

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.

The Croatian Presidency of the European Union Strategy for the Adriatic and Ionian Region

On 1st June 2023 Croatia assumed the Presidency of the European Union (EU) Strategy for the Adriatic-Ionian Region (EUSAIR) and the Adriatic-Ionian Initiative.

The Croatian Presidency of the European Union Strategy for the Adriatic and Ionian Region (the Strategy) and the Adriatic and Ionian Initiative (the Initiative) coincides with the 10th anniversary of the launch of the Strategy and the 24th anniversary of the founding of the Initiative, as well as the 10th anniversary of the Republic of Croatia's membership in the European Union. So far, Croatia has chaired the Strategy once (2015-2016) and the Initiative three times (2000-2001; 2007-2008; 2015-2016).

During its Presidency, Croatia will focus on key political objectives, including adapting the Strategy to new macro-regional conditions, fostering a more substantial contribution of the Strategy and Initiatives to the EU enlargement process, finalizing the Strategy revision process, and promoting enhanced institutional cooperation within the framework of the four EU macro-regional strategies.

Regarding thematic priorities, Croatia aims to reinforce resilience by focusing on improved connectivity in transport, energy, and digital domains. As well as emphasising Sustainable growth and tourism alongside the introduction of a new dedicated Pillar in the Strategy aimed at addressing social issues and fostering social cohesion in light of current circumstances and context. The central topic of the Croatian presidency of EUSAIR will be the "blue-green strategy of the future," which refers to the development of the maritime and inland areas and their contribution to the EU enlargement.

The beginning of the Presidency is strongly tied with the beginning of implementation of a new programming period of the Interreg IPA ADRION Programme (2021-2027), which will ensure support for the management of the Strategy in the upcoming period. Croatia will participate in the management of the Strategy through the project entitled Development of strategic implementation formats, where it will have the role of the leading partner.

Calendar of activities

In order to promote the priorities stated in the Programme, during its Presidency/Chairmanship Croatia will organise a series of activities at various levels. The final dates and venues for some events will be confirmed and communicated at a later time.

19-20 June 2023	Launching conference of the Presidency of EUSAIR/AII, with an informal meeting of EUSAIR NC/PC-ADRION, Zagreb
20-21 June 2023	Workshop on EU-funded Marine Robotics and Applications (EMRA), Šibenik
21 June 2023	Sustainable Nautical Tourism Conference, Zagreb
4-5 July 2023	Women empowerment conference, Zagreb
September 2023	Conference on the implementation of Biodiversity Strategy in the Adriatic Sea through joint solutions for nature and fisheries (venue tbd)
Late September 2023	Conference on hydrogen and geothermal energy, Zagreb
October 2023	Meeting of EUSAIR National Coordinators with Managing Authorities of the Adriatic and Ionian Region, Zagreb
October 2023	Inaugural conference of the three EUSAIR governance projects, Zagreb
October 2023	Workshop on Integrated Energy and Climate Plan (NECP), Zagreb
October/November 2023	Meeting of the 4 MRS Trio Presidencies (venue tbd)
November 2023	Conference on skills (venue tbd)
November 2023	Round table on inter-university cooperation, Split
November 2023	Youth conference, Split
Second half of 2023	Conference on protection against pollution of the seas and waters from plastics and micro-plastics (venue tbd)
Second half of 2023	Round table on the topic of development of green tourism products and balanced development of tourism (venue tbd)

February 2024	Ministerial conference on the future of EUSAIR (venue tbd)
March 2024	Conference on social issues (venue tbd)
March 2024	Rectors' conference on blue growth, research and innovation (venue tbd)
April 2024	Meeting of representatives of Croatian counties and one Italian region (venue tbd)
April 2024	Conference on transport connectivity of the Adriatic-Ionian region; The Western Balkans-Eastern Mediterranean Corridor as a link between all EUSAIR participating countries, Zagreb
Spring 2024	Meeting of relevant stakeholders for the development of strategic projects of EUSAIR, Brussels
Spring 2024	Meeting of four macro-regional strategies with TSG coordinators, Brussels
Spring 2024	Meeting of representatives of four macro-regional strategies for the field of tourism, Brussels
May 2024	Conference of Speakers of Parliaments of All countries (venue tbd)
May 2024	Annual Forum (venue tbd)

*The activities of the Croatian Parliament in the first ten years of Croatia's membership in the European Union
(1 July 2013 – 30 June 2023)*

As the national parliament of a European Union member state, the Croatian Parliament participates in the management of European affairs, acting by virtue of powers granted to it by the founding Treaties of the Union and the Constitution of the Republic of Croatia, and in accordance with the Act on the Cooperation of the Croatian Parliament and the Government of the Republic of Croatia in European Affairs and the Standing Orders of the Croatian Parliament.

Since Croatia became a member of the European Union three years after the entry into force of the Treaty of Lisbon, the Croatian Parliament is the first national parliament to have built its own model of conducting European affairs based on the extended powers that the Lisbon Treaty conferred onto national parliaments.

The European Affairs Committee manages European affairs in accordance with the Act on the Cooperation of the Croatian Parliament and the Government of the Republic of Croatia and the Standing Orders of the Croatian Parliament, unless the Parliament decides otherwise.

Overview of the activities is available [here](#).