

PREDAVANJE / LECTURE

ANTE ČIČIN-ŠAIN

2007

ZAGREB, 20. RUJNA 2007. / ZAGREB, 20TH SEPTEMBER 2007
HRVATSKA NARODNA BANKA / CROATIAN NATIONAL BANK / TRG HRVATSKIH VELIKANA 3

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Programme

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16.30 – 17.50 h

PREDAVANJE, HNB, Okrugla dvorana

- Govor predstavnika Irsko-hrvatske poslovne udruge g. Gerarda Danahera
- Predavanje povjerenika Europske komisije g. Charlieja McCreevyja
- Uzvratno izlaganje potpredsjednika Vlade RH g. Damira Polančeca
- Uručivanje prigodnih darova povjereniku g. Charlieju McCreevyju i potpredsjedniku Vlade RH g. Damiru Polančecu

17.50 – 19.15 h

PRIJEM, HNB, dvorana 3 (polukat)

16:30 – 17:50

LECTURE, CNB, Round Hall

- *Address by Mr Gerard Danaher, representative of the Irish Croatian Business Association*
- *Lecture by Mr Charlie McCreevy, European Commissioner for Internal Market and Services*
- *Response address by Mr Damir Polančec, Vice Prime Minister of the Government of the Republic of Croatia*
- *Presentation of gifts to Commissioner McCreevy and Vice Prime Minister Polančec*

17:50 – 19:15

RECEPTION, CNB, room 3 (mezzanine)

Životopisi Biographies

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ANTE ČIČIN-ŠAIN, rođen 1935. u Splitu, diplomirani ekonomist, sveučilišni profesor i diplomat. Od 1965. aktivno djeluje na području međunarodnih ekonomskih odnosa kao član vladinih radnih skupina. Nakon prvih slobodnih izbora 1990. imenovan guvernerom Narodne banke Hrvatske. Nakon odlaska iz HNB-a 1992. bavi se diplomatskim poslovima: postaje prvi hrvatski veleposlanik u Bruxellesu, a poslije veleposlanik u Londonu i Dublinu. Danas je počasni konzul Irske u Hrvatskoj.



ANTE ČIČIN-ŠAIN was born in Split in 1935. Mr Čičin-Šain is an economist, university professor and diplomat. As a member of government task forces, he has since 1965 taken an active part in international economic affairs. After the first free elections in Croatia in 1990, he was appointed Governor of the National Bank of Croatia. He left this position in 1992 to pursue a diplomatic career, serving as the first Croatian ambassador in Brussels and as ambassador in London and Dublin. He is now the Honorary Consul of Ireland to Croatia.

GERARD DANAHER, rođen 1956., aktivni je član irske odvjetničke komore od 1978. Tijekom svoje karijere obnašao je razne dužnosti na državnoj i međunarodnoj razini. Direktor je Središnje banke Irske, član irske uprave za regulaciju finansijskih usluga (Financial Services Regulatory Authority) i počasni konzul Hrvatske u Irskoj.



GERARD DANAHER, born in 1956, has been a practising member of the Bar of Ireland since 1978. He has held various state and international posts throughout his career. Currently, he holds the position of a Director of the Central Bank of Ireland, he is a member of the Irish Financial Services Regulatory Authority and the Honorary Consul of Croatia to Ireland.

CHARLIE McCREEVY, rođen 1949., ovlašteni je računovođa. Prvi put izabran u zastupnički dom irskog parlamenta (Dáil Éireann) 1977., kao zastupnik županije Kildare, u kojoj je rođen. Dao je ostavku na taj položaj i postao član Europske komisije. Od 1992. obnaša različite dužnosti u vladama republikanske stranke Fianna Fáil: bio je ministar socijalne skrbi te ministar turizma i trgovine, a 1997. postaje ministar financija.



CHARLIE McCREEVY, born in 1949, qualified as a chartered accountant. In 1977 he was first elected to Dáil Éireann (Irish Parliament) for the constituency where he was born – County Kildare, Ireland. He has resigned his seat to become a Member of the European Commission. Since 1992 he has held various cabinet posts in Fianna Fáil-led governments including: Minister for Social Welfare, Minister for Tourism and Trade and latterly (1997) Minister for Finance.

DAMIR POLANČEC, rođen 1967., diplomirao na Agronomskom fakultetu u Zagrebu. Od ožujka 2000. član je Uprave poduzeća Podravka, zadužen za razvoj tržišta Hrvatske i jugoistočne Europe te upravljanje materijalima. Član je Upravnog odbora Hrvatskoga rukometnog saveza i predsjednik Rukometnog kluba "Podravka Vegeta" iz Koprivnice. Predsjednik je Gradskog odbora HDZ-a Koprivnica. Sredinom veljače 2005. izabran je za potpredsjednika Vlade RH.



DAMIR POLANČEC was born in 1967. He has graduated from the Zagreb Faculty of Agronomy, Department of Agroeconomy. In March 2000, he was appointed member of the Management Board of Podravka, in charge of market development in Croatia and South East Europe and material management. He is a member of the Management Committee of the Croatian Handball Association and the president of the Koprivnica handball club "Podravka Vegeta". He is the president of the Koprivnica City Board of the Croatian Democratic Union. At mid-February 2005, he was appointed Vice Prime Minister of the Government of the Republic of Croatia.



Govor g. Gerarda Danahera

Address by Mr Gerard Danaher

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Ovdje, u Hrvatskoj narodnoj banci nije potrebno posebno predstavljati Antu Čičin-Šaina. Međutim, primjereno je reći nekoliko riječi o onome što je prethodilo današnjem događaju.

Irska i Hrvatska oduvijek su imale mnogo toga zajedničkog.

Obje su male zemlje sa sličnom povijesti i zajedničkim vrijednostima. Isto tako, obje zemlje morale su se u iznimno nepovoljnim okolnostima izboriti za političku neovisnost i nacionalni opstanak. Zbog toga ne čudi što je u Iraca postojala velika potencijalna podrška Hrvatskoj. Međutim, da bi se taj potencijal ostvario, Hrvatsku je u Irskoj trebao predstavljati čovjek koji nije samo uspješan diplomat već i čovjek s kojim se irski narod mogao poistovjetiti. Pokojni predsjednik Tuđman zasigurno je odabroao pravog čovjeka za taj posao kad je imenovao dr. Čičin-Šaina za prvog veleposlanika Hrvatske u Irskoj.

Dr. Čičin-Šain nikad nije bio rezidentni veleposlanik u Dublinu. Međutim, njegovom zaslugom i zaslugom vlade koju je predstavljao, to nije spriječilo ubrzani i iznimno uspješni razvoj irsko-hrvatskih odnosa.

U tom je smislu osobito primjereno što se današnji događaji odvijaju u vrijeme kad je predsjednik Vlade dr. Ivo Sanader. Kao zamjenik ministra vanjskih poslova Republike Hrvatske dr. Sanader ostavio je snažan dojam u Dublinu i bitno pridonio političkim i gospodarskim vezama koje su se tada stvarale.

Povezanost dviju zemalja neizmјerno je ojačana bliskim odnosima koje je on tijekom godina razvio s našim premijerom, g. Ahernom, kao i s našim tadašnjim iznimno uspješnim ministrom financija, Charliejem McCreevym.

Doista, da bismo razumjeli važnost povezanosti koja se razvila između Irске i Hrvatske, trebamo se samo podsjetiti da je Hrvatskoj odobren pristup u Vijeće Europe u vrijeme kad je Irsko predsjedalo EU, te da je tijekom posljednjeg irskog predsjedanja EU dr. Sanader ponovno bio u Dublinu u trenutku kad je Hrvatska ostvarila status kandidata za punopravno članstvo u Europskoj uniji.

Kako se Hrvatska približava punopravnom članstvu u EU, važno je da dodatno ojačamo i razvijamo povezanost naših dviju zemalja. Iako sve države članice EU dijele slične vrijednosti, neke dijele i određene

Here, at the National Bank of Croatia of all places, Ante Čičin-Šain does not need any introduction. However, it is appropriate to say a few words about the background to today's event.

Ireland and Croatia have always had much in common.

Both are small countries with similar histories and shared values. In particular, both countries had to struggle against great odds for political independence and national survival. It is hardly surprising therefore that there was great potential support for Croatia among the Irish. However, to realise that potential, Croatia needed to be represented in Ireland not only by an accomplished diplomat but also by someone with whom Irish people would personally empathise. In selecting Dr Čičin-Šain as Croatia's first Ambassador to Ireland, the late President Tuđman certainly picked the right man for the job.

Dr Čičin-Šain was never a resident Ambassador in Dublin. It is a tribute to him and to the Government he represented that this did not impede the rapid and immensely successful development of Irish Croatian relations.

In this context, it is highly appropriate that today's events are occurring during the premiership of Dr Ivo Sanader. When Dr Sanader was Deputy Foreign Minister of Croatia, he made a memorable impact in Dublin and contributed hugely to the political and economic links then being forged.

The bond between the two countries was immeasurably strengthened by the close relationship he developed over the years with our Prime Minister, Mr Ahern, and also indeed with our then enormously successful Minister for Finance, Charlie McCreevy.

Indeed, to understand the significance of the links that developed between Ireland and Croatia, we need only remember that it was during one Irish EU Presidency that Croatia gained admission to the Council of Europe and, during the last Irish Presidency, Dr Sanader was again in Dublin when Croatia achieved candidate status for full membership of the European Union.

As Croatia advances towards full EU membership, it is important that we further strengthen and develop the links between our two countries. While all EU members share similar values, some also share certain self interests. In particular, close cooperation between the smaller members

posebne interese. Osobito je bliska suradnja manjih država članica u interesu svih zemalja, ne samo zato što povećava utjecaj manjih zemalja već i zato što pomaže većim zemljama time što olakšava povezivanje i promiče stabilnost.

Irsko-hrvatska poslovna udruga odlučila je započeti ovu seriju predavanja kako bi se jednom godišnje razgovori i kontakti između Irske i Hrvatske usredotočili na bitna gospodarska pitanja, te obilježio jedinstveni doprinos dr. Čičin-Šaina ovom procesu.

Velika pomoć Udrizi u poduzimanju ove inicijative bila je bezrezervna podrška sadašnjih hrvatskih diplomata u Irskoj, posebice veleposlanika Veselka Grubišića te zamjenika veleposlanika Antuna Babića, koji je počasni tajnik Udruge. Udruga je duboko zahvalna na pomoći veleposlanstvu Republike Hrvatske u Dublinu.

U ime Udruge također bih želio zahvaliti veleposlaniku Irske u Hrvatskoj što je danas ovdje. Veleposlanik McCabe svjestan je kao nerezidentni veleposlanik poteškoća s kojima su se u prošlosti suočavali njegovi hrvatski kolege. Ipak, veliku pomoć pruža mu iznimno aktivni počasni konzul Irske u Hrvatskoj, a to je, neobičnog li spleta okolnosti, nitko drugi do dr. Čičin-Šain.

Udruga je ponajviše zahvalna Hrvatskoj narodnoj banci. U ovom slučaju to nije samo puka fraza jer bez Hrvatske narodne banke ovaj događaj ne bi bio ni upola uspješan kao što će biti. S obzirom na blisku povezanost Hrvatske narodne banke, Središnje banke Irske i Irsko-hrvatske poslovne udruge, a da i ne spominjem osobnu ulogu koju je dr. Čičin-Šain imao u središnjoj banci, naša su očekivanja glede podrške i pomoći Hrvatske narodne banke kao domaćina ovoga događaja doista opravdano bila vrlo velika. Od prvog trenutka kad je pozvana da sudjeluje u ovome projektu, Hrvatska narodna banka pokazala je zaista iznimnu angažiranost.

U ime Udruge želio bih izraziti našu iskrenu zahvalnost guverneru Željku Rohatinskom na njegovoj cijelokupnoj pomoći i podršci. Posebice bih želio zahvaliti viceguverneru Tomislavu Presečanu s kojim sam prethodno imao čast surađivati na drugom projektu, a čija je posvećenost uspješnom ostvarenju ovoga predavanja dovela do toga da je stekao gotovo jednak broj irskih prijatelja kao sam dr. Čičin-Šain.

is in everyone's interest, adding as it does to the influence of the smaller countries but also assisting the larger states by facilitating cohesion and promoting stability.

The Irish Croatian Business Association decided to establish this series of lectures as a means of providing an annual focus for discussion and contact between Ireland and Croatia on matters of economic interest, as well as marking Dr Čičin-Šain's own unique contribution to this process.

The Association has been greatly assisted in undertaking this initiative by the whole hearted encouragement of Croatia's current diplomats in Ireland, in particular Ambassador Veselko Grubišić, and Deputy Ambassador Antun Babić who, of course, is the Honorary Secretary of the Association. The Association is deeply grateful to the Croatian Embassy in Dublin for its support.

On behalf of the Association, I also wish to thank Ireland's Ambassador to Croatia for being here today. As a non-resident Ambassador himself, Ambassador McCabe will appreciate the difficulties previously encountered by his Croatian counterparts but he is assisted by a very active Irish Honorary Consul who, by a strange coincidence, is none other one Dr Čičin-Šain.

Above all, the Association is indebted to the National Bank of Croatia. In this case, it is not a cliché to say that, without the National Bank, this event would not be half the success it is going to be. Given the close connections between the National Bank of Croatia, the Central Bank of Ireland and the Irish Croatian Business Association, not to mention Dr Čičin-Šain's own former role in the National Bank, we had reasonable, and indeed perhaps fairly high, expectations of support and assistance from the National Bank as regards hosting this event. However, as it has transpired, the commitment of the National Bank of Croatia to this project from the moment it was first invited to participate has been truly astonishing.

On behalf of the Association, I wish to extend our sincere thanks to Governor Željko Rohatinski for all his assistance and support. In particular, I wish to thank Deputy Governor Tomislav Presečan whom I was privileged to work with on another project in the past but whose dedication to ensuring that this lecture was a success has led to him having made nearly as many Irish friends as perhaps Dr Čičin-Šain himself.

Ne sumnjam da današnji dan nije samo vrhunac jednog zajedničkog pothvata u kojemu sudjeluju Hrvatska narodna banka i Udruga, već i polazište za mnoge druge pothvate.

Naposljetku stižem i do naših gostujućih govornika.

Udruzi je čast što je, kao važan član Vlade Republike Hrvatske, odgovoran za sva ministarstva povezana s gospodarstvom, potpredsjednik Vlade Polančec pristao održati uzvratno izlaganje na ovogodišnje predavanje. Zbog dobro poznate uspješnosti Vlade u vođenju hrvatskoga gospodarstva posljednjih nekoliko godina izlaganje potpredsjednika Vlade Polančeca iščekujemo s velikim zanimanjem.

I tako dolazimo do povjerenika McCreevyja.

Na moje veliko osobno zadovoljstvo, kao i zadovoljstvo svih ostalih njegovih prijatelja u Irsko-hrvatskoj poslovnoj udruzi, on je pristao održati ovo predavanje. Kao ministar financija u Dublinu oduvijek je bio veliki zagovornik Udruge i dobar prijatelj Hrvatske.

Naravno, vjerojatnije je da će biti zapamćen po onim danim kad je kao ministar financija bio na čelu najuspješnijega gospodarstva u Europskoj uniji. Tijekom tih godina provedeno je mnogo inventivnih političkih odluka, napravljeno mnogo smionih izbora i doneseno mnogo teških odluka, te pomno praćena njihova provedba. Često je bilo vrlo teško i izazovno napraviti neke od spomenutih izbora i nadgledati provedbu nekih odluka. Međutim, nema sumnje da je današnje blagostanje Irske uvelike posljedica njegove sposobnosti da gotovo uvijek napravi dobar izbor i da apsolutno uvijek pomno prati njegovo ostvarivanje.

Dok je bio ministar financija, uvijek je bio iznimno svjestan goleme važnosti članstva Irske u Europskoj uniji.

Sada, kao povjerenik nadležan za unutarnje tržište Europske unije, u idealnoj je poziciji procijeniti izazove i mogućnosti s kojima se Hrvatska suočava na svom putu k punopravnom članstvu u Europskoj uniji, koje se pokazalo tako uspješnim za Irsku.

Dame i gospodo, velika mi je čast predstaviti povjerenika McCreevyja.

I have no doubt but that today marks not only the culmination of one joint enterprise involving the National Bank and the Association but the starting point of many more.

Finally, I come to our guest speakers.

As the senior member of the Government of Croatia with responsibility for all the economic ministries, the Association is privileged that Deputy Prime Minister Polančec has agreed to deliver the response to this year's lecture. The successful management by government of the Croatian economy in the last few years is well known and we therefore look forward to Deputy Prime Minister Polančec's response with keen interest.

And so we come to Commissioner McCreevy.

It is a great personal pleasure for me and his other friends in the Irish Croatian Business Association that he agreed to deliver this lecture. As Minister for Finance in Dublin, he was always a great supporter of the Association and a good friend of Croatia.

Of course, he is perhaps more likely to be remembered from those days as the Minister for Finance who presided over the most successful economy in the European Union. During those years, a lot of imaginative policies were implemented, a lot of bold choices were made and a lot of tough decisions were taken - and stood over. Making some of those choices and standing over some of those decisions was often quite difficult and controversial. However, there is no doubt that Ireland's prosperity today is due in very significant part to his ability to make the right choice, almost invariably, and to stand over it, absolutely invariably.

While Minister for Finance, he was always acutely aware of the enormous significance of Ireland's membership of the European Union.

Now, as the Commissioner in charge of the internal market of the European Union, he is ideally placed to deliver an assessment of the challenges and opportunities facing Croatia as it moves towards that full membership of the European Union which has proved so successful for Ireland.

Ladies and Gentlemen, it is my great honour to introduce Commissioner McCreevy.



Predavanje g. Charlieja McCreevya

Lecture by Mr Charlie McCreevy

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Vaše ekselencije, dame i gospodo,
veliko mi je zadovoljstvo biti danas ovdje, u Zagrebu kako bih održao
drugo predavanje "Ante Čičin-Šain".

Ovom prilikom zahvaljujem Irsko-hrvatskoj poslovnoj udruzi na organizaciji i Hrvatskoj narodnoj banci što je pristala biti domaćin ovog predavanja.

Na početku bih želio odati priznanje dr. Ante Čičin-Šainu, za kojega znam da je, kao prvi guverner Hrvatske narodne banke, nadgledao uvođenje hrvatskog dinara.

Dr. Čičin-Šain bio je prvi veleposlanik Republike Hrvatske u Irskoj, nakon čega je postao prvi počasni konzul Irske u Hrvatskoj. Znam da je i dalje duboko zainteresiran za Irsku i da nikad nije prestao biti potpuno uključen u sve aspekte irsko-hrvatskih odnosa i prijateljstva.

Želim također odati priznanje vašem premijeru, koji je, znam, također bio na čelu kampanje za članstvo Republike Hrvatske u Europskoj uniji, a koje će Hrvatskoj donijeti znatne koristi u idućim godinama.

Hrvatska je prva zemlja kandidat za EU koju sam posjetio otkako sam imenovan povjerenikom za unutarnje tržište. Kad se moja vlastita zemlja pridružila EU – odnosno EEZ-u, kako se prije 35 godina zvao – mogućnosti koje su nam se tada otvorile, kao relativno nerazvijenoj državi članici, bile su goleme. Ipak, one nisu bile ništa u usporedbi s današnjim mogućnostima.

Posljednja proširenja EU – posebice pridruživanje deset novih država članica prije tri godine, među kojima je nekoliko brzorastućih gospodarstava s tržištima u nastajanju – donijela su Evropi novu veliku dinamičnost i stvorila nove poslovne mogućnosti na znatno većem tržištu. Potresi dvaju svjetskih ratova doveli su do povijesnih okolnosti zbog kojih se Hrvatska, koja je povijesno oduvijek bila u srcu Europe, kasno pridružuje procesu razvoja Europske unije. Međutim, mogućnosti jedinstvenog tržišta od 500 milijuna ljudi koji sada nastanjuju prošireno i još više jedinstveno tržište, takve su da će ih Hrvatska, siguran sam, najbolje iskoristiti kad se pridruži Uniji.

Nakon nekoliko godina slabijih gospodarskih rezultata Europa u posljednje vrijeme doživljava zamjetan rast. Čini se da je spremna

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is a great pleasure for me to be here in Zagreb today to deliver the second Čičin-Šain Lecture.

I would like to thank the Irish Croatian Business Association for organising and the Croatian National Bank for hosting this lecture.

I want in the first instance to pay tribute to Dr Ante Čičin-Šain, who I know, as first Governor of the Croatian National Bank, oversaw the introduction of the Croatian dinar.

Dr Čičin-Šain was Croatia's first Ambassador to Ireland and after that became the first Irish Honorary Consul to Croatia. I know that he retains a deep interest in Ireland and has never ceased to be centrally involved in all aspects of Irish Croatian relations and friendship.

I want also to pay tribute to your Prime Minister, who I know also has been at the forefront of the campaign for Croatia's membership of the European Union, which will be of considerable benefit to Croatia in the years ahead.

Croatia is the first EU applicant country that I have visited since my appointment as Commissioner for the Internal Market. When my own country joined the EU – or the EEC as it then was – 35 years ago, the opportunities that opened up to us as a relatively underdeveloped Member State were enormous. But they were as nothing compared to today.

The most recent EU enlargements – in particular the addition of ten new Member States three years ago – have brought a tremendous new dynamism to Europe, including several fast growing emerging economies – creating new business opportunities in a much bigger marketplace. Therefore, while the upheavals of two World Wars produced the accident of history whereby Croatia, which was always historically at the heart of Europe, is arriving late in the development of the European Union, the opportunities provided by the single market of 500 million people that now populate the enlarged and more single market, are one's I am sure Croatia will make the most of once it joins.

After several years of underperformance Europe has more recently experienced a significant upturn. It now looks set to outpace the United States in terms of economic growth both this year and

nadmašiti gospodarskim rastom Sjedinjene Američke Države, i ove i sljedeće godine. Nezaposlenost u eurozoni smanjila se s više od 9 posto na manje od 7 posto u samo dvije godine. To je dobro. Ali nije dovoljno dobro. Gospodarski rast u nekim važnim državama članicama još uvijek je sporiji nego što bi mogao biti. Za poboljšanje je ključno da se tržišna integracija i reforme koje smo pokrenuli prodube i ubrzaju u sljedećim godinama.

Očigledno je da Hrvatska ostvaruje kontinuirano poboljšanje relativnih gospodarskih pokazatelja: rast prelazi 6 posto, inflacija je oko prosjeka EU, a stalno se napreduje i u smanjenju manjka proračuna opće države. U svjetlu navedenog uopće ne sumnjam da će održivi napredak biti nagrađen, pod uvjetom da se strukturne reforme nastave i da se energično provode, te pod uvjetom da se obuzda rastuća neravnотеžа na računu robne razmjene i tekućem računu platne bilance.

Hrvatski bi gospodarski uspjeh u budućnosti također trebali uvelike poboljšati uspješan prijenos i provedba pravne stečevine EU, okvira koji svim gospodarskim subjektima pruža jednaka pravila igre, na osnovi kojega međunarodni ulagači mogu imati povjerenje i povećati svoja izravna ulaganja u zemlju te koji potiče potencijal rasta hrvatskoga gospodarstva. Međutim, taj će potencijal isto tako ovisiti o sposobnosti EU da dodatno ojača integraciju europskoga tržišta, o našoj sposobnosti da nastavimo smanjivati prepreke prekograničnom tržišnom natjecanju, da djelotvorno provodimo postojeće zakone te osiguramo da se donošenje zakona u budućnosti temelji na jasnom planu usavršavanja propisa i povećavanja konkurentnosti. Europa također mora ostati predvodnica kad je riječ o naporima da se dodatno otvore svjetska tržišta, od čega bi svi imali koristi – i razvijene države i države u razvoju.

Globalizacija donosi goleme izazove. Ali mogućnosti koje otvorenost nudi i dinamičnost koju ona potiče, najbolje su jamstvo za rast blagostanja. To je razlog zbog kojeg Europa mora prigriliti globalizaciju i prihvatići promjene koje ona donosi.

Kao što znam iz iskustva vlastite zemlje, ako ste mala zemlja, to je nedostatak nemate li neometan pristup velikim, otvorenim tržištima. Golema je prednost ako ga imate. Ali samo ako se usredotočite na ono što potiče izravna ulaganja u zemlju i poduzetništvo te ako

next. Unemployment in the Eurozone has fallen from over 9 per cent to under 7 per cent in just two years. That's good. But it's not good enough. Growth in some significant Member States is still slower than it could be. The key to improvement is for the market integration and market reforms upon which we have embarked to go deeper and faster in the years ahead.

Clearly Croatia is achieving steady improvements in relative economic performance with growth running at more than 6 per cent, inflation at around the EU average, and steady progress in reducing the general government balance. Sustained progress along these lines will, I have no doubt, be rewarded, provided structural reforms continue and are implemented vigorously, and provided also that rising imbalances in the trade and current accounts are contained.

Croatia's economic success in the future should also be greatly enhanced by the effective transposition and implementation of the EU acquis, a framework that provides a level playing field for economic operators, one in which international investors can have the confidence to increase the flow of inward investment and propel the growth potential of the Croatian economy. But that potential will be dependant too on the EU's ability to further deepen the integration of the European market, on our ability to continue to reduce the barriers to competition across borders, to effectively enforce our existing laws, and to ensure that future law making is based on our clear-cut agenda of better regulation and enhanced competitiveness. Europe must also remain at the forefront of the drive to further open up world markets from which everyone can benefit – developed and developing nations alike.

The challenges of globalization are formidable. But the opportunities that openness offers and the dynamism that it stimulates are the best guarantee of rising prosperity. That's why Europe must embrace globalization and embrace the changes that it demands.

As I know from the experience of my own country, smallness is a handicap if you don't have unfettered access to large, open markets. It is a tremendous benefit if you do. But only if you focus on and implement what it is that stimulates inward investment and entrepreneurship – the development of an efficient communications

to provodite – ako nastojite stvoriti djelotvornu komunikacijsku infrastrukturu, znatan intelektualni kapital, konkurentnu poreznu strukturu i pogodno zakonsko okružje te ako promičete fleksibilne zakone o radu, djelotvoran javni sektor te zdrave i održive javne financije. To su sve vitalno važni čimbenici. Naravno, malim je gospodarstvima teže zato što na svojem matičnom tržištu nemaju prednosti ekonomije razmjera. Ali imaju prednost fleksibilnosti, koja često izmiče velikim tržišnim natjecateljima. A biti uspješan u malom gospodarstvu, težeći izvrsnosti samo u malom broju područja – u kojima se komparativne prednosti mogu utvrditi i razvijati – može biti jako bitno za ukupne gospodarske rezultate i izvozni potencijal.

Ipak, ključnu važnost za dugoročni uspjeh svakoga gospodarstva imaju pravosuđe i javna uprava, koji osiguravaju da se pravni postupci provode pravedno, nepristrano i u skladu s potrebama tržišnoga gospodarstva, te da su pravila igre jednaka za sve gospodarske subjekte.

U tom smislu prijenos postojeće pravne stećevine EU ima jednako ključnu ulogu kao i daljnje mјere koje smo predviđeli za iduće razdoblje.

Dosad je unutarnje tržište ostvarilo velik uspjeh: potaknulo je gospodarski rast u Europi, stvorilo milijune novih radnih mjesta, proširilo mogućnost izbora i intenziviralo tržišno natjecanje – na dobrobit svih građana Europe. Poduzećima je olakšana prekogranična trgovina, koja uz nove inicijative kao što su Direktiva o uslugama te modernizacija carinske unije postaje još lakša. To europskim poduzećima daje više mogućnosti za izvoz i rast. Ipak, mi još nismo ni blizu ostvarivanja našega punog potencijala – potencijala koji će se moći u potpunosti ostvariti kad još poradimo na liberalizaciji tržišta poput tržišta energije i tržišta poštanskih usluga, kad dodatno osnažimo integraciju finansijskog tržišta poboljšavajući njegovu infrastrukturu, pomoću jedinstvenoga paneuropskoga platnog sustava i slobodnijega prekograničnoga kretanja kapitala i investicijskih usluga. Jednako je važna i potreba da se ojačaju europske inovacijske sposobnosti pomoću djelotvornijeg i troškovno učinkovitijeg okvira za registriranje i zaštitu intelektualnog vlasništva. Na svim se spomenutim područjima trenutačno radi.

infrastructure, of a substantial pool of intellectual capital, of a competitive tax structure, of a light touch regulatory environment, the promotion of flexible labour laws, of an efficient public sector, and of sound and sustainable public finances. These are all vital elements. Small economies of course suffer the handicap of lack of scale in their home market. But they have the advantage of flexibility that often eludes larger competitors. And in a small economy being successful through the pursuit of excellence in just a small number of areas – where comparative advantage can be identified and developed – can make a big difference to overall economic performance and export potential.

What is critical to the long term success of any economy, however, is a judicial and public administration framework that ensures that the legal processes are fairly and impartially enforced and appropriate to the needs of a market economy, and that there is a level playing field for economic operators.

In this regard the transposition of the existing EU acquis has a key role to play as have further measures that we have in mind for the period ahead.

To date, the Internal Market has been a great success: It has boosted European growth, created millions of new jobs, expanded choice, and deepened competition – to the benefit of all the citizens of Europe. For businesses cross border trade is easier. And with recent initiatives – like the Services Directive and the modernized Customs Union – it is getting easier still. So Europe's businesses have more opportunities to export and grow. But we are still nowhere near reaching our full potential – potential that will only be fully realised when we have done more to liberalize markets like energy and postal services, when we further deepen financial market integration through improved financial market infrastructure, a single pan-European payment system, and freer movement of capital and investment services across borders. Equally important is the need to strengthen Europe's capacity to innovate through a more streamlined and cost effective framework for the registration and protection of intellectual property. Work is under way in all of these areas.

Želim vidjeti uspješniju provedbu i primjenu propisa o javnoj nabavi, što je, po mom mišljenju, posebno važno za nove države članice i države kandidate za članstvo u EU, u kojima nije sve onako kako bi trebalo ili moglo biti. Ne mogu dovoljno naglasiti koliko je to važno, ne samo zato što je poreznim obveznicima potrebno pružiti najbolju vrijednost za novac već i zato da bi se ulagačima i gospodarskim subjektima pokazalo da države članice imaju poštene, otvorene i transparentne sustave javne uprave te jednaka pravila igre za sve. Kad se to ostvari, potaknut će se ulaganja, ubrzat će se gospodarski rast, bit će veći prihodi državne blagajne i osigurat će se sredstva za financiranje daljnog razvoja i poboljšanja infrastrukture te drugih javnih potreba putem opsežnijeg programa javne nabave. Postojeći okvir za javnu nabavu u EU obuhvaća javne usluge i javne radove iznad minimalnih iznosa. No, nadam se da će se on uskoro proširiti kako bi obuhvatio koncesije, a s vremenom i javno-privatna partnerstva. Radi se također na jačanju okvira koji bi trebao omogućiti jednostavniju i manje opterećujuću pravnu zaštitu strankama oštećenima u natječajnom postupku, a pojasnit će se i pravila koja se odnose na nabavu sigurnosne i obrambene opreme. Konkurenca pri natjecanju i djelotvorna nabava imaju ključnu ulogu u jačanju gospodarske konkurentnosti. Njihova uspješnost može znatno smanjiti porezno opterećenje pojedinaca i poduzeća te poduprijeti postizanje zdravih javnih financija i finansijske stabilnosti. Prijenos propisa Europske unije o javnoj nabavi u nacionalne propise stoga je važan svim državama kandidatima, no još je važnija njihova uspješna provedba.

Sljedeće područje za koje znam da zanima građane Hrvatske jest pružanje usluga. Prošle je godine Direktiva o uslugama prošla proceduru u Parlamentu i Vijeću te se sad nalazi u fazi prijenosa u nacionalna zakonodavstva. Njezin je cilj da građani, potrošači i poduzeća u najvećoj mogućoj mjeri uživaju dobrobiti jedinstvenog tržišta.

U deset godina od donošenja prvog programa jedinstvenog tržišta 1993. oticanje prepreka rezultiralo je otvaranjem barem 2,5 milijuna dodatnih radnih mjesta te povećanjem bogatstva za gotovo 900 milijardi eura (prosječno oko 6000 eura po obitelji u EU).

I want to see more effective application and enforcement of public procurement rules. This, I believe, is particularly important for new and applicant Member States where all has not been as it should be or could be. I cannot stress too strongly the importance of this not just from the perspective of delivering value for money to the taxpayer but also for signalling to investors and economic operators that Member States operate fair, open, transparent systems of public administration and a level playing field. When that is in place investment is stimulated, economic growth is faster, exchequer revenues are stronger and there is the means to finance more and better infrastructure and other public needs through a bigger public procurement programme. The current public procurement framework in the EU covers public services and public works over minima thresholds. But it will, I hope, soon be extended to cover concessions and in due course public-private partnerships. We have also been working on the strengthening of the framework to facilitate simpler and less cumbersome remedies for aggrieved parties in the tendering process and will also be clarifying the rules applicable to the procurement of security and defence equipment. Competitive tendering and effective procurement play a key role in enhancing economic competitiveness. Done properly it can significantly reduce the tax burden on individuals and business, and helps to underpin sound public finances and financial stability. Transposition of the public procurement rules is therefore important for applicant Member States but effective enforcement is even more so.

Another area which I know is of interest to people in Croatia relates to the provision of services. Last year we completed the steering of the Services Directive through the Parliament and the Council and we are now at the transposition stage. The Services Directive aims to maximise the benefits of the Single Market for citizens, consumers and businesses.

In the decade after the completion of the first Single Market programme in 1993, the removal of barriers created at least 2.5 million extra jobs and an increase in wealth of nearly €900 billion (on average about €6,000 per family in the EU).

Kako su poduzeća nalazila nova tržišta u drugim državama članicama, jačalo je tržišno natjecanje. U mnogim su segmentima cijene smanjene, dok su se opseg i kvaliteta proizvoda dostupnih potrošačima povećali.

Međutim, najveću smo korist uočili na tržištu dobara. Kad je riječ o uslugama, jedinstveno tržište još ne funkcionira onako kako bi trebalo. Još uvijek postoje prepreke koje pružateljima usluga onemogućuju uspostavljanje poslovnog nastana u drugim državama članicama – ili prekograničnu trgovinu. Potrebno je riješiti ta pitanja jer su usluge važne za EU. One čine između 60 i 70 posto gospodarske aktivnosti u 27 država članica EU.

Kad se Direktiva o uslugama prenese u nacionalna zakonodavstva država članica, poduzeća će moći uspostaviti poslovni nastan bilo gdje u EU – štedeći vrijeme i novac. Pružatelji usluga moći će dobiti informacije te obaviti administrativne formalnosti na jednom mjestu u svakoj državi članici, što bi trebalo uvelike ubrzati dobivanje odobrenja za rad i smanjiti troškove. Poduzeće koje želi izgraditi i voditi hotel ili dućan u drugoj državi članici neće se više morati obraćati različitim tijelima na nacionalnoj, regionalnoj i lokalnoj razini.

Pružatelji usluga moći će putem interneta ispuniti sve formalnosti vezane uz pokretanje posla. Na taj će način izbjegći troškove i neugodnosti višekratnih posjeta različitim tijelima u državama članicama u kojima namjeravaju pružati usluge.

Sustavi izdavanja odobrenja za rad u državama članicama bit će jasniji, transparentniji, manje restriktivni i nediskriminacijski. Kako sada stvari stoje, dobivanje odobrenja za rad može biti pothvat nepredvidivog ishoda i trajanja, što podrazumijeva znatna kašnjenja i troškove glede naknada za pravne savjete, angažiranja osoblja u pregovorima i izgubljene dobiti.

Nadam se da će s vremenom – čak i ako to ne bude za mandata ove Komisije – Europa moći proširiti Direktivu o uslugama te opseg njezine primjene kako bi se ostvario iznimski potencijal, koji konkurentan i dinamičan sektor usluga može donijeti na paneuropskoj razini.

Competition increased as companies found new markets in other Member States. In many areas, prices came down and the range and quality of products available to consumers increased.

But most of the benefits that we saw occurred in goods markets. For services, the Single Market is not yet working as well as it should. There are still barriers hindering service providers from establishing themselves in other Member States – or trading across borders. This needs to be addressed because services are important to the EU. They account for between 60 and 70% of economic activity in the 27 Member States of the EU.

Once the Services Directive is transposed, businesses will be able to establish themselves anywhere in the EU – saving time and money. Service providers will be able to obtain information and complete administrative formalities through single points of contact in each Member State. This should substantially speed up authorisation and reduce costs. A business wishing to build and run a hotel or a store in another Member State will no longer have to deal with several different authorities at national, regional and local level.

A service provider will be able to complete all formalities to set up a business online. They will avoid the expense and inconvenience of multiple visits to authorities in the Member State into which they intend to provide services.

Authorisation schemes in Member States will be clearer, more transparent, less restrictive and non-discriminatory. Currently, getting authorisation can be an unpredictable and time-consuming exercise involving substantial delays and cost in terms of legal fees, staff dealing with negotiations and foregone profits.

In due course – even if not during the life of this Commission – I hope that Europe will be able to extend the Services Directive and widen its scope of application so that the huge potential that a competitive and dynamic pan-European services industry can bring is realised.

Lastly, Ladies and Gentlemen, I want to say a few words about the single currency and fiscal policy.

As the experience in Croatia has already demonstrated, the benefits of joining a stability-orientated monetary system are enormous. At the most obvious level, avoiding the need for currency conversion

Naposljetu, dame i gospodo, dopustite mi da kažem nekoliko riječi o jedinstvenoj valuti i fiskalnoj politici.

Kao što je hrvatsko iskustvo već pokazalo, znatne se koristi mogu ostvariti pridruživanjem monetarnom sustavu koji je usmjeren na stabilnost. Odmah se može zamijetiti da nepostojanje potrebe konvertiranja valute omogućuje pojedincima i poduzećima uspješnije poslovanje unutar područja jedinstvene valute i smanjuje transakcijske troškove. Time se povećava transparentnost troškova i cijena, što s druge strane potiče veću konkurentnost i povećava produktivnost. Međutim, tu doprinos jedinstvene valute ne prestaje: ona omogućuje zemljama iz europodručja da budu uspješnije zastupljene na svjetskoj gospodarskoj sceni te da se suoče s izazovima koje im donosi globalno gospodarstvo. Europodručje čini gotovo šestinu svjetskog BDP-a, a podjednak mu je i udjel u svjetskoj trgovinskoj razmjeni. Na euro se odnosi gotovo jedna trećina međunarodnog tržišta duga i znatan dio međunarodnih bankovnih obveza i deviznih transakcija. Nove države članice imaju dobre izglede da ostvare dobrobit dalnjom monetarnom integracijom. Njihova su gospodarstva, uglavnom, vrlo otvorena i sve se više i više integriraju u gospodarstvo EU na područjima trgovine, inozemnih izravnih ulaganja i finansijske povezanosti. Izgledi su za daljnju gospodarsku i finansijsku integraciju dobri. Želio bih pohvaliti uspjeh koji je u razdoblju od proglašenja neovisnosti Hrvatska ostvarila povezujući vrijednost svoje valute prvo s njemačkom markom, a zatim s eurom, kao i u održavanju kretanja tečaja u uskom rasponu.

Međutim, izazovi s kojima se suočavaju nove države članice koje se žele priključiti europodručju nisu zanemarivi: iako Hrvatsku trenutačno ne odlikuje tržište rada s viškom radnih mjesta, kako se gospodarska ekspanzija bude nastavljala – i kako se kamatne stope budu približavale razinama u eurozoni – situacija bi se na tom području mogla promijeniti u srednjoročnom razdoblju. U tim će okolnostima biti važno da fiskalna politika ostane primjerena te da se izbjegnu prociklički impulsi. Razborita fiskalna politika, djelotvoran nadzor nad finansijskim sustavom i strukturne reforme kojima se liberaliziraju tržišta rada, proizvoda i kapitala imaju ključnu ulogu u podupiranju eksterne održivosti i konkurentnosti. Za sve države članice – nove i one koje će to postati – obuzdavanje inflatornih pritisaka nije samo pitanje udovoljavanja maastrichtskim kriterijima

facilitates more efficient interaction within the single currency area for people and businesses and lowers transaction costs. It increases cost and price transparency which in turn stimulates greater competition and enhances productivity. But the single currency does more: It enables the Euro area countries to be more effectively represented on the world economic stage and to address the challenges faced by the global economy. The Euro area represents about one sixth of world GDP and roughly the same proportion of world trade. The Euro accounts for about one third of the international debt market and for a significant part of international bank liabilities and foreign exchange transactions. New Member States are very well placed to benefit from further monetary integration. They are, in the main, very open economies and are more and more closely integrated with the EU economy in terms of trade, foreign direct investment, and financial linkages. The prospects for further economic and financial integration are good. I want to commend Croatia's success since independence in tying the value of its currency to the Deutsche Mark in the first instance, and then to the Euro, and in keeping the exchange rate within a narrow band.

But the policy challenges for new Member States seeking to join the Euro area are not insubstantial: While Croatia for example does not presently have a tight labour market, as economic expansion continues – and with interest rates converging towards Eurozone levels – this could change over the medium term. It will be important in those circumstances that the fiscal stance remains appropriate and that pro-cyclical impulses are avoided. Prudent fiscal policies, effective financial supervision and structural reforms that liberalize labour, product, and capital markets play a key role in sustaining external sustainability and competitiveness. For all Member States – new and prospective – containing inflationary pressures is not just a question of meeting Maastricht criteria at a particular point in time but a key element to safeguard competitiveness and long-term macroeconomic stability.

Ladies and Gentlemen, it is only a few months since we celebrated the 50th anniversary of the Treaty of Rome. Over the intervening 50 years European integration has brought great prosperity to the members of the EU. And not just prosperity: freedom and security

u određenom trenutku nego i ključan element za očuvanje konkurentnosti i dugoročne makroekonomske stabilnosti.

Dame i gospodo, prošlo je tek nekoliko mjeseci od obilježavanja 50. obljetnice Ugovora iz Rima. Tijekom tog 50-godišnjeg razdoblja europske su integracije donijele veliko blagostanje članicama EU. I to ne samo blagostanje nego također slobodu i sigurnost. Međutim, to blagostanje, sloboda i sigurnost počivaju na istoj, jedinstvenoj osnovi – miru.

Kao i vi, dolazim iz zemlje koja je u prošlosti bila duboko podijeljena. Iznimno sam svjestan činjenice da se trajan mir može postići tek onda kad se pomirba između bivših neprijatelja duboko ukorjeni. To od ljudi zahtijeva zrelost, odnosno opruštanje prošlih događaja, a da ih se ne zaboravi, te suglasnost da se stare bitke ostave po strani i krene naprijed u ostvarivanje zajedničkih ciljeva.

Zbog paralelnog jačanja integracija i postupnog širenja Europa je danas puno sigurnija i bogatija nego na početku integracijskih procesa. I danas, s 27 država članica i brojem stanovnika od gotovo 500 milijuna, Europa je puno snažnija u svjetskim razmjerima nego prije 35 godina kad se, nakon pristupanja Ujedinjenog Kraljevstva, Irske i Danske, broj članica EU povećao sa 6 na 9, i kad je broj stanovnika iznosio nešto manje od polovine sadašnjeg broja stanovnika. Danas je naš utjecaj na svjetsko gospodarstvo znatno veći, a s pristupanjem zemalja poput Hrvatske i drugih zemalja Europa će postati još snažnija i moćnija. Želim vam sve najbolje u dalnjem napretku na putu prema članstvu u EU. Nadam se da ćete se uspjeti brzo približiti ispunjenju svih dogovorenih minimalnih preduvjeta vezanih uz pravnu stećevinu EU. Hrvatska će se susresti s velikim izazovima i mogućnostima. Siguran sam da ćete se uspješno suočiti s tim izazovima i prigrlići mnoge uzbudljive mogućnosti koje će vam biti na raspolaganju.

too. But prosperity, freedom and security are built on the same, single foundation – peace.

Like you, I come from a country that in the past was deeply divided. I am acutely aware that lasting peace is only achieved when the roots of reconciliation between former enemies gets firmly entrenched. That requires maturity from people: it requires forgiving the past without forgetting it, agreeing to set aside ancient battles and to move forward on the basis of shared, common goals.

As a result of parallel deepening of integration and gradual widening, Europe is today much safer and more prosperous than it was when the integration process started. And now with 27 Member States and a population of close on 500 million Europe is much stronger and more powerful in the world than it was 35 years ago when – with the accession of the UK, Ireland and Denmark the EU expanded from 6 to 9 members and to a population of less than half its current level. Today our leverage in the world economy is immensely greater and with the accession of countries like Croatia and others, Europe will become stronger and more powerful still. I wish you well as you move further and further along the path towards EU membership. I hope you can move quickly towards meeting all of the agreed opening benchmarks on the acquis. The challenges and opportunities that lie ahead for Croatia are significant. I am sure that you will rise to those challenges and grasp the many exciting opportunities that are there for the taking.

Uzvratno izlaganje g. Damira Polančeca

Response address
by Mr Damir Polančec



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Poštovani gospodine povjereniče,
poštovane dame i gospodo,
zahvaljujem gospodinu povjereniku McCreevyju na pozitivnom
osvrtu na Republiku Hrvatsku.

Stoga, poštovani gospodine McCreevy, ekscelencije, dame i
gospodo,

dopustite da i sa svoje strane pridonesem ovom pozitivnom ozračju.
Nikako ne zanemarujući irsko podrijetlo gospodina povjerenika,
želim naglasiti kako je Irska, kao prijateljska država s kojom
Republika Hrvatska nema otvorena ni neriješena pitanja, oduvijek
bila svojevrsni model i uzor u kreiranju pravca prema kojem
usmjeravamo hrvatsko gospodarstvo.

Model ekonomskog razvoja Irske s kojim je irsko gospodarstvo
postalo jedno od europskih gospodarstava s najvišim stopama rasta,
svakako predstavlja nešto što je iznimno vrijedno našeg proučavanja
i iskorištavanja svih njegovih dobrih strana. Osobito kada govorimo
o odnosu prema inozemnim stranim ulaganjima, otvorenosti
ekonomije, orientaciji na europska tržišta, edukaciji radne snage i o
provedenim reformama javnih poduzeća i javnog sektora.

Govoreći o Europskoj uniji, ispunjavanje uvjeta za punopravno
članstvo, što je naš najvažniji strateški politički cilj, podrazumijeva
stabilnost institucija koje osiguravaju demokraciju, vladavinu prava
i poštivanje demokratskih načela, ljudskih i manjinskih prava te
potpuno funkcioniranje tržišnoga gospodarstva. Članstvo u EU nije
samo sebi cilj, to je motiv za procese reformi kako bi se dosegnula
razina napretka koji će u svakodnevnom životu osjetiti svi hrvatski
građani.

Reforme podrazumijevaju i postavljanje realnih i ostvarivih ciljeva
ekonomske politike: kroz srednjoročno razdoblje oni su usmjereni
na jačanje gospodarstva i podizanje razine konkurentnosti uz
istovremeni rast zaposlenosti. U tom cilju koncentrirani smo
na održanje stabilnog makroekonomskog okruženja i jačanje
gospodarskog rasta.

U namjeri postizanja tog cilja Hrvatska pažljivo osluškuje napredak
u provedbi Lisabonske strategije i aktivno dizajnira svoje buduće
sudjelovanje u njezinoj provedbi. Hrvatsko gospodarstvo prati

Mr Commissioner,
Ladies and gentlemen,

I would like to thank the commissioner, Mr McCreevy for his positive assessment of the Republic of Croatia.

Therefore, Mr McCreevy, your excellencies, ladies and gentlemen,
Permit me to make my own contribution to this positive mood.
Keeping in mind the commissioner's Irish nationality, I wish to emphasize that Ireland, as a friendly nation with which the Republic of Croatia has no disputes nor unresolved matters, has always been something of a model and exemplar for us when devising our own priorities for the Croatian economy.

Ireland's economic development model, which made the Irish economy one of the fastest-growing in Europe, certainly constitutes an example worthy of study and emulation. This is particularly true with regard to the attitude toward foreign direct investment, economic openness, the European market orientation, labour force education and reform of public enterprises and the public sector as a whole.

Speaking of the European Union, fulfilment of the conditions for full membership, which is our most important strategic political objective, implies stability of democratic institutions, rule of law and respect for democratic principles, human and minority rights and a fully functional market economy. EU membership is not an end unto itself, rather it is a motivating factor for reform processes to achieve a level of progress that will be felt by all Croatian citizens in their everyday lives.

Reform also implies setting realistic and feasible economic policy objectives: over the medium term they are oriented toward strengthening the economy and raising the level of competitiveness while simultaneously accelerating the country's development and increasing employment. To this end, we are concentrating on maintaining macroeconomic stability and spurring economic growth.

In the interest of achieving these objectives, Croatia is closely monitoring progress in implementation of the Lisbon Strategy and is actively formulating its own future participation in this

europske trendove i posvećeno je uspostavi društva utemeljenog na znanju što će pridonijeti dalnjem razvoju hrvatskoga gospodarstva.

Kao rastuće gospodarstvo u posttranzicijskom razdoblju, suočeni smo s nekoliko izazova.

- **Trajno ulaganje u infrastrukturu**

Ulaganja u Infrastrukturu danas predstavljaju 7% udjela u BDP-u. Ovaj se broj primarno odnosi na ulaganja u energetiku i cestovnu infrastrukturu kao i racionalno korištenje prirodnih bogatstava i sustavnu zaštitu okoliša.

- **Promicanje aktivne politike tržišnog natjecanja uz uređivanje sustava dodjele državnih potpora**

Ovaj cilj podrazumijeva transparentnost dodjele potpora temeljenih na jasnim programima. Posebni, u tom smislu osjetljivi sektori jesu brodogradnja i Hrvatske željeznice. Iako je riječ o najmanje poželjnim potporama jer su usmjerene pojedinačnim poduzetnicima, odnosno sektorima s problemima u poslovanju, a koje su vrlo "nepopularne" u EU, mora se naglasiti da je u tim sektorima snažno započet proces sanacije i restrukturiranja.

- **Promicanje aktivne politike zapošljavanja**

Snižavanje stope nezaposlenosti jedan je od glavnih ciljeva hrvatske gospodarske politike. Prema podacima, u 2006. godini zabilježena je anketna stopa nezaposlenosti od 11,2%, što je najniža stopa nezaposlenosti u posljednjih osam godina. Ovi pokazatelji rezultat su, između ostalog, provedbe Nacionalnog akcijskog plana zapošljavanja za razdoblje 2005. – 2008., koji je pripremljen na temelju 10 preporuka Europske strategije zapošljavanja.

Najnoviji podaci HZZ-a pokazuju da je krajem kolovoza 2007. broj nezaposlenih na međugodišnjoj razini smanjen za preko 28 tisuća što govori o anketnoj stopi nezaposlenosti od 10,4%.

- **Dovršetak procesa privatizacije**

Daljnja privatizacija poduzeća u portfelju Hrvatskog fonda za privatizaciju prioritet je od kojeg ne odustajemo. Pritom želim naglasiti da osnovni cilj privatizacije nije i ne može biti samo prikupljanje novca u državni proračun, već prije svega povećanje konkurentnosti svake tvrtke koju se nastoji privatizirati. Cilj je privući

implementation. The Croatian economy is in step with European trends and is dedicated to the establishment of a knowledge-based economy, which will contribute to further economic development.

As a growing economy in the post-transition phase, we find ourselves confronting several challenges.

- **Ongoing investment in infrastructure**

Infrastructure today accounts for 7% of GDP. This figure pertains first and foremost to energy and roads, as well as rational use of natural resources and systematic environmental protection.

- **Promotion of active market competition policies with parallel regulation of the system for granting state aid.**

This objective implies oversight of implementation of adopted legal standards and transparency of aid grants based on unambiguous programmes. Particularly sensitive sectors in this sense include shipbuilding and the national railroad company. Even though these types of subsidies are the least desirable because they are earmarked for individual enterprises and problem sectors which are very "unpopular" in the EU, it must be stressed that in these sectors a process of rehabilitation and restructuring is in full swing.

- **Promotion of active employment policies**

Even though the key indicators are encouraging, lowering the unemployment rate is one of the major priorities of Croatian economic policy. According to data obtained in the Labour Force Survey in 2006, an unemployment rate of 11.2% was recorded, which is the lowest rate in the last eight years. These indicators are a direct result of implementation of the National Employment Action Plan for 2005-2008, which was prepared on the basis of the ten recommendations contained in the European Employment Strategy.

The most recent data from the National Employment Bureau indicate that by the end of August 2007, the number of unemployed at the year-on-year level decreased by over 10.4%.

- **Completion of the privatization**

Further privatization of companies in the Croatian Privatization Fund's portfolio is a priority that shall not forsake. Here I feel compelled to stress that the basic goal of privatization is not and



strateškog partnera koji ima snage investirati, koji ima know-how i pristup globalnom tržištu na kojem se već dokazao.

• **Reforma pravosuđa**

Razvoj neovisnog i stručnog pravosudnog sustava predstavlja ključnu pretpostavku ne samo za pristupanje Hrvatske Europskoj uniji, već i za ukupni razvoj zemlje, te za uspostavu povjerenja u hrvatsko gospodarstvo, što je nužan preduvjet ulaganja. Glavni su preduvjeti za uspješnu provedbu reforme usavršavanje sudaca i državnih odvjetnika, te informatizacija cjelokupnog pravosudnog sustava.

Četiri osnovna područja reforme jesu: zemljische knjige, edukacije, smanjivanje zaostalih i neriješenih predmeta te stečajevi uz razvoj alternativnog rješavanja sporova. Time želimo postići učinkovitu pravnu zaštitu i stvoriti sigurno pravno okruženje.

Ovi izazovi ujedno su i izazovi s kojima se suočavamo u pristupnim pregovorima za članstvo u Europskoj uniji, a koji su ključan čimbenik našeg budućeg sudjelovanja na unutarnjem tržištu Europske unije.

Govoreći o jedinstvenom tržištu, najzahtjevniji test jest test realnosti može li EU od želje za jedinstvom postići i jedinstveno tržište koje će nastupati uz bok svjetskim ekonomijama poput SAD-a, Kine. Iako mlada, ova ideja zaživjela je u gospodarsku stvarnost. Ako je u posljednjem desetljeću unutarnje tržište stvorilo 2,5 milijuna novih radnih mjesta, želimo biti dijelom tog broja. I, ako je u tom razdoblju ostvareno 900 mldr. € zarade, želimo da se dio te vrijednosti osjeti i na standardu naših građana. Nije bez značaja, što se Hrvatska, kao jedan od prvih koraka u preuzimanju goleme pravne stečevine odlučila fokusirati na pravnu stečevinu unutarnjeg tržišta. Želimo da investitori dolaze u sigurno okruženje uskladeno s odredbama, primjerice trgovačkog prava, bankarskog sektora i finansijskih usluga, računovodstva, intelektualnog vlasništva.

No, ovdje ne završava borba za sigurnost ulagača. U uvjetima gdje javna nabava čini i do 14% BDP-a, svjesni smo opasnosti pojave globalne pošasti korupcije u javnoj nabavi pri čemu je naš osnovni cilj briga za novac naših poreznih obveznika i postizanje uvjeta

cannot simply be to collect revenues for the central budget, rather it must entail raising the competitiveness of every firm that is to be privatized. The objective is to attract strategic partners that possess the strength to invest, the know-how and access to the global market, where they have already proven themselves.

• **Judiciary reform**

The development of an independent and expertise-based judicial system is more than a crucial prerequisite for Croatia's accession to the European Union, rather it is also a key condition for the country's overall development and for building trust in the Croatian economy, which is in turn an essential prerequisite for investment. The principal conditions for successful reforms are further education and training of judges and public attorneys, and computerization of the entire judicial system.

The four fundamental reform areas are: property registers, education, reduction of the case-load backlog and bankruptcies, with development of alternative avenues to settle disputes. With this we intend to achieve effective legal protection and create a secure legal environment.

These challenges are the same ones we confront in accession negotiations for membership in the European Union, which are a key factor for our future participation in the European Union's internal market.

*Speaking of the common market, the most demanding test will be to determine whether the EU can transform its desire for unity into a genuine common market that will stand shoulder to shoulder with world economies such as that of the United States and China. Even though relatively recent, this idea has become an economic reality. If, over the past decade, the Internal Market has generated 2.5 million new jobs, then we want to be a part of it. And if during that same period €877 billion in earnings were generated, then we want a part of this value reflected in the living standards of our citizens. It is not coincidence that Croatia has decided to focus on the legal framework of the internal market as one of the first steps in assuming the EU's sizeable *acquis communautaire*. This is why today investors can enjoy a secure environment that complies with, for example, the provisions of regulations governing the corporate, banking and financial services sectors, accounting standards and intellectual property.*



best value for money. Zato Vlada, u suradnji s Europskom unijom radi na novom zakonskom okviru za javne nabave čime ćemo, ne samo modernizirati pravila javnih natječaja već i uvesti nove oblike postupaka kojima ćemo podići razinu transparentnosti ocjene ponuditelja i pružiti mogućnost njihovog međusobnog natjecanja. Novi Zakon, temeljen na pravnoj stečevini Europske unije, osim napora da se postigne veći stupanj transparentnosti i javnosti postupka, donosi i novosti kao što su:

- posebni načini nabave: dinamički sustav nabave, okvirni sporazum, okvirni ugovor
- elektronička dostava ponuda
- elektronička dražba
- javno otvaranje ponuda s mogućnošću nazočnosti svake osobe bez obzira na to je li ponuditelj u postupku nabave
- mogućnost kontrole postupka nabave i ulaganje zahtjeva u svim fazama postupka nabave.

Javnim nabavama posvećena je posebna pažnja u pristupnim pregovorima te vjerujemo kako ćemo, uz suradnju Europske komisije, dovršiti i intenzivni proces ispunjavanja mjerila za otvaranje pregovora u ovom poglavljiju.

U lipnju ove godine otvorili smo pregovore i o Slobodi pružanja usluga uz ispunjavanje 6 mjerila za njegovo zatvaranje. Mjerila se odnose na usklađivanje našeg zakonodavstva s pravnom stečevinom Unije. Složenost procesa usklađivanja, pa onda i njegovu dugotrajnost, dodatno diktira nova Direktiva o slobodi pružanja usluga koja nalaže članicama Unije da se s njome usklade do 28. prosinca 2009. Za Hrvatsku, kao buduću članicu, to znači da će njezin postupak pristupanja i usklađenja teći paralelno s usklađivanjem zakonodavstva članica EU s tom Direktivom te će biti moguća i razmjena iskustva u naporima za ostvarenje tog cilja.

Gospodarska politika Vlade Republike Hrvatske kroz operativne programe i projekte daje pozitivne gospodarske rezultate. Pokrenut je proces revitalizacije hrvatske industrije, a posebna briga posvećuje se izvozu.

Jednako tako, preokrenut je i trend stranih ulaganja koja su sada u najvećoj mjeri okrenuta ulaganju u proizvodne djelatnosti.

*But the struggle to create security for investors does not end here, either. In a situation where public procurement accounts for up to 14% of GDP, we are aware of the dangers of that world-wide plague of corruption in public procurement deals, wherein our basic goal is to achieve the best value for money for our taxpayers. This is why the Government, in cooperation with the European Union, is devising a new legal framework with which we shall not only modernize the rules of public bidding but also introduce new forms of procedures that will raise the level of transparency and assessing bidders and make it possible for them to bid against each other. The new law, based on the European Union's *acquis communautaire*, contains, besides securing a greater degree of procedural transparency and public access, novelties such as:*

- *Special procurement methods: dynamic procurement system, general framework agreements, framework contracts,*
- *Electronic delivery of bids,*
- *Electronic auctions,*
- *Public opening of bids with the possibility of attendance by each person regardless of whether the bidder is party to the procurement procedure,*
- *The possibility of oversight of procurement and investment in all procedural phases.*

Special attention has been dedicated to public procurement in accession negotiations and we believe that with the cooperation of the European Commission we shall finalize and intensify the process of fulfilling the measures required to open negotiations on this chapter.

*In June of this year we also opened negotiations on Freedom to provide services with fulfilment of six measures to close this chapter. The measures pertain to alignment of our legislation with the Union's *acquis communautaire*. The complexity of this alignment process and its long-term nature are additionally dictated by the Directive on Freedom of Services, which requires EU member states to align their legislation therewith by 28 December 2009. For Croatia, as a future member, this means that its accession and alignment procedure will run parallel to alignment of legislation by EU member states where this Directive is concerned, and thus exchanges of experiences in efforts to achieve this goal will be possible.*



Pritom ističem ulogu APIU koja velikim stranim ulagačima u RH služi kao „one stop shop“ agencija koja im pomaže u prevladavanju svih barijera i pribavljanju svih potrebnih dozvola za ulaganje, ali i ostvarenje prava na olakšice.

Sve to dovodi nas do pozitivnog trenda u hrvatskom gospodarstvu. Naveo bih vam nekoliko ilustrativnih brojki koje to i dokazuju:

- U prvom tromjesečju 2007. godine realna stopa rasta BDP-a iznosila je 7,0%, što je najviši rast još od trećeg tromjesečja 2002. godine. Uz dodatak da je rast BDP-a u 2006. godini bio 4,8%.
- BDP po glavi stanovnika u eurima porastao je sa 7.000 eura u 2005. na 7.700 eura u 2006. godini.
- Snažna fiskalna konsolidacija započeta u 2004. godini rezultirala je više nego dvostrukim smanjenjem udjela fiskalnog deficitu u BDP-u u posljednje tri godine, odnosno sa 6,2% BDP-a u 2003. na 3,0% BDP-a u 2006. čime je ispunjen maastrichtski kriterij za ulazak u Europsku monetarnu uniju.
- U 2007. predviđamo daljnje smanjenje fiskalnog deficitu, točnije na 2,6% BDP-a, a taj će se trend nastaviti i u srednjoročnom razdoblju pri čemu predviđamo smanjenje fiskalnog deficitu na 0,5% BDP-a do 2010. ili čak njegov potpuni nestanak.
- Rast inozemnog duga usporen je s 31,3% u 2003. godini na 13,4% u 2006. godini te dodatno na 10,1% u svibnju 2007. godine, te je danas stabiliziran na razini od oko 85% BDP-a, a bitno je napomenuti da u BDP nije uračunat udio sive ekonomije.
- Udio opće države u ukupnom vanjskom dugu smanjen je u 2006. godini za 390 milijuna eura.
- Inozemni dug države smanjen je u prvih pet mjeseci 2007. godine za 156 milijuna eura.
- Smanjenjem fiskalnog deficitu te zaduživanjem na domaćem finansijskom tržištu država će pridonijeti stabilizaciji udjela inozemnog duga u BDP-u u srednjoročnom razdoblju.
- Inflacija u 2005. godini bila je na razini 3,3%, godinu poslije 3,2%, dok je u prvom polugodištu ove godine smanjena na oko 2% usprkos mnogim negativnim utjecajima na globalnom tržištu.

The Croatian Government's economic policy, implemented by means of operative programmes and projects, have generated positive economic results. A system to revitalize Croatian industry has been launched, and special care is being dedicated to exports.

By the same token, foreign investment trends have been re-oriented, and now most of such investments involve manufacturing activities. The role of the Direct Investment Promotion Agency must be emphasized in this regard, as it serves as a "one-stop shop" for major investors in Croatia, helping them overcome all barriers and secure all necessary licenses for their investments and exercise their right to incentives.

All of this leads us to the positive trends in the Croatian economy. I would like to cite several illustrative figures which serve as evidence of these trends:

- *Real GDP growth in the first quarter of 2007 was 7%, which is the highest growth since the third quarter of 2002. GDP growth in 2006 amounted to 4.8%.*
- *Per capita GDP in euros has grown from €7,000 in 2005 to €7,700 in 2006.*
- *The intense fiscal consolidation initiated in 2004 has more than halved the share of the budget deficit in GDP over the past three years, that is, from 6.2% of GDP in 2003 to 3% of GDP in 2006, which constitutes fulfilment of the Maastricht criteria for admittance to the European Monetary Union.*
- *In 2007 we foresee further reduction of the budget deficit, down 2.6% of GDP to be precise, and this trend will continue over the medium term, wherein we foresee reduction of the budget deficit to 0.5% of GDP by 2010, and possibly even its disappearance altogether.*
- *Trade deficit growth has been slowed from 31.3% in 2003 to 13.4% in 2006, and to 10.1% in May 2007, and it has today been stabilized to approximately 85% of GDP, and it is important to note that the share of the informal economy has not been calculated as part of GDP.*
- *The state's foreign debt has been reduced by €156 million in the first five months of 2007.*



Dame i gospodo,

Europa se nalazi u fazi promjena i traženja novih komparativnih prednosti na temelju afirmacije uloge znanosti, tehnologije, informacijsko-komunikacijske infrastrukture te usluga. Ciljevi ove preobrazbe iskazani su u Lisabonskoj strategiji.

Hrvatska je mala ekonomija. Ona ne može bitno utjecati na globalne tržišne promjene, ali se može postaviti na takav način da ova kretanja iskoristi u svoju korist. Hrvatska se tijekom sljedećih godina može pozicionirati kao regionalno središte u uslugama, posebno na područjima putovanja i turizma, prijevoza, graditeljstva i finansijskih usluga. Prilika je to koju ne smijemo propustiti.

Na kraju, kao što je i povjerenik McCreevy rekao, pred Hrvatskom su značajni izazovi i mogućnosti, a ja sam siguran da smo mi na te izazove spremni uspješno odgovoriti.

Hvala.

- *By reducing the budget deficit and borrowing on the domestic financial market, the state will contribute to stabilization of the share of foreign debt in GDP over the medium term.*
- *Inflation was held at a level of 3.3% in 2005, and then reduced to 3.2% in the following year, while in the first six months of this year it has been reduced to roughly 2% despite many negative pressures on the global market.*

Ladies and gentlemen,

Europe is undergoing a phase of change, seeking out a competitive edge based on affirmation of the role of science, technology, information and communications infrastructures and services. The objectives of this transformation are highlighted by the Lisbon Strategy.

Croatia has a small economy. It cannot exert a great impact on global economic change, but it can set itself up to take advantage of these trends. Over the next few years, Croatia can establish itself as a regional hub for generating services, particularly in the fields of travel and tourism, transportation, construction and financial services. This is an opportunity that we cannot afford to miss.

In conclusion, as Mr McCreevy said, Croatia is facing considerable challenges and opportunities, and I am certain that we are capable of meeting those challenges head on.

Thank you.

Popis uzvanika Invtees

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BACK

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Mr Gerard Danaher, <i>Honorary Consul of Croatia</i>	Mr Davor Holjevac, <i>Vice Governor, CNB</i>	Mr Mate Meštrović	Mr Marc de Schoutheete de Tervarent, <i>Ambassador of Belgium</i>	Ms Ljiljana Figar Kužnar, <i>Economy Advisor to the Ambassador of Slovenia</i>
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