



**EUROPEAN COUNCIL
THE PRESIDENT**

**Zagreb, 5 July 2010
PCE 150/10**

**Remarks by
Herman VAN ROMPUY,
President of the European Council,
following his meeting with
Jadranka KOSOR, Prime Minister of Croatia**

I just had a good meeting with Prime Minister Kosor whom I met already a few weeks ago in Brussels.

The EU supports Croatia's accession. Croatia's success will also give a positive signal to the region by proving that accession to the EU is attainable.

Over the past year, Croatia made substantial progress in the accession negotiations. The negotiations have now progressed into a final stage, as we have been able to open all screened chapters, and provisionally closed more than half of them. Negotiations are progressing well, but all the necessary requirements of membership must be met.

The requirement for full co-operation with the International Criminal Tribunal for Yugoslavia (ICTY) also remains essential.

Furthermore, the global financial crisis has severely affected the Croatian economy, but we trust that this will not have a negative influence for Croatia's preparation for the accession.

I encourage Croatia to continue its preparations with energy and determination. The coming months will be crucial. In any case, I welcome the courageous measures already taken by the government for economic recovery. The time has come to show proof of your determination to accede to the Union.

Good regional cooperation in the Western Balkans is also key in the enlargement process. It is important to work on improving bilateral relations, to resolve border disputes and facilitate refugee return.

In this regard, the Arbitration Agreement between Slovenia and Croatia has created a model for the whole region, demonstrating that bilateral issues can be resolved in the European spirit. I also look forward to an international agreement on the Prevlaka Peninsula.

P R E S S

FOR FURTHER DETAILS:

Dirk De Backer - Spokesperson of the President - ☎ +32 (0)2 281 9768 - +32 (0)497 59 99 19
Jesús Carmona - Deputy Spokesperson of the President ☎ +32 (0)2 281 9548 / 6319 - +32 (0)475 65 32 15
e-mail: press.president@consilium.europa.eu - internet: www.european-council.europa.eu/vanrompuy

I welcome Prime Minister Kosor's resolve in bringing Croatia closer to the EU membership and her interest in strengthening relations with neighbouring countries, particularly with Serbia.

Finally, as for the stability of the region is concerned, and also in light of the incidents in Kosovo last Friday and this morning, I would like to recall my message of condemning violence, calling for restraint, calmness, stability and dialogue.
