

Bilateral Investment Treaty between India and Croatia

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**AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF
CROATIA AND THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF INDIA
ON THE PROMOTION AND RECIPROCAL PROTECTION OF INVESTMENTS**

The Government of the Republic of Croatia and the Government of the Republic of India (hereinafter referred to as the "Contracting Parties");

Desiring to create conditions favourable for fostering greater investment by investors of one Contracting Party in the territory of the other Contracting Party;

Recognising that the encouragement and reciprocal protection under bilateral agreement of such investment will be conducive to the stimulation of individual business initiative and will increase prosperity in both Contracting Parties;

Have agreed as follows:

**ARTICLE 1
Definitions**

For the purposes of this Agreement:

The term "investment" means every kind of asset established or acquired, including changes in the form of such investment, in accordance with the national laws of the Contracting Party in whose territory the investment is made and in particular, though not exclusively, includes:

- (a) movable and immovable property as well as other rights in rem such as mortgages, liens, pledges or similar rights;
- (b) stocks, shares, debentures and other forms of participation in a companies;
- (c) rights to money or to any performance under contract having a financial value;
- (d) intellectual property rights including, but not limited to, copyrights, industrial property rights, trademarks, patents, industrial designs and technical processes, know-how, trade secrets, trade names and goodwill, in accordance with the relevant laws of the respective Contracting Party;
- (e) rights to engage in economic and commercial activities conferred by law and by virtue of a contract, including concessions to search for, extract or exploit natural resources.

(2) The term "investor" means in respect of either, Contracting Party:

- (a) a natural person, a national of a Contracting Party according to its laws, who makes an investment in the territory of the other Contracting Party;
- (b) a legal person incorporated, constituted or otherwise duly organised in accordance with the laws and regulations of each Contracting Party.

(3) The term "returns" means the monetary amounts yielded by an investment such as profit, interest, capital gains, dividends, royalties and fees.

(4) The term "territory" means:

(a) in respect of the Republic of Croatia: the territory of the Republic of Croatia as well as those maritime areas adjacent to the outer limit of the territorial sea including the seabed and subsoil over which the Republic of Croatia exercises, in accordance with international law, its sovereign rights or jurisdiction;

(b) in respect of the Republic of India: the territory of the Republic of India including its territorial waters and the airspace above it and other maritime zones including the Exclusive Economic Zone and continental shelf over which the Republic of India has sovereignty, sovereign rights or exclusive jurisdiction in accordance with its laws in force, the 1982 United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea and International Law.

ARTICLE 2

Scope of the Agreement

(1) This Agreement shall apply to all investments made by investors of either Contracting Party in the territory of the other Contracting Party, accepted as such in accordance with its laws and regulations, whether made before or after the coming into force of this Agreement.

(2) This Agreement shall apply to investments made prior to or after the entry into force of this Agreement, but shall not apply to any investment dispute that may have arisen or any claim, which was settled before its entry into force.

ARTICLE 3

Promotion and Protection of Investment

(1) Each Contracting Party shall encourage and create favourable conditions for investors of the other Contracting Party to make investments in its territory, and admit such investments in accordance with its laws and regulations.

(2) Investments and returns, including reinvested returns, of investors of each Contracting Party shall at all times be accorded fair and equitable treatment in the territory of the other Contracting Party.

ARTICLE 4

National Treatment and Most-Favoured-Nation Treatment

(1) Each Contracting Party shall accord to investments of investors of the other Contracting Party, treatment which shall not be less favourable than that accorded either to investments of its own investors or investments of investors of any third State, whichever is more favourable to the investor concerned.

(2) In addition, each Contracting Party shall accord to investors of the other Contracting Party, including in respect of returns on their investments, treatment which shall not be less favourable than that accorded to investors of any third State.

(3) The provisions of paragraphs 1 and 2 above shall not be construed so as to oblige one Contracting Party to extend to the investors of the other the benefit of any treatment, preference or privilege resulting from:

(a) any existing or future customs unions, free trade area, economic communities or similar international agreement to which it is or may become a party, or

(b) any matter pertaining wholly or mainly to taxation.

ARTICLE 5

Expropriation

(1) Investments of investors of either Contracting Party shall not be nationalised, expropriated or subjected to measures having effect equivalent to nationalisation or expropriation (hereinafter referred to as " expropriation") in the territory of the other Contracting Party except for a public purpose in accordance with law on a non-discriminatory basis and against fair and equitable compensation. Such compensation shall amount to the genuine value of the investment expropriated immediately before the expropriation or before the impending expropriation became public knowledge, whichever is the earlier, shall include interest at a fair and equitable rate until date of payment, shall be made without unreasonable delay, be effectively realisable and be freely transferable.

(2) The investor affected shall have right, under the law of the Contracting Party making the expropriation, to review, by a judicial or other independent authority of that Party, of his or its case and of the valuation of his or its investment in accordance with the principles set out in this Article. The Contracting Party making the expropriation shall make every endeavour to ensure that such review is carried out promptly.

(3) Where a Contracting Party expropriates the assets of a company which is incorporated or constituted under the law in force in any part of its own territory, and in which investors of the other Contracting Party own shares, it shall ensure that the provisions of paragraph 1 of this Article are applied to the extent necessary to ensure fair and equitable compensation in respect of their investment to such investors of the other Contracting Party who are owners of those shares.

ARTICLE 6

Compensation for Losses

(1) Investors of one Contracting Party whose investments in the territory of the other Contracting Party suffer losses owing to war or other armed conflict, a state of national emergency or civil disturbances in the territory of the latter Contracting Party shall be accorded by the latter Contracting Party treatment, as regards restitution, indemnification, compensation or other settlement, no less favourable than that which the latter Contracting Party accords to its own investors or to investors of any third State whichever is more favourable to the investor concerned. Resulting payments shall be made in freely convertible currency and without unreasonable delay.

(2) Investor whose investments suffer damage or loss in accordance to paragraph 1 of this Article, shall have the right to review of its case by a judicial authority of that Contracting Party and of valuation of its investments and payment of compensation.

ARTICLE 7
Repatriation of Investment and Returns

(1) Each Contracting Party shall permit all funds of an investor of the other Contracting Party related to an investment in its territory to be freely transferred, without unreasonable delay and on a non-discriminatory basis. Such funds may include:

- (a) Capital and additional capital amounts used to maintain and increase investments;
- (b) Net operating profits including dividends and interest in proportion to their share-holdings;
- (c) Repayments of any loan including interest thereon, relating to the investment;
- (d) Payment of royalties and services fees relating to the investment;
- (e) Proceeds received from sale of their shares;
- (f) Proceeds received by investors in case of sale or partial sale or liquidation;
- (g) The earnings of citizens/nationals of one Contracting Party who work in connection with investment in the territory of the other Contracting Party.

(2) Unless otherwise agreed to between the parties, currency transfer under paragraph 1 of this Article shall be permitted in the currency of the original investment or any other convertible currency whichever is more favourable to the investor. Such transfer shall be made at the prevailing market rate of exchange on the date of transfer.

ARTICLE 8
Subrogation

Where one Contracting Party or its designated agency has guaranteed any indemnity against noncommercial risks in respect of an investment by any of its investors in the territory of the other Contracting Party and has made payment to such investors in respect of their claims under this Agreement, the other Contracting Party agrees that the first Contracting Party or its designated agency is entitled by virtue of subrogation to exercise the rights and assert the claims of those investors. The subrogated rights or claims shall not exceed the original rights or claim of such investors.

ARTICLE 9
Settlement of Disputes Between an Investor and a Contracting Party

(1) Any dispute between an investor of one Contracting Party and the other Contracting Party in relation to an investment of the former under this Agreement shall, as far as possible, be settled amicably through negotiations between the parties to the dispute.

(2) Any such dispute which has not been amicably settled within a period of six months may be submitted:

(a) for resolution, in accordance with the law of the Contracting Party which has admitted the investment to that Contracting Party's competent judicial, arbitral or similar bodies; or

(b) to an international conciliation under the Conciliation Rules of the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law.

If the dispute cannot be settled in accordance with the dispute settlement procedures provided under paragraph 2 of this Article, the dispute may be referred to arbitration. The arbitration procedure shall be as follows:

(a) If the Contracting Party of the Investor and the other Contracting Party are both parties to the Convention on the Settlement of Investment Disputes between States and Nationals of other States, opened for signature in Washington on 18 March 1965 and the investor consents in writing to submit the dispute to the International Centre for the Settlement of Investment Disputes such a dispute shall be referred to the Centre; or

(b) If both parties to the dispute so agree, under the Additional Facility for the Administration of Conciliation, Arbitration and Fact-Finding proceedings; or

(c) to an ad hoc arbitral tribunal by either party to the dispute in accordance with the Arbitration Rules of the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law of 1976, as amended.

ARTICLE 10

Disputes Between the Contracting Parties

(1) Disputes between the Contracting Parties concerning the interpretation or application of this Agreement should, as far as possible, be settled through negotiation.

(2) If a dispute between the Contracting Parties cannot thus be settled within six months from the time the dispute arose, it shall upon the request of either Contracting Party be submitted to an arbitral tribunal.

(3) Such an arbitral tribunal shall be constituted for each individual case in the following way. Within two months of the receipt of the request for arbitration, each Contracting Party shall appoint one member of the tribunal. Those two members shall then select a national of a third State who on approval by the two Contracting Parties shall be appointed Chairman of the tribunal. The Chairman shall be appointed within two months from the date of appointment of the other two members.

(4) If within the periods specified in paragraph 3 of this Article the necessary appointments have not been made, either Contracting Party may, in the absence of any other agreement, invite the President of the International Court of Justice to make any necessary appointments. If the President is a national of either Contracting Party or if he is otherwise prevented from discharging the said function, the Vice President shall be invited to make the necessary

appointments. If the Vice President is a national of either Contracting Party or if he too is prevented from discharging the said function, the Member of the International Court of Justice next in seniority who is not a national of either Contracting Party shall be invited to make the necessary appointments.

(5) The arbitral tribunal shall reach its decision by a majority of votes. Such decisions shall be binding on both Contracting Parties. Each Contracting Party shall bear the cost of its own member of the tribunal and of its representation in the arbitral proceedings; the cost of the Chairman and the remaining costs shall be borne in equal parts by the Contracting Parties. The tribunal may, however, in its decision direct that a higher proportion of costs shall be borne by one of the two Contracting Parties, and this award shall be binding on both Contracting Parties. The tribunal shall determine its own procedures.

ARTICLE 11 **Entry and Sojourn of Personnel**

A Contracting Party shall, subject to its applicable laws relating to the entry and sojourn of noncitizens, permit natural persons of the other Contracting Party and personnel employed by companies of the other Contracting Party to enter and remain in its territory for the purpose of engaging in activities connected with investments.

ARTICLE 12 **Applicable Laws**

(1) Except as otherwise provided in this Agreement, all investments shall be governed by the laws in force in the territory of the Contracting Party in which such investments are made.

(2) Notwithstanding paragraph 1 of this Article nothing in this Agreement precludes the host Contracting Party from taking action for the protection of its essential security interests or in circumstances of extreme emergency, provided such actions have been prescribed by its laws which are applied normally and reasonably, on a non discriminatory and a non arbitrary basis.

ARTICLE 13 **Application of other Rules**

If the provisions of law of either Contracting Party or obligations under international law existing at present or established hereafter between the Contracting Parties in addition to the present Agreement contain rules, whether general or specific, entitling investments by investors of the other Contracting Party to a treatment more favourable than is provided for by the present Agreement, such rules shall to the extent that they are more favourable prevail over the present Agreement.

ARTICLE 14 **Entry into Force**

This Agreement shall enter into force on the thirtieth day following the date of receipt of the latter notification through diplomatic channels by which one Contracting Party notifies the other Contracting Party that its internal legal requirements for the entry into force of this Agreement have been fulfilled.

ARTICLE 15
Duration and Termination

(1) This Agreement shall remain in force for a period of ten years and thereafter it shall be deemed to have been automatically extended unless either Contracting Party gives to the other Contracting Party a written notice of its intention to terminate the Agreement. The Agreement shall stand terminated one year from the date of receipt of such written notice.

(2) Notwithstanding termination of this Agreement pursuant to paragraph 1 of this Article, the Agreement shall continue to be effective for a further period of fifteen years from the date of its termination in respect of investments made or acquired before the date of termination of this Agreement.

In witness whereof the undersigned, duly authorised thereto by their respective Governments, have signed this Agreement.

Done at New Delhi on 4th May 2001, in two originals each in the Croatian, Hindi and English languages, all texts being equally authentic.

In case of any divergence, the English text shall prevail.

For the Government of
the Republic of Croatia

For the Government of
the Republic of India