

Dear all,

I am writing on behalf of Marija Lugarić Deputy Chairperson of Gender Equality Committee in Croatian Parliament and Sandra Krpan, President of the Women's Forum of the Social Democratic Party of Croatia to share information regarding Article 16 of the Statute of the Social Democratic Party of Croatia adopted at the convention held on 31 of January 2026. (SDP), which establishes a commitment to full gender parity in political representation.

When nominating candidates for representative bodies of local and regional self-government units, the Croatian Parliament, the European Parliament, and internal party bodies, full gender equality (gender parity) must be achieved. As a rule, this is implemented through an alternating arrangement of candidates of different genders on electoral lists (the “zipper system”).

In addition to gender parity, the SDP also ensures balanced age representation among candidates by actively encouraging the participation of younger members and fostering intergenerational cooperation.

I am sharing this as an example of a formal statutory commitment to gender-balanced political representation.

Kind regards,

Marijana Mikulaš Kuzmanović

Secretary of the Women's Forum of the Social Democratic Party of Croatia