

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

Activities of the European Parliament at the beginning of the 9th term

New elections for the European Parliament will take place from 23 to 26 May 2019. The mandate of the 8th EP term (2014-2019) ends on 2 July 2019, at the beginning of the constitutive session of the 9th term. The last plenary session of the 8th term will be held from 15 to 18 April 2019, at which point the legislative procedure will stop.

Rule 229 of the Rules of procedure of the European Parliament: Unfinished business

At the end of the last part-session before elections, all Parliament's unfinished business shall be deemed to have lapsed, subject to the provisions of the second paragraph.

At the beginning of each parliamentary term, the Conference of Presidents shall take a decision on reasoned requests from parliamentary committees and other institutions to resume or continue the consideration of such unfinished business.

These provisions shall not apply to petitions and communications that do not require a decision.



Date	Activity
15 - 18 April	Final plenary of the EP 8th term
23 – 26 May	European Parliament elections
May, June	Formation of political groups (PGs) Consultation between Council and EP groups on Commission President Decisions on distribution of the EP Offices, committees and positions Notification of the formation of the PGs to the Secretary-General
2 - 4 July	Constitutive Session of the EP 9th term The following positions will be elected: President 14 Vice-Presidents 5 Questors The composition of the new Bureau will be communicated to the presidents of the Union's institutions. Numerical strength of the committees (on the proposal by the Conference of Presidents) Appointments to committees
July	Political Groups meetings Constitution of the EP Committees Chairs and Vice-Chairs (if not in September) Constitution of the Conference of Committee Chairs
15 – 18 July	Plenary Session Inaugural address by the President of the European Parliament Numerical strength of interparliamentary delegations (on the proposal by the Conference of Presidents) Appointments to interparliamentary delegations Statement of the President-designate of the Commission (debate) Election of the President of the Commission Inaugural address by the President of the European Parliament
16 - 19 September	Plenary Session
September, October	Hearings of Commissioners-designates organized by the Conference of Presidents on a recommendation of the Conference of Committee Chairs (CCC) Evaluation letter (by CCC) will be sent to the Conference of Presidents
9 - 10 October	Plenary Session in Brussels
21 - 24 October	Plenary Session Evaluation letter (by CCC) will be sent to the Conference of Presidents Presentation by the Commission President-elect of the College of Commissioners and their programme Election of the Commission (EP consent)



Activities of the Croatian Parliament in the Decision-Making Process

Activities of the parliamentary committees

European Affairs Committee

41st session, held on February 1, Committee discussed the development policy and external action of the European Union with Mr Neven Mimica, European Commissioner in charge of international cooperation and development.

42nd session, held jointly with the Committee on Education, Science and Culture on February 13, the results of the *European Values Study* were presented.

43rd session, held on February 27, the Committee discussed the Report of the Government of the Republic of Croatia on the candidate of the Republic of Croatia for the European Court of Auditors in the period from 2019 to 2025. After conducting an interview with the candidate Ivana Malčić, MSc, The Committee issued its Opinion endorsing the Government's Report.

Also, after receiving the notifications from the working bodies, the Committee issued the Work Program for Considering the Position of the Republic of Croatia for 2019.

Monitoring the work of the Government in the European Union institutions

Council meetings

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

- 3671 Economic and Financial Affairs Council;
- 3672 Competition Council;
- 3673 Foreign Affairs Council;
- 3674 General Affairs Council;

Application of EU law

In December 2018, the Croatian Parliament enacted [3 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 January 2019, EU institutions forwarded to the Croatian Parliament [39 documents](#): 17 draft laws, 22 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 February 2019, the Croatian Parliament representatives participated in the following meetings:

18 – 19 February – Brussels/European Parliament - European Parliamentary Week 2019

Chair of the Finance and Central Budget Committee, Grozdana Perić, Chair of the Labour, Retirement System and Social Partnership Committee, Gordan Maras, Deputy Chair of the Committee on Regional Development and European Union Funds, Damir Mateljan, Member of the Labour, Retirement System and Social Partnership Committee, Ante Babić and the Member of the Committee on the Economy, Žarko Tušek, participated at the European Parliamentary Week 2019.

At the Inter-parliamentary Meeting of the Committee on Employment and Social Affairs of the European Parliament, a Member of the Labour, Retirement System and Social Partnership Committee, Ante Babić delivered his introductory remarks concerning the topic discussion on the permanent monitoring and evaluation of Member States' activities addressed to people with disabilities as integral part of European Semester. Babić presented Croatian activities related to the persons with disabilities including those targeting the implementation of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNCRPD) and the European Disability Strategy.

On the second day of the European Parliamentary Week the meeting continued with the discussion on convergence, stabilisation and cohesion in the European Monetary Union. Particular emphasis was placed on the need to invest more joint efforts to strengthen the more equitable development within the European Monetary Union and the spread of the European Monetary Union to other Member States.

There was also a debate about 20 years of euro and the future of the euro entitled: Euro at 20 years: The road ahead where the Chair of Finance and Central Budget Committee, Grozdana Perić addressed the participants. MP Perić pointed out that, despite the numerous scepticism within the European Union, the Republic of Croatia has launched the Strategy for the Adoption of the Euro and since 2016 has been meeting the criteria for joining the Exchange Rate Mechanism ERM II when the budget deficit was brought below the 3% of GDP. Public finances are stable, and the Republic of Croatia is highly euro oriented economy making it different from others and presenting its advantage.

24 – 25 February – Bucharest - 4th meeting of the Joint Parliamentary Scrutiny Group on the Europol (JPSG)

Deputy chairman of the Committee on Domestic Policy and National Security Mr Petar Škorić and member of the Committee Ms Ines Strenja participated in the 4th meeting of the Joint Parliamentary Scrutiny Group on the Europol (JPSG) held on 24 and 25 February 2019 in Bucharest.

Among the main issues discussed during the JPSG meeting on 25 February 2019 were Europol activities and the decisions of the Europol Management Board in the period September 2018 - February 2019. Catherine De Bolle, Executive Director of Europol, and Victor Wili Apreutesei, Chairperson of the Europol Management Board, answered the questions posed by JPSG members.



Giovanni Buttarelli, the European Data Protection Supervisor, and Francois Pellegrino, Chair of the Europol Cooperation Board, reported back on the state of data protection at the Europol. State of play and activity report including support against counterfeiting of the European Cybercrime Centre (EC3) of non-cash means of payment and countering dark web crimes was also presented, as well as the activities of the European Travel Intelligence Centre (ETIC).

The closing speech was delivered by Julian King, European Commissioner for the Security Union, who emphasized the crucial role Europol has in combating serious and organized crime, terrorism and cybercrime and the growing significance of the scrutiny work carried out by JPSG. At the invitation of the JPSG Co-Chairs, the Romanian and European Parliament, the Head of the Croatian Parliament Delegation Petar Škorić attended on 24 February 2019 the preparatory meeting of the Presidential Troika (parliaments of Romania, Austria and Finland), during which the procedure for appointing the JPSG representative for the Europol Management Board meetings was discussed. Škorić also participated as an observer in the 2nd meeting of the Working Group on the participation of Denmark in JPSG meetings.

The next meeting of the Joint Parliamentary Scrutiny Group on Europol will be held in Brussels on 24 and 25 September 2019, when the Croatian Parliament will be one of the parliaments in the Presidential Troika.

Interparliamentary activities in March 2019

7 March – Brussels/European Parliament - Interparliamentary Committee Meeting on the occasion of the 2019 International Women's Day on "Women's participation in political decision making" (FEMM)

7 – 8 March – Bucharest - Inter-Parliamentary Conference for the Common Foreign and Security Policy and the Common Security and Defence Policy (CFSP/CSDP)

19 – 20 March – Bucharest - Interparliamentary Conference on the cohesion and agriculture policies

21 March – Bucharest – 6th Danube parliamentary conference

