

BULLETIN

European Affairs in the Croatian Parliament



Bulletin no. 1

October 2017

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

State of the Union Address 2017

European Commission President Jean-Claude Juncker delivered on 13 September his [2017 State of the Union Address](#) before the Members of the European Parliament in Strasbourg, presenting his priorities for the year ahead and outlining his vision of the EU evolution and development by 2025.

On the same day, President Juncker and First Vice-President Timmermans sent a Letter of Intent to the President of the European Parliament and the Presidency of the Council that sets out in detail the actions the Commission intends to take by means of legislation and other initiatives until the end of the following year. This new document, entitled “Roadmap for a More United, Stronger and More Democratic Union”, serves as a draft Commission Work Program up to the end of 2018.

The Roadmap for a More United, Stronger and More Democratic Union also anticipates that as of 29 March 2019 the United Kingdom will no longer be a member of our Union, following its notification under Article 50 of the Treaty on the European Union.

The European Affairs Committee of the Croatian Parliament monitors the programming procedure of the European institutions and plans to discuss the Commission Work Programme 2018 at a thematic session by the end of 2017. Later on, the Committee will enact the Work Programme for the Consideration of the Positions of the Republic of Croatia for the year 2018 and start a new annual cycle of scrutiny over the Government in EU affairs.



Activities of the Croatian Parliament in the Decision-Making Process

Activities of the parliamentary committees

The European Commission submitted a [reply](#) to the Opinion of the Health and Social Policy Committee of the Croatian Parliament on COM (2016) 248 and COM (2017) 11 issued in April 2017 in the framework of political dialogue.

Monitoring the work of the Government in the European Union institutions

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

- 3560 General Affairs Council meeting;
- 3561 General Affairs Council meeting (Art. 50);
- 3559 Justice and Home Affairs meeting.

Application of EU law

In September 2017 the Croatian Parliament discussed [21 draft 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 September 2017 EU institutions forwarded to the Croatian Parliament [42 documents](#): 17 draft laws and 25 communications as well as a number of 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.



Information on the Croatian MPs' activities in September 2017

7th – 9th September – Tallinn – Inter-Parliamentary Conference on Common Foreign and Security Policy (CFSP) and on Common Security and Defence Policy (CSDP)

Foreign Policy Committee Chairman Miro Kovač and Deputy Chairman Joško Klisović participated in a two-day conference on the Common Foreign and Security Policy (CFSP) and the Common Security and Defense Policy (CSDP).

The conference, organized within the framework of the Estonian Presidency of the Council of the European Union, discussed Europe in a global context, the reinforcement of Western unity and transatlantic relations, EU priorities in the area of CFSP and CSDP, the state of affairs outside the EU borders, strengthening European defence, aspects of hybrid warfare including the cyber sphere and strategic communication, and the situation in Southeast Europe, North Korea and Russia.

20th September – Zagreb – Agriculture Committee held a meeting with European Parliament Committee on Agriculture and Rural Development (AGRI)

Members of the Agriculture Committee and the European Affairs Committee of the Croatian Parliament met with a delegation of the European Parliament Committee on Agriculture and Rural Development (AGRI).

Croatian Agriculture Minister was present as well. The talks focused on the future of the EU Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) and on the problem of unfair trade practices in food retail chains.

25th September – Zagreb – European Parliament “European Citizen's Prize” award ceremony

The Croatian Transplant Association and the head of the Jesuit Refugee Service for Southeast Europe, Fr. Tvrtko Barun won this year's European Citizen's Prize, awarded each year by the European Parliament to prominent individuals, associations and organisations for their exceptional achievements and commitment to promoting European cooperation and common values. The award was presented at a ceremony in the Croatian Parliament on Monday.

The European Citizen's Prize was launched by the European Parliament in 2008 to recognise exceptional achievements by Europeans. Candidates are proposed by members of the European Parliament and winners are awarded with a symbolic prize in the form of a medal of honour. Fr. Barun and the Croatian Transplant Association received an identical number of votes.

“Today is not a typical day in the Croatian Parliament. Today is the day when we celebrate mankind, love, unity and solidarity. I wish there were more days like this. It would give me great joy to see the Croatian Parliament permanently taking part in events like this one”, Parliament Speaker Gordan Jandroković said at the award ceremony.

The award on behalf of the Croatian Transplant Association was received by Tanja Watz who dedicated it to the families of organ donors. “Life does not necessarily end with organ failure, 400 organ transplants in Croatia each year are the best proof of that”, Watz said.

The central ceremony for award recipients will be held in the European Parliament in Brussels on 11th October.



27th September – European Parliament/Brussels – high-level conference on tourism “A European strategy to enhance the competitiveness of the tourism industry, a key driver for job creation”

Dragica Roščić, member of the Tourism Committee, took part in the high-level conference on tourism held on the World Tourism Day at the initiative of the President of the European Parliament Antonio Tajani and with the support of the EP Committees on Transport and Tourism, on the Internal Market and Consumer Protection, and on Culture and Education.

The conference was aimed at promoting the European strategy to enhance the competitiveness of the tourism industry, as a key driver for job creation.

Inter-parliamentary activities in October 2017

9th – 10th October – European Parliament/Brussels – Constituent meeting of the Europol Joint Parliamentary Scrutiny Group (JPSG), organised by the European Parliament and the EU Presidency

10th October – European Parliament/Brussels – ECON Committee Exchange of Views with National Parliaments on Country specific Recommendations and Common Consolidated Corporate Tax Base

11th October – European Parliament/Brussels – Inter-parliamentary Committee Meeting AFCO on "The Future of Europe: Perspectives on the European Parliament's Proposals and the European Commission's White Paper"

30th – 31st October – Tallinn – Inter-parliamentary Conference on Stability, Economic Coordination and Governance in the EU (SECG)

