



BULLETIN
EUROPEAN AFFAIRS IN THE CROATIAN PARLIAMENT

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The *European Affairs in the Croatian Parliament Bulletin* is published monthly by the European Affairs Department. The Bulletin provides an overview of the Parliament's work related to European affairs and arising from the membership of the Republic of Croatia in the European Union.

The Croatian Parliament, as the national parliament of an EU member state, participates in the decision-making process at the European level by overseeing the activities of the Government in the European Union institutions and by exercising the powers conferred on national parliaments by the Lisbon Treaty.

Debate on Government's Reports on European Council meetings

In accordance with the Law on the Cooperation of the Croatian Parliament and the Government of the Republic of Croatia in European affairs, the Prime Minister submits a written report to the Parliament on the meetings of the European Council.

At the beginning of the 10th session, on 8 April 2026, the Croatian Parliament held a debate on [the Report](#) on the meeting of the European Council held on 19 March 2026.

Following the debate, the Parliament adopted the report on 10 April 2026.

Work Programme for the Consideration of the Positions of the Republic of Croatia for the Year 2026

At the session of the European Affairs Committee of the Croatian Parliament held on 14 April 2026, the Committee has adopted the [Work Programme](#) for the Consideration of the Positions of the Republic of Croatia for the Year 2026.

The Work Programme identifies initiatives and documents related to the European Commission Work Programme for 2026 that have been assessed as being of particular interest. These initiatives will be subject to parliamentary scrutiny throughout the year, with a specific focus on examining the positions of the Croatian Government on the respective files.

The Work Programme has been submitted to the European institutions in the context of political dialogue.

Activities of the European Affairs Committee

The Committee for European Affairs carries out European affairs in accordance with the Act on the Cooperation of the Croatian Parliament and the Government of the Republic of Croatia in European Affairs and the Rules of Procedure of the Croatian Parliament.

At its 25th meeting, held on 8 April 2026, the Committee discussed the Report on the meeting of the European Council held on 19 March 2026.

Positions of the Republic of Croatia on EU documents

In accordance with the Work programme for consideration of the positions of the Republic of Croatia for 2025, the European Affairs Committee forwarded in April 2026 two positions of the Republic of Croatia on EU documents to the working bodies of the Parliament for their opinion.

Political dialogue with the European Commission

The Agriculture Committee

The Agriculture Committee of the Croatian Parliament at its 43rd (thematic) session on 14 April 2026 held a discussion on the topic: “The Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF) and the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) for the period 2028–2034” – presentation of the opinions of the European Court of Auditors on: the proposed new single fund for the use of resources in the areas of cohesion, agriculture and security, based on national plans; the new Common Agricultural Policy; and the monitoring of EU expenditure and performance, as well as other horizontal rules for Union programmes and activities (COM (2025) 565, COM (2025) 553, COM (2025) 560 and COM (2025) 545).

Following the introductory presentations by Iliana Ivanova, Alejandro Blanco Fernández and Ivana Maletić, Members of the European Court of Auditors (the Court), and the discussion held with representatives of the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, the academia and professional community, as well as relevant institutions, chambers and associations, it was concluded at the session that it is important to actively participate in discussions at the European Union level and with partner institutions from member states on the new Multiannual Financial Framework and its impact on the national agriculture and fisheries sector.

Based on the discussion held at the 43rd (thematic) session, the Agriculture Committee, at its 44th session held on 21 April 2026, decided to initiate a political dialogue with the European Commission on the aforementioned topics and to inform the competent committees and rapporteurs of the European Parliament, as well as the committees in the national parliaments of the member states responsible for agriculture, fisheries and rural development.

Accordingly, at the 44th session of the Agriculture Committee, the following conclusions were adopted:

1. The Committee emphasizes the need to analyse the impacts of the proposed MFF on the agricultural and fisheries sector of the Republic of Croatia, as well as the impacts of the Common Agricultural Policy reform on the agricultural sector, particularly with regard to changes in the method of financing and implementation of the policy, and the introduction of degressivity and differentiation of support.
2. The Committee underlines that the abolition of a dedicated CAP fund and its integration into a single European fund represents a fundamental change that may affect the stability, predictability and visibility of agricultural financing. It therefore calls for clearer definition of the mechanisms for allocation and protection of funds intended for agriculture and fisheries, as well as for an increase in earmarked funding for the CAP and the Common Fisheries Policy (CFP), given that the proposed minimum (ring-fenced) amounts for financing these policies are insufficient in light of the numerous challenges in these sectors and do not ensure adequate support for producers.
3. In this regard, the Committee warns of insufficient clarity regarding the overall level of funding for the CAP and the CFP, as well as the implementation timeline, which reduces predictability for farmers and fishers and makes investment planning more difficult. The Committee stresses the importance of ensuring sufficient and clearly defined funding for the CAP and the CFP in order to secure income stability and investment, as well as the continuity of development in rural and coastal areas.
4. The Committee further notes that, under the proposed financing model, the future status of existing sectoral interventions—such as the wine envelope, the apiculture programme, and operational programmes for fruit, vegetables and olive oil—is not clearly defined, which creates significant uncertainty regarding the continuity of targeted support and the stability of production in these sectors.
5. The Committee highlights that the proposed model, under which many mandatory measures of the CAP and the CFP are to be financed from unallocated funds within the national envelope for the *National and Regional Partnership Plans* (NRP Plans), depending on the outcome of cross-sectoral negotiations at the national level, does not provide a sufficient level of certainty for policy implementation and significantly limits the ability to plan investments in the long term.

6. The Committee notes that the proposed model, which abolishes the two separate pillars of CAP implementation, results in the loss of the rural development component, which is restrictive given Croatia's national priorities, particularly those related to halting depopulation. In this regard, the Committee stresses the importance of ensuring earmarked funding for the continuation of interventions aimed at strengthening the production capacities of agricultural producers and investments contributing to the strengthening and further development of rural and coastal areas, including Community-Led Local Development approaches (LEADER/CLLD) implemented through Local Action Groups (LAGs). The Committee takes note of the proposal to introduce a 10% rural target objective within national allocations, but emphasizes that such an approach is insufficient both in terms of the level of funding and its non-binding and insufficiently defined nature, and cannot fully replace the existing rural development framework nor ensure its strategic and territorial focus.
7. The Committee considers that the NRP Plans should explain the role of LEADER/CLLD in addressing national rural challenges and how it complements sectoral rural measures to preserve local leadership. In doing so, further clarification of the relationship between CLLD and LEADER is needed to avoid the risk of divergent national implementation and fragmentation. This would also be supported by restoring and strengthening the competences of LAGs, including their key functions in implementing the LEADER/CLLD approach, particularly with regard to the preparation and publication of calls, project selection and the determination of support levels, in line with the existing regulatory framework.
8. Taking into account the importance of investment in the modernisation of production, the expansion of processing capacity and the development of higher value-added products in the Croatian agri-food sector, the Committee emphasises the need to ensure adequate funding for investments in food processing capacity in the forthcoming programming period. In this regard, the Committee considers that the absence of a clearly defined framework for financing processing constitutes a serious risk to the sustainability of the sector, as a reduction in investment could result in a loss of competitiveness of the domestic industry, increased reliance on imports, and a decline in the local processing of agricultural raw materials.
9. The Committee warns of the risks associated with a complex legal architecture and the fragmentation of the legislative framework, which may hinder policy implementation for national authorities and final beneficiaries, increase the administrative burden and create legal uncertainty. It therefore calls for further simplification of the rules and for the acceleration of procedures for the allocation and disbursement of financial support for agriculture and fisheries, in order to ensure the timely availability of funding for beneficiaries. The Committee also emphasises that differing co-financing rates, depending on the type of intervention, the source of funding and the location where the intervention is implemented, introduce unnecessary and excessive complexity into the implementation of NRP Plans and the CAP.

10. The Committee underlines the importance of preserving the common nature of the CAP and considers that its key provisions should be clearly defined in a dedicated sectoral legislative framework. The Committee also considers that the same approach should be applied to the CFP, whose key provisions should be set out in a dedicated sectoral regulation on the CFP, in order to ensure greater legal clarity and transparency.
11. The Committee stresses that increased flexibility for Member States may, contrary to the objectives of the common policy, undermine the level playing field in the internal market, for example where some Member States provide higher levels of support to the same production sectors than others, thereby distorting competition. In this regard, the Committee stresses that ensuring a level playing field for support to European farmers and fishers across all EU Member States should be a fundamental principle of the CAP and the CFP, alongside the establishment of effective mechanisms to control and compare levels of support.
12. The Committee particularly highlights the importance of recognising the financing needs of projects in the forestry sector and stresses that due account should be taken of the positive contribution of forest-based industries to the development of rural areas and the bioeconomy.
13. The Committee recalls that ensuring a fair standard of living for the agricultural community is one of the fundamental objectives of the CAP, as defined in the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union, and an objective that directly contributes to the preservation of the vitality of rural areas. While the CAP has already had a positive impact on generational renewal in agriculture, the Committee stresses that the high average age of farmers in the EU (57 years) continues to pose a challenge to the sustainability of the sector. In this context, the Committee expresses concern regarding the proposal that, as of 2032, retired farmers would be excluded from eligibility for area-based income support, as provided for in the Proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council establishing the conditions for the implementation of the Union support to the Common Agriculture Policy for the period from 2028 to 2034.
14. The Committee stresses that the proposed monitoring and reporting model does not ensure a sufficient link between objectives, interventions and results, in particular where administrative steps are treated as outputs without measuring actual impacts, and calls for the introduction of clearer and measurable CAP performance indicators.
15. The Committee stresses the importance of collecting data on the actual costs of implementing interventions, as without such data it is not possible to assess the economy and efficiency of investments or to ensure comparability across Member States.
16. The Committee warns that the proposed indicator system may hinder the reliable and comparable measurement of results across Member States, particularly where different

monitoring approaches are used, thereby making it more difficult to assess overall progress at EU level and to ensure comparability between countries. It therefore proposes further harmonisation of the methodology and a stronger focus on key indicators.

17. The Committee stresses that the multiplication of horizontal criteria (climate, environmental and social) may increase the administrative burden for beneficiaries and managing authorities and calls for their simplification and clearer focus, while ensuring at the same time equivalent standards for products from third countries entering the European Union market.
18. The Committee stresses the importance of strengthening the Agricultural Knowledge and Innovation System (AKIS), advisory services and the better use of the European Innovation Partnership for Agricultural Productivity and Sustainability (EIP-AGRI), with a view to improving the transfer of knowledge into practice and enhancing productivity and sustainability.
19. The Committee stresses the need to strengthen crisis management mechanisms in agriculture, including ensuring adequate financial resources and clear rules governing interventions in the event of market disruptions and exceptional circumstances.
20. The Committee stresses the importance of continuing and improving the EU School Scheme for the distribution of fruit, vegetables and milk, alongside simplifying implementation and strengthening links with local production, in particular with a view to supporting domestic producers and strengthening local markets. The Committee also underlines the importance of Croatian national priorities in agriculture, such as coupled support, organic farming, the strategic importance of livestock production, generational renewal in Croatian agriculture and rural areas, and the preservation of family farms as the cornerstone of Croatian agriculture and fisheries.

Committee on Regional Development and European Union Funds

Pursuant to Article 166 of the Standing Orders of the Croatian Parliament (official journal of the Republic of Croatia “*Narodne novine*”, No. 81/2013, 113/2016, 69/2017, 29/2018, 53/2020, 119/2020, 123/2020 and 86/2023), at its 24th thematic session held on 15 April 2026, the Committee on Regional Development and European Union Funds adopted the following

CONCLUSION

concerning the adoption of an opinion and recommendations of the Committee on Regional Development and European Union Funds and a proposal on the future of the cohesion policy and Multiannual Financial Framework 2028-2034, with a special focus on the proposal of the European Commission for a regulation establishing a single European Fund for economic, social and territorial cohesion, agriculture and rural development, fisheries and

maritime, prosperity and security for the period 2028-2034, and a new model of financing based on national and regional partnership plans (NRP plans).

Opinion and recommendations:

1. The Committee welcomes the objectives of simplification, enhanced coherence and a stronger focus on results. However, it stresses that simplification must be meaningful, measurable and visible at the level of beneficiaries and final recipients. There is a significant risk that, instead of reducing the administrative burden it will be shifted onto Member States and beneficiaries, which could lead to additional complexity of the system.
2. The Committee particularly underlines the importance of preserving cohesion policy and the common agricultural policy as fundamental EU policies. It expresses concern that merging different policies into a single Fund may dilute efforts to reduce regional disparities, generate internal competition for financing between agricultural and regional policy objectives, and reduce investment in less developed regions. In addition, it calls for an increase in allocations for these long-standing policies.
3. The Committee stresses the need to preserve the territorial dimension and, in this context, underlines the importance of multilevel governance and mandatory partnership at all stages — from planning to evaluation.
4. Given that national authorities may decide on the financing models for beneficiaries, the Committee highlights the risks associated with a financing model based solely on the fulfilment of milestones and targets. Such a model may generate significant liquidity problems, particularly for capital-intensive projects and for small and medium-sized enterprises, and may reduce the interest of the private sector in participating in EU programmes. The Committee therefore considers it necessary to establish a hybrid financing model that combines prefinancing, reimbursement of actual costs and elements of output-based payments, subject to clear and predictable conditions.
5. The Committee emphasises that the system of indicators must ensure a clear and consistent link between interventions, objectives and results. It warns of the risk that performance could be assessed primarily on procedural steps rather than on tangible outputs or results, and underlines the need for sector-specific and measurable result indicators.
6. The Committee also underlines the importance of legal certainty. Vaguely defined objectives and payment conditions increase the risk of differing interpretations, financial corrections and legal uncertainty for beneficiaries.
7. The Committee notes that the proposed n+1 rule may increase pressure on implementation and lead to favouring short-term projects. It considers that greater flexibility is needed to facilitate the implementation of high-quality and long-term investments.

8. The Committee underlines the importance of full transparency in the use of funds, including programme-level and location-based monitoring, in order to ensure accountability and a sound evaluation of impacts.
9. The Committee highlights the need to strengthen administrative, analytical and evaluation capacities at national and regional level, including through the development of digital tools for project selection and implementation, as well as for monitoring results.
10. The Committee underlines the importance of enhanced targeting of funds towards innovation and strengthening the competitiveness of the economy, while ensuring a stable and predictable investment framework.
11. The Committee stresses the need for a proportionate implementation of horizontal principles, with a view to avoiding excessive administrative burden with no meaningful contribution to the objectives.

Monitoring the work of the Government in the European Union institutions

In April 2026, the Croatian Government submitted to the Parliament its position for 3 Council meetings:

- Agriculture and Fisheries Council on 30 March 2026
- Foreign Affairs Council on 21 April 2026
- Agriculture and Fisheries Council on 27 April 2026

EU documents forwarded directly to the Croatian Parliament

Pursuant to the Protocol (no. 1) on the Role of National Parliaments in the European Union, all draft legislative acts and communications are forwarded directly to national parliaments.

The Croatian Parliament publishes daily the received EU documents, along with information on the reference code assigned to each document, the applicable adoption procedure, its submission date and the timeframe for carrying out the subsidiarity check.

In April 2026, the EU institutions forwarded to the Croatian Parliament 41 documents: 22 draft legislative acts, and 19 communications and other non-binding documents.

Application of EU law

In April 2026, the Croatian Parliament enacted 7 laws in the process of harmonization with European Union law.