



BULLETIN
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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 Report on European Council meetings in 2022

The Prime Minister shall once a year, at the beginning of the first annual session of Parliament, submit a report to Parliament related to the meetings of the European Council held in the previous year.

Prime Minister of the Government of the Republic of Croatia submitted to the Parliament Report on the European Council meetings held in 2022.

The Report was presented at the 15th session of Parliament on 17 January 2023 and was adopted on 20 January 2023.

Debate on European affairs of the Croatian Parliament in 2023

Based on the work programme of the European Commission and the programme of the Presidencies of the EU Council, the European Affairs Committee conducts preliminary discussions on the actions of Parliament in European affairs at sessions to which the Speaker of Parliament, the chairpersons of parliamentary working bodies and the chairpersons of political groups shall be invited.

The European Affairs Committee held a preliminary debate on the Parliament's action in European affairs in 2023 at the 56th session held on 19 January 2023.

At the preliminary debate, European Commission Vice President Dubravka Šuica presented the European Commission's Work Program for 2023, while the Ambassador of Sweden to the

Republic of Croatia, Diana Helen Madunic presented the program of the Swedish Presidency of the Council of the European Union. ([video](#), [press release](#))

Following the preliminary debate, on 27 January 2023 the Chairman of the European Affairs Committee invited working bodies to submit notifications on priority proposals of legislative and non-legislative acts and initiatives of the European Commission in order to adopt the Work Program for consideration of the position of the Republic of Croatia for the year 2023.

Activities of the European Affairs Committee

At its 57th session held on 17 January 2023, the Committee discussed:

- i) Report of the European Council meetings in 2022 submitted by the Government of the Republic of Croatia,
- ii) Proposal of the Harmonization Plan of the Legislation of the Republic of Croatia with the acquis of the European Union for 2023.

Political dialogue with the European Commission

The Committee on Agriculture, at the 85th session held on 27 January 2023, decided to call upon the European Commission to take action at European level to clearly define the shelf life of frozen products of animal origin on the European single market, without violating EU single market rules.

The inertia in addressing this issue significantly affects the accessibility of products of animal origin frozen for a long time on the single European market, which creates unfair competition for European agricultural producers, but also increases food loss and wastage, which is contrary with the Waste Framework Directive of the European Union and the EU's strategy for creating a sustainable food system.

This would have a significant impact on the quality of products consumed by Europeans, as intended by the objectives of the Common Agricultural Policy and the Farm to Fork Strategy, which aim to ensure affordable, safe and high-quality food for the consumers. It would also have an impact on strengthening of short food supply chains, indirectly on saving energy and reducing the carbon footprint originating from transport and storage capacities, which is in line with the objectives of the European Green Deal.

Monitoring the work of the Government in the European Union institutions

In January 2023, the Croatian Government submitted to the Parliament its positions for three Council meetings:

- [3927](#) Economic and Financial Council
- [3928](#) Foreign Affairs Council
- [3929](#) Agriculture and Fisheries Council

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 on a daily basis the EU documents received, 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 January 2023, the EU institutions forwarded to the Croatian Parliament 36 documents: 21 draft legislative acts, and 15 communications and other non-binding documents.