



Parliament of Montenegro

NEWSLETTER OPEN PARLIAMENT

Newsletter on the Parliament of Montenegro Performance ♦ No. 98 ♦ November 2019

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OPEN PARLIAMENT



Parliament of Montenegro

Newsletter on the Parliament of Montenegro Performance ♦ Electronic format ♦ Release: monthly ♦ Year IX ♦ No. 98 ♦ November 2019

FOREWORD

Dear readers,

We present to you the key information on activities of the Parliament of Montenegro in the period from 1 to 30 November, which is, in the form of monthly newsletter "Open Parliament", prepared by Parliamentary Service.

In November, Fourth Sitting of the Second Ordinary (Autumn) Session of the Parliament of Montenegro in 2019, Second Sitting of the Second Ordinary (Autumn) Session of the Parliament of Montenegro in 2019, the second part of the Third Special Sitting of the Second Ordinary Session of the Parliament of Montenegro in 2019 as well as the Fifth Special Sitting of the Second Ordinary Session of the Parliament of Montenegro in 2019, took place.

During November, Committees considered 18 proposals for a law, two proposals for a decision, and performed other activities within their oversight role.

In focus of this month's newsletter is participation of the President of the Parliament in the 9th Meeting of Speakers of Parliaments of Southeastern European Countries in Budapest.

The newsletter is published monthly through which the Parliament endeavours to bring its work closer to Montenegrin citizens. We consider this publication to be very significant as a reliable source of information regarding the work of the Parliament and we hope that you will find it useful. We remain open to your comments and suggestions, as well as criticism, which can help us bring more quality to our work.

**Respectfully,
Parliamentary Service**



LEGISLATIVE AND OVERSIGHT ACTIVITY

At the Fourth Sitting of the Second Ordinary (Autumn) Session of the Parliament of Montenegro in 2019, MPs adopted the Decision on Amendments to the Decision on Forming the Committee on Further Reform of Electoral and other Legislation.

At the Second Sitting of the Second Ordinary Session of the Parliament of Montenegro in 2019, MPs adopted: Law on Amendments to the Law on Taking and Transplantation of Human Organs for the Purpose of Treatment; Law on Amendments to the Law on Health Insurance; Law on Amendments to the Law on Consumer Protection; Law on Amendments to the Law on Contracts for Transportation in Road Traffic; Law on Amendments to the Law on Communal Activities; Law on Amendments to the Law on Protection of Natural and Cultural Historical Heritage of the Kotor Region; Law on Amendments to the Law on Road Traffic Safety; Law on Ratifying the Agreement between the Parties to the Police Cooperation Convention for Southeast Europe on the Automated Exchange of DNA Data, Dactyloscopic Data and Vehicle Registration Data and its Implementing Agreement; Law on Legalisation of Public Documents in International Traffic; Law on Amendments to the Law on Extra-Judicial Proceedings; Law on Amendments to the Law on International Legal Assistance in Criminal Matters; Law on Public Sector Accounting; Law on Amendments to the Law on Personal Income Tax; Report on the Implementation of the Action Plan of the Strategy on Regional Development 2014-2020, covering the year 2018; 2018 Performance Report of the Capital Market Commission and the 2018 status report on

the Capital Market; 2018 Performance Report of the Deposit Protection Fund; 2018 Status Report on the Energy Sector of Montenegro and the 2018 Report on the Communal Activities. The Parliament adopted Proposal for a list on the appointment of one member of RTCG Council, by authorised proposer as well as the decision on appointment of one member of the Managing board of the Fund for the protection and exercise of minority rights.

At the second part of the Third Special Sitting of the Second Ordinary Session of the Parliament of Montenegro in 2019, MPs' questions were answered by ministers in the Government. There were 77 questions posed to the ministers.

At the Fifth Special Sitting of the Second Ordinary Session of the Parliament of Montenegro in 2019 MPs' questions were answered by Prime Minister Duško Marković. Seven questions were posed to the Prime Minister:

Proposals for law deliberated in committees

- **Proposal for a Law on Ratification of the Agreement between the Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and Montenegro supplementing the European Convention on Extradition of 13 December 1957** was considered and proposed to the Parliament for adoption by the Committee on International Relations and Emigrants.
- **Proposal for a Law on Ratification of the Protocol amending the Additional Protocol to the Convention on the Transfer of Sentenced Persons** was considered and proposed to the Parliament for adoption by the Committee on International Relations and Emigrants.
- **Proposal for a Law on Public-Private Partnership** was considered and proposed to the Parliament for adoption by the Committee on Economy, Finance and Budget and Legislative Committee.
- **Proposal for a Law on Amendments to the Law on Concessions** was considered and proposed to the Parliament for adoption by the Committee on Economy, Finance and Budget.
- **Proposal for a Law on Amendments to the Law on Air Transport** was considered and proposed to the Parliament for adoption by the Committee on Economy, Finance and Budget.
- **Proposal for a Law on Ratification of the Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from their Utilization to the Convention on Biological Diversity** was considered and proposed to the Parliament for adoption by the Committee on International Relations and Emigrants.
- **Proposal for a Law on the 2018 Final Budget Account** was considered and proposed to the Parliament for adoption by the Committee on Economy, Finance and Budget.
- **Proposal for a Law on Amendments to the Law on Excise duties** was considered and proposed to the Parliament for adoption by the Legislative Committee.
- **Proposal for a Law on Identifying and protecting Critical Infrastructure** was considered and proposed to

the Parliament for adoption by the Committee on Political System, Judiciary and Administration.

- **Proposal for a Law on Amendments to the Law on Prevention of Money Laundering and Terrorism Financing** was considered and proposed to the Parliament for adoption by the Committee on Economy, Finance and Budget and the Legislative Committee.
- **Proposal for a Law on Credit Institutions** was considered and proposed to the Parliament for adoption by the Committee on Economy, Finance and Budget and the Legislative Committee.
- **Proposal for a Law on Rehabilitation of Credit Institutions** was considered and proposed to the Parliament for adoption by the Committee on Economy, Finance and Budget and the Legislative Committee.
- **Proposal for a Law on Deposit Protection** was considered and proposed to the Parliament for adoption by the Committee on Economy, Finance and Budget and the Legislative Committee.
- **Proposal for a Law on Amendments to the Law on Rehabilitation of Banks** was considered and proposed to the Parliament for adoption by the Committee on Economy, Finance and Budget.
- **Proposal for a Law on Amendments to the Law on Bankruptcy and Liquidation of Banks** was considered and proposed to the Parliament for adoption by the Legislative Committee.
- **Proposal for a Law on Electronic Government** was considered and proposed to the Parliament for adoption by the Legislative Committee.
- **Proposal for a Law on Amendments to the Law on International Restrictive Measures** was considered and proposed to the Parliament for adoption by the Legislative Committee.
- **Proposal for a Law on Public Procurement** was considered and proposed to the Parliament for adoption by the Legislative Committee.

Proposals for other acts deliberated in committees

- **Proposal for a Decision on Amending the Decision on Forming the Committee on Further Reform of Electoral and Other Legislation** was considered and proposed to the Parliament for adoption by the Committee on Political System, Judiciary and Administration and the Legislative Committee.
- **Proposal for a Decision on deployment of members of the Military of Montenegro to the NATO Mission in Iraq** was considered and proposed to the Parliament for adoption by the Legislative Committee.

Other activities of working bodies

- At the 34th meeting of the **Committee on European Integration** of 14 November, the Committee supported the Eleventh semi-annual report on the overall activities within the framework of the integration process of Montenegro into the European Union for the period January - June 2019 and the 22nd Quarterly Report on the Overall Activities within the framework of the integration process of

Montenegro into the European Union for the period April - June 2019.

- At the 91st meeting of the **Committee on Economy, Finance and Budget**, on 8 November; there was a consultative hearing on the topic: „Considering the status of employers in light of imposed taxation in relation to work“.
- At the 93rd meeting of 18 November; the Committee supported the findings and recommendations submitted by SAI, stemming from the Audit Report of the Proposal for a Law on the 2018 Final Budget Account, as well as those on individual audits contained in the Report on performed audits and activities of the SAI, covering the period October 2018 - October 2019.
- At the 95th meeting of 25 November; the Committee considered and decided to propose that the Parliament adopt the 2020 financial plans and work plans involving the following: Agency for Electronic Media, Agency for Electronic Communications and Postal Services, Insurance Supervision Agency, Agency for Medicines and Medical Devices and Capital Market Commission.
- At the 96th meeting of 27 November; the Committee considered and decided to propose that the Parliament adopt the 2020 financial and working plans of the Energy Regulatory Agency.
- At the 38th meeting of the **Gender Equality Committee**, of 22 November; the Committee considered the Strategy for combating Trafficking in Human Beings 2019-2024 and Action Plan for implementing the Strategy on Combating Trafficking in Human Beings, covering the year 2019.
- At the 41st meeting of the **Committee on Education, Science, Culture and Sports**, held on 12 November; there was a consultative hearing on the topic: „Position and Social and Economic status of educational workers in Montenegro“.
- At the 65th meeting of the **Committee on Tourism, Agriculture, Ecology and Spatial Planning** of 11 November; there was a consultative hearing on the topic: „Application of the Law on Spatial Planning and Construction of Structures“.
- At the 66th meeting of 18 November; there was a consultative hearing on the topic „Application of the Law on Forests“. The meeting was attended by representatives of the Ministry on Agriculture and Rural Development and the Forest Administration.
- **Committee on Health, Labour and Social Welfare** dedicated its 55th meeting held on 11 November; to National Day tobacco control.
- The Committee dedicated its 56th meeting held on 14 November to World Diabetes Day.
- At the 26th meeting of the **Anti-Corruption Committee**, held on 20 November; there was a consultative hearing on the topic: „Amendments to the Law on Prevention of Corruption and the Law on Financing of Political Entities

and Election Campaigns“.

- At the 77th meeting of the **Administrative Committee** of 7 November; the Committee determined a proposal for a decision on appointment of one member of the Managing board of the Fund for the protection and exercise of minority rights. The Committee proposed that the Parliament appoint Arjan Pulti as member of the Managing Board of the Fund, from among the representatives of the Parliament. The Committee also initiated the procedure for appointing president and two members of the Council of the Agency for Personal Data Protection and Free Access to Information and procedure for appointing president and six members of the Jury who would be in charge for presenting the 13th July Awards.
- At the 78th meeting of 22 November; the members determined Proposal for a Decision on Dismissal and election of one member of the Committee on Tourism, Agriculture, Ecology and Spatial Planning. The Committee proposed that Predrag Sekulić be dismissed from his duty, whereas Nela Savković Vukčević be elected as member of the Committee on Tourism, Agriculture, Ecology and Spatial Planning; Proposal for a Decision on Dismissal of two and election of three members of the Constitutional Committee. The Committee proposed that Danijel Živković and Radule Novović be dismissed from the duty, whereas Predrag Sekulić, Nela Savković Vukčević and Nada Drobnjak, be elected members of the Constitutional Committee; Proposal for a Decision on Dismissal and election of one member of the Legislative Committee. It was proposed that Dragutin Papović be dismissed from the duty, whereas Nada Nenezić, be elected member of the Legislative Committee; Proposal for a Decision on Dismissal and election of one member of the Committee on International Relations and Emigrants. The Committee proposed that Halil Duković be dismissed from the duty, whereas Nela Savković Vukčević be elected member of the Committee; Proposal for a Decision on Dismissal and Election of one member of the Committee on Human Rights and Freedoms. The Committee proposed that Momčilo Martinović be dismissed, whereas Žana Filipović be elected member of the Committee; Proposal for a Decision on Dismissal and Election of one member of the Committee on Health, Labour and Social Welfare. It was proposed that Nikola Divanović be dismissed from duty, whereas Nada Nenezić be elected; Proposal for a Decision on Dismissal and Election of one member of the Gender Equality Committee. It was proposed that Aleksandra Vuković be dismissed from duty, whereas Nada Nenezić be elected as member of the Gender Equality Committee; Proposal for a Decision on Dismissal and Election of two members of the Anti-Corruption Committee. It was proposed that Nikola Rakočević and Zvonko Vuković be dismissed from duty, whereas Danijel Živković and Momčilo Martinović be elected as members of the Anti-Corruption Committee.

NEWS FROM PARLIAMENT



Tenth Session of the Children's Parliament

Jubilee event marking the 10th session of children's parliament was held on 19 November. At the opening of the Session, President of the Parliament emphasised that the Parliament singled out the youth as the carriers of change, noting that the Parliament was dedicated to affirmation, promotion, protection and improvement of children's rights. The jubiliary session of the Children's Parliament was organised by the Parliament of Montenegro and the Centre for Child Rights, on the occasion of marking 30 years since the adoption of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child and ten years since holding the first Children's Parliament. He was convinced that Parliament's openness to younger generations provided for a better parliamentary life, as well as a more inclusive and representative parliament, noting that since 2013, the number of children attending educational programmes at an early age, had increased from 40 to 53 %,

whereas in village areas inhabited by Roma children, considered as very challenging areas, the number of children attending elementary school had increased from 58 to 77 %. Children from elementary and secondary schools attended the event as well as children from local children's parliament of the Capital city of Podgorica. The participants were addressed by Head of the UNICEF Office, representative of the Save the Children Office, Deputy Ombudsman in charge for children's rights, Director of Centre for Child Rights, children from the northern, central and southern regions of Montenegro, as well as former Co-Chair of the First Children's Parliament. Aside from chairs of committees and representatives of MP clubs, the session was also attended by representatives of the Government, domestic and international organisations competent in the field of children's rights, and members of the diplomatic corps.

Eleventh Session of the Women's Parliament

President of the Parliament opened the 11th Session of the Women's Parliament, organised by the Gender Equality Committee. The session was dedicated to topics such as exercising women's rights in countries in the region, with the focus on combat of violence against women and human trafficking, in light of the recently adopted conclusions at the Conference on Combating Human Trafficking. President Brajović stated that during the last year, one in every five women had suffered some form of violence, noting that all efforts needed to be invested in preventing that Montenegro become susceptible to any kind of violence. He reminded that the following year marked twenty years since the adoption of the UN Security Council Resolution 1325 on women, peace and security which also called for higher participation of women in decision-making places, support to economic independence and strengthening, and fight against stereotypes and patriarchal patterns which might be the initial cause to gender-based violence. Brajović expressed conviction that in order to achieve a higher participation of women in all decision-making places, it is preferable that the request of Women's Political Network to increase the minimum quota of female participation to 40 % is incorporated into the Proposal for a

Law on Election of Councillors and MPs. It would provide an opportunity for all political subjects to demonstrate responsibility in conducting political dialogue and genuine willingness to create a gender equality society. In addition, he referred to the importance of 29 November in the former state, which should serve as a reminder that following the war in former Yugoslavia, women fought for their rights to vote, to acquire an education and to equally participate in the social processes. The emancipatory role and the results acquired at that time may serve as foundation even today.



PARLIAMENTARY GLOSSARY

Regional Initiatives represent a form of international cooperation within the region, in order to improve the level of economic, tourism, legal, political and security relations and they often have a parliamentary dimension. Regional parliamentary initiatives include, for example, the Adriatic-Ionian Initiative, the South-East European Cooperation Process, the Central European Initiative, the Cetinje Parliamentary Forum and so on.¹

¹ Doc. dr Komar, Olivera, Prof. dr Ivana Jelić, Nataša Komnenić, Irena Mijanović, Jelena Radonjić, Vlatko Šćepanović, Parlamentarni leksikon, Podgorica, Skupština Crne Gore 2016, p 278-279

IN FOCUS



President of the Parliament of Montenegro Ivan Brajović participated in the 9th Meeting of Speakers of Parliaments of Southeastern European Countries in Budapest

President of the Parliament of Montenegro participated on 4 November in the 9th Meeting of Speakers of Parliaments of Southeastern European Countries in Budapest. Aside from the host Hungary and the countries of the region, this year's meeting was attended by Speakers of Parliaments of other countries of the Visegrad Group, the Czech Republic, Poland and the Slovak Republic. President Brajović delivered a presentation on "The Future of EU Enlargement Policy", stating *"The Western Balkans will only be fully stable, secure and prosperous once it is integrated into the European Union. I am convinced that the values of this region's countries can only make Europe richer and more complete. I am sure that the neighbours can help each other along this path, because the experiences and challenges we face are similar"*, he added. *"We were aware that there are still fields where we should reach standards expected from us Therefore, the decision not to set a date for the start of negotiations with Northern Macedonia and Albania is disappointing for our region, given that both countries have fulfilled the requirements set by Brussels in the previous period. I deliberately say for the region, because this decision itself raised concerns about the credibility of the perspective for all our countries in the integration process. The challenges the European Union had faced in the previous period, such as Brexit, the rise of populism throughout Europe and migration, should not be an excuse for slowing down our and our neighbours integration path. It has been repeatedly stated in the previous period that the Union's internal consolidation and enlargement process are not mutually*

*exclusive. The Joint Statement on EU Enlargement was adopted during the Meeting by the Speakers of Parliaments of Southeastern European Countries and the Visegrad Group, which calls for increased support for EU enlargement and stresses that the accession of the Southeast European countries to the European Union has not only an impact on the security, stability and progress of the region, but also to the entire continent. The political leaders of EU Member States are urged to do all in their power to reach a decision as soon as possible on the opening of accession negotiations with Albania and Northern Macedonia, and stresses the importance of respecting the principle of individual merit, with the ultimate goal of EU membership. Brajović met at the Embassy of Montenegro in Budapest with the heads of diplomatic missions representing Montenegro on a non-resident basis from Hungary. The main topics during the meeting focused on the current political situation in Montenegro, as well as on the possibilities of improving bilateral cooperation between Montenegro and those countries, especially in the area of parliamentary cooperation. * Meeting of Speakers of Parliaments of Southeast European Countries is an initiative sponsored by the Hungarian Parliament, held for more than a decade, every two years, with the aim of contributing to strengthening the perspective of European integration and strengthening security and good neighborly relations in the region. Montenegro is represented on a non-residential basis from Hungary by the heads of diplomatic missions of Estonia, Latvia, Ireland, Georgia, Pakistan, Thailand, Philippines and Colombia.*

PARLIAMENT OF MONTENEGRO-FROM CATALOGUE OF RECEIVED PRESENTS

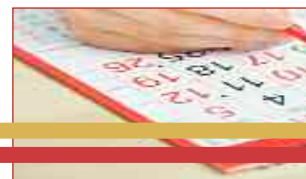
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Extended by: PRESIDENT OF THE GREEK PARLIAMENT
Recipient: PRESIDENT OF THE PARLIAMENT OF MONTENEGRO
Date of receipt: 24. 10. 2014.



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1 November

- President of the Parliament Ivan Brajović received the newly-appointed non-residential Ambassador of the Republic of Armenia to Montenegro Ashot Hovakimian. The interlocutors recognised the need for intensifying parliamentary cooperation, by means of forming parliamentary friendship groups in both Montenegrin and Armenian parliaments, aimed at a greater understanding and establishing of quality dialogue as a basis for further development of political and economic



relations of both countries. Brajović acquainted the Ambassador with the current political situation and foreign policy priorities of Montenegro and expressed interest in intensifying of cooperation in the fields of economy, tourism, and important infrastructure projects. President Brajović also received the newly-appointed non-residential Ambassador of the Great Duchy of Luxembourg to Montenegro Philip Donckel. They expressed mutual expectation for additional strengthening of cooperation between Montenegro and Luxembourg in the fields of economy, culture, tourism and environmental protection.

- President of the Parliament Ivan Brajović spoke at the gathering organised on the occasion of marking the Day of State Prosecutors of Montenegro. The President stated that over the last decades, in order to secure an adequate environment for the functioning of all branches of government, the Montenegrin Parliament had, in cooperation with international organisations, acquired greater legal solutions, and also, in performing its control and consultative role, strived to ensure the implementation of the said legal solutions. Brajović stated that commitment of both institutions - the Parliament and the Prosecutor's Office and responsibility in terms of safeguarding the law, personal

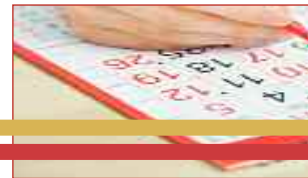
and property rights of citizens and Montenegro shall remain their sole operating principle.

- Members of the Committee on Economy, Finance and Budget had a consultative meeting with Mojmir Mrak, expert, concerning the project of establishing an independent body in charge for fiscal oversight in Montenegro, which is funded by the European Union. Comparative practice and best experience of countries in the region that have already established the said body, were discussed. A prospective normative framework governing the competencies of the Fiscal Council was discussed, as well as the manner in which the following would be regulated: rights, obligations, responsibilities, composition of members of the Council and their mandate, the means for the funding of the institution and the level of independence. The meeting was attended by Chair of the Committee on Economy, Finance and Budget Predrag Sekulić and members Boris Mugoša and Raško Konjević.
- Members of the regional Group of Young People's Party from Bruck-Mürzzuschlag, Austria, paid a visit to the Parliament of Montenegro, on which occasion they were acquainted with the history, manner of operation and organisation of the Parliament, its legislative role and competencies, and also attended the start of the plenary sitting, via the journalist's lodge. The visit was organised within the frameworks of the project *Open Parliament*, aimed at familiarizing the interest parties, especially the youth, with the work and the functioning of the Parliament.

4 November

- President of the Parliament of Montenegro Ivan Brajović participated in the 9th Meeting of Speakers of Parliaments of Southeastern European Countries, in Budapest.
- Representative of the Permanent Delegation of the Parliament of Montenegro to the NATO Parliamentary Assembly Luid Ljubo Škrelja paid a visit to the Committee on the Civil Dimension of Security to the Republic of France, which took place on 4-5 November. The first day, there were discussions on French Security and the European context, global security challenges, the French Third Way - Finding a Balance and Multiculturalism, as well as cyber security, digital independence and artificial intelligence, the media and fake news. The second day, the Committee representatives paid a visit to the „Fleury-Mérogis“

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prison. The aim of the visit of the Committee on the Civil Dimension of Security was a parliamentary dialogue on foreign and defense priorities of France and counter-terrorism and de-radicalisation policies. Discussions were held on topics of the political life of the host country, economic situation in the area, security challenges and other relevant topics, as well as meetings of NATO Parliamentary Assembly delegates with representatives of the Council of Europe and representatives of local authorities and experts.

5 November

- President of the Parliament of Montenegro Ivan Brajović received the Delegation of the Representative House of the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg, headed by the President Fernand Etgen. On the occasion, Brajović acquainted President Etgen with the state of affairs in the country and with the work of the Parliament, and emphasised the importance of the activities of the Committee on Further Reform of Electoral and other Legislation, as well as expressed conviction that all the parliamentary parties would demonstrate an adequate level of responsibility towards the citizens. Etgen emphasised the importance of the fact that of all other countries Montenegro had reached highest progress in the European integration path, and also stated that they highly supported the EU enlargement process, especially in the case of Montenegro. In addition, Etgen expressed interest in further strengthening of bilateral relations, particularly in the fields of economy and tourism. The interlocutors agreed that thanks to a large Montenegrin diaspora there was significant potential for intensifying mutual bilateral, cultural and economic relations. The meeting was also attended by Vice-President Genci Nimanbegu as well as MPs Andrija Nikolić, Andrija Popović and Jovanka Laličić, during which the progress of Montenegro on its EU path was discussed, and it was concluded that a greater affirmation of the enlargement process was needed.
- Committee on Further Reform of Electoral and other Legislation resumed its discussion on the analysis of implementation of the Law on Territorial organisation of Montenegro.
- Member of the Security and Defence Committee Miodrag Vuković participated in the Annual Meeting of the Representatives of Defence and Security Committees, which took place in Tirana. President of the Parliament of Albania Gramoz Ruçi invited all the participants to propose adequate solutions in terms of protection and fight against cyber challenges brought forth by the globalisation, and an ever growing addiction to digital media. Efforts were needed in terms of integrating the Western Balkan countries into the European Union, so that the recent threats are properly handled, under joint efforts, since not all of the countries in the region were sufficiently developed technologically in order to individually tackle these challenges. MP Vuković stated that Montenegro together with all the NATO members strived to develop a unique operating strategy in tackling the challenges in this area, and its legislative framework was also commendable, however further education and strengthening of capacities in fighting cybercrime, were needed.
- Members of the Working Committee N0 1 of the Committee on Further Reform of the Electoral and other Legislation, together with representatives from the NGO sector met with ODIHR experts Oleksii Lychkovakh and Yelena Kovalyova. The visit was organised for the purpose of providing support to the Working committee 1, especially in terms of observing the OSCE/ODIHR recommendations concerning 2016 parliamentary elections and 2018 presidential elections, and involving the Draft Law on Election of Councillors and Representatives. There was a comprehensive discussion involving the legal solutions contained in the draft law, especially referring to the following: Election Administration bodies, with a focus on the manner of election of members of the electoral commission, gathering the required number of signatures needed for registering electoral lists, accessibility of polling station to persons with disabilities, election day procedures, as well procedures for filing an application or complaint. During the visit, the experts also met with Vice-President of the Parliament and Chair of the Committee on Further Reform of Electoral and other Legislation Branimir Gvozdenović. On the occasion, satisfaction was expressed over the progress achieved by the Committee and assessed that further progress in electoral reforms depended on the will of all political actors to reach an agreement.
- Chair of the Committee on Education, Science, Culture and Sports Radule Novović participated in the workshop titled "Strengthening the oversight role of the Parliament of Montenegro", organised by the OSCE Mission to Montenegro, which took place in Podgorica. The workshop was also attended by Chair of the Committee on Economy, Finance and Budget Predrag

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Sekulić, and members Ana Nikolić and Filip Vuković. The workshop was organised in order to further promote the current mechanisms of parliamentary oversight as well as deliberate on the possibility of introducing other mechanisms, during which a special focus was dedicated to the function of the committees of the parliament. Fotios Fitsilis, OSCE expert in new trends in parliamentary oversight presented advanced concepts in the field of parliamentary oversight such as: financial control through the financial service of the Parliament, controlling the negotiating process with the EU and conducting of oversight upon adopting legislation. Trends in organisational changes, such as the digitalisation process and digitalisation of information, were also considered, as well as their effects on the control function. They also pointed out to the effects of digital transformation on procedural and institutional changes.

6 November

- Chair of the Committee on International Relations and Emigrants Andrija Nikolić paid a visit to the Montenegrin diaspora in Switzerland. Nikolić together with the Director of the Administration for Diaspora of Montenegro Predrag Mitrović had several meetings with representatives of the associations „Montenegrin Diaspora in Switzerland”, and „Bosniak Diaspora of Montenegro in Switzerland”, humanitarian association „Bratska ruka” and Islamic cultural centre „Džemat Watvil”. Nikolić emphasised that the Parliament of Montenegro and its bodies welcomed all the ideas and initiatives which were aimed at promoting the improvement of the status of Montenegrin diaspora. Representatives of associations discussed the prospects for organising consulate days in Zurich, dual citizenship, prospective voting in diplomatic and consular representations on parliamentary and presidential elections. Nikolić stated that in order for the country to show earnest commitment towards the diaspora, adequate professional and financial assistance was also needed, and also added that Montenegro was devoted to full reevaluation and continuous development of policies involving the diaspora. In addition, the Government of Montenegro was engaged in providing for a higher standard of living for inhabitants in the north of Montenegro with the majority of capital budget being allocated to the north region, aimed at balanced development and prevention of migration.
- Chair of the Committee on Human Rights and Freedoms Halil Duković met with Maria Grazia Giammarinaro, UN

Special Rapporteur on trafficking in persons. Giammarinaro referred to the importance of the role of the Parliament in monitoring the activities of the Government. In addition, a greater independence of the Protector of the Human Rights and Freedoms needed to be ensured, as well as an increased role of the Parliament in the procedure of appointment of the Protector. Duković acquainted the rapporteur with the Committee’s work, its multi-sectoral approach as well as its quality cooperation with the Protector, state authorities, international organisations and the NGO sector, and also with the activities undertaken by the Committee directed toward improvement of the rights of the child, especially children with developmental difficulties.

- Chair of the Security and Defence Committee Branko Čvor and members Mihailo Anđušić, Boris Mugoša and Ranko Krivokapić paid a visit to the Ministry of Defence of Montenegro. Minister Predrag Bošković informed the participants with the activities realised within the Military in the last three years, particularly in terms of its structure, normative framework, innovation in military equipment, as well as with the envisaged activities. The Minister of Defence also had a presentation on hybrid threats, as a present phenomenon and its effects on Montenegro as a NATO member.

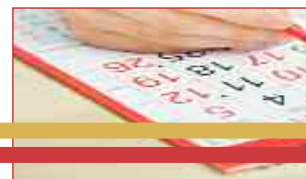
7 November

- President of the Parliament Ivan Brajović received Lance Domm, Deputy Director of the Western Balkans Directorate at the UK Foreign Office. Brajović was pleased with the continuous support of the United



Kingdom to reform processes in Montenegro, and an increase of funds allocated to key area projects attested

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to this. Brajović emphasised that the objective reports, the support and assistance provided to Montenegro in its integration path by previous European Parliament's Rapporteur for Montenegro Charles Tanock, and Co-chair to the EU-Montenegro Stabilisation and Association Parliamentary Committee David Martin, would always be held in high regard. Lance Domm assessed the relations between two countries as excellent, and the UK highly appreciated the contribution provided by Montenegro both to the NATO Alliance and for promoting the membership of North Macedonia into the Alliance. He highly appreciated the excellent relations between the UK Embassy in Montenegro and the Westminster Foundation and the Parliament of Montenegro, and referred to the ongoing joint projects being implemented.

- Chair of the Committee on Education, Science, Culture and Sports Radule Novović met with Liu Gin, the Ambassador of the People's Republic of China to Montenegro. They referred to the successfully realised activities pertaining to the financial donation of the People's Republic of China, allocated to „Štampar Makarije“ Elementary School, in Podgorica. The donation resulted from an initiative launched at a meeting that took place last year between Chair Radulović and the Chair of the National People's Congress Education, Science, Culture and Public Health Committee Li Xueyong.
- Chair of the Committee on Health, Labour and Social Welfare Suad Numanović and members Maja Bakrač, Nikola Divanović, Boris Mugoša and Nedžad Drešević paid a visit to the Employment Agency of Montenegro. On the occasion, they met with the Director of the Agency Suljo Mustafić and his associates. Mustafić acquainted the Committee members with the current situation concerning employment, noting that the present year had registered a decrease in unemployment, which was also the main labour market trend of the year. He also notified them that all the planned activities of the Institute pertaining to Active employment policy, had been realised, referring to the fact that the Institute had allocated significant financial resources to credits for self-employment. The meeting also covered the following: projects of the Institute, training programmes, active incentives for employment and their increase, Fund for Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment of Persons with Disabilities, implementation of laws, youth unemployment, employment of seasonal workers, employment of

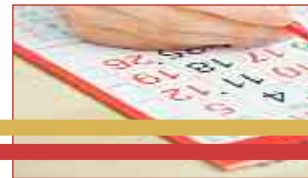
foreigners, employment of the domestic work force and brain drain.

- Chair of the Committee on Human Rights and Freedoms Halil Duković participated in the Conference featuring an Analysis of support and multi-sectoral approach to answering the needs of children with developmental difficulties in Montenegro. The Conference was opened by State Secretary at the Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare Vukica Jelić and UNICEF Ambassador to Montenegro Ambassador Osama Makkawi Khogali. It was concluded that the recommendations contained in the analysis were in line with the policies conducted by the Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare, in the process of reforms of protection of children with developmental difficulties, and continuous efforts were being invested in promoting assistance programmes devoted to children and their parents.
- Head of the Permanent Delegation of the Parliament of Montenegro to the Parliamentary Dimension of the Central European Initiative Miodrag Vuković participated in the Ordinary Annual Meeting of the CEI-PD Parliamentary Assembly, within the frameworks of the Italian Presidency over the CEI initiative, which took place on 7-8 November, in Rome. This year's session was dedicated to the topic: "Developing Infrastructures for More Competitive Businesses in the CEI Area". Keynote speakers at the gathering were as follows: Marco Maggioni, President of the CEI Parliamentary Dimension and Head of the Italian Delegation to the CEI PD and CEI Secretary General Roberto Antonione. The participants were also addressed by Miodrag Vuković, as the next President of the CEI Parliamentary Dimension, who is to take over his presidency as of January 2020. At the end of the session, which had been attended by 12 delegations, a joint declaration was adopted, containing all the conclusions reached at the Parliamentary Assembly. The following session is to take place in the second half of 2020, in Montenegro.

8 November

- Member of the Committee on Human Rights and Freedoms Branka Tanasijević participated in the First meeting of the Reference Group for the Re-evaluation of the Program of Cooperation between the Government of Montenegro and UNICEF (2017-2021). The Reference Group was tasked with overseeing the evaluation process and providing an analysis of key findings and recommendations contained in the evaluation report.

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The First Meeting of the reference Group which was composed of representatives of the relevant Government ministries, General Secretariat of the Government of Montenegro, the Committee on Human Rights and Freedoms of the Parliament of Montenegro, UNICEF and civic society organisations dealing with children and sensitive groups, was opened by Veljko Milonjić, acting director general at the Directorate General for Economic and Cultural Diplomacy- Ministry of Foreign Affairs and UNICEF Ambassador to Montenegro Ambassador Osama Makkawi Khogali. Milonjić referred to the fact that the Program of Cooperation between the Government of Montenegro and UNICEF (2017-2021) envisaged assistance to reforms in the fields of health, education, access to justice as well as social and child protection. MP Tanasijević assessed that an ongoing cooperation realised between relevant authorities in Montenegro and the UNICEF, resulted in attaining outstanding and measurable results.

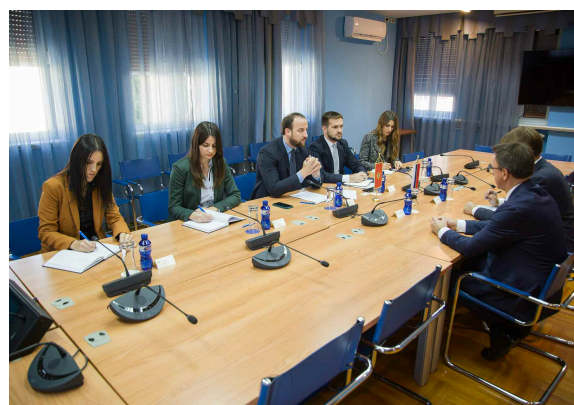
- At the end of the Seventh Meeting of the Committee on Further Reform of Electoral and other Legislation, solutions contained in the Proposal for the Law on Amendments to the Law on Territorial Organisation of Montenegro, were presented.
- Vice-President of the Parliament Genci Nimanbegu met with the Ambassador of the Czech Republic to Montenegro Karelo Urban. Ambassador Urban affirmed that the Czech Republic endorsed the enlargement of the southeastern Europe countries in the EU, notwithstanding the failure to commence the negotiations with Albania and North Macedonia. Vice-President Nimanbegu acquainted the guest with aspirations as well disillusionment of peoples inhabiting the region with the decision of the EU not to commence negotiations and expressed concern over a possible modifications in the EU global policy. In addition, he expressed optimism, convinced that the six south-eastern countries would join the EU, and a prolonged process may be expected as well, excluding the interruption of the process. Economic relations were also among the topics discussed at the meeting, as well the interest expressed by Czech businesses for new investments in Montenegro.

11 November

- A promotion of the newly released book „Parliamentary Law“ by MP Miodrag Vuković and Marijana Pajvančić,

took place within the parliamentary premises. The book is intended for a wide circle of legal graduates, practitioners, as well as Law students, and it consists of important practical aspects involving the Parliament, its internal structure, organisation and functioning, parliamentary status and parliamentary procedure. In his address to the participants, Vuković emphasised that the book came about as a result of extensive experience in politics and constitutional law and added that Montenegro embodied a „balanced parliamentarism of division of power, and it is in this kind of system that the parliament, as an institution requires special attention.“ Co-author Pajvančić stated that in studying parliamentary law comparative experience was needed, therefore the book consisted of comparative experience of different countries.

- Chair of the Committee on International Relations and Emigrants Andrija Nikolić received the newly-appointed Ambassador of the Russian Federation Vladislav Maslennikov. Nikolić expressed wish that in the course



of his mandate the relations of Montenegro and the Russian Federation would be upgraded, given the historical and friendly ties shared by both countries over the course of many centuries. Nikolić assessed that the weakening of relations between the two countries ensued due to major issues of international level, nevertheless, the existing willingness to jointly and gradually overcome those challenges was assessed of great importance. In addition, he stated that parliamentary diplomacy might as well be one of the models of modernisation of bilateral relations between Moscow and Podgorica. Nikolić and Maslennikov agreed that there was enormous room for economic cooperation, which was reinforced by significant presence of Russian tourists and businessmen in Montenegro.

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12 November

- President of the Parliament Ivan Brajović opened the last regional workshop on strategies and technical approaches to strengthening cooperation between parliaments and supreme audit institutions. This was a three-day event organised by the Committee on Economy, Finance and Budget, and the World Bank providing the parliamentary and supreme audit institution experts with a platform for exchanging of practice and devising concise strategies and technical approaches to strengthening mutual cooperation. The President referred to the importance of the Network of Parliamentary Committees for Economy, Finance and European integration of Western Balkans, and its significant contribution to bringing together parliamentarians in the region, as well as the contribution of the World Bank and its experts in terms of providing continuous assistance to Montenegro and its institutions, in various fields. He recalled that in May 2018, the Parliament of Montenegro and the State Audit Institution had signed a Protocol on Cooperation, expressing willingness to further promote mutual cooperation, aimed at attaining effective budgetary control and promoting responsibility, transparency and proper management in the field of public finances.
- President of the Parliament Ivan Brajović met with the Delegation of the Committee on European Affairs of the Czech Parliament. The President assessed that the Parliament highly valued the support of the Višegrad Group countries, which shared great economic and political relations with Montenegro, accompanied by the cooperation within the NATO Alliance. He also added that through its achievements, Montenegro wished to reinforce the support of the Visegrad group countries toward Montenegro's EU path. Deputy Chair of the Committee on European Affairs Premisl Mališ emphasised that the Czech Republic and the Visegrad group countries would continue to strongly support the EU enlargement process and Montenegro's EU membership, mindful of the significant contribution it provided to the entire region. The Delegation of the Czech Parliament was also composed of deputy chairs of the Committee on European Affairs František Kopriva and Jirži Valenta. Chair of the Committee on European Integration Slaven Radunović, also attended the meeting.
- Within the frameworks of the official visit of the Committee on European Affairs of the Parliament of the Czech Republic to Montenegro, the Committee on

European Integration of the Parliament of Montenegro hosted the meeting with the Czech Committee. The hosts acquainted the Czech parliamentarians with the current domestic challenges which continued to affect the EU accession process. Members of the Committee on European Integration unanimously agreed that EU membership was Montenegro's main foreign policy goal, a view shared by a predominant citizen majority, however, continuous efforts were needed in conducting the reforms concerning chapters 23 and 24, in order for Montenegro to be prepared prior to receiving the invitation to join the European Union. The Czech Republic and the Visegrad Group supported the EU path of the Western Balkans countries as well as the enlargement policy. The meeting was attended by Chair of the Committee on European Integration Slaven Radunović and members Adrijan Vuksanović, Marija Maja Čatović, Daliborka Pejović, Sanja Pavićević, Momčilo Martinović, Ljiljana Đurašković, Branko Radulović and Neđeljko Rudović. The same day, representatives of the Lower Chamber of the Czech Parliament met with the representatives of the Committee on International Relations and Emigrants and the Security and Defence Committee. The meeting was also attended by Committee members Luid Škrelja, Miodrag Vuković, Dragutin Papović, Boris Mugoša and Miodrag Lekić. The Delegation of the Czech Parliament was composed of deputy chairs Premisl Mališ, Jirži Valenta and member of the Committee František Kopriva. The meeting was also attended by the Ambassador of the Czech Republic to Montenegro Karel Urban. A joint conclusion reached at the meeting was that Montenegro was highly grateful to the Czech Republic for fostering an open door policy, as well as for its strong partnership within the NATO Alliance. Deputy Chair Mališ reinforced his view that the Czech Republic would continue to strongly support the European integration of Montenegro and assessed that our country had progressed the most out of all the EU candidate countries.

13 November

- MPs of the Parliament Aleksandra Vuković, Nela Savković-Vukčević, Branka Bošnjak and Anka Vukićević and Deputy Secretary General Marija Mirjačić, participated in a seminar on social networks dedicated to Western Balkans MPs, which took place on 13-14 November, in Brussels. In order to promote a more efficient use of social networks by MPs, representatives of the major social networks presented a set of network tools aimed at promoting communication with the

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citizens and strengthening the public relations. Strengthening the cooperation with the media was deemed very important, and in this context, the traditional channels of communication seemed outdated, and also new strategies and policies needed



to be developed via social networks in order to assist the communication with the media, which required a faster and a more open approach. During the visit, the MPs met with Vladimir Bilčik, Co-Chair of the EU-Montenegro Stabilisation and Association Parliamentary Committee and Tanja Fajon, Co-Chair of EU-Serbia Stabilisation and Association Parliamentary Committee (SAPC) and Andreas Schieder, Co-Chair of the Joint Parliamentary Committee (JPC) with the Sobranie - the Parliament of the Republic of North Macedonia.

14 November

- Vice-President of the Parliament and Chair of the Committee on Further Reform of Electoral and Other Legislation Branimir Gvozdenović met with Heads of Missions of EU member states to Montenegro. During the meeting, they discussed the results achieved by the Committee as well as the upcoming activities, and the current situation in the Parliament. Gvozdenović emphasised that Montenegro had significantly upgraded, its electoral legislation as well as received positive assessments from the OSCE regarding the previously conducted elections. Heads of Missions of EU member states welcomed the newly-established deadline requiring the Committee to provide new reform solutions. Gvozdenović also called on all the political structures to fully engage in the work of the Committee as well as invest additional efforts in order to reach compromised solutions, in alignment with the OSCE/ODIHR recommendations and the recommendations contained in European Commission's Report. It was concluded that the successful

performance of the Committee would benefit further democratisation of the society, therefore, it was required that the Committee invest its full efforts in performing its task.

- President of the Parliament of Montenegro Ivan Brajović spoke with the students who received an award for having written best essays on the topic „The role of the Youth in the integration path of Montenegro – prospects and challenges“. The integration processes of Montenegro, multiple effects of NATO and EU membership and the prospects of youth in Montenegro as a EU member state, were discussed at the meeting. The students were interested in the views of the President in regards to prospects of attaining a consensus on important issues deemed relevant for the future of Montenegro, EU enlargement policy, as well as the parliamentary activities and responsibility of the directly elected representatives in terms of fulfilling their tasks.
- Vice-President of the Parliament Genci Nimanbegu met with the Ambassador of the Republic of Albania to Montenegro Ridi Kurtezi. The economic prospects of local communities inhabited by Albanian community were discussed, as well as the opportunities of economic strengthening of the said areas. Infrastructure projects relating to both countries, were discussed, as well as the opening of the new border crossing Zatrijebačka Cijevna/Grabom. They also discussed the implementation of the Agreement signed on 28 June 2018, between the Government of Montenegro and the Council of Ministers of the Republic of Albania on the opening of a joint border crossing Ckła (Montenegro) – Zogaj (Albania) for international road and lake passenger traffic. A particular topic of discussion was also the status of the Albanian community in Montenegro.

15 November

- The Committee on European Integration organised a Roundtable on the topic - Chapter 27: Are we prepared for a healthy environment in accordance with the EU Standards? The Roundtable discussed the topic of waste, waste waters and air pollution. The Roundtable provided an opportunity for MPs, representatives of relevant institutions, local self-government and NGO sector to discuss issues in the subject area. The following was also discussed: Current level of air pollution in the Municipality of Pljevlja and further solutions to the issue, ecological reconstruction of the thermal power

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plant Pljevlja, emission of Carbon dioxide – construction of a second block of thermal power plant with zero carbon dioxide emissions, ensuring the district heating for Pljevlja, wild deponies, the functioning of the system of waste water management/collector, quality of river water following the contamination of sewers, education of the citizens with the focus on the youth, introducing a sanctions policy, financial plan on reconstructing ecological black holes, municipal waste as a means to producing energy, future policy of sustainable waste management, responsibility of state authorities at the national and local level, as well as building new deponies and stations for measuring the air quality at the level of municipalities. An initiative to introduce the institute of “ecological MP”, was put forth at the meeting, as well as holding annual theme meetings dedicated to the status of the environment of Montenegro.

18 November

- President of the Parliament of Montenegro Ivan Brajović delivered a speech at the Conference „Religion as an Instrument for Peace“, organised by the President of Albania, in cooperation with the State Department, in Tirana. Reminiscing on the historical background of



development of catholic, orthodox and islamic religions, and their monumental remnants, Brajović referred to the fact that all the traditional religions in Montenegro played a significant role in the development of national identity, its cultural and social elevation. President Brajović emphasised that for the purpose of aligning the legislative framework with the good practice and successful cohabitation of many religions, there was a public discussion on the draft Law on Freedom of Religion of Montenegro and belief and the legal status of religious communities in Montenegro. The purpose was to align the national legislation with the european standards, since strong democratic institutions and the

rule of law were prerequisites for the overall development and a quality standard of living of citizens. The President of the Parliament was convinced that the Government and the relevant Ministry would duly consider all the proposals and suggestions put forth during the discussion, as well as the recommendations of the Venice Commission. He also expressed expectation that an open discussion accompanied by professionals would lead to high quality legal solutions in the field. The Conference in Tirana had gathered state officials, representatives of religious organisations, experts on freedom of religion as well as activists from the Western Balkans, European Union and the United States of America.

- Delegation of the Committee on Human Rights and Freedoms and the Gender Equality Committee composed of: Halil Duković, Nada Drobnjak and Momčilo Martinović attended a course on post-legislative oversight, which took place on 18-20 November, in Belgrade. The Course was organised by the Westminster Foundation for Democracy within the framework activities of human rights and gender equality network of parliamentary committees in the Western Balkan region and a Programme realised by the Westminster Foundation for Democracy under the support of the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The course attendants were acquainted with the methods of initiating post-legislative oversight, results and its application, as well as applicability of the results obtained from the post-legislative oversight. It was concluded that the post-legislative oversight may cover a limited or wider range of form of analysis as well as different scope and focus, and it was highlighted that post-legislative oversight required an interaction between parliament and the government, given their shared interest to increase oversight upon adopting of legislation.
- At the Eighth Meeting of the Committee on Further Reform of Electoral and other Legislation, the Committee was acquainted with the activities undertaken by the working committees and the progress achieved.

19 November

- A jubiliary session of the Children’s Parliament was organised by the Parliament of Montenegro and the Centre for Child Rights, on the occasion of marking 30 years since the adoption of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child and ten years since holding the first Children’s Parliament.

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- Chair of the Gender Equality Committee Branko Čavor met with the Head of the Council for the civic control of the work of police Aleksandar Saša Zeković. The oversight mechanisms conducted in the previous year, were discussed. The Chair of the Committee assessed that Parliament's adopting of a new Law on Parliamentary Oversight in the field of security and defence, was a great success assessing that when it comes to legislation framework in the field of parliamentary oversight, Montenegro had progressed the most. He also referred to the success of Montenegro in acquiring its NATO membership status, noting that further work was required by the state in implementing the standards in the field of security as well as strengthening of institutions. Zeković expressed satisfaction over the realised cooperation between the Council and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Police Administration. The interlocutors discussed the prospects of an intensified cooperation between the Security and Defence Committee and the Council for the civic control of the work of police.
- Delegation of the Parliament of Montenegro paid a visit on 19-20 November, to the Kingdom of Norway, and on the occasion they were given a tour of norwegian institutions in order to get better acquainted with the Norwegian system, given that the experience of the Norwegian country had been of great assistance to Montenegro in drafting the conceptual legislation involving oil and gas industry. The Delegation of the Parliament was composed of MPs: Luid Škrelja, Filip Vuković, Bogdan Fatić, Nikola Divanović and Aleksandar Damjanović. The Delegation paid a visit to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, enabling them to discuss the relations between both countries noting that they reflected a positive example of intergovernmental cooperation. The Delegation had the opportunity to visit the Parliament of the Kingdom of Norway, respectively had a meeting with the Standing Committee on Energy and the Environment. On the occasion of their visit to the Ministry of Petroleum and Energy, members of the Delegation were acquainted with the norwegian institutional framework in the field of oil and gas. The participants paid a visit to the Norwegian Environment Agency and Norwegian Petroleum Directorate, Ministry of Petroleum and Energy. At the end of the visit, they also had the opportunity to visit the Norwegian Petroleum Museum.

22 November

- Chair of the Committee on Education, Science, Culture

and Sports Radule Novović attended the press conference on the occasion of presenting the Programme marking a jubilee of 170 years of founding of the Maritime School in Kotor. In April 2020, within the frameworks of the jubilee programme, the school is holding a ceremonious event of the academy, with a total of 170 invitations, within the premises of the school amphitheatre.

- Committee on European Integration organised a Roundtable dedicated to Chapter 27 where the participants discussed management of areas of great importance and the effects of capital projects on the



environment. Aivo Orav, Head of the EU Delegation to Montenegro emphasised that environmental protection wasn't merely a requirement to be met on the EU path, but rather a realistic need requiring everyone's efforts, including the government and the industry, but especially the civil society. He thusly, called on the Government to take charge over the process as well as invest intensive efforts in the field of environmental protection. In the presence of the participants, they discussed the effects of ongoing projects and spatial planning on the environmental protection field (such as building of a highway, Sinjajevina military training polygon and a tunnel through Bjelasica mountain), as well as specific projects funded by the European Union in the field of environmental protection, and the main priorities involving chapter 27 and its eventual closing. Participants expressed interest in solving property and legal relations, and a prospective model of management of Solana, management and disposing of blasting grit waste in Bijela, solving the issue of air pollution in Plevlja, and building a waterfront on the Lim River. The issue of responsibility and re-building Tara river, working capacity of inspection offices, and forming an Eco Fund (Environmental Protection Fund), which would cover for the funds allocated to projects and

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programmes in the field of environmental protection.

24 November

- Delegation of the Committee on International Relations and Emigrants paid an official visit to the National Council of the Slovak Republic, on 24-25 November 2019. Minister of Foreign and European Affairs of the Republic of Slovakia Miroslav Lajčák and Chair of the Committee on International Relations and Emigrants Andrija Nikolić assessed that EU membership was the sole and inevitable process of the Western Balkans, with all the other processes leading in the opposite directions. Aside from Chair of the Committee on International Relations and Emigrants Andrija Nikolić, the Delegation was also composed of MPs Dragutin Papović and Miloš Nikolić. Lajčák informed them that the Union was mindful of the fact that the Western Balkans required greater attention. The interlocutors emphasised that many views of the Slovak state coincided with the Montenegrin views, considering that Montenegro, as a candidate country coordinated its foreign policy in alignment with the EU policy. The meeting in Bratislava was also attended by the Ambassador of the Slovak Republic to Montenegro Željko Perović.

25 November

- At an annual meeting of Heads of Diplomatic resident Missions in Podgorica, referring to the Committee on Further Reform of Electoral and other Legislation,



Opština Crne Gore

President of the Parliament Ivan Brajović emphasised that representatives of the ruling majority, civic sector and academia engaged fully in the work of the Committee since the very start, whereas the opposition exercised various approaches by initially attending the meeting, and then went on with passively attending the

meetings, which only reflected the nature of an inconsistent and divided policy. Brajović added that, aside from its regular legislative activities, the Parliament had reached conclusions involving a more precise definition of the immunity of MPs. The Parliament had also successfully completed another duty involving the adoption of amendments to the Code of Conduct, in accordance with the GRECO recommendations. The participants were addressed by representative of the country presiding over the Council of the European Union and the Ambassador of the Republic of Finland to Montenegro Kimmo Lähdevirta, who emphasised that Finland recognised the importance of EU enlargement policy as a means to promoting peace, prosperity and security in Europe, as well as the importance of other key issues deemed relevant for the EU agenda. The meeting with the resident ambassadors was also attended by Vice-President of the Parliament Branimir Gvozdenović, who referred to the activities of the Committee on Further Reform of the Electoral and other Legislation.

- Deputy Secretary General of the Parliament of Montenegro Marija Mirjačić and representatives from the Secretariate staff of many parliamentary committees met with the Delegation of the State Authorities of Bulgaria, composed of six employees, on the occasion of their visit to Montenegro. The meeting was dedicated to exchanging of practice and experience in coordinating the activities of legislative and executive power, as well as communication at the administration level, with special focus on the legislative process. The Bulgarian Delegation acquainted the Montenegrin parliamentary Service with the competencies and practice concerning the work of parliamentary secretaries, performing their duties within the Bulgarian Ministry Department who were tasked with monitoring the parliamentary activities and cooperation with the Parliamentary Assembly. At the meeting, parliamentary mechanisms of oversight of executive power, were discussed. The Delegation was composed of parliamentary secretaries performing their duties in the Cabinet of the Prime Minister and Deputy Prime Minister of the Government of the Republic of Bulgaria, as well as cabinets of ministers of foreign affairs, internal affairs, justice, economy, as well as agriculture, food and forestry and Ambassador of the Republic of Bulgaria to Montenegro Meglena Plugčijeva.
- Gender Equality Committee in cooperation with the OSCE Mission to Montenegro, organised a one-day workshop on the topic „Gender Mainstreaming of Agro

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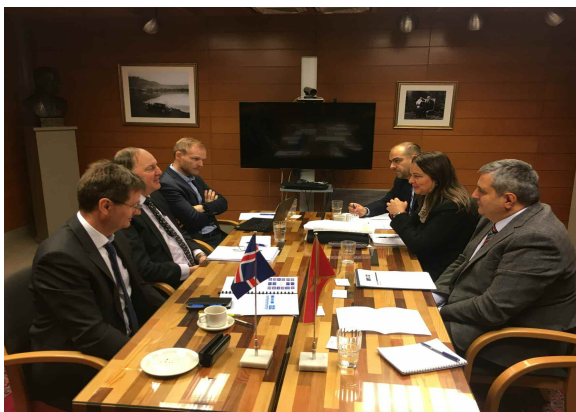


Budget“, with the aim of implementing one of the measures from the Action Plan for the Gender Sensitive Parliament of Montenegro, which envisages capacity building and development of procedures for the implementation of assessments in all stages of making and adopting laws, policies, and other acts. The workshop was attended by members of the Gender Equality Committee: Nada Drobnjak, Branka Tanasijević, Nada Nenezić, Marina Jočić and Zvonko Vuković.

26 November

- President of the Parliament of Montenegro Ivan Brajović participated in the 13th Conference of the Parliaments of Small European States, in Nicosia. Brajović discussed the challenges, prospects and best practices of respective countries in the digital era, interregional cooperation, as well as the role of parliaments in terms of cooperation between small European countries in the field of rare diseases. He expressed great satisfaction over the fact that Montenegro was to preside over the Initiative next year. Montenegro’s participation in the initiative of countries containing less than a million inhabitants was assessed as very important by the President, since these were highly developed societies, proving that even the smallest countries could become the most successful ones, provided they exercised policy ownership in policy-making. On the occasion, he met with the President of the House of Representatives of Cyprus Demetris Syllouris. The interlocutors agreed that meetings held during international conferences provided a great opportunity for continuous dialogue, however, more specific programmes of cooperation between the two parliaments and their committees, were needed.

- Chair of the Committee on European Integration Slaven



Radunović and members Daliborka Pejović and

Momčilo Martinović paid a visit to the Parliament of Iceland, at the invitation of the Chair of the Committee on Foreign Affairs Sigríður Andersen, on 26-28 November, in Reykjavik. The purpose of the visit was to get acquainted with the good practices and solutions of Iceland concerning ecological and energy issues, through discussions with Icelandic experts, as well prospective application of such solutions into Montenegrin system. Aside from the meeting with members of the Committee on Foreign Affairs, there were also meetings with representatives of several state authorities, competent in the field of EU, Energy, Environmental protection and the Fisheries.

27 November

- Delegation of the Service of the Macedonian Parliament, Secretariate for European affairs and the Secretariat on Legislation, paid a visit to the Parliament of Montenegro. On the occasion, there were separate meetings with Macedonian colleagues, conducted by Deputy Secretary General Mersudin Gredić, Assistant to the Secretary



General Nataša Komnenić, as well as representatives of many organisation units of the Parliament. The study visit was aimed at sharing practice and experience involving the legislative process, communication and coordination of the European integration process, as well as the role of the Parliament and the Government in the process of harmonising the national legislation with the EU Acquis. The participants also shared their experience in regards to the use of information technology, with the focus on digitalisation of the legislative process and the opportunities enabled by introducing e-parliament.

- Chair of the Committee on Education, Science, Culture and Sports Radule Novović participated in the 14th United Nations Forum on Internet Governance on the

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topic: „One World. One Network. One vision“, which took place on 27-29 November, in Berlin. General conclusion originating from many panel discussions, organised within the frameworks of the Forum was that digital technologies affected and were permeated into our every part of the society, while, in the last few decades had become a driving force in many fields - innovative models of conducting business via networks as well as providing government services, as well as manners in which we receive information and communicate with our friends and family.

28 November

- President of the Parliament Ivan Brajović opened the International Conference „Fight Against the Human Trafficking in the Western Balkans“, which took place in Podgorica. Brajović emphasised that human trafficking was one among many globally important challenges, noting that Montenegro had, in its early stages, been engaged in developing a system for countering human trafficking, and in this context, had also ratified all the relevant international documents in the field. Brajović expressed conviction that through exchange of information and experience among parliamentary bodies and governmental bodies, representatives of the civic society and international organisations, the Conference would reinforce the awareness on the great dangers and safety risks originating from human trafficking. Brajović was also convinced that the conclusions reached at the Conference would assist the Alliance in conducting an analysis and prospective re-evaluation of the policy in the respective field.
- Brajović received Non-resident Ambassador of the United Mexican States to Montenegro Marco Antonio



García Blanco. Brajović emphasised that both countries fostered traditionally excellent and friendly relations

while recognising the need for intensifying parliamentary cooperation, which had proven beneficial in the strengthening of the overall relations. Blanco commended the progress reached in terms of bilateral relations, noting that there was enough room for their further strengthening. He also added that the level of economic relations paled in comparison to the excellent political relations, insisting that there was enough room for faster growth in foreign trade exchange. There was mutual expectation that the parliamentary ties would be intensified, and also the promotion of cooperation between both countries in the following field was expected: tourism, telecommunication, agriculture, as well as development of small and medium enterprises.

29 November

- President Brajović opened the 11th session „Women’s Parliament“, organised by the Gender Equality.
- At the First meeting of the Committee on Monitoring the Implementation of the Decision on granting a long-term lease of Mamula and Kraljičina plaža, the members considered issues involving the methodology and the further activities of the Committee. It was agreed that prior to holding other meetings dealing with reports falling under the competence of the Committee, the Committee would require that the relevant authorities submit any relevant information and documentation, in order to proceed with its work. It was decided that future visits to the Island Lastavica with fortress Mamula, Municipality Herceg Novi and hotel “Kraljičina plaža”, Budva would take place at the beginning of next year.
- At the invitation of the United Nations and the Government of Montenegro, Chair of the Committee on Health, Labour and Social Welfare Suad Numanović attended the premiere of a short film „Domestic Violence - Finding a Way Out“. The Premiere took place at the premises of the United Nations Eco building. The documentary „Domestic Violence - Finding a Way Out“ was realised in accordance with the Protocol on addressing domestic violence, which had entered into force in January 2019. The Protocol proscribes the activities undertaken by various authorities in cases of violence, whereas the joint initiative of the UN and the Government, aims to faithfully portray the content of the document and make it more accessible to wider public, especially the persons faced with domestic violence, who are the main target of the document.