

# Lighthouses of Croatia

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European Commission / Berlaymont  
First Floor • Central Hall • Press Area



## Deputy Prime Minister Polancec's opening remarks

Dear Commissioner Borg and Distinguished Members of the Commission,

Your Excellencies,

Esteemed Friends and Colleagues,

On behalf of the Government of the Republic of Croatia and along with Commissioner Borg, I would like to welcome you to the inauguration of the exhibition "Lighthouses of Croatia". It is a great pleasure to be here among you at the European Commission and we are very pleased to share this unique expression of our maritime heritage and culture with you tonight.

For those of you already familiar with our country, you know that Croatia is gifted with more than one thousand islands and over six thousand kilometers of amazing Adriatic coastline. Preserving this natural harmony and wealth – protecting our Adriatic environment – is important not only for Croatia's citizens and future generations, but for all our visitors and the people of the European Union.

As you will see in these photographs, each of our lighthouses is unique, and has its own character and virtues. Each individual lighthouse is a living expression of its environment – an icon of the seafaring way of life that has sustained many of our Croatian people for generations.

The exhibition "Lighthouses of Croatia" is supported by the Ministry of the Sea, Tourism, Transport and Development of Croatia, in conjunction with Plovput, the Croatian Lighthouse Authority.

I would like to close by thanking you for sharing in our Adriatic spirit this evening. And thank you, Commissioner Borg, for your friendship and support of this exhibition. And I am happy to tell you that our Government has decided to donate many of these photographs to the Commission.

Please enjoy the reception and exhibition – and we look forward to welcoming you soon to Croatia's shores.

Thank you.