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**Commission:** Conseil de ministres de l'énergie et de la transition écologique

**Problematic:** What solutions are available to provide the EU with a sustainable, independent energy supply while its traditional model of sourcing is being challenged ?

Croatia is a country located in Southeast Europe, bordered by Slovenia, Hungary, Serbia, Bosnia and the Adriatic Sea, it counts around 4 million people. Our country is a parliamentary republic with a President as head of state and a Prime Minister as head of government. We became a member of the European Union in 2013. We all know that Croatia has a mixed economy with a strong service sector, as well as manufacturing and agriculture. The tourism industry is also a major contributor to the economy but we also have a rich potential for energy efficiency. In 2020, we imported 53,6 percent of our total primary energy supply which is close to an EU average of 57,5 percent, however we are still dependent on fossil fuels such as oil, coal, and gas. In 2019, these fuels accounted for approximately 68% of the country's total primary energy supply. As to the problematic of the current debate, we think it is really significant to be able to discuss the situation, as the energetic question is something that affects every single country in the EU and all of our citizens. Our daily life is ruled by energy consumption and that is certainly not all positive. Thus, the question of sustainability became crucial since there are numerous consequences that have a considerable impact on our lives such as : citizen's health, immigration, cost of energy, climate change and more. Furthermore, today, energy took a more geopolitical turn and is also the source of a lot of tension between countries. That being said, as a member of the European Union, Croatia is also subject to EU energy policy, which includes a push towards renewable energy and reduced greenhouse gas emissions.

Primary, something that must be given utterances is that we, as a union, are facing a lot of energetic crises, especially with the war between Russia and Ukraine in which we are very clear about our positions. Due to our "late" entry in the EU you must all know that we have been the subject of debates and discussions. A lot of questioning took place concerning energy issues and how we deal with them. For example, apart from the deep dependency on fossil fuels that we are working on changing , hydroelectric power has also been a source of tensions mostly because of the environmental impact of new hydroelectric projects. In some cases even, local communities have opposed new barriers and other hydroelectric projects due to concerns about the impact on ecosystems and communities. It is due to all of these factors that we want to address the idea of an independent and sustainable energy supply.

Moreover, In November 2021 at the COP26 climate conference in Glasgow, our prime minister, mister Andrej Plenkovic, announced a coal phase-out date which refers to the deadline by which a country or region plans to completely stop using coal as a source of energy for electricity production (It is a part of a larger effort to reduce carbon emissions and combat climate change) of 2033 at the latest. As a member of the European Union (EU), Croatia is bound by the energy-related treaties and regulations adopted by the EU. One of the most significant energy-related treaties that Croatia has signed is the Paris Agreement on climate change. The Paris Agreement was adopted by the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) in 2015 and aims to limit global warming to well below 2 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels and pursue efforts to limit the temperature increase to 1.5 degrees Celsius. Croatia has also signed other international and regional energy-related treaties and agreements, including the Energy Community Treaty, which aims to extend the EU's internal energy market to countries in Southeast Europe, and the Energy Charter Treaty, which promotes cooperation in the energy sector among signatory countries.

In addition, regarding the solutions we have put in place or are working towards putting in, we have set a target to increase the share of renewable energy in its final energy consumption to 36.4% by 2030, in line with the EU's overall target of a 32% share of renewables by the same year. We have adopted a National Energy Efficiency Action Plan that aims to improve energy efficiency in buildings, transport, and industry. The country is also planning to build a new liquefied natural gas (LNG) terminal on the island of Krk, which is expected to increase Croatia's gas supply and improve regional energy security. Finally, Croatia participates in the EU Emissions Trading System (ETS) and has also introduced a national carbon pricing scheme. These policies put a price on carbon emissions and provide incentives for companies to reduce their greenhouse gas emissions.

To conclude, While there may be differing opinions among individual Croatians or political parties on specific EU policies or issues, overall, Croatia's government and citizens are europhile due to our continued support for EU membership and participation in EU activities. Nevertheless, we as a government and nation, are committed to change and work towards a better, stronger and healthier environment for all.