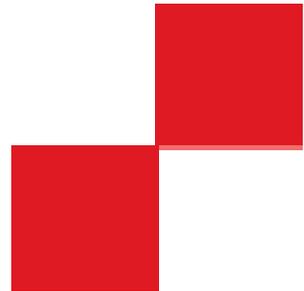




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Croatia monthly

NEWSLETTER OF THE EMBASSY OF THE REPUBLIC
OF CROATIA TO THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Croatian Prime Minister Jadranka Kosor officially visited Washington on May 25 and May 26 where she met with US Vice President Joe Biden. On April 9th in Prague she met with US President Barack Obama during a dinner that he hosted for 11 Central and Eastern European leaders.

Prime Minister Kosor meets Vice President Biden

After an hour-long talk, Prime Minister Kosor said that the Croatian government had the full support of the United States for its main strategic objectives—wrapping up its EU entry talks, fighting corruption and implementing the economy recovery program. “I thanked Vice President Biden for the friendly and partner support. This meeting gave me additional encouragement to continue to work on the government’s three main priorities—the completion of EU entry talks, the fight against corruption and the economic recovery program”, PM Kosor said to the press after the meeting at the White House.

She also said the talks focused on the Euro-Atlantic path of Croatia’s neighbouring countries, primarily Bosnia and Herzegovina. “The Croatian govern-

ment believes it is important to finish the negotiations so that Croatia can become the 28th member of the EU as soon as possible, also from the position of our neighbours. This way we can most definitely make our neighbours stronger on their path to Euro-Atlantic associations. This is important for the stability and prosperity of all of us residing in this region”, PM Kosor said.

The PM stressed that this meeting was exceptionally important, constructive and friendly and that she was very satisfied. She said that at the meeting there was also talk about new possibilities for advancing eco-



Source: The White House

conomic cooperation between Croatia and USA and possible investments in Croatia.■



May was a special month for us at the Embassy

On behalf of the entire team of the Embassy of Croatia to the United States of America, I would like to welcome you to the fourth issue of our monthly newsletter. In this issue we bring you coverage on Croatian Prime Minister Jadranka Kosor’s official visit to Washington D.C. on May 25 and May 26. These were the special two days for all of us here in the Embassy as we were honored by arranging this visit. Beside that, we bring you a review of all other Embassy activities throughout the last month. Enjoy reading.■

Ambassador Kolinda Grabar-Kitarovic

Prime Minister Kosor's visit to Washington D.C.

PM Jadranka Kosor officially visited Washington on May 25 and May 26 where besides meeting with US Vice President Joe Biden she had several meetings at the Department of State and Capitol Hill. She also delivered a speech at Johns Hopkins University, and visited the Holocaust Memorial Museum and Arlington National Cemetery.

PM Kosor with Madeleine Albright



At the meeting with former US Secretary of State Madeleine Albright there were discussions about NATO's new strategic concept, Croatia's participation in the NATO-led mission in Afghanistan and the completion of Croatia's EU entry talks. PM Kosor said that talks also focused on one of the preconditions of Croatia's entry into the EU—the

assessment of Croatia's cooperation with the UN war crimes tribunal at the Hague in connection with Chapter 23 on the judiciary. PM Kosor stressed that Mrs. Albright said she would do everything in her power to clarify what is happening, adding that Croatia has the support of the US on its path to the EU. PM Kosor and former Secretary Albright also talked about economic reforms in Croatia and measures aimed at encouraging foreign investments, as well as the situation in Bosnia and Herzegovina. They also talked about the role of women in politics.

PM Kosor at Johns Hopkins University



PM Kosor delivered a speech at the Johns Hopkins School of Advanced International Studies on Croatia's role in promoting the Euro-Atlantic integration of Southeast Europe. Expressing her pride and satisfaction that Croatia

had joined NATO, thus accomplishing one of its strategic foreign policy goals, PM Kosor said that Croatia was doing its best to ensure that its neighbours were given the prospects of joining NATO and the EU. "It is important for Croatia to have a stable and prosperous neighbourhood together with the US and other allies in North America and Europe, to help Southeast Europe, each country in the region, on its path to the EU and NATO", PM Kosor said.

PM Kosor at the Holocaust Memorial Museum and Arlington National Cemetery

PM Kosor with James Steinberg

Deputy Secretary of State Steinberg expressed strong support for Croatia's path to the EU and appraised the strong leadership of PM Kosor in the region of Southeast Europe. PM



of Croatia on its path to the EU and stressed Croatia's support for the euroatlantic perspective of its neighbors.



PM Kosor visited the Holocaust Memorial Museum where she lit a candle for the victims of Jasenovac and met with representatives of Jewish organization. She also laid a wreath at the Tomb of the Unknown at the Arlington National Cemetery.

PM Kosor's meetings at US Capitol Hill



During her visit to Washington DC PM Kosor had several meetings at Capitol Hill including with Speaker of the US House of Representatives Nancy Pelosi, Senator Mark Begich, and Senators George Voinovich and Jeanne Shaheen. At these meetings Croatia gained strong United States Congressional support on its path to the European Union. PM Kosor introduced Speaker Pelosi with the three main govern-

ment priorities –the completion of EU entry talks, the fight against corruption and the economic recovery program

During the reception at Capitol Hill, which was in her honor, Senator Mark Begich presented PM Kosor with the Congressional Record commending her visit to Washington DC.

EBRD Annual Meeting held in Zagreb

The 19th annual meeting and a business forum of the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) was held in Zagreb on May 14 and May 15, with more than 2,000 participants attending the event.



Addressing the Board, Croatian Prime Minister Jadranka Kosor said the EBRD meeting was taking place in Zagreb at a very important moment for Croatia, which is nearing the completion of its accession negotiations with the European Union. “The EBRD is an important partner in Croatia in a series of projects of national and regional importance,” PM Kosor said. “Croatia expects cooperation with the EBRD in launching a new investment cycle and in support to entrepreneurs”, she said.

EBRD President Thomas Mirow said that recovery was visible in many countries in which the bank operated, but this recovery was relatively sluggish and would take much

time, according to a majority of the indicators. The Bank’s Board of Governors made a decision on increasing EBRD capital to 10 billion EUR and formulated an EBRD plan for investments in the next five years.

During the annual meeting, top officials of the countries of the SE region and the EBRD gathered for a working lunch to discuss measures for overcoming the economic crisis and new sources for economic growth in Southeast Europe. The lunch, held as a part of the EBRD annual conference in Zagreb, was attended by the Prime Ministers of Croatia, Montenegro, Serbia, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Albania and Macedonia and the Deputy Prime Minister of Moldova.

The head of one of the biggest investors in the region highlighted five areas which require political focus to support sustained growth. These five areas are the development of local financial markets, further support for small and medium-sized enterprises, energy efficiency, regional trade and the continuation of EU integration processes.

Croatia introduces a Book of Investments



On May 13, just a day before the EBRD annual meeting, the Government of the Republic of Croatia in association with the EBRD organized an Investment Forum that provided participants with an overview of Croatia’s investment climate potential, as well as presenting new exciting investment opportunities. The program included presentations on Croatia’s most competitive sector and available business

infrastructure, which has made Croatia ready for a new wave of Greenfield investments. After the plenary session participants joined the official exhibition on Croatia’s tourism and business potential, where they had the possibility of networking and matchmaking with Croatian companies. For that purpose the Croatian Trade and Investment Promotion Agency published a Book of Investments – a catalogue of Investment Project Initiatives that is reachable electronically via web page address: <http://zone.apiu.hr/katalog-investicija>

President Josipovic’s working visit to Bosnia and Herzegovina



Croatian President Ivo Josipovic on May 29 and May 30 visited Bosnia and Herzegovina, and the Bosnia and Herzegovina entity Republika Srpska. In Sarajevo, President Josipovic attended a meeting of the Igman initiative. Also attending were Serbian President Boris Tadic, Montenegrin President Filip Vujanovic, and the

Chairman of the Presidency of Bosnia and Herzegovina Haris Silajdzic. They called for further strengthening of regional cooperation and confidence building to help the entire region advance towards EU membership.

In Derventa, President Josipovic met with Bosnian Croat political party representatives. President Josipovic warned about the continuously difficult position of Croats in the Bosnian Serb entity and about the sluggish process in the return of Croat refugees to Bosnia. In Derventa he also met the Bosnian Serb entity’s Prime Minister Milorad Dodik. The return of refugees and internally dis-

placed people was one of the main topics of their discussions.

During his visit to Bosnia and Herzegovina President Josipovic laid a wreath and lit candles outside a Serb Orthodox church in the village of Sijekovac, in memory of Serb civilian victims, and with Bosnian Serb Premier Dodik and Democratic Action Party leader Sulejman Tihic visited Brisevo where they paid tribute to Croats killed there.

President Jospovic also met with the Roman Catholic Archbishop of Sarajevo, Cardinal Vinko Puljic, and the Bishop of Banja Luka, Franjo Komarica.

The 17th Annual NFCA Convention held in Pittsburgh (Monroeville)



Ambassador Kolinda Grabar-Kitarovic addressed the 17th Annual NFCA (National Federation of Croatian Americans) Cultural Foundation that took place in Pittsburgh (Monroeville), May 14-16.

The Ambassador expressed her strong appreciation to the delegates for all the support extended by the NFCA in the realization of Croatia's objectives, highlighting in particular their effort in securing strong US support for Croatia's accession to NATO. The Ambassador informed the delegates

about the state of play of Croatia's EU accession, economic situation and recovery program, and gave an assessment of bilateral Croatia-US relations. She selected the economic component of bilateral relations, fostering US investment and relevant contractual framework, as well as inclusion into the US Visa Waiver Program, as further objectives. As the NFCA dedicates much of its work to the situation of Croats in Bosnia and Herzegovina, she presented Croatia's efforts in promoting the European and Euroatlantic integration of Bosnia and Herzegovina and equal position of Croats in this neighboring country. Ambassador Grabar - Kitarovic participated at the NATO salute, together with former US Ambassador to Croatia, Robert Bradtke.

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20th Anniversary of CAA held in Chicago

The Croatian American Association celebrated on May 15th, in Chicago, its 20th Anniversary of existence and work on behalf of Croatian-Americans in the USA and the Republic of Croatia. The Croatian Embassy was represented by Deputy Chief of Mission Vice



Skracic congratulated the CAA on this milestone and stressed the role that the CAA has played over the years as one of the main advocates of the Republic of Croatia and its interest on Capitol Hill, in the US administration and around the United States. He said that through their daily and persistent work they are contributing to the promotion of

In his remarks DCM Croatian interest.

Celebration of Sveti Duje - St. Domnius

Deputy Chief of Mission Vice Skracic addressed the celebration of St. Domnius, the Patron Saint of the city of Split, presented by Benevolent Society St. Domnius, on May 8th, in San Pedro, California.

DCM Skracic in his remarks said that as a benevolent Croatian-American society one of society's main activities

was humanitarian, helping others, while they also play an active role in promoting the interest of the Republic of Croatia in the USA, and in preservation of their Croatian identity. By celebrating St. Domnius, they stay in contact with Split, and that part of Croatia.

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Croatian American Days in Chicago, May 14-May 17

The Croatian American Community in Chicago celebrated its days through a variety of different events like music concerts, performances of folklore groups, the 20th Anniversary Dinner of the Croatian American Association, a book reception and the 2010 Pleter Award Ceremony.

During the Croatian American Days in Chicago, on May 17 a book reception was held by author Marija Dugandzic Pasic. The book "Croats of Chicagoland" follows the story of the first Croatian immigrants who came to Chicago in the 18th century till the present day. Present at the reception were Croatian Ambassador Kolinda Grabar-Kitarovic, Mayor of Chicago Richard M. Daley, Representative Jan Schakowsky, Bill Kurtis and also Toni

Kukoc. At the 2010 Pleter Award Ceremony, Ambassador Grabar-Kitarovic presented awards to those who contributed to the preservation and promotion of Croatian identity and Croatian heritage, like Bill Kurtis, CBS journalist, former basketball player Toni Kukoc, TV anchorman and businessman Bill Rancic, and former player of the Chicago Bears Chris Zorich.



Concert of Loudoun Country Youth Guitar Orchestra



On May 28, the Croatian Embassy hosted the Loudoun Country Youth Guitar Orchestra. Members of the Orchestra are young people, all between the ages of 13 and 15. They performed music works from Antonio Vivaldi, Enrique Granados, Johann Kasper Mertz and others. Croatian Ambassador Grabar - Kitarovic welcomed the young musicians.

Jazz at the Croatian Embassy



The Croatian Embassy and Ski Johnson, Grammy nominee jazz artist, hosted a Black Tie Gala fundraiser event on June 2nd. Apart from Ski Johnson's performance, there was a live auction. All proceeds went to building an orphanage for children in Ethiopia, providing housing, food and health care.

Annual Celebration of Women Diplomats

The Croatian Embassy and the Women's Foreign Policy Group jointly hosted "A celebration of Women Diplomats", an annual celebration of the achievements of women diplomats, held on May 6, 2010. In her speech Ambassador Grabar-Kitarovic informed about her career and things that she had accomplished, but also pointed out the importance of role models for young women.



The Croatian Hour series started



The Croatian Hour series started on May 20 with the speaker Ambassador Grabar-Kitarovic who talked about modern diplomacy and diplomatic service and an ambassador's role in the modern world. The June Croatian Hour will be held on June 17th at the Croatian Embassy. The speaker will be Dr. Steven Zivko Pavletic, MD, who will talk about American-Croatian collaboration in the field of oncology.

National Day and Armed Forces Day reception

This year's celebration of the National Day and Armed Forces Day of the Republic of Croatia was marked on June 3rd. More than 300 guests gathered in the Croatian Embassy. There were numerous representatives of the diplomatic community in D.C., the US Departments of State and Defense, senator's and congressman's offices and representatives of the Croatian-American community in the USA. Ambassador Grabar-Kitarovic welcome everyone and thanked them for coming. On behalf of the Department of State Jennifer Brush, Director of Office of South Central European Affairs, addressed the gathering.



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