

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

Launch of the digital platform for the Conference on the Future of Europe

The Executive Board of the Conference on the Future of Europe, comprising representatives from the European Parliament, the Council of the European Union and the European Commission, launched on 19 April the multilingual [digital platform](#) for the Conference on the Future of Europe inviting all EU citizens to contribute to shaping their own future and that of Europe as a whole. The platform is available in 24 languages, allowing citizens from across the Union to share and exchange their ideas and views through online events.

The multilingual digital platform is fully interactive and multilingual: people can engage with one another and discuss their proposals with fellow citizens from all Member States, in the EU's 24 official languages. People from all walks of life and in numbers as large as possible are encouraged to contribute via the platform in shaping their future, but also to promote it on social media channels, with the hashtag **#TheFutureIsYours**

The platform will ensure full transparency – a key principle of the Conference – as all submissions and event outcomes will be collected, analysed, monitored, and made publicly available. The key ideas and recommendations from the platform will be used as input for the European citizens' panels and the Plenaries, where they will be debated to produce the Conference's conclusions.

All Conference-related events that will be registered on the platform will be visualised on an interactive map, enabling citizens to browse and sign up online. Organisers can use the toolkit available on the platform to help organise and promote their initiatives. All participants and events must respect the [Charter of the Conference on the Future of Europe](#), which lays down standards for a respectful pan-European debate.

The platform is organised around key topics: climate change and the environment; health; a stronger and fairer economy; social justice and jobs; EU in the world; values and rights, rule of law, security; digital transformation; European democracy; migration; and education, culture, youth and sport. These topics are complemented by an ‘open box’ for cross-cutting and other topics (‘other ideas’), as citizens remain free to raise any issue that matters to them, in a truly bottom-up approach.

The platform also provides information on the Conference's structure and work. It is open to all EU citizens, as well as EU institutions and bodies, national Parliaments, national and local authorities and civil society. It will fully respect users' privacy, and EU data protection rules.

On 11 May the Croatian Parliament, in joint organization with the Office of the European Parliament in Croatia and in cooperation with the Representation of the European Commission in Croatia, will host the event dedicated to the Conference on the Future of Europe.



Activities of the Croatian Parliament in the Decision-Making Process

Activities of the parliamentary committees

European Affairs Committee

17th session held on 13 April 2021 (joint with Committee on Regional Development and European Union Funds)

The Committee discussed Government's [Information](#) on the National Recovery and Resilience Plan 2021-2026.

The National Recovery and Resilience Plan, which was prepared in close cooperation with the Commission services, encompasses five components: 1. Economy, 2. Public Administration, Justice and State Assets 3. Education, Science and Research, 4. Labour Market and Social Protection, 5. Health, and one initiative: Building Reconstruction.

The proposed reforms and related investments in the Plan are in line with the Government's strategic documents: the National Development Strategy 2030, the Programme of the Government 2020–2024, the National Reform Programme for 2019 and 2020 and the Action Plan for the Participation in the Exchange Rate Mechanism II. In addition, the Plan addresses main structural challenges identified as part of the European Semester 2019 and 2020.

18th session held on 23 April 2021 (joint with the Foreign Affairs Committee)

The Committee discussed Report on Foreign Affairs Council held on 22 March and 19 April, presented by the Minister of foreign and European affairs Gordan Grlić Radman.

European Affairs Committee has forwarded 3 [European documents](#) to relevant committees for the consideration of the Positions of the Republic of Croatia for [2020](#) and [2021](#).

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](#).

Political dialogue with the European Commission

The Committee on Agriculture held its 24th session, on 28 April, at which the Head of the Department in the General Directorate for Agriculture and Rural Development of the European Commission Michael Pielke presented the Recommendations of the European Commission for the development of Croatia's strategic plan under the Common Agricultural Policy. Opinions on the Recommendations were exchanged with the members of the Committee and the Minister of Agriculture Marija Vučković.

Monitoring the work of the Government in the European Union institutions

Council

The Croatian Government submitted to the relevant parliamentary committees its positions for 4 Council meetings held in April 2021.

Application of EU law

In April 2021, 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 April 2021, EU institutions forwarded to the Croatian Parliament [33 documents](#): 18 draft laws and 15 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 April – videoconference – Interparliamentary Conference on Covid-19: health impact and social effects organised by the Parliamentary Dimension of the Portuguese Presidency of the Council of the European Union

Chairwomen of the Health and Social Policy Committee Renata Sabljarić-Dračević participated at the Conference.

The President of the Assembleia da República, Eduardo Ferro Rodrigues, was presiding over the opening session, and the sessions were moderated by the Chair of the Health Committee of the Assembleia da República, Maria Antónia de Almeida Santos, and the Chair of the Committee on Labour and Social Security of the Assembleia da República, Pedro Roque.

Interventions by the speakers and MPs who participated in the debate focused, in particular, on identifying the impacts of the pandemic on the physical and mental health of all citizens, on increasing social inequalities, where the most vulnerable are the most affected, as well as on the importance of vaccination against COVID-19, where the European Union plays a central role in the process of negotiating vaccines.

The importance of implementing the European Pillar of Social Rights to guarantee equal opportunities in access to the labour market, fair working conditions, social protection, and inclusion was stressed in a consensual way. The discussion revealed that gender equality issues in employment should continue to be monitored by the Member States, namely by implementing measures to ensure better working conditions and combat wage inequalities between men and women.

15 April – videoconference – 17th Conference of the Presidents/Speakers of Parliaments of the Adriatic and Ionian Initiative (AII)

The National Assembly hosted the 17th Conference of the Presidents/Speakers of Parliaments of the Adriatic and Ionian Initiative (AII), organised in the framework of Slovenia's one-year AII Chairmanship (from June 2020 to May 2021).

The video conference was attended by delegations of the parliaments of the countries participating in the Adriatic and Ionian Initiative, which were led by: President of the Parliament of Montenegro Aleksa Bečić, Speaker of the Chamber of Deputies of the Italian Republic Roberto Fico, President of the Assembly of the Republic of North Macedonia Talat Xhaferi, Speaker of the National Assembly of the Republic of Serbia Ivica Dačić, Deputy Speaker of the Albanian Parliament Vasilika Hysi, Vice-President of the Senate of the Italian Republic Anna Rossomando,



Chair of the Committee on Regional Development and European Union Funds of the Croatian Parliament Marko Pavić, Chair of the Standing Committee on Cultural and Educational Affairs of the Hellenic Parliament Vasileios Digalakis, and Members of the Great and General Council of the Republic of San Marino Paolo Rondelli and Sara Conti. Bosnia and Herzegovina was represented by its Ambassador to the Republic of Slovenia Milorad Živkovič.

The conference was opened by the President of the National Assembly Igor Zorčič as the current Chair of the AII Parliamentary Dimension. The participants were addressed by the President of the Republic of Slovenia Borut Pahor (Address, [PDF 101 KB](#)), the State Secretary at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Gašper Dovžan who presented Slovenia's one-year Chairmanship of the AII and the EU Strategy for the Adriatic and Ionian Region (EUSAIR), and the AII Secretary General Amb. Giovanni Castellaneta. Among the keynote speakers were the Slovenian Minister of Public Administration Boštjan Koritnik (Speech -[PDF 118 KB](#)), the UniAdriatic President and Rector of the University of Primorska Klavdija Kutnar, and the Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Slovenian Digital Coalition Igor Zorko.

The participants discussed the development of digital society, focusing on the opportunities and pitfalls that the accelerated digital transformation brings to the younger generation entering the labour market. They also touched on the current situation of young people and their future prospects, including the creation of employment opportunities and better conditions for a successful life and work in the Adriatic and Ionian region.

The development of a digital society in the context of opportunities and pitfalls for the younger generations was not only the central topic of the conference; it is the challenge of our time and, as such, also one of the priorities of Slovenia's upcoming EU Presidency. The participants also expressed awareness that a successful digital transformation cannot take place without human resources properly qualified in informatics, computer science and other digital competencies, which are currently lacking in the region. The digital transition must be carefully devised and not forced. The participants called for digital sovereignty of our societies, in which digital technology will improve our lives and not cause further social stratification, while supporting sustainable and green development.

The [Joint Statement](#) was adopted at the end of the 17th Conference of the Presidents/Speakers of Parliaments of the Adriatic and Ionian Initiative.

On 1 June 2021, the AII Chairmanship will be taken over by Albania.

22 April – videoconference – Meeting of the European Affairs Committee with first vice-president of the European Parliament Roberta Metsola

The importance of involving citizens in the activities of the Conference on the Future of Europe, was repeatedly emphasized during the meeting. The participants agreed that young people and civil society organizations will play a central role in this process of shaping the future of the European project.

Inter-parliamentary activities in May 2021

10 May – videoconference – Conference of Speakers of the European Union Parliaments

11 May – videoconference – Conference of the Future of Europe event in the Croatian Parliament

30 May – videoconference – LXV COSAC Meeting

