

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

Finland's Presidency of the Council of the European Union

From 1 July until 31 December, Finland holds the Presidency of the Council of the EU. The priorities of Finland's presidency are driven by its motto: "Sustainable Europe – Sustainable Future".

The priorities for Finland's Presidency of the Council of the European Union are to strengthen common values and the rule of law, to make the EU more competitive and socially inclusive, to strengthen the EU's position as a global leader in climate action and to protect the security of citizens comprehensively. [Finland's Presidency Programme](#) was published on Wednesday 26 June.

Finland will be the first presidency to integrate the new priorities of the [Strategic Agenda](#) 2019 – 2024 into the Council's work.

Member States holding the presidency work together closely in groups of three, called trios. The trio sets a 'trio programme' for a period of 18 months. Finland is in a trio with Romania and Croatia. The General Affairs Council adopted the [Trio Programme](#) in December 2018.

Activities of the Croatian Parliament in the Decision-Making Process

Activities of the parliamentary committees

European Affairs Committee

48th session held on 14 June 2019

Committee discussed on preparations for the implementation of the Parliamentary dimension of the Presidency of the Republic of Croatia of the Council of the European Union.

49th session held on 17 June 2019

Committee discussed the National Reform Program 2019 and the Convergence Program of the Republic of Croatia 2019 – 2022, which Croatian Government adopted in April.

The National Reform Program is adopted each year and defines economic policies and measures for the implementation of the Europe 2020 Strategy. The Convergence Program is a wider document that encompasses most of the government's policies and reforms, and focuses on the macroeconomic framework of the fiscal policy. Both documents are being submitted within the framework of the European semester — the cycle of co-ordination of the economic policies of the member states of the European Union.



Other committees

Environment and Nature Conservation Committee held session on 5 June 2019 discussed [European documents](#) in accordance with the [Work Programme for the Consideration of the Positions of the Republic of Croatia for 2019](#).

Monitoring the work of the Government in the European Union institutions

Council meetings

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

- 3696 Transport, Telecommunications and Energy Council;
- 3697 Justice and Home Affairs Council;
- 3698 Employment, Social Policy, Health and Consumer Affairs Council;
- 3699 Economic and Financial Affairs Council;
- 3700 Foreign Affairs Council;
- 3701 Agriculture and Fisheries Council;
- 3702 General Affairs Council;
- 3703 Transport, Telecommunications and Energy Council;
- 3704 General Affairs Council;
- 3705 Environment Council.

Application of EU law

In June 2019, the Croatian Parliament enacted [5 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 June 2019, EU institutions forwarded to the Croatian Parliament [63 documents](#): 16 draft laws, 47 communications and other non-binding documents.

Interparliamentary Cooperation in the European Union

Interparliamentary cooperation in the European Union encompasses the cooperation between the European Parliament and the national parliaments and the cooperation among the national parliaments in the frame of the parliamentary dimension of the Council Presidency.



In June 2019, the Croatian Parliament representatives participated in the following meeting:

23 – 25 June – Bucharest – LXI COSAC

Deputy Chairs of the European Affairs Committee, Domagoj Hajduković and Franjo Lucić together with the Members of the Committee, Dragica Vranješ and Marin Škibola participated in LXI Meeting of the Conference of the Union Affairs Committee of the EU (COSAC) in Bucharest. Meeting was co-chaired by the Chair of the European Affairs Committee of the Senate, Gabriela Creța and the Chair of the European Affairs Committee of the Chamber of Deputies, Angel Tîlvăr.

Deputies discussed the achievements of the Romanian Presidency of the Council of the European Union, Union trade policy in the context of Brexit, the European Education Area and the economy based on innovation and technological progress.

Deputy Chair of the European Affairs Committee, Domagoj Hajduković addressed the issue of citizenship rights of the UK citizens in the European Union, as well as EU citizens in the United Kingdom after Brexit, pointing out that some countries are leaving the European Union while others are still waiting in front of the door. He stressed the importance of supporting Southeast European countries on their path to EU membership, noting in particular Northern Macedonia and Albania, which are still waiting to open accession negotiations. In his intervention during the debate on the European Education Area, promoting lifelong learning and continuing education of teachers were marked as key factors. Talking about the innovative economy, he pointed to the importance of the relationship between the economic and educational sector, particularly the universities. In this regard, he emphasized the role of national parliaments in directing limited resources in the most effective way possible.

Interparliamentary activities in July 2019

21 – 22 July – Helsinki – Meeting of the Chairpersons of COSAC

