



**PERMANENT MISSION OF THE REPUBLIC OF CROATIA  
TO THE OSCE, UN AND INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS IN VIENNA**

A-1030 VIENNA, RENNWEG 3

TEL: (+43 1) 535 0137; FAX: (+43 1) 535 0134; EMAIL: [cromiss.vienna@mvep.hr](mailto:cromiss.vienna@mvep.hr)

---

PC.DEL/1331/18  
6 November 2018

**Statement by Ambassador of Croatia  
Amb. Dubravka Plejić Marković**

ENGLISH only

**in response to the Report by the OSCE High Commissioner on National Minorities  
Amb. Lamberto Zannier  
OSCE PC 1 November 2018**

Mr. Chairperson,

Although fully aligning with the statement made by the European Union, Croatia would like to add some remarks in national capacity, particularly as regards to HCNM Amb. Zannier's visit to Croatia.

Let me begin with stating that the current Government of Croatia, and the Prime Minister Plenković himself, remain dedicated to the further protection and strengthening of human rights in Croatia, rights of national minorities included.

Prime Minister Plenković has repeatedly stated that "already established minority rights" should be further protected, thus calling "irresponsible" those requests which would like to see these rights limited.

Furthermore, I would like to emphasise that political representatives of national minorities - Serbs included - form the governing coalition in Croatia.

When visiting Croatia, High Commissioner on National Minorities Zannier also visited Vukovar, a town gravely affected by war in 1991, when the Yugoslav Army and the paramilitaries aiming to achieve territorial gains held the town in siege for 87 days, resulting with more than 3.000 people being killed during the battle and numerous war crimes committed against Croats after the fall of Vukovar.

Therefore, sensitivities still prevail in Croatia when it comes to Vukovar, adding to complexities to which the High Commissioner referred a while ago.

Ambassador Zannier, since your visit was conducted in Serbia as well, we would like to thank you for showing an interest in the situation concerning the Croat minority there.

In Vojvodina, where the majority of Croats reside - despite recent improvements and high-level political exchanges - we are witnessing the situation where the presence of convicted war criminal on the ground, Šešelj namely, is seriously affecting their minority and human rights. His inflammatory rhetoric, use of threats and intimidation is preventing the members of the Croat minority in fully exercising their rights – for example in the field of education.

As Serbia is heading to the new elections for National Councils of National Minorities, several months after the law entered into force, we will be following these elections along with other interested countries.

It is our view that only through effective political representation of the Croat minority representatives, at all levels of the government in Serbia, and in accordance with the existing state agreement, their rights would be better protected.

Thank you.