

WRITTEN QUESTION E-4806/08  
by Michl Ebner (PPE-DE)  
to the Council

Subject: EU accession negotiations with Croatia

In his inaugural speech of 10 July, President-in-Office of the Council Nicolas Sarkozy commented on the implications of the Irish vote on the Lisbon Reform Treaty for the ongoing accession negotiations with Croatia. According to President Sarkozy, the EU cannot accept any new members until the Reform Treaty comes into force. This includes Croatia: 'If we stick with Nice, it is the Europe of 27.'

However, accession negotiations with Croatia are being conducted on the basis of the Nice Treaty, not the Lisbon Reform Treaty, as they were launched in October 2005, when the idea of the Lisbon Treaty had not yet come about.

In view of the enormous progress made by Croatia over recent years in terms of cooperation with the European Union, it would not be in the Community's interests to delay accession negotiations on full membership with Croatia. Even if the Lisbon Treaty cannot be ratified beforehand, it is vital to continue the negotiations with Croatia at a swift pace in order not to jeopardise what has already been achieved.

How does the Council intend to proceed on this matter?