



CROATIAN PARLIAMENT

European Affairs Committee

Zagreb, 20th April 2017

EUROPEAN COMMISSION

President Jean-Claude Juncker

Dear Mr. Juncker,

European Affairs Committee of the Croatian Parliament debated the White Paper on the Future of Europe in its 14th session held on 7th April 2017, following the presentation of the White Paper by Commissioner Neven Mimica. The session was attended by the representatives of Croatian state institutions and civil society.

As a result of the fruitful debate, the European Affairs Committee adopted Conclusions on the White Paper on the Future of Europe in its 15th session held on 20th April 2017.

I hereby forward the aforementioned Conclusions to the European Commission, as the European Affairs Committee's contribution to the wider debate on the European future.

Sincerely,

Domagoj Ivan Milošević
Chairman of the European Affairs Committee

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'D. Milošević'.

After EU Commissioner Neven Mimica presented to the European Affairs Committee the White Paper on the Future of Europe, the Committee conducted a debate involving the Committee members, chairpersons of other working bodies of Parliament, Members of the European Parliament, representatives of the business community, trade unions and civil society organizations, and based on Article 166 of the Standing Orders of the Croatian Parliament adopted the following

CONCLUSIONS

1. **The Committee welcomes** the publication of the White Paper on the Future of Europe – reflections and scenarios for the EU27 by 2025 and the Commission's efforts to encourage extensive public debate on the future of Europe through five possible scenarios;
2. **The Committee underlines** the special role and responsibility of national parliaments and governments to bring the EU closer to the citizens and calls for an open public debate on the future of the European Union and the position of the Republic of Croatia within the Union. The Committee believes that strengthening the democratic legitimacy of the institutions of the Union and their accountability to citizens should be the foundation of any scenario and of any discussion on the reform of the European Union;
3. **The Committee emphasizes** that the inclusion and equality of the Member States should be the key principles of building the future of the European Union, and perfectly clear criteria and equal rules for all Member States must be the basic determinants of any further cooperation and organization within the Union.
4. **The Committee considers** the policy of the EU enlargement in Southeast Europe a strategic interest of the Republic of Croatia and calls on the Croatian Government to continue investing efforts so as to make enlargement one of the priority policies of the Union. The Committee stresses the importance of the individual evaluation of the progress made by candidate and potential candidate countries and believes that their grouping would not contribute to accelerating the process of accession to the EU membership;
5. **The Committee proposes** that the Croatian Parliament hold a debate on the White Paper on the Future of Europe and undertakes to contribute to an open public debate which will involve as large a number of Croatian citizens as possible. The Committee will do so through concrete measures, by carrying out online consultations and by organizing public fora.

COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSON
Domagoj Ivan Milošević