

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

Portuguese Presidency of the Council of the European Union (PPEU2021)

In 2021, Portugal holds the Presidency of the Council of the European Union, leading the work of the Council between 1 January and 30 June 2021, with the promotion of a resilient, social, green, digital and global Europe as its priority.

The Programme of the Portuguese Presidency was adopted by the Council of Ministers on 17 December 2020. The Programme is the document that details the main priorities and lines of action of Portugal's Presidency of the Council of the European Union.

This is the fourth time Portugal holds the Presidency of the EU Council. It has already performed this role in 1992, 2000 and 2007.

Parliamentary Dimension of the Portuguese Presidency

The Portuguese Presidency of the Council of the European Union also has a parliamentary dimension, which is held by the Assembleia da República in the first half of 2021.

Parliaments, both the European Parliament and national Parliaments, have gained relevance in the European decision-making process and the European agenda, especially following the Treaty of Lisbon. Therefore, during this semester, the Assembleia da República is tasked with preparing and running the Parliamentary Dimension of the Portuguese Presidency. By organising a series of meetings and conferences, it promotes political debate on topical European issues, with the aim of giving a voice to citizens' concerns, raising awareness of the positions of the various parliamentarians and proposing plural alternatives.

Activities of the Croatian Parliament in the Decision-Making Process

Activities of the parliamentary committees

European Affairs Committee

7th session held on 3 December 2020

The European Affairs Committee held a preceding discussion on the activities of the Croatian Parliament in European affairs, at which European Commission Vice-President Dubravka Šuica presented the 2021 Commission Work Programme - A Union of vitality in a world of fragility. Members of the European Affairs Committee, chairs of the interested committees in the Croatian Parliament and Croatian MEPs took part in the discussion.



8th session held on 15 December 2020 (*electronically*)

Committee discussed [European documents](#) in accordance with the [Work Programme for the Consideration of the Positions of the Republic of Croatia for 2020](#).

9th session held on 15 December 2020 (*electronically*)

Committee discussed Council Decision on the system of Own Resources of the European Union. The Government submitted the draft ratification bill to the Parliament on 14 December 2020. The Committee on European Affairs endorsed the draft ratification bill.

On 18 December 2020, the Croatian Parliament in urgent procedure unanimously approved the Council Decision on the system of Own Resources of the European Union.

European Affairs Committee has forwarded 4 [European documents](#) in the procedure for the consideration of the Positions of the Republic of Croatia for 2020.

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](#).

Monitoring the work of the Government in the European Union institutions

Council

The Croatian Government submitted to the relevant parliamentary committees its positions for 9 Council meetings held in December 2020.

Application of EU law

In December 2020, the Croatian Parliament enacted [13 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 December 2020, EU institutions forwarded to the Croatian Parliament [72 documents](#): 34 draft laws and 38 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.



Interparliamentary Committee Meeting on Evaluation of Eurojust's activities – 1st meeting organised by Committee on Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs of the European Parliament, 1 December 2020 (Berlin, video conference)

The new Eurojust Regulation [Regulation (EU) 2018/1727], which is applicable since 12 December 2019, stipulates an annual joint evaluation between the European Parliament and national parliaments on the activities of Eurojust. The first meeting of this joint evaluation was organized by the European Parliament in cooperation with the German Bundestag and the Bundesrat representing the German Presidency in the form of an interparliamentary meeting.

The president of Eurojust, Ladislav Hamran, gave a presentation on Eurojust's current activities, followed by a debate on the cooperation of Eurojust with the European Public Prosecution Office (EPPO) and a discussion on the cooperation of Eurojust with third countries, especially the United Kingdom.

The meeting, which was held via video conference, was attended by the Judiciary Committee Delegation - Chairman Mišel Jakšić, Deputy Chairman Krunoslav Katičić and member Dražen Bošnjaković as well as MP Arsen Bauk.

Interparliamentary Committee Meeting “Western Balkan: 25 years after the Dayton Accords” and “A united response in support of democratic change in Belarus” organised by Committee of Foreign Affairs of the European Parliament, 2 December 2020 (Bruxelles, video conference)

The AFET Committee invited Members of national Parliaments to share their views and experience while giving a positive and essential contribution in the discussion.

The meeting, which was held via video conference, was attended by the Chairman and Deputy Chairman of the European Affairs Committee Domagoj Hajduković and Domagoj Ivan Milošević and Chairwoman of the Committee on Croats outside the Republic of Croatia Zdravka Bušić.

Inter-parliamentary activities in January 2021

11 January - Meeting of COSAC Chairpersons (Lisbon, video conference)

28 January - Meeting of Chairpersons of the Committees on European Affairs of EU National parliaments and the European Parliament with the Vice-President Vera Jourova dedicated to the European Action Plan on Democracy (Brussels, video conference)

