



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

European Affairs Committee

held a preceding discussion on the work of the Croatian Parliament in European affairs in 2021

On 3 December 2020, the European Affairs Committee held a preceding discussion on the activities of the Croatian Parliament in European affairs, at which European Commission Vice-President Dubravka Šuica presented the 2021 Commission Work Programme - A Union of vitality in a world of fragility. Members of the European Affairs Committee, chairs of the interested committees in the Croatian Parliament and Croatian MEPs took part in the discussion.

Deputy Speaker of the Croatian Parliament, Željko Reiner, addressed the participants of the session, congratulating the Vice-President of the European Commission, Šuica, on the first year of her mandate, emphasising the importance of her portfolio - democracy and demography. Deputy Speaker Reiner referred to the Croatian Presidency of the Council of the European Union, which was marked by the beginning of the pandemic and sought new, innovative solutions, in order to meet the selected priorities without hindrance.

European Commission Vice-President Dubravka Šuica, who participated in the session by videoconference, said that national parliaments are key interlocutors of the European Commission in all policies and presented the 2021 Commission Work Programme, outlining the goals and most important initiatives for their achievement. She pointed out that the deadlines for publishing certain initiatives from the European Commission's 2020 Work Program have been adjusted to the crisis conditions due to the Covid-19 epidemic, but this does not apply to priority initiatives of a necessary nature that directly contribute to recovery, whose deadlines have been fully met.

Vice-President Šuica commented on the policies she is in charge of in the Commission - democracy and demography, especially emphasising the importance of demography, which is one of the Commission's portfolios in this convocation for the first time. She pointed out that today Europeans live on average ten years longer, and that the common European goal is to increase the quality of life along with its length.

In relation to the Conference on the Future of Europe, which represents her portfolio according to the European Commission, she regretted that the launch of the Conference was postponed due to the pandemic because its original intention was to start in May this year, during the Croatian Presidency and the official launching was to be held in Dubrovnik.



Members of the Croatian Parliament emphasised the importance of the participation of national parliaments in the Conference on the Future of Europe, and the Chair of the Committee, Hajduković, conveyed messages to Vice-President Šuica from the meeting of the Conference of Parliamentary Committees for Union Affairs of Parliaments of the European Union (COSAC) held on 30 November and 1 December 2020. At the meeting, national parliaments requested to be included in the Conference on the Future of Europe on an equal footing with the European Parliament, which includes participation in the governing bodies of the Conference.

In conclusion, the Chair of the Committee Domagoj Hajduković stated that the implementation of the preceding discussion would begin the cycle of European affairs in the Croatian Parliament, and announced that the European Affairs Committee, after receiving the Government's priorities in European affairs for the next year, that is immediately after the end of the Constitutional recess of the Croatian Parliament, will invite the working bodies to submit to the European Affairs Committee proposals for inclusion in the Work Program and that the European Affairs Committee in the first half of February 2021 would adopt a Work Program to consider the position of the Republic of Croatia for 2021.

Activities of the Croatian Parliament in the Decision-Making Process

Activities of the parliamentary committees

European Affairs Committee

4th session held on 2 November 2020

Committee discussed the Report on the European Council meetings held in October 2020 submitted by the Government of the Republic of Croatia.

5th session held on 12 November 2020 (*joint session with the Foreign Policy Committee*)

Committees discussed the Report on the Foreign Affairs Council meetings held in September and October 2020 submitted by the Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs of the Republic of Croatia.

6th session held on 24 November 2020 (*electronically*)

Committee discussed [European documents](#) in accordance with the [Work Programme for the Consideration of the Positions of the Republic of Croatia for 2020](#).

European Affairs Committee has forwarded 3 [European documents](#) in the procedure for the consideration of the Positions of the Republic of Croatia for 2020.

Other committees

Other parliamentary committees discussed [European documents](#) in accordance with the [Work Programme for the Consideration of the Positions of the Republic of Croatia for 2020](#).

Monitoring the work of the Government in the European Union institutions

Council

The Croatian Government submitted to the relevant parliamentary committees its positions for 11 Council (videoconference) meetings held in November 2020.



Application of EU law

In November 2020, the Croatian Parliament enacted [4 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 November 2020, EU institutions forwarded to the Croatian Parliament [69 documents](#): 30 draft laws and 39 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.

Conference of the of Chairpersons of committees from national parliaments and the European Parliament “For social and Fair Europe”, Berlin, 9 November 2020 (video conference)

Within the parliamentary dimension of the German Presidency of the Council of the European Union, a meeting was held among the Chairs of the Committees of National Parliaments and the European Parliament on the topic "For a social and fair Europe".

The meeting, which was held via video conference, was attended by the Chairman of the Labour, Retirement System and Social Partnership Committee, Davorko Vidović.

After the welcoming message of the Vice-President of the German Bundestag Petra Pau, dr. Matthias Bartke, Chairman of the German Bundestag's Committee on Labour and Social Affairs chaired the first session discussing the European Pillar of Social Rights in the specific circumstances of a pandemic and the implementation of 20 key principles into concrete policies.

Nicolas Schmit, European Commissioner for Jobs and Social Rights, addressed the meeting as a keynote speaker, commenting on the recently published Proposal for a Directive of the European Parliament and of the Council on adequate minimum wages in the European Union and calling on members of national parliaments and the European Parliament to comment, opinion and bring forward proposals for the adoption of the Action plan to implement the European Pillar of Social Rights at the 2021 Portugal Summit.

The Chairman of the Labour, Retirement System and Social Partnership Committee, Davorko Vidović, joined the discussion, emphasizing the need to further remove social barriers in order for European society to remain the fairest society in the world. In relation to the crisis against the backdrop of the pandemic, he mentioned some of the measures taken in Croatia to safeguard jobs, but added that in some sectors, layoffs can be expected in the near future.



He supported further development of digital skills, high on the agenda of the German Presidency of the EU Council, and also a priority of the Croatian Presidency, and called for the importance of equal opportunities and access to the labour market.

In the second part of the meeting, the report of the Member of the European Parliament Lara Wolters on the due diligence and corporate accountability for global supply chains was presented.

Inter-parliamentary activities in December 2020

1 December	Interparliamentary Committee Meeting on Evaluation of Eurojust's activities – 1 st meeting organised by Committee on Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs of the European Parliament (Bruxelles, video conference)

2 December	Interparliamentary Committee Meeting “Western Balkan: 25 years after the Dayton Accords” and “A united response in support of emocratic change in Belarus” organised by Committee on ForeignAffairs of the European Parliament (Bruxelles, video conference)

