

請注意：中文文字内容只提供簡體版

欧盟现在共有 28 个成员国。在经过近十年的等待后，从本周一开始，克罗地亚正式成为欧盟成员国之一。上千人参加了在首都萨格勒布举行的庆祝仪式。不过参加庆祝的民众和外国首脑都对克罗地亚融入欧洲一体化进程的未来持谨慎观望态度。以下是 Guy De Launey 发来的报道：

As the clock struck midnight, the **anthem** of the European Union rang out across Zagreb's main square and at last Croatia completed its journey from **combat zone** of the former Yugoslavia to member of Europe's biggest club.

But this was not entirely **an ode to joy**. Zagreb's main square was hardly packed for most of the coming-out party. And that reflects the **ambivalence** many people here now feel about membership. After the **prolonged** economic crisis, the EU no longer looks like **the promised land** Croatia applied to join a decade ago.

Likewise, the new member's own economic troubles have caused concern among the other 27 states. Visiting foreign ministers stressed the EU's role as a builder of peace rather than **prosperity**. A good point, bearing in mind Croatia's recent past. But also, perhaps, **a diplomatic fig-leaf**.

Questions

1. What former country did Croatia previously belong to?
2. True or false? *Croatia applied to join the EU five years ago.*
3. What is it about Croatia that worries other members of the EU?
4. Where in Zagreb did the main celebrations take place?

Vocabulary and definitions

anthem	国歌
combat zone	作战地带, 战区
an ode to joy	欢乐颂 (欧盟国歌)
ambivalence	矛盾心里, 矛盾情绪
prolonged	长期的, 持续很久的
the promised land	乐土, 理想境地
prosperity	(经济) 繁荣、富足
a diplomatic fig-leaf	(维持) 体面外交的策略, 外交遮羞布

Answers to the questions:

1. What former country did Croatia previously belong to?
Answer: Yugoslavia.
2. True or false? *Croatia applied to join the EU five years ago.*
Answer: False (it was 10 years ago).
3. What is it about Croatia that worries other members of the EU?
Answer: Its economic troubles.
4. Where in Zagreb did the main celebrations take place?
Answer: In the main square.