

Considering the fundamental commitment of the Republic of Croatia to settle all open issues with neighbouring countries in a European spirit and the spirit of good-neighbourly relations, always endeavouring to reach an acceptable solution rooted in international law,

Reaffirming its dedication to the rule of law as one of the fundamental principles underlying the European Union and the North Atlantic Treaty Organization,

Considering the Negotiation Framework of the European Union for the Republic of Croatia which advocates amicable means to settle disputes, including the International Court of Justice in the Hague,

Recalling that the Republic of Croatia upheld the accession of the Republic of Slovenia to the European Union and the North Atlantic Treaty Organization with the border between the two states as it stands today,

The Croatian Parliament hereby adopts this

CONCLUSION

concerning the border dispute with the Republic of Slovenia

I.

The Croatian Parliament hereby expresses its disagreement with the content of the Conclusion on Protection of Slovenian National Interests with reference to the Accession of the Republic of Croatia to the North Atlantic Treaty, which was adopted by the National Assembly of the Republic of Slovenia on 18 February 2009;

The Croatian Parliament considers unacceptable the allegations made in the Conclusion of the National Assembly, wherein the highest representative and legislative body of the Republic of Slovenia has demonstrated its intent to prejudice the border on the left bank of the Dragonja River and the left bank of the Mura River, areas which were indisputably under the sovereign authority of the Republic of Croatia on 25 June 1991, and the territory of the entire maritime zone in the Savudrija Bay/Gulf of Piran, over which the Republic of Slovenia did not exercise exclusive jurisdiction on 25 June 1991, signifying that the Republic of Slovenia had no territorial outlet to the open seas;

The Croatian Parliament rejects such an attempt to prejudice the state border;

The Croatian Parliament deems the Conclusion adopted by the National Assembly of the Republic of Slovenia on 18 February 2009 a precedent in the history of accession of new members to the North Atlantic Treaty, and to the European Union, which may have unwelcome consequences in future enlargement procedures and the accession of new member states;

The Croatian Parliament maintains that the most recent events once more confirm that the International Court of Justice in the Hague, the highest judicial body of the United Nations, is the best choice for the amicable settlement of disputes concerning the delineation of borders;

The Croatian Parliament calls upon the Republic of Slovenia to observe the agreement between the Prime Ministers of the two countries reached at Bled in 2007, according to which open border issues are to be settled before the International Court of Justice in the Hague;

The Croatian Parliament calls upon the Republic of Slovenia, in the name of friendship and good-neighbourly relations between its two peoples, their common future in Europe and their future alliance in the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, to facilitate the settlement of the border issue in the European spirit of the rule of law, respecting the international legal order and demonstrating confidence in the judicial arm of the United Nations.

II.

This Conclusion shall be published in *Narodne novine*, the official journal of the Republic of Croatia.

Class:
Zagreb, 20 February 2009

Speaker
of the Croatian Parliament
Luka Bebić