

The Social Democratic Opposition running favourite in the general elections on 4th December in Croatia.

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ANALYSIS
1 month before
the poll

On 31st October last the President of the Republic of Croatia, Ivo Josipovic dissolved the Hrvatski Sabor, the only chamber of parliament, and confirmed that general elections would take place on 4th December next. All polls forecast that the Democratic Union (HDZ), led by Prime Minister Jadranka Kosor, the party in office since 1991 (except for a gap in 2002-2003) will lose.

The Croatian electoral law and the constituencies have been redesigned. Opposition leader Zoran Milanovic (Social Democratic Party, SDP) criticised this change to the electoral map that took place less than a year before the general elections, qualifying it as illegal. Branko Bacic, the HDZ Secretary General said that this showed that the opposition forces were afraid of losing the election.

The Croatian Political System

The Croatian Parliament has been unicameral since 2001 when the Chamber of Comitats was abolished. Its only chamber, the Hrvatski Sabor, comprises around 150 MPs. According to the Constitution their number may vary depending on the legislature; there can be no less than 100 nor more than 160. MPs are elected every four years by proportional representation within 100 constituencies, each of them electing 14 people. The 11th constituency rallies the Croats living abroad. The Croatian vote abroad, traditionally supportive of the HDZ is the focus of recurrent debate. The influence of the diaspora on the election is however negligible. The 12th constituency elects 8 MPs representing the national minorities. In the present Parliament 145 MPs represent the Croats and 8, the national minorities (3 Serb, 1 Hungarian, 1 Italian, 1 Czech and 1 Slovak) and two, the other minorities living in Croatia (Austrian, Bulgarian, Bosniak, Macedonian, Montenegrin etc ...).

A political party has to win a minimum of 5% of the vote to be represented in the Hrvatski Sabor. 10 political parties are represented in the Hrvatski Sabor at present:

– the Democratic Union (HDZ), centre-right, founded in 1989 and led by outgoing Prime Minister

Jadranka Kosor has 66 seats;

– the Social Democratic Party (SDP), the main opposition party created in 1990 and led since May 2007 by Zoran Milanovic has 56 MPs;

– the Farmers' Party (HSS), led by Josip Frisic and member of the outgoing government coalition has 8 seats;

– the People's-Liberal Democratic Party (HNS), centre-left, founded in 1990 and led by Radimir Cacic has 7 seats;

– the Democratic Alliance of Slavonia and Baranja (HDSSB), rightwing, founded in 2006 and led by Vladimir Sisljagic has 4 seats ;

– the Istrian Democratic Assembly (IDS), a regionalist movement founded in 1990 to defend the interests of the inhabitants of the regions of Istria and Kvarner and led by Ivan Jakovic has 3 MPs ;

– the Pensioners' Party (HSU) founded in 1996 and led by Silvano Hrelja, has one seat ;

– The Right Party (HSP), rightwing, led by Daniel Srb, has 1 seat;

– the Workers'-Labour Party (HL-SR), leftwing created in 2010 and led by Dragutin Lesar has 1 seat;

– the Social Democrats (HSD), founded in 2004 and led by Ivica Pancic, has 1 MP.

In Croatia the president of the Republic is elected by direct universal suffrage every 5 years.

Ivo Josipovic, the Social Democratic Party, the candidate supported by the People's Party-Liberal Democrats, the Democratic Party of Istria, the Pensioners' Party, the Greens as well as the previous head of State, Stjepan Mesic, won the second round of the presidential election with 60.26% on 10th January 2010 beating his rival Milan Bandic, Mayor of Zagreb, who was excluded from the Social Democratic Party after announcing that he was standing with the support of the Farmers' Democratic Party; he won 39.74% of the vote. Turnout totalled 50.13% (33.80% in the first round on 27th December).

The Democratic Union in trouble

The Democratic Union (HDZ) launched its electoral campaign on 27th September last in Zagreb. Jadranka Kosor, outgoing Prime Minister said she was happy with the government's work – the latter comprises the HDZ and the Farmers' Party. *"The government is very proud of what it has achieved, which means a total success for Croatia,"* she said. However the country is experiencing socio-economic difficulties. Recovery is still uncertain and GDP growth is stagnating. It is due to rise to 1% in 2011 according to the most recent figures released by the Central Bank. Unemployment totals 16.7%. Ms Jadranka's government was forced to implement austerity measures: budgetary cuts in the civil service, tax increases and cuts in public sector wages and pensions. In February 2011, demonstrations, the first of their kind, were organised in protest against the austerity policy implemented by the government coalition. Throughout the year the Croatians have demonstrated their discontent in the streets of Rijeka, Split and Djakovo.

Over the four years to come Jadranka Kosor is promising to revive growth, reduce the country's public deficit (down to 2.6% in 2013) and boost youth employment without saying how she might be able to achieve these goals. *"Zoran Milanovic wants to enter office quickly because he fears that his chances of winning will deteriorate when negotiations with the EU have been completed, that the result of the economic reforms will be visible and that economic recovery will be happening,"* she stresses.

In addition to the international socio-economic crisis the HDZ is struggling due to various cor-

ruption scandals in which several of its members, including the former leader of the party and Prime Minister (2003-2009), Ivo Sanader, are involved. On 9th December 2010, on the request of the courts, the Hrvatski Sabor lifted Ivo Sanader's parliamentary immunity, the latter having fled Croatia. He was finally arrested in Salzburg (Austria) where he is now in prison. On 18th July last Ivo Sanader was indicted for abuse of power and corruption. He is under prosecution for having received money illegally (480,000 €) from an Austrian bank (Hypo Alpe Adria) when he was Deputy Foreign Minister during the Croatian war (1991-1995) and of having received a bribe of 10 million € from the Hungarian oil company MOL, which was trying to take over the Croatian oil company INA. Ivo Sanader could be sentenced to a maximum of ten years in prison. His trial that was postponed a first time for medical reasons, started on 3rd November.

Under Jadranka Kosor's leadership the situation has improved somewhat. The Prime Minister also said that she would not forget nor forgive Zeljko Jovanovic's (SDP) declarations. The latter accused the HDZ of being a "criminal organisation". Doing more to counter corruption and organised crime is a demand made by the EU and Ivo Sanader's trial will be a test from Brussels' point of view.

Josip Frisic, leader of the Farmers' Party, the HDZ's government ally hopes that the government coalition will continue. He said he is confident in a victory on 4th December next. *"We have done everything in the right way. Many think that the Prime Minister has done nothing but she has worked every day to bring Croatia closer to the EU and we are now in a position to be able to sign our country's accession treaty to the EU,"* he said. Jadranka Kosor has also said that she wants to continue with the outgoing government coalition after the election.

The Social Democrats running favourite

The Social Democratic Party (SDP) launched its electoral campaign on 21st September last in Varazdin (north). Zoran Milanovic presented a 21 point programme that focuses on five points: investment, innovation, integration, industry and exports. *"A government led by the Social Democratic Party is the guarantee of a better Croatia,"*

he said. He is promising to increase the GDP by 4% by 2015 and to win back the 140,000 jobs that were lost over the last four years. The SDP is quick to say that if it had been in power in the last legislature it would have reduced unemployment, avoided wage and retirement reductions, put a halt to inflation and developed infrastructure. It has chosen to make young people one of the main priorities of its campaign. Young people, who are the most sceptical about Croatia joining the EU, are believed to be the main losers in globalisation. *"These general elections represent the battle for them to win back their confidence, optimism and their opportunities. We do not want a Croatia that is glued to the EU like a limpet; we want to turn our country into a giant, a little dragon within the 27,"* said Zoran Milanovic. *"In Croatia the alternative is clear: on one side there is incompetence, corruption and confusion and on the other opportunity and hope to be governed better,"* he said. *"The Democratic Union does not need a programme; it has shown over the last eight years what it has to offer,"* stressed Vesna Pusic, former leader of the Pensioners' Party and an SDP ally in the electoral campaign. She also qualified her country's accession to the EU as the *"trophy that the Democratic Union would like to hang on the wall."*

The SDP has led in the polls since 2009. The party said that it would join forces with the Istrian Democratic Assembly, the People's-Democratic Liberals Party and the Pensioners' Party in the general elections. If Zoran Milanovic wins his bet on 4th December, it will be the first time that Croatia will have had a change of government since 2000.

Entry into the EU, the countdown has started

Croatia is due to join the EU on 1st July 2013. After six years of negotiation the membership treaty is due to be signed by 2/3 of the members of the Hrvatski Sabor on 9th December next. According to the Croatian constitution the text has to be submitted to referendum within 30 days of its adoption by Parliament.

The President of the Republic, Ivo Josipovic said that he wanted the referendum on Croatia's membership of the EU to be organised after the general elections. The Head of State hopes that the vote in support of Zagreb's membership will rally at least 6 to 7 voters out of 10. In his opinion the Croats who say they will vote *"no"* to the membership referendum fear the unknown

and that the political parties have to inform and help them overcome this feeling. All of the Croatian parties support EU membership except for the Right Party led by Daniel Srb and three others which are not represented in parliament: *"Only Croatia"* led by Milovan Sibl, *"Action for a Better Croatia"* led by Zeljko Sasic and the Democratic Christian Party led by Petar Kacunko, which joined forces on 5th October in the Alliance for Croatia.

Progress in negotiations slowed somewhat due to differences between Zagreb and Brussels over the prosecution of war criminals, the fight to counter corruption and even the demarcation of the border with Slovenia. The EU criticised Croatia for a long time for not cooperating sufficiently with the ICTY in The Hague and of having delayed in reforming its legal system, believed to be excessively dependent on the ruling party. However the EU does believe that significant progress has been made and membership negotiations were finalised on 30th June last.

The border dispute with Slovenia led to the suspension of negotiations between Croatia and the EU in December 2008. The dispute between the two States was over a few kilometres of coastline and some sea miles in the Adriatic in the Bay of Piran – which comprised Slovenia's only access to international waters. Indeed it is surrounded by national waters, Italian in the North, Croatian in the South. Ljubljana wanted an extension of its territorial waters so that it had its own access to international waters, the idea of which Zagreb rejected for a long time before deciding otherwise in 2009. The maritime border between the two countries was the focus of an international arbitration procedure.

Croatia is therefore due to become the second republic of former Yugoslavia to join the EU. *"The door is now open, Croatia is returning to Europe,"* declared Prime Minister Jadranka Kosor, who hopes that this success will help her party, just a few weeks before the election.

According to the latest poll by CRO Demoskop, published on 3rd November last, the Alliance for Change that rallies the Social Democratic Party, the People's-Democratic Liberals Party, the Pensioners' Party and the Istrian Democratic Assembly is due to win 37.2% of the vote. The Democratic Union is due to win 18.3%. Amongst the other parties running only the Workers'-Labour Party (HL-SR) is due to win the vital 5% of the vote to be represented in Parliament.

Reminder of the General Elections Results on 25th November 2007 in Croatia

Turnout: 59,6%

Political Parties	No./votes won	% /votes won	No /seats won
Democratic Union (HDZ)	907 743	36,6	66
Social Democratic Party (SDP)	775 690	31,2	56
Green-Yellow Coalition(Z)	161 814	6,5	8
Farmers' Party/Social Liberal Party/Party of the Coastal Regions of Primorje and Gorski Kotar. Democratic Party of Zagorge/Zagorge Party (HSS/HSLs/PGS/ZDS/ZS)	168 440	6,8	7
People's Party (HNS)	38 267	1,5	3
Istrian Democratic Assembly (IDS)	44 552	1,8	3
Democratic Alliance of Slavonia & Baranja (HDSSB)	101 091	4,1	1
Pensioners' Party (HSU)	86 865	3,5	1
The Right Party (HSP)			8
National Minorities	184 477	7,4	0
Others			

Source : Site internet <http://psephos.adam-carr.net/countries/c/croatia/croatia2007.txt>

The leftwing coalition forecast to win in the Croatian general elections on 4th December next.

D-7
7 days before
the poll

Around 4000 people, from 21 political parties are standing in the general elections in Croatia on 4th December next. 151 seats are available in the Sabor, the only chamber in parliament.

For the first time in the country's history the Independent Serb Democratic Party (SDSS) is putting a list forward led by outgoing Deputy Prime Minister Slobodan Uzlac in one of the country's ten constituencies, the 9th (Zadar, Sibenik, Knin). Until now the SDSS only stood for the college of national minorities.

On 2nd November President of the Republic Ivo Josipovic made a television appearance to call on his countrymen to vote in the election. "*The voting slip is always democracy's most powerful arm and it is in your hands,*" he said. Likewise the Conference of Catholic Bishops wanted to motivate the electorate, "*we cannot complain about our life if we give up trying to influence it,*" reads their message.

The official electoral campaign that will be the shortest that Croatia has ever known, started on 16th November and will end on 2nd December at midnight.

Outgoing Prime Minister Jadranka Kosor, (Democratic Union HDZ), whose government includes the HDZ and the Farmers' Party (HSS), a conservative party led by Josip Frisic, is running in the 5th constituency (Pozega, Slavonski Brod, Vukovar), her home territory (she was born in Pakrac), and one of the HDZ's strongholds. According to some analysts this will enable her to avoid a duel with the opposition leader Zoran Milanovic (Social Democratic Party SDP), who is standing in the 1st constituency (Zagreb). The HDZ will be represented by Miroslav Tadjman, son of the former President (1990-1999), Franjo Tadjman.

"The economy, strengthening the economy is the heart and intelligence of our programme. We want a social responsible, fair, European Croatia that develops in an equitable manner," repeats Jadranka Kosor, who is, however, aware of the difficulties the HDZ faces.

Since 3rd November last the party has had to contend with the trial of its former leader and former Prime Minister (2003-2009) Ivo Sanader, who is appearing before the courts accused of six crimes including corruption, illegal funding and abuse of power. He is accused of having received illegal funds (to a total of 480,000€) from an Austrian bank (Hypo Alpe Adria) whilst he was Deputy Foreign Minister during the Croatian War (1991-1995) and of having later received a bribe of 10 million € from the Hungarian petrol company MOL, which was trying to take over the national Croatian petrol company INA. Ivo Sanader risks the maximum sentence of 10 years in prison. Four other party executives are appearing alongside the Prime Minister.

In addition to this the HDZ is the focus of an inquiry by the Bureau to Counter Organised Crime (USKOK) on the funding of electoral campaigns in the elections of 2003 and 2007 and the presidential election in 2005. *"It is an attempt to demolish the Democratic Union,"* declared the outgoing Prime Minister. *"The party will emerge stronger from these investigations,"* maintained the party Deputy Chairman Ivan Jarnjak. *"It is a clear sign of the determination to address corruption at the highest level and to show that no-one can now be protected,"* indicates political analyst Zarko Puhovski. *"What is happening confirms that we are telling the truth to our European friends. Today no-one is untouchable in Croatia. We are a country in which the rule of law holds sway,"* stresses President of the Republic Ivo Josipovic.

Struggling in the electoral campaign, the HDZ is relying on patriotism. It has called in several of its old executives, such as former Justice Minister (2003-2006) and present leader of the Democratic Centre (DC), Vesna Skare-Ozbolt. Jadranka Kosor, who launched her campaign in Veliko Tr-

govisce, Franjo Tadjman's home town, qualified this choice as a *"return to the source."* In the 9th and 10th constituencies the party has chosen to join forces with the controversial leader of the Croatian Citizens' Party (HGS) and Mayor of Split, businessman Zeljko Kerum, who sits third on the HDZ's list in the 10th constituency (Split-Dalmatie Dubrovnik-Neretva, Lika). This alliance has however been accepted differently by the party's members.

Finally Prime Minister Jadransk Kosor has to face the discontent of the Croatians, who are suffering major socio-economic difficulties. GDP growth is stagnating (1% forecast in 2011 by the Central Bank) and unemployment is close to 17%. Over the last few months the government has introduced austerity measures (budgetary cuts, tax increases, salary reductions in the public sector and retirement pensions), measures which have brought a great number of Croats out into the streets of Zagreb, Rijeka, Split and Djakovo.

The Farmers' Party (HSS) presented its electoral programme in Bjelovar – entitled *5+ equitable development*. "5" refers to the pillars on which it would like to found Croatia's development. Apart from the family, this involves equitable development, tourism on new bases, environmental protection, the revival of rural areas and the protection of natural resources. Its leader, Josep Frisic, wants to turn the HSS into the country's main rightwing party.

As for the opposition, the Social Democratic Party led by Zoran Milanovic has joined forces with the Democratic Party of Istria (IDS) led by Ivan Jakovcic in this election, the People's Party-Liberal Democrats (HNS) led by Radimir Caci and the Pensioners' Party (HSU) led by Silvano Hrelja. The four parties have joined together in a leftwing coalition called *Kukuriku* (Alliance for Change).

"Our first task will be to create jobs," says Radimir Cacic, who might become Economy Minister in the event of a leftwing victory on 4th December. To reduce unemployment, the opposition wants to stimulate investments notably in the sectors of tourism, transport and energy. They also want to reform the tax system and have set themselves the goal of reducing the budgetary deficit by half over the next four years, since this represents 6.2% of the GDP. Finally they want to change the retirement system. 1.4 million workers support 1.1 million pensioners, who receive social aid and this even includes war veterans, according to figures provided by the national statistics institute released in September. *"People retire too early in our country and do not receive the allocations they need,"* declared Radimir Cacic.

Branimir Glavas, former lawyer and founder of the Democratic Alliance of Slavonia and Baranja (HDSSB), a party

chaired by Vladimir Sisljagic, is not standing. Believed to be a hero in Slavonia, the first Croat to have been found guilty of war crimes, was sentenced to 10 years in prison (reduced to 8 by the Supreme Court) for having ordered the torture and murder in 1991 of at least 10 Serb civilians in Osijek, a town where he was in charge of security. At present he is in prison in Bosnia-Herzegovina, a country whose nationality he holds and where he fled to after the war. Branimir Glavas gave up his electoral bid after the Constitutional Court said that his candidature infringed the codes of fundamental democratic values.

On 9th December Croatia is due to sign an accession treaty with the 27 heads of State and Government of the European Union in Brussels. On 1st July 2013 the country will become the second former republic of Yugoslavia to join the European Union. "Accession to NATO and the end of negotiations with the EU confirm that Croatia now respects most international standards. The outgoing government has done a great deal of work towards achieving this result," declared the President of the Republic Ivo Josipovic, who will travel to Brussels with outgoing Prime Minister Jadranka Kosor on 9th December.

The Croatians will be called to vote in a referendum on the country joining the European Union in January 2012.

Jadranka Kosor is using this event to motivate her countrymen. "The question of who will lead the country at the time of accession is vital. The HDZ is a member of the European People's Party (EPP), the biggest political group in the European Parliament, which has enabled us to receive 3.5 billion euros from the European Union," she declared.

According to the latest polls the Alliance for Change is due to win the general elections and the HDZ is forecast to achieve its lowest score ever. The People's Party-Liberal Democrats, the Democratic Alliance of Slavonia and Baranja, the Farmers' Party, the Right Party (HSP) and the Independent List Ljubo Jurcic are also due to win seats in the Sabor.

Just one week before the election, the victory of the opposition seems to be almost certain. The main question focuses on the future of the party in office at present. Will the HDZ manage to maintain a parliamentary group that is able to represent real opposition to the left in the next Sabor?

The left coalition wins the Croatian general elections

RESULTS

The Kukuriku coalition – "Alliance for Change" - led by the Social Democratic Party (SDP), the main opposition party of Zoran Milanovic rallying Ivan Jakovic's Istrian Democratic Assembly (IDS), Radimir Cacic's People's Party-Liberal Democrats (HNS) and Silvano Hrelja's Pensioners' Party (HSU), won the general elections that took place on 4th December in Croatia with 44.5% of the vote and 80 seats (+13 in comparison with the previous election on 25th November 2007) in the Hrvatski Sabor, the only chamber in Parliament.

It took the lead over the Democratic Union (HDZ) led by outgoing Prime Minister Jadranka Kosor, which won 22.1% of the vote and 47 seats (-19). The Democratic Alliance of Slavonia and Baranja (HDSSB) led by Vladimir Sisljagic won 6 seats, as did the Croatian Labour-Labour Party (HL-SR) led by Dragutin Lesar. The Independent List led by former priest, Ivan Grubsic, won 2 seats. The Farmers' Party (HSS) led by Josip Frisic and member of the outgoing government coalition won one seat, as did the Right Party (HSP). The Kukuriku coalition won in 8 of the 10 electoral constituencies. The HDZ won in 3 including that of the expatriate Croats, (70.24%) of the vote.

As far as the 12th constituency is concerned, which represents the national minorities, Milorad Pupovac, Vojislav Stanimirovic and Jovo Vukovic were elected for the Serbs, Robert Jankovics for the Hungarians, Furio Radin for the Italians, Vladimir Bilek for the Czechs and the Slovaks, Zeljko Balog for the Austrians, Bulgarians, Germans, Poles, Roma, Romanians and Ruthens and Ermina Lekaj Prljaskaj for the Albanians, Bosnians, Montenegrins, Macedonians Slovenians.

Turnout rose to 56.55%, i.e. -3,1 points in comparison with the general election on 25th November 2007.

"Croatian citizens have given us their trust. They have given us a chance to lead Croatia and our responsibility is great. I promise that we shall not let you down. We are going to be of benefit to Croatia together," declared Zoran Milanovic when the results were announced, adding, "We shall join the EU and it is a great chance for us." "We are taking this show of support seriously and we shall work hard. This gives us a strong mandate but it is also a major duty," declared Vesna Pusic, former Pensioners' Party leader, who is due to become Foreign Minister, as she spoke on Nova TV.

The Democratic Union admitted its defeat. "Now we shall start work towards victory in the next general elections. We shall serve our people with dignity even though we'll be in the opposition," indicated outgoing Prime Minister Jadranka Kosor. Poor economic results and various corruption scandals explain the failure of the ruling party. "Jadranka Kosor did not fail, it was Ivo Sanader who made us lose this election," maintains former Justice Minister (2003-2006) and present chair of the Democratic Centre (DC), Vesna Skare-Ozbolt, alluding to the trial of the former HDZ leader and former Prime Minister (2003-2009) Ivo Sanader, who has been on trial on six charges since 3rd November. Moreover the party is also the focus of an inquiry on the part of the Bureau to counter organised crime (USKOK) with respect to the funding of the electoral campaigns in 2003 and 2007 and the presidential election of 2005, in which Jadranka Kosor was a candidate.

"I am expecting better cooperation than we've had until now. I am an optimist. The election has showed that Croatia is a mature democracy" declared the President of the Republic Ivo Josipovic.

Zoran Milanovic, who is 45, is a law graduate of Zagreb University. He worked at the Foreign Affairs Ministry before moving to the Nagorno Karabakh, where he was the first Croatian to take part in a UN peacekeeping mission. Between 1996 and 1999 he was advisor to the Croatian Mission at the EU and NATO. In 1999 he joined the Social Democratic Party and after the party's victory in the general elections on January 3rd 2000 he was appointed to take care of relations with NATO, then in 2003, he became Deputy Foreign Minister.

On 2nd June 2007 Zoran Milanovic was elected as head of the Social Democratic Party beating three other candidates Zeljka Antunovic, Milan Bandic and Tonino Picula.

On 23rd November 2010 he signed an agreement with the People's Party-Liberal Democrats (HNS) the Istrian Democratic Assembly (IDS) and the Pensioners Party (HSU) to form a political coalition named the *Alliance for Change* in view of the general elections in 2011.

Zoran Milanovic's future government will have to undertake an austerity policy cutting into budgetary spending and achieve Croatia's economic recovery; unemployment affected 17.4% of the population in October, the sovereign debt is over 100% of the GDP, and growth is not due to rise above 0.5% this year. The new team will have to step up the fight to counter corruption. Zoran Milanovic said that "victory was the easy part and was just the start of work." "Reforming Croatia will be more difficult" warned the leftwing leader, who kept the strategy he would implement in order to keep his promises, a well guarded secret during the electoral campaign (reduction of the debt, creation of jobs, the end of the brain-drain etc ...)

Zoran Milanovic announced that the "budget would be put on a diet" and that "the Croats should work more, harder and longer" He promised measures to stimulate economic revival, such as the abolition of the tax on reinvested profit or a reduction of social contributions with every new job.

"The greatest danger is if our sovereign rate is downgraded," stresses Zdeslav Santic, an analyst with the Splitska bank "In the coming months the next budget will have to show that accounts are being consolidated and we shall have to reassure foreign investors," he added.

On 9th December next Croatia will sign its membership treaty of the European Union in Brussels. On 1st December the European Parliament approved 564 votes in support, 38 against and 32 abstentions, Zagreb's accession to the EU. Croats are to vote within the next few weeks by referendum on their country's accession to the EU. If they vote yes, this will become effective on 1st July 2013.

On 1st December MEPs invited Zagreb to address "problems that continue to exist, particularly in the area of legal reform and the fight to counter corruption and organised crime," and to step up its efforts in view of prosecuting war crimes, respecting all of the recommendations made by the International Criminal Tribunal for Former Yugoslavia in the Hague (ICTY) and to encourage the return of war refugees, notably the Serbs.

General Election Results on 4th December 2011 in Croatia

Turnout : 56.55%

Political Parties	No. of seats won
Alliance for change (KUKURIKU)	80
Democratic Union (HDZ)	47
Democratic Alliance of Slavonia and Baranja (HDSSB)	6
Croatian Labour-Labour Party (HL-SR)	6
Ivan Grubisic Independent List	2
Right Party (HSP)	1
Farmers' Party (HSS)	1
National Minorities	8
Others	0

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