

STATEMENT BY THE EPP ON CROATIA

20-06-2008



The European People's Party (EPP) expresses its satisfaction with further progress in the EU accession negotiations with Croatia and fully supports all the efforts aimed at concluding these negotiations during the mandate of the present European Commission. We encourage all sides involved to intensify their hard work in order to bring negotiations with Croatia to a successful conclusion as soon as possible.

The result of the Irish referendum should have no negative impact on the EU negotiations with Croatia. On the contrary, through successful accession negotiations with Croatia the European Union sends an important message that its enlargement policy is continuing, based on firm and precise criteria that guarantee full preparedness of the candidate country for the EU membership.

We expect Croatia to meet by the end of June all criteria outlined by the European Commission's President José Manuel Barroso. On the presumption of Croatia's accomplishments we ask the Commission to conclude the technical negotiations with Croatia in 2009.

EPP commends Croatia for the results achieved so far in the accession negotiation process and encourages it to continue with the good work. EPP is convinced that Croatia will soon become 28th European Union Member State, for the benefit of all Croatian citizens and the entire Union.

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