
GREEK PRESIDENT SUPPORTS CROATIA'S EUROPEAN FUTURE

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The President of Greece, Prokopis Pavlopoulos, paid an official visit to Croatia yesterday and met with his Croatian counterpart, Kolinda Grabar-Kitarović, and took the opportunity to show his country's support for Croatia's future European Union plans.

Greece will always be on Croatia's side and it will show its support for Croatia's entry to the Schengen area and the euro zone, he stated after the meeting.

Croatia has plans to join the euro zone, and therefore take the Euro as the official currency, in around 2022 although recently the Prime Minister, Andrej Plenković, has commented that he would like to see the Euro introduced by 2020.

Although Croatia joined the European Union back in July of 2013 the country is still outside of the passport-free travel area, or part of the Schengen agreement. With its long and difficult to control border with many non-EU countries, such as Bosnia and Herzegovina, Serbia and Montenegro, the introduction of the Schengen would mean that Croatia would be on the front line of the European border.

Croatia needs the support of all EU member countries for its accession to both the Schengen area and the euro zone. And Slovenian officials have hinted that Ljubljana might block Croatia's entry to Schengen due to the unresolved border disputes between the two countries.

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