

GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF CROATIA  
PRIME MINISTER

Zagreb, 1 October 2015

*Dear Jean - Claude,*

*Dear Mr. President,*

*I have received your letter dated 30 September 2015, addressed to me and to my Slovenian colleague, Prime Minister Miro Cerar, in which you express your satisfaction with the fact that the Arbitration Panel "is now again operational", support the continuation of the work of the Arbitration Tribunal, and express "trust /.../ that the parties will respect the decisions of the Tribunal".*

*I agree with your consideration that the "setting of borders between Member States does not fall within the competences of the Union", and would welcome Commission acting in consistency with that legal determination. We are convinced that the Commission has no legal basis and thus should not be actively involved in this and number of similar border disputes among numerous Member States. In this respect, I do not believe that any of these disputes has "an impact on the application of the EU law".*

*Mr. President, you have been well informed of the Croatian position, both through our written communication, as well as through the extensive information presented by the Croatian First Deputy Prime Minister to the First Vice-President on 1 September 2015: the entire process, including both the body of evidence and the deliberations of the Arbitrators, has been corrupted by deliberate, illegal, immoral and unethical actions of one of the Parties, acting in collusion with its Agent and its Arbitrator. Those actions have been tacitly admitted by the said Party, by resignations of immediate actors, and by the lack of any denial whatsoever. By those actions, even felonies may have been committed.*

***Mr. Jean-Claude Juncker***  
***President of the European Commission***

***Cc.***  
***Mr. Frans Timmermans***  
***First Vice-President of the European Commission***

*Croatian Government has initiated the procedure of withdrawal from the Arbitration Agreement following an unanimous vote in the Croatian Parliament. Thus, consequently, it has withdrawn from Arbitration proceedings, it shall not comment the possible intentions of the Tribunal, shall not participate in its work, and shall not consider itself obliged to receive and act upon any decisions the Tribunal may or may not reach.*

*We remain convinced that the only decision this ad-hoc Tribunal can reach to address the consequences of the actions of one of the Parties, while acting in accordance with the highest legal, moral and ethical standards the international judiciary must uphold – is to dissolve itself.*

*Dear Jean-Claude,*

*In conclusion, allow me to remind that immediately upon taking the decision to withdraw from the Arbitration Agreement, Croatia has offered to Slovenia to proceed without delay in identifying an alternative way to resolve the territorial dispute – an offer that has unfortunately been rejected, but still remains valid. We are convinced that it is the only way forward from this impasse that we have arrived to without our wish.*

*Sincerely,*

*Yours*

Zoran Milanović

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Zoran Milanović', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.