



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

### Commission Work Programme 2018: An agenda for a more united, stronger and more democratic Europe

Following the announcements made in President Juncker's 2017 State of the Union Address, the European Commission presented its plans for completing the work on President Juncker's [ten political priorities](#) before the end of its mandate, as well as a series of forward-looking initiatives for the future of Europe.

The focus of the 26 new initiatives in this year's Work Programme is two-fold. First, there are targeted legislative actions to complete the work in priority policy areas, which will all be tabled by May 2018 to allow the European Parliament and Council to complete the legislative work before the European elections of June 2019. Secondly, the Work Programme presents ambitious actions and initiatives that have a more forward-looking perspective, as the new Union of 27 shapes its own future for 2025 and beyond. These proposals reflect the debate kick-started by the Commission's [White Paper on the future of Europe](#) and President Juncker's [2017 State of the Union Address](#).

To ensure a focus on delivery, the Commission Work Programme identifies 66 priority pending proposals presented in the past two years where swift adoption by the Parliament and Council is needed; the Commission also suggests to withdraw 15 pending proposals where there is no foreseeable agreement or they no longer serve their purpose or are technically outdated.

The Work Programme proposes a number of 15 proposals that follow on from regulatory fitness and performance (REFIT) reviews of current laws, taking into account the opinions of the REFIT Platform.

Effective application and enforcement of EU law by Member States will also be a priority, to ensure that citizens and businesses experience the intended benefits. The Commission will repeal three obsolete pieces of legislation.



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

### Activities of the parliamentary committees

Three committees discussed [European documents](#) in accordance with the [Work Programme for the Consideration of the Positions of the Republic of Croatia for 2017](#).

European Affairs Committee held its 20<sup>th</sup> session on 6 October 2017.

Labour, Retirement System and Social Partnership Committee held its 21<sup>st</sup> session on 25 October 2017.

Committee on Maritime Affairs, Transportation and Infrastructure held its 18<sup>th</sup> session on 27 October 2017.

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

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

- 3567 General Affairs Council;
- 3568 General Affairs Council (art. 50);
- 3566 Foreign Affairs Council;
- 3563 Justice and Home Affairs Council;
- 3563 Economic and Financial Affairs Council ;
- 3562 Agriculture and Fisheries Council;
- 3565 Environment Council;
- 3570 Transport, telecommunication and energy Council;
- 3569 Employment, social policy, health and consumer affairs Council.

### Application of EU law

In October 2017 the Croatian Parliament enacted [10 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 October 2017 EU institutions forwarded to the Croatian Parliament [31 documents](#): 14 draft laws and 17 communications and other non-binding documents.



## Inter-parliamentary Cooperation in the European Union

Inter-parliamentary 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 October 2017, the Croatian Parliament representatives participated in the following meetings:

**9 – 10 October** – European Parliament/Brussels – [Constituent meeting of the Europol Joint Parliamentary Scrutiny Group \(JPSG\), organized by the European Parliament and the EU Presidency](#)

**10 October** – European Parliament/Brussels – [ECON Committee Exchange of Views with National Parliaments-Country specific Recommendations and Common Consolidated Corporate Tax Base](#)

**11 October** – European Parliament/Brussels – / [Interparliamentary Committee Meeting AFCD on "The Future of Europe: Perspectives on the European Parliament's Proposals and the European Commission's White Paper"](#)

### Inter-parliamentary activities in November 2017

**21 November** – Brussels – Inter-parliamentary committee meeting of the European Parliament's Committee on Development (DEVE) with national Parliaments of the European Union's Member States on the subject of "The implementation of the Consensus on Development and the Sustainable Development Goals"

**21 November** – Brussels – Inter-parliamentary committee meeting of the European Parliament's Committee on Foreign Affairs (AFET) with national Parliaments of the European Union's Member States on the subject "EU accession process of the Western Balkans"

**21 November** – Brussels – Inter-parliamentary committee meeting of the European Parliament's Committee on Women's Rights and Gender Equality (FEMM) with national Parliaments of the European Union's Member States on the occasion of the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women 2017 on the subject "The Istanbul Convention: combating violence against women at national and EU level"

**22 November** – Brussels – Inter-parliamentary committee meeting of the European Parliament's Committee on Regional Development (REGI) with national Parliaments of the European Union's Member States on the subject "The Future of Cohesion Policy post 2020: Opportunities, Challenges and Next Steps"

**26 – 28 November** – Tallinn – 58<sup>th</sup> Conference of Parliamentary Committees for Union Affairs of Parliaments of the European Union

