



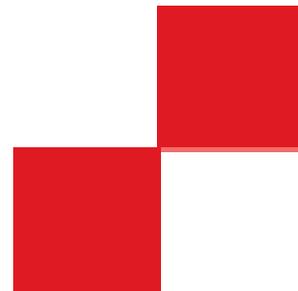
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# Croatia monthly

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

*The two-day conference, entitled "South East Europe Facing Global Challenges" drew several prime ministers-Francois Fillon of France, Donald Tusk of Poland, Borut Pahor of Slovenia, Boyko Borisov of Bulgaria, Sali Berisha of Albania, and Hashim Thaci of Kosovo. EU officials, including Enlargement Commissioner Stefan Fuele, and representatives of OSCE and NATO were present.*

## Traditional Croatia Summit held in Dubrovnik

Croatian Prime Minister Jadranka Kosor in her opening remarks said that the fifth Croatia Summit has reaffirmed the common desire for Southeast Europe to become a region of negotiation and cooperation. "Croatia and Southeast Europe, in terms of their value systems, belong to the circle of Euro-Atlantic countries and it is only natural for them to seek their future in the EU and NATO", PM Kosor said. She recalled that after five years of negotiations with the EU, Croatia had entered the final stage of its accession process, adding that Zagreb was looking with optimism to the Belgian EU Presidency during whose term Croatia's EU membership talks were expected to reach their conclusion. "Croatia is aware of its responsibilities towards its neighbors and is sending out a positive message to all the countries aspiring to EU

membership", the PM said.

Croatian President Ivo Josipovic in his remarks said that 20 years after the



regional wars, the countries of Southeast Europe were living in changed circumstances and in systems of government based on the same values of peace, non-

violence, cooperation, freedom and justice. "The new age is an age of functioning cooperation that does not bring into question national identities and interests, but believes that is best to protect them with cooperation on particular issues", said President Josipovic. He also said that Southeast Europe was at a crossroads and that all the people in the region were expecting EU membership.

During the two-day Croatia Summit, July 9 and July 10, many plenary discussions were held on the economic crisis, global security and the future of Southeast Europe. The discussion on the global economic crisis highlighted the need for consensus in efforts to solve problems the world was faced with during the toughest economic crisis since the Great Depression 80 years ago.



### More progress this summer

On behalf of the entire Embassy team, I would like to welcome you to the 6th issue of our monthly newsletter. We're proud to inform you that Croatia closed two more negotiation chapters with the EU. A delegation of the Trade and Investment Promotion Agency visited California and confirmed great opportunities for cooperation between Croatia and California. The traditional Croatia Summit was held in the historic coastal city in Dubrovnik and former Minister of Justice Ivan Simonovic was named an assistant to the UN Secretary-General. Enjoy reading.

**Ambassador Kolinda Grabar-Kitarovic**

## Minister of Foreign Affairs Jandrokovic visits Afghanistan



Minister of Foreign Affairs and European Integration Gordan Jandrokovic led the Croatian delegation at the International Conference on Afghanistan, held on July 20 in Kabul.

Minister Jandrokovic pointed out that the Conference confirms the international community's dedication to the efforts that the Afghan government is taking to strengthen the autonomy in security, governance and development. As one of the key elements in the process of increased Afghan engagement he pointed out the transfer of responsibility for security onto Afghan security forces, adding that Croatia considers this to be the best way to speed up progress in the area of security and places great importance on it. Furthermore, he reminded that Croatian forces have been participating in ISAF since day one

and would continue to give its contribution through the training of Afghan security forces. In that regard, he said that nearly half of the Croatian contingent to be deployed by the end of summer, would be involved in training the Afghan army and police. He also said that Croatia planned to form new instructor teams with neighboring countries that would train the Afghan security forces.

Minister Jandrokovic also visited in Kabul members of the 15th Croatian Armed Forces ISAF Contingent. He visited in Kabul the multinational camp of countries taking part in the ISAF mission, where part of the Croatian Contingent is also located, containing some 50 members of the Croatian Armed Forces, mostly military police. Talking with the Croatian soldiers, officers and NCOs, the Minister inquired about the living and working conditions, as well as their views on the current situation in Afghanistan.

Speaking about the reputation that the Croatian Armed Forces enjoy in military circles, he pointed out that it was precisely the combination of experiences from the Homeland War and the mission to Afghanistan that have given the Croatian Armed Forces an advantage over other countries in the region, as well as over many other NATO members. ■



### Croatia closes two more chapters in EU entry talks

At an intergovernmental accession conference in Brussels on July 27, Croatia closed two more policy areas in its talks on accession to the European Union. The two chapters closed are Food Safety, Veterinary and Phytosanitary Policy, and Financial Control. With these two chapters, Croatia now has closed 22 chapters of 33 that are negotiated. "We still have a lot of work to do, but we have done a big job. We closed two chapters which are very important, particularly chapter No.12 on Food Safety, a very complex area that is important not only for the pace of the talks, but also for Croatian citizens because its closing means that Croatia has achieved the highest European food safety and phytosanitary standards", said Vladimir Drobnjak, Croatia's chief negotiator in the talks with the EU. ■

## Good investment climate between Croatia and California

Representatives of the Croatian Trade and Investment Promotion Agency visited California from July 12 to July 17. As part of Croatian delegation were also Croatian Ambassador to the USA Kolinda Grabar-Kitarovic and Croatian Consul General in Los Angeles Ilija Zelalic.

The Managing Director of the Agency Sani Ljubicic on that occasion signed an Agreement about cooperation with county Riverside, with the aim of promoting cooperation in the field of export and attraction of

foreign investments. Also, the delegation met with the President of World Trade Center Association Vance Bougham and the President of the Los Angeles Area Chamber of Commerce Garry Toebben. The meeting emphasized the big opportunity for cooperation that exists between the County of Los Angeles and Croatia.

During their visit to California, members of the Croatian delegation met with leading business people of Croatian origin. ■

## New Assistant to the UN Secretary-General



Former Croatian Minister of Justice Ivan Simonovic was on

July 26 in New York sworn in as assistant to the UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-Moon. He will head the New York Office of the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, which is based in Geneva. ■

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