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– CROATIA –**

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Subject : EUROPEAN UNION COMMON POSITION  
Chapter 30: External relations

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**EUROPEAN UNION COMMON POSITION**  
**(revision of CONF-HR 26/07)**

**Chapter 30: External relations**

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 Accession 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 pre-accession strategy.

The EU encourages Croatia to continue the process of alignment with the *acquis* and its effective implementation and enforcement, and in general develop already before accession, policies and instruments as close as possible to those of the EU.

The EU notes that Croatia, in its position (CONF-HR 10/07) accepts the *acquis* under chapter 30 as in force on 1 January 2007, and that Croatia declares that it will be ready to fully implement it by the date of its accession to the European Union.

The EU welcomes the submission to the Commission of an action plan on remaining preparations under chapter 30 which meets the requirements of the closing benchmark as set out in the EUCP (CONF-HR 26/07).

### **Common commercial policy**

The EU takes note of Croatia's declaration that the provisions of its Trade Act related to trade policy will cease to apply by accession and that Croatia will be ready to apply the EU's commercial policy from that time. The EU also takes note of Croatia's commitment to closely cooperate with the European Commission on all changes to trade policy in the pre-accession period. The EU invites Croatia to align itself with the policies and positions of the EU towards third countries and within international organisations; in particular the EU invites Croatia to follow the EU line in all negotiations on-going in the World Trade Organisation.

The EU takes note of the information about Croatia's preparations in the fields of trade barriers, trade defence instruments, customs tariffs and quotas, as well as the general system of preferences. The EU invites Croatia to continue this work, in particular with regard to the enhancement of its administrative capacity, to ensure that the *acquis* can be fully applied from the day of accession. The EU invites Croatia to continue its preparations in the field of export credits and insurance, in particular as regards the remaining legislative adaptations, so that the *acquis* can be fully applied from the day of accession.

The EU invites Croatia to continue its preparations in the field of dual use goods, in particular as regards remaining legislative adaptations, as well as the enhancement of its administrative and control capacity.

The EU takes note of the information regarding Croatia's existing system to control import and export of rough diamonds in line with rules defined within the Kimberley process. The EU invites Croatia to continue its preparation in order to ensure full implementation and enforcement of EU rules for the date of accession.

### **Bilateral agreements with third countries**

The EU recalls its position of the Negotiation Framework for the Accession Conference with Croatia (CONF-HR 2/05) that Croatia will be required to terminate all existing bilateral agreements between Croatia and the Communities, and all other international agreements concluded by Croatia, which are incompatible with the obligations of membership. The EU underlines that it is the responsibility of Croatia to ensure that upon accession all its international agreements, and in particular any trade-related or investments agreements, are in conformity with the *acquis*.

The EU takes note of Croatia's commitment to denounce all free trade agreements in their entirety before accession and to ensure that all agreements on trade, investment and economic cooperation and other relevant agreements are brought into conformity with the *acquis*. The EU encourages Croatia to proceed with this work in line with the action plan for the remaining preparations in terms of legislation and bringing international agreements into conformity with the *acquis*. Croatia is invited to keep the EU informed about the content of any negotiations in this regard with third countries and to closely coordinate any such negotiations with the Commission. The EU underlines that any new trade-related agreement which Croatia may conclude with a third country between now and the date of accession should include a provision which enables Croatia to terminate the agreement, before accession, without need for compensation by the EU.

The EU invites Croatia to continue its active participation in the Central European Free Trade Agreement (CEFTA 2006) during the pre-accession period.

### **Development policy**

The EU takes note of the information regarding Croatia's development policy and its plans to meet the EU requirements and its commitment to reach 0.17 % ODA-GNI by 2010. The EU encourages Croatia to continue to build up the financial and administrative capacity needed to fulfil its commitments.

The EU recalls that the modalities of Croatia's contribution to the European Development Fund will be decided by the Council, in accordance with the Internal Agreement establishing the European Development Fund, following Croatia's accession to the EU.

### **Humanitarian aid**

The EU takes note of the information regarding Croatia's plans for participation in the humanitarian policy of the EU. The EU encourages Croatia to build up the financial and administrative capacity needed to fulfil its commitments.

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In view of all of the above considerations, the EU notes that, at this stage, this chapter does not require further negotiations.

Monitoring of progress in the alignment with and implementation of the *acquis* will continue throughout the negotiations. The EU underlines that it will devote particular attention to monitoring all specific issues mentioned above with a view to ensuring Croatia's administrative capacity to implement effectively the *acquis* in this chapter. Consideration needs to be given to the links between the present chapter and other negotiation chapters. A final assessment of the conformity of Croatia's legislation with the *acquis* and of its implementation capacity can only be made at a later stage of the negotiations. In addition to all the information the EU may require for the negotiations in this chapter and which is to be provided to the Conference, the EU invites Croatia to provide regularly detailed written information to the Stabilisation and Association Council on progress in the implementation of the *acquis*.

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

Furthermore, the EU recalls that there may be new *acquis* between 1 January 2007 and the conclusion of the negotiations.

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