

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

#### Multiannual Financial Framework 2021 – 2027

The long-term EU budget, also referred to as Multiannual Financial Framework (or 'MFF'), provides a stable framework for implementing the EU's annual budget. It translates the Union's **political priorities** into financial terms, for a period of several years and sets annual maximum amounts ('ceilings') for EU expenditure as a whole and for the main categories/priorities of expenditure ('headings').

On 2 May 2018 the Commission has proposed a long-term budget of **€1,135 billion in commitments** (expressed in 2018 prices) over the period from 2021 to 2027, equivalent to **1.11% of the EU27's gross national income (GNI)**. This level of commitments translates into €1,105 billion (or 1.08% of GNI) in payments (in 2018 prices).

To fund new and pressing priorities, **current levels of funding will need to be increased**. Investing now in areas such as research and innovation, young people, the digital economy, border management, security and defence will contribute to prosperity, sustainability and security in the future. For instance, the budget of Erasmus+ and the European Solidarity Corps will be doubled.

At the same time, the Commission has critically examined where **savings** can be made and **efficiency** improved. The Commission is proposing that funding for the Common Agricultural Policy and Cohesion Policy is moderately reduced - both by around 5% - to reflect the new reality of a Union at 27. These policies will be modernised to ensure they can still deliver with less and even serve new priorities. For example, Cohesion Policy will have an increasingly important role to play in supporting structural reform and in the long-term integration of migrants.

An early agreement is of great practical importance because the MFF Regulation must be agreed before the sector-specific legislation. Whilst the negotiations may run in parallel, it takes 12 to 18 months to agree on the sector-specific legislation for all the multi-annual programmes. In order to allow these programmes to **start on time in January 2021**, an agreement on the sector-specific legislation should be reached **no later than one and a half years before it enters into force**.



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

### Activities of the parliamentary committees

The European Affairs Committee has forwarded 3 new [European documents](#) in the procedure for the consideration of the Positions of the Republic of Croatia for 2018.

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 May Council meetings:

- 3615 General Affairs Council;
- 3616 General Affairs Council (Art. 50);
- 3617 Education, Youth, Culture and Sport Council;
- 3618 Foreign Affairs Council - TRADE;
- 3618(2) Foreign Affairs Council - DEVELOPMENT;
- 3619 Economic and Financial Affairs Council;
- 3620 Competition Council;
- 3621 Foreign Affairs Council;

### Application of EU law

In May 2018, the Croatian Parliament enacted [6 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 May 2018, EU institutions forwarded to the Croatian Parliament [109 documents](#): 60 draft laws, 49 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 May 2018, the Croatian Parliament representatives participated in the following meetings:

### **13 – 14 May – Sofia – Meeting of the Chairpersons of the Energy Committees of the EU Parliaments**

Chair of the Environment and Nature Conservation Committee, Mihael Zmajlović, participated at the Meeting of the Chairpersons of the Energy Committees of the EU Parliaments, which was held in Sofia within the framework of the Bulgarian presidency of the EU.

Main topics were: energy infrastructure issues and secure supply, environment-friendly energy in Europe as well as effective market integration of renewable energy sources.

### **16 May – Zagreb/Croatian Parliament – European Commissioner for Health and Food Safety Vytenis Andriukaitis, on a working visit**

European Commissioner for Health and Food Safety, Vytenis Andriukaitis, presented the priorities of Member States' cooperation in the areas of health and food safety at a meeting with members of the parliamentary committees on health and social policy, agriculture and European affairs.

During the meeting, there was an exchange of opinions on strengthening the Member States' cooperation in the area of promoting public confidence in the justification of population vaccination, raising awareness of smoking and alcohol hazards, implementing health reforms, enhancing transparency and sustainability of the EU risk assessment model in the food chain, reducing feed waste through donations and combating antimicrobial resistance.

### **Inter-parliamentary activities in June 2018**

**17 – 19 June** – Sofia – LIX COSAC meeting

**20 June** – Bruxelles - an Interparliamentary Committee Meeting on "EU Investing in its Transport Networks beyond 2020" hosted by the European Parliament's Committee on Transport and Tourism (TRAN)

