

BULLETIN

European Affairs in the Croatian Parliament



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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

European Affairs activities in the Croatian Parliament in 2017

The Croatian Parliament participates in European affairs indirectly by scrutinizing the Government's work in EU institutions and directly by exercising the powers vested to national parliaments by the Lisbon Treaty. This in particular implies monitoring the compliance of the subsidiary principle in draft legislative acts of the European Union and involvement in political dialogue with European institutions.

The participation of the Croatian Parliament in the decision-making process at EU level is guaranteed by [the Constitution of the Republic of Croatia](#), [the Act on the Cooperation of the Croatian Parliament and the Government of the Republic of Croatia in European Affairs](#) and [the Standing Orders of the Croatian Parliament](#).

The Standing Orders of the Croatian Parliament provide for broad involvement of all working bodies and Members of Parliament in European affairs, with the European Affairs Committee acting as the coordination body.

Table showing the most important activities in the performance of European affairs in the Croatian Parliament in 2017:

Activity	2017.
European Council meeting debated at the plenary	4
Croatian position on EU documents in the procedure	38
Parliamentary committee opinion on Croatian position	37
European Affairs Committee conclusion on Croatian position	20
Parliamentary committee debate on Council meeting	2
Croatian position on Council meeting in the procedure	68
Parliamentary committee opinion in the frame of political dialogue with European Commission	2
Meeting with the Commissioners in the Croatian Parliament	8
Adopted Law harmonised with the EU law	50
EU documents forwarded directly to the Croatian Parliament by the EU institutions	711



Activities of the Croatian Parliament in the decision making process

Activities of the parliamentary committees

In accordance with Article 152 of the Standing Orders of the Croatian Parliament, European Affairs Committee held its 24th session on 7 December 2017 dedicated to 2018 European Union priorities. Following the presentation of the Commission Work Program 2018 by Commissioner Neven Mimica, MPs debated on various European policies.

Agriculture Committee held its 31st session on 5 December dedicated to the Commission Interpretative Communication on the Acquisition of Farmland and European Union Law (2017/C 350/05). The Commission's political analyst Thomas Wiedmann presented the Communication. This Commission Interpretative Communication refers to the benefits and challenges of foreign investment in agricultural land. The Communication draws some general conclusions from the jurisprudence on how to achieve legitimate public interests in conformity with EU law. At the same time, it responds to the European Parliament's request to publish guidance on how to regulate agricultural land markets in conformity with EU law.

Monitoring the work of the Government in the European Union institutions

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

- 3588 General Affairs Council;
- 3589 General Affairs Council (art. 50);
- 3587 Foreign Affairs Council;
- 3585 Foreign Affairs Council – Trade;
- 3584 Justice and Home Affairs Council;
- 3582 Economic and Financial Affairs Council;
- 3580 Competitiveness Council;
- 3586 Agriculture and Fisheries Council;
- 3581 Transport, Telecommunications and Energy Council;
- 3590 Transport, Telecommunications and Energy Council;
- 3585 Employment, Social Policy, Health and Consumer Affairs Council;

Application of EU law

In December 2017 the Croatian Parliament has enacted [9 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 forwarded EU documents with the information on: document number, adoption procedure, transmission date and subsidiarity deadline.

In December 2017 EU institutions forwarded to the Croatian Parliament [72 documents](#): 32 draft laws and 40 communications and other non-binding documents.

Interparliamentary cooperation in the European Union in 2017

Interparliamentary cooperation in the European Union encompasses cooperation of the European Parliament and national parliaments and cooperation of the national parliaments in the frame of the parliamentary dimension of the Council Presidency.

In 2017 Croatian MPs participated in 25 meetings organized in the frame European Union interparliamentary cooperation.

Interparliamentary activities in January 2018

21 – 22 January – Sofia – Meeting of the Chairpersons of COSAC

24 January – Brussels – Interparliamentary Committee Meeting of the European Parliament's Committee on Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs (LIBE) with national Parliaments of the European Union's Member States on the subject of "The European Agenda on Migration – What About Legal Avenues and Integration"

28 – 29 January – Tallinn – Meeting of the Secretaries General of the European Union Parliaments



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