Dubrovnik was to provide space for discussion and exchange of experiences between civil society organizations and governments about the progress of implementing of the national OGP action plans and to share developments and best practices. At this stage, Dubrovnik meeting will be of particular importance in drawing lessons from the first analyses of submitted action plans and exchanging experiences from the first 6 months of implementing action plans.

“Jackal Stone 12” exercise took place in Croatia

The special forces of 11 NATO countries participated in the "Jackal Stone 12" military exercise which for the second time took place at several locations in Croatia

For the second time since 2009, Croatia hosted the "Jackal Stone" international military exercise. "Jackal Stone 12", held from 13 to 25 September 2012, is the largest international military exercise of special forces in Europe, which aims to increase cooperation and interoperability between the armed forces of participating countries, with the goal of strengthening regional security and stability, training of procedures and raising the level of capabilities in planning and implementation of activities within the scope of special operations units.

In addition to Croatia and the United States, nine participating countries (the Czech Republic, Estonia, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Norway, Poland, Romania and Slovakia) and seven countries with observer status (Denmark, France, Finland, Great Britain, Canada, Slovenia and Hungary) participated in the exercise. In total, around 2000 participants took part in the exercise.

The exercise, through combat training, gives insight into the readiness of special forces of partner armed forces and the insight into the capabilities of partner countries for rapid response and joint operations against similar types of security threats. Croatian President Josipovic described the exercise as very successful and as an example of how elite troops of multinational forces can cooperate in very sensitive situations. He said he was glad to hear partners praising Croatia as an excellent host and organizer of this event.

The exercise commander, U.S. General Michael S. Repass, thanked the Croatian people and government for their hospitality during this exercise as well as for cooperation in peace missions. He voiced satisfaction with the outcome of the exercise which he described as the culmination of year-long training plans. He said he could also perceive brotherhood among special units’ members participating in this event.

During his stay in Udbina, the Croatian president visited the local kindergarten, which was renovated and enlarged by a U.S. government donation as a humanitarian project within this exercise.

Estonia, Poland, Portugal and Luxembourg ratify Croatia’s EU Treaty

Latest ratifications bring the total number to 16

The Estonian, Polish, Portuguese and Luxemburgish parliaments ratified Croatia’s EU Treaty in the last period, whereby more than one half of European Union countries have already ratified the agreement.

So far, 16 of the 27 European Union member states have ratified the document, and another six or seven are expected to follow their example by the end of this year. French, British and Spanish officials announced in talks with their Croatian colleagues recently that they expect ratifications to take place in those countries by year’s end.

Croatia is scheduled to join the EU on July 1, 2013.

July 1, 2013.
Robin Wright at the Embassy on the Middle East Uprisings

Women's Foreign Policy Group meets at the Embassy

On September 12, 2012 the Embassy hosted the Women's Foreign Policy Group’s “Beyond the Headlines” event, continuing well established and close cooperation with the WFPG. On this occasion, Robin Wright, a journalist and author of the book “The Islamists are Coming: Who They Really Are” (2012), addressed the WFPG on "What's Next: Phase II of the Middle East Uprisings" at an event moderated by WFPG President Patricia Ellis. Wright, a joint fellow at the United States Institute of Peace and the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars, has reported from 140 countries for The Washington Post, Los Angeles Times, The Sunday Times of London and CBS News, and has also written for publications including The New Yorker, The Atlantic, The New York Times Magazine, TIME, and Foreign Affairs.

The Women's Foreign Policy Group (WFPG) is an independent, nonpartisan, nonprofit, educational membership organization that promotes global engagement and leadership, visibility and participation of women in international affairs.

Fitch revises up Croatia's outlook to stable

Fitch Ratings in September revised Croatia's outlook from negative to stable and affirmed its long-term foreign and local currency issuer default ratings at BBB- and BBB respectively.

The outlook revision reflects the government's progress in developing a medium-term plan to address fiscal challenges, the rating agency reported in early September. The revision to a Stable Outlook is based on the government maintaining a tight medium-term fiscal stance in line with the requirements set by the fiscal responsibility law.

Fitch also views positively the government's efforts to improve tax compliance and to fight tax avoidance. "Such efforts have been well-targeted and have borne fruit in a short-time frame," the rating agency said. The government is on track to meet the 2012 general government deficit target of 3.8% of GDP in 2012, down from 5% in 2011, despite the recessionary environment. Revenue growth has over-performed Fitch's baseline mainly owing to improvements in tax compliance. The rating agency also believes that the changes to the labor laws and collective agreements would make the public sector wage bill more flexible and responsive to the economic cycle.

With Croatia set to join the EU in July 2013, the rating agency expects that EU accession will strengthen the country's governance and, over the medium-term, unlock substantial external financing sources and contribute to an increase in foreign direct investment.

Croatia at the “Euro Night”

Croatia joins 27 EU Member states in showcasing culinary tradition

Croatia participated this year for the first time at the cultural and gastro event “Euro Night”. This highly popular and well attended event is being held for the 5th time bringing together the sounds and flavors of Europe to Washington. We look forward to welcoming you next year!

Best tour season in Croatia's history

Croatia tops the chart this year in the Mediterranean, investment in tourism in 2013 to be doubled

A total of 9.8 million tourists visited Croatia in the first eight months of 2012 and generated nearly 59 million overnight stays, up 4.2 percent in arrivals and 5.6 percent in overnight stays from last year, making Croatia the winner in the Mediterranean according to the number of tourist arrivals. Indications are that September too would be a record-breaking month, making 2012 the best year in Croatia's history. Ministry of Tourism expectations are that this year income from tourism would be 3% to 5% higher than last year's, namely EUR7 billion.

Investments in Croatian tourism in 2013 are expected to be HRK 2.5-3 billion, double this year's amount, Minister Veljko Ostoja announced this month. The public and private sectors are expected to equally invest in tourism, helped by the Croatian Bank for Reconstruction and Development (HBOR) credit lines launched this year, a reduction of the VAT rate in tourism to 10% as of early 2013 and new legislation that is being drawn up to facilitate investing in tourism, the minister said. The first draft of the law is expected soon and it will refer to all investments in tourism above EUR 50 million and investments in other sectors above EUR 20 million. The newly set up Investment and Competitiveness Agency is also expected to help increase investment.

As part of efforts related to sustainable development, the Ministry of Tourism presented in August a new portal at www.odrzivi.turizam.hr, which will provide the fastest access to everything related to sustainable tourism in Croatia as well as on the international, notably European level. The portal was designed as part of the European project FAST-LAIN (Further Action on Sustainable Tourism – Learning Area Innovation Networks), launched as part of the EU Directorate General Enterprise and Industry's Competitiveness and Innovation Program.

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"Croatie, la voici" - Croatian Festival in France

Over the course of the next three months, the "Croatie, la voici" festival will present Croatia's culture, education, science, tourism, economy, sport and gastronomy to the French public

Sixty events relating to Croatian culture, education, science, tourism, economy, sport and gastronomy will be held in France from September to December 2012 as part of the festival called "Croatie, la voici". The festival opened in Paris on September 12 after a meeting of the two countries' culture ministers, and Croatia will be the first country of Southeast Europe to present itself as part of the Cultural Season event in France.

Culture Minister Andrea Zlatar Violic stated at the opening that Croatia would present both its cultural heritage and programmes of its contemporary artists who she said were the best ambassadors of Croatia in the world today. She noted that the festival was taking place at a time of ratification of Croatia's European Union accession treaty. Zlatar Violic said that during the festival formal cooperation would be established between the Jasenovac Memorial Centre and the Holocaust Memorial Centre in Paris, and between the Croatian Audiovisual Centre and France's National Audiovisual Centre. She added that talks were under way with Germany and Great Britain to present some of the festival programmes in those countries. The festival costs nearly 10 million kuna (1.3 million euros) and the cost is split evenly between the two countries.

Croatian foreign minister Vesna Pusic, during her official visit to France, opened an exhibition of 12 works by internationally renowned Croatian sculptor Ivan Mestrovic at the Rodin Museum in Paris on September 17. The French-English catalogue, prepared for the exhibition, includes letters which sculptors Mestrovic and Auguste Rodin exchanged as well as an essay written by Mestrovic 20 years after Rodin's death. At the opening ceremony Minister Pusic said that Croatia was always an integral part of European culture and that it would now also join its political club.

The festival will also feature, among other things, an exhibition of about 40 medieval works of art in the Cluny Museum, display of the Croatian Apoxyomenos at the Louvre and an exhibition on the Croatian Glagolitic script will be staged in the Palais de Tau. Croatian cinema will be presented through 13 programmes, and the cult film magazine "Cahiers du cinema" will dedicate it a 16-page feature. Paris will host Contemporary Croatian Film Days on November 13-17, accompanied by the "Cahiers du cinema" feature. The films will also be presented at festivals in Amiens, Marseilles, Arras, and Poitiers.

Roman coliseum in Pula hosts outdoor hockey games

An extraordinary event that will go down in hockey history receives world media buzz

The Roman amphitheater in Pula, Croatia was the venue for a spectacle the world has never seen; for the first time in history an ice hockey tournament was played inside such an ancient site. For three days in a row thousands of spectators enjoyed not only the attractive sport, but also the surreal atmosphere of a real ice rink set in the Pula Arena in mid-September. This was the first time anyone has ever attempted to put a professional ice rink inside an amphitheatre but there were no technical difficulties as it was a perfect fit, say organizers.

The spectacle organized by the Ice Hockey Club Medveščak from Zagreb was publicized all over the world. World media such as CNN requested "live" coverage, CBS wondered if there is anything better than playing ice hockey right in the middle of the Roman amphitheater in Pula, whereas the official site of the International Ice Hockey Federation brought the report from Pula entitled "Veni, vidi, vici".

The three-day sporting events in the ancient amphitheater have been prepared in the historic style of ancient Rome. Stands and fan zones for the audience wore Roman names and the regional EBEL league gave permission to all three clubs - Medveščak, Olympia and Vienna Capitals, to prepare, only for this occasion, a special jersey with prints reminiscent to those of the uniforms of the Roman soldiers. The special atmosphere at the event was magnified by the setting just a short walk away from the Adriatic Sea, with the games on ice played during summer nights under the open sky of the Mediterranean.

© Getty Images
The American production company HBO recently confirmed that the third season of its award-winning hit series “Game of Thrones” filming will take place again this year in Dubrovnik.

Season 3 shooting of the popular series, based on the epic fantasy cycle of novels “A Song of Ice and Fire” by George RR Martin, started in July. The crew will be staying in Dubrovnik in late September and early October.

Scenes will be shot at several locations in the Old town as well as in the Arboretum Trsteno, contributing to the promotion of both Croatia and Dubrovnik with the world audience.

Croatia is one of the largest producers of lavender, which, due to ideal climate and good soil, mostly grows on hills and rocky slopes of the mid-Dalmatian island of Hvar. Luxuriantly green, Hvar, the sunniest island in Croatia, rises from an azure blue sea. Secret bays tuck into its rocky coastline. Little villages, stone-built and red-roofed, sheltered among the fields of craggy mountains, with a haze of blue lavender at their feet. Vines are strung across valleys, citrus trees shade golden fruit among glossy leaves. Figs grow fat and wild herbs scent the pure, clear air.

Google had so far launched its Street View service within its Google Maps for 41 countries

On September 26, Google launched its Google Street View for Croatia. The service from Google Maps and Google Earth provides panoramic views of many streets, landmarks and historical buildings throughout Croatia.

Google had so far launched its Street View service within its Google Maps for 41 countries and alongside Croatia, this service was also launched in Andorra and Chile.

The Google Street View for Croatia covers most of the main cities and islands and the service will be further developed and amended. All costs of the project of marking cities and taking photos were covered by Google.

Tourism Minister Veljko Ostojić, who attended the launching ceremony, expressed satisfaction with cooperation with Google in promoting Croatia’s tourist trade.
Photo of the Month

Each month we will publish a photo of Croatia taken by one of the millions of foreign tourists that discover “The Mediterranean as it once was” every year.

For more of these, check out the official Facebook page of Croatia “Love Croatia” or visit www.croatia.hr

This month’s photo comes from the Island of Cres, courtesy of Romča Jalůvková & Petr Gábřlík. Enjoy!

Speaking of Facts: Croatian Islands

You know they are beautiful. You know there are many of them. But do you know the exact number?

• According to Croatia’s Hydrographic Institute, there are a total of 1,244 islands, islets and rocks along Croatia’s coastline.

• The biggest island is Cres, and the smallest one is Smokvica Vela, with an area of just 1.04 square kilometers (0.39 square miles).

• Probably the most popular one is a heart-shaped island Galešnjak (on the right), located in the Zadarski Kanal (Zadar Channel) between Zadar and the Island of Pašman.

Visit Croatia!
Croatian National Tourist Board online
www.croatia.hr

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