

## **EU - CROATIA JOINT PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEE**

**16th Meeting  
10-11 October 2012, Brussels**

### **JOINT RECOMMENDATIONS**

The Joint Parliamentary Committee, in accordance with Rule 3 of its Rules of Procedure and Article 116 of the EU-Croatia Stabilisation and Association agreement, addressed the following recommendations to the Stabilisation and Association Council and to the institutions of the Republic of Croatia and of the European Union:

1. Welcomed the ratification of Croatia's Accession Treaty by 16 parliaments of the EU Member States so far and called for its timely completion in all remaining Member States in order that Croatia joins the European Union on 1 July 2013.
2. Welcomed the European Commission's positive Monitoring report on Croatia's accession preparations, which highlighted key aspects in the fulfilment of the EU accession criteria; encouraged the Croatian Government to continue working in line with the European Commission's recommendations during forthcoming nine months prior to the accession.
3. Took note of the Croatian Government's efforts to deal with the economic crisis, in particular of the Government's strong commitment to fiscal consolidation; reiterated the importance of maintaining the momentum of economic and political reform and of further sustained efforts in order to generate stronger growth, new jobs and increase investments in line with actions undertaken by the EU to tackle the economic and financial crisis.
4. Stressed the need to continue the reforms in key areas such as competition policy, judiciary and fundamental rights as well as justice, freedom and security, with focus mainly on the fight against corruption, thus setting a positive example for the South-Eastern European region; called for addressing limited number of outstanding issues in other chapters.
5. Underlined the importance of enhancing governance and administrative capacity of central institutions as well as regional and local structures, in order to be able to fully meet the obligations of membership and efficiently coordinate European affairs as well as to effectively implement EU funds after the accession; recalled the importance of strengthening the role of the Croatian Parliament in the scrutiny of the EU legislation and policies; welcomed the engagement of Croatian observers in the European Parliament.
6. Emphasised the importance of Croatia's continued efforts in resolving the outstanding issues with neighbouring countries significant in view of the future accession of candidate countries from the region.