



# Pat-MedMUNC III

## European Union

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### Admission of Croatia

The European Union is an economic and political union of twenty seven member nations, located mainly in Europe. Though the six originators of the EU are France, Italy, Germany, Belgium, Luxembourg, and the Netherlands, it has now greatly expanded. The European Union has created a single market through a consistent system of laws which apply in all member nations, thus guaranteeing the free movement of goods, services, capital, and people.

Croatia, which is a small country in Southeastern Europe that borders the Adriatic Sea, used to be part of the former Yugoslavia; however it declared independence in 1991. Unfortunately, this led to war with members of the ethnic Serb community inside Croatia itself and with the troops from the remainder of Serbian-dominated Yugoslavia. Croatia is presently a democratic nation and their Constitution was drafted in 1990 and last updated in 2001. In addition, Croatia has attained macroeconomic equalization and is dynamic in the metal, textiles, chemical, machinery, electronics, steel, aluminum, construction materials, shipbuilding, and petroleum refining industries. Croatia has been a member of the United Nations ever since 1992 and gives personnel to UN Peacekeeping forces. Croatia desires acceptance to the European Union in the near future to help their progress economically, but the problem at hand is that there is concern over Croatia's prejudice of non-Croats in modern times. When Franjo Tudjman, who was elected in 1990, designated all non-Croats as minorities, disagreement arose and the Serbian National Council declared the autonomy of the Serbians. This resulted in eventual all-out attacks, and because of these battles, in 1992, the United Nations sent peacekeepers to separate the Croats and Serbs and they set up four protected Serb areas. Throughout the following years, several ceasefire agreements were made but then broken. On a positive note, when Tudjman passed in 1999 Croatia became more obliging as a whole and internationally. Since then, Croatia has made reforms in government policy regarding Serbs though there is still concern that Serbs are treated unfairly in Croatia.

### Recent Developments

Most recently, Croatia submitted a request to join the EU in 2003, and then in 2004, the EU agreed to admit Croatia but this admission has been delayed until Croatia resolves quite a few issues. One issue is Croatia continuing to have border conflicts with Slovenia; the current borders between Slovenia and Croatia were set in 1992 but the main argument between the two countries center around the Bay of Piran, a twenty mile region that offers entrances to international waters. Both Slovenia and Croatia claim the Bay for financial reasons; whichever nation possesses the Bay can export and import easily to other nations in Europe. Slovenia, however, threatened to block Croatia's entry into the EU in 2007 because of the case even though the European Parliament has urged both nations to solve the dispute through diplomatic discussion. A bilateral border issue with Slovenia crushed Croatia's desires of joining the EU in 2009. A number of chapters could not be formally closed simply because of Slovenia's blockages in the Council. In the fall of 2009, the standstill ended after Slovenia decided to lift the informal veto on Croatian accession. Croatia is planned to be the first nation to join the EU since the accession of Romania and Bulgaria in 2007, with the previous Yugoslav republic accession agreements expected to end and finalize in 2010. Also, Croatia's new President Ivo Josipovic can urge the opening of the population's minds to EU accession and that his words and his status will give him the authority to do so.

There are several solutions that can resolve this dispute and allow easier agreements by both nations and the European Union. To begin, Croatia needs to have efficient and adequate direct dialogue with the EU since it has failed to do this successfully in the past. Thus, a meeting plan and dialogue for consultations between the EU and Croatia would be a beneficial solution. Negotiations should also be more sufficient between Croatia and Slovenia so that the border dispute can be resolved. A possible solution would be both nations agreeing to the division of the Bay of Piran, since it is an economic importance to both. It is also important that Croatia proves to be a forbearing and fair nation due to the fact that there is a history of violence against Serbs in Croatia. The EU must be sure that no intolerance towards the Serbs has continued. Even another solution would be continuing to urge Croatia to practice and intensify its reform efforts especially on the fight against corruption and organized crime before the negotiations can be concluded.

### *Points to Consider*

- Should direct dialogue between EU and Croatia be required and if so to what extent?
- What are some ways that Croatia can resolve their border quarrel with Slovenia?
- How long should the forthcoming period for Croatia's acceptance into the EU take?

- Would dividing the Bay of Piran be a realistic or contradictory solution?