



Zagreb, 16 May 2013
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R E M A R K S

BY EU HIGH REPRESENTATIVE CATHERINE ASHTON AT A PRESS CONFERENCE WITH THE PRESIDENT OF CROATIA MR IVO JOSIPOVIĆ

Thank you, Mr President.

Can I begin by saying what a great pleasure it is to be here in Zagreb today.

I came here some years ago as a Minister from a Member State to the European Union to say at that time how delighted I was to see Croatia begin its journey towards the European Union. So it's wonderful for me to be back here today in the final days of the count-down towards Croatia becoming a full member of the European Union.

Mr President, I recognise the significance not only for this nation but for this region of your becoming part of the European Union. You have completed a journey, but I hope others in the region will also make it and I very much hope to see them become part of the European Union too.

I came to celebrate the relationship that you have in this region and the importance of your leadership, Mr President, and the leadership of this country, but more than anything I came to congratulate you.

I know there has been so much work and so many people who've had to do so much to get to this point. I want to thank them. I want to thank them on behalf of the European Union because your joining the European Union is not only good for you but it's going to be extremely good for the European Union Member States as well.

So thank you, Mr President, for your time and again congratulations to you and to the people of Croatia.

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