

PUBLIC LECTURE SERIES 2005

CROATIA'S PATH TO EU MEMBERSHIP

Kolinda Grabar Kitarovic

Minister of Foreign Affairs and European Integration of the Republic of Croatia

Monday 31 October, 11am

The Hall, University House, Cnr Liversidge Street and Balmain Crescent, ANU

This lecture is free and open to the public.

Refreshments will follow the lecture.

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Croatia is making great progress as a functioning democracy where the rule of law is guaranteed. The European Union's Council of Ministers recently opened negotiations with the Republic of Croatia, as it moves towards full membership of the EU. The council acknowledged Croatia as a democracy with stable institutions, and the ability of its market economy to withstand the competitive pressures of full integration.

In this lecture, Croatia's foreign minister Kolinda Grabar Kitarovic will discuss Croatia's efforts to become a full member of the EU and new opportunities for future cooperation between Croatia and Australia. She will also discuss how these developments signal the growth of Croatian government and society since it became an independent country 14 years ago.



Kolinda Grabar Kitarovic is Croatia's Minister of Foreign Affairs and European Integration. After serving as an adviser in the Department for International Cooperation of the Ministry of Science and Technology, Ms Grabar Kitarovic became active in the diplomatic service in 1993 and was elected to parliament in 2003.

She has played a major role in paving the way for Croatia's membership in the EU. In 2003 she was appointed Minister for European Integration, while, in January, she was named head of the delegation for the negotiations on the accession of Croatia to the European Union. Ms Grabar Kitarovic was appointed Minister for Foreign Affairs and European Integration in February.