



**EUROPEAN COMMISSION**

**PRESS RELEASE**

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## **First Head of European Commission Representation in Croatia appointed**

The European Commission has appointed His Excellency Ambassador Branko Baričević as the first ever Head of the European Commission Representation in the Republic of Croatia. He will take up office on 1 July 2013.

As of 1 July 2013, the Republic of Croatia will become the 28<sup>th</sup> Member State of the European Union. Consequently, on 1 July, the current *Delegation* of the European Union will close its doors, and, instead, a *Commission Representation* will open. It will have 18 staff members plus the Head of Representation, Mr Branko Baričević.

Mr Baričević is a career diplomat and since 2005 he has been the Head of Mission of Croatia to the European Union in Brussels. He previously served in different diplomatic missions of Croatia (to the USA, Cyprus and Portugal). Prior to his diplomatic career, Mr Baričević was a medical doctor, having undertaken studies in Zagreb, New York and Munich.

Mr Baričević brings to his new role a track record of working with the European institutions during the negotiations for the accession of Croatia to the EU and has a strong background in communication related to EU integration, EU policies and EU institutions.

### **Background**

The European Commission has Representations in all 27 (soon 28) EU Member States and Regional Offices in Barcelona, Belfast, Bonn, Cardiff, Edinburgh, Marseille, Milan, Munich and Wrocław. They inform the media and public about EU policies and report to the European Commission on significant developments in the country. The Representations are under the authority of Vice-President Viviane Reding.

### **For more information**

Homepage of Vice-President Viviane Reding, EU Justice Commissioner:

<http://ec.europa.eu/reding>

[MEMO/13/593](#) detailing the institutional implications of Croatian accession

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