

Tijekom središnje svečanosti predviđeni govornici su:

- 23.47 - Predsjednik Vlade Republike Hrvatske **Zoran Milanović**
 - Predsjednik Europske komisije **José Manuel Barroso**
 - Zamjenik predsjednika Vlade Republike Irske **Eamon Gilmore**

- 00.03 - Predsjednica Litve **Dalia Grybauskaitė**
 - Predsjednik Europskog Vijeća **Herman Van Rompuy**

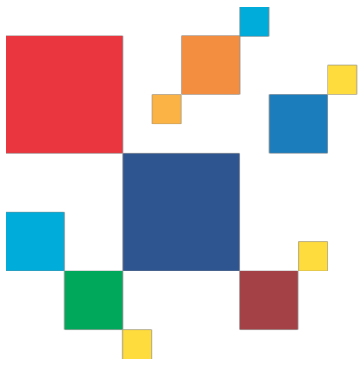
- 00.10 - Predsjednik Europskom parlamenta **Martin Schulz**
 - Predsjednik Republike Hrvatske **Ivo Josipović**

Speakers at the central event:

- 23.45 - **Zoran Milanović**, Prime Minister of the Republic of Croatia
 - **José Manuel Barroso**, President of the European Commission
 - **Eamon Gilmore**, Deputy Prime Minister of the Republic of Ireland

- 00.03 - **Dalia Grybauskaitė**, President of the Republic of Lithuania
 - **Herman Van Rompuy**, President of the European Council

- 00.10 - **Martin Schulz**, President of the European Parliament
 - **Ivo Josipović**, President of the Republic of Croatia



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REPUBLIKA HRVATSKA
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GOVORI NA TRGU BANA JELAČIĆA

HRVATSKI – ENGLESKI

EMBARGO, NEDJELJA 30. LIPANJ DO 23,45

SPEECHES AT TRG BANA JELAČIĆA

CROATIAN – ENGLISH

EMBARGO, SUNDAY 30 JUNE UNTIL 11,45 PM



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Zoran Milanović, Prime Minister of the Republic of Croatia

Ladies and Gentlemen,

In my speech about Croatia, in this historical and festive night, I have to present my personal angle. After all, that is exactly what we want the Croatia we are building and dreaming of to be like: a mosaic of four and a half million free views of their own country, its past, present and future. That is also the Europe we are dreaming of and the one we are prepared to build with others: a community in which each individual will be able to develop his or her own particular attitude towards the idea and the practise of Europe's unification.

Whatever you were told about us, you should know that this is a country of rational people who see themselves, this country, and its role in Europe and the world, in a realistic light.

Croatia, therefore, knows that in this night, it is not running away. We are staying where we are, albeit with a new responsibility. It is up to us to reach out to the countries in the region and assist them in the fast adoption of the European criteria. There are unbreakable bonds between us and these countries and nations. The most sublime one is the unity in the antifascist struggle during the WWII. We are also tied together by upholding the values of solidarity and love of freedom, which we want to imprint strongly on the fundamental concept of the European Union.

On the other hand, Croatia and Serbia, Montenegro, even Bosnia and Hercegovina, drifted apart in the war events of the 1990s. In that war, Croatia proved its dedication to freedom. In retrospect, we are aware of the stumbling that happened along that path, a path that had no alternative. In its very essence, it was a just one, and the right path to take.

Let me paraphrase a great Western philosopher and say that in a state, the same as in an individual, the greatness lies in being the bridge, not the goal. It's the journey that matters, not the destination. Croatia chose to be the bridge to a better future for the region in which the European strivings, with

the highest standards of minority national rights protection, represent the most efficient means of overcoming the trauma of the past.

Our identity, the same as any collective identity, is composed of many, sometimes even contradictory, elements. One of them is the Central European, and generally Western civilisational influence that, perhaps crucially, permeates all aspects of our society.

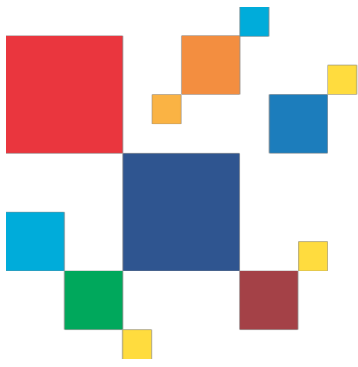
The Balkans, which is a term containing Oriental influences, is an important and an unavoidable element of our identity and history. The bitter-sweet Mediterranean, the cradle of civilisation, was always our link to the world, and the first source of our humanistic ideals.

We are deeply convinced, and this makes the night a joyous one, that the European Union and all its member states will be open towards experiencing Croatia's specificities as an integral part of their own magnificently diverse identity.

The greatest figures of Croatian culture and science, who are also important figures in the history of modern world, like Nikola Tesla, Andrija Štampar, Ivo Andrić, Antun and Faust Vrančić, Lavoslav Ružička, Ivan Meštrović, Ruđer Bošković, Vladimir Prelog, Marko Marulić, Julije Klović, and others I unfairly omit, give us the right to believe that we are not presumptuous or conceited in our ambitions.

To my mind, the most important strategic project of the Republic of Croatia in the united Europe is to develop and encourage intellectual curiosity. That is a project involving the whole country and all its citizens. The keys to a more free and fulfilled life are in the elementary schools, in secondary schools and Universities. It is a lasting commitment of this country and of the Union we are joining tonight, to make these keys as available as possible to all people, disregarding their social status, nationality, religion or origin. That is the prerequisite for our wish to build a country of happy people who will live and express themselves in accordance with their beliefs and the free perception of their own identity.

Thank you!



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José Manuel Barroso, President of the European Commission

Čestitam Hrvatska!

Dear friends,

We are here on a historic night. And that is thanks to you, the Croatian people. It was your desire to join the European Union and your hard work which have made this possible.

You have returned Croatia to its rightful place in the heart of Europe.

Your hard work means that Croatia is well-prepared to join our Union.

Croatia has changed enormously over the last decades. It is a fully democratic nation, with respect for fundamental rights and the rule of law. Croatia is thus well-placed to benefit fully from all that the EU has to offer.

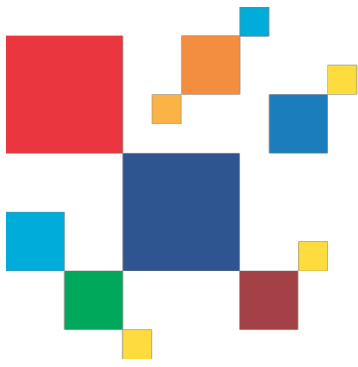
Today is the end of one process, but also the first chapter of another success story. Across Europe we need to work every day to improve our economies, strengthen our democracies and build a better future for ourselves and our children.

The challenges in our world are enormous. But as part of the European family, Croatia is not alone. Just as the European Commission supported your accession, we will assist you as a Member State.

Croatia is also an example to others in this region. You have undergone difficult reforms and held out the hand of reconciliation. As an EU Member State you have made clear that you will help others follow your path. I welcome this commitment as our Union is open to all who share our European values.

Dear friends,

Dobro doseli U Evropska Uniju!



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Eamon Gilmore, Deputy Prime Minister of the Republic of Ireland

Ladies and gentlemen,

I am honoured and privileged to be here in Zagreb to represent both the Presidency of the Council of the European Union and Ireland.

This is a great moment for Croatia and for the European Union.

Croatia is a European nation, geographically, historically and culturally.

We are delighted that you are about to take your rightful place as a member of the European Union.

Your accession is a testament to the success of the European Union and you will be a beacon of hope for your neighbours in this part of Europe.

We salute your efforts to meet the requirements for EU membership.

We recognise the journey you have travelled.

We look forward to an ever stronger friendship in a framework of democracy, shared values and mutual respect.

I hope that membership of the European Union proves as beneficial and transformational to Croatia as it has been to Ireland.

In 2004, when Croatia began its journey to EU membership, the previous Irish Presidency had the honour to celebrate the accession of ten new Member States to the European Union.

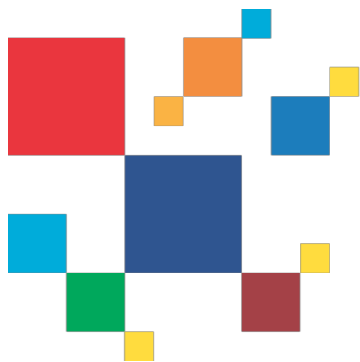
To mark that occasion, our Nobel Laureate Poet Seamus Heaney wrote the following words:

*So on a day when newcomers appear.
Let it be a homecoming and let us speak.
The unstrange word, as it behoves us here,
Move lips, move minds and make new meanings flare.*

Your joining the European Union will “make new meanings flare”!

As we approach midnight, your good friends are here to embrace you.

So, in a great Irish tradition, I bid the government and people of Croatia "céad míle fáilte" - a hundred, thousand welcomes!



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Dalia Grybauskaitė, President of the Republic of Lithuania

My Dear Friends,

Congratulations to Croatia! Congratulations to Europe!

This is a historic moment for all of us.

Finally, the Croatian people are with us!

Croatia and Lithuania are basketball countries, so we know very well how important each and every team player is.

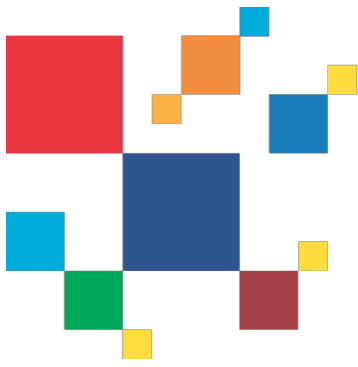
From today on, Europe has yet another strong player.

I would like to present your president with a European team shirt.

„One team – One Dream“

Let us score victories together!

Congratulations to all!



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Herman Van Rompuy, President of the European Council

Mr. President,
Mr. Prime-Minister,
Excellencies,
Ladies and gentlemen,
And above all: you, Citizens of Zagreb, People of Croatia!
To all of you I say: ČESTITAM HRVATSKA !
CONGRATULATIONS CROATIA !
As midnight struck, your country crossed an important threshold.
It will change the life of this nation for good.
You have always been Europeans – and you are now members of the Union.
On behalf of the leaders of the 27 member states, many of whom are here, I welcome you wholeheartedly.

Your country has worked hard for it – with success.

As of tomorrow your representatives will sit side-by-side with all other member states. Together shaping decisions for the benefit of all citizens across the Union – from Zagreb to Zaragoza, from Split to Stockholm.

As new challenges arise, you will discover that membership is not just about respecting and shaping rules, but as much about sharing the responsibility for our common endeavour.

In weather fair and foul, 'for better and for worse', we must remain united as a Union.

The European Union is one of peace, built on the spirit of reconciliation.

In the recent history of the Western Balkans, your country's entry marks a milestone towards a shared future: living together, in peace and prosperity.

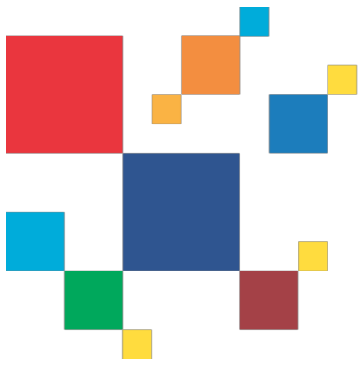
Over the past months, jointly with Slovenia, you have courageously overcome hurdles; also with Bosnia Herzegovina.

Following the same path, Belgrade and Priština have also reached a historic agreement. I am confident that more positive steps will follow. As a trailblazer for the region, your country, now as a member state, has a vitally important role to play.

Ladies and gentlemen,

I'm proud to be here tonight for this historical moment.

Hvala!



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Martin Schulz, President of the European Parliament

Today is a historic day for Croatia and for the European Union.

Today is a good day to remember what we have achieved together in Croatia and in the EU.

We have built a unique society in Europe: a democratic and social society with the richest internal market of the world and institutions based on the respect for the rule of law and human rights - we have together built the most free, most socially just and prosperous region in the world.

Since its foundation, the European Union has been a promise of peace. For the Western Balkans, a region that less than two decades ago was torn and devastated by war, European Union and integration has become a magnet of peace and change.

Croatia is a pioneer with a true European spirit: You have created institutions based on the values of democracy, reconciliation and the rule of law; you have reformed your economy and made it more competitive; you have demonstrated that through determination and hard-work EU membership can be achieved.

In the name of the members of the European Parliament I want to pay tribute to the Croatian people for continuing on the path of reform. Europe - that's for its citizens.

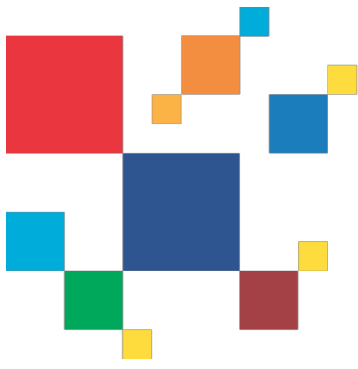
Europe - that's what we want it to be.

Europe - that's what we make out of it together.

The contribution of the Croatian citizens to our common project will enrich us all.

Bring your ideas and initiatives to the table. We are looking forward to them.

Dobro došli u Europsku Uniju! Dobro došli kući!



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Ivo Josipović, President of the Republic of Croatia

High-ranking guests,
Citizens of European Croatia,

Today is a great and joyful day for our homeland, Republic of Croatia. This is the day when we open a new chapter in the thick book of our history. This is the day when we fully become an accepted and full member of the greatest and most successful community of European states that has ever existed on our Continent. This is the day when the dreams of not only this generation but many previous generations of our people come true. This is the day when we lay the foundations for a secure, democratic and European future of our new generations.

Europe was, is and will be an idea to which we belong. We were, are and will be Europeans. Europe is a key part of our national identity. We belong to it not only because of our geographical position but also because of the values that we share with others. In the first place, there is freedom. Freedom is the highest value that we have. A free Croatia in a free Europe – this was the guiding idea of many our generations. Now, we have achieved it. However, the idea of freedom also includes freedom of individuals, freedom of every person to express and be what he is – without imposition or coercion. Freedom includes equality of large and small, majority and minority, people and states that are mutually different, but respect one another and protect freedom of others. Freedom includes solidarity among people.

For us, Europe is a community of peace and security. Our history was difficult, often tragic. We join Europe to ensure peace and stability for ourselves and forthcoming generations. It may be because of our experience that we emphasise, on this occasion as well, that Europe came into being as an anti-war project and developed in a symbol of peace and cooperation. It is a guarantee of peace and security for all its residents. For this reason, we do not want Europe to stop at our borders. Let it be open to all countries and people of good will, to all who want to share the European dream and the European future with others in peace and freedom.

Dear citizens of European Croatia,

The accession to the European Union has aroused new hopes among our people. It is up to us to turn these hopes to reality. We have shown that when we really want something, when we jointly work on the fulfilment of our wishes and goals we are able to realise these wishes. In fact, the story of Croatian success is a story of community, persistence, ambition and vision. This is the main message of this day. This is a message that through community we can accomplish even the goals that seem to be very difficult to reach. There are many important, not always easily attainable goals ahead of us. Freedom, democracy, prosperity, knowledge and success cannot be achieved without courage, knowledge, persistence and community, without cooperativeness and hard work. Let the cloud of the economic crisis not overshadow our vision and optimism. The crisis is a challenge, an invitation to make tomorrow better than today.

High-ranking guests from other member states of the European Union,

Thank you for your support during our transformation into a country of European values and virtues, a country which is satisfied with success but not intoxicated by it; a country that knows that a serious and responsible work is ahead to ensure further progress and to catch up with the most advanced countries in Europe. Thank you for your friendship and the trust you have placed in us. The Republic of Croatia will be a responsible, constructive and active member of the European Union.

Citizens of Croatia,

The first European dawn of our homeland is breaking soon. Seemingly, everything will be the same as before: we shall get up early, go to work, take care of our everyday business. However, this is the first day of our European future, the first day of a major opportunity that is offered to us, the first in a series of days that open up opportunities that should not be missed, opportunities that mean a new job, success and recognition for many. The Europe that we waited for is offering good opportunities for states and individuals but is not presenting them as gifts.

Long live and flourish Europe, its community and its ideals, the idea of freedom, democracy, security and prosperity of all European nations.

Long live Europe, long live European Croatia!