

# 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. It provides the reader with an overview of parliamentary activities in the field of EU affairs and interparliamentary cooperation as well as with access to EU documents forwarded to national parliaments.

### In Focus

#### Task Force Report on Subsidiarity, Proportionality and 'Doing Less, More Efficiently'

Task Force on Subsidiarity, Proportionality and 'Doing Less, More Efficiently', chaired by First Vice-President Timmermans, handed over its [final report](#) to Commission President Jean-Claude Juncker.

The Task Force was established by the President Juncker in November 2017. He asked the Task Force to look at 3 issues: (1) the role of local and regional authorities in policymaking and implementation of European Union policies; (2) the role of subsidiarity and proportionality in the work of the Union's institutions and bodies; (3) whether responsibility for particular policies areas should be re-delegated to the Member States.

The Task Force concluded that a new way of working on subsidiarity and proportionality is needed to allow local and regional authorities and national Parliaments to make a more effective contribution to EU policymaking and in the design of new legislation. The proposed new approach would see subsidiarity and proportionality being assessed more consistently by all levels of government, on the basis of a "model grid" – comparable to a subsidiarity and proportionality checklist.

The Task Force also recommends applying flexibly the 8 weeks deadline for national Parliaments to submit their opinions on draft EU legislation, and raises the possibility of a future increase of the time available for submitting an opinion to 12 weeks. Lastly, the Task Force recommends that the three EU institutions agree on a focused multi-annual programme that would promote a rebalancing of the EU's work in some policy areas towards more effective implementation of existing legislation and away from initiating new legislation. This builds on the introduction, by the Juncker Commission, of much more targeted Commission Work programmes and annual Joint Declarations agreed among the three institutions on the priority files for adoption that year.

The Task Force believes the new approach should be applied to the existing body of European Union legislation and to all new political initiatives. Stakeholders made a number of suggestions to the Task Force on EU legislation and policies where a review of the subsidiarity and proportionality criteria could be launched. The Commission will take account of these suggestions in its future work.



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

### Activities of the parliamentary committees

Parliamentary committees discussed [European documents](#) in accordance with the [Work Programme for the Consideration of the Positions of the Republic of Croatia for 2018](#).

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

#### Council

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

- 3631 Economic and Financial Affairs Council
- 3632 Agriculture and Fisheries Council
- 3633 Foreign Affairs Council
- 3634 General Affairs Council (art. 50)

### Application of EU law

In July 2018, the Croatian Parliament enacted [8 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 July 2018, EU institutions forwarded to the Croatian Parliament 54 documents: 36 draft laws, 18 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 July 2018, the Croatian Parliament representatives participated in the following meetings:

8 – 9 July – Vienna - [COSAC Chairpersons Meeting](#)

11 July – Bruxelles - [Interparliamentary Committee Meeting on the performance and visibility of EU funded projects in the Western Balkans with a special focus on the cross-border cooperation hosted by the European Parliament's Committee on Budgetary Control \(CONT\)](#)

