

THE CONSTITUTION OF THE REPUBLIC OF CROATIA

I. Historical Foundations

The millenarian identity of the Croatian nation and the continuity of its statehood, confirmed by the course of its entire historical experience within different forms of states and by the preservation and growth of the idea of a national state, founded on the historical right of the Croatian nation to full sovereignty, manifested in:

- the formation of Croatian principalities in the seventh century;
- the independent mediaeval state of Croatia founded in the ninth century;
- the Kingdom of Croats established in the tenth century;
- the preservation of the identity of the Croatian state in the Croatian-Hungarian personal union;
- the independent and sovereign decision of the Croatian National Parliament (Sabor) of 1527 to elect a king from the Habsburg dynasty;
- the independent and sovereign decision of the Croatian National Parliament on the Pragmatic Sanction of 1712;
- the conclusions of the Croatian National Parliament of 1848 regarding the restoration of the Triune Kingdom of Croatia under the authority of the Banus, grounded on the historical national and natural right of the Croatian nation;
- the Croatian-Hungarian Compromise of 1868 on the relations between the Kingdom of Dalmatia, Croatia and Slavonia and the Kingdom of Hungary, grounded on the legal traditions of both states and the Pragmatic Sanction of 1712;
- the decision of the Croatian National Parliament of 29 October 1918 to dissolve state relations between Croatia and Austria-Hungary and the simultaneous affiliation of independent Croatia, invoking its historical and natural right as a nation, with the State of Slovenes, Croats and Serbs, proclaimed on the former territory of the Habsburg Monarchy;
- the fact that the Croatian National Parliament had never sanctioned the decision of the National Council of the State of Slovenes, Croats and Serbs to unite with Serbia and Montenegro in the Kingdom of Serbs, Croats and Slovenes (1 December 1918), subsequently (3 October 1929) proclaimed the Kingdom of Yugoslavia;
- the establishment of the Home Rule (Banovina) of Croatia in 1939, by which Croatian state identity was restored within the Kingdom of Yugoslavia;
- establishing the foundation of state sovereignty during the course of the Second World War, by the decisions of the Antifascist Council of National Liberation of Croatia (1943), as opposed to the proclamation of the Independent State of Croatia (1941), and subsequently in

the Constitution of the People's Republic of Croatia (1947) and all later constitutions of the Socialist Republic of Croatia (1963-1990). On the threshold of the historical changes marked by the collapse of the communist system and changes in the European international order, the Croatian nation by its freely expressed will at the first democratic elections (1990) reaffirmed its thousand year old statehood. By the new Constitution of the Republic of Croatia (1990) and the victory in the Homeland War (1991-1995), the Croatian nation demonstrated its will and determination to establish and defend the Republic of Croatia as a free, independent, sovereign and democratic state.

Considering the presented historical facts and the universally accepted principles of the modern world, as well as the inalienable, indivisible, non-transferable and imperishable right of the Croatian nation to self-determination and state sovereignty, including its fully maintained right to secession and association, as basic provisions for peace and stability of international order, the Republic of Croatia is established as the national state of the Croatian nation and the state of members of autochthonous national minorities: Serbs, Czechs, Slovaks, Italians, Hungarians, Jews, Germans, Austrians, Ukrainians, Ruthenians and the others who are its citizens, and who are guaranteed equality with citizens of Croatian nationality and the realization of national rights in accordance with the democratic norms and standards of the United Nations Organization and the countries of the free world.

Respecting the will of the Croatian nation and all citizens, resolutely expressed in the free elections, the Republic of Croatia is hereby established and democratic state in which the quality and rights of man and citizen are guaranteed and ensured, and their economic and cultural progress and social well-being promoted.

II. Basic Provisions

Article 1

The Republic of Croatia is a unitary and indivisible democratic and social state.

Power in the Republic of Croatia derives from the people and belongs to the people as a community of free and equal citizens.

The people shall exercise this power through the election of representatives and through direct decision-making.

Article 2

The sovereignty of the Republic of Croatia is inalienable, indivisible and non-transferable.

The sovereignty of the Republic of Croatia encompasses its land area, rivers, lakes, canals, internal maritime waters, territorial sea, and the air space above these.

The Republic of Croatia shall exercise its sovereign rights and jurisdiction in the maritime areas and the seabed and subsoil thereof of the Adriatic Sea outside the state territory up to the borders with its neighbors in accordance with international law.

The Croatian Sabor and people shall directly, independently and in accordance with the Constitution and law, decide:

- on the regulation of economic, legal and political relations in the Republic of Croatia;
- on the preservation of natural and cultural wealth and its utilization;
- on association in alliances with other states.

The Republic of Croatia may conclude alliances with other states, retaining its sovereign right to decide on the powers to be delegated and the right freely to withdraw from such associations.

Article 3

Freedom, equal rights, national equality, love of peace, social justice, respect for human rights, inviolability of ownership, conservation of nature and the human environment, the rule of law, and a democratic multiparty system are the highest values of the constitutional order of the Republic of Croatia.

Article 4

In the Republic of Croatia government is organized on the principle of division of powers into the legislative, executive and judicial branches.

The principle of division of powers applies to all who are entrusted with authority by the Constitution and the law.

Article 5

In the Republic of Croatia laws must conform with the Constitution; other rules and regulations shall conform with the Constitution and law.

Everyone shall abide by the Constitution and law and respect the legal order of the Republic of Croatia.

Article 6

The formation of political parties is free.

Political parties shall be formed according to the territorial principle.

The parties can freely organize themselves.

The work of a political party whose program or activity violently threatens the democratic constitutional order, independence, unity or territorial integrity of the Republic of Croatia is not permitted. On the unconstitutionality the Constitutional Court of the Republic of Croatia decides.

The status and financing of political parties is regulated by law.

Article 7

The armed forces of the Republic of Croatia protect its sovereignty and independence and defend its territorial integrity.

The armed forces of the Croatian Republic can travel abroad or serve beyond the frontiers only on the basis of the previous approval by the Croatian Sabor.

The armed forces may serve abroad on the basis of obligations to international organizations which the Republic of Croatia assumed resulting from international agreements for humanitarian help even without the previous decision of the Croatian Sabor.

Article 8

The border of the Republic of Croatia may only be altered by a decision of the Croatian Sabor.

Article 9

Croatian citizenship, its acquisition and termination, is regulated by law.

A Croatian citizen cannot be exiled from the Republic of Croatia or deprived of citizenship, nor extradited to another state.

Article 10

The Republic of Croatia protects the rights and interests of its citizens living or residing abroad, and promotes their links with the homeland.

Parts of the Croatian nation in other states shall enjoy special concern and protection by the Republic of Croatia.

Article 11

The coat-of-arms of the Republic of Croatia is the historic Croatian coat-of-arms whose base consists of 25 alternating red and white (argent) fields.

The flag of the Republic of Croatia consists of three colors: red, white and blue, with the historic Croatian coat-of-arms in the center.

The anthem of the Republic of Croatia is "Our Beautiful Homeland" (Lijepa naša domovino).

The description of the historic Croatian coat-of-arms and flag, the text of the anthem, and the use of these and other state symbols are regulated by law.

Article 12

The Croatian language and the Latin script shall be in official use in the Republic of Croatia.

In individual local units, another language and the Cyrillic or some other script may be introduced into official use along with the Croatian language and the Latin script, under conditions specified by law.

Article 13

The capital of the Republic of Croatia is Zagreb.

The City of Zagreb is a separate territorial and administrative unit whose organization is regulated by law.

III. Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms

1. General Provisions

Article 14

Everyone in the Republic of Croatia shall enjoy all rights and freedoms, regardless of race, color, sex, language, religion, political or other belief, national or social origin, property, birth, education, social status or other criteria.

All shall be equal before the law.

Article 15

In the Republic of Croatia all national minorities have equal rights.

The equality and protection of the rights of national minorities are regulated by a Constitutional law and law which is supplemented by organic laws.

By law, the electoral rights pertaining to national minorities may be modified so that the national minorities can elect their own representatives to the Croatian Sabor.

Members of all national minorities are guaranteed freedom to express their nationality, freedom to use their language and script, and cultural autonomy.

Article 16

Freedoms and rights may only be restricted by law in order to protect freedoms and rights of others, public order, public morality and health.

Any limitation of freedoms and rights must be proportionate to the need for limitation in each individual case.

Article 17

During a state of war or an immediate threat to the independence and unity of the State, or in the event of severe natural disasters, individual freedoms and rights guaranteed by the Constitution may be restricted. This shall be decided by the Croatian Sabor by a two-thirds majority of all members or, if the Croatian National Parliament is unable to meet on the proposal of the Government and the signature of the Prime Minister, by the President of the Republic.

The extent of such restrictions shall correspond to the nature of the danger, and may not result in the inequality of citizens in respect of race, color, sex, language, religion, national or social origin.

Not even in the case of an immediate threat to the existence of the state may restrictions be imposed on the application of the provisions of this Constitution concerning the right to life, prohibition of torture, cruel or degrading treatment or punishment, on the legal definitions of criminal offences and punishments, or on freedom of thought, conscience and religion.

Article 18

The right to appeal against first-instance decisions made by courts or other authorities is guaranteed.

The right to appeal may exceptionally be excluded in cases specified by law, if other legal remedies are ensured.

Article 19

Decisions of administrative agencies and other bodies vested with public authority must be based on law.

Judicial review of decisions made by administrative agencies and other bodies vested with public authority is guaranteed.

Article 20

Anyone who violates the provisions of this Constitution concerning the human rights and fundamental freedoms shall be held personally responsible and may not be exculpated by invoking a superior order.

2. Personal and Political Freedoms and Rights

Article 21

Every human being has the right to life.

In the Republic of Croatia there is no capital punishment.

Article 22

Freedom and personality are inviolable.

No one may be deprived of liberty, nor may his liberty be restricted, except upon a court decision in accordance with law.

Article 23

No one may be subjected to any form of maltreatment or, without his consent, to medical or scientific experimentation.

Forced and compulsory labor are forbidden.

Article 24

No one may be arrested or detained without a court order. Such an order must be read and served on the person being arrested.

The police may arrest a person without a court order when the person is reasonably suspected of having committed a serious criminal offence defined by law. The arrested person must be promptly informed, in understandable terms, of the reasons for the arrest and of his rights determined by law.

Any person arrested or detained has the right to appeal to the court, which shall decide without delay on the legality of the deprivation of freedom.

Article 25

All arrested and convicted persons must be treated humanely and their dignity must be respected.

Anyone who is detained and accused of a criminal offence has the right to be brought before the court within the shortest term specified by law and to be acquitted or sentenced within the legally specified term.

A detainee may be released on bail to defend himself.

Anyone who has been unlawfully deprived of liberty or convicted is, in conformity with law, entitled to damages and a public apology.

Article 26

All citizens of the Croatian Republic and aliens are equal before the courts, governmental agencies and other bodies vested with public authority.

Article 27

The Odvjetništvo, as an autonomous and independent service, provides all with legal aid, in conformity with law.

Article 28

Everyone shall be presumed innocent and may not be considered guilty of a criminal offence until proved guilty by a final court judgement.

Article 29

Everyone has the right to be judged by an independent and impartial court which decides on the rights of the accused and the punishment for a punishable act.

Anyone suspected or accused of a criminal offence has the right:

- to a fair trial before a competent court specified by law;
- to be informed promptly of the reasons for the charges against him and of the incriminating evidence against him;
- to a defense counsel and free communication with him, and to be informed of this right;
- to be tried in his presence if he is accessible to the court, and to defend himself in person or with the assistance of the defense counsel of his own choice.

A charged and accused person must not be compelled to testify against himself or to confess guilt.

Evidence illegally obtained cannot be admitted in court proceedings.

The free assistance of an interpreter if he does not understand or speaks the language used in the court.

Article 30

The sentence for a serious and exceptionally dishonorable criminal offence may, in conformity with law, have as a consequence the loss of acquired rights or a ban on acquiring, for a specific period of time, certain rights relating to the conduct of specific affairs, if this is required for the protection of the legal order.

Article 31

No one can be punished for an act which, at the time when it was committed, did not constitute a penal offence, under domestic or international law, nor shall be sentenced to a penalty which was not applicable at the time the offence was committed. If a less severe penalty is determined by law after the commission of an offence, such penalty shall be imposed.

No one may be tried anew for an offence for which he was already tried and for which a final sentence was pronounced.

Only on the basis of law, and in conformity with the Constitution and international law, can criminal proceedings be re-instituted, as stated in paragraph 2 of this article.

Article 32

Anyone who is lawfully on the territory of the Republic of Croatia has the right to move freely and to choose his residence.

Every citizen of the Republic of Croatia has the right to leave the state territory at any time and settle abroad permanently or temporarily, and to return to his homeland at any time.

The freedom of movement within the Republic of Croatia and the right to enter or leave it may exceptionally be restricted by law, if this is necessary for the protection of the public order or health, or the rights and freedoms of others.

Article 33

Foreign citizens and stateless persons may obtain asylum in the Republic of Croatia, unless they are prosecuted for non-political crimes and activities contrary to the basic principles of international law.

No alien lawfully within the territory of the Republic of Croatia may be expelled or extradited to another state, except in pursuance of a decision made in accordance with an international agreement and the law.

Article 34

The home is inviolable.

Only a court may order the search of a home or other premises, in conformity with law and a statement of reasons.

The tenant or his representative has the right to be present at the search of his home or other premises in addition to the obligatory presence of two witnesses.

Subject to conditions specified in the law, the police authorities may enter a home or other premises without a court warrant or consent of the tenant, and carry out a search in the absence of witnesses, if this is necessary to enforce an arrest order or to apprehend the offender, or to prevent serious danger to life or major property.

A search aimed at finding or securing evidence for which there exists reasonable probability to be found in the home of the perpetrator of a criminal offence, may only be carried out in the presence of a witness.

Article 35

All people shall be guaranteed respect for and legal protection of private and family life, dignity, reputation and honor.

Article 36

Freedom and privacy of correspondence and all other forms of communication are guaranteed and inviolable.

Only by law may restrictions necessary for the protection of the security of the state and the conduct of criminal proceedings be enacted.

Article 37

Everyone shall be guaranteed the safety and secrecy of personal data. Without consent of the person concerned, personal data may be collected, processed and used only under conditions specified by law.

The protection of data and the supervision of the work of information systems in the state shall be regulated by law.

The use of personal data contrary to the purpose of their collection is prohibited.

Article 38

Freedom of thought and expression are guaranteed.

Freedom of expression includes freedom of the press and other media of communication, freedom of speech and public expression, and the free establishment of all institutions of public communication.

Censorship is forbidden. Journalists have the right to freedom of reporting and access to information.

The right to correction and reply is guaranteed to anyone whose constitutional rights have been violated by public information.

Article 39

Prohibited and punishable is any call for or incitement to war, or resort to violence, national, racial or religious hatred, or any form of intolerance.

Article 40

Freedom of conscience and religion and freedom to manifest other beliefs are guaranteed.

Article 41

All religious communities are equal before the law and are separate from the state.

Religious communities are free, in conformity with law, to perform publicly religious services, to open schools, teaching establishments and other institutions, social and charitable institutions and to manage them, and enjoy the protection and assistance of the state in their activity.

Article 42

All are guaranteed the right of peaceful assembly and public protest in accordance with the law.

Article 43

All are guaranteed the right to freedom of association for the purposes of protection of their interests or promotion of their social, economic, political, national, cultural and other convictions and objectives. For this purpose, citizens may freely form political parties, trade unions and other associations, join them or leave them, in accordance with the law.

The exercise of the right to free association is limited by the prohibition of any violent threat to the democratic constitutional order and to the independence, unity and territorial integrity of the Republic of Croatia.

Article 44

Every citizen of the Republic of Croatia has the right, under equal conditions, to take part in the conduct of public affairs, and to be admitted to the public service.

Article 45

Croatian citizens who have reached the age of eighteen years have universal and equal suffrage. This right is exercised through direct elections by secret ballot.

In elections to the Croatian Sabor and for the President of the Republic, the Republic of Croatia shall ensure suffrage to its citizens who reside abroad at the time of the elections, so that they may vote in the countries in which they reside or in another way specified by law.

Article 46

All citizens shall have the right to present petitions and complaints, to make proposals to governmental and other public bodies, and to receive answers to them.

Article 47

Military service and the defense of the Republic of Croatia are the duty of every citizen.

Conscientious objection is allowed to those who, because of their religious or moral convictions, are not willing to participate in the service of a military character in the armed forces. Such persons are obligated to perform the other service specified by law.

3. Economic, Social and Cultural Rights

Article 48

The right to ownership is guaranteed.

Ownership entails obligations (obvezuje). Owners and users of property must contribute to the general good.

A foreign person may acquire property under conditions specified by law.

The right of inheritance is guaranteed.

Article 49

Free enterprise and the freedom of the market are the basis of the economic system of the Republic of Croatia.

The State ensures to all entrepreneurs an equal legal status on the market. The misuse of monopolies are forbidden by law.

The State stimulates economic progress and social welfare and cares for the economic development of all regions.

The rights acquired through the investment of capital cannot be diminished by law, or by any other legal act.

Foreign investors are guaranteed free transfer and repatriation of the profits and the invested capital.

Article 50

By law, in the interest of the Republic of Croatia, ownership property may be restricted or expropriated upon payment of its market value.

The exercise of entrepreneurial freedom and property rights may exceptionally be restricted by law for the purposes of protecting the interests and security of the Republic of Croatia, nature, human environment and public health.

Article 51

All are obligated to participate in public expenses in accordance with their economic capabilities.

The system of taxation is based on the principles of uniformity and equity.

Article 52

The sea, seashore and islands, waters, air space, mineral wealth and other natural resources, as well as land, forests, fauna and flora, other parts of nature, real estate and goods of special cultural, historic, economic or ecological significance, which are specified by law to be of interest to the Republic of Croatia, enjoy its special protection.

By law the way in which goods of interest to the Republic of Croatia may be used and exploited by holders of rights to them and by their owners, and compensation for the restrictions imposed on them.

Article 53

The Croatian National Bank is the central bank of the Republic of Croatia.

The status of the Croatian National Bank is regulated by law.

The Croatian National Bank is independent in its work and responsible to the Croatian Sabor.

Article 54

All have the right to work and enjoy the freedom of work

All are free to choose their vocation and occupation, and all jobs and duties are accessible to everyone under the same conditions.

Article 55

Every employee has the right to a fair remuneration, such as will give him and his family a free and decent standard of living.

Maximum working hours are regulated by law.

Every employee has the right to a weekly rest and annual holidays with pay, and these rights may not be renounced.

Employees may, in accordance with law, participate in decision-making in firms.

Article 56

The right of employees and of members of their families to social security and social insurance is regulated by law and collective agreements.

Rights in connection with childbirth, maternity and child care are regulated by law.

Article 57

To the weak, to the helpless and other persons, the State ensures the right to assistance to who are unable to meet their basic needs due to unemployment or incapacity to work.

The State devotes special care to the protection of disabled persons and their inclusion in social life.

Receiving humanitarian aid from abroad must not be forbidden.

Article 58

To all is guaranteed the right to health care in accordance with the law.

Article 59

In order to protect their economic and social interests, all employees have the right to establish trade unions and are free to join and leave them.

Trade unions may establish their associations and join international trade union organizations.

Formation of trade unions in the armed forces and the police can be restricted by law.

Employers have the right to establish their associations and are free to join or leave them.

Article 60

The right to strike is guaranteed.

The right to strike may be restricted by law in the armed forces, the police, the public administration and the public services.

Article 61

The family enjoys the special protection of the State.

Marriage and legal relations in marriage, common-law marriage and families are regulated by law.

Article 62

The State protects maternity, children and young people, and creates social, cultural, educational, material and other conditions conducive to the realization of the right to a decent living.

Article 63

Parents have the duty to bring up, support and educate their children, and have the right and freedom to decide independently on the upbringing of their children.

Parents are responsible for ensuring the right of their children to a full and harmonious development of their personalities.

Physically and mentally handicapped and socially neglected children have the right to special care, education and welfare.

Children are obligated to take care of old and helpless parents.

The State takes special care of parentless minors or parentally neglected children.

Article 64

Everyone has the duty to protect children and helpless persons.

Children may not be employed before reaching the legally determined age, nor may they be forced or allowed to do work harmful to their health or morality.

Young people, mothers and disabled persons have the right to special protection at work.

Article 65

Primary education is compulsory and free.

Secondary and higher education shall be made equally accessible to all, on the basis of ability.

Article 66

Under conditions specified by law, citizens may open private schools and teaching establishments.

Article 67

The autonomy of universities shall be guaranteed.

Universities decide independently on their organization and work in conformity with the law.

Article 68

Freedom of scientific, cultural and artistic creativity is guaranteed.

The State stimulates and assists the development of science, culture and the arts.

The State protects scientific, cultural and artistic goods as national spiritual values.

The protection of moral and material rights deriving from scientific, cultural, artistic, intellectual and other creative activities is guaranteed.

The State promotes and assists physical culture and sports.

Article 69

Everyone has the right to a healthy life.

The State ensures citizens the right to a healthy environment.

All are obligated, within their powers and activities, to pay special attention to the protection of public health, nature and the human environment.

IV. Organization of Government

1. The Croatian Sabor

Article 70

The Croatian Sabor is the representative body of the people and is vested with the legislative power in the Republic of Croatia.

Article 71

The Croatian Sabor has no less than 100 and not more than 160 members, elected on the basis of direct universal and equal suffrage by secret ballot.

Article 72

Members of the Croatian Sabor are elected for a four-year term.

The number of members of the Houses of the Croatian Sabor, and the conditions and procedures for their election, are regulated by law.

Article 73

Elections for members of the Houses of the Croatian Sabor are held not later than 60 days after the expiry of the mandate of the Croatian Sabor.

The first session of the Croatian Sabor shall be held not later than 20 days after the elections.

The Croatian Sabor is constituted with the election of the President at its first session in which a majority of the members is present.

Article 74

Members of the Croatian Sabor do not have an imperative mandate.

Members of the Croatian Sabor receive a regular monetary remuneration and have other rights specified by law.

Article 75

Members of the Croatian Sabor enjoy immunity.

A member cannot be prosecuted, detained or punished for an opinion expressed or a vote cast in the Croatian Sabor.

A member cannot be detained, nor may criminal proceedings be instituted against him, without the consent of the Croatian Sabor.

A member may only be detained without the consent of the Croatian Sabor if he has been caught in the act of committing a criminal offence which carries a penalty of imprisonment of more than five years. In such a case, the President of the Croatian Sabor shall be notified.

When the Croatian Sabor is not in session, approval for the detention of a member, or for the continuation of criminal proceedings against him, shall be given and his right to immunity decided by the credentials-and-immunity committee of the Croatian Sabor.

Article 76

The term of office of members of the Croatian Sabor can be extended by law only in the case of war or cases referred to in Articles 17 and 100 of the Constitution.

Article 77

The Croatian Sabor may be dissolved if it is decided by the majority of all their members.

The President of the Republic may, in conformity with Article 103 of the Constitution, dissolve the Croatian Sabor.

Article 78

The Croatian Sabor convenes in regular session twice a year: the first period between January 15 and June 15, and the second period between September 15 and December 15.

The Croatian Sabor shall convene an emergency session at the request of the President of the Republic, the Government, or the majority of members of the Croatian Sabor.

The President of the Croatian Sabor may, with the previous consent of the representatives of parliamentary clubs call the Croatian Sabor into an extraordinary session.

Article 79

The Croatian Sabor has a President and one or more Vice-Presidents.

The internal organization and proceedings of the Croatian Sabor are regulated by its rules.

The rules shall be passed by a majority vote of all members.

Article 80

The Croatian Sabor decides:

- on the enactment and amendment of the Constitution;
- on the enactment of law;
- on the adoption of the national budget;
- decides on war and peace;
- decides on the acts with which the policy of the Croatian Sabor is announced;
- decides the national strategy of security and strategy of defense of the Croatian Republic;
- decides on alterations of the borders of the Republic of Croatia;
- on holding a referendum;
- on the implementation of elections, appointments and dismissal from office, in conformity with the Constitution and law;
- supervises the work of the Government of the Republic of Croatia and other holders of public authority responsible to the Croatian Sabor, in conformity with the Constitution and law;
- grants amnesty for criminal offences;
- conducts other affairs as specified by the Constitution.

Article 81

Unless otherwise specified by the Constitution, the Croatian Sabor makes decisions by a majority vote, provided that a majority of members are present at the session.

Members vote in person.

Article 82

Laws (organic laws) which regulate national rights are passed by the Croatian Sabor by a two-thirds majority vote of all members.

Laws (organic laws) which elaborate the constitutionally guaranteed human rights and freedoms, the electoral system, the organization, competences and operation of governmental bodies and the organization of local and regional self-government and administration are passed by the Croatian Sabor by a majority vote of all its members.

Pursuant to Article 7, paragraph 2, and Article 8 of the Constitution, the Croatian Sabor decides with a two-third's majority of its members.

Article 83

Sessions of the Croatian Sabor are public.

Article 84

The right to propose bills is exercised by all members of the Croatian Sabor, committees of the Croatian Sabor, and the Government of the Republic of Croatia.

Article 85

Members of the Croatian Sabor, in conformity with the rules, have the right to ask questions addressed to the Government of the Republic of Croatia and to individual ministers.

At least one-tenth of the members of the Croatian Sabor can present an interpellation.

The manner of asking questions and presenting interpellation is requested by the procedure.

Article 86

The Croatian Sabor may call a referendum on a proposal for the amendment of the Constitution, on a bill, or any other issue within its competence.

The President of the Republic can, at the proposal of the Government and with the counter-signature of the Prime Minister, call a referendum on a proposal for the amendment of the Constitution or any other issue he considers to be significant for the independence, unity and existence of the Republic of Croatia.

On the issue, with reference to paragraphs 1 and 2 of this article, the Croatian Sabor may schedule a referendum in accordance with the Constitution and the law.

In a referendum, the decision is made by the majority of voters, provided that the majority of all eligible voters have cast their ballots in the referendum.

Decisions made at referenda are binding.

A law on referenda shall be passed.

Article 87

The Croatian Sabor may empower the Government of the Republic of Croatia, for a maximum period of one year to regulate by decrees certain issues from its competence, except those relating to the elaboration of constitutionally guaranteed human rights and fundamental freedoms, national rights, the electoral system, the organization, competences and operation of governmental bodies and local self-government.

Decrees based on statutory authority cannot have a retroactive effect. Decrees passed on the basis of legal authority shall cease to be valid after the expiry of the period of one year from the date the House of Representatives granted such authority, unless the Croatian Sabor decides otherwise.

Article 88

Laws are promulgated by the President of the Republic within eight days from the date when they were passed in the Croatian Sabor.

If the President finds that the law which is to be promulgated is not in conformity with the Constitution, he may send it to the Constitutional Court for its opinion.

Article 89

Before coming into force, laws are published in “Narodne Novine”, the official gazette of the Republic of Croatia.

The regulations of bodies which have public relevance can be published elsewhere in accordance with the law.

A law comes into force at the earliest on the eighth day after its publication, unless otherwise specified by law for exceptionally justified reasons.

The laws and other regulations of state bodies, and which have public relevance, cannot have retroactive effect.

Only individual provisions of a law can have retroactive effect.

Article 90

State revenues and expenditures are determined by the State budget.

A law whose implementation requires financial funds must specify the sources of such funds.

Article 91

The Croatian Sabor may form commissions of inquiry concerning any issue of public interest.

The commission of inquiry shall have a structure and scope in accord with law.

The President of the commission of inquiry is elected by a majority from its members.

Article 92

The People's Attorney, as a commissioner of the Croatian Sabor, protects the constitutional and legal rights of citizens in proceedings before administrative agencies and bodies vested with public powers.

The People's Attorney is elected by the Croatian Sabor for a term of eight years.

Conditions for the election and dismissal from office and the mode of work of the People's Attorney and his deputies are regulated by law.

The institution of the People's Attorney is competent to ensure the protection of the constitutional and legal rights of the citizens, with respect to the Minister of Defense, armed forces and armed security services, and the protection of the rights in relation to the bodies of local and regional self-administration before bodies of state power.

2. The President of the Republic of Croatia

Article 93

The President of the Republic represents the Republic of Croatia at home and abroad.

The President maintains respect for the Constitution, and ensures the continuity and unity of the Republic and regular functioning of the government.

The President is responsible for the defense of the independence and the territorial integrity of the Croatian Republic.

Article 94

The President of the Republic is elected in direct elections by secret ballot, on the basis of universal and equal suffrage, for a term of five years.

No one can be elected President of the Republic more than twice.

The President of the Republic is elected by more than one-half of the valid ballots. If none of the candidates has obtained such a majority, a run-off election shall be held after 14 days.

The two candidates who obtained the largest number of votes in the first election have the right to the run-off election. If one of those candidates withdraws his candidature, the candidate who is next in the number votes obtained shall acquire the right for run-off election.

Elections for the President of the Republic are held no less than 30 and no more than 60 days before the expiry of the term of office of the incumbent President.

Before assuming his duty, the President of the Republic takes a solemn oath swearing loyalty to the Constitution.

The election of the President of the Republic is regulated by law.

Article 95

The President of the Republic cannot, except for office-related duties, perform any other public or professional duty.

After the presidential elections, he shall resign from his political party and notify the Croatian Sabor accordingly.

Article 96

The President of the Croatian Sabor can take over the duties of the President of the Republic during periods of his absence, illness or vacation time. The President's return to his duties shall be determined by the President himself.

In case of a long absence, such as illness or prolonged inability to perform his duty, especially if the President of the Republic is not capable to make a decision regarding his temporary replacement, based on the decision of the Constitutional Court, the President of the Croatian Sabor shall take over the function of a temporary President of the Republic. The Constitutional Court shall make its decision following the recommendation from the Government.

In case of death, resignation or termination of presidential mandate, the causes of which shall be decided by the Constitutional Court, the President of the Croatian Sabor shall take over the function of a temporary President of the Republic. The President of the Republic shall give his resignation to the President of the Constitutional Court and notify the President of the Croatian Sabor.

When the President of the Croatian Sabor, serving as a temporary President of the Republic, signs a law, it shall be co-signed by the Prime Minister.

Presidential elections shall take place within 60 days of the day the temporary duty is assigned, according to Section 3 of this Article.

Article 97

The President of the Republic:

- calls the elections to the Croatian Sabor and summons the first Parliamentary session;
- calls for a referendum in accordance with the Constitution;
- entrusts the mandate for forming the government to a person who, based on the distribution of electoral seats in the Croatian Sabor, enjoys the trust of the majority of its representatives;
- grants pardons;
- awards decorations and awards as prescribe by law;
- performs other duties specified by the Constitution.

Article 98

The President and the Government of the Republic of Croatia shall cooperate in formation and implementation of international policy.

The President, following the recommendation of the Government and the approval of the Prime Minister, shall make decisions on the establishment of diplomatic missions and consular offices of the Republic of Croatia.

The President, taking into consideration the recommendation of the Government and opinion of the competent committee of the Croatian Sabor, makes decisions regarding the nomination and dismissal of representatives of the consular missions. These decisions shall be countersigned by the Prime Minister.

The President receives letters of accreditation of foreign representatives of diplomatic missions.

Article 99

The President is the Commander and Chief of the armed forces of the Republic of Croatia.

The President appoints and relieves from duty army commanders, in accordance with the law.

Based on the decision of the Croatian Sabor, the President declares war and concludes peace.

In case the independence, integrity or existence of the Republic is threatened, the President can, with the approval of the Prime Minister, order the use of armed forces even if a state of war has not been declared.

Article 100

During the state of war the President can issue decrees which shall have the force of law based on the authority which he received from the Croatian Sabor. If the Croatian Parliament is not in session, the President has the authority to issue decrees having a force of law to address any problems that shall occur during the state of war.

In case the independence, integrity or existence of the Republic are threatened, or in case the government bodies are unable to regularly perform their constitutional duties, the President can, at the proposal and approval of the Prime Minister, issue decrees which shall have the force of law.

The President of the Republic shall present the decrees which have the force of law to be approved by the Croatian Sabor as soon as it can convene a session.

If the President does not present the decrees to the Croatian Sabor for the approval, as called for in Section 3 of this Article, or if the Croatian Sabor does not approve the decree in question, the decree which has the force of law shall cease to be valid.

In the case events described in Section 1 and 2 of this Article take place, the President can call for the meeting of the Government and shall preside over this session.

Article 101

The President can suggest to the Government to convene a session and to take certain issues into consideration.

The President can be present at the Session of the Government and can participate in the discussion.

Article 102

The President and the Government of the Republic of Croatia, in accordance with the Constitution and law, shall cooperate in directing the work of the security agencies.

The appointment of the heads of security agencies shall be co-signed by the President and the Prime Minister after taking into consideration the opinion of the corresponding Committee of the Croatian Sabor.

Article 103

The President, following the recommendation of the Government and approval of the Prime Minister, and after consultation with the representatives of the parliamentary parties, can dissolve the Croatian Sabor. This shall take place if the Croatian Sabor, following the Government's call for a vote of confidence, delivers a vote of no confidence, or does not deliver the state budget within 120 days of the day when the vote was called.

The President cannot, based on the recommendation of the Government, dissolve the Croatian Sabor while his responsibility for the violation of the Constitution is being investigated.

Article 104

The President is responsible for any of his acts of breaching the Constitution while performing his duties.

The Croatian Sabor may begin the impeachment process with a two-thirds majority vote.

The impeachment is decided by a two-thirds majority vote of all the judges in the Croatian Constitutional Court.

The Constitutional Court shall complete its ruling within 30 days of receiving the impeachment notice.

If the Constitutional Court impeaches the President, he is dismissed from his post.

Article 105

The President has immunity from responsibility (*imunitet nepovredinosti*).

The President cannot be imprisoned nor can a legal action be taken against him without prior approval by the Constitutional Court.

The President can be imprisoned without the approval of the Constitutional Court only if he is found committing an act punishable by imprisonment of five or more years. In this case, the

governmental body which imprisons the President is obligated to immediately notify the President of the Constitutional Court.

Article 106

The advisory bodies shall help the President perform his duties. Members of these bodies are nominated and dismissed by the President of the Republic. Nominations that conflict with the principle of division of power are not admissible.

Advisory, professional and other work is performed in the Office of the President. The organization and competence of the office are specified by law and regulations.

3. The Government of the Republic of Croatia

Article 107

The Government of the Republic of Croatia exercises power in accordance with the Constitution and law.

Article 108

The Government of the Republic of Croatia consists of the Prime Minister, one or more Deputy Prime Ministers and Ministers.

Without the approval of the Government, the Prime Minister and members of the Government cannot perform any other public or professional duty.

Article 109

Members of the Government are nominated by a person who was chosen by the President of the Republic with the mandate to form a Government.

Immediately after the Government has been chosen, and no longer than 30 days after accepting his duty, this person is responsible to present the Government's program and the Government itself to the Croatian Sabor. He shall then request a vote of confidence.

The Government becomes official when a majority of the representatives in the Croatian Sabor delivers the vote of confidence in favor of the Government.

The Prime Minister and members of the Government give their formal oaths in front of the Croatian Parliament. The text of the oath is determined by law.

The President of the Republic nominates the Prime Minister, based on the vote of confidence by the Croatian Sabor in the Government of the Republic of Croatia. The nomination must be co-signed by the President of the Croatian Sabor, while the nomination for the members of the Government shall be approved by the Prime Minister and co-signed by the President of the Croatian Sabor.

Article 110

If the mandator does not succeed in forming the Government within 30 days of accepting his mandate, the President of the Republic can extend the mandate for no more than 30 additional days.

In case the mandator does not succeed to form the Government, or the Government he forms does not receive a vote of confidence from the Croatian Sabor, the President of the Republic shall entrust the mandate to another person.

Article 111

If the Government is not formed according to Article 109 and 110 of the Constitution, the President of the Republic shall nominate a temporary nonpartisan Government and call for early elections to the Croatian Sabor.

Article 112

The Government of the Republic of Croatia shall:

- propose laws and other acts to the Croatian Sabor;
- propose the state budget and financial report;
- implement laws and other decisions of the Croatian Sabor;
- determine how the law shall be put into effect;
- conduct domestic and international politics;
- direct and supervise the state administration;
- be responsible for the economic development of the country;
- direct the activities and development of public agencies;
- perform other duties specified by the Constitution and the law.

Article 113

Laws and regulations shall specify the organization, operation, decision making and acts of the Government.

Article 114

The Government reports to the Croatian Sabor.

The Prime Minister and members of the Government are collectively responsible for the decisions made by the Government, while they are personally responsible for their respective ministries.

Article 115

A vote of at least one-fifth of representatives of the Croatian Sabor can begin the process of a vote of confidence (*pitanje povjerenja*) in the Prime Minister, a member of the Government or the Government as a whole.

Call for a vote of confidence in the Government can be requested by the Prime Minister.

The vote of confidence shall take place no sooner than 7 and no later than 30 days from the day the Croatian Sabor receives the proposal.

A vote of no confidence shall be reached if a majority of representatives of the Croatian Sabor votes for it.

If the Croatian Sabor rejects the request for the vote of no confidence, those representatives which submitted the request cannot resubmit it for six months.

If the Prime Minister or the entire Government receive the vote of no confidence, they shall resign. If, within 30 days, a vote of confidence is not cast for a new mandator who should form the new Government, the President of the Croatian Sabor shall notify the President of the Republic about this matter. After receiving the notice, the President of the Republic shall immediately dismiss the Croatian Sabor and at the same time call for elections to the Croatian Sabor.

If a specific member of the Government receives the vote of no confidence, the Prime Minister can either make recommendation to the Croatian Sabor for a new member to replace him or the Prime Minister and the Government can resign.

In all cases of resignation of the Prime Minister or the Government, the action described in section 7 of this article shall be taken.

Article 116

The organization and the activities of the state administration, as well as the manner in which they are conducted, are regulated by law.

Certain duties of the state administration can be entrusted to the bodies of local and regional self administration and to juridical persons holding a public office.

The status of state employees and employees shall be determined by the law and other regulations.

4. The Judicial Power

Article 117

The judicial power is exercised by the courts.

The judicial power shall be autonomous and independent.

The Courts shall administer justice based on the Constitution and law.

Article 118

The Supreme Court of the Republic of Croatia, as the highest court, ensures the uniform interpretation and application of laws (*jedinstvenu primjenu zakona*) as well as the equality of all citizens.

The Croatian Sabor, taking into account the opinions of the General Council of the Croatian Constitutional Court and competent committee of the Croatian Sabor, as well as the recommendation of the President of the Republic, shall elect and dismiss the President of the Croatian Supreme Court. He shall be elected for a four-year term.

The establishment, competence, composition and organization of courts as well as the court procedure shall be regulated by the law.

Article 119

Court proceedings shall be public and rulings shall be delivered publicly in the name of the Republic of Croatia.

The public may be excluded from a proceeding or part thereof, if there exist necessary reasons for doing so, such as; protecting morality, public order or national security. This shall especially be the case for proceedings involving: under aged persons, protection of a party's private life, marital disputes, cases of parental rights or adoption, protection of military, official or business secrets, or protection of the security and defense of the Republic of Croatia. Such cases shall be allowed in instances when the court determines that public knowledge may be harmful to justice.

Article 120

Law assessors (*suci porotnici*) shall participate in court proceedings in conformity with law.

Article 121

Judges enjoy immunity in accordance with the law.

Judges and lay assessors who participate in the court proceedings cannot be held responsible for expressing their opinion or voting on a court decision. Excepted is a punishable act of violation of law by the judge.

A judge cannot be imprisoned for committing a punishable act while performing his duties without the approval of the State Judicial Council.

Article 122

The judicial office is permanent.

Judges shall be initially nominated for five-year terms. After the second nomination, a judge shall hold his position permanently.

A judge shall be relieved of his judicial office:

- at his own request;
- if he is permanently prevented from fulfilling his duty;
- if he shall be found guilty of a punishable act that makes him unworthy of performing his judicial office;
- if having committed serious infringement the State Judicial Council decides he should be dismissed;
- when he turns seventy years of age.

The judge has a right to submit a complaint to the Croatian Constitutional Court against the decision for his dismissal and needs to do this within fifteen days of his dismissal. The Court shall consider this complaint according to the Constitutional Law on the Constitutional Court of the Republic of Croatia.

Against decisions of the Judicial Council on the responsibility of a judge, the judge has the right to bring a complaint to the Constitutional Court within 15 days, from the date of the decision. On the complaint, the Constitutional Court decides on the basis of the procedure specified in the Constitutional law concerning the Constitutional Court of the Republic of Croatia.

Cases referred to in sections 4 and 5 of this Article shall be decided upon by the Constitutional Court within 30 days of receiving the complaint. The decision of the Constitutional Court is final.

A judge cannot be relocated against his will except when a court is disbanded or its organization changed according to the law.

A judge cannot perform a duty or activity that the law finds incompatible with the judicial office.

Article 123

The State Judicial Council appoints and dismisses the judges from their posts and relieves them of their official duties in accordance with the Constitution and law.

The State Judicial Council in the process of appointing and dismissing shall take into consideration the thinking of the competent Committee of the Croatian Sabor.

The State Judicial Council has 11 members. They are chosen by the Croatian Sabor in a manner specified by the Constitution and law, among renowned judges, lawyers and university law professors. A majority of members must be judges.

Presidents of courts cannot be elected members of the State Judicial Council.

Members of the State Judicial Council are elected for four-year terms, and may serve a maximum of two consecutive terms.

The President of the State Judicial Council is elected by secret ballot, with a majority vote for two year terms.

The establishment, organization and competence of the State Judicial Council are regulated by law.

5. The State Attorney's Office

Article 124

The State Attorney's Office is an independent judicial body empowered and responsible for taking legal actions against individuals who have committed acts punishable by law. The state attorney takes legal action for the protection of property of the Republic of Croatia and the protection of the Constitution and law.

The Croatian Sabor, taking into consideration the proposal of the Prime Minister and opinion of the competent committee of the Croatian Sabor, nominates the Chief State Attorney of the Republic of Croatia for a four-year term.

Deputy State Attorneys are initially elected for a term of five years. After the second nomination their position becomes permanent.

The State Attorney Council (*Dr zavnoodvjjetni ko vijeće*) nominates, dismisses and relieves from responsibility of the Deputy State Attorneys . The State Attorney Council is elected by the Croatian Sabor in accordance with the law. The majority of the members of the State Attorney Council may be Deputy State Prosecutors.

The Chiefs of the State Attorney's Office cannot be elected members of the State Attorney Council.

The competence, organization and functioning of the State Attorney Council are regulated by law.

The establishment, organization, competence and jurisdiction of the State Attorney's Office are regulated by law.

V. The Constitutional Court of the Republic of Croatia

Article 125

The Constitutional Court of the Republic of Croatia consists of 13 judges elected by the Croatian Sabor. They shall be chosen among renown lawyers, especially those who are judges, state attorneys, attorneys and university law professors for an eight-year term.

The process of candidacy and nomination of the judges of the Constitutional Court to the Committee of the Croatian Sabor in charge of matters pertaining to the Constitution.

The Constitutional Court elects its president for a term of four years.

Article 126

The Judges of the Constitutional Court of the Republic of Croatia cannot perform any other public or professional duties.

The Judges of the Constitutional Court of Croatia have the same immunity as members of the Croatian Sabor.

Article 127

A judge of the Constitutional Court can be dismissed from his post before the end of his term if he resigns, if he is convicted, or if he suffers permanent damage, to be determined by the Court itself, which would prevent him from performing his duties.

Article 128

The Constitutional Court of Croatia:

- decides on the conformity of laws and the Constitution;
- decides on the conformity between other regulations and the Constitution and law;
- can determine whether laws are constitutional, and whether regulations that ceased to be valid within one year are still lawful;
- has the power to overrule Constitutional rulings made by governmental bodies, bodies of local and regional self-government, or attorneys holding a public office if these rulings violate human rights, fundamental freedom, or the right to local and regional self-government guaranteed by the Constitution;
- determines whether the Constitution and laws are being obeyed and reports any violations to the Croatian Sabor;
- mediates conflicts of authority between legislative, executive and judicial bodies of the government;
- determines in accordance with the Constitution on the responsibility of the President of the Republic;
- supervise programs and activities of the political parties to ensure they are constitutional, and shall have the Constitutional power to prohibit their activities;
- supervise elections and state referenda to ensure they are constitutional, and mediates electoral disputes which are not under jurisdiction of courts;
- perform other duties provides for by the Constitution.

Article 129

If the Constitutional Court finds that a governing body did not conform to the Constitutional laws and other regulations, and was responsible for doing so, the Court shall notify the

Government. Notification about the nonconformity which were supposed to be approved by the Government shall be given to the Croatian Sabor.

Article 130

The Constitutional Court shall annul a law which it finds to be unconstitutional.

The Constitutional Court shall annul or revoke any other provision if it finds it unconstitutional or unlawful.

In case of Article 128, section 1, subsection 3 of the Constitution, if the Constitutional Court finds a law to be unconstitutional, or any other regulation, it shall declare them to be unconstitutional and unlawful.

Article 131

Constitutional law regulates:

- the process and the requirements for the nomination of judges of the Constitutional Court of the Republic of Croatia;
- their dismissal, conditions and schedule for legal actions determining the constitutionality and lawfulness;
- process and the legal procedures of the decisions of the Constitutional Court;
- the protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms guaranteed by the Constitution;
- as well as other regulations important for the execution of duties and operation of the Constitutional Court.

The procedure for changing a Constitutional law shall be made in accordance to the same procedures regulating the change of the Constitution.

The internal organization of the Constitutional Court of the Republic of Croatia is regulated by its rules of procedure.

VI. Local Government Organization and Local Self-Administration

Article 132

Citizens are guaranteed the right to local and regional self-administration.

The right of self-administration is exercised by local and regional representative bodies. They consist of members chosen by secret ballot in free and fair elections based on direct, fair and universal voting rights.

Citizens can indirectly participate in governing local projects through meetings, referenda and other manners of indirect administration that is in accordance with the law and statute.

Article 133

Municipalities and cities are units of local government and their jurisdiction is determined by the law. The law can establish other units of local self-governance.

Units of regional self-administration are counties whose jurisdiction is determined by the law.

The law can give the Capital of Zagreb a county status. Other large cities in Croatia can be given the status of a county.

The law can permit the establishment of local self-administration in localities and their various parts.

Article 134

Units of local self-administration perform functions that directly administer the needs of citizens, especially projects relating to : improvements of towns and dwellings, urban planning, communal works, care of children, social programs, primary health care, education and schooling, culture, public health and sport, protection of consumers, environmental protection and improvement, protection from fire and civil protection.

Units of regional self-administration perform functions that are important to the regional interests, especially those relating to: education and schooling, health care, urban planning, economic development, traffic and infrastructure, as well planning the development of educational, health care, urban planning, economic development, traffic and infrastructure, as well as planning the development of educational, health care, social and cultural institutions.

Projects performed by local and regional units and their competences are regulated by law. Those bodies that have the closest relationship to the citizens shall have a priority when these projects are allocated.

The process of establishing competency of the local and regional self-administrative units shall take into consideration the nature, practicality and functionality of their projects.

Article 135

Units of local and regional self-administration have a legal right to organize their internal structure and the competence of their bodies and adapt them to local needs and capabilities.

Article 136

In the conduct of their functions, the local and regional self-administrative bodies are independent and only subject to the supervision of the constitutionality and legality by competent republican bodies.

Article 137

The local and regional self-administrative units have the right to establish bodies which enable them to carry out their functions freely within their scope.

Functions of local and regional self-administration may be transferred as provided for by the Constitution and the law.

The State is obligated to assist financially local self-administrative units in conformity with the law.

VII. International Relations

1. International Agreements

Article 138

International agreements are concluded, on behalf of the Republic of Croatia, by the President of the Republic and, in conformity with law, by the Government of the Republic of Croatia.

Article 139

International agreements which entail the passage or amendment of laws, international agreements of a military and political nature, and international agreements which financially commit the Republic of Croatia shall be subject to ratification by the Croatian Sabor.

International agreements which grant international organizations or alliances powers derived from the Croatian Sabor by a two-thirds majority vote of all members.

The President of the Republic signs and ratifies international agreements concerning the accession in which the Croatian Sabor has approved in accordance with paragraphs 1 and 2 of this article.

International agreements which are not subject to the approval by the Croatian Sabor are executed by the President of the Republic or the Government of the Croatian Republic.

Article 140

International agreements concluded and ratified in accordance with the Constitution and made public, and which are in force, are part of the domestic legal order of the Republic of Croatia and have legal force superior to law. Their provisions may be changed or repealed only under conditions and in the way specified by themselves or in accordance with the general rules of international law.

2. Association and Disassociation

Article 141

The right to initiate a procedure for the association of the Republic of Croatia in alliances with other states belongs to at least one-third of the members of the Croatian Sabor, the President of the Republic, and the Government of the Republic of Croatia.

It is prohibited to initiate any procedure for the association of the Republic of Croatia in alliances with other states if such association leads, or might lead, to a renewal of a Yugoslav state community or to any Balkan state alliance of any kind.

Any association of the Republic of Croatia shall first be decided upon the Croatian Sabor by a two-thirds majority vote of all members.

Any decision concerning the association of the Republic of Croatia shall be made on a referendum by a majority vote of the total number of electors in the Republic.

Such a referendum shall be held within 30 days from the date when the decision was rendered by the Croatian National Parliament.

The provisions of this article concerning association shall also relate to conditions and procedures for disassociation of the Republic of Croatia.

VIII. Amending the Constitution

Article 142

The right to propose amendments to the Constitution of the Republic of Croatia belongs to at least one-fifth of the members of the Croatian Sabor, the President of the Republic, and the Government of the Republic of Croatia.

Article 143

The Croatian Sabor decides by a majority vote of all members whether or not to start proceedings for the amendment of the Constitution.

Draft amendments to the Constitution are determined by a majority vote of all members.

Article 144

A decision to amend the Constitution is made, by a two-thirds majority vote of all members of the Croatian Sabor.

Article 145

Amendment of the Constitution is promulgated by the Croatian Sabor.

IX. Concluding Provisions

Article 146

With the coming into force of the amendment of the Constitution of the Republic of Croatia (*Narodne novine* No. 28/2001), the work of the Chamber of Counties ceases.

Article 147

The Croatian Sabor shall enact a Constitutional Law for the implementation of the Constitution.