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PARLIAMENT**

2017 PERFORMANCE REPORT

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FOREWORD BY THE PRESIDENT



Dear reader,

The results we have achieved at the international and domestic level in 2017 factually confirm that this has been a very successful year for Montenegro and this convocation of the Parliament.

With the implementation of essential reforms, both from the domain of the rule of law and of economic and financial stability, stimulating growth and development Montenegro reaffirms its European orientation. We have demonstrated that, according to all parameters: political stability, economic criteria and constructive role in the region, and despite all challenges, we have kept the leading position in the European integration process.

The previous year of regular parliamentary work was certainly marked by a selective non-participation of the opposition in the activities of the Parliament and its working bodies. A year after the constitution of this convocation, a part of the opposition parties regularly returned to work in the Parliament of Montenegro.

With dedicated and committed work of both the MPs and the staff, the legal system of Montenegro has been significantly improved by harmonising Montenegrin legislation with the EU acquis. More specifically, in 2017 the Parliament of Montenegro held 24 sittings of ordinary and three of the extraordinary session, during which 134 laws were adopted. Seven special sittings of the Parliament were dedicated to the Prime Minister's hour and parliamentary questions. In this period, the working bodies of the Parliament of Montenegro held 244 meetings.

Within the oversight role, working bodies of the Parliament conducted 44 control and consultative hearings of representatives of state bodies and other persons. Active cooperation

with students, the civil sector, the media as well as relevant international organisations has continued, aimed at making them better informed and more involved in the work of the Parliament of Montenegro.

This convocation of the Parliament and us its members were assigned a historic role to ratify Montenegro's NATO membership with our votes. Thereby we fulfilled one of the two promised strategic foreign policy priorities, returned Montenegro historically and culturally to its rightful place – the company of the most developed democracies.

We have obtained international recognition for our accomplishments and encouragement to continue with undertaking further reforms, but I would like to distinguish here the first visit to Montenegro by the President of the European Parliament Antonio Tajani, which was very significant to us. It was another testimony to the extraordinary relations of the Parliament of Montenegro with the European Parliament.

I am confident that all of the above is indicative of a serious, responsible and committed work of the Parliament of Montenegro in the previous year. It is our genuine intention and duty to also work in the next three years in such a way that befits the highest legislative institution and to justify our rating as one of the most open institutions in the region by constantly improving it. There will always be challenges present, but I am sure that Montenegro, and its Parliament, are ready to deal with them in a mature, responsible manner, with full respect for all its differences.

You have before you the 2017 Performance Report of the Parliament of Montenegro.

Ivan Brajović,
President



INTRODUCTION

This document contains information about the work of the Parliament of Montenegro in 2017.

Information on legislative and oversight activities of the Parliament and its working bodies, parliamentary cooperation, transparency of work, administrative capacities, the use of funds allocated by the budget of Montenegro, as well as other activities that marked 2017 are presented in six chapters. At the same time, the appendix include the list of laws adopted by the Parliament in this period, a tabular overview of spending, an overview of requests for free access to information, a list of research papers done in 2017 as well as a tabular overview of conducted trainings and specialisations.

Employees of all organisational units of the Parliamentary Service, in accordance with their responsibilities, were involved in the preparation of this report. Minutes from parliamentary sittings as well as reports and minutes from meetings of working bodies, and other reports were primarily used as resources. Presentation of data in the form of this report was prepared by the Educational Centre in cooperation with other organisational units of the Parliamentary Service.

All references in this text to natural persons in the masculine gender shall be deemed to include the feminine gender.

IN FIGURES

- A total of 221 acts were adopted, including 134 laws;
- 24 sittings of ordinary session and three sittings of extraordinary session were held;
- The Prime Minister was asked 26 and the members of the Government 179 questions;
- Working bodies of the Parliament held 244 meetings, in 245 days, for a total of 242 hours;
- Working bodies considered 733 items of the agenda, including 280 proposals for laws and 707 amendments;
- Working bodies held one control and 43 consultative hearings in their meetings;
- 1222 pieces of information and 500 announcements illustrated with over 5000 photographs were published;
- 142 hours and 33 minutes of programme was produced;
- A total of 295 permanent credentials for journalists and camera crews/photo-reporters were issued, as well as 292 daily credentials;
- 109 individual journalists' questions were processed and answered;
- A total of 94 requests for free access to information were submitted;
- 18 research papers were prepared and published, and around 95 queries by national parliaments of other countries were responded to;
- 144 democracy workshops were hosted, with 3184 students and 180 teachers;
- On 31 December, 164 persons were employed in the Parliamentary Service.



I GENERAL INFORMATION

1.1. LIST OF MEMBERS OF THE PARLIAMENT OF MONTENEGRO IN 2017

2.1. LIST OF MPs, WITH CHANGES IN THE COMPOSITION

- SAFE STEP! DPS - MILO ĐUKANOVIĆ

1. Branimir Gvozdenović
2. Miodrag Bobo Radunović
3. Tarzan Milošević
4. Daliborka Pejović
5. Marta Šćepanović
6. Petar Ivanović
7. Obrad Mišo Stanišić
8. Marija Maja Čatović
9. Andrija Nikolić
10. Mirsad Murić
11. Ana Nikolić
12. Maja Bakrač
13. Halil Duković
14. Predrag Sekulić
15. Željko Aprcović
16. Suad Numanović
17. Bogdan Fatić
18. Branko Čavor
19. Aleksandra Vuković
20. Miodrag Vuković
21. Luigj Shkrela
22. Filip Vuković
23. Nikola Rakočević

24. Nada Drobnjak
25. Milorad Vuletić
26. Branka Tanasijević
27. Jovanka Laličić
28. Mihailo Anđušić
29. Radule Novović from 15 February 2017
30. Dragutin Papović
31. Sanja Vlahović until 26 July 2017
(resignation)
Sanja Vlahović as of 27 July 2017
32. Miloš Nikolić
33. Petar Smolović
34. Pavle Goranović until 31 May 2017
Danijel Živković as of 31 May 2017
35. Petar Porobić until 26 September 2017
(resignation)
Momčilo Martinović
until 30 September 2017
36. Andrija Popović

- DEMOCRATIC FRONT - EITHER US, OR HIM (NEW SERB DEMOCRACY, MOVEMENT FOR CHANGES, DEMOCRATIC PEOPLE'S PARTY OF MONTENEGRO, LABOUR PARTY, DEMOCRATIC SERB PARTY, MOVEMENT FOR PLJEVLJA, SERB RADICAL PARTY, YUGOSLAV COMMU-

NIST PARTY OF MONTENEGRO, PARTY OF UNITED PENSIONERS AND THE DISABLED OF MONTENEGRO, AND A GROUP OF VOTERS - RESISTANCE TO HOPELESSNESS)

1. Andrija Mandić
2. Nebojša Medojević
3. Milan Knežević
4. Ljiljana Đurašković
5. Janko Vučinić
6. Branko Radulović
7. Predrag Bulatović
8. Branka Bošnjak
9. Strahinja Bulajić
10. Slaven Radunović
11. Milutin Đukanović
12. Vera Bulatović
13. Koča Pavlović
14. Budimir Aleksić
15. Jovan Jole Vučurović
16. Marina Jočić
17. Milun Zogović
18. Veljko Vasiljević

- GRAND COALITION - KEY - DEMOS, SNP, URA - BEST FOR MONTENEGRO

1. Miodrag Lekić
2. Srđan Milić
3. Neđeljko Rudović
4. Anka Vukićević
5. Aleksandar Damjanović
6. Goran Danilović
7. Danijela Pavićević
8. Dritan Abazović
9. Goran Radonjić

- ALEKSA BEČIĆ - DEMOCRATS - VICTORIES, NOT DIVISIONS

1. Mr Aleksa Bečić
2. Zdenka Popović
3. Boris Bogdanović
4. Mr Momo Koprivica
5. Mijomir Pejović
6. Danilo Šaranović
7. Dženan Kolić
8. Valentina Minić

- SDP - RANKO KRIVOKAPIĆ - COUNTRY FOR EVERYONE!

1. Ranko Krivokapić

2. Raško Konjević
3. Džavid Šabović
4. Draginja Vuksanović

- SOCIAL DEMOCRATS OF MONTENEGRO - IVAN BRAJOVIĆ - CONSISTENTLY

1. Ivan Brajović
2. Mr Vujica Lazović until 26 July 2017 (resignation)
Mićo Orlandić from 27 July 2017

- BOSNIAK PARTY - RAFET HUSOVIĆ - OUR STRENGTH

1. Ervin Ibrahimović
2. Nedžad Drešević

- ALBANIANS DECISIVELY FORCA-DUA-AA SHQIPTARËT TË VENDOSUR FORCA-UDSH-ASH

1. Genci Nimanbegu

- CROATIAN CIVIC INITIATIVE - HGI FROM THE HEART

1. Adrijan Vuksanović

1.2. MP GROUPS IN 2017

By constituting the 26th Parliament of Montenegro, the following MP groups were formed:

MP Group of the Democratic Party of Socialists 35 members;

MP Group of the Democratic Front 18 members;

MP Group of the Democrats eight members;

MP Group of Demos four members;

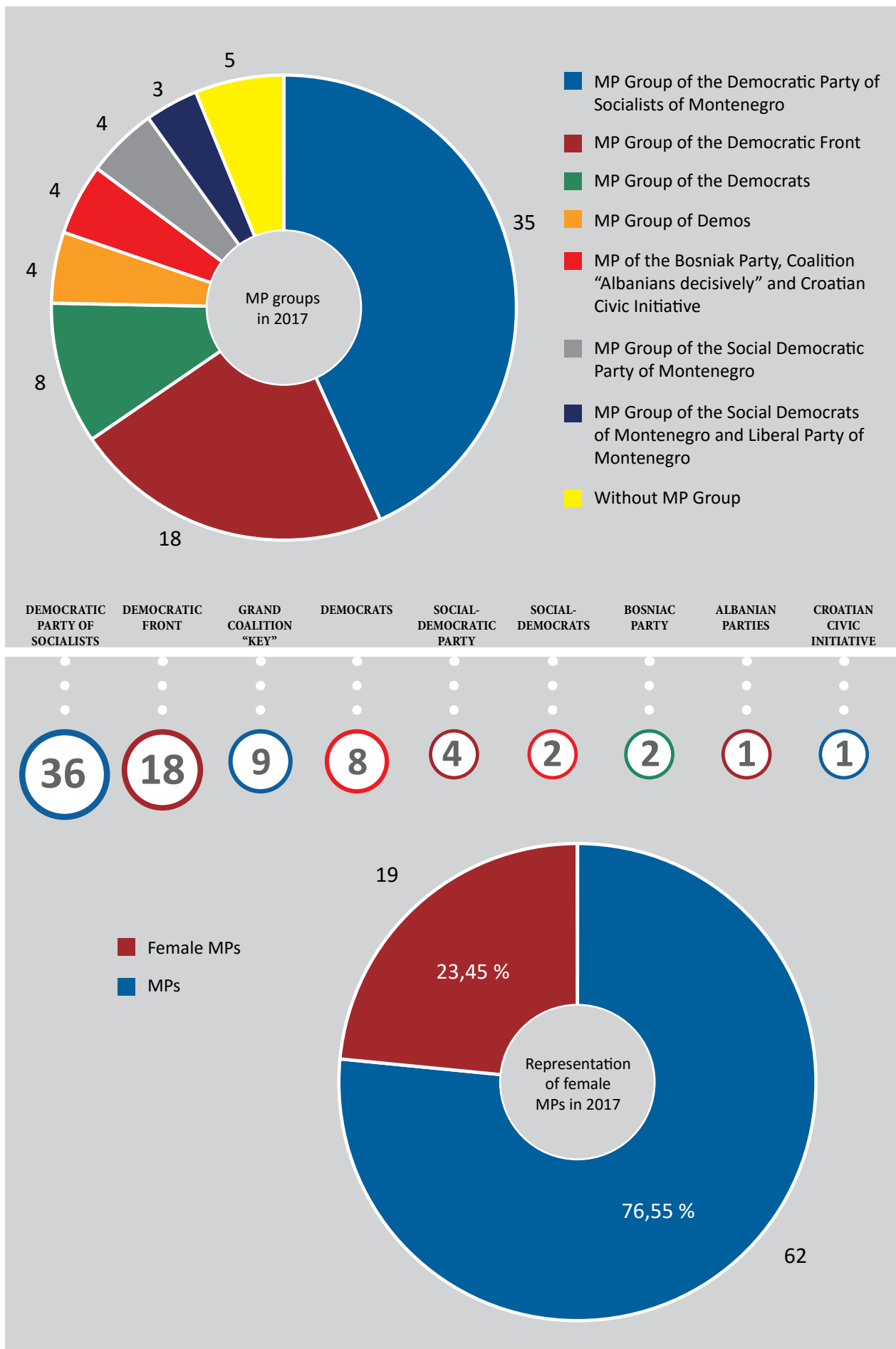
MP group of the Bosniak Party, coalition "The Albanians Decisively" and the Croatian Civic Initiative four members;

MP Group of the Social Democratic Party of Montenegro four members;

MP Group of the Social Democrats of Montenegro and the Liberal Party of Montenegro three members;

* Five parliamentarians are not members of any MP group.

* MP Group of Demos ceased to exist when two of its members left on 21 December 2017.





1.3. PRESIDENT AND VICE PRESIDENTS OF THE PARLIAMENT OF MONTENEGRO IN 2017

At the First - Constitutive Sitting of the Second Ordinary (Autumn) Session of the 26th Parliament of Montenegro, held on 24 November 2016, Ivan Brajović was elected President of the 26th Parliament of Montenegro.

At the same sitting, Branimir Gvozdenović and Genci Nimanbegu were elected vice presidents of the 26th Parliament of Montenegro.

At the Third Sitting of the First Ordinary (Spring) Session of the Parliament of Montenegro, held on 30 March 2017, Mr Aleksandar Jovičević was elected Secretary General of the Parliament of Montenegro. At the same sitting, Mr Mersudin Gredić was appointed Deputy Secretary General of the Parliament of Montenegro.

At the Fifth Sitting of the Second Ordinary (Autumn) Session of the Parliament of Montenegro, held on 25 October 2017, Ms Marija Mirjačić was elected Secretary General of the Parliament of Montenegro.

1.4. WORKING BODIES OF THE PARLIAMENT

Working bodies	Chairperson	Number of members*
Constitutional Committee	Miodrag Vuković	13
Legislative Committee	Marta Šćepanović	13
Committee on Political System, Judiciary and Administration	Željko Aprcović	13
Security and Defence Committee	Obrad Stanišić	13
Committee on International Relations and Emigrants	Andrija Nikolić	13
Committee on European Integration	Adrijan Vuksanović	13
Committee on Economy, Finance and Budget	Predrag Sekulić	13
Committee on Human Rights and Freedoms	Halil Duković	11
Gender Equality Committee	Nada Drobnjak	11
Committee on Tourism, Agriculture, Ecology and Spatial Planning	Petar Ivanović	13
Committee on Education, Science, Culture and Sports	Radule Novović	11
Committee on Health, Labour and Social Welfare	Suad Numanović	11
Anti-corruption Committee	Daliborka Pejović	13
Administrative Committee	Luigj Shkrela	13
Commission for Monitoring and Control of the Privatisation Procedure	Branko Čavor	11

Table No 1 – Working Bodies of the Parliament of Montenegro with data on chairpersons and number of members

* The number of members is determined based on the Decision on election of the Chairperson and members of the Administrative Committee of the 26th Parliament of Montenegro of 24 November 2016, the Decision on election of chairpersons and members of permanent committees of the 26th Parliament of Montenegro of 16 December 2016, and the Decision on election of the Chairperson and members of the Commission for Monitoring and Control of the Privatisation Procedure of 26 December 2017. The number of members also includes the chairperson.





II LEGISLATIVE AND OVERSIGHT ACTIVITY

In the reporting period, i.e. in the period from 1 January 2017 to 31 December 2017, a total of 24 sittings of the ordinary session and three sittings of the extraordinary session of the 26th Parliament of Montenegro were held, where a total of 221 acts were adopted, including 134 laws, of which 79 laws on amendments and supplements to laws (you can find the list of laws on page 69).

In the period from 1 January to 31 December 2017, a total of ten extraordinary sittings of the Parliament were held, of which eight dedicated to the Prime Minister's Hour and Parliamentary Questions. The Prime Minister was asked 26 questions, while the members of the Government were asked 179 questions.

In the same period, the working bodies of the Parliament of Montenegro held 244 meetings, in the course of 245 days, for a total of 242 hours, where 733 items of agenda were considered, including 280 proposals for laws and 707 amendments. In addition to the above, one control hearing and

43 consultative hearings were held at the working bodies meetings. Below are more detailed information on the work of the Parliament and other working bodies. The list of laws adopted in 2017 is set out in Appendix I.

2.1. SITTINGS OF THE PARLIAMENT

In the reporting period, i.e. in the period from 1 January 2017 to 31 December 2017, a total of 24 sittings of the ordinary session and three sittings of the extraordinary session of the 26th Parliament of Montenegro were held, where a total of 221 acts were adopted: 55 laws, 79 laws on amendments and supplements to laws, 12 decisions (of which one decision on the consideration of the Fiscal Strategy of Montenegro 2017-2020 and six decisions on the adoption of the financial plans of independent regulatory bodies), 38 decisions on elections, appointments and dismissals, as well as 37 conclusions.

	January – December 2016	January – December 2017
Number of adopted laws ¹	121	134
Decisions ²	53	50
Conclusions	33	37
Other acts	2	-
TOTAL NUMBER OF ADOPTED ACTS	209	221

Table No 2 – Total number of adopted acts

¹ Consists of a total number of laws and laws on amendments and supplements.

² Presented decisions include decisions on elections, appointments and dismissals.

Activities of the Parliament	Ordinary sessions 2016	Ordinary sessions 2017	Extraordinary sessions 2016	Extraordinary sessions 2017
Number of sittings held	16	24	12	3
Duration in days	67	34	24	4
Duration in hours	297 hours and 10 minutes	123 hours and 50 minutes	39 hours and 30 minutes	3 hours and 50 minutes
Number of considered items of the agenda	183	200	8	3
Number of adopted laws	43 laws and 73 laws on amendments and supplements to laws	54 laws and 78 laws on amendments and supplements to laws	1 law and 4 laws on amendments and supplements to laws	1 law and 1 law on amendments and supplements to laws
Number of proposals for acts not adopted	6 proposals for laws and one decision	1	-	-
Number of adopted decisions	15	12	-	-
Number of adopted decisions on elections, appointments and dismissals	36	38	2	-
Number of adopted declarations	-	-	-	-
Number of adopted resolutions	2	-	-	-
Number of adopted conclusions	33	37	-	-
Number of considered interpellations	-	-	-	-
Number of questions put to the Prime Minister and number of parliamentary questions	112	205	-	-
Number of motions for vote of confidence/vote of no-confidence in the Government	1	-	1	-
Number of considered reports of certain bodies	39	35	-	-

Table No 3 - Statistical data on sittings of the Parliament of Montenegro for the period 1 January - 31 December 2017

2.1.1. PROPOSED ACTS

In the period from 1 January to 31 December 2017, the MPs submitted: two proposals for laws, 11 proposals for laws on amendments and supplements to laws, and three proposals for decisions.

In the same period, the Government submitted: 54 proposals for laws, 78 proposals for laws on amendments and supplements to laws, two proposals for decisions, nine reports, and the Proposal for the Montenegro Fiscal Strategy 2017-2020.

In this period, the citizens, via an authorised MP, did not submit proposals for laws.

In the period from 1 January to 31 December 2017, six laws were withdrawn from procedure, as follows: Proposal for the Law on Amendments to the Law on Protector of Human Rights and Freedoms of Montenegro; Proposal for the Law on Amendment to the Law on Higher Education; Proposal for the Law on Amendment to the Law on Administrative Dispute; Proposal for the Law on Supplement to the Bankruptcy Law; Proposal for the Law on Amendments to

the Bankruptcy Law and Proposal for the Law on Amendments to the 2017 Budget Law.

2.1.2. ADOPTED ACTS

In the period from 1 January to 31 December 2017, upon the proposal of MPs, the following was adopted: one law, six laws on amendments and supplements to laws, and three decisions.

In the same period, upon the Government's proposal, the following was adopted: 54 laws, 73 laws on amendments and supplements to the laws and two decisions.

In the period from 1 January to 31 December 2017, 47 laws and two decisions were adopted in summary procedure.

2.1.3. NUMBER OF CONSIDERED AND ACCEPTED AMENDMENTS TO THE PROPOSALS FOR ACTS

In the period 1 January – 31 December 2017, a total of 609 amendments submitted to proposals



Seventh Special Sitting, 29 November 2017

for acts were considered at parliamentary sittings, of which 550 were accepted.

The committees submitted 471 amendments, of which 470 became integral part of the proposals for acts, as follows: Legislative Committee 286 amendments; Committee on Political System, Judiciary and Administration 26 amendments; Committee on Security and Defence ten amendments; Committee on International Relations and Emigrants four amendments; Committee on Economy, Finance and Budget 23 amendments (one withdrawn); Committee on Human Rights and Freedoms two amendments; Committee on Tourism, Agriculture, Ecology and Spatial Planning 95 amendments; Committee on Education, Science, Culture and Sports one amendment, and Committee on Health, Labour and Social Welfare 24 amendments.

The MPs submitted 138 amendments, of which 80 were accepted, 27 were not accepted, and 31 of them were withdrawn.

2.1.4. PRIME MINISTER'S HOUR AND PARLIAMENTARY QUESTIONS

In the period from 1 January to 31 December 2017, a total of eight extraordinary sittings of

The Prime Minister was asked 26 questions.

The Government members were asked 179 questions.

the Parliament dedicated to the Prime Minister's Hour (three sittings) and Parliamentary Questions (five sittings) were held.

2.2. WORK OF THE WORKING BODIES

In 2017, the working bodies of the Parliament of Montenegro held 244 meetings, in the course of 245 days, for a total of 242 hours, where 733 items of agenda were considered, including 280 proposals for laws and 707 amendments.

The overview of data on the work of the working bodies of the Parliament of Montenegro in 2017, along with comparative data for 2016, is presented below.



	Number of meetings	Duration of meetings (in hours)	Duration of meetings (in days)	Number of considered items of the agenda	Number of considered proposals for laws	Number of considered amendments
2016.	214	272h and 48 minutes	215	745	267	975
2017.	244	242h and 48 minutes	245	733	280	707

Table No 4 – Meetings of working bodies in the period 1 January - 31 December 2017, with comparable data for the period 1 January - 31 December 2016



	Number of meetings		Duration of meetings (in hours)		Duration of meetings (in days)		Number of considered items of the agenda		Number of considered proposals for laws		Number of considered amendments		Participation in line with Article 67 of the Rules of Procedure	
	2016	2017	2016	2017	2016	2017	2016	2017	2016	2017	2016	2017	2016	2017
Constitutional Committee	1	-	1 h	-	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Legislative Committee	34	37	35 h i 43 min.	31 h	36	37	195	182	131	134	497	369	132	143
Committee on Political System, Judiciary and Administration	20	26	31 h i 20 min.	14 h i 45 min.	20	22	60	47	26	21	82	56	121	89
Security and Defence Committee	8	12	11 h i 10 min.	12 h	8	12	25	29	5	4	6	1	34	46
Committee on International Relations and Emigrants	17	23	11 h i 50 min.	22 h i 40 min.	17	23	24	56	13	28	-	19	1	39
Committee on European Integration	8	15	9 h i 15 min.	14 h i 35 min.	8	15	29	38	1	1	-	-	47	53
Committee on Economy, Finance and Budget	38	33	70 h i 30 min.	27 h i 40 min.	39	35	150	132	34	48	132	71	261	142
Committee on Human Rights and Freedoms	9	14	14 h i 55 min.	15 h i 15 min.	9	15	32	48	4	4	3	2	79+1 ³	80
Gender Equality Committee	12	11	16 h i 30 min.	18 h i 10 min.	12	12	29	24	3	5	-	-	155	202
Committee on Tourism, Agriculture, Ecology and Spatial Planning	13	18	7 h i 20 min.	24 h i 25 min.	13	21	42	35	16	16	172	126	63	64
Committee on Education, Science, Culture and Sports	15 h	7	15 h i 25 min.	10 h	13	7	27	16	9	10	20	10	35	31
Committee on Health, Labour and Social Welfare	21	15	22 h i 45 min.	14 h i 45 min.	20	15	55	24	25	9	63	53	56	56
Anti-corruption Committee	5	8	6 h i 30 min.	5 h i 10 min.	5	6	7	15	-	-	-	-	10	10
Administrative Committee	12	25	17 h i 35 min.	31 h i 37 min.	13	25	67	87	-	-	-	-	5	25
Commission for Monitoring and Control of the Privatisation Procedure	1	-	1h	-	1	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	5	-
TOTAL	214	244	272h i 48 min.	242h i 02 min.	215	245	745	733	267	280	975	707	1005	980

Table No 5 – Statistical data on meetings of the working bodies of the Parliament of Montenegro for the period 1 January – 31 December 2017 with comparable data for the period 1 January - 31 December 2016

³ Participation upon request, and with approval by the chairperson of the committee

2.2.1. CONTROL AND CONSULTATIVE HEARINGS

Within their oversight role, the working bodies of the Parliament regularly conduct control and consultative hearings of representatives of state bodies and other persons, on various topics. The working bodies held one control and 43 consultative hearings.

Control hearings

At its Twelfth Meeting, the Committee on International Relations and Emigrants held a control hearing of Director of the Diaspora Administration Mr Predrag Mitrović on the topic: “Activities of the Diaspora Administration in the field of implementation of the government’s policy of cooperation with emigrants”.

Consultative hearings

At its 23rd meeting of 19 December, the Committee on Political System, Judiciary and Administration held a consultative hearing of candidates who applied to Public Vacancy Notice for the election of four members of the Prosecutorial Council from among respectable lawyers.

Security and Defence Committee held three consultative hearings. At its Third Meeting of 23rd January, the Security and Defence Committee conducted a consultative hearing of military and

tial basis in Rome. At its Eleventh Meeting of 30 June, the Committee provided a positive opinion on Vujica Lazović, a candidate for the position of Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Montenegro to the Republic of Slovenia, on a residential basis in Ljubljana. At its Fourteenth Meeting of 30 June, the Committee provided a positive opinion on Miodrag Vlahović, a candidate for the position of the Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Montenegro to the Holy See and Sovereign Military Order of Malta, on a residential basis in Rome. At its Eighteenth



diplomatic representatives of Montenegro Admiral Dragan Samardžić and Brigadier General Rajko Pešić, prior to assuming their offices. At its Eleventh Meeting of 12 October, the Committee held a consultative hearing of Mr Ivan Mašulović, before assuming his office.

Committee on International Relations and Emigrants held six consultative hearings with regard to providing opinions on candidates for positions of extraordinary and plenipotentiary ambassadors of Montenegro. At its Tenth Meeting of 30 June, the Committee provided a positive opinion on Sanja Vlahović, a candidate for the position of Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Montenegro to the Republic of Italy, on a residen-

Meeting of 26 October, the Committee provided a positive opinion on Ramiz Bašić, a candidate for a position of Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary Ambassador of Montenegro to the Russian Federation, on a residential basis in Moscow. At its Nineteenth Meeting of 26 October, the Committee provided a positive opinion on Željko Perović, a candidate for the position of Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Montenegro to the Republic of Austria, on a residential basis, based in Vienna. At its Twentieth Meeting of 26 October, the Committee provided a positive opinion on Snežana Radović, a candidate for the position of Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Montenegro to the Republic of Bulgaria, on a residential basis in Sofia.

Committee on European Integration held 27 consultative hearings, including the hearing of Minister of European Affairs Aleksandar Andrija Pejović and other representatives of the Ministry of European Affairs, with regard to the following: Tenth and the Eleventh Quarterly Report on the Overall Activities within Montenegro's Integration Process to the European Union for the period April-June 2016, and for the period July-September 2016, Montenegro's Draft Programme of Accession to the European Union for 2017-2018 (18 January); the Fifth and Sixth Semi-annual Report on the overall activities in the process of Montenegro's integration into the European Union, for the period June and July - December 2016 (13 April); Twelfth Quarterly Report on the Overall Activities within Montenegro's Integration Process to the European Union for the period October - December 2016; Third and Fourth Quarterly Report on the implementation of obligations under the 2016 - 2018 Montenegro's Programme of Accession to the European Union, the 2017 - 2018 Montenegro's Programme of Accession to the European Union, the Report on implementation of the 2016 Action Plan for the Implementation of the 2014-2018 Strategy for informing the public on Montenegro's accession to the European Union (13 April); the Report on Implementation of the Action Plan for Chapter 23 Judiciary and fundamental rights for the period January - June 2016, the Report on Implementation of the Action Plan for Chapter 23 Judiciary and fundamental rights along with operative document for prevention of corruption in special risk areas for the period July - December 2016; the Report on Implementation of the Action Plan for Chapter 24 Justice, freedom and security for the period January - June 2016 (1 June); the Thirteenth and Fourteenth Quarterly Report on the Overall Activities within Montenegro's Integration Process to the European Union for the period January-March 2017, and for the period April-July 2017, the First and Second Quarterly Report on the Overall Activities within Montenegro's Integration Process to the European Union for the period 2017-2018 (14 September); the Information on 2015 EU support programmes to Montenegro and the Information on 2016 EU support programmes to Montenegro (on 14 September); the Seventh semi-annual report on the overall activities within the integration process of

Montenegro to the European Union, for the period January - June 2017; the Fifteenth Quarterly Report on the Overall Activities within Montenegro's Integration Process to the European Union for the period July-September 2017 and the Third Quarterly Report on the implementation of obligations under the 2016 - 2018 Montenegro's Programme of Accession to the European Union for the period 2017-2018 (on 9 November); the Fifth semi-annual Report on Implementation of the Action Plan for Negotiation Chapter 23 - Judiciary and fundamental rights along with operative document for prevention of corruption in special risk areas for the period January - July 2017 - Annex to Negotiation Chapter 23 and the Fifth semi-annual Report on Implementation of the Action Plan for Negotiation Chapter 24 - Justice, freedom and security, for the period January - June 2017 (on 9 November); as well as a consultative hearing of representatives of relevant institutions on the fulfilment of obligations arising from the process of Montenegro's accession to the European Union (on 14 December).

Committee on Economy, Finance and Budget held two consultative hearings. At its Eighth Meeting of 1 March, the Committee held a consultative hearing of applicants to the Public Vacancy Notice for the appointment of one member of the Senate of the State Audit Institution. At its Seventeenth Meeting of 17 May, the Committee held a consultative hearing of applicants to the Open Vacancy Notice for the appointment of two members of the Council of the Agency for Electronic Communications and Postal Services.

At their first joint meeting of 26 December, the Committee on Economy, Finance and Budget and the Committee on Tourism, Agriculture, Ecology and Spatial Planning held a consultative hearing on the topic "Regulating the flow of the Bojana River". The hearing of the following was held during the meeting: Milutin Simović, Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development; Damir Gutić, Acting Director of the Directorate for Waters; Luka Mitrović, Director of the Institute of Hydro-meteorology and Seismology; Ivana Stojanović, Advisor to the Directorate for Climate Change and Mediterranean Affairs of the Ministry of Sustainable Development and Tourism; Vladan Radonjić, Director General of the Directorate of Ma-

ritime Transport of the Ministry of Transport and Maritime Affairs; Vaso Radović, Vice President of the Municipality of Ulcinj and Milan Paunović, President of the State Border Commission of the Ministry of Interior.

At today's Sixteenth Meeting of 22 December, the Committee on Tourism, Agriculture, Ecology and Spatial Planning held a consultative hearing on the topic: "Recommendations from the Final Report of the SAI on the audit of the financial statements of the Public Enterprise Regional Water Supply Company for Montenegrin Coast" Budva for 2016. The following were heard at the meeting: two representatives of the State Audit Institutions - Zoran Jelić, member of the SAI Senate and Vladan Perović, state auditor - Head of Sector V, as well as the hearing of six representatives of the Public Enterprise Regional Water Supply for Montenegrin Coast - Goran Jevrić, Director of the Public Enterprise; Dragan Asanović, Chair of the Board of Directors; Predrag Bjelobrković, Advisor to the Director and the President of the Working Group

for Implementation of the SAI recommendations; Ivan Špadier, technical director; Vojislava Stijepović, Financial Sector Manager, and Milan Janović, Procurement Specialist.

The Anti-corruption Committee held two consultative hearings. At its Second Meeting of 9 March, a consultative hearing of Sreten Radonjić, director of the Agency for Prevention of Corruption, was held on the topic: „Implementation of the Plan of control and supervision of the election of councillors in the Assembly of the Municipality of Nikšić, scheduled for 12 March 2017". At its Seventh Meeting of 8 December, a consultative hearing of Sreten Radonjić, director of the Agency for Prevention of Corruption, was held on the topic: "Progress in the fight against corruption since the establishment of the Agency for Prevention of Corruption and an overview of the observation of local elections for the Local Assembly of the Old Royal Capital of Cetinje, local assemblies of Mojkovac and Petnjica and the Local Assembly of Tuzi within the Capital City".

WORKING BODIES	CONTROL HEARINGS		CONSULTATIVE HEARINGS	
	2017.	2016.	2017.	2016.
Constitutional Committee	-	-	-	-
Legislative Committee	-	-	-	-
Committee on Political System, Judiciary and Administration	-	1	1	1
Security and Defence Committee	-	1	3	1
Committee on International Relations and Emigrants	1	-	6	10
Committee on European Integration	-	-	27 ⁴	19
Committee on Economy, Finance and Budget	-	5	3	-
Committee on Human Rights and Freedoms	-	1	-	-
Gender Equality Committee	-	-	-	-
Committee on Tourism, Agriculture, Ecology and Spatial Planning	-	-	2	-
Committee on Education, Science, Culture and Sports	-	-	-	-
Committee on Health, Labour and Social Welfare	-	1	-	-
Anti-corruption Committee	-	-	2	1
Administrative Committee	-	-	-	-
Commission for Monitoring and Control of the Privatisation Procedure	-	-	-	-
TOTAL	1	10	43⁵	32

Table No 6: Control and consultative hearings at the meetings of the working bodies of the Parliament for the period 1 January - 31 December 2017, with comparable data for the same period of 2016

⁴ In line with Article 73 of the Rules of Procedure, the Committee held one consultative hearing, and with regard to exploring acts from from the negotiation process of Montenegro and the EU, consultative debates were held at the meetings.

⁵ As for the total number of consultative hearings, the consultative hearing held at the First joint meeting of the Committee on Economy, Finance and Budget and the Committee on Tourism, Agriculture, Ecology and Spatial Planning is presented once.

2.2.2. OTHER ACTIVITIES OF THE COMMITTEES

In addition to the meetings, the reporting period was marked by numerous other activities of parliamentary committees, including the activities of their chairs and members, as follows:

Delegation of the **Legislative Committee** paid a study visit to the National Assembly of the Republic of Serbia (14 and 15 December).

Representatives of the **Committee on Political System, Judiciary and Administration** had several meetings during the year, including the following: with a SIGMA delegation, which evaluated the functioning of the public administration in Montenegro (11 April); the representatives of UNICEF in Montenegro on the topic: “Independent evaluation of the child rights monitoring system in Montenegro”(8 May); as well as the Council of Europe on the occasion of the preparing the Analysis of the media sector (12 September).

Members of the Committee also participated in several gatherings including roundtable on the topic “Agreement of the Radio and Television of Montenegro with the Government of Montenegro on providing public services” in the organisation of the OSCE Mission to Montenegro and Television of Montenegro (19 September); and the inter-parliamentary conference “Independent and contemporary public administration in the European Union and countries in the accession process”, in the organisation of the Actions Unit in cooperation with the Parliament of Montenegro and Regional

School of Public Administration (ReSPA) in Danilovgrad (28 and 29 September) and conference “The role of the Special State Prosecutor’s Office in the fight against corruption and organised crime”, organised by the Center for Democratic Transition (CDT) with the support of the European Fund for the Balkans (6 November).

In 2017, the **Security and Defence Committee** hosted a regional conference on the topic: “Regional cooperation and security”, held in Cetinje on 22 July. In addition to this, members of the Committee



had a number of meetings, including: the meeting with the CE expert team, with regard to implementation of the project titled “Enhancing human rights protection for detained and sentenced persons in Montenegro” (2 February); representatives of the Union of Free Trade Unions - Trade Union of Firefighters (14 March); Member of Bundestag Marian Wendt (4 April); Chargé d’Affaires of the Embassy of the Czech Republic to Podgorica Petr Šmejkal (6 April), Deputy Head of the NATO Supreme Allied Commander for Europe (DSA-



CEUR), General Sir James Everard (5 May); Members of the CDU of the federal state Saxony-Anhalt and members of the Working group for federal and European affairs and media (8 May); Minister of Defence of the Republic of Slovenia Andreja Katič (10 May); a delegation of the Senate of the Parliament of the Czech Republic (7 June); a delegation of the NATO Defense College from Rome (June 20th); a delegation of the Parliament of the Republic of Macedonia (3 July); Ambassador of the Republic of Croatia to Montenegro Veselko Grubišić (17 July); President of the National Assembly of the Republic of Slovenia Milan Brglez (11 September); as well as a delegation of the United States of America, led by Acting Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for Russia, Ukraine, Eurasia Laura Cooper (3 November).

Also, the Committee members took part in the conference “NATO – an Added Value in the Western Balkans”, organised by the Centre for Monitoring and Research (CeMI) (23 March), - “2BS – To Be Secure” forum, organised by the Atlantic Council of Montenegro (11-13 May); seminar on the OSCE Code of Conduct on Politico-Military Aspects of Security- CoC (15-18 May); Regional Annual Conference of representatives of the Security and Defence Parliamentary Committees of SEE countries, held in Sarajevo (5-7 June); Senior Executive Seminar (SES), Resident Programme George C. Marshall European Center for Security Studies in Garmisch-Partenkirchen (5-9 July); XI cycle of the Common Security and Defense Policy Training Program, held in Brussels in the organisation of the European Security and Defence College (4-8 September), as well as regional parliamentary conference on “Emergency Management – responses at the national level and regional cooperation” held in Belgrade (7 and 8 December) and Conferences “Information warfare and the new world order: Case study Western Balkans” (12 December).

Representatives of the **Committee on International Relations and Emigrants** had numerous meetings throughout the year, including a meeting with the President of the State Parliament of Hesse Norbert Kartmann, during his official visit to Montenegro (2 March); President of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe Pedro Agramunt (6 March); a delegation of the National Assembly of the Republic of Slovenia (11 September)



and Director General of the Presidency for Turks Abroad and Related Communities Mehmet Köse (15 September); a delegation of Foreign Affairs and Emigration Committee of the Senate of the Italian Republic, composed of Paolo Corsini and Vito Petrocelli (1 November); members of the Montenegro – Iran parliamentary Friendship Group (3 November); Director of Diaspora Directorate Predrag Mitrović (22 November); as well Vice Governor of the Chaco Province of the Republic of Argentina Mr Daniel Kapitanić (15 December).

Numerous meetings were also held with the highest representatives of the diplomatic corps in Montenegro, including a meeting with the ambassadors of the Republic of Albania Ernaldo Filo, and the Republic of Kosovo in Montenegro Skender Durmishi (19 January); Ambassador of the Republic of Hungary to Montenegro Christian Posa (7 February); resident diplomatic representatives of NATO states (16 February); Ambassador of Romania Ferdinand Nagy (7 March); Ambassador of the Republic of Poland Irena Tatarzynska (March 14); Ambassador of the Republic of Italy Vincenzo Del Monaco (6 April); Ambassador of the Republic of Lithuania Rasa Kairienė (12 April); Head of the European Union Delegation Aivo Orav (19 April); Ambassador of the Slovak Republic Roman Hloben (21 April); Ambassador of Palestine Rabii Alhantouli; Ambassador of the Republic of Georgia to Montenegro based in Budapest Zaza Kandelaki (11 May); Ambassador of Croatia Veselko Grubišić (16 May); Ambassador of the Republic of Turkey Serhat Galip (17 May); Ambassador of the Republic of Slovenia Mitja Močnik (18 May); Ambassador of the People's Republic of China to Montenegro Mr Cui Zhiwei (24 May); Head of the Diplomatic Mis-

sion of the Republic of Azerbaijan Anar Adzamov (22 June); Ambassador of the Republic of Ireland based in Budapest Pat Kelly (30 June); Ambassador of the United Kingdom Alison Kemp (3 July); Ambassador of the United States of America Margaret Ann Uyehara (10 August); Ambassador of the Republic of Austria Anna Janković (28 September), newly appointed ambassador of the Czech Republic to Montenegro Karel Urban (13 November); Ambassador of the Republic of Greece to Montenegro Athanasiou Sotirios (17 November); Ambassador of the Republic of France to Montenegro Christine Toudic Gaborit (30 November); Ambassador of the Republic of Bulgaria to Montenegro Mladen Tcherveniakov (7 December).

In 2017, members of the Committee also took part in the Joint summit of foreign affairs committees of European and Balkans countries, on the topic “The Future of Balkans in Europe and Euro-Atlantic Integration ” (19-21 February); a ceremony on the occasion of Independence Day, held in the German city of Schwäbisch Gmünd (27 May); a ceremony on the occasion of Day of Montenegrins and Independence Day of Montenegro, upon the invitation from the Association and Union of Montenegrins of Kosovo (5 June); charity dinner in Munich, organised by the Association of German-Montenegrin Friendship “DeMonte”, supported by the Consulate General of Montenegro in Munich and the Diaspora Administration (25 June); the 12th Bled Strategic Forum (4-5 September); the Interparliamentary Conference for the Common Foreign and Security

Policy (CFSP) and the Common Security and Defence Policy (CSDP) (7-9 September); the manifestation “St. Luka’s gathering”, in Zagreb, in the organisation of the National Community of Montenegrins in Croatia and the Association of Montenegrins and friends of Montenegro “Montenegro” (28 October); as well as the meeting of Foreign Affairs Committees of Visegrad Group - V4 and countries of the Western Balkans in Budapest (13 December), and they also paid a study visit to the Republic of Italy (26 and 27 June), Kingdom of Belgium (23 October) and an official visit to the Croatian Parliament (11 and 12 December).

On 16 April, the **Committee on European Integration** organised a public debate titled “Montenegro and EU: negotiations in the field of economic and monetary policy”, and members of the Committee also visited three municipalities - Rožaje (18 April), Tivat (10 May) and Nikšić (13 November) in order to further promote the inclusiveness and transparency of the European integration process. Members of the Committee also had meetings with representatives of Montenegrin municipalities on the efficient use of IPA funds at the local level (6 April) and representatives of the Montenegrin Pan-European Union (7 April); meetings were also held with a delegation from the Croatian Parliament (4 April); members of the Christian Democratic Union of the German State of Saxony-Anhalt (8 May); representatives of the Konrad Adenauer Stiftung (KAS) (25 May); a delegation of the Senate of the Czech Republic (7 June); President of the



National Assembly of the Republic of Slovenia Mr Milan Brglez (11 September), as well as with Secretary General of the Chamber of Economy of Montenegro Pavle D. Radovanović (9 November).

Representatives of the Committee also held numerous meetings with representatives of diplomatic missions to Montenegro, including meetings with Head of the European Union Delegation Aivo Orav (2 February); Ambassador of the Republic of Italy Vincenzo Del Monaco (7 February); Ambassador of the Republic of Croatia Veselko Grubišić (8 February); Chargé d'Affaires of the Embassy of the Czech Republic to Podgorica Mr Petr Šmejkal (17 February); Ambassador of the Republic of Slovenia Mitja Mocnik (11 September); as well as Ambassador of Romania to Montenegro Ferdinand Nagy (20 December);

Participation in domestic and international gatherings of the Committee's representatives include: the Meeting of the Chairpersons of the Conference of Parliamentary Committees for Union Affairs of Parliaments of the EU (COSAC) in Valletta (23 January 2017); a study visit to the EU institutions in Brussels within the European Parliament Support Programme for the Parliaments of the Western Balkans and Turkey (21 and 22 March); the Conference of Speakers of the European Union Parliaments in Bratislava (23-24 April); the Pan-European May Panel (17 May); the Conference organised by the Ministry of European Affairs "60th anniversary of the Treaties of Rome: Further path of Europe"; the Meeting of the Steering Committee of the NPC (Network of Parliamentary Committees for Economy, Finance and European Integration of the Western

Balkans), organised by the Westminster Foundation for Democracy (WFD) and Macedonian Parliament in Skopje (19 July); the Inter-parliamentary conference "Independent and Modern Public Administration in the EU and in Enlargement Countries", organised by the EU Pre-Accession Actions Unit in cooperation with the Parliament of Montenegro and Regional School of Public Administration (ReSPA) (29 September); the Conference organised by the Ministry of European Affairs "Tenth anniversary of the signing of the Stabilization and Association Agreement between Montenegro and the EU" (16 October); the Conference "Will Berlin Plus change the EU enlargement policy?" (23 October); a panel debate on the occasion of the 60th anniversary of the signing of the Treaty of Rome, at the Faculty of Political Sciences (2 November); the international conference: "For Europe: Communicating European Integration between EU Member States and enlargement countries", organised by the Montenegrin Pan-European Union (18 November); a High-level Round Table on the European integration of the Western Balkans, organised by the European Parliament in Brussels (21 November); the 58th Plenary Meeting of the Conference of Community and European Affairs Committees of Parliaments of the European Union - COSAC in Tallinn (26-28 November). Delegation of the Committee also participated in an official visit to the Republic of Italy (5-7 December).

During the year, representatives of the **Committee on Economy, Finance and Budget** had meetings with a delegation of the Energy Community Secretariat on the presentation of the 2016 Annual Im-



plementation Report of the Secretariat in part relating to Montenegro (25 January); mission of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) in the framework of the regular consultations under Article IV of the Fund Agreement (27 February); a delegation of the Kosovo National Audit Office (15 March); members of the European Affairs Committee of the Croatian Parliament (4 April); a SIGMA delegation (April 11) and a delegation of the Committee of Experts on the Evaluation of Anti-Money Laundering Measures and the Financing of Terrorism - MONEYVAL (3 May);

Participation of the Committee's representatives during the year includes the following events: A study visit to the Scottish Parliament (22-25 February); Inter-Parliamentary Conference on the topic: "Trans-European networks policy and connectivity agenda" in Priština, organised by the European Parliament in cooperation with the Kosovo Assembly and the Regional Cooperation Council (2 and 3 March); a meeting of the Energy Community Parliamentary Plenum, organised by the Energy Community Secretariat in Brussels (25 April); the Conference on public procurement and parliament's role, organised by the EP in Brussels (2 and 3 May); the Regional Parliamentary Conference on Renewable Energy Sources in the South East Europe in Belgrade, organised by the Committee on Economy, Regional Development, Trade, Tourism and Energy of the National Assembly of the Republic of Serbia, Serbian Parliamentary Energy Policy Forum, and Economic Caucus of the National Assembly of the Republic of Serbia with the support of the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA) (7 June); the Conference for chairs of committees dealing with economic issues, within the framework of the Estonian Presidency of the Council of the European Union in Tallinn (21 and 22 September); the Interparliamentary Conference on Stability, Economic Coordination and Governance in the European Union (SECG) in Tallinn within the Estonian presidency of the Council of the EU (29-31 October) and the Conference on the presentation of the Report on the Audit of Success "Planning of Public Procurement of Medical Equipment in Montenegro", organised by the State Audit Institution (28 September); The members also took part in the regional meeting on "Innovative scrutiny methods and informal platforms for

advanced scrutiny and transparency: presentation of the public finance supervision portal", organised by UNDP in partnership with the National Assembly of the Republic of Serbia with the support of the SDC (Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation) (6 and 7 November); the Regional Parliamentary Conference of the Western Balkans countries on "Strengthening Legislative Scrutiny in Western Balkans Countries", in Skopje, organised by the Westminster Foundation for Democracy and the World Bank, in cooperation with the NPC (Network of Parliamentary Committees for Economy, Finance and European Integration of the Western Balkans) (15 and 16 November); as well as the Parliamentary Plenum meeting (19 December); the First South-East Europe Parliamentary Forum (SEE) on Energy Efficiency and Climate Protection in Vienna (20 December).

During the reporting period, the **Committee on Human Rights and Freedoms** organised a conference on the occasion of the International Human Rights Day on the topic of "Rights of the Child, with emphasis on the protection of children from all forms of violence, in the light of the Campaign of the Government of Montenegro and UNICEF "Stop Violence" (8 December).

During the year, the Committee members also met with President of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe Pedro Agramunt (16 March); with a member of parliament of the CDU/CSU faction at the German Bundestag Marian Wendt (4 April), as well as with Ambassador of the State of Palestine to Montenegro Mr Rabii Alhantouli (16 May). They held several meetings with a number of experts in the area for which the Committee is responsible, including meetings with paediatrician Nadine Burke Harris (28 February); EC expert in the field of human rights Ms Ivana Roanja (6 April);





Support for Improvement in Governance and Management (SIGMA) (11 April); evaluation specialist of the Child Rights Monitoring System in Montenegro Carolyn Hamilton (8 May);

Evaluator of the child rights monitoring system, consultant Awaz Rauf (9 October) and Head of the Programme Office of the Council of Europe in Podgorica Angela Longo (10 October).

Representatives of the Committee participated in the Seminar on implementation of conclusions of the second cycle of monitoring the implementation of the CE Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities by Montenegro (7 February); the WebEx meeting within the project “OSCE Study on wellbeing and security of women - perspective of conflict resolution” (21 February); the Conference “End Violence against Children” (27 February); Workshop “Ethics and Prevention of Conflict of Interest” (8 March); a meeting of President of the Parliament of Montenegro Ivan Brajović with representatives of the NGO “Young Roma” (5 April); the closing meeting organised on the occasion of the visit of EC expert in the field of human rights Ms Ivana Roanja (7 April); an international workshop “Cooperation of European parliamentarians in the fight against human trafficking in the Western Balkans”, held in the National Assembly of the Republic of Serbia, Belgrade (17 and 18 May); press conference at which the Protector of Human Rights and Freedoms of Montenegro presented the “Report on work conditions and treatment of security officers at the Institution

for Enforcement of Criminal Sanctions” (19 May) and training on the topic: “Ethical standards, good conduct, and prevention of the conflict of interest” (18 October); the Western Balkans Regional Conference – Protect and Respect – Safeguarding Human Rights (23 and 24 November); a conference organised by the Ministry of Human and Minority Rights, on the occasion of marking the International Day of Persons with Disabilities (1 December). Chairperson and members of the Committee on Human Rights and Freedoms visited Small Group Home in Bijelo Polje (7 November).

In 2017, the **Gender Equality Committee** organised two sessions of the Women’s Parliament (more details on p. 62). in cooperation with the OSCE Mission to Montenegro, and with the support of the Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe (ODIHR), the Committee organised a two-day workshop on 30 and 31 October, on the topic “Introducing gender aspects into legislation - Parliament of Montenegro”, in order to implement one of the measures from the Action Plan for the Gender Sensitive Parliament of Montenegro, September 2016 - September 2018.

In addition, meetings with the following were also held: Head of the Democratization Programme at the OSCE Mission to Montenegro Lia Magnagnagno (3 February); Nadine Burke Harris, paediatrician who has been recognised for an innovative approach to addressing problems associated with negative childhood experiences (28 February); Advisor for the Rule of Law and European Integra-

tion at the EU Delegation to Montenegro Ms Barbara Rotovnik (15 May); representatives of relevant institutions from the Republic of Serbia, CARE International Balkans from Bosnia and Herzegovina, Roma Women's Centre - Bibija, Belgrade, and Center for Roma Initiatives, Nikšić (10 October), Jorun Arndt, from the consultant house Coram International UK, a member of the team conducting the second phase of the independent evaluation of the child rights monitoring system in Montenegro (11 October); Marceline Naudi and Helena Leita, representatives of the Council of Europe's Group of Experts on Action against Violence against Women and Domestic Violence (GREVIO) (7 November); as well as with participants of the Project "Strengthening of youth activism in the prevention of gender-based violence", implemented by SOS telephone for women and children victims of violence (13 November).

The Chairperson of the Committee joined the campaign "One Billion Rising", held at the Independence Square (Trg nezavisnosti), giving support thus to women who suffer some form of violence, and she also took part in the WebEx meeting within the project "OSCE Study on wellbeing and security of women - perspective of conflict resolution" (21 February); the gathering "Gastro Souvenirs and Women Entrepreneurship", organised by the Chamber of Economy of Montenegro, in cooperation with the University "Mediterranean" and the company "Frutiera" (22 February); the Interparliamentary Meeting in Brussels, organised by the Committee

on Women's Rights and Gender Equality (FEMM) of the European Parliament, on the occasion of International Women's Day 2017 (8 and 9 March); the conference "Promotion of women's rights and history of women's movement" (24 April); the work of the meeting of the Coordination Committee of Women Entrepreneurship in Zagreb, during which the 2017-2021 Activity plan for achieving gender equality was considered (13 May); the Regional Conference on the role of parliaments in achieving the goals of sustainable development and at the Global Conference on "Building citizens trust through openness and engagement in Kiev (18-20 May); the Second OSCE Gender Equality Review Conference, Vienna (12-13 June); the conference "Women in Management in Montenegro - Support to leadership and professional development of women in Montenegro" (21 July); the work of the Seventh Belgrade Security Forum "Building a Common Future in the Age of Uncertainty" (11-13 October); the work of the Women Political Leaders Annual Global Summit (WPL) in Reykjavik (November 28-30); as well as in the conference marking the Tenth anniversary of the signing of the Memorandum of Cooperation between the Ministry of Human and Minority Rights, OSCE Mission to Montenegro and the Montenegrin municipalities: Ten Years of Work in the Field of Gender Equality - Achievements and Challenges (11 December);

During the year, the Chairperson of the **Committee on Tourism, Agriculture, Ecology and Spatial Planning** met with Head of the Democratization



Programme at the OSCE Mission to Montenegro Lia Magnaguagno (13 February); MPs of the Christian Democratic Union of Germany (CDU) from the federal state Saxony-Anhalt (10 May); President of the NGO “Association for Encouraging Coexistence Korina” Tijana Kovačević (29 June); Head of the Department for international Cooperation in the Keren Kayemeth LeIsrael-Jewish National Fund (KKL-JNF) Karin Bolton; as well as with representatives of the Directorate for Food Safety, Veterinary and Phytosanitary Affairs and Association “Korina” (22 December).

In 2017, representatives of the **Committee on Education, Science, Culture and Sports** held meetings with members of the team conducting the evaluation of functioning of the child rights monitoring system in Montenegro, initiated by the UNICEF – by Jorun Arndt of the Coram International consulting firm from Great Britain (10 October); President of the National Bureau for Education and Vice President of the Montenegrin Academy of Sciences and Arts academician Đorđije Borozan (25 October); the Iranian parliamentary delegation during the visit of the Montenegro - Islamic Consultative Assembly of the Republic of the Islamic Republic of Iran Parliamentary Friendship Group (2 November);

The Committee members also participated in the conference “End violence against children” or-

ganised by the Government of Montenegro and UNICEF (27 February); at the meeting with Dr Nadin Burk Harris, paediatrician who has been recognised for an innovative approach to addressing problems associated with negative childhood experiences (28 February); Roundtable within the project “Strengthening Integrity and Combating Corruption in Higher Education”, organised by the Council of Europe Programme Office in Podgorica (7 March); the two-day International Conference “State and Cultural Identity Politics in the Context of Contemporary International Relations” organised by the Ministry of Culture in cooperation with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Konrad Adenauer Foundation, as part of part of the multiannual Creative Montenegro Programme: Identity, image, promotion 2017-2020 (20 and 21 November); the two-day International Conference “State and Cultural Identity Politics in the Context of Contemporary International Relations” organised by the Ministry of Culture in cooperation with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Konrad Adenauer Foundation, as part of the multiannual Creative Montenegro Programme: Identity, image, promotion 2017-2020 (20 and 21 November); as well as the conference “Rights of the Child, with an emphasis on the protection of children from all forms of violence”, organised by the Committee on Human Rights and Freedoms ahead of International Human Rights Day (8 December).



During the year, representatives of the **Committee on Health, Labour and Social Welfare** had several activities, including a visit to the PI Senior Home “Grabovac” in Risan (18 July), as well as meetings with Ms Nadine Burke Harris on the topic “Adverse Childhood Experiences” (28 February); Professor Carolyn Hamilton, leader of the team carrying out the evaluation on the topic: “Independent evaluation of the exiting monitoring system of children’s rights in Montenegro”, organised by the UNICEF and the Parliament of Montenegro (8 May); representatives of the NGO Association for helping people with rheumatic diseases Montenegro (5 June); Executive Director of the European Movement in Montenegro Momčilo Radulović (6 June); Awaz Rauf, from the consultant house Coram International, conducting the second phase of the independent evaluation of the existing child rights monitoring system, on the topic: “Independent evaluation of the exiting monitoring system of children’s rights in Montenegro” (9 October) as

tion (7 June); conference on the presentation of the Report on the Audit of Success “Planning of Public Procurement of Medical Equipment in Montenegro”, organised by the State Audit Institution of Montenegro; parliamentary seminar on “Employment, training and equal opportunities: how to ensure fair treatment and inclusion for all”, Strasbourg, organised by the Council of Europe (27 October); conference on “Social card - a step ahead of time?”; as well as in the roundtable “Improving the conditions for employment of people with disabilities in the open labour market” within the project “From education to employment - Trans 2 Work 3” (9 November); Chairperson and members of the Committee also visited the Small Group Home and Day Center for Children and Youth with Disabilities “Tisa”, Bijelo Polje (7 November).

Delegation of the **Administrative Committee** paid an official visit to the Croatian Parliament. Also, members of the Committee met Ambassador of Montenegro to Croatia Boro Vučinić and repre-



well as with Osama Makavi Kogali, Head of the UNICEF Office to Montenegro (29 November).

Representatives of the Committee took part in the “End Violence” conference, initiated by the Government of Montenegro and UNICEF (27 February); “Domestic Violence and Risks for Children - Towards a Comprehensive Solution”, organised within the campaign “Stop Violence” launched by UNICEF and the Government of Montenegro, NGO Women’s Rights Centre, with the support of UNICEF, European Union and Petrović Founda-

mentaries of the National Community of Montenegro in Croatia (5-7 July).

2.2.3. TEMPORARY WORKING BODIES

On 10 October 2017, a Working Group was formed in the Parliament of Montenegro with the task of analysing the implementation of the electoral legislation, and on the basis of the OSCE/ODIHR Election Observation Mission Final Report on the parliamentary elections held on 16 October 2016,



considering and proposing the method of implementation of the recommendations from the said Report. Based on its establishment act, representatives of the parliamentary majority are represented in the Working Group, but it had been emphasised that the Working Group was open to representatives of the parliamentary opposition.

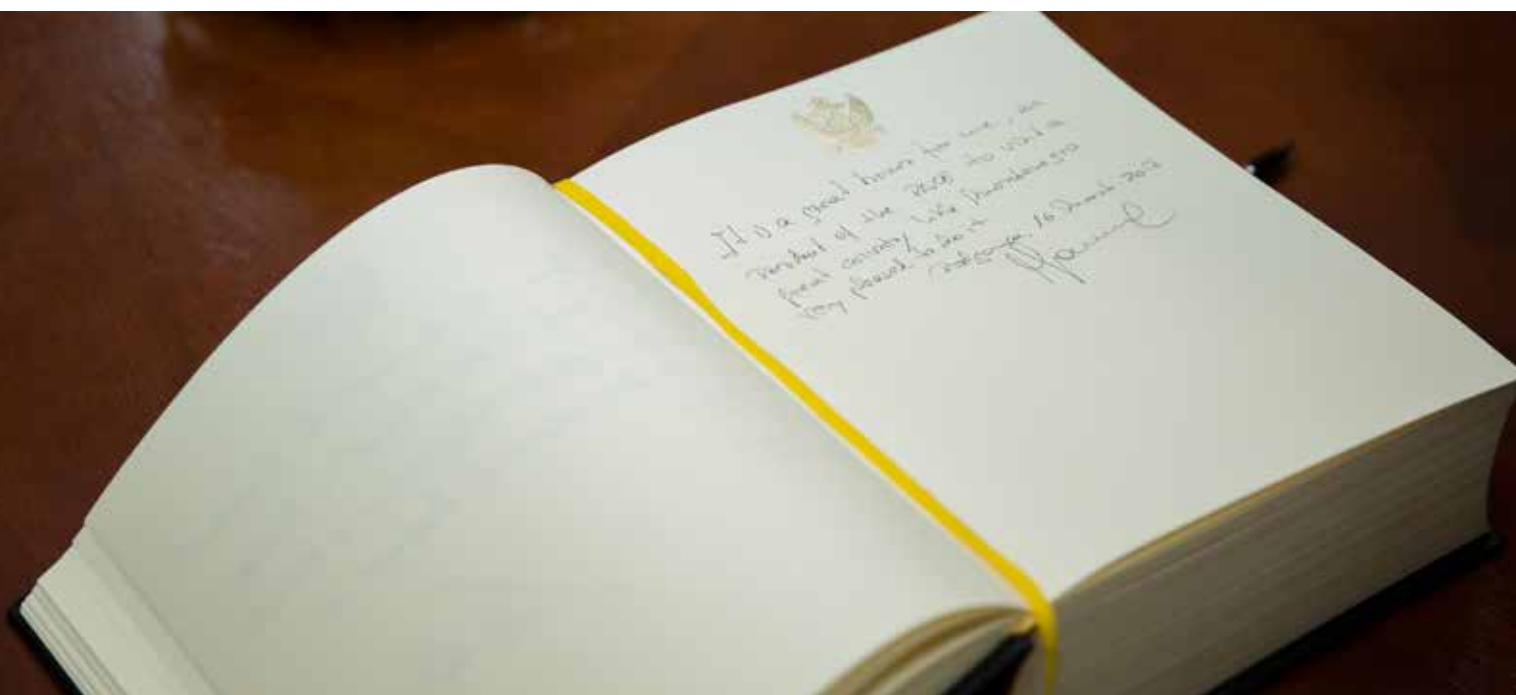
In 2017, the Working Group held 14 meetings. After deciding on the issues such as methodology and publicity of the work, the Working Group considered all the recommendations contained in the OSCE/ODIHR Final Report. In that respect, legal regulations that need to be amended have been identified, i.e. the institutions in charge of their implementation, and accordingly, an Action Plan for the implementation of the said recommendations has been adopted.

With the intention of contributing to strengthening the electoral process, the Working group issued a public invitation to the interested subjects dealing with the issues of the electoral process to contribute - by their comments, proposals and suggestions - to the implementation of the recommendations contained in the said Report.

During the meetings of the Working Group, in the presence of representatives of the responsible institutions: Agency for Prevention of Corruption,

State Election Commission, Ministry of Interior, Ministry of Culture, Agency for Personal Data Protection and Free Access to Information, Agency for Electronic Media and State Audit Institution, all recommendation individually were explored. Representatives of institutions presented their views on the recommendations, while explaining their proposals, which they submitted to the Working Group, regarding the way in which the recommendations should be implemented. The Working Group also called for a meeting, i.e. held an interview with all other subjects that expressed interest and submitted their proposals in accordance with the methodology established by the Working Group, thus giving them the opportunity to explain their proposals and suggestions in detail.

Simultaneously, the Working Group began a detailed analysis and elaborated solutions proposed for the purpose of amending the law, or drafting a law. After considering presented proposals and suggestion, the Working Group agreed on the Draft Law on Amendments to the Law on Voter Register, and after that also the Draft Law on Amendments to the Law on Financing of Political Entities and Election Campaigns, Draft Law on Amendments to the Electronic Media Law and Draft Law on Amendments to the Law on Election of Councillors and MPs.



III INTERNATIONAL ACTIVITIES

3.1. EUROPEAN INTEGRATION

Montenegro has continued to actively comply with its obligations stemming from the negotiation process with the European Union, and to implement reforms aimed at achieving European standards.

The highest level of cooperation of the Parliament of Montenegro and the European Parliament is achieved through the work of the Stabilisation and Association Parliamentary Committee (SAPC). In the reporting period, the SAPC held two meetings, in Strasbourg on 14 June and in Podgorica on 18 December. Meeting in Strasbourg dealt with topics such as: state of play of the accession negotiations and EU-Montenegro relations, administering of parliamentary elections and the functioning of the Parliament, fundamental rights, social policy and employment, justice, freedom and security. At the meeting in Podgorica, parliamentarians discussed topics such as: state of play of the accession negotiations and EU-Montenegro relations, functioning of the Parliament and electoral reform ahead of the upcoming elections, track record in fight against corruption and organised crime, fundamental rights and freedoms, with focus on media freedom as well as on economy and public finance.

As for the progress in the negotiation process, two negotiation chapters were opened at the June In-

As a Co-chair of the EU-Montenegro Stabilisation and Association Parliamentary Committee, President Brajović headed the Standing Delegation at the 13th SAPC Meeting in Strasbourg. Co-chairs Brajović and Kouroumbashev pointed out that each candidate country must be judged on its own merits in the terms of fulfilling the same set of criteria. They stated that Montenegro is currently the most advanced candidate country and that it should become a full-fledged member of the Union as soon as possible. The Co-Chairs stressed that it is critical for progress in the accession process to re-engage in a constructive, parliamentary dialogue. (SAPC, Strasbourg, 14 June 2017)

tergovernmental Conference in Brussels: 1 – Free movement of goods and 22 – Regional policy and coordination of structural instruments, while negotiations for Chapter 30 – External relations have been provisionally closed. Furthermore, at the December Intergovernmental Conference in Brussels held in Brussels, negotiations were opened for the chapters: 2 – Freedom of movement for workers and 3 – Right of establishment and freedom to provide services. Therefore, Montenegro has opened a total of 30 chapters, of which three are temporarily closed. In addition to this, the Committee on European Integration adopted in June the negotiation position for Chapter 17 – Economic and monetary

policy, and the period until the end of 2017 and next year will be dedicated to preparing for the opening of the remaining chapters, and fulfilling the criteria for closing certain chapters.

The parliamentary contribution to the European integration process was continued through the work of the Committee on European Integration, which reviewed several documents from the European integration process by 31 December 2017 (more details on p. 17).

When it comes to parliamentary diplomacy within the EU accession, members of the Parliament of Montenegro regularly participate in meetings organised within the EU presidency. In the reporting period, members of the Committee on European Integration participated in meetings of the Conference of Parliamentary Committees for Union Affairs (COSAC), namely at the meeting of chairpersons and plenary session held during the Maltese presidency (22-23 January and 28-30 May) and at the plenary session within the Estonian Presidency (26 and 27 November). Parliamentarians also participated in other meetings organised within presidency of the EU: Conference for the Common Foreign and Security Policy (CFSP) and the Common Security and Defence Policy (CSDP) (7-9 September); meeting of the chairpersons of economic affairs committees (21 and 22 September) and Conference on Stability, Economic Coordination and Governance in the European Union (SECG) (29-31 October).

Members and staff of the Parliament of Montenegro also participate in activities organised within

Assistance programme of the European Parliament to help aspirant countries prepare for EU membership. In this regard, a delegation of the Committee on European Integration paid a study visit to Brussels in March, where it had a series of meetings with senior European officials within the European Parliament.

On the occasion of the 60th anniversary since signing the Treaties of Rome, when the European Economic Community (EEC) and Euratom were established, a delegation of the Committee on European Union Policies of the Italian Senate, headed by Vannino Chiti, visited Podgorica on 27 March 2017. On this occasion, Chairperson of the Committee Adrijan Vuksanović and Senator Vannino Chiti signed the Protocol on Cooperation of the Committee on European Integration of the Parliament of Montenegro and the Committee on European Union Policies of the Italian Senate. The significance of signing of this document was also reflected in the fact that Italy signed the Protocol on Cooperation, apart from Montenegro, only with parliaments of France and Spain and confirmed the commitment of the Parliament of Montenegro to concretise in the forthcoming period cooperation models between the two parliaments. Within the implementation of the project, the Committee delegation paid an official visit to institutions of the Republic of Italy, upon the invitation of the Italian Senate, in the period 5-7 December. The visit included a joint meeting of the two committees dealing with EU affairs, during which the Joint Declaration was adopted.



Meeting of the SACP in Podgorica, 18 December 2017

Inter-parliamentary conference “Independent and Modern Public Administration in the EU and in Enlargement Countries” was organised in September, with the participation of MEPs and members of the enlargement countries’ parliaments. The Conference was organised by the EU Pre-Accession Actions Unit in cooperation with the Parliament of Montenegro and Regional School of Public Administration (ReSPA).

3.2. NATO INTEGRATION

At the Seventh Sitting of the First Ordinary Session of the 26th Parliament of Montenegro, held in Cetinje, on 28 April 2017, MPs voted in favour of the Proposal for the Law on Ratification of the North-Atlantic Treaty and the Protocol to the North-Atlantic Treaty on the Accession of Greece and Turkey. Montenegro became the 29th full member of NATO on 5 June 2017 when it deposited its instrument of accession at the Washington ceremony, while Montenegrin flag was raised at NATO Headquarters on 7 June.

On the occasion of Montenegro’s membership in NATO and raising of Montenegrin flag in Brussels, President of the Parliament of Montenegro Ivan Brajović hosted an official reception at Villa „Gorica”, while the building of the Parliament of Montenegro was lit up in the colours of Montenegrin and NATO flag.

Today, when Montenegrin flag has fluttered in Brussels among the flags of the most powerful countries in the world, this generation of politicians does not feel the taste of victory, but of responsibility and satisfaction that Montenegro - after decades of challenges and dilemmas - has returned home. Montenegro has returned where it had always belonged: to the family of progressive and democratic nations”, President Brajović said.



Reception on the occasion of NATO membership, 7 June 2017



Building of the Parliament of Montenegro lit up in NATO colours





3.3. ACTIVITIES OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE PARLIAMENT

VISITS BY FOREIGN OFFICIALS

President Brajović hosted numerous speakers of parliaments, parliamentarians and representatives of international organisations. Among these, a historic visit of the President of the European Parliament Antonio Tajani should be singled out. Also, having in mind the role and importance of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe in strengthening democratic values of a country, President Brajović hosted President of that institution Pedro Agramunto. During the year, the President met with about 40 presidents of states and prime ministers, ministers and representatives of international organisations who came to visit Montenegro. He also had regular meetings with representatives of diplomatic corps.

Visit of High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy Federica Mogherini

During the visit, High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs Federica Mogherini addressed the Montenegrin parliamentarians, highlighted the incredible progress that Montenegro has made, and stressed that the EU door was open to Montenegro and the whole region. She added that believed that the path towards the European Union could be a powerful motivation to seek unity beyond political disagreements in Montenegro. (1 March 2017)

“The aspiration to be part of a common European family is written in the DNA of Montenegro.” F. Mogherini



Visit by Pedro Agramunt, President of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe

Speaking of elections, the interlocutors agreed the election results were clear and that there was a legitimately elected government in Montenegro. President Agramunt stressed that the first mistake was made by the opposition, because all the political parties should be in Parliament and not in the street, with the expectation that the dialogue between authorities and the opposition would be continued in the Parliament. The presidents emphasised the role of the Council of Europe at a time when the European continent was facing numerous challenges in terms of values and security. (16 March 2017)

Address by European Commissioner for European Neighbourhood Policy and Enlargement Negotiations Mr Johannes Hahn

Since assuming his office, President Brajović met Commissioner Hahn twice, in December 2016 and June 2017. President Brajović stressed that Montenegro was fully devoted to the EU membership, firmly committed to pursuing its reforms, in order to finalise the accession negotiations in a good manner and thus become the first next member of the EU. The interlocutors noted that the Parliament must be a key place for political dialogue as a central place of democratic decision-making. (9 June 2017)

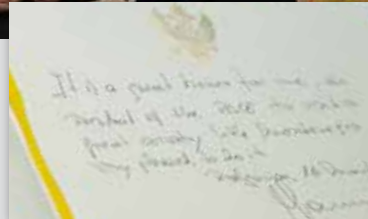


Visit by Mr Talat Xhaferi, Speaker of the Assembly of the Republic of Macedonia

They jointly noted that this visit, at the very beginning of the Speaker Xhaferi's office, was great contribution to further strengthening of inter-parliamentary cooperation, within friendship groups and committees. President Brajović assessed the constitution of government in Macedonia as very significant, because internal stability was important for the continuation of necessary reforms in order to secure the European and Euro-Atlantic future. (3 July 2017)



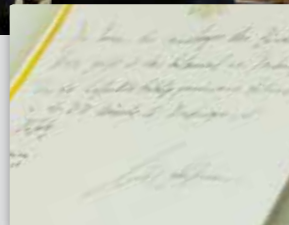
President of the PACE Pedro Agramunt and President of the Parliament Ivan Brajović, 16 March 2017



Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Turkey Mevlüt Çavuşoğlu and President of the Parliament Ivan Brajović



President of the State Parliament of Hesse Norbert Kartmann, 2 March 2017



"Our two countries have no unresolved issues and therefore we have to devote to strengthening economic cooperation", T. Xhaferi



President of the Parliament Ivan Brajović and EP President Antonio Tajani, 18 July 2017



“I am honoured by the first visit by the EP President, because that is a clear sign of willingness for continuing the best possible relations between the EP and the Parliament of Montenegro” I. Brajović



Chairman of the Council of Ministers of BiH Denis Zvizdić, President of the Parliament Ivan Brajović and Vice President of the Parliament Branimir Gvozdenović, 14 February 2017



Prime Minister of the Republic of Albania Edi Rama and President of the Parliament Ivan Brajović, 3 April 2017

Visit by Antonion Tajani, EP President

This was the first official visit of a President of the European Parliament to Montenegro, but at the same time also the first visit of EP President Antonio Tajani to a non-EU member state. During the visit, Mr Tajani said that Montenegro was important for the stability of the Balkans, as a state of multi-ethnic harmony, devoted to European integration and recognised for its good neighbourly politics. He particularly emphasised the importance of economic cooperation between Montenegro and the Member States of the European Union, which would be paid special attention to in the upcoming period. President Brajović stressed that the first visit by the EP President to Montenegro was a confirmation of the extraordinary relations of the Parliament of Montenegro with the European Parliament. (18 July 2017)

“This is my first official visit to a country outside the EU, since I was elected EP President. I am here in Montenegro to send a strong signal to all partners from the Western Balkans and I say that the EU is present and looks with great care on your European perspective (...) For EU it is important that Montenegro’s elections were held in a regular manner, with the respect of all democratic rules. The outcome of the elections were commented in the same manner by all observers”, A. Tajani (Podgorica, 18 July 2017)

Meeting with Denis Zvizdić, Chairman of the Council of Ministers of BiH

During the conversation, the interlocutors stressed that commitment to the region, its stability and prosperity obliged to constant cooperation and communication. The meeting was also attended by vice presidents of the Parliament Branimir Gvozdenović and Genci Nimanbegu. (14 February 2017)

Meeting with Edi Rama, Prime Minister of the Republic of Albania

During the meeting, they emphasised that excellent political relations and continued dialogue at the highest level should be accompanied by more intense economic cooperation. (3 April 2017)

Meeting with President of Bulgaria Rumen Radev

President Radev congratulated on our country’s membership in NATO and expressed his assurance that Montenegro, as an example of integration success and stability factor in the region, with responsible membership and commitment to the key tasks of the Alliance, would encourage Euro-Atlantic integration of other Western Balkan countries as well. (11 July 2017)



President of Bulgaria Rumen Radev and President of the Parliament Ivan Brajović, 11 July 2017

Visit by President of the National Assembly of the Republic of Slovenia Milan Brglez

At the meeting of President of the National Assembly of the Republic of Slovenia Milan Brglez and President of the Parliament of Montenegro Ivan Brajović, it was concluded that Montenegro, as aspirant country to join the European Union, was an example when it comes to the implementation of reforms and fostering of the best neighbourly relations.

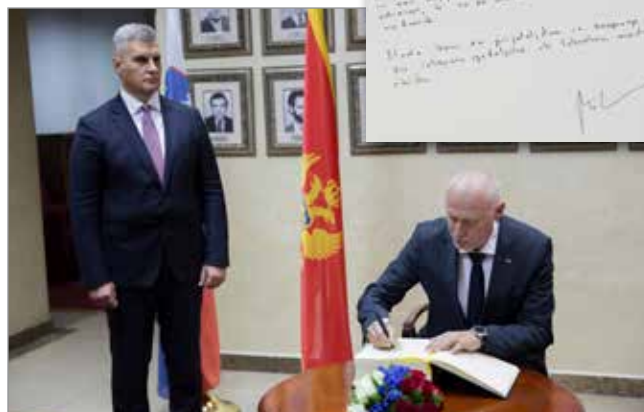
Visit by Vice President of the National People's Political Advisory Congress of PR China Ma Peihua

During the visit, President Brajović toured with his colleague Ma Peihua the tunnel Klopot and the bridge on Moračica at the highway Bar-Boljare, and thanked for the Chinese Government's donation of 2.5m euros for the reconstruction on the Đurđević Tara bridge.

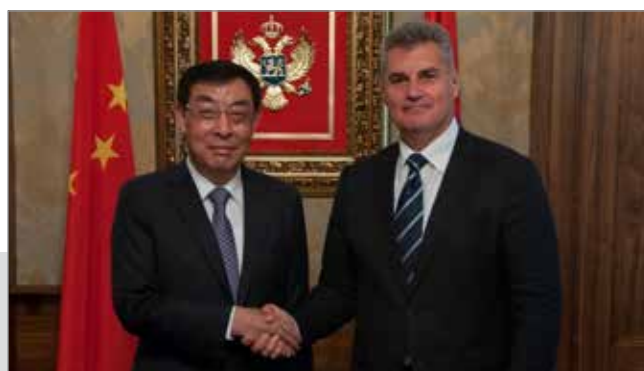
"This large project of our respective governments and companies reflects not only traditionally good and brotherly relations between our two states, but also the significance of mutual assistance. This highway project is also significant for the entire road network and regional connectivity in the Balkans", Ma Peihua

Visit by Speaker of the National Council of the Slovak Republic Andrej Danko

President Brajović emphasised that Slovakia had a special place in the recent history of Montenegro, bearing in mind the role this country and its officials have had in restoring the independence of Montenegro, as well as during the years that followed.



President of the National Assembly of the Republic of Slovenia Milan Brglez and President of the Parliament of Montenegro Ivan Brajović, 11 September 2017



Vice President of the National People's Political Advisory Congress of PR China Ma Peihua and President of the Parliament of Montenegro Ivan Brajović, 25 September 2017

"The aim of this visit is to express support to Montenegro for all the efforts that are to come. On behalf of the National Assembly of the Slovak Republic, I would like to express my great admiration for what you have done on your path.", A. Danko

The Speaker of the National Council of the Slovak Republic and President of the Parliament Ivan Brajović, 2 October 2017



Meeting with János Áder, President of the Republic of Hungary

President of Hungary Mr Áder stressed that Montenegro can serve as an example in the region, since it is a stable state and a frontrunner in the process of European integration, and that it was necessary to evaluate the individual performance of each candidate country.

Meeting of President of the Parliament Ivan Brajović with residential ambassadors

functioning of the parliament in the 21st century. He stressed the interest of the governing majority readiness to talk openly in the best interest of citizens about all issues, but that they could not accept unreasonable blackmails which were essentially aimed at concealing the opposition's unwillingness for dialogue.

Dean Vincenzo Del Monaco, Ambassador of the Italian Republic to Montenegro, addressed the present, and pointed out that Montenegro was a respected country, a country with the support of



President of the Parliament Ivan Brajović, Vice President of the Parliament Branimir Gvozdenović and Italian Ambassador Vincenzo Del Monaco, 23 November 2017

During the meeting with heads of resident diplomatic missions in Podgorica, President of the Parliament Ivan Brajović presented the activities of the Parliament of Montenegro in the first year since the constitution of the 26th Parliament. He stressed that by committed and dedicated work of all representatives of citizens who participate in the work of the Parliament, greater efficiency has been achieved, there was no backlog of reports that were to be considered, there was no “pending” proposals for laws, while sittings where the prime minister and ministers answer to parliamentary questions were regularly held. He also presented the current and announced future activities related to raising the efficiency of the parliamentary service, which should respond adequately to the challenges of the modern

the international community and a country worth staying in. Speaking about parliamentary elections, the Italian Ambassador said that great turnout at the elections also confirmed complete and rational trust in Montenegrin democracy, which was celebrating the tenth anniversary of its Constitution that very year. He said that that the ongoing boycott of parliamentary work, complete or selective - depending on the parties, was the reason for frequent queries and reflection within the diplomatic corps, and that the final report of the observation mission, among other things, recommended a set of measures and a change in norms, in order to further improve standards that already in October 2016 were at the level which is more than appropriate.

MEETINGS

of President of the Parliament of Montenegro Ivan Brajović with representatives of foreign countries and international organisations,

2017

8 February - meeting with Delegation of the Albanian Committee on Foreign Policy and its Chairperson **Arta Dade**

14 February - Meeting with Chairman of the Council of Ministers of BiH **Denis Zvizdić**

20 February - Meeting with Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Estonia **Sven Mikser**

1 March - Meeting with High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy **Federica Mogherini**

2 March - Visit by President of the State Parliament of Hesse **Norbert Kartmann**

16 March - Visit by President of the PACE **Pedro Agramunt**

27 March - Meeting with Chairperson of the Committee on European Union Policies of the Italian Senate **Vannino Chiti**, senators **Stefano Collina** and **Bartolomeo Amide**

30 March - Meeting with Minister of Foreign and European Affairs of the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg **Jean Asselborn**

3 April - Meeting with Albanian Prime Minister **Edi Rama**

4 April - Meeting with Chairperson of the European Affairs Committee of the Croatian Parliament **Domagoj Milošević**

13 April - members of the state parliaments of Hesse and Brandenburg respectively **Manfred Penz** and **Gordon Hoffman**

19 April - Meeting with U.S. Representative **Devin Nunes**

8 May - Meeting with MPs of the Christian Democratic Union of Germany (CDU) from German federal state Saxony-Anhalt

10 May - meeting with Turkish Minister of Foreign Affairs **Mevlüt Çavuşoğlu**

16 May - meeting with OSCE PA Vice President and Special Representative on South East Europe **Roberto Battelli** and OSCE PA's Special Representative in Vienna **Andreas Nothelle**

29 May - meeting with Chairman of the Subcommittee on Europe and Regional Security Cooperation, US senator **Ron Johnson**

30 May - meeting with the **ODIHR** delegation

5 June - Meeting with Minister of Defence of the Slovak Republic **Peter Gajdoš**

7 June - Meeting with Chairperson of the of the Committee on EU Affairs **Vaclav Hampl**

9 June - Meeting with Commissioner for Enlargement and European Neighbourhood Policy **Johannes Hahn**.

23 June - Meeting with French Senator **Olivier Cadic**

27 June - Meeting with President of the National Anti-Corruption Authority of the Republic of Italy **Raffaello Kantone**

27 June - Meeting with co-chair of the Igman Initiative **Aleksandar Popov**

11 July - meeting with President of Bulgaria **Rumen Radev**

18-20 July - Visit by EP President **Antonio Tajani**

11 September - Visit by President of the National Assembly of the Republic of Slovenia **Milan Brglez**

25 September - Meeting with Vice President of the National People's Political Advisory Congress of PR China **Ma Peihua**

26 September - Visit by Minister of Foreign Affairs of Kosovo **Behgjet Pacolli**

26 September - Meeting with Member of the European Parliament and Chair of Delegation to the EU-Montenegro Stabilisation and Association Parliamentary Committee **David Martin**

2 October - Visit by Speaker of the National Council of the Slovak Republic **Andrej Danko**

2 October - Meeting with Member of Bundestag **Kerstin Radomski**

3 October - Meeting with co-rapporteurs of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (PACE) for the post-monitoring dialogue with Montenegro **Ionut-Marian Stroe** and **Andrea Risoni**

4 October - Meeting with President of the Republic of Hungary **János Áder**

16 October - Meeting with Chairperson of the Committee on European Union Policies of the Italian Senate **Vannino Chiti** and senator **Pietro Liuzzi**.

20 October - Meeting with French Senator **Helene Conway-Mouret**

2 November - Members of the the Parliamentary Friendship Group with Montenegro of the Islamic Consultative Assembly of the Islamic Republic of Iran headed by **Parvaneh Salahshori**

2 November - Meeting with Italian senators **Paolo Corsini** and **Vito Rosario Petrochelli**

7 November - Meeting with Romanian MFA **Teodor Meleşcanu**

9 November - meeting with European academicians – honorary members of the Doclean Academy of Sciences and Arts (DANU)

23 November - Meeting residential ambassadors

15 December - Meeting in Vienna Head of the Vienna OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR) **Jan Haukaas**, Head of ODIHR Election Department **Alexander Shlyk** and the Head of the OSCE Mission to Montenegro **Maryse Daviet**.

18 December - Meeting with EP delegation headed by **David Martin**

19 December - Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade of Hungary **Péter Szijjártó**

19 December - Meeting with European Parliament's Rapporteur for Montenegro **Charles Tannock**



VISITS ABROAD

The 2017 was marked by intensive international cooperation. During ten official visits, international conferences and meetings of international organisations, President Ivan Brajović met with heads of states, parliaments and governments, as well as with numerous ministers and representatives of international organisations.

Visit to the Republic of Italy, Rome

On the occasion of adoption of the NATO Accession Protocol for Montenegro, President Brajović paid a working visit to the Republic of Italy. During the visit, he met Laura Boldrini, Speaker of the Italian Chamber of Deputies, a group of senators and Italian Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs Vincenzo Amendola. President Boldrini praised the positive dynamics and quality in fulfilling the European obligations of Montenegro, stating that the ratification of the Protocol in the Italian Parliament was a fulfillment of common goals. (10 January 2017)

Participation in the OSCE PA Winter Meeting, Vienna

President Brajović was heading a delegation of the Parliament of Montenegro at the Winter Meeting of the OSCE PA. He held meetings with OSCE PA President Christin Muttonen, OSCE Secretary General Lamberto Zannier, OSCE PA Secretary General Roberto Montella, head of the German Delegation and treasurer Do-

ris Barnett and rapporteurs of the OSCE PA Election Observation Mission for the October Elections Margareta Cederfelt and Azay Guliyev. The delegation was composed of Vice President of the Parliament Branimir Gvozdenović and MPs Aleksandra Vuković and Nikola Rakočević. (24 February 2017)

Participation in the 11th Conference of the Speakers of Parliaments of the Small European States, San Marino

President Brajović took part in the 11th Conference of the Speakers of Parliaments of the Small European States, which gathered representatives of Andorra, Cyprus, Iceland, Liechtenstein, San Marino, Luxembourg, Malta and Monaco. During the visit, he had meetings with the speakers of Cyprus Demetris Syllouris, Andorra Vicenç Mateu Zamora, Liechtenstein Albert Frick, Vice President of Malta Vincent Galea and Vice President of the Parliamentary Committee of San Marino Pasquale Valentini. (23 March 2017)

Participation in the Conference of Speakers of Parliaments of the Adriatic-Ionian Initiative, Greece

During his address, President Brajović has expressed conviction that the regional cooperation was irreplaceable mechanism of faster and more efficient fulfilment of European obligations, and that differences need to be a driver of common development, not a source of mutual friction. He held a meeting with President of the Hellenic Parliament Nikolaos Voutsis (7 April 2017).

“Parliaments are not there just to adopt laws, they also have the obligation to continuously contribute to political stability and the overall development of our communities, as a reflection of the sovereign will of the citizens. We see the role of regional initiatives, such as the Adriatic and Ionian Initiative, as the most relevant reflection of our aspiration to act united and proactively, and thereby contribute to the prosperity of the region and entire European area”. I. Brajović

Participation in the Conference of Speakers of the European Union Parliaments, Bratislava

The Conference discussed the future of the EU as a global player in the context of the current global changes and the role of national parliaments as well as on bringing parliamentary agenda closer to citizens in the modern era. President Brajović met the following: President of the European Parliament Antonio Tajani, Speaker of the National Council of the Slovak Republic Andrej Danko, President of



President of the Sejm of the Republic of Poland Marek Kuchciński and President of the Parliament Ivan Brajović, Warsaw, 19 May 2017

the Senate of the Kingdom of Netherlands Ankie Broekers-Knol, President of the Estonian Riigikogu Eiki Nestor, President of the National Assembly of the Republic of Slovenia Milan Brglez and Minister of Foreign and European Affairs of the Slovak Republic Miroslav Lajčák. All interlocutors assessed that that Montenegro was pursuing the good path, congratulating for the forthcoming full NATO membership. (23 and 24 April 2017)

Summit Meeting of Parliament Speakers from Central and Eastern Europe, Warsaw

The summit was dedicated to the security situation in the region. On that occasion, President Brajović expressed his belief that security architecture of the Western Balkans was inextricably linked to the EU and NATO and that he considered NATO and EU integration as the best reform framework for achieving standards which will ensure security



and enable economic development. He had bilateral meetings with Marshal of the Sejm of the Republic of Poland Marek Kuchciński, Marshal of the Senate of the Republic of Poland Stanisław Karczewski, Speaker of the National Assembly of Hungary László Kövér, President of the Senate of Romania Călin Popescu-Tăriceanu, Chairperson of the Parliament of Georgia Irakli Kobakhidze, Chairman of the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine Andriy Parubiy, Chairperson of the House of Peoples Bariša Čolak, Chairman of the House of Representatives of the Parliamentary Assembly of Bosnia and Herzegovina Šefik Džaferović, and Tsveta Karayancheva, Bulgarian Deputy Speaker. (19 June 2017)



Speaker of the Croatian Parliament Gordan Jandroković and President of the Parliament Ivan Brajović, 9 June 2017

“As far as Croatia is concerned, we will do everything to make Montenegro’s membership as quick as possible and, if at all possible, we would be very happy if that were to happen during our presidency”, G. Jandroković



Prime Minister of the Republic of Croatia Andrej Plenković and President of the Parliament Ivan Brajović

“I think we have reiterated that both Croatia and Montenegro want to improve relations between the two countries, both political and economic, and to improve stability of the SEE in all aspects of sectoral cooperation”. A. Plenković



President of the Republic of Croatia Kolinda Grabar-Kitarović and President of the Parliament Ivan Brajović

“Montenegro’s membership of NATO is a significant step for security, not only of your country but of the entire region. Our good political relations should be used for even better economic relations and infrastructure connection”, K. Kitarović

Plenary Session of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Process of Cooperation in South-East Europe, Zagreb

President Brajović delivered remarks on the topic: “Collaboration, and Communication - A Way Forward”. During his visit, the President held meetings with the highest officials of the Republic of Croatia: President Kolinda Grabar-Kitarović, Speaker of the Croatian Parliament Gordan Jandroković and Prime Minister Andrej Plenković. The interlocutors noted that Montenegro’s membership of NATO was an important step for the security of the entire region, and that good political relations should be serve for even better economic relations and infrastructural connectivity. (9 June 2017)

Participation in the OSCE PA Annual Session, Minsk

Aside from participating in the OSCE PA Annual Session, President Brajović also had meetings with President of the House of Representatives of the National Assembly of the Republic of Belarus Vladimir Andreychenko and Minister of Foreign Affairs Vladimir Makei. (8 July 2017)

“Given the experiences of our country, the joint response to serious threats and challenges of the present time - bearing in mind domino effect of nationalism and populism - should not limit or undermine human rights and fundamental freedoms”, I. Brajović, OSCE PA, Minsk

Visit by President of the Parliament of Montenegro Ivan Brajović, BiH, Sarajevo

President of the Parliament of Montenegro Ivan Brajović paid a visit to Bosnia and Herzegovina upon the invitation of the Chairman of the House of Representatives of the Parliamentary Assembly of Bosnia and Herzegovina Šefik Džaferović. During his visit to Sarajevo, President Brajović held meetings with member of the Presidency of Bosnia and Herzegovina Bakir Izetbegović, members of the collegiums of the two houses of the Parliamentary Assembly of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Chairman of the Council of Ministers of Bosnia and Herzegovina Denis Zvizdić, and representatives of Montenegrin diaspora in BiH. The interlocutors agreed that there were many models for cooperation on the path to the European Union, but that the dynamics of that path and membership should be carried out individually and based on the achievements of each state individually. (20 July 2017)

Visit of the President of the Parliament of Montenegro Ivan Brajović to the Kingdom of Morocco

The visit of the President Brajović to the Kingdom of Morocco is an important event in the modern history



President of the House of Representatives of the Kingdom of Morocco Habib El Malki and President of the Parliament of Montenegro Ivan Brajović, 19 September 2017.

of relations of the two countries, because, as the first official visit paid by one of the high state representatives from Montenegro since the renewal of independence, it would significantly contribute to the strengthening of bilateral ties as a prerequisite for the improvement of economic cooperation. During the visit, the President held meetings with President of the House of Representatives Habib El Malki, Prime Minister Saad Eddine El Othmani, State Secretary at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Mounia Boucetta and other officials. The interlocutors pointed out that the countries with a common Mediterranean heritage and ties have many opportunities for cooperation in the fields of industry, tourism, agriculture, renewable energy sources and maritime affairs. (19 September 2017)



President of the Parliament Ivan Brajović with members of the collegiums of both houses of the Parliamentary Assembly of B&H, 20 July 2017



Speaker of the National Assembly of the Republic of Serbia Maja Gojković and President of the Parliament Ivan Brajović

Visit to the Republic of Serbia

During his official visit to the Republic of Serbia, President Brajović had meetings with Speaker of the National Assembly Maja Gojković, President Aleksandar Vučić, Prime Minister Ana Brnabić and First Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Ivica Dačić. They noted that the communication between the Montenegrin and Serbian officials was regular, meaningful and of good quality, as well as that regional stability was a prerequisite for accelerated economic development. Significant attention was paid to the European perspective of Montenegro and Serbia, while President Brajović, on this occasion as well, emphasised our country's advocacy for the "regatta principle", or measuring individual performance of candidates for the EU membership. In Vojvodina, the delegation of the Parliament of Montenegro met with the Province's leadership, as well as with members of the Montenegrin Diaspora. Following the meeting, the exhibition "Collection of Paintings of the Parliament of Montenegro" was opened. There was also an organised visit to Lovćenac. In the Montenegrin House, the President of the Parliament met with ambassadors accredited in Montenegro who are based in Belgrade. (12 and 13 October 2017)



President of the Republic of Serbia Aleksandar Vučić and President of the Parliament Ivan Brajović

Participation in the Conference of Speakers of Parliaments of the Western Balkans, Budapest

President of the Parliament of Montenegro Ivan Brajović participated in the Eight Conference of Speakers of Parliaments of the Western Balkans, during which he also had bilateral meetings with Speaker of the National Assembly of Hungary László Kövér and Hungarian Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade Péter Szijjártó, as well as with speakers of parliaments of: Albania Gramoz Ruçi, Macedonia Talat Xhaferi, both houses of the B&H Parliamentary Assembly Ognjen Tadić and Borjana Krišto, as well as with Speaker of the Kosovo Parliament Kadri Veseli. Ahead of the conference, a meeting was held in Montenegro's Embassy in Budapest with non-residential heads of diplomatic missions covering Montenegro from Hungary. (27 October 2017)



„By their history and tradition, our countries are an inseparable part of Europe, which without peaceful, secure, economically strong and advanced Western Balkans cannot achieve the long-term stability and overall prosperity.” President of the Parliament of Montenegro I. Brajović

Visit to the Republic of Georgia, Tbilisi

During his official visit to Georgia, President of the Parliament of Montenegro Ivan Brajović had meetings with Speaker of the Parliament Irakli Kobakhidze, President Giorgi Margvelashvili, Prime Minister Giorgi Kvirikashvili, and spoke at the International Parliamentary Conference "EU and Partners - Embracing Diversity for Stronger Unity". They estimated that excellent political cooperation represented a prerequisite for strengthening of cooperation in the field of economy and tourism. In the context of the European integration, President Brajović voiced the willingness of Montenegro, as a frontrunner in the process of accession



Conference “EU and Partners - Embracing Diversity for Stronger Unity”, Tbilisi, 4 December 2017

to the European Union, to provide support and expert assistance to Georgia. Speaker of the Parliament Kobakhidze reminded that our two countries, after their respective renewals of independence, had achieved stability and prosperity, and that they shared common values and aspired to integrate into the European Union. President Brajović also had a meeting with Catholicos-Patriarch of all Georgia, His Holiness and Beatitude Ilia II. (4-5 December 2017)

Visit to the Republic of Bulgaria, Sofia

President of the Parliament of Montenegro Ivan Brajović headed the Delegation of the Parliament of Montenegro in his first official visit to the Republic of Bulgaria, which had special significance bearing in mind the Bulgarian presidency of the Council of the European Union in the first half of 2018. At the meetings with Speaker of the National Assembly of the Republic of Bulgaria Tsveta Karayancheva, President of the Republic of Bulgaria Rumen Radev, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Ekaterina Zakhariyeva and Minister for the Bulgarian Presidency of the EU Liliana Pavlova, the interlocutors expressed expectation that the Bulgarian presidency of the Union, with emphasis on expanding to the Western Balkan countries and their connectivity, would be successful both for that country and for Montenegro. It was emphasised that Bulgaria would strongly advocate for Montenegro to open the remaining three negotiation chapters during

their presidency. In addition to President Brajović, the delegation of the Parliament of Montenegro also consisted of members of the MNE - Bulgaria parliamentary Friendship Group, MPs Tarzan Milošević, as the Chair of the Group, and its members Andrija Popović and Mihailo Anđušić. (14-15 December 2017)



President of the Republic of Bulgaria Rumen Radev and President of the Parliament Ivan Brajović

“With its efforts, necessary reform processes, and implementation of standards, Montenegro is the best example for the Western Balkans countries”, R. Radev

3.4. ACTIVITIES OF THE VICE PRESIDENTS OF THE PARLIAMENT

Numerous international activities of the vice presidents of the Parliament of Montenegro marked 2017. We would like to highlight the following below:

- On 6 February, Vice President Gvozdenović met with Ambassador of Hungary to Montenegro H.E. Krisztián Pósa, in Podgorica. The meeting assessed that the cooperation between Montenegro and Hungary was at a high level, primarily due to good economic relations, as well as strong support of Hungary to Euro-Atlantic and European integration of Montenegro. Additional incentive for intensifying, primarily economies relations, will be the establishment of direct flights between Podgorica and Budapest in April, given the fact that the Hungarian low-cost airline Wizz Air from April will have flights on relation Podgorica - Budapest during the whole year. Vice President Gvozdenović thanked to Ambassador Pósa for his personal contribution to the establishment of direct flights.
- On 8 February, Vice President Genci Nimanbegu received the delegation of the Foreign Affairs Committee of the Parliament of Albania, headed by its Chairperson Arta Dade. At the meeting, mutual pleasure was emphasised regarding the deve-

lopment of relations between the two countries, and it was noted that there was a lot of potential for their improvement. Vice President Nimanbegu informed the delegation on the political developments in Montenegro, as well as the progress of our country in integration processes. Members of the Albanian delegation were informed about the long-time requests of Albanians in Montenegro, with regard to the final defining of the status of the Municipality of Tuzi, property restitution to its owners in Valdanos, status of the Ulcinj Salina, as well as equal representation of Albanians in the institutions of the system. They underlined possibilities for a better cooperation primarily in the field of education and culture, where the people with the Albanian nationality as bilinguals could have a very important role.

- On 17 March, Vice President Nimanbegu met with Minister of Finance of the Republic of Kosovo Avdullah Hoti. They voiced mutual satisfaction with the development of relations between the two countries, governments and parliaments, which have been very good, and also discussed the possibilities of further improvements. Vice President Nimanbegu informed the Minister Hoti about the state of play in the Montenegrin political scene, progress in the EU accession process, and especially regarding the NATO accession. The interlocutors concluded that the goal of every responsible



Vice President of the Parliament of Montenegro Branimir Gvozdenović at the International Fair of Investment Projects REXPO in Zagreb, 1 December 2017.

policy was the commitment to the rule of law and willingness to assume responsibility of the access to the integration for the benefit of all citizens.

- On 20 March, Vice President Nimanbegu received Ambassador of Slovenia to Montenegro Mitja Močnik. The interlocutors exchanged opinions on the situation in Montenegro following the boycott of the Parliament by the opposition parties. With regard to the Euro-Atlantic integration, the interlocutors agreed that it was the right path leading to the well-being of all citizens of Montenegro. They voiced their expectation that the countries which were yet to ratify the NATO Accession Protocol for Montenegro would do so as soon as possible. Furthermore, they also discussed the possibilities for better cooperation between the Slovenian and Montenegrin municipalities with regard to economy and tourism.
- On 26 October, Vice President Gvozdenović had a meeting with Ambassador of Palestine to Montenegro H.E. Rabii Al-Hantouli. Vice President Gvozdenović and Ambassador Al-Hantouli talked about the opportunities for strengthening political, economic and cultural relations between Montenegro and Palestine, bearing in mind the potential of interstate cooperation. At the meeting, it was agreed to build upon the existing relations with the Parliament of Montenegro, through the creation of a friendship group as a parliamentary mechanism of providing the opportunity for ad-

ditional value of bilateral cooperation. The meeting was also an opportunity to exchange views on issues related to the constellation of international global relations, emphasising the importance of preserving peace and stability in the world.

- On 21 November, Vice President Gvozdenović met with Ambassador Maryse Daviet and Political Officer at the OSCE Mission Karen Gainer. The topic of the meeting was the sharing of information with regard to the implementation of the OSCE/ODIHR recommendations in order to improve electoral legislation. Voicing his gratitude for the institutional contribution of the OSCE and personal efforts by Ambassador Daviet to apply the best world practice and standards, Vice President Gvozdenović emphasised that the OSCE's work was especially appreciated in Montenegro before, during and after the election process, and that he believed that Montenegro would soon become a good practice example for others, when it comes to electoral legislation.

The vice presidents of the Parliament, in their capacity as chairs of the friendship groups of the Parliament of Montenegro in 2017, had several activities with overview given below:

- On 3 July, Montenegro - Macedonia Friendship Group held a meeting with President of the Assembly of the Republic of Macedonia Talat Xhaferi. The interlocutors emphasised good bilateral relations of the two countries at all levels.



Meeting of the Montenegro - Iran parliamentary Friendship Group, 2 November 2017

Vice President Nimanbegu noted that it would not be possible to achieve strategic integration goals without an active role in regional cooperation and reflection on foreign policy in a regional context. The strengthening of the rule of law, democracy, and institutions of the system represent a common path for all Western Balkan countries and on this path we need to share our experiences and act together to achieve full integration, said Vice President Nimanbegu. The interlocutors agreed that it was important to work on establishing even better economic and trade relations between the two countries in the upcoming period, especially with regard to cooperation in the field of tourism, as well as the improvement of the transport infrastructure between the two countries. The meeting was also attended by members of the Montenegro - Macedonia Friendship Group, MPs Mirsad Murić, Branka Tanasijević and Maja Bakrač, while the Macedonian delegation, in addition to the President Xhaferi, consisted of MPs Xhevat Ademi and Maksim Dimitrijevski.

- On 7 July, Montenegro - Turkey parliamentary Friendship Group held a meeting with Ambassador of the Republic of Turkey to Montenegro Serhat Galip. On that occasion, the Ambassador pointed out that a new friendship group with the Parliament of Montenegro would soon be formed in the Grand National Assembly of the Republic of Turkey, which would be committed to further improving the relations of the two countries. Pointing out that Montenegro was the brightest point in the Western Balkans region, the Ambassador emphasised that, with Montenegro's membership in NATO, relations between Montenegro and Turkey had reached a new level. Vice President Nimanbegu emphasised the significance that Turkey held for Montenegro, as a friendly country, NATO ally, but also the country with a large number of emigrants from Montenegro. In addition to traditionally good relations at the political level, they also welcomed at the meeting even more intensive economic cooperation between Montenegro and Turkey, and voiced the expectation that it would be further improved. In addition the Chair Nimanbegu and Ambassador Galip, the meeting was attended and actively participated in by members of the Friendship Group, MPs: Andrija Nikolić, Suad Numanović, Marija Maja Čatović, Branka Tanasijević and Nedžad Drešević, who pointed out, from

the aspect of responsibilities of the parliamentary committees in which they were members, that their engagement would contribute to the implementation of concrete project activities and improvement of the bilateral relations between Montenegro and Turkey.

- On 12 July, Vice President Gvozdenović met with non-resident Ambassador of Israel to Montenegro, based in Belgrade, H.E. Alona Fisher Kamm. The interlocutors agreed in their assessment that bilateral cooperation needed to be intensified at the highest level, and voiced expectation that the Friendship Group with the Parliament of Montenegro would soon be formed in the Israeli Parliament. In the meeting, willingness was expressed to intensify cooperation in the following areas: economy, tourism, healthcare, defence, science, education and sports, and a plan of concrete joint activities would be coordinated in the upcoming period.



Meeting with the OSCE Ambassador Maryse Daviet, 21 November 2017.



Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention in Tirana, 19 December 2017.



Meeting with the French senator Hélène Conway-Mouret, 20 December 2017



Meeting of the Friendship Group with representatives of Parliament of the Federal Republic of Germany, 2 October 2017.

- On 12 September, Vice-President Gvozdenović met with a delegation of the National Assembly, headed by President of the National Assembly of the Republic of Slovenia Milan Brglez. Vice President Gvozdenović showed interest in learning about the good practice and experiences of the National Assembly of the Republic of Slovenia in doing parliamentary activities, which would be applicable in the Parliament of Montenegro as well.

President Brglez voiced his pleasure over the fact that a friendship group had been formed in the Parliament and pointed out that such thing represented a significant contribution to strengthening of good and friendly relations of the two countries. In that respect, it was agreed that in the following few months a plan of parliamentary cooperation would be drafted and areas of concern for improvement of relations between Montenegro and Slovenia would be noted.

- On 28 September, Vice President Gvozdenović held a meeting with the non-resident Ambassador of Georgia to Montenegro, based in Budapest, H.E. Zaza Kandelaki. Vice President Gvozdenović and Ambassador Kandelaki exchanged opinions with regard to further development of inter-state relations, especially via the parliamentary cooperation mechanism within friendship groups which exist in both parliaments. Having in mind the newly formed Friendship Group with the Parliament of Georgia, Vice President Gvozdenović pointed out that conditions were created for an improved model of parliamentary cooperation which reflected good and friendly relations with Georgia. In that respect, it was pointed out that the results of cooperation of friendship groups between the parliaments could give an additional impulse and energy to the overall bilateral relations.

- At the meeting of 2 October with representatives of the Parliament of the Federal Republic of Germany, Vice President Nimanbegu emphasised the importance of the International Parliamentary Scholarship (IPS), granted by the Bundestag. Stressing that it was exceptionally important to further promote cooperation in the field of tourism, Ms Kirsten Radomski was interested in economic areas where German investments would be particularly significant for Montenegro. With the emphasis on the contribution already provided by the German Development Bank (KfW), the following were singled out as areas that would be the most attractive to investors: energy, water supply, transport and wood industry. Vice President Nimanbegu expressed his gratitude for the contribution of the German Embassy in preserving the environment, and especially in protecting the Ulcinj Solana. The meeting was also attended by German Ambassador to Montenegro H.E. Hans Günther Mattern, Head of Human Resources Department in the Bundestag, Ms Daniela Rosenthal, as well as members of the Friendship Group of the Parliament of Montenegro and Parliament of the Federal Republic of Germany Miodrag Bobo Radunović and Mr Ervin Ibrahimović, who participated actively in the meeting.

- Vice President Gvozdenović held on 18 October a meeting with non-residential Ambassador of the Republic of Estonia to Montenegro, based in Tallinn, H. E. Daniel Erik Schaer. Mr Gvozdenović

especially pointed out the significance of the full support of Estonia to the European integration of Montenegro, particularly at the time of Estonian presidency of the Council of the European Union. Therefore, the message conveyed by Ambassador Schaer that Estonia recognised Montenegro as a leader in the European integration process was extremely significant, and also that it remained open for full support and assistance to Montenegro on its path towards achieving its strategic goal of full EU membership. The Ambassador especially emphasised the significance of sharing the parliamentary experiences and establishing direct contact among elected representatives of the people, as the best manner for achieving successful cooperation and common goals.

- Vice President Nimanbegu met French Ambassador Ms Hélène Conway-Mouret on 20 October. On this occasion, they discussed the cooperation of the parliamentary friendship group with the French Senate and National Assembly. Also, they talked about cooperation of Montenegro and France in the light of Euro-Atlantic integration. Vice President Nimanbegu expressed his interest in Montenegro's opportunities to become a member of the Union of the Francophone countries, which would be very significant for the further progress of Montenegro. During the meeting, they also talked about spatial planning. Vice President Nimanbegu stressed that, unfortunately, the system of spatial planning had been centralised for a long period of time. The interlocutors, also, agreed that it was necessary to improve cooperation in the field of tourism.

- Friendship group of the Parliament of Montenegro with the Republic of Italy met on 1 November with a delegation of the Italian Senate. Vice President Nimanbegu pointed on this occasion to traditional ties between the two countries, and the special nature of the relations of the countries that have been connected with the sea. He also stressed that Montenegro, as a young country, was very interested in joining the standards, society and values that developed countries of the European Union had. Mr Nimanbegu emphasised the importance of constructing the Adriatic-Ionian Motorway, calling on the colleagues from Italy to support its construction by lobbying and helping Montenegro and regional integration, despite the fact that this

project might not currently be on the list of priorities of the European Union. The interlocutors agreed that the two countries had much in common, and that good and friendly relations should be maintained and improved in a number of areas, which should be significantly contributed by the inter-parliamentary friendship groups between Montenegro and Italy. Besides the guests and Vice President Nimanbegu, the meeting was attended by members of the Montenegro – Italy parliamentary Friendship Group Andrija Nikolić, Marija Maja Čatović, Mirsad Murić and Petar Smolović, as well as the Ambassador of the Italian Republic to Montenegro H.E. Vincenzo Del Monaco.

- Meeting of the Montenegro - Islamic Republic of Iran parliamentary Friendship Group was held on 2 November. Chair of the Iranian Parliamentary Friendship Group with Parliament of Montenegro Parvaneh Salahshouri stressed that strengthening of parliamentary cooperation was one of the pillars of bilateral relations, with the remark that a significant step forward in improving the overall cooperation of the two countries would be the mutual abolition of visas, as well as the introduction of a regular airline connection between Podgorica and Tehran. Vice President Nimanbegu expressed his satisfaction with the existence of friendship groups, noting that this form of cooperation, manifested through direct communication of parliaments, has been very efficient mechanism for improving the existing friendly relations between Montenegro and Iran. Ms Salahshouri, extended the invitation to the Chair and members of the Friendship Group to officially visit the Islamic Republic of Iran and thus intensify the cooperation at the parliamentary level, which would create, as the interlocutors agreed, stable foundations for strengthening cooperation in the fields of economy, energy, tourism and culture. The meeting was attended by members of the Friendship Group, MPs Aleksandra Vuković, Miodrag Vuković and Nedžad Drešević.

- Vice President Nimanbegu held a meeting with newly-appointed Charge d' Affaires of Ukraine to Montenegro Nataliia Fiialka on 6 December. On this occasion, Vice President Nimanbegu stressed that strengthening of parliamentary cooperation was a unique way to establish stronger political and economic relations between the two countries. The Interlocutors agreed that it was important to

work on establishing even better economic relations between the two countries in the upcoming period, especially in the area of tourism and agriculture cooperation. Also, the interlocutors agreed that the establishment of friendship groups, as well as the planning of the mutual visits of members of the two parliaments, planned for the first half of next year, directly contributed to the strengthening of bilateral and overall relations between Montenegro and Ukraine.

Vice presidents of the Parliament Mr Gvozdenović and Mr Nimanbegu also took part in meetings of the President of the Republic of Bulgaria Rumen Radev on 11 July with President of the European Parliament Mr Antonio Tajani on 18 July, President of the Republic of Hungary János Áder on 4 October, as well as during the talk held on 15 November with representatives of the OSCE/ODIHR.

- Below is also more information about visits to other countries and the participation of the vice presidents of the Parliament in international meetings:
- On 1 December, Vice President Gvozdenović took part in Trade Fair for Investment Projects REXPO in Zagreb. As one of the keynote speakers Vice President Gvozdenović addressed at the ceremonious opening, together with: Deputy Prime Minister of the Republic of Croatia Predrag Štormar, Minister of Tourism of the Republic of Croatia Gari Kapeli, and Ambassador of Great Britain to Croatia Andrew Dalglish. Speaking about the need for a joint strategy for attracting investments and tourists from distant markets, Vice President Gvozdenović especially emphasised the potential that the Mediterranean region has in terms of to-

urism. Bearing in mind that 370 million tourists visited a Mediterranean destination this year, and that according to UNWTO's long-term forecast, this number will reach over 500 million in 2030, Mr Gvozdenović said that the whole region should see this as a chance for themselves.

- On 19 December, Vice President of the Parliament Branimir Gvozdenović took part in the 20th meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention in Tirana. The meeting was an opportunity to recall on the importance of Integrated Coastal Zone Management (ICZM) for the sustainable development of coastal and marine areas, the elimination of pollution and the achievement of a good state of the environment in line with the ecosystem approach. Vice President Gvozdenović emphasised that ICZM contributed to the resistance of marine areas to the developmental pressure caused by the tourism development and accompanying processes of urbanization. He stressed that this pressure is additionally strengthened in the Mediterranean region by the influence of climate change, that is, the rise in sea levels, droughts and floods.
- Vice President of the Parliament Genci Nimanbegu, in his capacity of a member of the Permanent Delegation of the Parliament of Montenegro to NATO PA, took part in several NATO PA activities during 2017 (more information on page: 51)

3.5. PERMANENT DELEGATIONS

Activities within permanent delegations in parliamentary assemblies of international organisations were also continued in 2017 via participation in ordinary sessions, meetings, and forums.

Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (PACE)

In 2017, 2015, Delegation of the Parliament of Montenegro to the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe participated in two ordinary sessions of the PACE and in several meetings of its working bodies.

The first regularly winter session of the PACE was held in Strasbourg from 23 to 27 January 2017. In accordance with the PACE Rules of Procedure, the mandates were approved to parliamentarians at the beginning of the session, the leadership was elec-



Delegation of the Parliament of Montenegro at the PACE Summer Session, Strasbourg, 27 June 2017

ted, and the composition of permanent working bodies of the Parliamentary Assembly was determined. As for the Parliament of Montenegro, the mandates to the following MPs were confirmed: Predrag Sekulić, Head of the PACE Delegation, Sanja Vlahović, member of the Delegation, and Marija Čatović and Ervin Ibrahimović, substitute members of the Delegation.

The winter session was marked by debates on media freedom in Europe, online media and journalism, and the prevention of hate speech on the Internet. Other highlights of the session were the debates on the functioning of democratic institutions in Ukraine, the situation in Lebanon and challenges for regional stability and European security, and the humanitarian crisis in Gaza, progress of PA's monitoring procedure, new generation trade agreements, and supporting the process of Roma inclusion.

Predrag Sekulić, Head of the PACE Delegation, and substitute members Sanja Vlahović and Ervin Ibrahimović took part in the Winter Session.

Summer session of the PACE was held in Strasbourg from 26 to 27 January 2017. In the period 26-28 June, the session was attended by Predrag Sekulić, Head of the PACE Delegation, Sanja Vlahović, member of the Delegation, and Marija Čatović and Ervin Ibrahimović, substitute members of the Delegation.

The session was marked by a debate on migration in Europe, in particular on the issues of refugee integration, humanitarian and political response to the migrant crisis, and migration as an opportunity for European development. MPs were particularly interested in topics such as: further promoting of transparency and accountability measures within the PA, fight against corruption and promoting integrity in governance. The agenda of the June Session also included discussions on the situation in Belarus, the execution of judgments of the European Court of Human Rights, the fight against terrorism, the political influence on independent media, and the fight against abuse and violence against women.

Tenth anniversary of Montenegro's membership in the Council of Europe was marked by a set of activities within the June Session. The Prime Minister of Montenegro addressed the Parliamentary As-

sembly of the Council of Europe on this occasion, and ceremony of the presenting the gift of Montenegro to the Council of Europe was also held.

In addition to participating in regular sessions, delegation members participated in the meetings of the working bodies of the PACE, political group meetings, observation missions and other activities aimed at promoting the values and standards of the Council of Europe. Numerous meetings were also held with representatives of institutions and countries Council of Europe member states, including meetings held during the visit of the representatives of the PACE to Montenegro.

Parliamentary Assembly of the North Atlantic Alliance (NATO PA)

The first parliamentary session of NATO, where Montenegro participated as a full member of the Alliance, was held from 6 to 9 October 2017 in Bucharest. The 63rd Session gathered the representatives of parliaments from 29 member states from the North America and Europe, associate and partner states, observer states, and other relevant representatives, with a goal of discussing common security issues of international nature. On this occasion, the Parliament of Montenegro was represented by Head of Delegation Obrad Mišo Stanišić and member Genci Nimanbegu. Members of the parliamentary Delegation participated for the first time in voting at the meetings of all committees on resolutions and other documents that were on the agenda of the parliamentary session.

In his introductory speech, President of the NATO Parliamentary Assembly Mr Paolo Alli congratulated Montenegro on its full membership of NATO,



Members of the Permanent Delegation of the Parliament of Montenegro to the NATO PA at the Joint 96th Rose-Roth Seminar, 7 November 2017

welcomed it in the alliance of Euro-Atlantic states, and invited the participants to support by applause this success of both - Montenegro and the Alliance. He pointed out that Montenegro's membership in the North Atlantic Alliance was the result of a devoted and committed work in the previous period, as well as its contributions to international peace, and stressed the firm belief this would continue in the upcoming period.

During the discussions on the Western Balkans, the activities NATO had in this area and the open door policy, NATO Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg pointed out that the impressive results Montenegro has achieved over the last years in meeting the standards and showing full commitment to the Alliance's common goals were its best recommendation for full membership in NATO.

The Spring Session of NATO PA was held in Tbilisi in May of this year, when the Parliament of Montenegro was represented by Obrad Mišo Stanišić, Head of the Delegation, and members Genci Nimanbegu and Tarzan Milošević. The Spring Session gathered approximately 200 parliamentarians from 28 NATO member states, as well as delegates from partner countries and observer countries, with a goal to consider current security issues and draft reports of the Parliamentary Assembly's committees. During the meetings, the delegates were addressed by representative of governments, academic community, NGO sector and NATO.

In 2017, Permanent Delegation of the Parliament participated in several meetings of the NATO PA committees, including the Spring Meeting of the Standing Committee. The Parliament was also represented at this year's Rose Roth Seminars, as

well as at the 17th Annual NATO PA Transatlantic Forum, held in December in Washington. The Forum, hosted jointly by the NATO PA, Atlantic Council of the United States (ACUS) and Institute for National Strategic Studies, gave an opportunity to the participants to discuss on a wide range of key issues shaping the transatlantic partnership in the field of security and defence.

Parliamentary Assembly (OSCE PA)

The Winter Meeting of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly (OSCE PA) was held in Vienna on 23 and 24 February. The XVI Winter Meeting, which gathered over 250 MPs from 50 member states, was marked by the discussion on the topic of protecting human rights in times of crisis, and forming of platform for joint action of member states aimed at overcoming the current challenges. At the Standing Committee, the rapporteurs presented their findings during their time in observation missions, including the report on parliamentary elections in Montenegro from October 2016. In separate meetings of the three committees, in accordance with their responsibilities, they considered the security challenges from the aspect of growing populism, spread of terrorism, and climate change.

The Parliament of Montenegro was presented by President of the Parliament of Montenegro Mr Ivan Brajović and Vice President of the Parliament of Montenegro Mr Branimir Gvozdenović, in their capacities of permanent members, as well as MPs Aleksandra Vuković and Nikola Rakočević, as substitute members. The permanent member of the delegation also had a series of bilateral meetings with senior officials of this organisation.





The 26th Annual Session of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly, held in Minsk, from 5-9 July, was focused on the significance of parliamentary dialogue among member states for the purpose of combating all types of threats, primarily in the security sense, and making efforts aimed at de-escalation of the current conflicts. This year's session entitled "Enhancing mutual trust and co-operation for peace and prosperity in the OSCE region" stressed that in times of prominent security threats, it was most important to build trust among states and nations, ensuring peace and security on the principle of mediation and consensus. Meetings of general committees were marked by discussions on resolutions, subsequently forwarded to the relevant committees, the election of new leadership, and presentation of the reports by rapporteurs. Three resolutions of the committees had become a part of the incorporated text of the Joint Declaration, which was adopted at the end of the Session. Delegation of the Parliament of Montenegro was composed of President of the Parliament Ivan Brajović, Head of the Delegation, and MP Nikola Rakočević, alternate member. More than 300 parliamentarians within the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly have considered resolutions pertaining to: crisis in Ukraine, transnational terrorism, conflicts in Nagorno-Karabakh region, climate change, fundamental freedoms and respect of human rights, energy security, multiculturalism, abolition of the death penalty, new voting technologies, and the management of migration and refugee movements.

The Parliament also took part in the seminar "OSCE Security Policy – Female Perspectives", held in Vienna, where Chairperson of the Gender Equality Committee Nada Drobnjak and alternate member of the Parliament of Montenegro's Standing Delegation to the OSCE PA Aleksandra Vuković participated. The conference in Leinsweiler was held in May. It was about geopolitical spheres of influences in the OSCE region. Alternate member of the Parliament of Montenegro's Standing Delegation to the OSCE PA Aleksandra Vuković took part in it.

In May, President Brajović had multiple meetings with OSCE PA top officials, including meetings with Roberto Battelli, OSCE PA Vice President and Special Representative on South East Europe, and

Ambassador Andreas Nothelle, OSCE PA's Special Representative in Vienna (more details on page).

3.6. REGIONAL INITIATIVES

Cetinje Parliamentary Forum

The XIX Cetinje Parliamentary Forum (CPF) on the topic "Parliament and mass communications" was held in Cetinje, on 8 December 2017. The forum gathered representatives of the parliaments of five countries in the region and Montenegro, eminent experts in the field of communications, media representatives, non-governmental organisations representatives, as well as the diplomatic corps and the students of relevant faculties. The Cetinje Parliamentary Forum adopted the Joint Declaration, where the participants welcomed all forms of communication aimed at improving parliamentary cooperation, as well as cooperation between parliaments and citizens whose choice they represent, and stressed the importance of involving media and non-governmental organisations in the work of the CPF, through their contribution to the debate and conclusions. The participants agreed that transparency of work and availability of all relevant information to citizens were of great importance for the democratic work of parliaments. The declaration also recognised that mass communication play an important role in the greater involvement of citizens in politics and democratic processes as a whole, while the importance of digital media was recognised through their availability in providing information, inclusion, understanding, and building trust between citizens and institutions. It was noted that, channels of communication - regardless of whether they are new or traditional media - play a key role in interaction with citizens. All participants agreed that responsibility for truthful, objective and timely information is borne by both decision-makers and all other stakeholders of the process in which the civil sector and the media play a crucial role.

The panel "Democracy in digital era" discussed the impact of digital era and new media on openness and understanding of the parliamentary role and vice versa. The second panel titled "The truth in the post-truth age" initiated a debate on the topic of traditional and new media: who is in charge of the truth and who of the post-truth defined by the Oxford Dictionary as circumstances in which ob-



XIX Cetinje Parliamentary Forum (CPF) "Parliament and mass communications", Cetinje, 8 December 2017

jective facts are less influential in shaping public opinion than appeals to emotion and personal belief.

"In civilisation, democracy is probably a term that evokes the most trust, but also mistrust. Today it got a competitor: the media are talked about, argued about and discussed with the same passion as democracy. Democracy and mass media are indispensable to each other, like opposition and position. In that conflict, like in the big bang, a new world and a new idea are created. This is primarily thanks to information" I. Brajović, CPF, Cetinje.

South-East European Cooperation Process Parliamentary Assembly (SEECF PA)

As for the regional initiatives, the Parliament of Montenegro took part in the IV Plenary Session of the Parliamentary Assembly of the South-East European Cooperation Process (SEECF PA), held in Zagreb on 9-10 June.

President of the Parliament of Montenegro and Head of the Standing Delegation to the SEECF PA Ivan Brajović and members of the Standing Delegation Milorad Vuletić and Radule Novović took part in the session.

This year's plenary session of the SEECF PA adopted the Final Declaration which emphasises, among other things, the EU integration perspective of the aspirant countries, as one of the most important factors of stability and security

in the Western Balkans region. It was noted that Union's policy of further enlargement significantly contributed to the peace, security, stability and prosperity of both the EU and the South East European region. In its Final Declaration, the Assembly strongly condemned terrorism and radicalism and invited participants to invest efforts in building a sustainable network for co-operation and information sharing in order to efficiently combat terrorist threats. Furthermore, the Declaration encourages goals in the field of economic cooperation, development of joint infrastructure projects and development of entrepreneurship in the Southeast Europe region. The resolutions of the three general committees in charge of economy, justice and social development were also adopted at the Session. This was also the last activity of the Croatian chairmanship of this initiative, and at the end of the plenary session held in Zagreb, the chairmanship of the SEECF PA was officially taken over by the Republic of Slovenia.

During the annual session of the SEECF PA, MP Radule Novović was elected Chairperson of the General Committee on Social Development, Education, Research and Science.

In 2017, a meeting of the SEECF PA General Committee was held (in Ljubljana), where a member of the Standing Delegation Radule Novović participated. The first meeting under Slovenia's chairmanship-in-office of this initiative

was dedicated to presenting the priorities of the SEECP chairmanship organised under the motto “SEE4Future – South Eastern Europe for Future”, the activities of the three SEECP PA general committees, and the prospects for further development of this regional cooperation framework.

Adriatic-Ionian Initiative (AII)

The XV Conference of the Speakers of Parliaments of the Adriatic and Ionian Initiative was held 6 and 7 April 2017, in Ioannina, Greece. President of the Parliament of Montenegro Ivan Brajović participated in the conference on behalf of the Parliament.

Participants of the conference agreed that the role of parliaments in the AII should be strengthened in order to make the most of the potentials provided by the EU Strategy for the Adriatic and Ionian Region (EUSAIR). Also, the regular holding of EUSAIR Forum was welcomed, being an important framework for gathering the most important stakeholders of project cooperation within this region. The need for synchronised action and coordination with other macro-regional strategies was emphasised in order to achieve regular exchange of knowledge and experience and a synergistic effect aimed at better results and quick responses to current and future challenges.

Central European Initiative Parliamentary Dimension (CEI-PD)

Head of the Permanent Delegation of the Parliament of Montenegro to the Parliamentary Dimension of the Central European Initiative MP Miodrag Vuković took part in the annual Meeting of the CEI Parliamentary Assembly held in Minsk, on 27 and 29 November, within the Belarus presidency of the Initiative. This year's CEI PA session was devoted to the topic: “Digital technologies in terms of ensuring geopolitical security”. At the meeting, they welcomed efforts aimed at better coordination of actions carried out by CEI countries, EU institutions, the Eastern Partnership countries and other international organisations in order to maintain economic and political stability, as well as the development of innovations and digital technologies that will ensure geopolitical security. The CEI PA session noted the enormous progress

made by member states over the past 28 years in terms of strengthening the internal cohesion of the CEI countries.

At the end of the meeting, the Joint Declaration was adopted, summarising the conclusions from the held meeting of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Central European Initiative.

3.7. FRIENDSHIP GROUPS

Friendship groups are a form of parliamentary cooperation of the Parliament of Montenegro and parliaments of other states, which aims to improve parliamentary and interstate relations. Formed on the basis of mutually expressed interests of the two parties, the cooperation achieved through friendship groups is an additional impulse to the overall bilateral component of international relations.

In line with its good practise and achieved results, the 26th Parliament of Montenegro has established 39 friendship groups in 2017. Established to improve relations between parliaments, by networking contacts among parliamentarians, friendship groups provide an effective complementary platform to official diplomacy. Therefore, as a contribution to the implementation and achievement of (the goals) of parliamentary diplomacy, the increased number of friendship groups in comparison to the 25th Parliament, is a confirmation that today they are one of the basic forms of achieving the goals in the international political arena. By establishing friendship groups, the Parliament of Montenegro remains devoted to parliamentary diplomacy, as the most effective and best way of consolidating and improving inter-parliamentary relations and cooperation with the countries of the region, Europe and the world.

The 26th Parliament of Montenegro has established parliamentary friendship groups with parliaments of the following states: the Republic of Albania, the Arab Republic of Egypt, Australia, the Republic of Austria, the Republic of Azerbaijan, the Kingdom of Belgium, the Republic of Belarus, Bosnia and Herzegovina, the Republic of Bulgaria, the Czech Republic, the Republic of Estonia, France, Georgia, the Kingdom of the Netherlands, the Republic of Latvia, the Repu-

blic of Lithuania, the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg, the Republic of Croatia, the Islamic Republic of Iran, Iceland, Italy, Israel, the Kingdom of Jordan, the Republic of Kosovo, Kuwait, Hungary, the Republic of Macedonia, the Republic of Malta, the Federal Republic of Germany, the Republic of Poland, Romania, the Russian Federation, the United States of America, the Republic of Slovenia, the Slovak Republic, the Republic of Serbia, the People's Republic of China, Ukraine, and the Republic of Turkey.

You can find below a list of meetings of the Parliament of Montenegro's friendship groups, held in 2017.

3 July - Montenegro - Macedonia parliamentary Friendship Group held a meeting with a delegation of the Macedonian Assembly, headed by Mr Talat Khaferi, President of the Assembly of the Republic of Macedonia.

7 July - Montenegro - Turkey parliamentary Friendship Group held a meeting with Turkish Ambassador to Montenegro H. E. Serhat Galip.

12 July - Montenegro - Israel parliamentary Friendship Group met Israeli Ambassador to Montenegro based in Belgrade H. E. Alona Fisher Kamm;

11 September - Montenegro - Slovenia parliamentary Friendship Group met with a delegation of the Slovenian Assembly, headed by Speaker Brglez;

25 September - Meeting of President of the Parliament of Montenegro Ivan Brajović and Vice President of the National People's Political Advisory Congress of PR China Ma Peihua, attended by Montenegro - China parliamentary Friendship Group;

28 September - Chair of the Montenegro - Israel parliamentary Friendship Group and Vice President of the Parliament Branimir Gvozdenović held a meeting with Georgian Ambassador to Montenegro based in Budapest H. E. Kandelaki;

2 October - Montenegro - Germany parliamentary Friendship Group held a meeting with Kerstin Radomski, Member of the German Bundestag. The meeting was also attended by German Ambassador to Montenegro H.E. E. Hans Günther Mattern;

13 October - Montenegro - Islamic Republic of Iran parliamentary Friendship Group held a me-

eting with non-resident Ambassador of the Islamic Republic of Iran based in Belgrade H. E. Mr Hossein Molla Abdollah

18 July - Montenegro - Estonia parliamentary Friendship Group met Estonian Ambassador to Montenegro based in Tallinn H. E. Daniel Erik Schaer;

1 November - Montenegro - Italy parliamentary Friendship Group held a meeting with a delegation of the Foreign Affairs and Emigration Committee of the Italian Senate, composed of Deputy Chairperson of the Committee Paolo Corsini and member of the Committee Vito Rosario Petrochelli. The meeting was also attended by Italian Ambassador to Montenegro H.E. Vincenzo Del Monaco.

2-5 November - Delegation of the Iran - Montenegro parliamentary Friendship Group paid a three day visit to Montenegro. Delegation of the Iranian Assembly was composed of Chair of the Friendship Group Parvaneh Salahshouri and members - Mohammad Reza, Sakineh Almasi and Eghbal Mohammadia.

3.8. COOPERATION WITH FOREIGN AND INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS

OSCE Mission to Montenegro

In 2017, the cooperation of the Parliament of Montenegro was achieved through a number of activities of committees and parliamentary service.

With the support of the Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR), the Mission and the Committee organised a two-day workshop on the topic "Introduction gender aspects in legislation - Parliament of Montenegro", with the aim of implementing one of the measures from the Activity Plan for Gender-Responsive Parliament of Montenegro September 2016 - September 2018, envisaging capacity building and procedures for the assessments of gender impact in the phases of creating and adopting laws, policies and other acts. Within this activity, the Mission supported translation of the ODIHR's Making Laws Work for Women and Men: A Practical Guide to Gender-Sensitive Legislation.

On 18 and 19 September 2017, the Mission also

supported the organisation of a working visit to the Parliament of Montenegro by the Parliamentary Service of the Parliamentary Assembly of Bosnia and Herzegovina in the field of legislative process, research and documentation, with the aim of strengthening regional and bilateral cooperation and exchange of best practices. Additionally, the Mission supported participation of the parliamentary service and the Secretary General in the VI Annual Conference of the secretaries of working bodies of parliaments and assemblies of Bosnia and Herzegovina: „Strengthening parliamentary engagement in integration through stronger coordination of working bodies for European integration and involving civil society in relevant processes”, on 11 and 12 December in Jahorina.

As a continuation of efforts in the previous year, the Mission also provided assistance to the Parliament in 2017 for organising the training program for the parliamentary service. The program aims to further strengthen and develop a sustainable and modern parliamentary service. The programme consisted of four two-day workshops on the topic: Business Culture, Communication and Presentation, Conflict Management and Change Management.

The Mission also supported a number of mobile workshops within the framework of the Democracy Workshops “Barbara Pramer” programme.

Westminster Foundation for Democracy (WFD)

Cooperation with the Westminster Foundation for Democracy (WFD) continued in 2017 in line with the Memorandum of Understanding, signed in May 2016 and supported by the UK Embassy in Podgorica. The first phase of the project, aimed at establishing a parliamentary budget office (PBO), was completed in March 2017, and the funds to the new phase which will last until April 2018 have been approved.

Parliamentary Budget Office (PBO) is envisaged as a specialised part of the parliamentary service, which will provide assistance to MPs when analysing the budget, overseeing its implementation, analysing key budgetary documents, and laws with fiscal impact. The office was founded following the example of a similar financial oversight office in the Scottish Parliament. So far, its work was exclusively directed towards providing the assistance to the parliamentarians in conducting parliamen-

tary analysis and budget control, responding to the demands of MPs, and strengthening the capacity of researchers. Office staff attend specialised trainings, especially for the development of analytical products following the example of the Scottish Parliament.

This project is a continuation of the support provided by the WFD to the Parliament, mainly focused on organising trainings for parliamentarians and staff, while a special emphasis was put on supporting the advancement of committee work, strengthening regional cooperation in order to improve public finance management, organising bilateral meetings of parliamentary committees with parliaments of the regional countries, as well as regional parliamentary meetings and conferences.

National Democratic Institute (NDI)

In 2017, cooperation of the Parliament of Montenegro and the National Democratic Institute (NDI) was mainly achieved through NDI Western Balkans Legislative Strengthening Initiative (WBLSI), funded by the National Endowment for Democracy (NED). The Initiative aims to assist parliaments in strengthening their law-making, oversight, and representation capacities.

In March, the Initiative organised international conference, in cooperation with the Czech Senate and Chamber of Deputies, on the topic “Legislative initiatives and coalition building in the process of law adoption”. The Conference took place in Prague. Also, in November a regional workshop on “Transparency and cooperation of parliaments with civil society” was held in Bratislava. Both events gathered MPs and leading experts from parliamentary services of several countries; they shared their experiences regarding the support provided by research and legislative services, as well as the inter-party cooperation and the engagement of civil society in law-making, as well as the administrative and other support provided to MPs by parliamentary staff.

Within the Initiative, two regional gatherings of research services representatives from the Western Balkans parliaments were organised in Montenegro, one of these in May 2017. The events exchanged information and experiences of the officials dealing with parliamentary researches, and established models for stronger cooperation.



IV TRANSPARENCY OF WORK OF THE PARLIAMENT OF MONTENEGRO

4.1. PARLIAMENT AND MEDIA

In the period January - December 2017, the Department for Public Relations and Protocol of the Parliament of Montenegro issued 295 permanent credentials for journalists and camera crews/photo-reporters, while a total of 292 daily credentials were issued. In the same period, 109 individual questions by the journalists regarding parliamentary activities were processed and answered.

During the said period, a total of 19 press conferences were held in the Parliament of Montenegro.

In the period from January to December 2017, 3,290 pieces of information, announcements and statements illustrated with 3,540 photos were posted on the News page of the parliamentary website.

The Parliament continues the practice of broadcasting the sittings of the Parliament. In the reporting period, a total of 27 ordinary sessions were broadcasted, in duration of 128 hours and 46 minutes, as well as three extraordinary sessions lasting for three hours and 50 minutes. Live broadcast was also provided for the Sixth Session of the Women's Parliament, lasting for 2 hours and 50 minutes, the Seventh Session of the Women's Parliament, lasting for 3 hours and 20 minutes, the Third Session of the Students'

Parliament, lasting for 1 hour and 24 minutes, and for SAPC meeting in the duration of 2 hours and 23 minutes.

4.2. FREE ACCESS TO INFORMATION

The Parliament of Montenegro, in this reporting period as well, continued with the practice of responding to all requests for access to information. Furthermore, the Parliament of Montenegro regularly publishes on its website decisions and other individual acts which are significant for rights, obligations, and interests of third persons, as well as information for which access was granted upon request. In 2017, the requests for access to information were most frequently submitted by the NGOs. In the reporting period, a total of 94 requests for free access to information were submitted to the Parliament of Montenegro, and they were answered to in the following manner: for 38 requests access was granted (for one of these requests, the access to a part of information was partially limited due to privacy protection); for six requests the information was already available on the website of the Parliament of Montenegro (response by announcement); for four requests access was partially granted, in two cases due to the lack of possession of all the requested information and for

one because an access to the information demanded making a new information; for 41 requests access was denied because the Parliament did not possess the requested information; in one case, the access was denied for the interest of exercising the official duty.

Preparation of the response to a request submitted in late December is ongoing. In 2017, 22 requests submitted in 2016 were also addressed.

The appendix of this Report contains a detailed tabular overview with information about submitters of requests for access to information, date of reception and of response, as well as the type of response.

4.3. COOPERATION WITH CIVIL SECTOR



The cooperation of the Parliament of Montenegro and civil society organisations continued in 2017. NGO Young Roma joined the signatories of the Agreement on Cooperation between the Parliament of Montenegro and the non-governmental organisations in Montenegro, signed with almost 70 NGOs in July 2016. At the meeting with representatives of this organisation, President of the Parliament of Montenegro Ivan Brajović congratulated its activists on the award they received from the European Union, for the best project „Through Education to Integration”, which refers to the integration of Roma in the Western Balkans and Turkey. The meeting was attended by Vice President of the Parliament of Montenegro Genci Nimanbegu, Chairperson of the Committee on Human Rights and Freedoms Halil Duković, Head of the MPs Group of the Democratic Party of Socialists Miodrag Bobo Radunović, Head of the MPs Group of the Bosniak Party, Coalition „Albanians resolutely” and the Croatian Civic Initiative Ervin Ibrahimović and Head of the MPs Group of the Social Democrats of Montenegro and Liberal Party of Montenegro Andrija Popović.

„The exercise of fundamental human rights and the overall improvement of the position of Roma and Egyptians has multiple benefits for the entire Montenegrin society. Balanced economic and social development is an additional incentive for the tendency of Montenegro to stimulate its integration processes, as a multi-ethnic democratic state”, I. Brajović

Also, on 15 September, President Brajović met representatives of NGOs - CEDEM, CDT, CEMI, MANS and CA, when they concluded that the Parliament of Montenegro and non-governmental sector had open and constructive cooperation, with unbiased and objective approach in the interest of progress of institutions and Montenegrin society as a whole. They jointly assessed that the Parliament has achieved significantly greater openness and transparency of work, which is

a good basis for further progress in exchanging views with the civil sector, both through organisations and individually. They also spoke about following good practices from more developed democratic societies, the inclusion of experts that would provide the basis for further improvement of legislative frameworks, the quality of documents, procedures and other elements important for the legislative and control role of the Parliament, whether it is about election or other process, for the benefit of the whole society. The meeting was organised on the 20th anniversary since the adoption of the Universal Declaration on Democracy by the Inter-parliamentary Union, as well as on the tenth anniversary since the decision of the UN General Assembly to pronounce 15 September for International Day of Democracy.

When it comes to cooperation with the civil sector, the Parliament and its relevant working bodies continue to analyse the received initiatives, attitudes and recommendations of non-governmental organisations and, if necessary, invite their representatives to explore certain issues within the scope of work of the working bodies. Committee members also participate

in meetings organised by civil society. More information about this is available in the part relating to working bodies.

4.4. VISITS, EXHIBITIONS AND OTHER EVENTS

During the year, a number of group and individual visits to the Parliament of Montenegro were organised.

Thus, in October students of Maksim Gorki and Vladika Danilo primary schools had the opportunity to learn about the work of the Parliament, its responsibilities and functions, history and activities of working bodies and MP groups. For the same reason, the Parliament was visited in November by students of the Resource Centre for Education and Vocational Training „June 1st” and sixteen students of Knightsbridge Schools International Montenegro from Tivat, in December by primary school students from Bar, Nikšić and Podgorica, students of Secondary Vocational School and Secondary School of Economics and Hospitality from Nikšić, and students of “Spasoje Raspopović” Secondary Vocational School from Podgorica, in the organisation of the NGO Hand of Friendship Foundation.

Participants of the Eighth Session of the Children’s Parliament, i.e. 50 representatives of local children’s parliaments from 21 municipalities, including representatives of vulnerable groups from all Montenegrin municipalities visited the Parliament in November (more details on page 62.). Participants of the „Barbara Prammer” democracy workshops regularly visit

the parliamentary building (more details on democracy workshops on page 61.)

This year the Parliament also hosted representatives of students population, by organising in May a meeting with representatives of the University of Montenegro, University of Donja Gorica and the Faculty for State and European Studies. The meeting was organised by the Communication Team of the Council for NATO Membership together with students, within InfoDays for students. In October, a group of students from the Faculty for State and European Studies attended the session of the Parliament of Montenegro.

In 2017, members of parliamentary staff from other countries visited the Parliament. Therefore, representatives of the Macedonian parliamentary staff visited the Parliament in April, representatives of the parliamentary staff from several Western Balkans states in May and staff from B&H Parliamentary Assembly in September.

During the year, a number of individual visits were organised, both for domestic and foreign citizens.

As for other activities in 2017, they include the following:

- 24 January - President of the Parliament of Montenegro Ivan Brajović congratulated Day of Journalists of Montenegro to journalists, at the dinner hosted on that occasion;
- 5 April - Parliament signed an agreement with NGO “Young Roma”;
- 9 May - a discussion on “What is anti-fascism in



On the occasion of Victory Day and Europe Day - a discussion on "What is anti-fascism in Montenegro today" was held, where government officers and representatives of academic community took part, as well as the President of SUBNOR and anti-fascists of Montenegro. At the gathering they discussed the role of anti-fascism in a civic society, anti-fascism from the perspective of multinational and multi-confessional Montenegro, and challenges it was facing today in Montenegro and in Europe. Special overview of the promotion of anti-fascistic values among the young was given.

In his opening address, President of the Parliament Mr Brajović said that the Parliament of Montenegro had an important role in launching initiatives for addressing the issues of the broadest social significance, and that 9 May was the day with a multifaceted significance. President Brajović emphasised that the task of all individuals with responsible roles in society was to promote the values of anti-fascism, such as solidarity among groups and individuals, social justice, respect for diversity and equality. As especially significant, the President of the Parliament pointed out the need for fostering the culture of memory, because fascism as historically incomparable negative phenomena did not cease to exist, and that the role of institutions and individuals was to defend the proven and achieved values on which the modern society was built. Earlier that day, the President of the Parliament, at the head of the state delegation, laid down a wreath on the monument to partisan fighter on Gorica.

At the initiative of President of the Parliament of Montenegro, addressed to Minister of Education Mr Damir Šehović, Montenegrin schools held a class devoted to the 9th of May - Victory Day and Europe Day.

Montenegro today" was held, where numerous government officers and representatives of academic community took part, as well as President of SUBNOR and anti-fascists of Montenegro;

- 9 May - The President of the Parliament laid a wreath at the Monument of the Partisan Fighter in Gorica, on the occasion of V-E Day;
- 5 June - President of the Parliament presented certificates to attendees of Democracy Workshops;
- 7 June – President of the Parliament organised a reception on the occasion of Montenegro's NATO membership, on the day the Montenegrin flag was raised in Brussels.
- 12 July - President of the Parliament presented the 13th July Awards for 2017;
- 14 October - Exhibition "Art Collection of the Parliament of Montenegro" was opened in Petrovaradin, as a gift to Montenegrin diaspora and the entire culture public of Serbia on the occasion of visit of the delegation of the Parliament of Montenegro to the Republic of Serbia;
- 31 October - President of the Parliament of Montenegro held a lecture to students of bachelor and specialist studies at the University of Donja Gorica, on the occasion of Parliamentarism Day;
- 31 October - On the occasion of 111 years since the introduction of parliamentarism in Montenegro,

an exhibition „Art Collection of the Parliament of Montenegro" was opened in "Centar" Gallery, with 19 representative works of Montenegrin and regional painters;

- 20 November - The exhibition of artworks done by children from India and the Center „June 1st" from Podgorica was opened in the parliamentary Hall.

4.5. DEMOCRACY WORKSHOPS

In 2017, "Barbara Prammer" Democracy Workshops have intensively continued the organisation of workshops and development of cooperation with primary schools, as well as with other educational institutions in Montenegro. The cooperation is also continued through the organisation of mobile workshops in Montenegrin primary schools.

During the year, 144 workshops were held with 3,184 students and 180 teachers from 50 primary and one high school (from 15 municipalities). Also, 93 workshops on the topic "Democracy and Parliament" were held, 22 workshops on the topic "European Union", and 29 workshops on the topic "Human Rights". During the workshops, 94 newspaper editions were produced, 50 radio features and 42 TV features were created. Out of the total number of workshops, 29 mobile workshops were held in nine primary schools and seven municipalities, where 630 children participated. This year, democracy workshops hosted the graduate students of the „Mehmed Fatih" Madra-

sah from Podgorica, who presented their work in a video on the subject: “Democracy and Parliament”.

Traditional ceremony of presenting certificates to the participants of the workshops was held in June 2017. President of the Parliament of Montenegro Mr Ivan Brajović presented the certificates to the children.

More information about the program is available on the website: www.demokraskeradionice.me.

4.6. CHILDREN'S PARLIAMENT

The Eighth Session of the Children's Parliament was held on 20 November 2017. In addition to 50 representatives of local children's parliaments from 21 municipalities, i.e. two representatives coming from each primary and secondary school, including representatives of vulnerable groups of children from all Montenegrin municipalities, the Session was also attended by representatives of MPs groups in the Parliament of Montenegro, the Government of Montenegro, domestic institutions and international organisations dealing with issues of the rights of the child, as well as members of the diplomatic corps.

In his introductory remarks, President of the Parliament of Montenegro Ivan Brajović said that the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child laid down the principle that in all decisions concerning the child, the interest of the child always has to be put first. He added that the Convention encompassed in everyday life the obligations of adults, parents, foster parents, educators, social workers and the society as a whole, so that children and young people could get the same chance of growing up as healthy and stable individuals.

During the continuation of the Session, members of local children's parliaments listened to the presentation given by the children's Montenegrin delegation in Geneva on 3 October of the current year, before the members of the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child, as well as the presentation given by representatives of the Children's Parliament. The concept of this year's Session was different from previous ones, because there were no questions addressed directly to representatives of the Government, so children spoke about their personal experiences and views about certain problems in society, school, local community, family and other areas of importance for the smooth development of children in Montenegro, pointing out their expectations for the upcoming period.

The Eighth Session of the Children's Parliament was organised by the Parliament of Montenegro, in cooperation with the Center for Children's Rights of Montenegro, with support of the UNICEF Office and the Embassy of the United Arab Emirates (UAE), on the occasion of 20 November, the day of the adoption of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child and the recently implemented reporting before the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child in Geneva.

4.7. STUDENTS' PARLIAMENT

The Third Session of the Students' Parliament, opened by the President of the Parliament of Montenegro Mr Ivan Brajović, was held on 4 April. The participants in the Students' Parliament included 83 students from the University of Montenegro, University “Mediterranean”, University of Donja Gorica and the Faculty for State and European Studies. The following responded to the students' questions: Minister of Defence Predrag Bošković, Minister of European Affairs Aleksandar Andrija Pejović, Minister of Culture Janko Ljumović, Minister of Sports Nikola Janović, National Coordinator for NATO Dragan Pejanović, State Secretary for Political Affairs at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Mr Zoran Janković, H.E. Ambassador of Slovakia to Montenegro Roman Hloben and H.E. Ambassador of Hungary to Montenegro Krisztián Pósa.

Previously that same day, the President of the Parliament met with representatives of the students' parliaments of the said universities, who informed him on the matters of interest for the academic community. The students presented Mr Brajović with the Certificate of Appreciation for demonstrating willingness to open the Parliament of Montenegro to the youth and the discussion on Euro-Atlantic integration.

4.8. WOMEN'S PARLIAMENT





In 2017, two sessions of the „Women's Parliament” of the Montenegrin Parliament's Gender Equality Committee were held.

The sixth session of the Women's Parliament, which was held on 7 April, was dedicated to the implementation of activities on the need for greater involvement of women in public and political life, as well as involvement of young members of national minorities and Roma, in order to strengthen their engagement in politics, which has been recognised in the Action Plan for Chapter 23, adopted by the Government. At the opening of the Women's Parliament, the speakers were Vice President of the Parliament of Montenegro Mr Genci Nimanbegu, Chairperson of the Gender Equality Committee Ms Nada Drobnjak, Minister of Human and Minority Rights Mr Mehmed Zenka, Protector of Human Rights and Freedoms Mr Šučko Baković, and Advisor to the President of Montenegro Ms Sonja Tomović Šundić. Participants in the session included numerous representatives of parliamentary and governmental mechanisms for gender equality issues from the region, as well as representatives of the state institutions, diplomatic corps and local self-governments.

The Seventh Session of the Women's Parliament, dedicated to the implementation of activities on prevention and elimination of violence against women and domestic violence in the course of the global campaign “16 Days of Activism against Violence against Women”, was held on 6 December 2017. The Session was opened by the President of the Parliament of Montenegro Mr Ivan Brajović, who said on that occasion that by opening parliamentary doors, we gave support to raising public awareness and increasing political will and resources for preventing and ending

all forms of violence against women. He emphasised that gender-based violence was in the heart of human rights and that in many ways it is a decisive factor in creating a just society, and that the level of tolerance for all aspects of gender inequality and every type of violence reflects our degree of achieved liberties.

Other speakers in the Session were: vice presidents of the Parliament of Montenegro Branimir Gvozdenović and Genci Nimanbegu, Protector of Human Rights and Freedoms of Montenegro Šučko Baković, and President of the Supreme Court of Montenegro Vesna Medenica, as well as Commissioner for the Protection of Equality of the Republic of Serbia Brankica Janković. After this, representatives of the Government of Montenegro answered the questions by representatives of women's associations of parliamentary parties as well as by representatives of civil society.

There was also a presentation of the research on domestic violence and violence against women, conducted within the Program “Support to the anti-discrimination and gender equality policies”, funded by the EU Delegation to Montenegro, and implemented by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) to Montenegro in cooperation with the Ministry of Human and Minority Rights. The research was presented by Katarina Jovanović, IPSOS Strategic Marketing, Belgrade.

While concluding the Seventh Session of the Women's Parliament, Chairperson of the Gender Equality Committee Nada Drobnjak said that actions were needed to measurably reduce violence against women and domestic violence, and for it to cease to be a threat to women and a part of the lives of many families, and that the Gender Equality Committee would focus on this problem with due diligence in the coming period.



From debate "What is anti-fascism today in Montenegro" in the Parliament of Montenegro, 9 May 2017

PRAVA JEDNAKA ZA SVE NAS!



Democracy Workshops - Newspapers No 622 - authors: Dejan and Petar, IX-2 Primary School "Milija Nikčević", Nikšić, 09.02.2017



The Eighth Session of the Children's Parliament, 20 November 2017.



Third Sitting of the Students' Parliament, 4 April 2017



V ADMINISTRATIVE CAPACITIES

5.1. HUMAN RESOURCES

In the reporting period, the strengthening of administrative capacities was continued. In that respect, the Human Resources Plan of the Parliament of Montenegro was adopted, which is also an obligation stemming from Article 149 of the current Law on Civil Servants and State Employees. The Human Resources Plan presents both collective and individual data on employees of the Service of the Parliament of Montenegro, and the requirements for new hiring in 2017. At the end of 2017, there were 164 employees in the Parliamentary Service. That number also covers the following: Secretary General, two deputies Secretary General, Head of the Cabinet of the President, two assistants Secretary General, 11 advisers to the President and vice presidents of the Parliament of Montenegro, and 147 civil servants and state employees.

In the HR area, it is important to note the Human Resources Development Strategy defining the goals and activities that, are mainly focused on establishing internationally recognised stan-

dards in the quality of management and work, and on the creation of conditions for assuming and performing new tasks after Montenegro's acquiring of the status of an EU member.

Furthermore, the parliamentary staff attended a large number of trainings, just like in the previous years. In 2017, the parliamentary staff attended 70 trainings, with a total of 169 attendees. Out of the above number, employees attended 18 trainings organised by the Human Resources Administration, while the remaining 52 were trainings organised by the Parliament of Montenegro in cooperation with its partners, or organised by the local, foreign and international organisations.

5.2. LIBRARY AND RESEARCH

In 2017, the Research Centre prepared 18 research papers, containing a total of 561 pages, responding to all the submitted requests in accordance with the prescribed procedures, including: twelve papers at the request of MPs, five at the request of the Secretary General and one paper at

No	Date	Total number of employees	Number of civil servants and employees
1	31.12.2016.	155	147
2	31.12.2017.	164	147

Table No 7 - Comparable data on the number of employees in the Service of the Parliament of Montenegro on 31 December 2017 and 31 December 2016



On 29 December, President of the Parliament Ivan Brajović received the employees of the Parliament with the most work and life experience. In a less formal conversation compared to the work meetings, they discussed the manner of operation of the parliamentary service, change of working conditions and the environment during the previous decades. President Brajović thanked the present colleagues for their contribution and dedicated work, and pointed out the significance of their experience, as well as the importance of dedication to work in every job.

the initiative of the Centre. The research papers are available on the website of the Parliament of Montenegro, while an appendix of the Report lists all research papers written in 2017. In the reporting period, the Research Centre continued to actively cooperate with the European Centre for Parliamentary Research and Documentation (ECPRD), and it drafted and sent replies, in the form of brief information drafted in English, to 95 requests sent by parliaments - members of the ECPRD network. The Centre regularly compiles weekly news from the EU institutions, which are then sent electronically every Friday to all MPs and MP groups, and on that occasion, the Centre created 42 weekly newsletters in 2017. In the reporting period, work was done to improve and complete the content of the online research platform, which contains the documents produced by the research staff of the Parliament of Montenegro, and the parliaments of Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo, Macedonia, and Serbia. The basic goal of creating such database was to have a more efficient exchange of information and collected data among the research staff of the above mentioned parliaments, and it was

created with the support of the National Democratic Institute (NDI) within the framework of the Western Balkans Legislative Strengthening Initiative.

5.3. INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

In 2017, the Parliament of Montenegro implemented a series of activities relating to the following: implementation of the system for making phonographic records from the sessions of the Parliament, implementation of the system for salaries, treasury, and vehicle fleet, the drafting of policies, procedures and rules for information technology, and implementation of a systemic solution for data backup.

Activities have also been initiated which, among other things, should ensure the setting up of daily, weekly, monthly and annual information system data storage, as well as the project of digitalisation of archive documentation, which will significantly affect the quality and efficiency of certain work processes in the Parliament.

VI FINANCES

According to the 2017 Budget Law of Montenegro, the planned funds for the Parliament of Montenegro amounted to **10,349,761.75€**. The Budget of the Parliament of Montenegro amounts to 1.20% of the operating Budget of Montenegro or 0.52% of the total Budget of Montenegro.

The funds were allocated for three programmes:

- Programme - Enhancing Legislative Infrastructure - 5,253,412.49€
- Programme - Administration - 4,996,349.26€
- Programme - Funding of the weekly “Koha Javore” - 100,000.00€

Total expenditures of the operating 2017 Budget of the Parliament of Montenegro amounted to **8,392,921.29€** or 81.09% of the overall funds

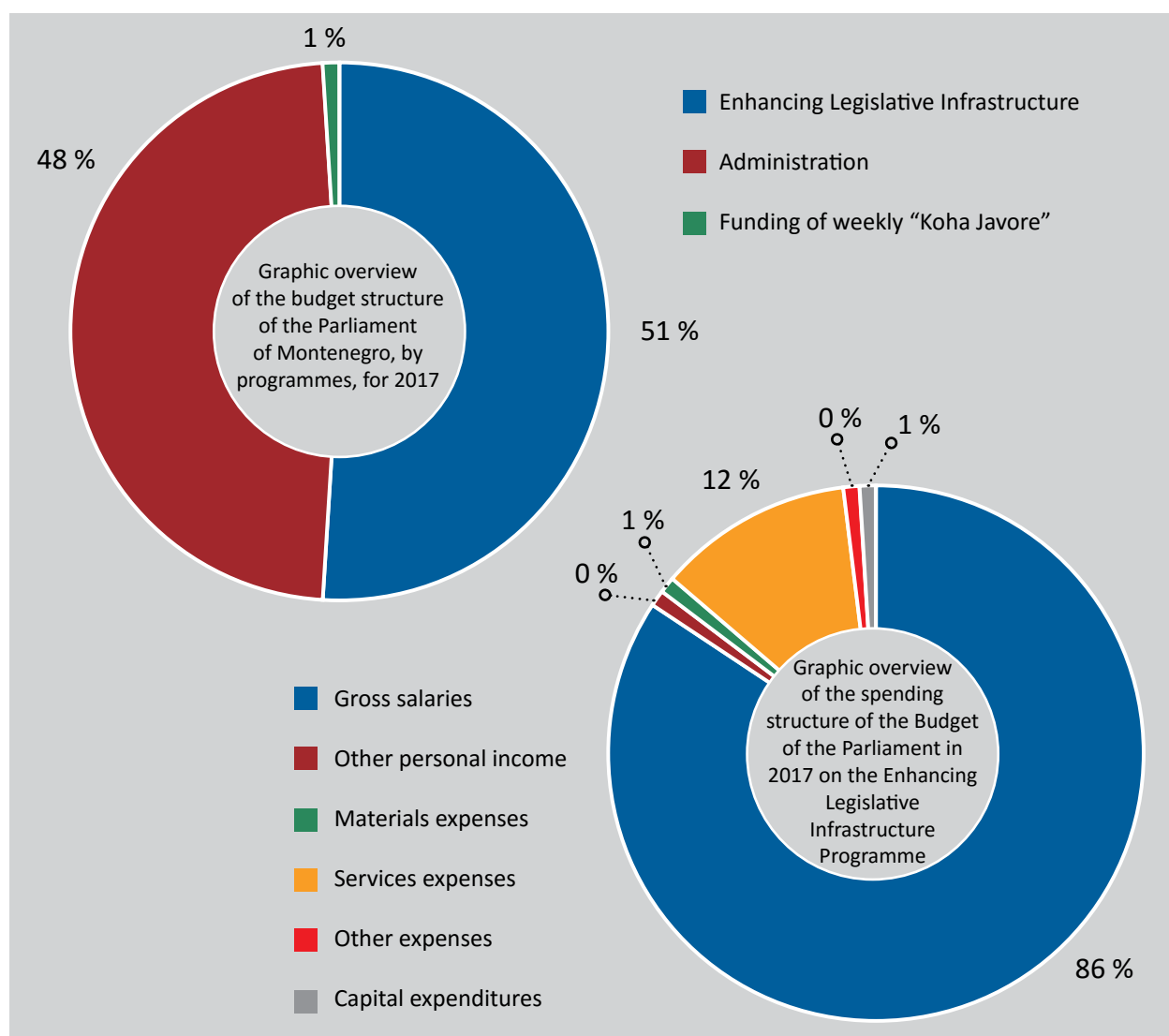
planned by the operating 2017 Budget of the Parliament of Montenegro.

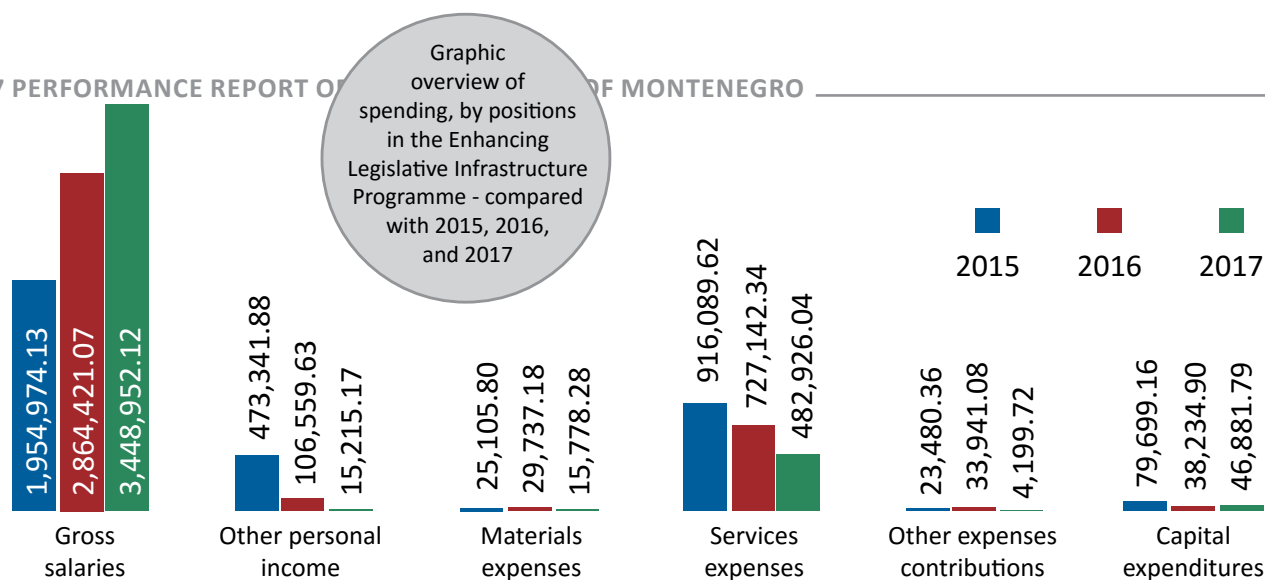
Spending by programmes amounts to:

- Programme - Enhancing Legislative Infrastructure - 4,013,953.07€ or 76.41%
- Programme - Administration - 4,278,968.19€ or 85.64%
- Programme - Funding of the weekly “Koha Javore” - 99,999.98€ or 100.00%.

ENHANCING LEGISLATIVE INFRASTRUCTURE PROGRAMME

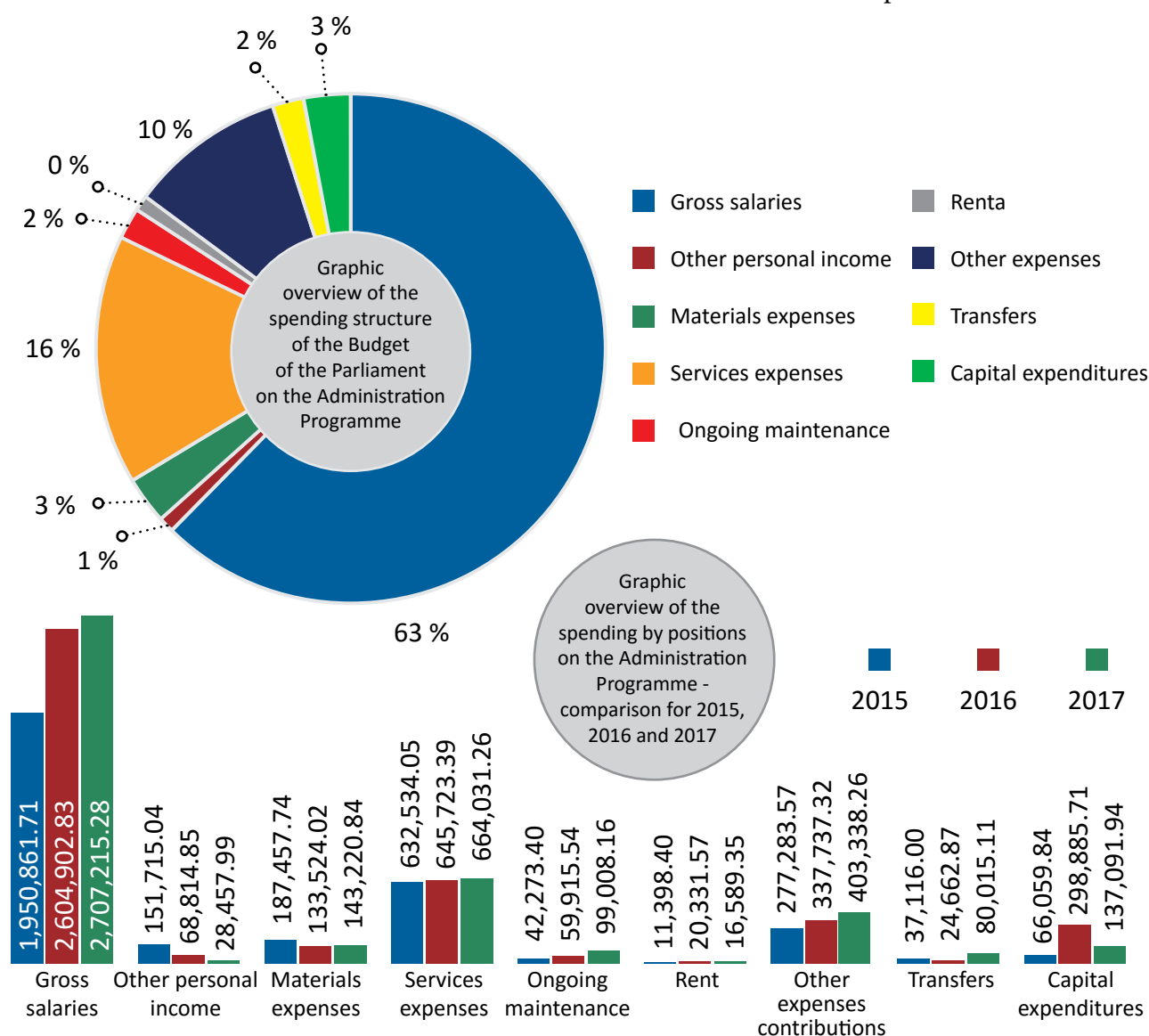
The approved amount of funds for the Enhancing Legislative Infrastructure Programme for 2017 amounted to 5,253,412.49€, and a total of 4,013,953,12€ or 76,41% was spent.





PROGRAMME ADMINISTRATION

Planned amount of funds of the operating budget allocated for the Administration Programme for 2016 amounted to 4,996,349.26€, and a total of 4,278,968.19€ or 85,64% was spent.



PROGRAMME FUNDING OF THE WEEKLY "KOHA JAVORE"

The 2017 Budget of the Parliament of Montenegro allocated funds amounting to 100,000€ for funding of the weekly "Koha Javore". The weekly in the Albanian language is published within the National Council of Albanians in Montenegro, and is funded from the programme 20101-3872 – Funds for funding of the weekly "Koha Javore" allocated to the Parliament of Montenegro in the 2017 Budget of Montenegro. A total of 99,999.9 € or 100.00% of the planned funds of the operating budget for this programme was spent.



APPENDIXES

APPENDIX I: LIST OF LAWS ADOPTED BY THE 26TH PARLIAMENT OF MONTENEGRO IN 2017

Laws (1 January - 31 December 2017)

1. Law on Amendment to the Law on Regularisation of Informal Structures;
2. Law on Ratification of the Agreement on Port State Measures to Prevent, Deter and Eliminate Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing;
3. Law on Ratification of the Agreement on Establishing the Regional Youth Cooperation Office;
4. Law on Ratification of the Agreement between the European Atomic Energy Community (EURATOM) and non-member States of the European Union on the participation of the latter in the Community arrangements for the early exchange of information in the event of radiological emergency (ECURIE);
5. Law on Ratification of the ILO Occupational Safety and Health (Dock Work) Convention No. 152;
6. Law on Ratification of the ILO Seafarers' Identity Documents Convention (Revised) No 185;
7. Law on Quality Schemes for Agricultural Products and Foodstuffs;
8. Law on Amendments to the Law on Enforcement and Security;
9. Law on Amendments to the Law on Public Enforcement Officers;
10. Law on Amendments to the Law on Legal Profession;
11. Law on Amendments to the Law on Obligatory Relations;
12. Law on Amendments to the Personal Data Protection Law;
13. Law on Amendments to the Law on Public Sector Salaries;
14. Law on Amendments to the Law on Mandatory Social Security Contributions;
15. Law on Amendments to the Law on Health Insurance;
16. Law on Amendment to the Law on Plant Nutrition Products;
17. Law on Amendments to the Law on Agriculture and Rural Development;
18. Law on Ratification of the International Agreement on Olive Oil and Table Olives, 2015;
19. Law on Ratification of the Convention for the Establishment of the European and Mediterranean Plant Protection Organisation;
20. Law on Ratification of the European Convention on Animal Protection in International Transport;
21. Law on Amendments and Supplement to the Law on Expropriation;
22. Law on Amendments to the Law on Restitution of the Taken Away Property Rights and Compensation;
23. Law on Amendment and Supplement to the Law on Local Self-Government Financing;
24. Law on Amendments to the Law on Free Access to Information;
25. Law on Illegal Advertising;
26. Law on Health Inspection;
27. Law on Electronic Identification and Electronic Signature;
28. Law on Amendments to the Law on the Capital City;
29. Law on Amendments and Supplement to the Law on Territorial Organisation of Montenegro;
30. Law on Amendments to the Law on Explosive Substances;
31. Law on Amendments to the Law on Basic Principles of Intelligence and Security Sector of Montenegro;
32. Law on Amendments to the Law on Air Transport;
33. Law on Amendments to the Law on deployment of the Armed Forces of Montenegro units to the international forces and participation of civil defence, police and public administration employees in peacekeeping missions and other activities abroad;
34. Law on Amendments to the Law on Minority Rights and Freedoms;
35. Law on Ratification of the North-Atlantic Treaty and the Protocol to the North-Atlantic Treaty on the Accession of Greece and Turkey;
36. Law on Ratification of the Protocol to Eliminate Illicit Trade in Tobacco Products;
37. Law on Amendment to the Law on Audit of the EU Funds;
38. Law on Amendments to the Law on Consensual Financial Restructuring of Debts to Financial Institutions;
39. Law on Fees for the Use of Tobacco Products and Electro-Acoustic and Acoustic Devices in restaurants and cafés;
40. Law on Amendments to the Law on State Surveying and Cadastre of Immovable Property;

41. Law on the National Brand;
42. Law on Infrastructure of Spatial Data;
43. Law on Supplement to the Law on Games of Chance;
44. Law on Amendments to the Law on Non-Governmental Organisations;
45. Law on Supplement to the Law on Administrative Fees;
46. Law on Amendment to the Law on Administrative Procedure;
47. Law on Executing a Decision of the Constitutional Court of Montenegro U-I No. 6/16 of 19 April 2017 (Official Gazette of Montenegro No. 31/19);
48. Law on Amendments to the Law on Social and Child Protection;
49. Law on Amendments to the Law on Public Procurement;
50. Law on Amendments to the Law on Public Sector Salaries;
51. Law on Amendments to the 2017 Budget Law of Montenegro;
52. Law on Amendments to the Law on International Restrictive Measures;
53. Law on Amendments to the Law on Higher Education;
54. Law on Amendment to the Law on Tourism Organizations;
55. Law on Amendments to the Anti-discrimination Law;
56. Law on Amendments to the Criminal Code of Montenegro;
57. Law on Amendment to the Law on Immovable Property Tax;
58. Law on Amendments to the Law on Protection of Cultural Heritage;
59. Law on Amendments to the Law on Ski Resorts;
60. Law on Amendments to the Law on Tax Administration;
61. Law on Amendments to the Law on Primary Education;
62. Law on Amendments to the General Law on Education;
63. Law on Amendments to the Law on Vocational Education;
64. Law on Amendments to the Law on Adult Education;
65. Law on Amendments to the Law on Education of Children with Special Educational Needs;
66. Law on Amendments to the Law on Grammar School;
67. Law on Amendments to the Law on Preschool Education;
68. Law on Amendment to the Law on Regularisation of Informal Structures;
69. Law on the regulation of the market of agricultural products;
70. Law on Amendment and Supplement to the Law on Civil Procedure;
71. Law on Amendments to the Law on Misdemeanours;
72. Law on Ratification of the Additional Protocol to the Council of Europe Convention on Prevention of Terrorism;
73. Law on the Prevention of Violence and Misbehaviour at Sports Events;
74. Law on the Army of Montenegro;
75. Law on Amendments to the Law on Energy;
76. Law on Chemicals;
77. Law on Amendments to the Law on Construction Products;
78. Law on Ratification of the Protocol on Pollutant Release and Transfer Registers;
79. Law on Old Royal Capital;
80. Law on Amendments to the Law on Travel Benefits for Persons with Disabilities;
81. Law on Amendments to the Law on Social and Child Protection;
82. Law on Amendments to the Law on Value Added Tax;
83. Law on Amendments to the Excise Law;
84. Law on Spatial Planning and Construction of Buildings;
85. Law on Ratification of the Agreement between Montenegro and the Republic of Portugal on Double Taxation Avoidance and Prevention of Income Tax Evasion;
86. Law on Ratification of the Paris Agreement;
87. Law on Ratification of Amendments to the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants, adopted at the Sixth and Seventh Session of the Conference of signatories;
88. Law on Amendments to the Law on Restitution of the Taken Away Property Rights and Compensation;
89. Law on Amendments to the Customs Law;
90. Law on Amendment to the Law on Audit of the EU Funds;
91. Law on Amendment to the Law on Tax on Turnover of used passenger motor vehicles, vessels, airplanes and aircrafts;
92. Law on Amendments to the Law on Central Bank of Montenegro;
93. Law on Amendments to the Law on Foreign Current and Capital Operations;



94. Law on Amendments to the Budget Law and Fiscal Responsibility;
95. Law on the Foreign Affairs;
96. Law on Services;
97. Law on Supplement to the Law on Consumer Protection;
98. Law on Amendments to the Law on Safety of Maritime Navigation;
99. Law on Contracts for Transportation in Road Traffic;
100. Law on Financial Leasing, Factoring, Debt Repurchase, Micro-crediting, and Credit and Guarantee Operations;
101. Law on Amendments and Supplement to the Law on Higher Education;
102. Law on Amendment to the Law on Public Prosecution Office;
103. Law on the 2016 Final Budget Statement of Montenegro;
104. Law on Amendments to the Law on Customs Service;
105. Law on Amendments to the Law on Investment and Development Fund of Montenegro;
106. Law on the Provision of Water Safe for Human Consumption;
107. Law on Ratification of the Agreement between the Government of Montenegro and Government of the Republic of Azerbaijan on readmission (return and admission) of persons residing without authorisation;
108. Law on Ratification of the Agreement between the Government of Montenegro and Government of Cyprus on Cooperation in Fighting Terrorism, Organised Crime, Illicit Trafficking in Narcotic Drugs, Psychotropic Substances and their Precursors, Illegal Immigration and Other Criminal Offences;
109. Law on Ratification of the Agreement between the Parties to the North Atlantic Treaty for co-operation regarding Atomic Information with the Secret Technical Annex to the Agreement between the Parties to the North Atlantic Treaty for co-operation regarding Atomic Information and the Confidential Security Annex to the Agreement between the Parties to the North Atlantic Treaty for co-operation regarding Atomic Information;
110. Law on Ratification of the Agreement between the Parties to the North Atlantic Treaty for the Security of Information;
111. Law on Ratification of the Protocol Amending the Security Annex to the Agreement between the Parties to the North Atlantic Treaty for co-operation regarding Atomic Information;
112. Law on Ratification of the Agreement for the mutual safeguarding of secrecy of inventions relating to defence and for which applications for patents have been made;
113. Law on Ratification of the NATO Agreement on the Communication of Technical Information for Defence Purposes;
114. Law on Ratification of the Agreement between the Parties to the North Atlantic Treaty regarding the Status of their Forces;
115. Law on Ratification of the Agreement on the status of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, National Representatives and International Staff;
116. Law on Ratification of the Protocol on the Status of International Military Headquarters set up pursuant to the North Atlantic Treaty;
117. Law on Ratification of the Agreement on the Status of Missions and Representatives of Third States to the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation;
118. Law on Ratification of the Metre Convention;
119. Law on Amendments to the Law on Treatment of Juveniles in Criminal Proceedings;
120. Law on Amendments to the 2017 Budget Law of Montenegro;
121. 2018 Budget Law of Montenegro;
122. Law on the Capital Market;
123. Law on foreign trade of goods and services which could be used for capital punishment, torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment;
124. Law on Ratification of the Additional Protocol 4 to the Agreement on Amendment of and Accession to the Central European Free Trade Agreement and the Additional Protocol 5 to the Agreement on Amendment of and Accession to the Central European Free Trade Agreement;
125. Law on Amendments to the Law on Executing a Decision of the Constitutional Court of Montenegro U-I No 6/16 of 19 April 2017 (Official Gazette of MNE No 31/17);
126. Law on the Chamber of Economy of Montenegro;
127. Law on Supplements to the Law on Electronic Media;
128. Law on Amendments to the Law on Voters' Register;
129. Law on Amendments to the Law on Financing of Political Entities and Election Campaigns;
130. Law on Amendments to the Law on Roads;
131. Law on Tourism and Hospitality Industry;
132. Law on Civil Servants and State Employees;
133. Law on Local Self-Government;
134. Law on Amendment and Supplement to the Law on Local Self-Government Financing.

APPENDIX II: TABULAR OVERVIEW OF SPENDING IN 2017

Economic classification	Parliament of Montenegro	2017 Budget Law	2017 Operating budget	Spent from 1 January to 31 December 2017	% of spending compared to the Budget Law
20101		10,349,761.75 €	9,349,761.75 €	8,392,921.29 €	81.09%
2941	Programme: Enhancing Legislative Infrastructure	5,253,412.49 €	4,336,412.49 €	4,013,953.12 €	76.41%
4	Expenditures	5,253,412.49 €	4,336,412.49 €	4,013,953.12 €	76.41%
41	Running costs	5,203,412.49 €	4,286,412.49 €	3,967,071.33 €	76.24%
411	Gross wages and employer contributions	4,359,220.24 €	3,659,220.24 €	3,448,952.12 €	79.12%
4111	Net wages	2,550,986.08 €	2,100,986.08 €	2,019,933.79 €	79.18%
4112	Income tax	405,387.55 €	335,387.55 €	319,258.92 €	78.75%
4113	Employee contributions	933,593.47 €	828,593.47 €	738,692.26 €	79.12%
4114	Employer contributions	408,446.50 €	333,446.50 €	323,177.96 €	79.12%
4115	Municipal dues	60,806.64 €	60,806.64 €	47,889.19 €	78.76%
412	Other personal income	22,000.00 €	25,601.00 €	15,215.17 €	69.16%
4122	Compensation for rent and separate living	10,000.00 €	13,200.00 €	12,814.94 €	128.15%
4125	Severance pay	2,000.00 €	2,401.00 €	2,400.23 €	120.01%
4127	Other compensations	10,000.00 €	10,000.00 €	0.00 €	0.00%
413	Materials expenses	38,442.25 €	24,442.25 €	15,778.28 €	41.04%
4135	Fuel expenses	38,442.25 €	24,442.25 €	15,778.28 €	41.04%
414	Services expenses	763,750.00 €	557,550.00 €	482,926.04 €	63.23%
4141	Business trips	600,750.00 €	428,550.00 €	376,871.82 €	62.73%
4142	Representation	35,000.00 €	35,000.00 €	27,441.21 €	78.40%
4143	Communication services	60,000.00 €	60,000.00 €	55,472.87 €	92.45%
4144	Banking services and negative exchange differences	3,000.00 €	3,000.00 €	1,787.94 €	59.60%
4147	Consulting services, projects and studies	10,000.00 €	6,000.00 €	0.00 €	0.00%
4148	Professional training services	2,000.00 €	2,000.00 €	0.00 €	0.00%
4149	Other services	53,000.00 €	23,000.00 €	21,352.20 €	40.29%
419	Other expenses	20,000.00 €	19,599.00 €	4,199.72 €	21.00%



4195	Membership contributions to domestic and international organisations	20,000.00 €	19,599.00 €	4,199.72 €	21.00%
44	Capital expenditures	50,000.00 €	50,000.00 €	46,881.79 €	93.76%
441	Capital expenditures	50,000.00 €	50,000.00 €	46,881.79 €	93.76%
4415	Equipment expenses	50,000.00 €	50,000.00 €	46,881.79 €	93.76%
2951	Programme: Administration	4,996,349.26 €	4,913,349.26 €	4,278,968.19 €	85.64%
4	Expenditures	4,996,349.26 €	4,913,349.26 €	3,276,040.73 €	65.57%
41	Running costs	4,819,371.25 €	4,683,671.25 €	4,061,861.14 €	84.28%
411	Gross wages and employer contributions	3,519,588.50 €	3,152,088.50 €	2,707,215.28 €	76.92%
4111	Net wages	2,062,092.94 €	1,694,592.94 €	1,592,318.91 €	77.22%
4112	Income tax	307,825.61 €	307,825.61 €	233,823.08 €	75.96%
4113	Employee contributions	748,395.35 €	748,395.35 €	577,324.65 €	77.14%
4114	Employer contributions	355,100.75 €	355,100.75 €	268,673.99 €	75.66%
4115	Municipal dues	46,173.85 €	46,173.85 €	35,074.65 €	75.96%
412	Other personal income	35,728.00 €	40,728.00 €	28,457.99 €	79.65%
4124	Jubilee awards	1,728.00 €	1,728.00 €	1,620.00 €	93.75%
4125	Severance pay	9,000.00 €	9,000.00 €	0.00 €	0.00%
4127	Other compensations	25,000.00 €	30,000.00 €	26,837.99 €	107.35%
413	Materials expenses	189,924.75 €	167,299.75 €	143,220.84 €	75.41%
4131	Administrative materials	101,250.00 €	81,125.00 €	81,102.79 €	80.10%
4133	Special purpose materials	60,000.00 €	60,000.00 €	43,870.14 €	73.12%
4135	Fuel expenses	28,674.75 €	26,174.75 €	18,247.91 €	63.64%
414	Services expenses	721,130.00 €	748,430.00 €	664,031.26 €	92.08%
4141	Business trips	50,000.00 €	50,000.00 €	29,313.32 €	58.63%
4142	Representation	30,000.00 €	30,000.00 €	12,018.15 €	40.06%
4143	Communication services	80,000.00 €	72,000.00 €	66,531.47 €	83.16%
4144	Banking services and negative exchange differences	3,000.00 €	3,000.00 €	90.00 €	3.00%
4145	Transportation services	50,000.00 €	40,000.00 €	28,215.43 €	56.43%
4147	Consulting services, projects and studies	385,130.00 €	385,130.00 €	369,736.20 €	96.00%

4148	Professional training services	18,000.00 €	17,400.00 €	7,368.80 €	40.94%
4149	Other services	105,000.00 €	150,900.00 €	150,757.89 €	143.58%
415	Running costs of maintenance	112,000.00 €	102,000.00 €	99,008.16 €	88.40%
4152	Running costs of buildings maintenance	10,000.00 €	10,000.00 €	10,000.00 €	100.00%
4153	Running costs of equipment maintenance	102,000.00 €	92,000.00 €	89,008.16 €	87.26%
417	Rent	23,000.00 €	54,125.00 €	16,589.35 €	72.13%
4171	Facilities lease	8,000.00 €	39,125.00 €	7,920.00 €	99.00%
4172	Equipment lease	15,000.00 €	15,000.00 €	8,669.35 €	57.80%
419	Other expenses	218,000.00 €	419,000.00 €	403,338.26 €	185.02%
4191	Expenses on the basis of payment of service contracts	160,000.00 €	354,000.00 €	354,000.00 €	221.25%
4193	Software development and maintenance	30,000.00 €	37,000.00 €	28,863.48 €	96.21%
4194	Insurance	28,000.00 €	28,000.00 €	20,474.78 €	73.12%
43	Transfers to institutions, individuals, NGOs and public sector	45,000.00 €	83,700.00 €	80,015.11 €	177.81%
431	Transfers to institutions, individuals, NGOs and public sector	45,000.00 €	83,700.00 €	80,015.11 €	177.81%
4318	Other transfers to individuals	25,000.00 €	25,000.00 €	21,315.11 €	85.26%
4319	Other transfers to institutions	20,000.00 €	58,700.00 €	58,700.00 €	293.50%
44	Capital expenditures	131,977.01 €	145,977.01 €	137,091.94 €	103.88%
441	Capital expenditures	131,977.01 €	145,977.01 €	137,091.94 €	103.88%
4415	Equipment expenses	126,977.01 €	140,977.01 €	137,030.06 €	107.92%
4416	Expenses for investment maintenance	5,000.00 €	5,000.00 €	61.88 €	1.24%
46	Payment of debt	1.00 €	1.00 €	0.00 €	0.00%
463	Payment of liabilities from previous years	1.00 €	1.00 €	0.00 €	0.00%
4630	Payment of liabilities from previous years	1.00 €	1.00 €	0.00 €	0.00%
3872	Programme: Funding of weekly "Koha Javore"	100,000.00 €	100,000.00 €	99,999.98 €	100.00%
4	Expenditures	100,000.00 €	100,000.00 €	99,999.98 €	100.00%
43	Transfers to institutions, individuals, NGOs and public sector	100,000.00 €	100,000.00 €	99,999.98 €	100.00%
431	Transfers to institutions, individuals, NGOs and public sector	100,000.00 €	100,000.00 €	99,999.98 €	100.00%
4319	Other transfers to institutions	100,000.00 €	100,000.00 €	99,999.98 €	100.00%



APPENDIX III: TABULAR OVERVIEW OF DATA ON REQUESTS FOR FREE ACCESS TO INFORMATION IN 2017

No	Submitter of request	Date of reply	Date of reception	Answer
1.	Centre for Civic Education (CCE)	00-41/17-1 19.1.	3.2.	granted
2.	Network for Affirmation of Non-Governmental Sector - MANS	00-41/17-2/4 7.2.	22.2.	denied
3.	Network for Affirmation of Non-Governmental Sector - MANS	00-41/17-3/4 7.2.	22.2.	granted
4.	Network for Affirmation of Non-Governmental Sector - MANS	00-41/17-4/4 7.2.	22.2.	granted
5.	Institute Alternative	00-41/17-6 13.2.	27.2.	denied
6.	Institute Alternative	00-41/17-7 3.3.	17.3.	granted
7.	Network for Affirmation of Non-Governmental Sector - MANS	00-41/17-8 21.3.	29.3.	granted
8.	Network for Affirmation of Non-Governmental Sector - MANS	00-41/17-9 4.4.	18.4.	granted
9.	Network for Affirmation of Non-Governmental Sector - MANS	00-41/17-10/2 12.4.	24.4.	denied
10.	Network for Affirmation of Non-Governmental Sector - MANS	00-41/17-11 5.4.	18.4.	denied
11.	Network for Affirmation of Non-Governmental Sector - MANS	00-41/17-12 5.4.	18.4.	denied
12.	Network for Affirmation of Non-Governmental Sector - MANS	00-41/17-13 6.4.	21.4.	partly granted and partly denied
13.	Network for Affirmation of Non-Governmental Sector - MANS	00-41/17-14 6.4.	21.4.	denied
14.	Network for Affirmation of Non-Governmental Sector - MANS	00-41/17-15 6.4.	21.4.	granted
15.	Network for Affirmation of Non-Governmental Sector - MANS	00-41/17-16 6.4.	21.4.	denied
16.	Network for Affirmation of Non-Governmental Sector - MANS	00-41/17-17 6.4.	21.4.	granted
17.	Network for Affirmation of Non-Governmental Sector - MANS	00-41/17-18 6.4.	21.4.	granted
18.	Network for Affirmation of Non-Governmental Sector - MANS	00-41/17-19 6.4.	21.4.	granted
19.	Network for Affirmation of Non-Governmental Sector - MANS	00-41/17-20 6.4.	21.4.	granted
20.	Network for Affirmation of Non-Governmental Sector - MANS	00-41/17-21 6.4.	21.4.	denied
21.	Network for Affirmation of Non-Governmental Sector - MANS	00-41/17-22 6.4.	21.4.	denied
22.	Network for Affirmation of Non-Governmental Sector - MANS	00-41/17-23 6.4.	21.4.	denied
23.	Network for Affirmation of Non-Governmental Sector - MANS	00-41/17-24 6.4.	21.4.	granted

24.	Network for Affirmation of Non-Governmental Sector - MANS	00-41/17-25 6.4.	21.4.	granted
25.	Network for Affirmation of Non-Governmental Sector - MANS	00-41/17-26 6.4.	21.4.	granted
26.	Network for Affirmation of Non-Governmental Sector - MANS	00-41/17-27 10.4.	24.4.	denied
27.	Network for Affirmation of Non-Governmental Sector - MANS	00-41/17-28 10.4.	24.4.	denied
28.	Network for Affirmation of Non-Governmental Sector - MANS	00-41/17-29 10.4.	24.4.	denied
29.	Network for Affirmation of Non-Governmental Sector - MANS	00-41/17-30 10.4.	24.4.	denied
30.	Network for Affirmation of Non-Governmental Sector - MANS	00-41/17-31 10.4.	24.4.	denied
31.	Natural persons	00-41/17-32 28.4.	10.5.	partly granted and partly denied
32.	Center for Monitoring and Research CeMI	00-41/17-33 3.5.	11.5.	granted
33.	Authorised representative of former workers JSC "Staklenici" Golubovci, attorney Vučko Bjelanović	00-41/17-34 10.5.	15.5.	granted
34.	Network for Affirmation of Non-Governmental Sector - MANS	00-41/17-35 19.5.	24.5.	announcement
35.	Network for Affirmation of Non-Governmental Sector - MANS	00-41/17-36 24.5.	25.5.	granted
36.	Association of Youth with Disabilities of Montenegro	00-41/17-37 30.5.	12.6.	granted
37.	Institute Alternative	00-41/17-38 30.5.	15.6.	partly granted and partly denied
38.	Network for Affirmation of Non-Governmental Sector - MANS	00-41/17-39 22.6.	30.6.	denied
39.	Network for Affirmation of Non-Governmental Sector - MANS	00-41/17-40 22.6.	30.6.	denied
40.	Network for Affirmation of Non-Governmental Sector - MANS	00-41/17-41 22.6.	30.6.	denied
41.	Network for Affirmation of Non-Governmental Sector - MANS	00-41/17-42 22.6.	30.6.	denied
42.	Network for Affirmation of Non-Governmental Sector - MANS	00-41/17-43 22.6.	30.6.	denied
43.	Network for Affirmation of Non-Governmental Sector - MANS	00-41/17-44 22.6.	30.6.	denied
44.	Network for Affirmation of Non-Governmental Sector - MANS	00-41/17-45 22.6.	30.6.	denied
45.	Network for Affirmation of Non-Governmental Sector - MANS	00-41/17-46 22.6.	30.6.	denied
46.	Network for Affirmation of Non-Governmental Sector - MANS	00-41/17-47 22.6.	30.6.	denied
47.	Network for Affirmation of Non-Governmental Sector - MANS	00-41/17-48 22.6.	30.6.	denied



48.	Network for Affirmation of Non-Governmental Sector - MANS	00-41/17-49 22.6.	30.6.	announcement
49.	Network for Affirmation of Non-Governmental Sector - MANS	00-41/17-50 22.6.	30.6.	denied
50.	Network for Affirmation of Non-Governmental Sector - MANS	00-41/17-51 22.6.	30.6.	denied
51.	Network for Affirmation of Non-Governmental Sector - MANS	00-41/17-52 22.6.	30.6.	announcement
52.	Network for Affirmation of Non-Governmental Sector - MANS	00-41/17-53 22.6.	30.6.	denied
53.	Network for Affirmation of Non-Governmental Sector - MANS	00-41/17-54 22.6.	30.6.	denied
54.	Network for Affirmation of Non-Governmental Sector - MANS	00-41/17-55 22.6.	30.6.	denied
55.	Network for Affirmation of Non-Governmental Sector - MANS	00-41/17-56 22.6.	30.6.	granted
56.	Network for Affirmation of Non-Governmental Sector - MANS	00-41/17-57 22.6.	30.6.	denied
57.	Network for Affirmation of Non-Governmental Sector - MANS	00-41/17-58 22.6.	30.6.	announcement
58.	Network for Affirmation of Non-Governmental Sector - MANS	00-41/17-59 22.6.	30.6.	denied
59.	Network for Affirmation of Non-Governmental Sector - MANS	00-41/17-60 22.6.	30.6.	denied
60.	Network for Affirmation of Non-Governmental Sector - MANS	00-41/17-61 22.6.	30.6.	denied
61.	Institute Alternative	00-41/17-62 11.7.	17.7.	announcement
62.	Institute Alternative	00-41/17-63/2 31.7.	2.8.	granted
63.	NGO Human Rights Action	00-41/17-64 2.8.	3.8.	partly granted and partly denied
64.	Institute Alternative	00-41/17-65 29.8.	1.9.	announcement
65.	Natural person	00-41/17-66 29.9.	16.10.	granted
66.	Network for Affirmation of Non-Governmental Sector - MANS	00-41/17-67 4.10.	17.10.	granted
67.	Network for Affirmation of Non-Governmental Sector - MANS	00-41/17-68 4.10.	17.10.	granted
68.	Network for Affirmation of Non-Governmental Sector - MANS	00-41/17-69 4.10.	9.10.	denied
69.	Network for Affirmation of Non-Governmental Sector - MANS	00-41/17-70 4.10.	9.10.	granted
70.	Network for Affirmation of Non-Governmental Sector - MANS	00-41/17-71 4.10.	9.10.	granted
71.	Network for Affirmation of Non-Governmental Sector - MANS	00-41/17-72 5.10.	10.10.	denied

72.	Network for Affirmation of Non-Governmental Sector - MANS	00-41/17-73 5.10.	10.10.	denied
73.	Network for Affirmation of Non-Governmental Sector - MANS	00-41/17-74 5.10.	10.10.	denied
74.	Network for Affirmation of Non-Governmental Sector - MANS	00-41/17-75 6.10.	10.10.	denied
75.	Network for Affirmation of Non-Governmental Sector - MANS	00-41/17-76 6.10.	10.10.	denied
76.	Network for Affirmation of Non-Governmental Sector - MANS	00-41/17-77/2 12.10.	20.10.	denied
77.	Network for Affirmation of Non-Governmental Sector - MANS	00-41/17-78 6.10.	17.10.	granted
78.	Network for Affirmation of Non-Governmental Sector - MANS	00-41/17-79 6.10.	17.10.	denied
79.	Network for Affirmation of Non-Governmental Sector - MANS	00-41/17-80 6.10.	17.10.	granted
80.	Network for Affirmation of Non-Governmental Sector - MANS	00-41/17-81 9.10.	23.10.	granted
81.	Network for Affirmation of Non-Governmental Sector - MANS	00-41/17-82 9.10.	17.10.	granted
82.	Network for Affirmation of Non-Governmental Sector - MANS	00-41/17-83 9.10.	17.10.	granted
83.	Network for Affirmation of Non-Governmental Sector - MANS	00-41/17-84 9.10.	20.10.	granted
84.	Network for Affirmation of Non-Governmental Sector - MANS	00-41/17-85 9.10.	20.10.	granted
85.	Network for Affirmation of Non-Governmental Sector - MANS	00-41/17-86 9.10.	20.10.	granted
86.	Network for Affirmation of Non-Governmental Sector - MANS	00-41/17-87 9.10.	20.10.	granted
87.	Network for Affirmation of Non-Governmental Sector - MANS	00-41/17-88 9.10.	20.10.	granted
88.	Network for Affirmation of Non-Governmental Sector - MANS	00-41/17-89 9.10.	20.10.	granted
89.	Union of the Blind of Montenegro	00-41/17-90 27.10.	11.11.	granted
90.	Network for Affirmation of Non-Governmental Sector - MANS	00-41/17-91 22.11.	24.11.	announcement
91.	Network for Affirmation of Non-Governmental Sector - MANS	00-41/17-92 22.11.	24.11.	announcement
92.	Network for Affirmation of Non-Governmental Sector - MANS	00-41/17-93 22.11.	24.11.	announcement
93.	Institute Alternative	00-41/17-94 1.12.	15.12.	partly granted and partly denied
94.	Institute Alternative ⁶	00-41/17-95 26.12.		

⁶ The deadline for responding is January 2018.



APPENDIX IV: RESEARCH PAPERS

1. Rules and sanctions: The obligation to attend sittings and the conduct of MPs
2. Gender equality: trainings for MPs
3. Financial support for children and families
4. Criteria and procedures for the lifting of parliamentary immunity from criminal prosecution
5. The Parliament's role in the budget process, transparency, and accountability
6. The VAT rate in the EU Member States and the countries of the region in the last ten years
7. Lower House of the Parliament of Slovenia (National Assembly) - Structure, competencies, legislative procedure, service organisation, strategic planning, employment and education
8. Sources of financing the local government budget in some countries of the region and the EU
9. The role of local government in financing the education system and the election of school principals in certain countries of the region and the EU
10. The role of local government in financing the health care system and the election of managers in certain countries of the region and the EU
11. Status and funding of organisations of people with disabilities
12. Televised broadcasting of sittings in Croatia, Slovenia and Serbia
13. International events in the fields of education, science, culture, and sports for the period 2017-2018
14. Code of Ethics for political entities and election administration in the electoral process
15. Legislative framework: voter register; position, rights, and obligations of a group of citizens; start and end of the election campaign
16. Hiring scientific and professional consultants (experts) in parliamentary working bodies
17. Participation in the sitting of the Parliament - order of participants and duration of remarks
18. Universal basic income

APPENDIX V: TABULAR OVERVIEW OF CONDUCTED TRAININGS AND DEVELOPMENT

Trainings organised by the Human Resources Administration

No	Date	Name	Organiser	Venue	Participants
1	4, 11, 17, and 24 April	Rhetoric	HRA	Podgorica	1
2	4 May	Legal and technical rules for drafting regulations	HRA	Podgorica	3
3	8 May	Interviewing	HRA	Podgorica	2
4	30 May	Handling corruption reports and protection of whistleblowers	HRA	Podgorica	2
5	5 June	Fighting corruption and preventing conflict of interest in public administration	HRA	Podgorica	2
6	21-22 June	Statistical process of collection and analysis of data	HRA	Podgorica	1
7	4 October	Free Access to Information	HRA	Podgorica	2
8	10 October	Legal and technical rules for drafting regulation with guidelines for harmonising Montenegrin regulation with the EU acquis	HRA	Podgorica	1
9	16 October	Public Procurement	HRA	Podgorica	1
10	19 October	Rhetoric	HRA	Podgorica	1
11	20 October	RIA - Regulatory Impact Assessment	HRA	Podgorica	6
12	2 November	Code of Ethics	HRA	Podgorica	1

13	9-10 November	From idea to successfully implemented project	HRA	Podgorica	4
14	14 November	Legal and technical rules for drafting regulation with guidelines for harmonising Montenegrin regulation with the EU acquis	HRA	Podgorica	2
15	23 November	Public Procurement	HRA	Podgorica	2
16	1 December	Legal and technical rules for drafting regulation with guidelines for harmonising regulation with the EU acquis	HRA	Podgorica	1
17	4 and 5 December	Creating and Implementing Public Campaigns	HRA	Podgorica	3
18	20 December	Rule of Law	HRA	Podgorica	2

Table 2. Other trainings

No	Date	Name	Organiser	Venue	Participants
1	9 and 11 January	Women's role in countering terrorism	George Marshall Center	Garmisch-Partenkirchen, FR Germany	1
2	23-27 January	Democracy Workshops	European Commission	Brussels, Belgium	6
3	24-27 January	Presentations and public speaking	British Council and HRA	Danilovgrad	7
4	25 January	Dante Certification Level 1	Audinate	Amsterdam, Netherlands	2
5	25 January	Preparation of the annual report on financial management and control	Ministry of Finance of Montenegro	Podgorica	1
6	6 February	Dante AV Networking	Audinate	Amsterdam, Netherlands	2
7	21-23 February	International donor seminar on "How to obtain donations from the embassies of Norway, Czech Republic, and Japan" and cross-border cooperation programs of Croatia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro, Serbia, Bulgaria, Romania, Hungary	Easy to donations - Belgrade	Zlatibor, Serbia	2
8	27 February - 4 March	XXII International Scientific and Professional Conference "Information Technologies 2017"	Faculty of Electrical Engineering of Montenegro	Žabljak	2
9	3 March	Changes in financial management and control - risk management in line with international standards, creating a risk register with a reference to IPA funds	Institute of Internal Auditors	Podgorica	2
10	8 March	Ethics and preventing conflict of interest	Council of Europe	Podgorica	5
11	10-14 March	Alumni training of the European Youth Parliament (EYP) in Albania	European Youth Parliament Albania	Tirana, Albania	1
12	15-17 March	International Forum of Parliamentary Visitor Centers	Capitol Visitor Center	Washington, USA	1
13	17 March	Strengthening the legislative framework and the system for monitoring the implementation of obligations in the field of financing of political entities and election campaigns	Council of Europe	Podgorica	1
14	3-7 April	"Countering ISIS Radicalisation Activities through the Cyberspace in the Region of South-East Europe"	Military Academy "General Mihailo Apostolski" from Skopje	Ohrid, Macedonia	1



15	12-14 April	“Civil society / role of women in crises and conflicts”	George Marshall Center	Garmisch-Partenkirchen, FR Germany	1
16	12-14 April	Workshop of the Global Alumni Association “Women’s role in countering terrorism and violent extremism: sharing best practices and experiences”	Panel discussion of the George C. Marshall Center	Garmisch-Partenkirchen, FR Germany	1
17	25 April	TeleGroup Infosec 2017	TeleGroup Team	Vrdnik, Serbia	2
18	2 and 3 May	Public procurement and the Parliament’s role	European Parliament	Brussels, Belgium	1
19	8-9 May	“Legitimacy of parliaments and new oversight instruments”	ECPRD	Lisbon, Portugal	2
20	12 May	Dante Certification Level 2	Audinate	Amsterdam, Netherlands	2
21	1 May - 7 June	Professional training programme	Energy community	Vienna, Austria	1
22	26 May	Evaluation of the legislative framework for regulating the field of financing of political entities and election campaigns	Council of Europe	Podgorica	1
23	29 May - 7 July	Internship at the Secretariat of the European Parliament’s Committee on Constitutional Affairs	European Parliament	Brussels, Belgium	1
24	4-10 June	“Current challenges and relations of NATO ahead of the 2017 Summit”	Bulgarian Euro Atlantic Youth Club supported by NATO	Smolyan, Bulgaria	1
25	8-9 June	“Libraries, research and documentation services in parliaments”	ECPRD	Rome, Italy	2
26	19 June	Working with difficult people and assertive method	ICONSLUT	Belgrade	2
27	21-30 June	“Marta Rule of Law Training - Public Procurement”	The Netherlands Helsinki Committee	Leiden and The Hague, The Netherlands	1
28	3-10 September	First Summer School of the Energy Community	Open Regional Fund for South East Europe	Tirana, Albania	1
29	6 September - 16 November	Program on Applied Security Studies	George Marshall Center	Garmisch-Partenkirchen, Germany	1
30	14 and 15 September	Business culture, communication, and presentation	Parliament of Montenegro and OSCE	Podgorica	12
31	15-19 September	International Broadcasting Convention	IBC	Amsterdam, Netherlands	1
32	18-26 September	No more whispers; Spreading EU goodness	DOREA - Education Institute (at the invitation of the Center for Training and Education of Montenegro)	Limassol, Cyprus	1
33	20-22 September	Second CSDP High-Level Conference for alumni of the CSDP training programmes within the framework of the Stabilisation and Association Programme of the European Union (CSDP TP SAP)	Ministry of Defence - Directorate for Defence Policy	Podgorica	1
34	21-22 September	The future of parliamentary research services and libraries on the era of rapid change	ECPRD	Brussels, Belgium	2
35	23 and 24 September	NLP Basic training	NLP Network Podgorica	Podgorica	1

36	24-27 September	"The European Union and the Security of the Balkans: Integration and Security Challenges"	Paragraf Lex	Palić, Serbia	3
37	28 - 29 September	Business culture, communication, and presentation	Center on International Relations and Friedrich Ebert Foundation from Banja Luka	Banja Luka, Bosnia and Herzegovina	1
38	28 and 29 September	"Talent, Inspiration, Innovation - Creating the Consultancy of the Future"	Parliament of Montenegro and OSCE	Podgorica	12
39	4-6 October	Marta Rule of Law Training "Decentralisation and civic participation"	International Association of Communication Consultants (ICCO)	Helsinki, Finland	1
40	4-13 October	Parliaments and financial market issues	The Netherlands Helsinki Committee	The Hague, The Netherlands	2
41	5-6 October	Conflict management	ECPRD	Athens, Greece	1
42	12-13 October	International ERASMUS+ training	Parliament of Montenegro and OSCE	Podgorica	14
43	20-29 October	Balkan Regional Seminar on Global Education	"In media we trust"	Rustavi, Georgia	1
44	30-31 October	The Power of RED lion	Centre North - South of the Council of Europe and Forum MNE	Belgrade, Serbia	1
45	1 November	The Pover of RED lion	4sec - Croatia	Podgorica	2
46	7 and 8 November	Regional training "Experience of Parliamentary Committees"	GIZ	Skopje, Macedonia	2
47	10 and 11 November	II Conference "Towards more effective public procurement in Montenegro"	Public Procurement Administration in cooperation with State Commission for Control of Public Procurement Procedures	Petrovac	2
48	23 and 24 November	19 SEMPL Conference	SEMP	Portorož, Slovenia	1
49	27 and 28 November	Change Management	Parliament of Montenegro and OSCE	Podgorica	12
50	29 November	Montenegro - new NATO member	George Marshall Center Montenegro	Podgorica	3
51	12 December	Conference "Information Warfare and New World Order: Western Balkans case study"	Atlantic Council of Montenegro	Podgorica	1
52	20-22 December	Training on human rights and gender equality	OSCE Mission to Montenegro in cooperation with the Government of Montenegro	Podgorica	2