

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

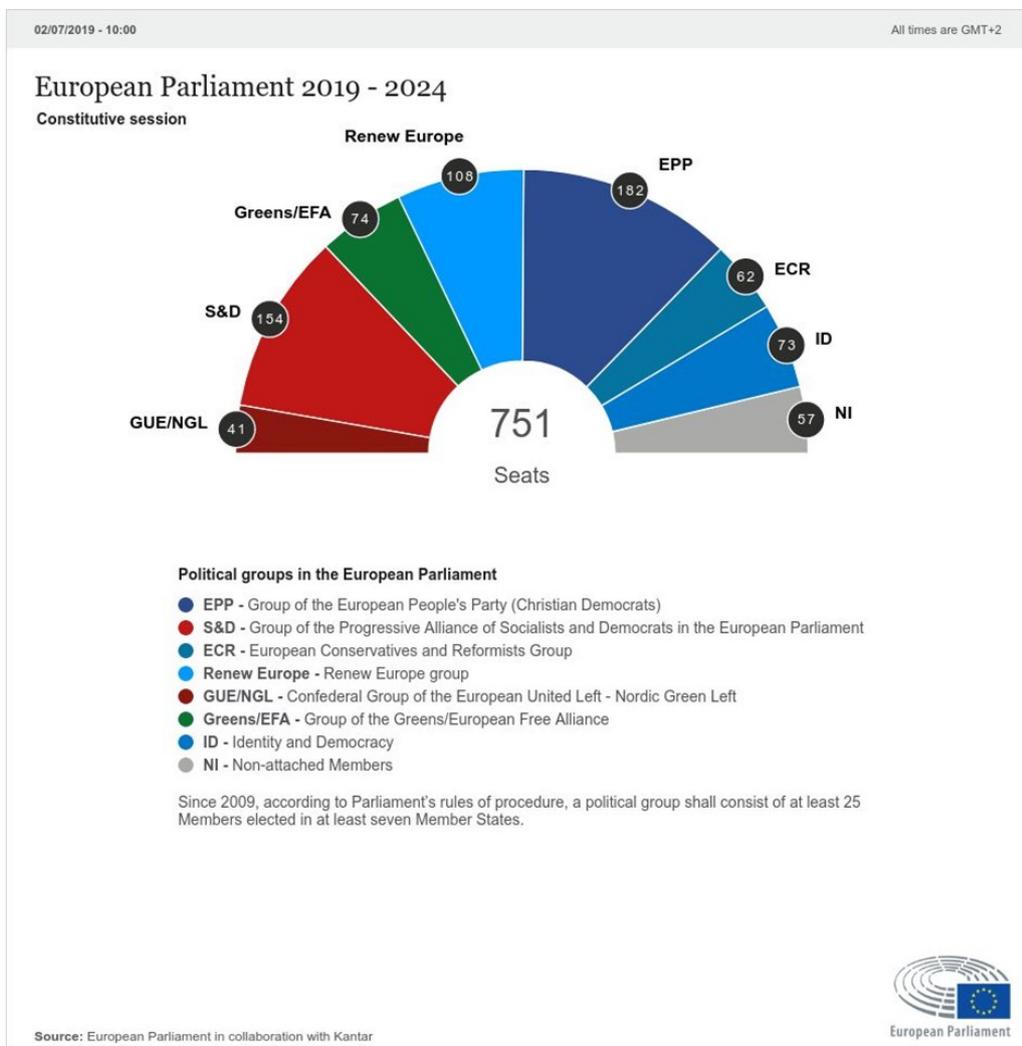
9th term of the European Parliament

The 9th legislature of the European Parliament was officially constituted on 2 July 2019.

Following direct elections across 28 member states on 23 - 26 May, in which 51% of voters cast a ballot to choose their representatives, the new European Parliament was officially constituted today in Strasbourg. There is a higher percentage turnover than ever before (61% new MEPs) and a higher percentage of female MEPs than in the past (40%), compared to 37% in 2014.

The youngest MEP is Kira Marie Peter-Hansen from Denmark (21) and the oldest is Silvio Berlusconi from Italy (82).

The new parliament is composed of seven political groups - one less than the previous legislature. All MEPs who have not joined a political group are listed as non-aligned, but can decide at any stage to join a group. Since 2009, according to Parliament’s rules of procedure, political group shall consist of at least 25 Members elected in at least seven member states.





Parliament's Leadership

MEPs elected the [Parliament president David Sassoli \(S&D\) as well as vice-presidents and quaestors.](#)

Together with the Parliament president, vice-presidents and quaestors make up the bureau, which takes decisions on matters of internal organisation for the institution. While the president oversees all Parliament's work and represents it in all legal matters and external relations, he may delegate some duties to vice-presidents. They can also replace him when chairing plenary sessions. Quaestors deal with financial and administrative matters that concern MEPs. All of these posts are only for two-and-a-half years so MEPs vote for a president, vice-presidents and quaestors at the beginning of each parliamentary term and again at mid-term.

Election of Commission president

MEPs elected Ursula von der Leyen European Commission President on 16 July after she promised tougher emission targets and a right of initiative for the Parliament. The former German Defence Minister won the backing of the directly-elected European Parliament in a secret ballot. There were 383 votes in favour of her nomination, 327 e against and 22 abstentions. Her first task will be to set up the new commission. In consultation with the new Commission President, EU countries will each propose a candidate commissioner. These commissioner-designates will be examined by the European Parliament committees responsible for their proposed portfolio during a series of hearings in September and October. Once they have satisfied the committees of their fitness for the posts, the Parliament will vote on the entire Commission during a plenary session.

The new European Commission should start its work on 1 November.

Election of the Committee chairs

The European Parliament's committees elected their [chairs and vice-chairs](#) during their first meetings in July. Committees are responsible for drafting Parliament's positions on legislative proposals. They also prepare own-initiative reports, appoint negotiating teams to conduct talks with the Council, organise hearings with experts and scrutinise other EU institutions and bodies.

The Parliament has 20 standing committees and two subcommittees, covering various policy areas from the environment to international trade.

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 2019.

Monitoring the work of the Government in the European Union institutions

Council

The Croatian Government submitted to the relevant parliamentary committees its positions for July Council meetings:

- 3706 Employment, Social Policy, Health and Consumers Affairs Council
- 3707 Economic and Financial Affairs Council
- 3708 Agriculture and Fisheries Council
- 3709 Foreign Affairs Council
- 3710 General Affairs Council



Application of EU law

In July 2019, the Croatian Parliament enacted [4 laws](#) in the process of implementation of 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 July 2019, EU institutions forwarded to the Croatian Parliament 52 documents: 22 draft laws, 30 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 July 2019, the Croatian Parliament representatives participated in the following meeting:

20 – 21 July – Helsinki – COSAC Chairpersons meeting

The Chair of the European Affairs Committee, Mr. Domagoj Ivan Milošević and Mr. Joško Klisović, Committee member, participated at the meeting of the Chairpersons of *Conference of Parliamentary Committees for Union Affairs (COSAC)*, the first event of the parliamentary dimension of Finland's Presidency of the Council of EU. Croatian parliamentary delegation, representing the upcoming Croatian presidency of the Council of EU, took part in the meeting of the Presidential Troika for the first time. The Troika approved agendas for the LXII plenary COSAC and Chairpersons of COSAC meeting, discussed the inputs received by the Finnish Presidency, and resolved the remaining procedural issues for the purpose of preparing the COSAC meeting. At the beginning of Chairpersons of COSAC meeting, the minister for European Affairs Mrs. Tytti Tuppurainen presented the priorities of Finland's Presidency of the Council of EU, emphasizing the commitment to environmental protection. Mr. Domagoj Ivan Milošević welcomed the priorities of the Finnish presidency, in particular the focus on environmental protection and the fight against climate change, underlining that these problems should not be left to future generations. He warned of growing social and economic inequalities in the European Union and stressed the importance of directing sustainable economic growth towards the growth of living standards. He wished the Finnish Presidency success in the work on the new Multiannual Financial Framework, underlining that challenge of internal migration and labor market imbalances should also be addressed. Member of the European Affairs Committee, Joško Klisović, also participated in the debate on the Multiannual Financial Framework, which was a separate item of the agenda. Mr. Klisović said that budget was the clearest indicator of political priorities, and commented on the statement by the President of France, Mr. Macron, that without the EU consolidation there will be no enlargement, stressing that consolidation is not possible without convergence. In this regard, he underlined the importance of cohesion policy among the priorities of the new Multiannual Financial Framework.

The Chairpersons of COSAC meeting was concluded with the announcement of LXII COSAC meeting, to be held from 1 to 3 December 2019, also in Helsinki.

