

# 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. 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.

### *Information on the Croatian Parliament elections 2024*

Parliamentary elections were held in Croatia on 17 April 2024 to elect the members of the 11th Sabor. The Croatian Parliament has 151 Members.

Outcome of the April 2024 parliamentary elections:

	Party / Coalition list	EP affiliation	Seats
	Coalition list – Hrvatska demokratska zajednica / Croatian Democratic Union (HDZ) and partners composed of: HDZ, Croatian Social Liberal Party (HSLs), Croatian Demochristian Party (HDS), Croatian People's Party – Liberal Democrats (HNS), Croatian Party of Pensioners (HSU)	  Not affiliated	61
	Socijaldemokratska partija Hrvatske / Social Democratic Party of Croatia (SDP) – led “Rivers of Justice” (Rijeke pravde) coalition composed of 6 political parties: SDP, Centre, Dalija Orešković and People with a First and Last Name (DOSIP), People's Party – Reformists, Civic Liberal Alliance (GLAS)	  Not affiliated	42
	Domovinski pokret (Homeland Movement) and partners: Law and Justice, Block for Croatia (Blok), Agramers – independent list, Independent, Democratic HSS – DHSS, Green list	Not affiliated	14
	Most (The Bridge) and partners: Croatian Sovereignists, Croatian Conservative Party (HKS), Independent Youth List / Nezavisna lista mladih (NLM)	 Not affiliated	11
	Možemo! / We Can!		10

	Nezavisna platforma sjever / Independent Platform North (NPS)	Not affiliated	2
	Istrian Democratic Assembly / Istarski demokratski savez (IDS)		2
	Coalition Fokus / Republika	Not affiliated	1
	National minorities	Not affiliated	8
Turnout: 62.31%			

Proportion of men and women (on 27 May 2024): 101 men (67%) and 50 women (33%)

There are **14 political groups** in the 11th term of the Croatian Parliament. According to Article 29 of the Rules of Procedure, the minimum number of Members required to form a political group is three (3). A Member of Parliament may be a member of only one political group, while a Member of Parliament representing a national minority may, in addition to being a member of the Deputy Club of national minorities, be a member of another political group, with the consent of that political group.

	<b>Political group (Deputy club)</b>	<b>Number of MPs</b>	<b>Date of establishment</b>
1.	Deputy Club of the Croatian Democratic Union (HDZ)	58	16 May 2024
2.	Deputy Club of the Social Democratic Party of Croatia (SDP)	37	16 May 2024
3.	Deputy Club of the Homeland Movement	12	16 May 2024
4.	Deputy Club We Can!	10	16 May 2024
5.	Deputy Club of the Bridge	7	16 May 2024
6.	Deputy Club of the Center and the Independent Platform of the North	4	16 May 2024
7.	Deputy Club of the Croatian People's Party and Independent MPs	3	16 May 2024
8.	Deputy Club of the Istrian Democratic Assembly (IDS), Primorje-Gorski Kotar Alliance (PGS), Kvarner Union (UNIJA) and Istrian Party of Pensioners – Partito Istriano dei pensionati (ISU – PIP)	3	16 May 2024
9.	Deputy Club of the Croatian Sovereignists, Law and Justice and Josip Jurčević – Independent MP	3	16 May 2024
10.	Deputy Club of the Independent MPs and Focus	3	16 May 2024
11.	Deputy Club of the Croatian Peasant Party (HSS), Civic Liberal Alliance (GLAS) and Dalija Orešković and People with a First and Last Name Party (DOSIP)	3	16 May 2024
12.	Deputy Club of the Croatian Social-Liberal Party and Independent MP Vladimir Bilek	3	16 May 2024
13.	Deputy Club of the Independent Democratic Serb Party	3	16 May 2024
14.	Deputy Club of national minorities	8	16 May 2024

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## *Information on European affairs of the Croatian Parliament*

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Croatia's accession to the EU membership on 1 July 2013 reflected changes to the status and the role of the Croatian Parliament. Namely, legislative and non-legislative acts adopted at the EU level are either directly applicable in Croatia or Croatia is obliged to transpose them into its national legislation. When adopting such acts, Croatia is represented in the Council of the European Union, as a legislative body, by the Croatian Government. In the other legislative body of the European Union, the European Parliament, Croatian citizens are directly represented by Members of the European Parliament elected in Croatia.

Conducting European affairs in the Croatian Parliament implies the Parliament's participation in the decision-making process at the level of the European Union through the activities of the Croatian Parliament arising from the membership of the Republic of Croatia in the European Union. The Croatian Parliament's participation in European affairs is regulated by Article 144 of the Constitution of the Republic of Croatia, the Act on the Co-Operation of the Croatian Parliament and the Government of the Republic of Croatia in European Affairs and the Standing Orders of the Croatian Parliament.

The Parliament conducts European affairs indirectly by monitoring the activities of the Government in the institutions of the European Union and directly by exercising the powers conferred on national parliaments by the Treaty of Lisbon. The powers of the Croatian Parliament in European affairs are as a rule carried out by the European Affairs Committee while the Foreign Affairs Committee is in charge of the issues pertaining to the Common Foreign and Security Policy. The European Affairs Committee closely cooperates with other working bodies of Parliament that follow the policies of the European Union each within its own remit.

The Standing Orders of the Croatian Parliament provide for the involvement of all working bodies and members of Parliament in European affairs. Members of the European Parliament elected in Croatia may participate in the sessions of all working bodies of the Croatian Parliament.

### **Direct participation**

The Parliament directly participates in the decision-making process in the European Union by monitoring compliance with the subsidiarity principle in the proposals of legislative acts and legislative acts of the EU and by participating in the procedures of revising the Treaties and implementing the *passerelle* clause. Exchange of views within the framework of political dialogue between national parliaments and the Commission is also a form of direct participation in the decision-making process.

### **Indirect participation**

The Croatian Parliament indirectly participates in the decision-making process in the European Union by supervising the activities of the Government in the institutions of the European Union.

Pursuant to the provisions of the Act on the Co-Operation of the Croatian Parliament and the Government of the Republic of Croatia in European Affairs and the Standing Orders of the Croatian Parliament, the Parliament monitors the work of the Government in the institutions of the European Union by adopting conclusions on the positions of the Republic of Croatia and the documents of the European Union on the basis of which the Government acts in institutions. by holding debates on the meetings of the European Council and the Council of the European Union and by participating in the procedure for proposing candidates for the institutions and bodies of the European Union.

In the procedure of consideration of EU documents and the relevant positions of the Republic of Croatia, in the discussions on the meetings of the Council of the European Union and in the procedure of nominating candidates for EU institutions and bodies, the powers of the Croatian Parliament are as a rule executed by the European Affairs Committee.

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***EU documents forwarded directly to the Croatian Parliament***

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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 daily the received EU documents, 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 May 2024, the EU institutions forwarded to the Croatian Parliament 31 documents: 14 draft legislative acts, 17 communications and other non-binding documents.**