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.

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 17 the meeting, held on 24 October 2025, the Committee discussed:

- Proposal of the report on the work of the Committee on European Affairs in 2024
- European documents in accordance with the Work Programme for the Consideration of the Positions of the Republic of Croatia for 2024

At its 18 the meeting, held on 30 October 2025, the Committee discussed the documents of the European Court of Auditors, presented by Court Member Ivana Maletić:

- Annual Reports of the European Court of Auditors for 2024
- Accountability, transparency and performance orientation lessons to be learned from the shortcomings of the Recovery and Resilience Mechanism Review 02/2025
- The future of the European Union's cohesion policy: lessons from the past Review 04/2025

The meeting was held jointly with the Committee on Finance and State Budget, the Committee on Economic Affairs, the Committee on Agriculture and the Committee on Regional Development and European Union Funds.

Activities of the working bodies

Committee on Physical Planning and Construction Participated in Dialogue on Affordable Housing

Representatives of the Committee on Physical Planning and Construction of the Croatian Parliament took part in the European Parliament's consultative activities on the topic of affordable housing, within the framework of the work of the Special Committee on the Housing Crisis in the European Union (HOUS).

The HOUS Committee was established in December 2024 with the aim of identifying solutions for decent, sustainable and affordable housing in EU Member States, and its final report is expected in December 2025.

In April 2025, an interparliamentary meeting entitled "Affordable Housing for All – Policy Approaches and Best Practices in EU Member States" was held in Brussels, with Mr Predrag Štromar, Chair of the Croatian Parliament's Committee on Physical Planning and Construction, participating on behalf of the Croatian Parliament.

Following the invitation of HOUS Chair Irene Tinagli, in October 2025 the Committee on Physical Planning and Construction submitted a written contribution presenting Croatia's experiences and measures aimed at ensuring affordable housing, including the National Housing Policy Plan of the Republic of Croatia until 2030.

Political Dialogue of the Committee on Gender Equality with the European Commission

At its 22nd session, the Committee on Gender Equality of the Croatian Parliament held a political dialogue with the European Commission, focusing on the newly adopted Women's Rights Plan and the results of the EU Gender Equality Strategy 2020–2025.

Ana Carla Pereira, Director for Equality, presented the Plan via videoconference and Non-Discrimination at the European Commission's Directorate-General for Justice and Consumers. Adopted in March 2025, it sets out a Declaration of Principles for a gender-equal society and eight key priorities, including a life free from gender-based violence, equal pay, work-life balance, equal employment opportunities, inclusive education, and political participation.

The Commission underlined that promoting gender equality supports innovation, competitiveness, and economic growth, estimating that full equality could add two trillion euros to the EU economy. Despite progress in strengthening EU legislation and policies, the Gender Equality Index in 2024 reached only 71 out of 100 points, indicating that full equality remains a long-term goal.

Committee Chair Marija Lugarić concluded that the Committee on Gender Equality, together with the Committee on European Affairs, would continue to monitor how the Women's Rights Plan develops into a new EU strategy and how it will be implemented in Croatia and across the European Union.

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 October one position of the Republic of Croatia on EU documents to the working bodies of the Parliament for their opinion.

Monitoring the work of the Government in the European Union institutions

In October 2025, the Croatian Government submitted to the Parliament its position for 11 Council meetings:

- <u>Competitiveness Council</u> (Internal Market and Industry) on 29 September 2025
- <u>Competitiveness Council</u> (Research and Space) on 30 September 2025
- Economic and Financial Affairs Council on 10 October 2025
- Justice and Home Affairs Council on 13 and 14 October 2025
- Foreign Affairs Council (Defence) on 15 October 2025
- Employment, Social Policy, Health and Consumer Affairs Council (Employment and Social Policy) on 17 October 2025
- Foreign Affairs Council on 20 October 2025
- Transport, Telecommunications and Energy Council (Energy) on 20 October 2025
- General Affairs Council on 21 October 2025
- Environment Council on 21 October 2025

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	October 2025, the E	U institution	s forwarded to the	e Croatian	Parliament	75 documents:
45	draft legislative act	s, and 28 con	nmunications and	other non	-binding do	cuments.

Application of EU law

In October 2025, the Croatian Parliament enacted <u>6 laws</u> in the process of harmonization with European Union law.

Bulletin Editors: Tanja Babić, Tatjana Briški, Mirna Matković, Snježana Ramljak, Mario Straka, Jelena Špiljak CHrvatski sabor / Contact: ured-mep@sabor.hr