

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

Report on Monitoring the Application of EU Law in 2020

The European Commission adopted on 23 July 2021 the [Annual Report on Monitoring the Application of EU Law](#), which sets out how the Commission monitored and enforced EU law in 2020, and how the Member States performed in various policy areas. The report takes into account the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic, and explains what action the Commission took to safeguard the rights, freedoms and livelihoods of people and businesses across the Union.

Overall, in 2020, the Commission opened 903 new infringement cases. This is a 13% increase compared to 2019, when the number of new cases stood at 797. Denmark, Finland, Ireland and the Netherlands had the fewest number of new cases opened for incorrect transposition or wrong application of EU law in 2020, whereas Bulgaria, Italy, Malta and Greece faced the highest number.

Enforcing EU law during a pandemic

The effective enforcement of EU law matters to Europeans as it helps to ensure that they can enjoy the rights and benefits that EU law brings them. This is all the more true during the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic, which had a clear impact on the application of EU law. For instance, many Member States unilaterally introduced export restrictions on medicines, protective equipment and other COVID-19 relevant products. Where necessary, the Commission addressed these restrictions with urgent infringement procedures. The Commission also started infringement proceedings against 11 Member States for failing to protect the rights of consumers who bought package trips and who did not receive an appropriate compensation after their trips were cancelled due to COVID-19.

While the Commission looked for ways to ease the burden on Member States in dealing with infringement procedures (for instance by applying longer deadlines for replies), the proper application of EU law is paramount, even in times of crisis.

Prioritizing policy areas important for the everyday lives of Europeans

In 2020, the Commission continued enforcing EU rules across all policy fields while prioritizing the areas that have the highest impact on the everyday lives of citizens and businesses, such as the environment, mobility and transport, and energy. Together, these represented half of all new cases. For example, the Commission took action against Member States for failing to comply with EU law when it comes to clean air and drinking water, rights of travelers to obtain reimbursement for cancelled trips, or transport safety.

The enforcement of EU law is based on cooperation. That is why the European Commission actively supports Member States in implementing EU law through guidance and dialogue. In 2020, the Commission issued a number of dedicated guidance documents across the various policy areas, including EU emergency assistance in cross-border healthcare cooperation, health and safety at work, passenger rights, air safety and on a coordinated economic response to the outbreak.



Reducing the late transposition of EU Directives

For citizens and businesses to reap all the benefits of EU law, it is crucial that Member States swiftly transpose European Directives into their national legal order within the agreed deadlines.

Over half of all infringement proceedings in 2020 were related to the late transposition of directives. The number went up significantly, from 406 cases in 2019 to 599 in 2020. In comparison, the highest number of new late transposition cases in the last five years was in 2016 (847 cases). To facilitate a timely and correct transposition, the Commission continued assisting Member States by preparing guidance documents, establishing dedicated websites and by exchanging best practices in expert group meetings or workshops.

[Factsheet on monitoring the application of EU Law - 2020 Annual report - Croatia](#)

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 August 2021, EU institutions forwarded to the Croatian Parliament [3 documents](#): 2 draft laws and 1 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.

20 August 2021 – Copenhagen –Inter-parliamentary conference on the rights of LGBTQI +

President and Vice President of the European Affairs Committee Domagoj Hajduković and Bojan Glavašević participated in the inter-parliamentary conference on the rights of LGBTQI + people in the world. The conference was organized as part of the World Pride Copenhagen 2021 event and brought together parliamentarians from 51 countries, hosted by the Danish Folketinget Parliament.

Conference participants, representatives of national, local and regional parliaments from around the world and experts discussed the rights of members of the LGBTQI + community, emphasizing how they represent human rights and as such should enjoy protection and respect. During the conference, the importance of networking and mutual assistance in promoting human rights was particularly emphasized.

In addition to parliamentarians, Danish Minister for Gender Equality Peter Hummelgaard and Icelandic President Guðni Jóhannesson spoke at the conference.



Inter-parliamentary activities in September 2021

9 September 2021 – Ljubljana, videoconference - Inter-Parliamentary Conference on the Common Foreign and Security Policy and the Common Security and Defence Policy (CFSP/CSDP)

27 September 2021 – European Parliament, Bruxelles, videoconference - Interparliamentary Committee Meeting on Turning the tide on cancer: the view of national parliaments on Europe's Beating Cancer Plan

28 September 2021 - Ljubljana, videoconference - Inter-parliamentary Conference on Stability, Economic Coordination and Governance in the European Union

