Basic information

2011/0805(NLE) NLE - Non-legislative enactments	Procedure completed
Accession Treaty: accession of Croatia **Subject** 8.10 Revision of the Treaties, intergovernmental conferences 8.20.01 Candidate countries **Geographical area** Croatia	

Key players

European Parliament

Committee responsible	Rapporteur	Appointed
AFET Foreign Affairs	SWOBODA Hannes (S&D)	16/09/2009
	Shadow rapporteur POSSELT Bernd (PPE)	

Committee for opinion	Rapporteur for opinion	Appointed
BUDG Budgets	The committee decided not to give an opinion.	
EMPL Employment and Social Affairs	The committee decided not to give an opinion.	
ENVI Environment, Public Health and Food Safety	The committee decided not to give an opinion.	
AFCO Constitutional Affairs	The committee decided not to give an opinion.	

Council of the European Union

Council configuration	Meetings	Date
General Affairs	3132	2011-12-05

European Commission

Commission DG	Commissioner
Neighbourhood and Enlargement Negotiations	FÜLE Štefan

Key events

Date	Event	Reference	Summary
07/11/2011	Legislative proposal published	14409/2011	
16/11/2011	Committee referral announced in Parliament		
17/11/2011	Vote in committee		Summary
22/11/2011	Committee report tabled for plenary, 1st reading/single reading	A7-0390/2011	
30/11/2011	Debate in Parliament		
01/12/2011	Decision by Parliament	T7-0538/2011	Summary
01/12/2011	Results of vote in Parliament		
05/12/2011	Act adopted by Council after consultation of Parliament		
05/12/2011	End of procedure in Parliament		
24/04/2012	Final act published in Official Journal		

Technical information

Procedure reference	2011/0805(NLE)
Procedure type	NLE - Non-legislative enactments
Procedure subtype	Consent by Parliament
Legal basis	Treaty on European Union TEU 49
Other legal basis	Rules of Procedure EP 165
Stage reached in procedure	Procedure completed
Committee dossier	AFET/7/06969

Documentation gateway

European Parliament

Document type	Committee	Reference	Date	Summary
Committee draft report		PE472.368	27/09/2011	
Committee report tabled for plenary, 1st reading/single reading		A7-0390/2011	22/11/2011	
Text adopted by Parliament, 1st reading/single reading		T7-0538/2011	01/12/2011	Summary

Council of the EU

Document type	Reference	Date	Summary
Supplementary legislative basic document	00030/2011	13/09/2011	
Supplementary legislative basic document	00031/2011	13/09/2011	

Supplementary legislative basic document	N7-0082/2011	04/10/2011	
Legislative proposal	14409/2011	07/11/2011	

European Commission

Document type	Reference	Date	Summary
Document attached to the procedure	COM(2011)0667	12/10/2011	Summary

National parliaments

Document type	Parliament /Chamber	Reference	Date	Summary
Contribution	PT_PARLIAMENT	COM(2011)0667	01/12/2011	

Additional information

Source	Document	Date
European Commission	EUR-Lex	

Final act

Decision 2012/0424(01)
OJ L 112 24.04.2012, p. 0006 Summary

Accession Treaty: accession of Croatia

2011/0805(NLE) - 05/12/2011 - Final act

PURPOSE: Accession Treaty of Croatia to the European Union.

ACT: Council Decision of the European Union of 5 December 2011 on the admission of the Republic of Croatia to the European Union.

CONTENT: in accordance with Article 49 of the Treaty on European Union, and given that the conditions of admission and the adjustments to the Treaties have been met, **the Council accepts Croatia's application for accession to the European Union** following a favourable opinion from the Commission and consent from the European Parliament.

Croatia also becomes:

- a Member of the European Union and the European Atomic Energy Community,
- Party to the Treaty on European Union, the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union and the Treaty establishing the European Atomic Energy Community, as amended or supplemented by treaties or other acts which entered into force before the accession of the Republic of Croatia.

The Treaty contains several appendixes including provisions relating to the **rights and obligations of Member States as well as provisions on the powers and responsibilities of the institutions of the Union shall also apply to Croatia**.

Croatia undertakes to accede to:

the principles underlying the European Union, including the provisions of the Schengen acquis, relevant provisions of the Economic and Monetary Union, all agreements between the EU and third countries and major international organisations, including to which the EU is a party and to which Croatia shall also become a Party;

- technical adjustments to the Treaties (particularly institutional matters to take into account the arrival of Croatia in the various EU institutions);

- a series of temporary and transitory measures;

- financial provisions (to determine the financial contribution of Croatia to certain EU bodies such as the EIB or other specific funds, ...);

- provisions on the monitoring of the reforms undertaken by Croatia (including the commitments made by Croatia in the area of judiciary and fundamental rights, impartial handling of war crime cases and the fight against corruption ...).

If Croatia fails to fulfil commitments undertaken in the context of the accession negotiations, including commitments in any sectoral policy which concerns economic activities with a cross-border effect, thereby causing a serious breach of the functioning of the internal market or a threat to the Union's financial interests or an imminent risk of such a breach or threat, the Commission may, until the end of a period of up to three years after accession, upon reasoned request of a Member State or on its own initiative, take appropriate measures.

These measures shall be proportionate and priority shall be given to measures which least disturb the functioning of the internal market and, where appropriate, to the application of the existing sectoral safeguard mechanisms.

ENTRY INTO FORCE: this treaty shall enter into force on 1 July 2013, provided that all the ratification instruments have been deposited before this date. Derogations have been provided for in some areas which are detailed in the Accession Treaty.

From the date of accession, all acts deemed applicable to the existing Member States are deemed to apply to Croatia, unless specific exemptions apply.

Accession Treaty: accession of Croatia

2011/0805(NLE) - 12/10/2011 - Document attached to the procedure

COMMISSION OPINION on the application for accession to the European Union by the Republic of Croatia.

Having regard to Article 49 of the TFEU, the Commission addresses an opinion to the Council on the application for accession of Croatia to the EU.

The Commission recalls that in its Opinion of 20 April 2004 on Croatia, the Commission has already expressed its views on certain essential aspects of the issues arising in connection with this application.

Accession criteria: the Commission recalls that the European Council meeting in Copenhagen in June 1993 laid down the conditions for eligibility that guide the accession process and the Commission's regular assessments of Croatia's readiness for membership. The political criteria require Croatia to ensure the stability of institutions guaranteeing democracy, the rule of law, human rights and respect for and protection of minorities; these requirements are now enshrined in the Treaty on European Union and the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union. The economic criteria require the existence of a functioning market economy as well as the capacity to cope with competitive pressure and market forces within the Union. The acquis criterion refers to the ability to take on the obligations of membership arising from the Treaties and the Union's legislation, the acquis, including adherence to the aims of political, economic and monetary union. The Union's capacity to absorb new members, while maintaining the momentum of European integration, is also an important consideration in the general interest of both the Union and the candidate country.

In parallel, the opinion highlights that Stabilisation and Association Process conditionality for the Western Balkan countries was defined by the Council on 31 May 1999 and includes **cooperation with the International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia, and regional cooperation**.

Negotiations: the conditions of admission and the adjustments to the Treaties were negotiated in a Conference between the Member States and Croatia. These negotiations were conducted in line with the negotiating framework, which provides for strict conditionality at the stage of opening and closing chapters. The negotiations were completed on **30 June 2011**, and the agreed provisions are fair and proper.

The Commission considers that Croatia meets the political criteria and expects Croatia to meet the economic and acquis criteria and to be ready for **membership by 1 July 2013**. Membership requires the continued respect of the values on which the Union is founded as well as the commitment to promoting them.

Reforms: Croatia has reached a high level of preparedness for membership. The Commission calls on Croatia to maintain its efforts to align with the acquis and further strengthen its administrative capacity, including through sustainable progress of its public administration reform. The Commission will continue to monitor closely Croatia's fulfilment of all the commitments undertaken in the accession negotiations, including those which must be achieved before the date of accession, and its continued preparations to assume the responsibilities of membership upon accession. Monitoring will focus in particular on **commitments undertaken by Croatia in the area of**:

- **the judiciary,**
- **the fight against corruption,**
- **fundamental rights,**
- **justice, freedom, and security, including border management,**
- **competition policy.**

If issues of concern are identified during the monitoring process and are not remedied by Croatia, the Commission will, when necessary, address early warning letters to the Croatian authorities and may propose to the Council to take all appropriate measures already prior to accession. The Commission also reserves the right to invoke the various **safeguard clauses** set out in the Accession Treaty as well as the **specific mechanism for State aid to the Croatian shipbuilding and steel industries**.

The enlargement of the European Union, through the accession of Croatia, will contribute to strengthening stability, freedom and prosperity in Europe. Croatia is expected to continue to play an active role in regional cooperation in the Western Balkans. The Commission welcomes Croatia's declaration on promoting European values in South-East Europe and in particular Croatia's commitment that bilateral issues should not obstruct the accession process of candidate countries. Croatia's accession confirms the EU's commitment to the European perspective of all the Western Balkan countries.

It is for this reason that the Commission delivers a **favourable opinion** on the accession to the European Union of the Republic of Croatia.

Accession Treaty: accession of Croatia

2011/0805(NLE) - 01/12/2011 - Text adopted by Parliament, 1st reading/single reading

The European Parliament adopted by 564 votes to 38, with 32 abstentions, a legislative resolution approving the draft Council Decision on the accession to the European Union of the Republic of Croatia.

The resolution recalls that the conditions for the admission of the applicant country and the modifications which its accession entails are set out in the draft Treaty concerning the Accession of the Republic of Croatia to the European Union, and whereas Parliament should be consulted on any substantial modifications to the draft Treaty. Moreover, the Commission must monitor further preparations for accession with rigour and objectivity and help the Croatian authorities to fulfil their commitments and obligations as entered into in the negotiations. The Commission must keep Parliament regularly informed of the extent to which the Croatian authorities honour their commitments in order to fully assume their membership obligations upon accession on 1 July 2013.

In this regard, the European Parliament consents to the European Union of the Republic of Croatia.