

BULLETIN

European Affairs in the Croatian Parliament



Bulletin No 10

July 2018

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

Austrian EU Council Presidency from 1 July to 31 December 2018

From July to December 2018, Austria holds the Presidency of the EU Council for the third time after 1998 and 2006, following the Bulgarian and preceding the Romanian Presidency.

Under the motto of ‘A Europe that protects’, the Austrian government will focus on the following areas during its presidency: security and the fight against illegal migration, securing prosperity and competitiveness through digitalisation, and stability in the neighbourhood. The latter also includes the goal of supporting the continued efforts of the Western Balkan countries to move closer to the EU. In addition, Austria will advocate strengthening the principle of subsidiarity: the European Union should focus on big issues requiring a joint solution and take a step back when it comes to smaller matters where the member states or regions are in a better position to take decisions.

Parliamentary Dimension Programme:

8 - 9 July 2018: Meeting of the Chairpersons of COSAC - Conference of Parliamentary Committees for Union Affairs of Parliaments of the European Union

17 - 18 September 2018: Interparliamentary Conference on Stability, Economic Coordination and Governance in the European Union (SECG)

24 - 25 September 2018: Meeting of the Joint Parliamentary Scrutiny Group on Europol (JPSG)

11 - 12 October 2018: Interparliamentary Conference for the CFSP and CSDP

18 - 20 November 2018: Plenary Meeting of the LX COSAC

27 - 28 January 2019: Meeting of the Secretaries General of the European Union Parliaments

8 - 9 April 2019: Conference of Speakers of the European Union Parliaments

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 June Council meetings:

- 3622 Justice and Home Affairs Council
- 3623 Transport, Telecommunications and Energy Council
- 3624 Agriculture and Fisheries Council
- 3625 Employment, Social Policy, Health and Consumer Affairs Council
- 3626 Economic and Financial Affairs Council
- 3627 Environment Council
- 3628 Foreign Affairs Council
- 3629 General Affairs Council
- 3630 General Affairs Council (art. 50)

Application of EU law

In April 2018, the Croatian Parliament enacted [2 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 April 2018, EU institutions forwarded to the Croatian Parliament [135 documents](#): 84 draft laws, 51 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 June 2018, the Croatian Parliament representatives participated in the following meetings:

17 - 19 June – Sofia – LIX COSAC meeting

The meeting was chaired by Kristian Vigenin, Chairperson of the Committee on European Affairs and Oversight of the European Funds, National Assembly of the Republic of Bulgaria with the participation of the Chairman of the European Affairs Committee Domagoj Ivan Milošević and the members of the Committee Joško Klisović and Davor Ivo Stier.



Chairman of the European Affairs Committee of the Croatian Parliament, Domagoj Ivan Milošević, participated as a keynote speaker at the Session dedicated to the integration and connectivity of the so called Western Balkans – a new impetus to EU Enlargement Policy. In his presentation, Milošević welcomed the return of enlargement policy among the European priorities under the Bulgarian presidency, in particular holding of the EU-Western Balkans summit last month in Sofia, and announced the holding of an identical summit during the Croatian Presidency of the Council of the European Union in the first half of 2020. Although the traffic, social and economic connectivity in the region of South East Europe has been assessed as a key to progress towards EU membership Milošević stressed that connectivity could not be a substitute for enlargement.

Furthermore, Milošević talked about the integration and connectivity of the Western Balkans in the context of current challenges in the EU - external migrations, population movements within the Union and socio-economic development. He concluded by pointing out that accession to the European Union was not a goal in itself, but primarily a tool for the implementation of the necessary reforms, and has called for the retention of individual approach towards candidate countries and potential candidates. Other topics of the LIX COSAC meeting refer to the Achievements of the Bulgarian Presidency of the Council of the EU, European Pillar of Social Rights, and Cohesion Policy for the new Multiannual Financial Framework for the 2021-2027 period and EU interparliamentary cooperation in the context of the debate on subsidiarity and proportionality.

The meeting will be concluded by adopting the Contribution and draft Conclusions of the LIX COSAC and announcing the program and priorities of the upcoming Austrian Presidency of the Council of the EU.

20 June – Bruxelles – Interparliamentary meeting on EU's investments in transport networks after 2020 in the European Parliament

Pero Ćosić and Vedran Babić, chairman and deputy chairman of the Committee on Maritime Affairs, Transportation and Infrastructure, took part in the Interparliamentary Committee Meeting on “EU Investing in its Transport Networks beyond 2020”, organized by the European Parliament's Committee on Transport and Tourism (TRAN).

The meeting gathered members of national parliaments of the EU Member States, the candidate countries, the countries of the European Economic Area and the European Parliament as well as representatives of the Council, the European Commission, the European Investment Bank, transport sector, media and academia in order for them to exchange views on experiences and best practices on the implementation of TEN-T projects, with particular attention to cross-border links, as well as on the challenges and outlooks for the post-2020 period in the field of EU transport infrastructure investments.

Special attention was paid to the funds intended for the development and construction of the transport infrastructure according to the proposal of the Multiannual Financial Framework for the period 2021-2027, submitted by the European Commission in early May 2018, and to the possibilities for a broader involvement of the private sector through innovative funding instruments for TEN-T projects.

The meeting also provided an opportunity to exchange views on the synergy of transport with other sectors such as energy and digital communications, on the harmonization between the national and EU transport infrastructure planning, and on facilitating the preparation and implementation of cross-border TEN-T projects, i.e. simplifying administrative procedures. The participants highlighted the need to provide adequate funding for the transport sector in the next Multiannual Financial Framework as well as to give priority to projects that generate added European value, promote interoperability of transport systems and contribute to environmental protection.



Inter-parliamentary activities in July 2018

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)

