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Jean Monnet  
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## 2.2. FROM POSITIVE AVIS TO FULLY FLEDGED EU MEMBERSHIP

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## Special condition for Croatia ...ICTY cooperation

- ❑ In early years after accession, the cooperation of Croatian Government with ICTY was unsatisfactory
- ❑ General Ante Gotovina was a fugitive
- ❑ Significant percentage of population was at that time opposed to EU due to support for General Ante Gotovina
- ❑ Gotovina arrested in Spain in December 2005



# Negotiation structure of Croatia

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- ❑ Accession negotiations opened in October 2005
- ❑ Highly centralized – Ministry of Foreign affairs in the lead
- ❑ Parliamentary oversight ensured through Committee for monitoring of Accession negotiations
- ❑ Working groups on different chapters (civil society included)
- ❑ Screening as initial phase of negotiations on individual chapters



# Accession negotiations

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- ❑ Croatia had to close 35 chapters
- ❑ Introduction of opening and closing benchmarks
- ❑ Most challenging ones were Judiciary and fundamental rights and competition policy (State aid for the metal and ship building sector)
- ❑ Implementation of commitments was monitored by the Commission up to the date of accession



# Fight against corruption and organized crime

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- ❑ Special State attorney's office for Suppression of Corruption and organized crime was established
- ❑ Croatian Prime minister Ivo Sanader was charged and sentenced for corruption in affair of INA-MOL in 2008/2009



## Slovenian blockage of negotiations 2008/2009 ..

- ❑ The Slovenian – Croatian dispute was about the bay of Piran – sea border
- ❑ Slovenia's exit to international waters and fishing rights in the coastal area





# Signature of the EU accession treaty...

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- ❑ Signed in Bruxelles on 9<sup>th</sup> December 2011
- ❑ Final step of the 11 year process of accession to EU
- ❑ Ratification process in all EU Member States



# Referendum on EU membership...

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- ☐ Held on 22nd January 2012
- ☐ Turnout of 43,5 %
- ☐ Votes in favour 66,3 %
- ☐ Biggest concerns for Croats were loss of national sovereignty , price increase, loss of national identity





## Fully fledged member ...

- ❑ 6 and a half years of negotiation
- ❑ Return to Europe
- ❑ Croatian diplomacy established strong leadership
- ❑ Example for the Western Balkan
- ❑ Strong ally of the United states



# Thank you for your attention!

My contacts:

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send me an email, discuss, debate.....

# Questions for discussion

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- ☐ Was Croatia's process of accession to EU too long ?
- ☐ What is your opinions on the bilateral disputes during negotiation process and what should be the role of the European Commission ?
- ☐ Do you think that all EU member States should be allys of the United States ?