

U.S. Embassy Citizen Outreach



Zagreb, Croatia

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A MESSAGE FROM AMBASSADOR JAMES B. FOLEY



Ambassador James B. Foley presented his credentials to President Mesic on September 15, 2009. Ambassador Foley is a career member of the U.S. Foreign Service, and has served in a variety of positions for the Department of State, including as Ambassador to Haiti, and most recently as Coordinator for Iraqi Refugee Issues.

Once again it is my pleasure to speak directly to the American citizen community in Croatia. I am also happy to report that the relationship between Croatia and the United States continues to be as strong as ever. We enjoy a common language in our shared values, as well as a common commitment to democracy, freedom and security for our citizens. Together, our resolve extends to furthering peace and stability for others around the world. As such, the United States remains a steady partner to Croatia in its course to join the European Union, and fulfilling our shared responsibilities to the Atlantic Alliance.

"Despite the prevailing economic crisis, the timing is right to turn up the volume on our economic relationship, particularly with Croatia making excellent progress in its EU accession negotiations." Ambassador Foley

Yet, as many of you have underscored during our discussions, there is still much we can do to deepen the U.S.-Croatia relationship, specifically in the economic sector. I strongly agree with those of you who have stressed the importance of expanding trade and investment. Croatia is endowed with unique natural and human resources. The United States, meanwhile, enjoys strong expertise with modernization and expansion of tourism infrastructure, renewable energies, and information technologies. These are sectors that can provide economic growth, jobs and individual opportunity in Croatia.

Despite the prevailing economic crisis, the timing is right to turn up the volume on our economic relationship, particularly with Croatia making excellent progress in its EU accession negotiations. It will not be as easy as flipping a switch, however. While many U.S. businesses view Croatia as an attractive potential investment destination, they understandably remain cautious about the current conditions. Bureaucratic complexity, uncompetitive regulatory and tax burdens, slow legal processes and an unlevel playing field for foreign investment all contribute to a dampening of the business climate, which has depressed foreign investment.

Most observers expect membership in the EU ultimately to improve Croatia's outlook. However, it is also true that EU membership alone will be insufficient to realize Croatia's full economic potential. Just like every other country, Croatia has to compete to attract investment, particularly during a global economic crisis. Until Croatia makes concrete progress that improves the business climate, it will remain difficult to attract investors with or without EU branding.

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Of course, it is important to acknowledge that change is always difficult, and many of the reforms needed to improve Croatia's economy will be politically challenging. They will require broad political support, which President Josipovic has encouraged. Given Croatia's track record of making the hard choices and sacrifices necessary to achieve independence and to join Euro-Atlantic institutions, I am confident that the country will rise to this challenge.

I look forward to continuing our dialogue and benefiting from your thoughts and ideas as to how together we can realize fully Croatia's economic potential in partnership with the United States, to the benefit of both countries.

Family Members of World War II B-24 "Tulsamerican" Crew Visit US Embassy Zagreb

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Family members of the World War II bomber "Tulsamerican", which was lost at sea near Vis Island, visited US Embassy Zagreb on September 13, 2010 as part of their private commemoration of the aircraft's crew.

Ambassador James B. Foley received Mr. and Mrs. Gerald Landry at the Embassy, along with members of the Croatian Dive team that found the aircraft after 65 years on the floor of the Adriatic. Landry is the nephew of Lieutenant Russell Landry, navigator of the "Tulsamerican", a U.S. Army Air Corps B-24 Liberator bomber, which crashed near Vis Island, Croatia in December 1944. Croatian fishermen pulled seven of



the plane's ten crewmembers from the water and delivered them to allied forces on Vis. Three of the plane's crew members, including Lieutenant Landry, were lost at sea.

Ambassador Foley saluted the lost crewmembers for their sacrifice on behalf of the United States, and expressed his gratitude for the work of Zeljko Bocek, Daniel Frka, Igor Miholjek and other Croatian divers whose extensive research located the "Tulsamerican."

After departing U.S. Embassy Zagreb, the Landry family and the Croatian dive team proceeded to the Adriatic coast to hold a private memorial ceremony in honor of the aircraft's three lost crewmembers.

Five U.S. Congressmen Visit Croatia

Congressmen Delahunt (D-MA), Burton (R-IN), Flake (R-AZ), Turner (R-OH), and Cohen (D-TN) visited Croatia September 3-6 and met with President Josipovic, Prime Minister Kosor, Foreign Minister Jandrokovic, and members of parliament from both the government and the opposition parties. They also met with representatives of the American Chamber of Commerce in Zagreb to learn about the business climate for foreign firms.

The Congressmen thanked Prime Minister Kosor after she pledged that Croatia would remain a positive force for stability in Afghanistan, as well as the region. President Josipovic told them his main goal is to forge improved relations with Croatia's neighbors, in particular Serbia, and to urge the Bosnian government to move toward much needed reforms. Congressman Delahunt welcomed the President's desire to strengthen regional relations, while stressing the importance of the Bosnian elections. Foreign Minister Jandrokovic echoed the Prime Minister's and President's sentiments. He added the importance of promoting "U.S. and EU values".



U.S. Congressmen Delahunt & Ambassador Foley meeting with President Ivo Josipovic.

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In a discussion with the Congressmen, the American Chamber of Commerce in Zagreb described a poor business climate in Croatia, in which companies face high taxes and fees, long administrative delays, and a labyrinthine bureaucracy. AmCham spoke positively about the government's new harder line against corruption, but agreed that the government needed to follow through with prosecutions and convictions, not just investigations, to reduce the level of corruption in the country. The Congressmen encouraged AmCham to constantly communicate the importance of a good business climate for economic prosperity through open dialogue with political representatives.



U.S. Congressman Delahunt meeting
Prime Minister Jadranka Kosor

Finding happier times, a Balkan hand returns

Hoyt Yee, a career U.S. diplomat, arrived in Croatia in late August. He will serve for the next three years as Deputy Chief of Mission (DCM), a position second only to the ambassador. Having spent the previous 12 months building up and leading the Office of Provincial Reconstruction Teams in Afghanistan—a critical component of President Obama's strategy there—Mr. Yee is now Ambassador Foley's most senior advisor and chief of staff, overseeing all the embassy's sections. Within his wider leadership role, he also has special responsibilities towards the American community in Croatia, including acting as the American International School in Zagreb's school board chairman.

Mr. Yee is no newcomer to the region, however. Much of his diplomatic career intertwines with the recent history of the former Yugoslavia. One of his first assignments was as Special Assistant to the U.S. Envoy to the former Yugoslavia, Ambassador Charles Redman, who conducted the shuttle diplomacy in 1993 – 1994, that helped end fighting between Bosnian Croats and Bosnian Muslims and produced the Washington Accords.



Deputy Chief of Mission Hoyt Yee.

I am personally committed to ensuring we assist American citizens and businesses with the highest possible level of reliability and customer service. We pride ourselves on being a source of valuable advice and assistance to Americans in Croatia. I encourage you to visit our website <http://zagreb.usembassy.gov> for latest news on U.S. policy, Embassy programs, travel advisories and much more, and to give us your feedback on how we can do even better at ZagrebACS@state.gov.

He was later NATO Secretary General Javier Solana's Deputy Chief of Staff from 1996-1999, and helped oversee NATO/SFOR implementation of the Dayton Agreement. He was then intimately involved in NATO's behind the scenes planning and diplomacy during the Alliance's 1999 air campaign in Kosovo. From 1999 to 2001 he was Director for European Affairs at the National Security Council and a central player in White House policy on NATO and European Union affairs. He also opened and led the U.S. Consulate in Podgorica from 2002-2005, just prior to Montenegrin independence, and subsequently served as Consul General in the self-proclaimed "Gateway to the Balkans," Thessaloniki, Greece.

Despite having returned to some familiar geography, Mr. Yee is discovering that Croatia's historical narratives have grown beyond the country's early struggle for independence. Nonetheless, he is sure to continue finding himself party to historical events as Croatia leaps into the future. *Irrespective of the current economic crisis, the modern Croatian youth has options and possibilities unimaginable 17 years ago when I first visited Croatia. Moreover, Croatia today is clearly more preoccupied with the prospects of regional leadership—having achieved NATO membership, the brink of EU accession and the normalization of neighborly relations—than with the bitter aftermath of Yugoslavia's dissolution. This is a healthy, positive agenda that has not only brought Croatia closer to Europe but also to the United States. The Embassy will continue to support Croatia's pursuit of this agenda, including integration into Euro-Atlantic institutions and assumption of greater responsibility for regional security and stability.*

KEEPING YOU IN THE KNOW



Voting and American Citizens Residing Outside the U.S.

Citizens residing outside the U.S. may not arbitrarily choose which state to declare as their legal voting residence without meeting the state's residency requirement. The following are basic guidelines to follow in determining voting residency:

Your "legal state of residence" for voting purposes is the address where you last resided immediately prior to your departure from the U.S. This residence remains valid even though the citizen may no longer own property or have other ties to their last state residence and their intent to return to that state may be uncertain.

Voting in an election for Federal offices only may not be used as the sole basis to determine residency for the purposes of imposing state and local taxes. If you claim a particular state as your residence and have other ties with that state in addition to voting, then you may be liable for state and local taxation, depending upon that particular state law. Consult your legal counsel for specific questions or situations.

Information available at <http://www.fvap.gov/ocit.html>.

Electronic Voting System Project

The following 25 states, or parts of these states, are participating in an Electronic Voting System project:

Alabama, Arizona, Colorado, Delaware, Georgia, Idaho, Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky, Maine, Maryland, Minnesota, Mississippi, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, New Mexico, Nevada, New York, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Texas, Utah, Washington, and West Virginia.

If you vote in one of these states/counties, you should follow the instructions in the attached Electronic Voting System Fact Sheet to find your respective state, and use all of the voting options available to you through www.FVAP.gov. Many of these state tools allow you to use a full ballot reflecting all contests (federal, state, and local). Follow the instructions for returning the voted ballot.

If you subsequently receive your blank state ballot from your state after submitting the online ballot, you should vote and return the state ballot immediately. The state ballot will take priority over the electronic voting project ballot if both are received by the state deadline.

If you have already received, voted, and returned your state ballot, you should not participate in this project.

More available at: www.fvap.gov



WE ARE LOOKING FOR SOME GOOD IDEAS FROM THE U.S. BUSINESS AND CITIZEN COMMUNITY IN CROATIA

- Do you have thoughts on what Croatia ought to do to improve the business climate?
- Have you have specific concerns regarding the economy that you don't think are receiving enough attention?
- Do you have a U.S.-Croatian business success story you want to share?
- How do you think Croatian and American business could work together better, what are some industries where could U.S. investment have the most impact?

Share your thoughts on the economy!

Our favorite letters will be presented to Ambassador Foley and published in the next edition of U.S. Embassy Citizen Outreach. Space is limited, so please keep your thoughts limited to 350 words or less.

Please write to us at:

American Citizen Services
 Embassy of the United States of America
 Ulica Thomasa Jeffersona 2
 10010 Zagreb, Croatia

Or email us at:
 ZagrebACS@state.gov

Split & Zadar American Citizens Events

The Consular Section at the American Embassy in Zagreb is pleased to invite you to American Citizen information event in Split and Zadar October 19 and 20, 2010. Ambassador James Foley will be attending, and we will be providing information and assistance on voting in upcoming elections, federal benefits as well as other citizen services.



Tuesday, October 19, 16:00-18:00

Gradska knjiznica Marka Marulica

Ulica slobode 2

21000 Split

Phone: 021/685 000

Wednesday, October 20, 14:00-16:00

Gradska knjiznica Zadar

Stjepana Radica 11b

23000 Zadar

Phone: 023/301-103

How to Get in Touch for American Citizen Services

American Citizen Services
Embassy of the United States of America

Ulica Thomasa Jeffersona 2
10010 Zagreb, Croatia
Telephone: (+385-1) 661-2345
FAX: (+385-1) 665-8933
Email: ZagrebACS@state.gov

Office Hours

Monday, Tuesday and Thursday: 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.
Wednesday : 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m., and 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Please remember, an appointment is now required for non-emergency ACS matters. You can schedule an appointment using this link: <http://tinyurl.com/yc8n7xb>

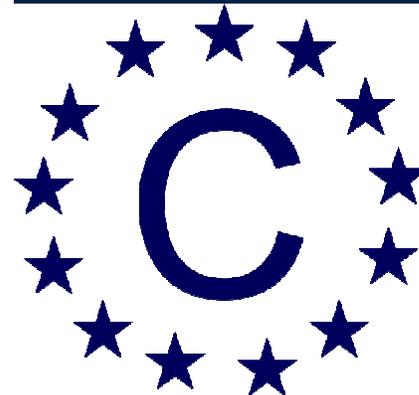
For American Citizen Services in the event of an **EMERGENCY**, call: (+385-1) 661-2400

Federal Benefits Unit

The Embassy's ***Federal Benefits Unit*** is open for telephone inquiries Monday through Friday, 9:00 a.m. to noon.

As with all other services for American Citizens, appointments are required for Federal Benefits matters. To schedule, please call: +385-1-661-2272.

Registration information



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Contact us

If you have a question for the U.S. Embassy staff or an idea for an article in a future edition, write to us at:

ZagrebACS@state.gov



US Embassy

Ulica Thomasa Jeffersona 2
10010 Zagreb
Phone: 385-1-661-2345

We're on the Web!
zagreb.usembassy.gov