

Accession

This year we have been frequently hearing and reading the word *accession* in the context of Croatia joining the European Union, but in actual fact this word has other meanings besides “the process of joining the EU”. Below you will find examples of the usage of this word in other contexts.

The word *accession* comes from the Latin verb *accedo*, meaning *accede, approach* in English. It was first attested in the English language in 1646. Dictionaries give the following definitions of *accession*:

1. The time when a country officially joins a group of countries, unions, organisations, areas, etc. or signs an agreement.
 - *These countries acceded to the WTO after 1 January 1995.*
 - *The Labour Party wants restrictions to Turkey’s accession to the Schengen area.*
2. The formal acceptance of a convention or treaty.
 - *India’s accession to the protocol entails changes in the law.*
 - *After the EU’s accession to the European Convention on Human Rights, the EU will participate in statutory bodies of the Council of Europe when they act under the Convention.*
3. The time when someone comes to a throne, an office, dignity, etc.
 - *Here you can view archive footage of the Queen’s accession to the throne on 6 February 1952.*
 - *His popularity was attributed to his accession to the position of chair at Glotech Group.*
4. The addition to or increase of value of property by means of improvements or natural growth.
 - *It is necessary that the property does not lose its identity by the accession.*
 - *If the proprietor of the restaurant leaves some counters and bar stools, they become part of the property by accession.*
5. Addition, increase, increment, gain, enlargement, expansion, etc.
 - *Curators should propose works of art for accession to the collection.*
 - *The National Gallery will be enriched with an accession of one of the most valuable collections of pictures.*

Very frequently you will find this word in a number of phrases where it functions as a modifier, for example *accession talks*. You can find examples of such phrases in the following sentences. Complete the sentences with one of the following verbs: *started, were launched, to halt, ratified, was concluded, has been receiving, have been concluded, must meet, to commence, to open*.

1. The final version of the draft accession agreement _____ on 6 June 2010.
2. Any country that wishes to join the Union _____ the accession criteria.
3. As agreed at the European Council, accession negotiations _____ on 1 January 2008.
4. The new eurosceptic government aims _____ EU accession talks in order to protect the country from the debt crisis.

5. The European Council summit in 1997 undertook _____ the accession process with ten countries.
6. Once the accession negotiations _____, an accession treaty is drafted.
7. The statement had been adopted just before the country _____ accession talks in December.
8. They signalled their intention _____ accession talks with two other countries in 2015.
9. The country _____ pre-accession assistance from the EU since 2005.
10. Croatia's lawmakers _____ the accession treaty with the European Union.

Key: 1. was concluded, 2. must meet, 3. were launched, 4. to halt, 5. to commence, 6. have been concluded, 7. started, 8. to open, 9. has been receiving, 10. ratified