

Article – Croatian Council presidency: what MEPs expect



Busy period ahead

Croatia will preside over the Council of the EU during a busy period, when there will be negotiations on the EU's long-term budget as well as on future relations with the UK. However, MEPs expect to see other topics on the agenda too.

[Karlo Ressler \(EPP\)](#) sees the presidency as a great opportunity for Croatia to further position itself politically, economically and diplomatically within the EU. "Croatia will continue to address the issue of Brexit and lead the negotiations on a budget for the next seven years. One of the key events will certainly be the summit in Zagreb, with a focus on the European perspective of Southeast European countries."

[Biljana Borzan \(S&D\)](#) said protecting the rights of workers and consumers, as well as public health and the rule of law should be at the forefront. "I hope that the negotiations on [the EU's long-term budget] will be successful because implementation of programmes and politics for which citizens voted on during the European elections, like the European Green Deal, depends on it"

[Valter Flego \(Renew Europe\)](#) said: "Croatia needs to act as a neutral mediator and ensure successful cooperation and continuous implementation of the [EU's] programme". He also believes that Croatia will have an opportunity to "directly show to its people what Europe does for them".

[Ruža Tomašić \(ECR\)](#) expects lobbying in the national interests. "The most

important document from the previous term, the report on the multi-annual plan for fish stocks in the Adriatic Sea, is still at a dead end in the Council. I expect this will change during Croatia's presidency". She also wants to see progress on direct payments in agriculture and the activation of unused agricultural land.