On the occasion of the signature of the Stabilisation and Association Agreement between the European Communities and their Member States, of the one part, and the Republic of Croatia, of the other part (1), the European Community and its Member States and the Republic of Croatia (hereinafter referred to as 'the Parties') express their resolution to reinforce and intensify their mutual relations in the political fields.

Accordingly, the Parties agree to establish a regular political dialogue which will accompany and consolidate their rapprochement, support the political and economic changes underway in the Republic of Croatia, and contribute to strengthening their existing links and establish new forms of cooperation, in particular taking into account Croatia's status as a potential candidate for European Union membership.

The political dialogue, based on shared values and aspirations, will aim at:

1. reinforcing democratic principles and institutions as well as respect for human rights, including the rights of persons belonging to national minorities;
2. promoting regional cooperation, development of good neighbourly relations and fulfillment of obligations under international law;
3. facilitating the integration of the Republic of Croatia to the fullest possible extent into the political and economic mainstream of Europe based on its individual merits and achievements;
4. increasing convergence of positions between the Parties on international issues, and on those matters likely to have substantial effects on the Parties, including cooperation in the fight against terrorism and other areas in the field of justice and home affairs;
5. enabling each Party to consider the position and interests of the other party in their respective decision making process;
6. enhancing security and stability in the whole of Europe and, in particular, in South-Eastern Europe, through cooperation in the areas covered by the Common Foreign and Security Policy of the European Union.

The political dialogue between the Parties will take place through regular consultations, informal contacts and exchange of information as appropriate, in particular in the following formats:

1. high-level meetings between representatives of the Republic of Croatia on the one hand, and representatives of the European Union, in the Troika format, on the other;
2. providing mutual information on foreign policy decisions taking full advantage of diplomatic channels, including contacts at the bilateral level in third countries as well as within multilateral forums such as the United Nations, OSCE, Council of Europe and other international organisations;
3. contacts at Parliamentary level;
4. any other means which would contribute to consolidating, and developing dialogue between the Parties,
5. where appropriate, political dialogue may be organised as a multilateral and/or regional dialogue.

(1) Signed at Luxembourg on 29 October 2001.