

Presse Release

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German-Croatian Business Dialogue in Berlin: Seizing opportunities together

- **Prime Minister Plenković to open tomorrow's business meeting**
- **Panel discussion with representatives of German and Croatian companies**
- **Focus on expanding economic cooperation**

Croatian Prime Minister Andrej Plenković is opening the German-Croatian Business Dialogue in Berlin tomorrow (10th December), organised by the German Eastern Business Association (Ost-Ausschuss der Deutschen Wirtschaft) in cooperation with the German Chamber of Industry and Commerce (DIHK), the German-Croatian Chamber of Industry and Commerce (AHK Croatia) and the Croatian Chamber of Economy (HGK) with the support of the Croatian Embassy in Berlin. The Croatian head of government will be accompanied by a high-ranking business delegation from key sectors such as energy, security and defence, IT and supply industries. The exchange will focus on the further development of German-Croatian economic relations, investment opportunities for German companies in Croatia and opportunities for cooperation between German and Croatian companies in key sectors.

“Europe is facing major challenges. This makes it all the more important for Germany and Croatia to deepen their economic cooperation and jointly develop new areas of growth,” says **Christoph Beeck** (ProCredit Holding AG), spokesperson for the South-East Europe Working Group of the German Eastern Business Association. Integration into the single market, the introduction of the euro in 2023 and access to the Schengen area are milestones that make Croatia an attractive location for investment and innovation. As a next step, Croatia is seeking to join the OECD, which includes advanced industrialised countries. “As the most recent new member of the EU, Croatia is a successful example of European integration with growth rates of three per cent and above,” says Beeck. “Twelve years after Croatia’s accession, it is high time to give new impetus to the enlargement process. Integration pays off, both for the EU and for the accession countries.”

“The German-Croatian Business Dialogue shows that there is great potential in digitalisation, security and defence – and that this potential must be exploited now. Investment in high-performance digital infrastructures and secure platforms forms the basis for innovation and growth,” says **Nicole Renvert**, Managing Director International Markets at the German Chamber of Commerce and Industry. Companies in both countries should deepen their technological cooperation and initiate joint projects in key sectors such as IT, energy and security technologies. “At the same time, promoting skilled workers is crucial for the digital transformation – partnerships in training and further education are essential”, Renvert continues.

“German-Croatian economic relations have been developing extremely dynamically for years”, says **Marjan Vučak**, President of the AHK Croatia. “As the German-Croatian Chamber of Industry and Commerce, we support companies in building concrete bridges to new projects, investments, and partnerships. With over 370 member companies, we have a strong network that highlights Croatia’s attractiveness as a business location. Especially in times of global uncertainty, close economic cooperation is a crucial driver of stability and growth.”

“Croatia and Germany have always been close partners – economically, politically, and culturally. An increasing number of Croatian companies are becoming an essential part of the international supply chains of the top German industry leaders – both manufacturing companies and service companies. This proves their quality and shows that our economy can position itself as a reliable partner in the global high-tech sector. Some have been operating in the German market for a long time, through their own offices or through German partners. Others are only beginning to recognise the potential of the German market in their strategic plans. I would especially highlight the energy, IT, and defence industries. This event shows how vital institutional and chamber support is when entering new markets or strengthening existing cooperation,” says the president of the Croatian Chamber of Economy **Luka Burilović**.

Dialogue for new growth areas

The business dialogue in Berlin is entitled 'Bridging Strengths: New Horizons in Business Cooperation and Supply Opportunities between Germany and Croatia'. High-ranking representatives from politics and business in both countries will discuss opportunities in the fields of energy, digitalisation, infrastructure and security technologies. Prime Minister Plenković's speech will be followed by a panel discussion with representatives of German and Croatian companies, including Siemens Energy, Hrvatski Telekom and E.ON Croatia.

Trade turnover between Germany and Croatia reached €6.6 billion in January to September 2025, an increase of nine per cent over the previous year. German exports to Croatia rose by 6.3 per cent, while imports from Croatia rose by as much as 15.4 per cent. According to the German Bundesbank, German companies have already invested €3.4 billion in Croatia and employ about 34,000 people there.

The conference programme can be found [here](#)

About the German Eastern Business Association

The German Eastern Business Association (founded in 1952) promotes German business in the 29 countries of Central, Eastern and South-Eastern Europe, the South Caucasus and Central Asia. German trade with Eastern Europe accounts for around one-fifth of total German foreign trade, making it more significant than trade with the United States and China combined. The German Eastern Business Association has more than 350 member companies and associations and is supported by six leading German business associations – BDI, BGA, Bankenverband, DIHK, GDV and ZDH.

www.ost-ausschuss.de

About the DIHK

The German Chamber of Industry and Commerce (DIHK) is the umbrella organisation for the 79 chambers of industry and commerce (IHKs) in Germany. It represents the overall interests of the German commercial economy in domestic and foreign politics. Through its worldwide network of foreign chambers of commerce (AHKs), delegate offices and representative offices, the DIHK is also committed to supporting and promoting German companies in international markets.

www.dihk.de

About the AHK Croatia

The German-Croatian Chamber of Industry and Commerce (AHK Croatia) is part of a global network of 150 German Chambers of Commerce Abroad (AHKs) and Delegations of German Business in 93 countries. Since its establishment in 2003, it has offered a network of currently more than 370 registered companies from German, Croatian, and international business circles, as well as a wide range of valuable services for members and non-members. This makes AHK Croatia the largest bilateral business organization in the country. The network of German Chambers of Commerce Abroad (AHKs), consisting of bilateral chambers, delegations, and representative offices of German business, advises, supports, and represents German companies worldwide that want to establish or expand their international business activities. AHKs are institutions of Germany's foreign trade promotion. The Association of German Chambers of Commerce and Industry (DIHK) continuously coordinates and develops the AHK network. They are partially funded by the Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Energy (BMWE).

About the Croatian Chamber of Economy

The CCE (HGK) connects key sectors of the national economy through a network of county chambers, communities, associations, international representative offices, and memberships in international chambers. It also promotes the interests of its members before government bodies. The Chamber focuses on several crucial areas of operation, such as lobbying and representation of members' interests, internationalisation, education and conferences, information sharing, EU projects, and economic development. The Chamber offers a range of services to bolster local companies' capacities and improve the Croatian economy's competitiveness, all while putting its members at the forefront of its operations.

<https://www.hgk.hr/english>

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