

**No. 45698**

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**European Communities and their Member States  
and  
Croatia**

**Stabilisation and Association Agreement between the European Communities and their Member States, of the one part, and the Republic of Croatia, of the other part (with annexes and protocols and final act). Luxembourg, 29 October 2001**

**Entry into force:** *1 February 2005, in accordance with article 129*

**Authentic texts:** *Danish, Dutch, English, Finnish, French, German, Greek, Italian, Portuguese, Spanish and Swedish*

**Registration with the Secretariat of the United Nations:** *Council of the European Union, 12 January 2009*

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**Communautés européennes et leurs États membres  
et  
Croatie**

**Accord de stabilisation et d'association entre les Communautés européennes et leurs États membres, d'une part, et la République de Croatie, d'autre part (avec annexes et protocoles et acte final). Luxembourg, 29 octobre 2001**

**Entrée en vigueur :** *1er février 2005, conformément à l'article 129*

**Textes authentiques :** *danois, néerlandais, anglais, finnois, français, allemand, grec, italien, portugais, espagnol et suédois*

**Enregistrement auprès du Secrétariat des Nations Unies :** *Conseil de l'Union européenne, 12 janvier 2009*

[ ENGLISH TEXT – TEXTE ANGLAIS ]

STABILISATION AND ASSOCIATION AGREEMENT  
BETWEEN THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES AND THEIR MEMBER STATES,  
OF THE ONE PART,  
AND THE REPUBLIC OF CROATIA, OF THE OTHER PART

THE KINGDOM OF BELGIUM,

THE KINGDOM OF DENMARK,

THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY,

THE HELLENIC REPUBLIC,

THE KINGDOM OF SPAIN,

THE FRENCH REPUBLIC,

IRELAND,

THE ITALIAN REPUBLIC,

THE GRAND DUCHY OF LUXEMBOURG,

THE KINGDOM OF THE NETHERLANDS,

THE REPUBLIC OF AUSTRIA,

THE PORTUGUESE REPUBLIC,

THE REPUBLIC OF FINLAND,

THE KINGDOM OF SWEDEN,

THE UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND,

Contracting Parties to the Treaty establishing the European Community, the Treaty establishing the European Coal and Steel Community, the Treaty establishing the European Atomic Energy Community, and the Treaty on European Union,

hereinafter referred to as "Member States", and

THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY, THE EUROPEAN COAL AND STEEL COMMUNITY, THE EUROPEAN ATOMIC ENERGY COMMUNITY,

hereinafter referred to as the "Community",

of the one part, and

THE REPUBLIC OF CROATIA, hereinafter referred to as "Croatia",

of the other part,

CONSIDERING the strong links between the Parties and the values that they share, their desire to strengthen those links and establish a close and lasting relationship based on reciprocity and mutual interest, which should allow Croatia to further strengthen and extend the relations with the Community,

CONSIDERING the importance of this Agreement, in the framework of the Stabilisation and Association process with the countries of south-eastern Europe, in the establishment and consolidation of a stable European order based on cooperation, of which the European Union is a mainstay, as well as in the framework of the Stability Pact,

CONSIDERING the commitment of the Parties to contribute by all means to the political, economic and institutional stabilisation in Croatia as well as in the region, through the development of civic society and democratisation, institution building and public administration reform, enhanced trade and economic cooperation, wide-ranging cooperation, including in justice and home affairs, and the strengthening of national and regional security,

CONSIDERING the commitment of the Parties to increasing political and economic freedoms as the very basis of this Agreement, as well as their commitment to respect human rights and the rule of law, including the rights of persons belonging to national minorities, and democratic principles through a multiparty system with free and fair elections,

CONSIDERING that Croatia reaffirms its commitment to the right of return for all refugees and displaced persons and to the protection of their related rights,

CONSIDERING the commitment of the Parties to the full implementation of all principles and provisions of the UN Charter, of the OSCE, notably those of the Helsinki Final Act, the concluding documents of the Madrid and Vienna Conferences, the Charter of Paris for a New Europe, and of the Stability Pact for south-eastern Europe, as well as to compliance with the obligations under the Dayton/Paris and Erdut agreements, so as to contribute to regional stability and cooperation among the countries of the region,

CONSIDERING the commitment of the Parties to the principles of free market economy and the readiness of the Community to contribute to the economic reforms in Croatia,

CONSIDERING the commitment of the Parties to free trade, in compliance with the rights and obligations arising out of the WTO,

DESIROUS of establishing regular political dialogue on bilateral and international issues of mutual interest, including regional aspects, taking into account the Common Foreign and Security Policy of the European Union,

CONVINCED that the Stabilisation and Association Agreement will create a new climate for economic relations between them and above all for the development of trade and investment, factors crucial to economic restructuring and modernisation,

BEARING IN MIND the commitment by Croatia to approximate its legislation in the relevant sectors to that of the Community,

TAKING ACCOUNT of the Community's willingness to provide decisive support for the implementation of reform and reconstruction, and to use all available instruments of cooperation and technical, financial and economic assistance on a comprehensive indicative multiannual basis to this endeavour,