

BUSINESS CLIMATE IMPROVEMENT INITIATIVE – SUPPORT BY FOREIGN CHAMBERS OF COMMERCE IN CROATIA

Background: Based on advice from Croatian and Foreign companies represented by our Chambers, we recommend a few specific, achievable and potentially “game changing” steps that the Government can implement in order to make Croatia’s business environment more competitive and attractive for businesses and investors. This list of recommendations is not exhaustive and will not solve all of Croatia’s economic problems. However, if implemented, these steps will help increase commerce and investment, which will help grow the economy and increase the number of jobs. We are ready to support the Government’s efforts, including with technical assistance and advice.

Legally Binding Tax Opinions – The lack of predictability of tax assessments impedes business. A system such as those adopted in most EU countries, in which opinions obtained from tax authorities are legally binding, would allow companies to predict tax obligations.

Public Procurement Auctions Online – Establishing a transparent online system for public procurement auctions, similar to that used in the United Kingdom, Austria, and at least forty other countries worldwide, would significantly reduce the costs associated with public procurements while improving transparency.

Deadlines for Permit Decisions – The difficulty of obtaining permits from government is a major impediment to business. Requiring government offices to abide by the deadlines for the review and resolution of permit applications established by the law would greatly reduce delays.

Improved Regulation – Bureaucratic obstacles to businesses could be greatly reduced by empowering of a single government entity to receive and effectively address complaints from local businesses about regulatory and bureaucratic inefficiencies. As a common practice, new legislation affecting business should not be adopted without prior consultations with the business community.

Reduced Parafiscal Fees – Continued reducing or eliminating parafiscal fees and other hidden administrative costs would increase Croatia’s attractiveness as an investment and business destination.

Supported by:

American Chamber of Commerce in Croatia
Austrian Trade Commission
British-Croatian Chamber of Commerce
Canadian-Croatian Business Network
Consultative Committee of the Italian Entrepreneurship in Croatia
German-Croatian Chamber of Industry and Commerce
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