

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 inter-parliamentary cooperation as well as with access to EU documents forwarded to national parliaments.

In Focus

European Year of Youth 2022

The European Parliament and the Council declared 2022 the [European Year of Youth](#). This proposal was announced by the President of the European Commission, Ursula von der Leyen, in her [2021 State of the Union address](#), when she considered that the pandemic has deprived young people of many opportunities: Covid has had a strong negative impact on education, employment and mental health; for those in rural and remote regions, migrants and refugees, also the digital gap has increased with distance learning a major concern; furthermore young women are likely to be more affected.

With the European Year of Youth, the Commission intends, in cooperation with the European Parliament, Member States, regional and local authorities, stakeholders and young people themselves:

- **to honour and support the generation** that has sacrificed the most during the pandemic, giving them new hopes, strength and confidence in the future by highlighting how the green and digital transitions offer renewed perspectives and opportunities;
- **to encourage all young people**, especially those with fewer opportunities, from disadvantaged backgrounds, from rural or remote areas, or belonging to vulnerable groups, to become active citizens and actors of positive change;
- **to promote opportunities** provided by EU policies for young people to support their personal, social and professional development. The European Year of Youth will go hand in hand with the successful implementation of [NextGenerationEU](#) in providing quality jobs, education and training opportunities; and
- **to draw inspiration** from the actions, vision and insights of young people to further strengthen and invigorate the common EU project, building upon the [Conference on the Future of Europe](#).

A dedicated survey on the [Youth Portal](#) is launched in January 2022. Working together with other EU institutions, Member States, civil society organisations and young people, the Commission will organise a number of activities throughout the year at European, national, regional and local level and consider new initiatives. The scope of activities will cover issues that mostly affect young people, following the priorities highlighted in the [Youth Goals](#), such as equality and inclusion, sustainability, mental health and well-being, and quality employment. They will involve young people beyond the EU. The Commission calls on Member States to appoint a national coordinator responsible for organising their participation in the European Year of Youth.

The European Year of Youth will go hand in hand with [NextGenerationEU](#), which reopens perspectives for young people, including quality jobs and education and training opportunities for the Europe of the future, and supports young people's participation in society.



The Year of Youth will seek synergies and complementarity with other EU programmes targeting youth across the policy spectrum - from rural development programmes focussed on young farmers to research and innovation programmes, and from cohesion to climate change actions - including EU programmes with international outreach or of a transnational nature.

Besides, [Erasmus+](#) and the [European Solidarity Corps](#), with budgets of €28 billion and 1€ billion respectively for the current financial period, the EU's [Youth Guarantee](#) and [Youth Employment Initiative](#) are creating more opportunities for young people. While, in 2022 also, a new programme called ALMA will be launched to support cross-border professional mobility for disadvantaged young people.

The [EU Youth Strategy](#) 2019-2027 is the framework for EU youth policy cooperation. It supports youth participation in democratic life and aims to ensure that all young people take part in society. The [EU Youth Dialogue](#) is a central tool in these efforts.

Finally, the [Conference on the Future of Europe](#), which will draw its conclusions also in 2022, ensures that the views and opinions of young people on the future of our Union are heard. One-third of participants in the [European Citizens' Panels](#) and of Panel representatives to the [Conference Plenaries](#) are also young people, while the President of the European Youth Forum also takes part in Plenaries.

Activities of the Croatian Parliament in the Decision-Making Process

Activities of the parliamentary committees

European Affairs Committee

30th session held on 18 January 2022

The European Affairs Committee discussed:

- the [Report](#) of the European Council meetings in 2021 submitted by the Government of the Republic of Croatia,
- [Proposal](#) of the Plan for Harmonization of the Legislation of the Republic of Croatia with the acquis of the European Union for 2022,
- Proposal of the Committee Annual Activity Report from 22 July 2020 to 31 December 2021.

31st session held on 25 January 2022

The European Affairs Committee discussed:

- Programme for the French Presidency of the Council of the European Union with French Ambassador to Croatia
- [European documents](#) in accordance with the [Work Programme for the Consideration of the Positions of the Republic of Croatia for 2020 and 2021](#).

Work programme for the Consideration of the Positions of the Republic of Croatia for 2022

After a preliminary debate on the Parliament's work in European affairs and the presentation of the priorities of the French Presidency of the Council of the EU held in December 2021, the Committee on European Affairs began the process of adopting a Work Program to consider Croatia's position for 2022.



The President of the Committee on European Affairs called on the committee chairmen to submit a notification by 18 February 2022 on proposals for legislative acts and new initiatives of the European Commission.

Agriculture Committee

At its 46th session held on 19 January 2022, the Agriculture Committee discussed the reports of the Ministry of Agriculture on the positions of the Republic of Croatia for the meetings of the Council of the European Union of Ministers of Agriculture and Fisheries held on 12 and 13 December 2021 and 17 January 2022.

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 and 2021](#).

Monitoring the work of the Government in the European Union institutions

European Council

Prime Minister of the Government of the Republic of Croatia submitted to the Parliament [Report](#) on the European Council meetings in 2022. The Report is presented at the session of Parliament on 19 January and was adopted on 28 January 2022.

Council

The Croatian Government submitted to the relevant parliamentary committees its positions for 4 Council meetings held in January 2022.

Application of EU law

In January 2022, the Croatian Parliament enacted [3 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 January 2022, EU institutions forwarded to the Croatian Parliament [61 documents](#): 42 draft laws and 19 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.



13 – 14 January – Paris, videoconference – Conference of the Parliamentary Committees for Union Affairs of Parliaments of the European Union (COSAC) Chairpersons Meeting

The COSAC Chairpersons' meeting took place in hybrid mode, organised from the premises of the French Senate in Paris. It was the first event within the scope of the Parliamentary Dimension of the French Presidency.

Chairman of the European Affairs Committee Domagoj Hajduković participated at the meeting in Paris and Chairman of the Regional Development and EU funds Marko Pavić participated at the meeting via videoconference.

The Chairpersons' Meeting began with a tribute to President David Sassoli, who passed away on 11 January.

"The priorities of the French Presidency of the EU Council" was the topic of the first session of the Conference, with keynote speaker Mr Clément Beaune, Minister of State for European Affairs. A second session focused on the new working methods within COSAC. The third session on the "Twentieth anniversary of the euro: achievements and future of the euro", was introduced by Ms Christine Lagarde, President of the European Central Bank (ECB).

In the first session, Mr Clément Beaune opened the discussion, defining the priorities of the French Presidency in three main areas: a more sovereign Europe, achieved by reform of the Migration and Asylum Pact, Schengen Area and Strategic Compass; a new European growth model for a more digital, greener and social Europe (Carbon Adjustment Mechanism, Digital Services Act and Digital Markets Act, minimum wage protection, equal pay and fair representation); a more "human" Europe that preserves the European values by implementing the proposals of the Conference on the Future of Europe, protecting the rule of law and enlightening the European debate with the Academy of Europe.

In the context of the second session, the French Presidency proposed the creation of two Working Groups with the aim of increasing the visibility of COSAC and improving the consistency and structure of the meetings. The proposal was approved by consensus. These Working Groups will concern the role of national parliaments in the European Union and the place of European values at the heart of the sense of belonging.

During the third session, Ms Christine Lagarde, emphasized the resilience of the common currency in times of crisis, especially during the pandemic. She explained the pivotal role of the ECB in the stabilisation of the European economy, targeting at the return of inflation to the 2% objective, in the medium term. In addition, Ms Lagarde highlighted that the "Next Generation EU" instrument and the European Capital Market are valuable tools for the accomplishment of the green and digital transition.

The Chairpersons' meeting endorsed the draft programme of the next LXVII COSAC Plenary meeting, scheduled to take place on 3-5 March 2022 in Paris with physical presence, should sanitary conditions permit. The agenda of the Plenary will focus on the initial assessment of the French Presidency, on the recovery plan for Europe, on the climate change and energy transition and on the Conference on the Future of Europe. The fifth session will address the progress done by the Working Groups.

24 January ---- Ljubljana, videoconference – Meeting of the Secretaries General of the National Parliaments of EU Member States and the European Parliament (EUSG)

On behalf of Secretary General of the Croatian Parliament, Head of Office for International and European Affairs Andrea Halambek participated at the meeting.

Participants attending the Meeting of the Secretaries General discussed preparations for the Conference of Speakers of the European Union Parliaments, which will be held on 28 and 29 March at Brdo pri Kranju, and current topics related to parliamentary activity.



When talking about the draft agenda for the Conference of Speakers, National Assembly Secretary General Uršula Zore Tavčar presented the two conference topics: The Role of Parliaments in Emergency Politics – Building Resilience for Democratic Governance, which will be discussed during the first day of the conference, and The European Union as the Guarantor of Stability, Security and Prosperity in the Region (and Beyond), the topic planned for the following day.

As part of Session II IPEX Annual Report was presented. This platform is intended for the interparliamentary exchange of EU-related information and has been available since 2006, during which time it has undergone a number of technological and content-related improvements.

At the end of the conference, the Secretary General of the French Senate, Éric Tavernier, gave a detailed presentation of the contents and programme of the parliamentary dimension of the French Presidency of the Council of the EU.

Inter-parliamentary activities in February 2022

1 February – Bruxelles, European Parliament – Second Annual Meeting on the Evaluation of Eurjust's Activities

24 and 25 February – Paris – Interparliamentary Conference for the Common Foreign and Security (CFSP) and the Common Security and Defence Policy (CSDP)

28 February – Paris – Joint Parliamentary Scrutiny Group on Europol

