



**CROATIAN
PARLIAMENT**
Speaker



REPUBLIC OF ALBANIA
The Parliament
Speaker

Zagreb – Tirana, July 10, 2008

Your Excellency,

Dear Colleague,

Permanent Representatives of the twenty-six member states of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization on July 9, 2008, signed the Protocols on the Extension of the North Atlantic Treaty to the Republic of Albania and the Republic of Croatia. This moment marks one of the historical watersheds in the life of our nations, following an invitation to join the Alliance issued to Albania and Croatia at the NATO Summit in Bucharest, and following a subsequent successful completion of our Accession Talks. Croatia and Albania are coming back to the family of nations to which they naturally belong, sharing the same values and interests.

Following the signing in Brussels, the Protocols now have to be ratified by the national parliaments of the member states to become legally binding. The place of national parliaments in admitting new members of the Alliance is indeed crucial, as it should be in a community of democracies, when it comes to a truly important decision.

It is our wish to become NATO members at the Summit in Strasbourg and Kehl, in the springtime of 2009. For this to be achieved, ratification process in all the member states has to be completed in time.

Dear Colleague,

Your leading role, coupled with an active and supportive role of members of parliament of Your country, in stimulating, pursuing and finalising the ratification process according to Your national procedure is of an invaluable importance. This letter is an expression of our wish to assure you that our two countries have been, are and will be doing everything to fully justify any measure, any effort you may be kindly making towards confirming Albania and Croatia as new members of the Alliance.

The signing ceremony which took place in Brussels is the final chapter of a long way for Croatia and Albania, which have passed through the comprehensive reforms of their armed forces, defence and security sector, judiciary, political system – of the whole state and society. Our nations are ready for a new beginning, ready to join the Alliance as capable, reliable, credible Allies, to defend our common values and interests, and actively contribute to the security of all the Allies and the world as a whole, dealing with any threat we may face. It is a unique privilege for our generation to have an opportunity to ensure a more secure future for

our children and for generations to come. During this final stage of our path to NATO, and after becoming member states, we will be pursuing all our reform with an utmost vigour.

We are convinced that our accession to NATO will contribute to the security of the South-East Europe in particular and Euro-Atlantic area in general, and will also provide an excellent example, opening a promising perspective, to all other European countries wishing to join the Alliance. We hope that the Alliance's doors that are now opening for us will remain open for each and every European state sharing our common values and wishing to join, in accordance with the Article 10 of the North Atlantic Treaty. From our part, we would like to assure You that our countries are committed to play our role of NATO member states in full.

Respectfully Yours,

Luka BEBIĆ,

*Speaker of the
Croatian Parliament*

Jozefina ÇOBA TOPALLI,

*Speaker of the
Albanian Parliament*

**H.E. Thor Pedersen
PRESIDENT
THE DANISH PARLIAMENT
DENMARK**