

PM IVO SANADER INFORMS EPP OF PROPOSAL FOR UNBLOCKING CROATIA'S ACCESSION NEGOTIATIONS

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At yesterday's Summit of heads of state and government of the EPP, Croatian Prime Minister **Ivo Sanader** had the opportunity to inform the leaders of his latest proposal to unblock the accession negotiations of Croatia.

"I welcome the latest effort of Prime Minister Ivo Sanader and I truly hope that it will help unblock Croatia's accession negotiations," said EPP President **Wilfried Martens**.

"Needless to say, the EPP is always ready to offer assistance and support for resolving the current stalemate," the EPP President added.

The full text of Prime Minister Ivo Sanader's proposal is as follows:

"TWO ALTERNATIVES FOR UNBLOCKING THE EU-CROATIA NEGOTIATIONS

JOINT DECLARATION

Croatia and Slovenia will sign a Joint Declaration stating that no document adopted after 25 June 1991 by either side can in any way prejudice a final resolution of the border issue between the two countries.

Slovenia will immediately lift the blockade, since the reason for the blockade will have been removed with the adoption of the Joint Declaration.

Slovenia can claim success in preventing any document in Croatia's EU negotiations to prejudice the border. Croatia can continue the negotiations. It is a win-win solution.

JOINT OPINION

The EU Presidency and the President of the European Commission will request the Council's and EC's legal services to issue a Joint Opinion on whether documents presented in the EU negotiations could prejudice the border.

If such Joint Opinion concludes that the documents could prejudice the border, Croatia will remove them from the accession process, and Slovenia will immediately lift the blockade.

If the Joint Opinion concludes that the documents cannot prejudice the border, Slovenia will immediately lift the blockade, since the reason for the blockade will have been removed.

Again, this 2nd alternative provides a win-win situation. Slovenia will receive the guarantees that no document prejudices the border. Croatia will continue with the EU negotiations."

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