

**CONFERENCE ON ACCESSION
TO THE EUROPEAN UNION
– CROATIA –**

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ACCESSION DOCUMENT

Subject: EUROPEAN UNION COMMON POSITION
Chapter 35 - Other issues
Item 2: Research Fund for Coal and Steel

EUROPEAN UNION COMMON POSITION

Chapter 35: Other issues

Item 2: Research Fund for Coal and Steel

This position of the European Union is based on its general position for the Accession Conference with Croatia (CONF-HR 2/05), and is subject to the negotiating principles endorsed by the Conference (CONF-HR 5/05), in particular:

- any view expressed by either party on a chapter of the negotiations will in no way prejudice the position which may be taken on other chapters;
- agreements – even partial agreements - reached during the course of the negotiations on chapters to be examined successively may not be considered as final until an overall agreement has been established;

as well as to the requirements set out in points 13, 16 and 26 of the Negotiating Framework.

The EU underlines the importance for Croatia of compliance with the Stabilisation and Association Agreement as well as the Accession Partnership, which constitute basic elements of the enhanced pre-accession strategy.

Item 2: Research Fund for Coal and Steel

Croatia will participate fully in the Research Fund for Coal and Steel from the day of accession.

Croatia shall pay a contribution to the Fund proportional to the importance of its coal and steel sector, following the same methodology applied for the current Member States. Based on the level of production and the average value of coal and steel products and using the same method of calculation as in previous enlargements, Croatia will contribute an indicative amount of € 494 000 to the Fund. This figure may be revised in the context of the Treaty drafting in order to take account of the most recent data available.

In accordance with the practice at previous enlargements, Croatia's contribution to the Fund will be made in instalments. Taking into consideration the size of the required contribution and the financial situation of Croatia, the contribution will be made in four instalments starting from [YEAR OF ACCESSION = n, plus 2 years] as follows:

n + 2: 15%

n + 3: 20%

n + 4: 30%

n + 5: 35%.

Croatia's contribution to the Fund as well as the modalities for its payment will be fixed in the Accession Treaty.

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Subject to Croatia's acceptance of the above considerations, the EU notes that, at this stage, the issue of the Research Fund for Coal and Steel does not require further negotiations.

In view of all the above considerations, the EU will, if necessary, return to this chapter at an appropriate moment.

Legal Annex

to be inserted into the Act of Accession in

Part IV

TEMPORARY PROVISIONS

TITLE III

FINANCIAL PROVISIONS

1. Croatia shall pay the following amount to the Research Fund for Coal and Steel referred to in Decision 2002/234/ECSC of the Representatives of the Governments of the Member States, meeting within the Council, of 27 February 2002 on the financial consequences of the expiry of the ECSC Treaty and on the Research Fund for Coal and Steel¹.

(EUR, *current prices*)

Croatia 494 000.

2. The contribution to the Research Fund for Coal and Steel shall be made in four instalments starting in [YEAR OF ACCESSION = n, plus 2 years] and paid as follows, in each case on the first working day of the first month of each year:

n + 2: 15%

n + 3: 20%

n + 4: 30%

n + 5: 35%.

¹ OJ L 79, 22.3.2002, p. 42