



## **Interparliamentary Meeting of the EU MED9 Foreign Affairs Committees**

**“THE MISTRAL OF CHANGE: THE MEDITERRANEAN AS A SOURCE OF  
STRENGTH FOR EUROPE’S FUTURE?”**

**Split, Radisson Blue Resort & Spa**

**25–27 May 2026**



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## I. Basic information

The Croatian Parliament is organizing the Interparliamentary Meeting of the EU MED9 Foreign Affairs Committees, as well as bilateral meetings between the Foreign Affairs Committee of the Croatian Parliament and the Committee on Foreign and EU Affairs of the Chamber of Deputies and the Foreign Affairs and Defence Committee of the Senate of the Italian Republic.

**Dates:** 25–27 May 2026

**Place:** Split, Radisson Blue Resort & Spa

**Detailed programme** see Section V.

## II. About EU MED9

In January 2026, the Republic of Croatia assumed, for the first time, the rotating one-year presidency of the MED9 group of European Union Member States, comprising Spain, France, Italy, Malta, Greece, Cyprus, Portugal, Slovenia and Croatia.

Croatia's presidency of MED9 provides an opportunity to further highlight the country's Mediterranean dimension and heritage, deeply rooted in both the Mediterranean and Central Europe, and to present itself as the Mediterranean gateway to Central Europe.

Croatia's presidency will focus on **three key priorities: a more secure, sustainable and resilient Mediterranean.**

Given the Mediterranean's increasingly central role in the European Union's geopolitical, security and economic agenda, and with a view to further strengthening the parliamentary dimension of cooperation within the MED9 framework, **the Croatian Parliament is organising the Interparliamentary Meeting of the MED9 Foreign Affairs Committees, to be held in Split on 25 and 26 May.**

Representatives of the MED9 Foreign Affairs Committees, alongside other high-level participants, will discuss issues of common strategic interest to the Mediterranean region. Discussions will focus in particular on the themes of security, sustainability and resilience in the Mediterranean, its growing geopolitical importance, and the Pact for the Mediterranean. The role of the Western Balkans in strengthening regional stability, connectivity and cooperation will also be addressed. The objective of these discussions is to further advance parliamentary diplomacy and strengthen the parliamentary dimension of MED9 cooperation.

The MED9 group was established in 2013 at the initiative of the Foreign Ministers of Cyprus and Spain, with the aim of fostering cooperation among EU Member States on matters of common interest relating to the Mediterranean. Slovenia and Croatia joined the group in 2021

at the 9th summit of the then MED7, held in Athens, following which the group was renamed MED9.

As part of the Interparliamentary Meeting, on 26 and 27 May the Foreign Affairs Committee of the Croatian Parliament will also hold bilateral follow-up meetings with the Committee on Foreign and European Affairs of the Chamber of Deputies and the Committee on Foreign Affairs and Defence of the Senate of the Italian Republic.

### **III. Media accreditation**

Media representatives who are interested in covering the

- i. Interparliamentary Meeting of the EU MED9 Foreign Affairs Committees on 26 May, and
- ii. bilateral meetings between the Foreign Affairs Committee of the Croatian Parliament and the Committee on Foreign and EU Affairs of the Chamber of Deputies and the Foreign Affairs and Defence Committee of the Senate of the Italian Republic on 26 and 27 May

are kindly requested to register by using the One-Day Media Accreditation Form available at the link: [One-Day Media Accreditation Form](#) by **Sunday, 24 May 2026**.

When completing the Accreditation Form, please enter 26 May 2026 in the **date field**. Within the form, under **PURPOSE**, in the **field Other**, please write: **EU MED9**.

Along with the completed online One-Day Accreditation Form, **please also send your photograph (portrait) in .jpeg format to [mediji@sabor.hr](mailto:mediji@sabor.hr)**. Please name the photograph as follows: **FirstName\_LastName.jpeg**

**Accreditation badges will be available at Radisson Blue Resort & Spa on 26 May 2026 from 8:00 a.m.**

### **IV. Meeting documents and press releases, contact information**

All meeting documents and press releases are available on the Croatian Parliament's website at the following link:

[EU MED9 HR | Hrvatski sabor](#)

**For all inquiries, please contact:**

**Marina Buntić Juričić**

Head of the Press Office of the Croatian Parliament

Phone: +385 99 81 54 634

**V. Programme including media opportunities**

**DRAFT PROGRAMME**

**INTERPARLIAMENTARY MEETING OF THE EU MED9 FOREIGN AFFAIRS COMMITTEES**

**THE MISTRAL OF CHANGE: THE MEDITERRANEAN AS A SOURCE OF STRENGTH FOR  
EUROPE'S FUTURE?**

**Radisson Blu Resort & Spa, Split**

**25–26 May 2026**

**Monday, 25 May 2026**

**10.00 – 11.00 Press conference with the event announcement**

**Speakers**

**Mr Andro Krstulović Opara**, Chair of the Foreign Affairs  
Committee, Croatian Parliament

**Mr Blaženko Boban**, Prefect of Split-Dalmatia County

**Mr Tomislav Šuta**, Mayor of Split

*Old City Hall, Narodni trg*

**20.15 Cultural programme (open to the media)**

*“Hrvatski dom Split” Cultural Centre, Tončićeva ul. 1*

Organized by the City of Split and the folk ensemble “KUD  
Jedinstvo”

**Tuesday, 26 May 2026**

**09.00 – 09.15 Welcome addresses (open to the media)**

*Ballroom Conference Hall*

**Mr Tomislav Šuta**, Mayor of Split

**Mr Blaženko Boban**, Prefect of Split-Dalmatia County

**Mr Andro Krstulović Opara**, Chair of the Foreign Affairs  
Committee, Croatian Parliament

**09.15 – 09.30**      **Opening remarks (*open to the media*)**

**Mr Zdenko Lucić**, State Secretary for Foreign Trade and Development Cooperation, Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs

**Mr Ivan Penava**, Deputy-Speaker of the Croatian Parliament

**09.30 – 10.00**      **Keynote address (*open to the media*)**

**Ms Dubravka Šuica**, European Commissioner for the Mediterranean

**10.00 – 10.15**      **Family photo (*open to the media*)**

*Mint Bar Terrace, 1st floor*

**10.15 – 10.30**      **Press statements**

*In front of the Ballroom Conference Hall*

**10.30 – 12.00**      **PANEL 1: The Role of the Western Balkans in Strengthening Stability and Cooperation in the Mediterranean**

**Moderator: Mr Domagoj Juričić**, political risk management consultant and partner at MKPS Consultancy, firm specializing in political, regulatory, and geopolitical risk analysis and strategic consulting for international companies and institutions

**Panellists:**

**Ms Albana Vokshi**, Deputy Chair of the Committee on European and Foreign Affairs, Parliament of Albania

**Ms Marina Pendeš**, Member of the House of Peoples of the Parliamentary Assembly of Bosnia and Herzegovina

**Mr Adrijan Vuksanović**, Member of the Committee on European Integration, Parliament of Montenegro

**Mr Stribor Kikerec**, Director-General for Southeast Europe, Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs

**Discussion.**

13.30 – 15.00      **PANEL 2: Security, Sustainability and Resilience in the Mediterranean**

**Moderator: Associate Professor Gordan Akrap**, Vice-Rector for International and Interinstitutional Cooperation, “Dr Franjo Tuđman” Defence and Security University

**Panellists:**

**Mr Tonči Glavina**, Minister of Tourism and Sports

**Mr Zoran Ničeno**, Assistant Chief Director of Police and Director-General for the State Border, Ministry of the Interior

**Assistant Professor Laris Gaiser**, Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore, Milan

**Ms Terezija Gras**, Director-General for Europe, Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs

**Discussion.**

15.15 – 16.45      **PANEL 3: The Geostrategic Importance of the Mediterranean**

**Moderator: Prof. Božo Skoko**, Full Professor of Strategic Communication and Vice-Rector of Algebra Bernays University

**Panellists:**

**Mr Karlo Ressler**, Member of the European Parliament

**Prof. Đana Luša**, Faculty of Political Science, University of Zagreb

**Mr Marko Pavić**, Head of the Croatian Parliament Delegation to the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe

**Discussion.**

16.45 – 17.00      **Closing remarks**

*End of the programme of the Interparliamentary Meeting of the EU MED9 Foreign Affairs Committees.*

**BILATERAL MEETINGS**

**Radisson Blu Resort & Spa, Split  
26-27 May 2026**

**Tuesday, 26 May 2026**

17.00 – 17.45 Meeting between the **Deputy Speaker of the Croatian Parliament, Mr Furio Radin**, and the Chair of the Foreign Affairs and Defence Committee of the Senate of the Italian Republic, **Senator Maurizio Gasparri**.

*(Photo and video opportunity at the beginning of the meeting)*

17.45 – 18.30 Bilateral meeting between the **Chair of the Foreign Affairs Committee, Mr Andro Krstulović Opara, and Committee members**, and the Chair of the Foreign Affairs and Defence Committee of the Senate of the Italian Republic, **Senator Maurizio Gasparri**.

Attending the meeting:

- on behalf of the Foreign Affairs Committee of the Croatian Parliament: Members of Parliament **Ms Zdravka Bušić, Ms Jelena Miloš, and Mr Ivica Mesić**

- on behalf of the Foreign Affairs and Defence Committee of the Senate of the Italian Republic: **Mr Giovanni Baiocchi**

Also attending:

**Mr Furio Radin**, Deputy Speaker of the Croatian Parliament

**Ms Anamarija Blažević**, Head of the Croatia-Italy

Interparliamentary Friendship Group

**H.E. Mr Paolo Trichilo**, Ambassador of the Italian Republic to the Republic of Croatia

**Ms Iva Palmieri**, Consul General of the Italian Republic to the Republic of Croatia

*Kaktus Hall, Radisson Hotel, 1st floor*

*(Photo and video opportunity at the beginning of the meeting)*

**Wednesday, 27 May 2026**

09.00 – 10.30

**Bilateral meeting** between the Chair of the Foreign Affairs Committee, **Mr Andro Krstulović Opara, and Committee members**, and the Chair of the Committee on Foreign and EU Affairs of the Chamber of Deputies of the Parliament of the Italian Republic, **Mr Giulio Tremonti, and Committee members**.

Attending the meeting:

- on behalf of the Foreign Affairs Committee of the Croatian Parliament: Members of Parliament **Ms Zdravka Bušić, Ms Jelena Miloš, and Mr Ivica Mesić**

- on behalf of the Committee on Foreign and EU Affairs of the Chamber of Deputies of the Parliament of the Italian Republic: **Mr Emanuele Loperfido, Mr Benedetto Della Vedova and Mr Stefano Tabacchi**

Also attending:

**Mr Furio Radin**, Deputy Speaker of the Croatian Parliament

**Ms Anamarija Blažević**, Head of the Croatia-Italy Interparliamentary Friendship Group

**H.E. Mr Paolo Trichilo**, Ambassador of the Italian Republic to the Republic of Croatia

**Ms Iva Palmieri**, Consul General of the Italian Republic to the Republic of Croatia

*Kaktus Hall, Radisson Hotel, 1st floor*

*(Photo and video opportunity at the beginning of the meeting)*

10.30 – 10.45

**Press statements**

*In front of Kaktus Hall, Radisson Hotel, 1st floor*

*End of programme.*