INTERESTING POINTS

## The Land of Tulips to Take Hold of Presidency of the Council of the European Union

The Council of the European Union was established in 1958 under the name of Council of the European Economic Community with its seat in Bruxelles. Along with the European Parliament, it negotiates and adopts EU laws based on proposals from the European Commission. Further on, it coordinates policies of EU Member States, develops the EU foreign and security policy based on the European Council's guidelines, concludes agreements between the European Union and other countries or international organisations and adopts the annual EU budget in coordination with the European Parliament. Each EU country holds the presidency on a 6-month rotating basis. Member States holding the presidency work together closely in groups of three, called 'trios'. This system was introduced by the Lisbon Treaty in 2009. The trio sets long-term goals and prepares a common agenda determining the topics and major issues that will be addressed by the Council over an 18-month period. On the basis of this programme, each of the three countries prepares its own more detailed 6-month programme.

Starting on 1 January 2016, the Netherlands will hold the presidency of the Council of the European Union for the 12<sup>th</sup> time and we take this opportunity to cordially congratulate them. On view of that, we provide a comparison of data on the Netherlands and Croatia. In which areas do we have the most similar results and in which areas are our differences the most obvious? While we are patiently waiting for our first nomination for the presidency of the Council of European Union, this is how we stand in relation to the Netherlands.





date of accession to the European Union





total contribution to the EU Budget, 2013







NL Euro

since 1 January 1999

HR Croatian kuna since 30 May 1994



kn

**NL 26 HR 11** 





**NL 11** HR 0 presidency of the Council of the EU (1960-2004)

## NL 41 540 km<sup>2</sup>

**NL** 16.8 mln HR 4.2 mln

population, 2014



**NL 498.4** HR 75.2

land area

population density per km<sup>2</sup>, 2013

## HR 56 594 km<sup>2</sup>



## NETHERLANDS





HR 9.3

crude birth rate, 2014

ALL NL



share of women in population, Census 2011



**1** % EU

population as a precentage of the total EU-28 population, 2014

**NL 34.4** mln

HR 61.1 mln

NL 3.3% HR 0.8%



median age of population, 2014

NL 42.0 HR 42.6

NL 4.0 mln 29.1% HR 0.6 mln 16.4%

population aged 15 and over who completed

more than upper secondary education, Census 2011



**NL 96%** (((p))) HR 68%

level of internet access - households, 2014

HR = [] = major import partners, 2014









