

BULLETIN

European Affairs in the Croatian Parliament



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In Focus

Overview of the European Affairs activities of the Croatian Parliament in 2018

The Croatian Parliament (Hrvatski sabor) has continued to participate in the EU decision-making processes in 2018.

Participation of the Croatian Parliament in the European affairs is governed by: i) the Constitution of the Republic of Croatia; ii) the Act on the Co-operation of the Croatian Parliament and the Government of the Republic of Croatia in European Affairs (Act on Cooperation); and iii) the Standing Orders of the Croatian Parliament.

The Croatian Parliament is indirectly involved in the EU decision-making process through the scrutiny of activities of the Croatian Government in the European Union's institutions, primarily in the Council. Moreover, the Parliament is regularly informed of the European Council meetings in accordance with the Act on Co-operation, which foresees that the Prime Minister shall, once a year, at the beginning of the first annual session of Sabor, submit a report to Parliament regarding the meetings of the European Council held in the previous year.

As stipulated by the Protocol on the Application of the Principles of Subsidiarity and Proportionality, the Croatian Parliament participates in the subsidiarity check procedure for the draft legislative acts of the European Union.

The Parliament can also take part in the political dialogue with the European Commission. This process provides Members of Parliament and parliamentary committees with the opportunity to express their opinions on any document published by the Commission or as regards any European Union policy. The cooperation with European Commission in the framework of political dialogue is conducted by means of opinions sent to the Commission or by meetings with the Commissioners.



Overview of the Croatian Parliament's most important activities related to European Affairs in 2018

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Activities of the Croatian Parliament in the Decision-Making Process

Activities of the parliamentary committees

European Affairs Committee

40th session held on 16 January 2019

Committee discussed the Proposal of the Plan for Harmonization of the Legislation of the Republic of Croatia with the legal acquis of the European Union for 2019.

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 has submitted a report on European Council meetings in 2018 at the plenary session on 16 January 2019.

Council meetings

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

- 3666 Environment Council;
- 3667 General Affairs Council;
- 3668 Foreign Affairs Council;
- 3669 Economic and Financial Affairs Council;
- 3670 Agriculture and Fisheries Council;



Application of EU law

In December 2018, the Croatian Parliament enacted [6 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 January 2019, EU institutions forwarded to the Croatian Parliament [45 documents](#): 25 draft laws, 20 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 January 2019, the Croatian Parliament representatives participated in the following meetings:

16 January – Strasbourg – Meeting of the Political Affairs, Security & Human Rights Committee of the Parliamentary Assembly - Union for the Mediterranean

European Parliament organized a regular meeting of the Political Affairs, Security & Human Rights Committee of the Parliamentary Assembly - Union for the Mediterranean. The meeting was chaired by Gilles Pargneaux (EP). Representatives from the national parliaments of Italy, Austria, Slovenia, Turkey, Palestine, Algeria, Luxembourg and Morocco participated in the meeting. Following the adopted agenda, a proposal for a Recommendation on "Migration and the Refugees Status in the Mediterranean" was presented. 107 amendments and 16 compromise amendments were submitted to the content of the Recommendation. After extensive discussion most of the amendments and compromise amendments were adopted. The final text of the Recommendation will be submitted to the members of the Committee before the beginning of the plenary session of the Parliamentary Assembly - Union for the Mediterranean scheduled for 13 and 14 February 2019 in Strasbourg.

20 – 21 January – Bucharest – Meeting of the Chairmen of the Conference of Parliamentary Committees for Union Affairs of Parliaments of the European Union (COSAC)

Chairman of the European Affairs Committee Domagoj Ivan Milošević and the member of the Committee Joško Klisović participated in the meeting of the chairmen of the Conference of Parliamentary Committees for Union Affairs of Parliaments of the European Union (COSAC). The meeting was co-chaired by the Chair of the Committee on European Affairs of the Romanian Senate Gabriela Crețu and the Chair of the European Affairs Committee of the House of Representatives Angel Tîlvăr. The meeting presented the priorities of the Romanian Presidency of the Council of the European Union and discussed economic convergence and cohesion policy in the context of the new Multiannual Financial Framework.



President of the European Affairs Committee Domagoj Ivan Milošević participated in the debate on convergence and cohesion policy and stressed that differences in development among Member States affected the stability of the European Union. He therefore called on all the so-called net contributors in the European budget to think carefully about the level of cohesion policy funding in the new Multiannual Financial Framework, given that the announcement of a reduction in the funds for cohesion caused, among other things, growth of Euroscepticism in the less developed Union Member States. Joško Klisović expressed his satisfaction by including cohesion and convergence in the priorities of the Romanian presidency and said that only if cohesion resulted in true convergence it would be possible to avoid "a multi-speed Europe", which would mean that all Member States were equal, while some were more equal than others in the EU. He also called for the issue of cohesion not to be ignored when discussing the future of Europe that will be held during the summit in Sibiu.

27 – 28 January – Vienna – Meeting of the Secretaries General of the EU Parliaments

Secretaries General of the EU Parliaments met in Vienna at the invitation of the Secretary General of the Austrian Parliament, Harald Dossi. Secretary of the Croatian Parliament Davor Orlović participated in the meeting.

The Meeting was held in the framework of the parliamentary dimension of the Austrian Presidency of the Council for the preparation of the Conference of the Speakers of European Union Parliaments, which will be held on 8 and 9 April 2019, and was opened by the President of the Austrian National Council Wolfgang Sobotka.

Within the framework of the first session, a program of the EU Presidency was presented, which included two main topics - the EU and its neighbours, and the EU in the eve of the elections of 2019; further development and cooperation between national parliaments and European institutions and events within the parliamentary dimension of the Romanian Presidency. Secretary General of the European Parliament Klaus Welle announced the 2019 European Parliament elections and addressed the challenges faced by parliamentary cooperation between the EU Member States in the context of Brexit, and stressed the European Parliament's great responsibility in communicating information to EU citizens.

Interparliamentary activities in February 2019

7 – 8 February – Zagreb/Croatian Parliament – Visit of the Committee responsible for European Affairs of the National and Federal Council of Austria

18 – 19 February – Brussels/European Parliament – European Parliamentary Week 2019

20 February – Zagreb/Croatian Parliament – Visit of the European Affairs Committee of the National Assembly of Hungary

24 – 25 February – Bucharest – Joint Parliamentary Scrutiny Group on Europol (JPSG)

