



INTERPARLIAMENTARY CONFERENCE ON THE “CONTRIBUTION OF NATIONAL
PARLIAMENTS TO IMPROVING THE COMMON AGRICULTURAL POLICY”
Croatian Parliament, Zagreb, 25 September 2023

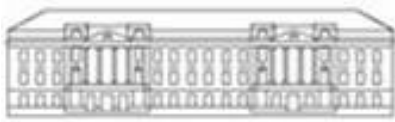
BACKGROUND NOTE

Marking the tenth anniversary of Croatia’s membership in the European Union, the Agriculture Committee of the Croatian Parliament is organizing an inter-parliamentary Conference aimed at reviewing the importance and value of the instruments of the [Common Agricultural Policy \(CAP\)](#), and this policy’s influence on the competitiveness of agriculture in the member states, on the preservation of rural areas, on generational renewal and on sustainable use of natural resources. This review will be based on the implementation of the CAP achieved thus far and on the new rules that the member states have incorporated into their national [CAP Strategic Plans](#), as well as on the experiences, good practices and challenges that the CAP brings to the EU member states. With this in mind, we have selected for the Conference three topics relevant for the future of European agriculture, wishing to offer an opportunity to the representatives of the competent working bodies of national parliaments of the EU member states and of the countries of the Alps-Adriatic-Danube region that are not members of the EU to present their views thereon.

The first debate will focus on the challenges and opportunities of the CAP in the context of implementing national CAP Strategic Plans. CAP Strategic Plans opened up the opportunity of creating activities and measures aligned with the specific needs of the member states, but also imposed strict climatic and environmental requirements on the creators of the plans and farmers. Against the backdrop of current geopolitical developments, high prices of energy and agricultural inputs and market conditions, the debate will be an opportunity to exchange views, positive experiences and limitations faced by the stakeholders of the European agricultural sector. We see this Conference as an opportunity for representatives of national parliaments to jointly consider the specific challenges faced by their farmers and rural areas, and to exchange experiences, good practices and limitations, so that planning in the new programming period can be as effective as possible.

The second debate will deal with the [Declaration of the Croatian Parliament on the Alps-Adriatic-Danube Region GMO-Free Zone](#) and the Initiative by which the Republic of Croatia invited the countries of the Alps-Adria-Danube region to take decisions at the national level to support the implementation of the activities conducive to maintaining the Alps-Adria-Danube region GMO-free. Among other benefits, this directly contributes to the achievement of the goals of the European Green Deal. The discussion will also cover the European Commission’s proposals for new regulations concerning [plants obtained by new genomic techniques](#) and the [production and marketing of plant reproductive material in the European Union](#). The debate will thus centre on the impact that these proposals will have on the sustainability of agricultural and food systems, the sustainable use of production resources, the security of food supply, environment, biodiversity and consumer safety.

In the third debate, the participants will exchange opinions on the potential of direct participation of national parliaments in the creation of European policies, particularly in the



framework of political dialogue with the European Commission. In this regard, the Agriculture Committee of the Croatian Parliament initiated political dialogues with the European Commission on the need to regulate the shelf life of frozen meat on the internal market of the European Union and on the need to introduce support per bee colony with the intention of valuating the pollination role of bees. In addition, during the energy crisis and the drastic increase in gas prices, the Committee pointed out the importance of supporting the industry/producers of mineral fertilizers, all with the intention of preserving the viability of mineral fertilizer production in the European Union. In this sense, we encourage participants to send us the initiatives that they have launched or are launching through political dialogue with the European Commission or through national institutions with the intention of pointing out issues that need to be regulated at the European level in the coming period within the framework of the Common Agricultural Policy. For more detailed information on the delivery of initiatives, please refer to the CroAgroConf Practical Information.