

# 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. It provides the reader with an overview of parliamentary activities in the field of EU affairs and inter-parliamentary cooperation as well as with access to EU documents forwarded to national parliaments.

### In Focus

## The Romanian presidency of the Council of the EU: 1 January - 30 June 2019

### Priorities of the Romanian presidency:

#### „Europe of convergence”

The Romanian Presidency of the Council of the European Union will aim to bring a contribution to ensuring convergence and cohesion in Europe, in order to achieve sustainable and equal development opportunities for all citizens and Member States, through increasing competitiveness and reducing development gaps, promoting connectivity and digitalization, stimulating entrepreneurship and consolidating the European industrial policy.

#### Main objectives:

- taking forward the negotiation process on the 2021-2027 Multiannual Financial Framework.
- developing the EU social dimension, through the enforcement of the European Pillar of Social Rights.
- advancing the EU agenda in the economic and financial fields, in order to stimulate growth and investment, to deepen the Economic and Monetary Union, as well as to support structural reforms.
- promoting research and innovation, digitalization and connectivity, in order to increase the competitiveness of the European economy and industry.

#### „A safer Europe”

The Romanian Presidency of the Council of the European Union will aim at consolidating a safer Europe through increased cohesion among EU Member States in dealing with the new security challenges that threaten the safety of citizens and through supporting the cooperation initiatives in the field.

#### Main objectives:

- strengthening the internal security, by boosting cooperation among Member States and increasing the interoperability of the EU security systems, protecting the safety of the citizens, companies and public institutions in the cyberspace and improving the overall resilience of the Union to cyber-attacks.
- continuing the fight against terrorism
- facilitating the operationalization of the European Public Prosecutor’s Office.
- giving further attention to migration issues, based on a comprehensive approach to action within the EU and on promoting cooperation with countries of origin and transit, as well as facilitating the dialogue among Member States with a view to finding solutions for an effective and sustainable EU migration and asylum policy.



## **„Europe, as a stronger global actor”**

During its mandate as Presidency of the Council of the European Union, Romania will support further consolidating the global role of the EU through promoting the enlargement policy, the European action in its neighbourhood, further implementing the Global Strategy, ensuring the necessary resources for the EU, and implementing all of the EU’s global commitments.

### **Main objectives:**

- promoting the strengthening of EU’s defence and security capabilities in strong connection with the similar processes within NATO, with a special emphasis on consolidating the Strategic EU-NATO Partnership.
- supporting further development of actions in the field of Common Security and Defence Policy, mainly by consolidating the current mechanisms while ensuring the synergy of the new instruments, such as: Coordinated Annual Review on Defence, European Defence Fund, and Permanent Structured Cooperation.
- advancing the enlargement process of the EU in order to ensure more internal and external security.
- promoting coordinated and coherent actions in the EU’s neighbourhood, while celebrating 10 years since the launch of the Eastern Partnership, through reaffirming the importance of the Black Sea on EU agenda, including from the perspective of reinvigorating the Black Sea Synergy.
- promoting the European commercial interests through both the consolidation of multilateralism and the modernisation of the multilateral trade system and through the enlargement of the Economic and Free Trade Partnership Agreements.

## **„Europe of common values”**

The Romanian Presidency of the Council of the European Union aims at stimulating the solidarity and cohesion of the EU through promoting policies on combating discrimination, ensuring equal chances and equal treatment between men and women, as well as through increasing the involvement of the citizens, in particular the youth, in the European debates.

### **Main objectives:**

- promoting the efficient countering of racism, intolerance, xenophobia, populism, antisemitism and discouraging hate speech.
- promoting the countering of online misinformation and fake news through better media literacy and the development of European mechanisms to share good practices in countering misinformation.
- promoting and supporting the legislative initiatives focusing on social progress and reducing development gaps, equal opportunities between men and women, as well as ensuring access to education and training for disadvantaged categories.
- countering gender discrimination in the labour market and business environment as well as the pay gaps between men and women.



## Activities of the Croatian Parliament in the Decision-Making Process

### Activities of the parliamentary committees

#### European Affairs Committee

38<sup>th</sup> session held on 6 December 2018

Committee held a preliminary discussion regarding European Commission's Work Program for 2019. Head of the European Commission Representation in Croatia Branko Baričević presented the European Commission's Work Program for 2019.

39<sup>th</sup> session held on 14 December 2018

Minister of Justice Dražen Bošnjaković presented the report of the Croatian Government on the candidates for the judges of the General Court of the Court of Justice of the European Union in mandate from 1 September 2019 to 31 August 2025.

#### Other committees

Finance and Central Budget Committee held its 61<sup>st</sup> session on 5 December 2019 and discussed [European documents](#) in accordance with the [Work Programme for the Consideration of the Positions of the Republic of Croatia for 2018](#).

### Monitoring the work of the Government in the European Union institutions

#### European Council meetings

In accordance with the [Act on Co-operation of the Croatian Parliament and the Government of the Republic of Croatia in European Affairs](#) Prime Minister submitted to the European Affairs Committee Position of the Republic of Croatia for the European Council meeting on 13 and 14 December 2019.

#### Council meetings

The Croatian Government submitted to the relevant parliamentary committees its positions for the December Council meetings:

**3655** Competition Council;

**3657** General Affairs Council;

**3658-1** Transport, Telecommunications and Energy Council;

**3659** Economic and Financial Affairs Council;

**3660** Employment, Social Policy, Health and Consumer Rights Council;

**3661** Justice and Home Affairs Council;

**3662** Foreign Affairs Council;

**3663** General Affairs Council;

**3664** Agriculture and Fisheries Council;

**3665** Transport, Telecommunications and Energy Council;

### Application of EU law

In December 2018, the Croatian Parliament enacted [18 laws](#) in the process of harmonization with European Union law.



## EU documents Forwarded Directly to the Croatian Parliament

According to the Protocol (no 1) on the Role of the National Parliaments in the European Union, all draft laws and communications shall be forwarded directly to the national parliaments.

The Croatian Parliament publishes on a daily basis the EU documents received, along with the information on: document number, adoption procedure, transmission date and subsidiarity deadline.

In December 2019, EU institutions forwarded to the Croatian Parliament [63 documents](#): 25 draft laws, 38 communications and other non-binding documents.

### Inter-parliamentary activities in January 2019

**16 January – Strasbourg** – Meeting of the Committee on Political Affairs, Security and Human Rights of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Union for Mediterranean

**20 – 21 January – Bucharest** – COSAC Chairpersons' Meeting

**27 – 28 January – Vienna** – Meeting of the Secretaries General of the European Union Parliaments

