

President of the Republic of Croatia, Dr. Ivo Josipović

Ivo Josipović was elected President on 10 January 2010 and took his oath of office as President of the Republic of Croatia on 18 February 2010.



He was born 28 August 1957 in Zagreb, where he completed primary and secondary school. He graduated from the Faculty of Law, University of Zagreb (1980), and passed his bar examination. He obtained his master's degree after completing post-graduate studies in criminal law (1985) and his doctorate (1994) at the University of Zagreb after defending his thesis "Law on Arrest and Pre-trial Detention in Criminal Proceedings". He also has a degree in Composition from the Zagreb Academy of Music.

Prior to his election as President, he was a university professor, member of the Croatian Parliament and composer. He taught Criminal Procedure Law, International Criminal Law and Misdemeanour Law at the Faculty of Law, University of Zagreb, and Harmony at the Zagreb Academy of Music. He has published several books and a total of 85 scholarly and professional papers in journals and magazines at home and abroad. He has composed some 50 compositions for various ensembles (symphony orchestra, chamber orchestra, soloists) that are performed by eminent Croatian and foreign artists. His music has been published as sheet music and on a score of CDs. He is the recipient of a number of Croatian and international artistic prizes and awards, *inter alia* the Grand Prix of the European Broadcasting Union and two Porin Croatian Record Awards. For a number of years, he was Director of one of the largest festivals of contemporary music, Music Biennale Zagreb, and Secretary-General of the Croatian Composers' Society.

He has collaborated with a host of Croatian and foreign state, scholarly, university and artistic institutions in Germany, USA, Canada, Austria, Hungary, Finland, Italy, Azerbaijan, Mongolia. As a legal expert he took part in the UN PrepCom for the establishment of the International Criminal Court as well as the Rome Diplomatic Conference. He was an associate-expert of the Council of Europe for monitoring prison systems in a number of countries. As a legal expert, he drafted or co-drafted a number of Croatian legislative bills. He represented Croatia before the International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia (ICTY) and the International Court of Justice (ICJ). He is a member of a number of legal and artistic associations both at home and abroad, *inter alia* the World Academy of Art and Science, Hrvatski pravni centar [Croatian Law Centre], Hrvatsko društvo za europsko pravo [Croatian Society for European Law], Hrvatsko udruženje za kaznene znanosti i praksu [Croatian Association for Penal Science and Practice].

His special areas of interest are criminal law, criminal procedure, misdemeanours, international criminal law, war crimes, international courts, human rights, fight against corruption and organised crime.

He is a social democrat by conviction. The principal elements of his presidential platform on the basis of which he was elected President of the Republic of Croatia are:

- active membership of Croatia in international organisations and associations, in particular UN, NATO, Council of Europe and European Union;
- normalisation of relations with the neighbouring countries of South-East Europe (Bosnia and Herzegovina, Serbia, Montenegro, Slovenia, and other countries of the region) and establishment of strong economic, cultural and political cooperation. Follow-up and development of political and other forms of cooperation with third countries, in particular the USA; strengthening economic ties, in particular with Russia and non-European countries, China, India, South-American countries;
- promoting the universality of human rights and international courts for punishing war crimes;
- further democratisation of Croatia, including promotion of human rights of all Croatian citizens, especially protection of rights of national minorities;
- justice as the foundation for the organisation and functioning of the state;
- modernisation of Croatian state institutions and their professionalism at the service of citizens (judiciary, civil service and local self-government);
- strengthening citizens' security;
- development of the Croatian economy in the context of EU membership and concern for workers' rights (prohibition of all forms of discrimination).