

**CENTRAL EUROPEAN FREE TRADE AGREEMENT -
ACCESSION OF THE REPUBLIC OF CROATIA**

The following communication, dated 23 February 2004, is being circulated at the request of the Delegation of Slovenia, on behalf of the Parties to the Central European Free Trade Agreement (Bulgaria, Croatia, Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland, Romania, Slovak Republic and Slovenia).¹

**AGREEMENT ON ACCESSION OF THE REPUBLIC OF CROATIA
TO THE CENTRAL EUROPEAN FREE TRADE AGREEMENT**

Preamble

The Republic of Bulgaria, the Czech Republic, the Republic of Hungary, the Republic of Poland, Romania, the Slovak Republic and the Republic of Slovenia, on the one side, and the Republic of Croatia, on the other side, (hereinafter called “the Parties”),

Reaffirming their commitment to the principles of a market economy, which constitutes the basis for their relations;

Considering the positive development of the mutual economic co-operation between the Parties;

Wishing to contribute to the process of integration in Europe through the extension of the Central European Free Trade Agreement;

Having in mind the Declarations of Prime Ministers, done on 16 November 2001 in Bucharest;

Recalling the official request of the Republic of Croatia on 20 July 2001 to accede to the Central European Free Trade Agreement;

Taking into account the Agreement Amending the Central European Free Trade Agreement, signed in Brno on 11 September 1995;

In accordance with the provisions of Article 39a of the Central European Free Trade Agreement;

Have agreed as follows:

¹ The full text of the Agreement together with its Annexes and Protocols is available at: http://www.vlada.hr/zakoni/mei/Chp26/CEFTA_Agreement.pdf
It is also available at the Secretariat for consultation by interested Members (Office 1174).

Article 1

The Republic of Croatia shall accede to the Central European Free Trade Agreement.

Article 2

The Republic of Croatia shall accept the Central European Free Trade Agreement with all its amendments and modifications signed before the signature of this Agreement and shall apply it in accordance with the provisions of this Agreement.

Article 3

References in the Central European Free Trade Agreement to its Parties and where all states are explicitly mentioned shall be understood to include the Republic of Croatia.

Article 4

1. In order to implement the provisions of paragraph 2 of Article 3 of the Central European Free Trade Agreement Protocols 32, 33, 34, 35, 36 and 37 to the Central European Free Trade Agreement are hereby established and attached to this Agreement.

2. Provisions for the abolition of customs duties on imports between:

- the Republic of Bulgaria on the one side and the Republic of Croatia on the other side are laid down in Protocol 32,
- the Czech Republic and the Slovak Republic on the one side and the Republic of Croatia on the other side are laid down in Protocol 33,
- the Republic of Hungary on the one side and the Republic of Croatia on the other side are laid down in Protocol 34,
- the Republic of Poland on the one side and the Republic of Croatia on the other side are laid down in Protocol 35,
- Romania on the one side and the Republic of Croatia on the other side are laid down in Protocol 36,
- the Republic of Slovenia on the one side and the Republic of Croatia on the other side are laid down in Protocol 37.

Article 5

1. In order to implement the provisions of paragraph 1 of Article 12 of the Central European Free Trade Agreement Protocols 38, 39, 40, 41, 42 and 43 to the Central European Free Trade Agreement are hereby established and attached to this Agreement.

2. Provisions for granting mutual agricultural concessions between:

- the Republic of Bulgaria on the one side and the Republic of Croatia on the other side are laid down in Protocol 38,
- the Czech Republic and the Slovak Republic on the one side and the Republic of Croatia on the other side are laid down in Protocol 39,

- the Republic of Hungary on the one side and the Republic of Croatia on the other side are laid down in Protocol 40,
- the Republic of Poland on the one side and the Republic of Croatia on the other side are laid down in Protocol 41,
- Romania on the one side and the Republic of Croatia on the other side are laid down in Protocol 42,
- the Republic of Slovenia on the one side and the Republic of Croatia on the other side are laid down in Protocol 43.

Article 6

With reference to Article 16 of the Central European Free Trade Agreement Protocol 7a concerning the definition of the concept of “originating products” and methods of administrative co-operation is hereby established and attached to this Agreement. Protocol 7a shall apply instead of Protocol 7 in respect of trade between the Parties if the product contains materials originating in Croatia as well as in respect of trade between the Republic of Croatia and any other Party.

Article 7

1. References to co-operation in customs administration mentioned in paragraph 2 of Article 16 of the Central European Free Trade Agreement shall be understood that the mutual assistance between administrative authorities in customs matters of the Republic of Slovenia and the Republic of Croatia shall take place in accordance with the provisions of Annex I to Article 7 of this Agreement.
2. References to co-operation in customs administration mentioned in paragraph 2 of Article 16 of the Central European Free Trade Agreement shall be understood that the mutual assistance between administrative authorities in customs matters of the Republic of Bulgaria and the Republic of Croatia shall take place in accordance with the provisions of Annex II to Article 7 of this Agreement.

Article 8

This Agreement shall constitute an integral part of the Central European Free Trade Agreement.

Article 9

1. This Agreement shall enter into force on the sixtieth day after receiving by the Depositary of the last notification of the Parties to the Central European Free Trade Agreement and of the Republic of Croatia on the completion of procedures necessary for that purpose.
2. The Depositary shall, without any delay, notify all Parties of the completion of procedures necessary for entry into force of this Agreement.
3. Pending the entry into force of this Agreement according to paragraph 1 of this Article this Agreement shall be applied from 1 March 2003, provided that Romania shall notify the other Parties, prior to 1 February 2003, that its internal legal requirements for entry into force of this Agreement are fulfilled and that Romania shall apply this Agreement from 1 March 2003.
4. As from the date of entry into force of this Agreement the free trade agreements concluded between:

- the Republic of Bulgaria and the Republic of Croatia signed at Sofia on 4 December 2001;
- the Czech Republic and the Republic of Croatia signed at Prague on 12 November 2001;
- the Republic of Hungary and the Republic of Croatia signed at Zagreb on 22 February 2001;
- the Republic of Poland and the Republic of Croatia signed at Warsaw on 7 November 2001;
- the Slovak Republic and the Republic of Croatia signed at Bratislava on 6 November 2001;
- the Republic of Slovenia and the Republic of Croatia signed at Zagreb on 12 December 1997,

shall cease to be in force or shall not enter into force by mutual consent of the Parties concerned expressed in this Agreement.

5. As from the date of the application of this Agreement the free trade agreements mentioned in paragraph 4 of this Article shall not be applied between their Contracting Parties.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF the undersigned plenipotentiaries, being duly authorized thereto, have signed this Agreement.

DONE at Zagreb this 5 day of December 2002 in a single authentic copy in the English language which shall be deposited with the Government of the Republic of Poland. The Depositary shall transmit certified copies to all Parties.

For the Republic of Bulgaria

For the Republic of Croatia

For the Czech Republic

For the Republic of Hungary

For the Republic of Poland

For Romania

For the Slovak Republic

For the Republic of Slovenia
