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FOREWORD BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE PARLIAMENT OF MONTENEGRO



Dear citizens,

Half way through the mandate, the 26th Parliament of Montenegro has remained the most open parliament in the region, and 2018 can be considered successful.

During the reporting year, the Parliament has been a dynamic environment in legislative, electoral and control terms. One of the most important steps was the establishment of a temporary Committee on Further Reform of Electoral and Other Legislation with the aim to further improve the legislation that affected the conduct of the electoral process in Montenegro, with the participation of all relevant subjects. I believe that during 2019, before the regular parliamentary elections in 2020, all political constituents will be dealing with regulations in a responsible and committed manner, which relates to different segments of the electoral process and thereby give full contribution to the work of the Committee, established by the agreement of the ruling majority and the opposition.

With the sittings of ordinary and extraordinary sessions, the Parliament has fulfilled its legislative responsibilities, adopting, among other things, 83 laws in total, and the working bodies holding 284 meetings. That way we continued to contribute to the improvement of the legal framework of Montenegro, its harmonisation with relevant international acts and to influence the improvement of conditions for development in all social spheres, and ultimately the quality of life of citizens of Montenegro.

Current important issues were discussed at special sittings of the Parliament dedicated to the Prime Minister's Hour and parliamentary

questions, control and consultative hearings.

During most of the year, the largest number of opposition members participated in the work of the Parliament, and the year was marked by the continuation of intensive dialogue at the highest level with officials of the European Union, reflected in their visits to this house. It is precisely from the Parliament of Montenegro that they said that institutional dialogue was an indispensable tool of democracy, clearly confirming our position, and that parliament was the only place to exchange arguments.

We demonstrated our commitment and desire to exchange experiences and practices with regard to the electoral process with parliaments from the region, the civil sector and relevant international organisations at the XX Cetinje Parliamentary Forum, dedicated to this very topic.

We have also confirmed our commitment to cooperate with all segments of the society continuously in 2018 through joint activities with civil society, student organisations, academia, international organisations and the media.

Our obligation is to continue, within the framework of our competencies, to contribute to the strengthening of institutions and the well-being of all segments of the society in the period ahead of us, through responsible and open work of MPs and parliamentary services. I believe that in the second half of our mandate clear efforts to achieve good results in the internal and international plan will be seen. I also expect that in the following period it will be even clear which representatives of citizens have justified their trust, if any.

Ivan Brajović, President



I INTRODUCTION

In 2018, 20 sittings of ordinary session and three sittings of extraordinary session of the 26th Parliament of Montenegro were held, with a total of 198 acts adopted, including 83 laws, of which 46 laws on amendments and supplements to laws.

In the reporting period, eight special sittings of the Parliament dedicated to the Prime Minister's Hour and parliamentary questions were held in total. The President of the Government was asked 38 and the members of the Government 307 questions.

In the same period, working bodies of the Parliament held 284 meetings, in 274 days, for a total of 288 hours and 57 minutes, with 724 items of agenda considered, among which 189 proposals for laws, and 534 amendments. In addition, four control and 30 consultative hearings were held at the meetings of working bodies.

In 2018, Montenegro continued to implement activities in order to make further progress in accession negotiations with the European Union. In the reporting period, EU-Montenegro Stabilisation and Association Parliamentary Committee (SAPC) held a meeting in Strasbourg on 14 June and the meeting in Podgorica on 18 December. In the reporting period, two me-

2018 IN FIGURES

- A total of 198 acts were adopted, including 83 laws;
- 20 sittings of ordinary and three sittings of extraordinary session of the Parliament were held;
- The Prime Minister was asked 38 and the members of the Government 307 questions;
 - Working bodies of the Parliament held 284 meetings, in 274 days, for a total of 288 hours, with 541 items of agenda considered;
- Four control and 30 consultative hearings were held;
- In the "news" section of the website, 253 news/reports were published (the total number of entries - 2506), and via the Flickr application 7518 photos were shared.
 - Over 330 hours of video programme was produced;
- A total of 359 permanent credentials for journalists and cameramen/photo-reporters were issued, and 322 daily credentials.
- 137 individual journalists' questions in relation to parliamentary activities were answered;
- A total of 77 requests for free access to information were submitted;
- 22 research papers were prepared and published, and 91 queries by national parliaments of other countries and other institutions and organisations were responded to;
- 149 democracy workshops were hosted, with 3071 students from 50 elementary and one high school;
- On 31 December 2018, 198 persons were employed in the Parliamentary Service.

etings of the EU-Montenegro Stabilisation and Association Parliamentary Committee (SAPC) were held, in Podgorica on 16 and 17 July and in Strasbourg on 14 and 15 November. During this year, a large number of documents on the European Integration process were considered at the meetings of the Committee on European Integration, and the participation of members of the Parliament of Montenegro in the meetings organised within the EU presidency have been recorded.

Active international cooperation marked 2018 with numerous bilateral and multilateral meetings, as well as numerous regional and international gatherings. At the same time, activities related to the transparency and openness of the work of the Montenegrin Parliament have continued.

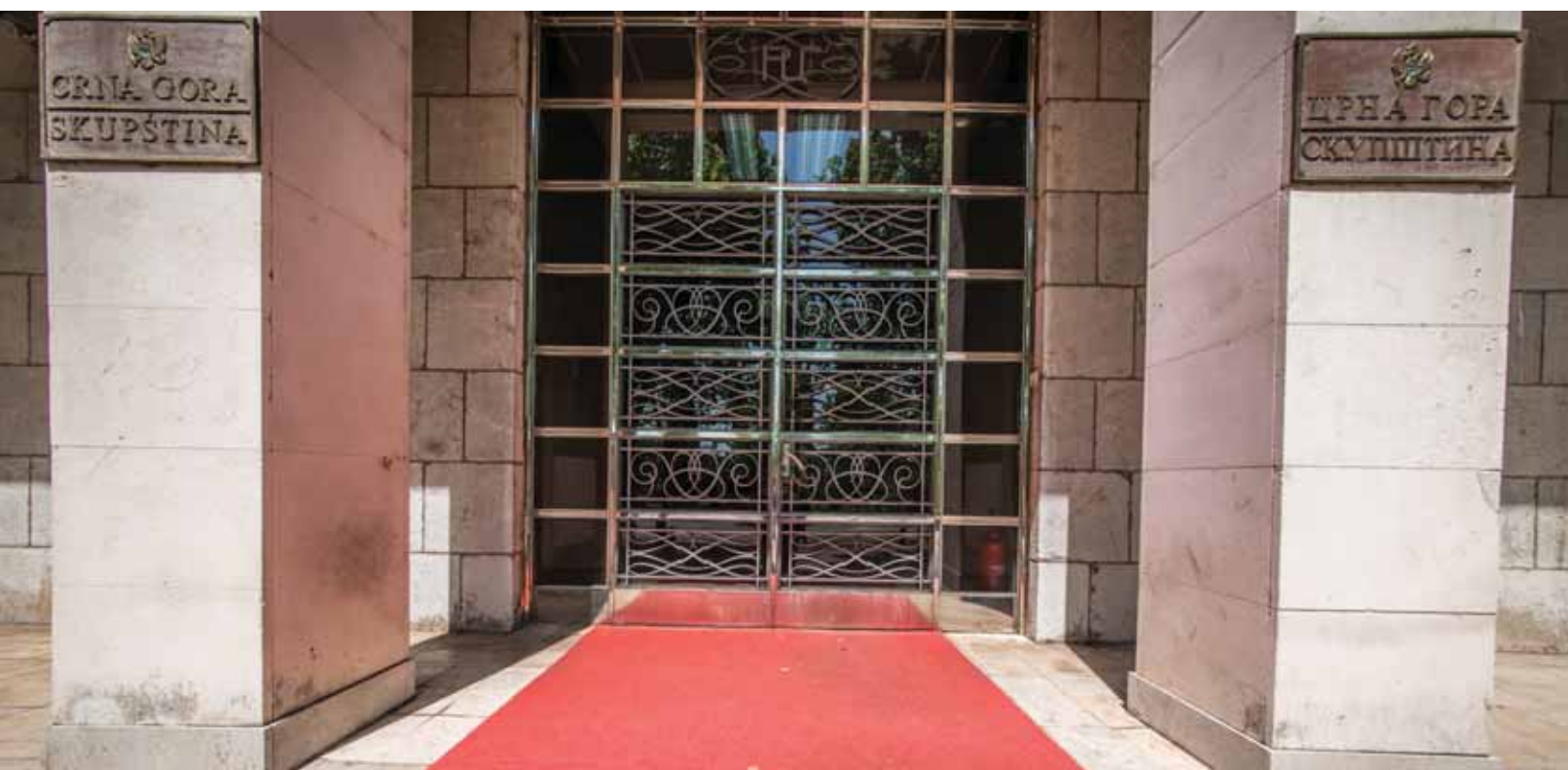
Detailed information on legislative and oversight activities of the Parliament and its working bodies, parliamentary cooperation, publicity of work, administrative capacities, the use of funds allocated by the budget of Montenegro, as well

as other activities that marked 2018 are presented in the remainder of the report. The appendix contains 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 2018 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, monthly reports of organisational units 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.





II GENERAL INFORMATION

2.1. LIST OF MEMBERS OF THE PARLIAMENT OF MONTENEGRO IN 2018

LIST OF MPs, WITH CHANGES IN THE COMPOSITION

- SAFE STEP! DPS – MILO ĐUKANOVIĆ

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

21. Filip Vuković
22. Nikola Rakočević
23. Nada Drobnjak
24. Milorad Vuletić
25. Branka Tanasijević
26. Jovanka Lalić
27. Mihailo Anđušić
28. Radule Novović
29. Dragutin Papović
30. Sanja Pavićević
31. Miloš Nikolić
32. Petar Smolović until 13 February 2018
Zvonko Vuković from 13 February 2018
33. Danijel Živković
34. Momčilo Martinović
35. Miodrag Radunović
until 28 September 2018
Nikola Divanović from 28 September 2018
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 PAR-

TY, MOVEMENT FOR PLJEVLJA, SERB RADICAL PARTY, YUGOSLAV COMMUNIST 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. Dr Ljiljana Đurašković
5. Janko Vučinić
6. Dr Branko Radulović
7. Predrag Bulatović
8. Doc.dr Branka Bošnjak
9. Dr Strahinja Bulajić
10. Slaven Radunović
11. Milutin Đukanović
12. Dr Vera Bulatović
13. Koča Pavlović
14. Dr Budimir Aleksić
15. Jovan Jole Vučurović
16. Marina Jočić
17. Milun Zogović
18. Mr Veljko Vasiljević

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

1. Miodrag Lekić
2. Srđan Milić
3. Neđeljko Rudović
4. Anka Vukićević
5. Mr 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. Dr Valentina Minić

- SDP - RANKO KRIVOKAPIĆ - COUNTRY FOR EVERYONE

1. Ranko Krivokapić
2. Mr Raško Konjević
3. Džavid Šabović
4. Doc.dr Draginja Vuksanović

- SOCIAL DEMOCRATS OF MONTENEGRO - IVAN BRAJOVIĆ - CONSISTENTLY

1. Ivan Brajović
2. Mićo Orlandić do 19. jula 2018. godine
Boris Mugoša od 19. jula 2018. godine

- 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

2.2. MP GROUPS IN 2018

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

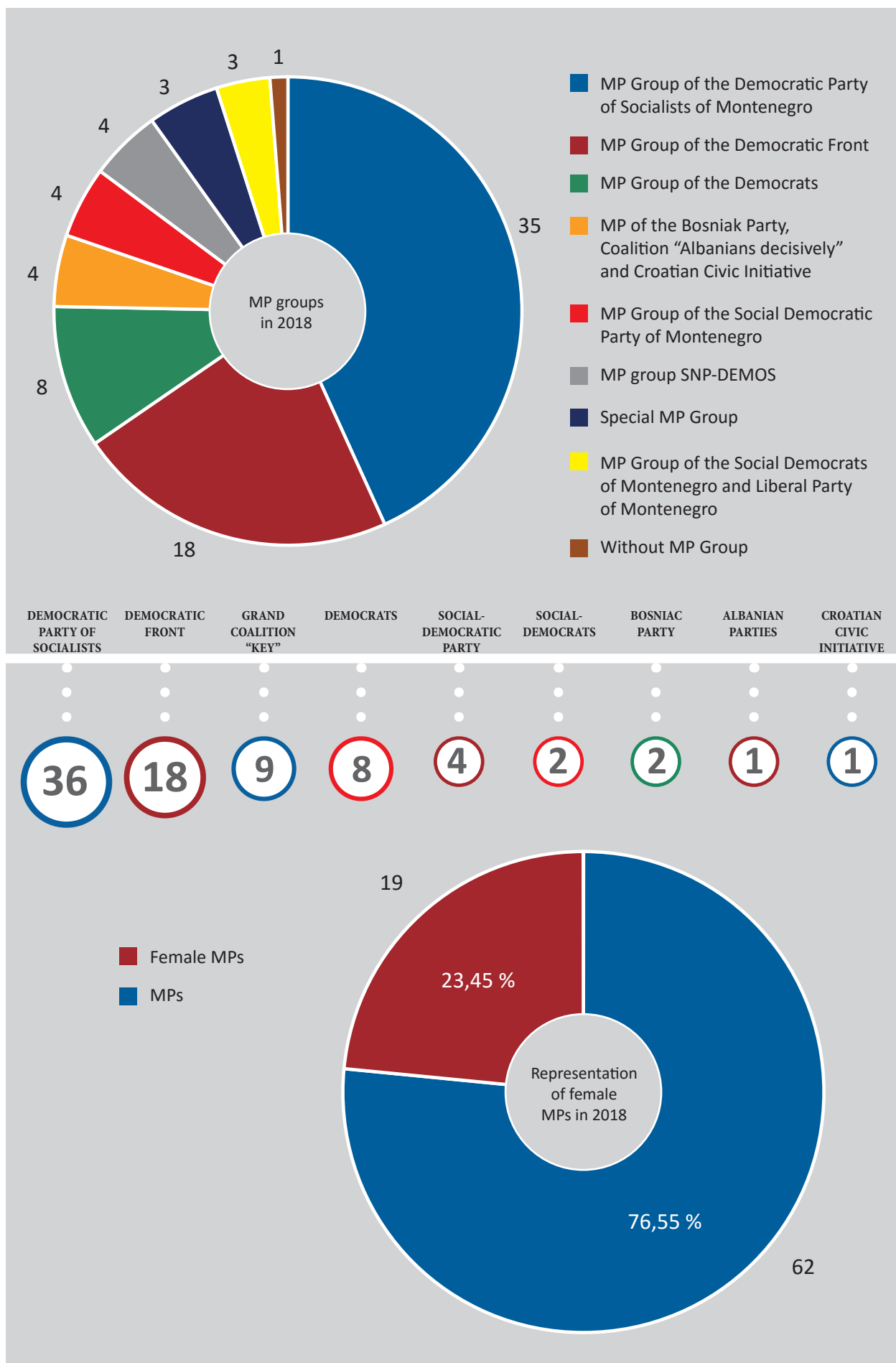
MP Group of the Social Democratic Party of Montenegro four members;

MP group SNP-DEMOS from 24 October 2018 four members;

Special MP Group from 1 October 2018 four members;

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

* One parliamentarian is not member of any MP group.





2.3. PRESIDENT AND VICE PRESIDENTS OF THE PARLIAMENT OF MONTENEGRO IN 2018

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, Aleksandar Jovičević was appointed Secretary General of the Parliament of Montenegro.

At the same sitting, 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, Marija Mirjačić was appointed Deputy Secretary General of the Parliament of Montenegro.

2.4. 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	Slaven Radunović Adrijan Vuksanović (until 12 November)	13
Committee on Economy, Finance and Budget	dr Predrag Sekulić	13
Committee on Human Rights and Freedoms	dr Halil Duković	11
Gender Equality Committee	Nada Drobnjak	11
Committee on Tourism, Agriculture, Ecology and Spatial Planning	prof. dr 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	Predrag Bulatović Daliborka Pejović (until 12 November)	13
Administrative Committee	Luid Škrelja	13
Commission for Monitoring and Control of the Privatisation Procedure	Branko Čavor	11

Table No 1 – Working Bodies of the Parliament of Montenegro in 2018 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.



The joint meeting of the Constitutional Committee of the Parliament of Montenegro with members of the Constitutional Committee of the European Parliament



III LEGISLATIVE AND OVERSIGHT ACTIVITY

3.1. SITTINGS OF THE PARLIAMENT

In the reporting period, a total of 20 sittings of the ordinary session and three sittings of the extraordinary session of the 26th Parliament of Montenegro were held, with a total of 198 acts adopted, including 37 laws, of which 46 laws on amendments and supplements to laws, 16 decisions (of which six decisions on the adoption of financial plans of independent regulatory bodies), 65 decisions on election, appointment and dismissal, 32 conclusions (29 of which on the adoption or review of reports), one resolution and one strategy.

3.1.1. PROPOSED ACTS

In the period from 1 January to 31 December 2018, the MPs submitted: two proposals for laws, 20 proposals for laws on amendments to laws,

three proposals for decisions and seven proposals for resolutions.

In the same period, the Government submitted: 38 proposals for laws, 37 proposals for laws on amendments to laws, seven proposals for decisions, ten reports and one proposal for strategy.

Defence and Security Council submitted two proposals for laws.

In this period, citizens did not submit proposals for laws via authorised MPs.

In the period 1 January - 31 December 2018, four proposals for laws, two proposals for decisions and three proposals for resolutions were withdrawn from procedure.

3.1.2. ADOPTED ACTS

In the period from 1 January to 31 December 2018, upon the proposal of MPs, the following

	January – December 2017	January – December 2018
Number of adopted laws ¹	134	83
Decisions ²	50	81
Conclusions	37	32
Other acts	-	2
TOTAL NUMBER OF ADOPTED ACTS	221	198

Table No 2 – Total number of adopted acts in 2018

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

² Presented decisions include decisions on elections and appointments.

Activities	Ordinary sessions 2017	Ordinary sessions 2018	Extraordinary sessions 2017	Extraordinary sessions 2018
Number of sittings held	24	20	3	3
Duration in days	34	63	4	6
Duration in hours	123 hours i 50 minutes	288 hours i 15 minutes	3 hours i 50 minutes	22 hours i 20 minutes
Number of considered items of the agenda	200	146	3	18
Number of adopted laws	54 laws and 78 laws on amendments and supplements to laws	33 laws and 33 laws on amendments and supplements to laws	1 law and 1 law on amendments and supplements to laws	4 laws and 13 laws on amendments and supplements to laws
Number of proposals for acts not adopted	1	2 proposals for laws on amendments and supplements to laws	-	-
Number of adopted decisions	12	16	-	-
Number of adopted decisions on elections, appointments and dismissals	38	61	-	1
Number of adopted declarations	-	-	-	-
Number of adopted resolutions	-	1	-	-
Number of adopted strategies	-	1	-	-
Number of adopted conclusions	37	32	-	-
Number of considered interpellations	-	-	-	-
Number of questions put to the Prime Minister and number of parliamentary questions	205	345	-	-
Number of motions for vote of confidence in the Government	-	-	-	-
Number of considered reports (financial plans) of certain bodies	35	37	-	-

Table No 3 - Statistical data on sittings of the Parliament of Montenegro in 2018

was adopted: 11 laws on amendments to laws, two decisions and one resolution.

In the same period, upon the Government's proposal, the following was adopted: 37 laws, 35 laws on amendments to laws, six decisions and one strategy.

Two decisions were adopted upon the proposal of the Defence and Security Council.

In the period 1 January - 31 December 2018, 22 laws and five decisions were proposed to be adopted in summary procedure.

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

In the period 1 January – 31 December 2018, a total of 464 amendments to proposals for acts were considered at parliamentary sittings, of

which 401 were accepted.

Working bodies submitted 343 amendments, which have become integral parts of the proposals for acts, namely: Legislative Committee 208 amendments; Committee on Political System, Judiciary and Administration eight amendments; Security and Defence Committee one amendment; Committee on International Relations and Emigrants 6 amendments; Committee on Economy, Finance and Budget two amendments; Committee on Tourism, Agriculture, Ecology and Spatial Planning 77 amendments; Committee on Education, Science, Culture and Sports six amendments and Committee on Health, Labour and Social Welfare 35 amendments.

MPs submitted 109 amendments³ to proposals for acts, of which 46 were accepted, 50 were not accepted and MPs abandoned 10 amendments.

³ Three amendments by MPs were rephrased into the Proposal for conclusions by the Committee on Economy, Finance and Budget.



The Government submitted 12 amendments, which have become integral parts of the proposals for acts.

3.1.4. PRIME MINISTER’S HOUR AND PARLIAMENTARY QUESTIONS

In 2018, a total of seven special sittings of the Parliament devoted to the Prime Minister’s Hour (three sittings) and the Prime Minister’s Hour and Parliamentary Questions (five sittings) were held.

38 questions were referred to the Prime Minister. Members of the Government were asked 307 question.

3.2. WORK OF THE WORKING BODIES

In 2018, the working bodies of the Parliament of Montenegro held 284 meetings, in the course of 274 days, for a total of 288 hours and 57 minutes, where 724 items of agenda were considered, including 189 proposals for laws and 534 amendments.

The overview of data on the work of the working bodies of the Parliament of Montenegro in

2018, along with comparative data for 2017, is presented below.

3.2.1. CONTROL AND CONSULTATIVE HEARINGS

Within the oversight role, 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 four control and 30 consultative hearings.

Control hearings

At its 22nd, the **Security and Defence Committee** adopted a decision on the control hearing of the Minister of Interior, Acting Director of the Police Administration, Director of the National Security Agency, Supreme Public Prosecutor and Chief Special Prosecutor with regard to ongoing security situation in Montenegro, with special reference on shooting of Ms Olivera Lakić, journalist of independent Vijesti daily. The said control hearing, closed to the public, was held at the 23rd meeting where the Committee paid a special attention to potential threats for national security and issues of mutual cooperation and coordination of responsible bodies in solving crimes and processing the perpetrators, especially bearing in mind the level of social danger that these cases

	Number of sittings	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
2017.	168	156 h	169	541	204	467
2018.	284	288 h i 57 min	274	724	189	534

Table No 4 – Meetings of the working bodies in 2018 with comparable data for 2017



	Number of sittings		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	
	2017	2018	2017	2018	2017	2018	2017	2018	2017	2018	2017	2018	2017	2018
Constitutional Committee	-	2	-	3 h	-	2	-	2	-	/	-	/	-	91
Legislative Committee	37	32	31 h	19 h and 27 min.	37	32	182	153	134	86	369	262	143	107
Committee on Political System, Judiciary and Administration	26	30	14 h and 45 min.	31 h and 35 min.	22	30	47	56	21	15	56	51	89	122
Security and Defence Committee	12	19	12 h	23 h and 30 min.	12	19	29	44	4	3	1	5	46	77
Committee on International Relations and Emigrants	23	22	22 h and 40 min.	19 h and 05 min.	23	22	56	39	28	21	19	11	39	76
Committee on European Integration	15	11	14 h and 35 min.	14 h and 20 min.	15	11	38	24	1	-	-	-	53	80
Committee on Economy, Finance and Budget	33	29	27 h and 40 min.	26 h and 25 min.	35	29	132	103	48	30	71	39	142	155
Committee on Human Rights and Freedoms	14	14	15 h and 15 min.	18 h and 35 min.	15	14	48	44	4	2	2	2	80	127
Gender Equality Committee	11	19	18 h and 10 min.	30 h and 45 min.	12	19	24	29	5	2	-	-	202	335
Committee on Tourism, Agriculture, Ecology and Spatial Planning	18	25	24 h and 25 min.	23 h and 55 min.	21	25	35	52	16	12	126	116	64	80
Committee on Education, Science, Culture and Sports	7	17	10 h	21 h and 25 min.	7	17	16	27	10	11	10	23	31	107
Committee on Health, Labour and Social Welfare	15	17	14 h and 45 min.	16 h and 50 min.	15	17	24	32	9	7	53	25	56	85
Anti-corruption Committee	8	5	5 h and 10 min.	4 h and 30 min.	6	5	15	12	-	-	-	-	10	7
Administrative Committee	25	28	31 h and 37 min.	32 h and 45 min.	25	28	87	100	-	-	-	-	25	3
Commission for Monitoring and Control of the Privatisation Procedure	-	4	-	2 h and 50 min.	-	4	-	7	-	-	-	-	-	5
TOTAL:	244	284	242h and 2 min.	288h and 57 min.	245	274	733	724	280	189	707	534	980	1457

Table No 5 - Statistical data on meetings of the working bodies of the Parliament of Montenegro for the period 1 January - 31 December 2018 with comparable data for the period 1 January - 31 December 2017

carry, thus, after a comprehensive debate, adopted the conclusions in this regard.

On 31 October 2019, at its 54th meeting, the **Committee on Economy, Finance and Budget** held a control hearing of Osman Nurković, Minister of Transport and Maritime Affairs on the topic: *“Development Policy of the Airports of Montenegro in the context of the proposed concession*

act”. During the hearing, the Committee learned about the Report on the conducted public discussion on the Concession Act - Airports of Montenegro, draft of the new Concession Contract and Concession Act - “Airports of Montenegro Concession Project”.

At its 26st meeting of 17 December, the **Committee on Human Rights and Freedoms** held a



control hearing of the Coordinator of the Coordination Committee for Monitoring the Implementation of the Strategy for permanently resolving the issue of displaced and internally displaced persons in Montenegro with special regard to the Camp Konik I and II 2017-2019, Minister of Labour and Social Welfare Kemal Purišić. The topic of control hearing was “Summarising the implementation results of the Strategy for Permanent Resolution of the Issue of Displaced Persons and Refugees in Montenegro, with Special Emphasis on Konik Area”.

On 27 December, at the 26th meeting of the Committee on Education, Science, Culture and Sports, a control hearing of Minister of Culture Aleksandar Bogdanović was held on the topic: “Protection of immovable cultural property in Montenegro”.

Consultative hearings

In 2018, the **Committee on Political System, Judiciary and Administration** held three consultative hearing, where 42 persons were heard, namely: at the 30th meeting of 30 January 2018, the Committee held consultative hearing of candidates who applied to the Public Vacancy Notice for the election of four members of the Prosecutorial Council from among respectable lawyers, when 15 candidates were heard; at the 36th meeting of 30 March 2018, the Committee held, after repeated Public Vacancy Notice, consultative hearing of candidates who applied to the Public Vacancy Notice for the election of four members of the Prosecutorial Council from

among respectable lawyers, when 15 candidates were heard; at the 47th meeting of 3 and 5 July, the Committee held consultative hearing of candidates who applied for the election of four members of the Judicial Council from among respectable lawyers, when 12 candidates were heard.

In the past year, the **Security and Defence Committee** held a total of six consultative hearings, of which five consultative hearings of military and diplomatic representatives of Montenegro: Brigadier General Ilija Dajković, Captain of the battleship Darko Vuković, Lieutenant Colonel Esmer Gašanin, Lieutenant Colonel Veljko Mališić and Frigate Captain Igor Vujačić.

In addition to the said, the Committee visited border crossings with Bosnia & Herzegovina (Ili-no brdo) and Republic of Croatia (Debeli brijeg), in line with Article 15 paragraph 2 of the Law on Parliamentary Oversight of Security and Defence Sector. The activity was carried out in line with Conclusion No 3 from the 29th Committee meeting, when a consultative hearing was held on the topic “Border control and information sharing in the context of preventing and combating terrorism and violent extremism with special reference to the advanced passenger information system (APIS), passenger name records and collection of biometric data”.

In 2018, the **Committee on European Integration** held three consultative hearings, namely: at the 19th meeting of 8 February, consultative hearing

of Minister of European Affairs Aleksandar Andrija Pejović was held regarding the Information on 2017 EU support programmes to Montenegro; at the 22nd meeting of 6 July, consultative hearing of Chief Negotiator for Montenegro's Accession to the European Union Aleksandar Drljević was held on organisation and work of newly-established Office for European Integration; and at the 24th meeting of 11 July, consultative hearing of representatives of the responsible institutions was held on the topic of meeting obligations stemming from Montenegro's accession process with focus on chapters 23 and 24.

Committee on Human Rights and Freedoms held three consultative hearings on: "Activities in the field of providing accessibility for persons with disabilities in Montenegro", "Implementation of the Action Plan for the Implementation of the Strategy for the Prevention and Protection of Children against Violence 2017-2021, and the activities undertaken to implement the recommendations from the Report on the Evaluation of the 2014-2017 Child Rights Monitoring System in Montenegro, prepared by the *Coram International at the Coram Children's Legal Center*, at the request of UNICEF" and "Conditions in prisons and pre-trial detention facilities in Montenegro".

Gender Equality Committee also organised a consultative hearing of Minister of Education Damir Šehović, Minister of Human and Minority Rights Mehmed Zenka and Director General of the Directorate for Organisation of Judiciary, Crimi-

nal Legislation and Supervision in the Ministry of Justice Marijana Laković-Drašković on the topic "Exercising children's rights in the Roma community in Montenegro with a special focus on girls' education". The consultative hearing was organised ahead of International Roma Day, at the meeting of 3 April. A consultative hearing of Pavle Radulović, Minister of Sustainable Development and Tourism, was held on the topic "Monitoring the implementation of the 2030 National Strategy for Sustainable Development of Montenegro, in line with the SDG 5 of the Sustainable Development Strategy of the UN General Assembly from 2015", at the 21st Committee meeting of 20 July.

At its 32nd Meeting of 22 October, the **Committee on Health, Labour and Social Welfare** held a consultative hearing of the Minister of Labour and Social Welfare Kemal Purišić with regard to the Draft Law on Amendments to the Pension and Disability Insurance Law.

At the 40th meeting of the **Committee on Tourism, Agriculture, Ecology and Spatial Planning**, held on 24 December, consultative hearing was held on the topic: "Implementation of activities on regulating the flow of the Bojana river". At the 41st meeting of 24 December, the Committee held a consultative hearing on the topic: "Implementation of assessments and positions of the Committee on Tourism, Agriculture, Ecology and Spatial Planning on the considering of recommendations of the Final Report of SAI on the audit of the financial report of the Public Enterprise



Meeting of the Gender Equality Committee

Regional Water Supply Company for Montenegrin Coast Budva for 2016". At the 42nd meeting of 26 December, the Committee held consultative hearing on "Application of the Law on Spatial Planning and Construction of Buildings".

At the first First joint meeting of the Committee on Health, Labour and Social Welfare and the Committee on Education, Science, Culture and Sports, held on 23 February, consultative hearing of Minister of Labour and Social Welfare Kemal Purišić, Minister of Interior Mevludin Nuhodžić and Minister of Health Kenan Hrapović was held on: "Protecting and supporting women victims of violence and victims of domestic violence".

At the First joint meeting of the Committee on Human Rights and Freedoms and the Committee on Tourism, Agriculture, Ecology and Spatial Planning of the Parliament of Montenegro,

held on 28 February, consultative hearing was held on: "Activities in the field of providing accessibility for the persons with disabilities in Montenegro".

At the First joint meeting of the Committee on Health, Labour and Social Welfare and the Committee on Education, Science, Culture and Sports, held on 13 March, consultative hearing of Minister of Labour and Social Welfare Kemal Purišić and Minister of Education Damir Šehović was held on the topic: "Corporal punishment of children and peer violence".

At the second joint meeting of Committee on Tourism, Agriculture, Ecology and Spatial Planning and the Committee on Economy, Finance and Budget, held on 21 December, a consultative hearing was held on the topic: "Application of the Concession Contract between the Government of Montenegro and Vektra Jakić LLC".

WORKING BODIE	CONTROL HEARINGS		CONSULTATIVE HEARINGS	
	2018.	2017.	2018.	2017.
Constitutional Committee	/	-	/	-
Legislative Committee	/	-	/	-
Committee on Political System, Judiciary and Administration	/	-	4	1
Security and Defence Committee	1	-	6	3
Committee on International Relations and Emigrants	/	1	6	6
Committee on European Integration	/	-	³	27 ⁴
Committee on Economy, Finance and Budget	1	-	1	3
Committee on Human Rights and Freedoms	1	-	3	-
Gender Equality Committee	/	-	3	-
Committee on Tourism, Agriculture, Ecology and Spatial Planning	/	-	5	2
Committee on Education, Science, Culture and Sports	1	-	1	-
Committee on Health, Labour and Social Welfare	/	-	3	-
Anti-corruption Committee	/	-	/	2
Administrative Committee	/	-	/	-
Commission for Monitoring and Control of the Privatisation Procedure	/		/	
TOTAL	4	1	30⁵	43⁶

Table No 6 - Control and consultative hearings at the meetings of the working bodies of the Parliament for the period 1 January - 31 December 2018, with comparable data for the same period of 2017

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

⁵ In the total number of consultative hearings, the consultative hearing held on the First Joint Meeting of the Committee on Health, Labour and Social Welfare, the Committee on Political System, Judiciary and Administration, and the Gender Equality Committee was shown as one. Furthermore, in the total number of consultative hearings, the consultative hearing held on the First Joint Meeting of the Committee on Human Rights and Freedoms and the Committee on Tourism, Agriculture, Ecology and Spatial Planning was shown once, as well as a consultative hearing held on the First Joint Meeting of the Committee on Education, Science, Culture and Sports and the Committee on Health, Labour and Social Welfare. The consultative hearing held within the Second Joint Meeting of the Committee on Tourism, Agriculture, Ecology and Spatial Planning and the Committee on Economy, Finance and Budget was also shown once in the total number of consultative hearings.

⁶ 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.

3.2.2. OTHER ACTIVITIES OF THE WORKING BODIES

In addition to meetings, the reporting period was also marked by numerous other activities of parliamentary committees, i.e. of their chairpersons and members, such as the following:

On 22 October 2018, the **Constitutional Committee** held a ceremonious meeting on the occasion of eleven years since the adoption of the Constitution. In addition to the members of the Constitutional Committee, the meeting was attended by prominent persons from the public and political life of Montenegro. On that occasion, the attendees were addressed by President of the Parliament of Montenegro Ivan Brajović, Chairperson of the Constitutional Committee Miodrag Vuković, and Chairperson of the Judicial Council of Montenegro Mladen Vukčević.

On 14 and 15 November, the delegation of the **Legislative Committee** of the Parliament of Montenegro paid an official visit to the National Assembly of Hungary.

In 2018, representatives of the **Committee on Political System, Judiciary and Administration** had several meetings, including the meeting with the parliamentary delegation of the Committee on Public Administration, Local Governance and Media of the Parliament of the Republic of Kosovo in Montenegro Skender Durmishi (28 February), with Vojislav Raonić and Željka Le-

kić-Subašić, representatives of the “Support for Public Media Broadcasters in the Western Balkans” regional project (15 March), then with Jozefina Topalli, OSCE expert (8 October), and then with the delegation of the OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights, which consisted of Donald Bison, head of the ODIHR election observation mission during presidential elections in Montenegro, and Vladimir Mišev, election advisor (30 October). They also participated in the Round Table on “Disciplinary and Ethical Accountability of Judges in Montenegro”, within the “Judicial System Accountability” project, organised within the Horizontal Facility Programme for Western Balkans and Turkey (13 June) and the Round Table on “Public media services in Montenegro - financing, management and regulation” (2 and 3 October).

There have been organised study visits for the Committee members to the Parliament of the Republic of Poland (11-12 September), the Croatian Parliament (6-8 November) and the National Assembly Republic of Slovenia (11-13 December)

In 2018, the **Security and Defence Committee** visited border crossings with Bosnia & Herzegovina (Ilino Brdo) and the Republic of Croatia (Debeli brijeg), in line with Article 15 paragraph 2 of the Law on Parliamentary Oversight of Security and Defence Sector.

In the previous year, the delegation of the Security and Defence Committee and the Committee on



Meeting of the of the Committee on Political System, Judiciary and Administration

Meeting of the Security and Defence Committee



International Relations and Emigrants visited the Senate of the Czech Republic (9 and 10 May). In addition to the above, the Committee members had several meetings including a meeting with the Ambassador of the Czech Republic to Montenegro Karel Urban (23 January); delegation of the Foreign Affairs Committee of the Republic of Bulgaria (6 March); and the Serbia-Montenegro parliamentary Friendship Group (24 September).

The Committee members participated in the interparliamentary conferences for Common Foreign and Security Policy and the Common Security and Defence Policy held in Sofia (15-17 February) and Vienna (11-12 October); Eight 2BS Forum (To Be Secure Forum) organised by the Atlantic Council of Montenegro (21-23 May); as well as the conferences organised by the International Republican Institute such as: "From stabilisation to integration: regional dialogue and security in the Western Balkans" conference (13-15 July, Neum); and "Joint approach and cooperation in countering extremism" conference (14-16 November, Budva),

On 2 February, the **Committee on European Integration** organised a public debate on "Montenegro and the EU, Chapter 27: Environment and Climate Change", and on 18 April a visit to the Municipality of Budva, where there was a public debate with students of "Danilo Kiš" Mixed High School in Budva.

In addition to regular Committee meetings, in order to have better coordination of efforts with the Office for European Integration, on 19 September, there was also a meeting of the Chairper-

son of the Committee with Aleksandar Drljević, Chief Negotiator of Montenegro with the EU; on 21 March there was a meeting with evaluators of the "Human Resources Development" Operative Programme 2012-2013, while on 3 July a meeting was held with the Initiative for Agricultural Development of Kosovo (IADK).

Within the activities in the framework of parliamentary diplomacy, the Committee members met in Podgorica with a delegation of the Senate of the Republic of France (23 May) and with a delegation of the National Assembly of the Republic of Bulgaria (30 May), while there was also a meeting with Josip Juratović, member of Bundestag of the Republic of Germany (14 November). In 2018, contacts were also maintained with the representatives of the diplomatic offices in Montenegro, including meetings of the Chairperson of the Committee with Mladen Chervenjakov, ambassador of the Republic of Bulgaria to Montenegro (14 March and 24 April). Upon the invitation of their European colleagues, the Committee members paid official visits to the Republic of Croatia (28-29 June) and the Republic of Bulgaria (25-26 September), during which they organised meetings with parliamentarians of the Croatian Parliament and the Bulgarian National Assembly, as well as with the representatives of the governments of Croatia and Bulgaria in charge of the EU affairs. In the end, the Chairperson of the Committee as a member of the delegation of the Parliament participated in the Interparliamentary conference "Western Balkans Transformation - Role and future of the EU accession process from the parliamentary perspective" in

Sofia (5 October), as well as the interparliamentary conference “With the EU idea towards peace and development” in Belgrade (11-12 May).

Within their regular international activities, the Committee delegations participated in the Conference of Parliamentary Committees for Union Affairs of Parliaments of the European Union (COSAC) in Sofia (21-22 January) within the Bulgarian presidency of the Council of the EU, as well as the Conference of Parliamentary Committees for Union Affairs of Parliaments of the European Union (COSAC) in Vienna (8-9 July) and the 60th Plenary Session of the Conference of Parliamentary Committees for Union Affairs of Parliaments of the European Union (COSAC) in Vienna (18-20 November), within the parliamentary dimension of the Austrian presidency of the Council of the EU. Furthermore, the Committee members participated in the Third Conference of the Parliamentary Committees on European Integration/Affairs of the States Participating in the Stabilization and Association Process in South East Europe (COSAP) in Skopje (25-26 February) within the Macedonian presidency of this initiative, and they hosted the Fourteenth COSAP in Podgorica (2-3 December). They also participated in the following: public debate of the Montenegrin Pan-European Union “Significance of Tourism in European Integration” (Tivat, 3 March); round table of the NGO Centre for Civic Education “Montenegro, Western Balkans and the EU: close at hand?” (Podgorica, 23 March); Democracy Workshops in the Parliament of Montenegro (Podgorica, 15 May);

conference of the Pan-European Union of Bosnia and Herzegovina “European enlargement process: cross-border cooperation as an instrument of European integration” (Orašje, 25-27 May); conference of the Ministry of Sports and the foundations Robert Schuman and Konrad Adenauer “European Perspective of the Western Balkans within the Berlin Process - youth cooperation/RYCO” (Bečići, 8 June). A Committee member was also a panellist at the seminar of the Konrad Adenauer foundation “European integration as a challenge and a goal” in Petrovac (5 October).

During the year, representatives of the **Committee on Economy, Finance and Budget** had meetings with the delegation of the Secretariat of the Energy Community on presenting the 2017 Annual Implementation Report of the Secretariat (7 February); representatives of the British Embassy Podgorica and the Westminster Foundation for Democracy (19 March); as well as with the parliamentary delegation of the Republic of Kosovo (4 December).

During the year, the Committee representatives participated in the following events: presenting the Roadmap for Good Governance for the state institutions in Serbia and Montenegro, as well as in the Western Balkans, organised by the Westminster Foundation for Democracy and the Action SEE Consortium (31 January); Interparliamentary Conference: “The power of the purse: EP budgetary powers and procedures”, organised by the European Parliament in cooperation with the Parliament of Macedonia, in Skopje (26 Febru-



Meeting of members of the Committee of European Integration with senators of the Republic of France



ary); Meeting of Chairpersons of Energy Committees, organised within the Bulgarian presidency of the Council of the European Union, in Sofia (14 May); Parliamentary Workshop on “Macroeconomic Policy and Capacity Building for Central and Eastern European Legislators”, organised by the Joint Vienna Institute in cooperation with the International Monetary Fund, Vienna (11-13 June); The Inter-Parliamentary Conference on “Good Governance of the European Union Funds: The European Parliament’s powers in budgetary surveillance”, organised by the Group for Democracy and Coordination of Elections and the Committee on Budgetary Control of the European Parliament, in Brussels (11-12 July); The Parliamentary Conference on “Investments and Trade Facilitation in the Western Balkans”, organised by the World Trade Organization and the Parliamentary Assembly of the Mediterranean, Belgrade (12-13 July); Regional High Level Meeting on the Development of International Tax Cooperation: “Fighting Tax Evasion”, hosted by the Ministry of Finance, Parliament, National Bank and the Revenue Authority of Georgia in cooperation with the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) and the Global Forum on Transparency and Exchange of Information for Tax Purposes, in Tbilisi (17-18 July); 28th Economic Forum titled: “A Europe of Common Values or A Europe of Common Interests?”, organised by the Economic Forum Program Council, in Krynica Zdroj (4-6 September); The Inter-Parliamentary Conference on Stability, Eco-

nomic Coordination and Governance in the EU, within the parliamentary dimension of the semi-annual Austrian Presidency of the Council of the European Union, Vienna (17-18 September); Workshops on “Gender Equality and Mainstreaming”, organised by the parliamentary Committee on Gender Equality in cooperation with the OSCE Mission to Montenegro (17-18 September); Roundtable on “Monitoring and Controlling the Implementation of the Agreement on Construction of the Bar-Boljare Highway, Smokovac-Mateševo Section”, organised by the NGO Network for Affirmation of the Non-Governmental Sector (9 October); The Inter-Parliamentary Conference on Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency, within the parliamentary dimension of the semi-annual Austrian Presidency of the Council of the European Union, with the support of the Open Regional Fund for SEE - Energy Efficiency (ORF-EE), Vienna (19 and 20 October); The First Parliamentary Workshop within the World Investment Forum - 2018 aimed at strengthening parliamentary activities in the implementation of the 2030 Development Agenda, organised by the Interparliamentary Union in cooperation with the United Nations Office in Geneva (22-24 October); Montenegro 2018 Economics Conference: The Balkans and the European Union - Five Year Cycle of the Berlin Process, organised by the Montenegrin Chamber of Commerce, in Budva (25-26 October); Meeting of the Energy Community Parliamentary Plenum, organised by the Energy Community Secretariat, in Skopje

(28 November); The Second South East Europe (SEE) Parliamentary Forum on Energy Efficiency and Climate, organised by the German Society for International Cooperation (GIZ) within the Open Regional Fund for SEE - Energy Efficiency, Vienna (27 November); as well as at the Annual Session of the Parliamentary Conference on the World Trade Organization, organised by the Interparliamentary Union and the European Parliament, in Geneva (6 and 7 December).

The Committee also continued its cooperation with the Westminster Foundation for Democracy (WFD) (more on page) and intensified its cooperation with the State Audit Institution (SAI) on the basis of the Protocol on Cooperation which the Parliament of Montenegro signed with this institution on 11 May.

In July, members of the **Committee on Human Rights and Freedoms** visited the Day Care Center for Children with Disabilities and Persons with Disabilities in Nikšić - Sector B, and in December they organised a Conference on the International Human Rights Day on "Personal data protection in Montenegro - legislation and practise".

In November, a Cooperation Agreement was signed between the Committee on Human Rights and Freedoms, the Legislative Committee, the Committee on European Integration and the NGO Civic Alliance, with a view to enhancing

cooperation with this NGO, based on the principles of transparency, openness and mutual respect, the promotion of European values and activities related to the accession of Montenegro to the European Union, as well as better exchange of information related to the accession negotiations, especially with regard to chapters 23 and 24.

There were also noted participations in the conference "Protection of Human Rights and Freedoms in Montenegro" on 10 December, as well as at the Roundtable where a Draft Analysis of Cross-Sectoral Support for Different Systems for Children with Disabilities in Montenegro was presented, held in Podgorica on 12 December 2018.

As for thematic sessions, the Gender Equality Committee held two sessions of the Women's Parliament, namely Eighth Session on 7 March ahead of International Women's Day and Ninth Session of Women's Parliament on 26 November, during the global campaign: "16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence" (more on page 74) During its thematic meetings, the Committee covered the following topics: "Families and inclusive societies" (15 May), "Legal framework for respecting the rights of LGBTIQ persons" (12 November) and "75 anniversary of women political participation in Montenegro" (8 December).

The Committee, in cooperation with the OSCE Mission to Montenegro and with the support of its Office, organised two-day thematic workshop



for MPs and parliamentary staff on “Gender equality and gender mainstreaming” (23 and 24 April) in Podgorica, followed by two one-day workshops on the same topic (17 and 18 September). The Committee also, in cooperation with the OSCE Mission to Montenegro, organised a two-day workshop dedicated to MPs and parliamentary staff on the topic: “Gender-Responsive Budgeting” (7 and 8 December).

Delegation of the Gender Equality Committee visited Brussels on 20 and 21 February, upon the invitation by the European Parliament, within study visit and support programmes for the parliaments of the enlargement countries, in particular the Western Balkans; took part in the Regional Conference on Gender Equality and Public Administration Reform in the Western Balkans in Belgrade on 30 and 31 January; and also in the opening of the final conference of the project “Women in Management in Montenegro – Support to Leadership and Professional Development of Women in Montenegro”, organised by the Union of Employers of Montenegro and with the support of the International Labour Organisation (ILO). Representatives of the Committee also participated in the work of the Regional Meeting, held on May 15 in Sarajevo, on the topic - “Gender Equality and Corruption”, while the Committee Chairperson took part in the 30th international conference “Women Leaders for Change”, which took place in Haifa and Jerusalem (28-31 May); the Chairperson also partici-

pated in the following events: Gender-sensitive Parliaments Online Tool Workshop, organised in Vilnius by the European Institute for Gender Equality (EIGE) on 6 June, as well as in a two-day workshop during Women Political Leaders (WPL) Summit 2018 – It’s About Time! 100 reasons to act!” in Lithuania (8 June), at the Regional forum on Promoting Implementation of Istanbul Convention in the Western Balkans and Turkey held in Skopje (27 and 28 November). The delegation of the Committee also visited the Austrian institutions on 25 and 26 September in Vienna. At final conference of the project “Women in Management in Montenegro – Support to Women’s Leadership and Career Development in Montenegro”, the Chairperson of the Gender Equality Committee was presented with a plaque of the Union of Employers of Montenegro.

During 2018, members of the **Committee on Tourism, Agriculture, Ecology and Spatial Planning** took part in a public debate on “Montenegro and the EU, Chapter 27: Environment and climate change”, in the organisation of the Committee on European Integration 2 February) as well as in the Fifth Conference of Danube Parliamentarians hosted by the Hungarian National Assembly (4 and 5 October), and they also met with representatives of Poland-Montenegro parliamentary Friendship Group (24 July) and representatives of both Ministry of Sustainable Development and Old Royal Capital (16 November).

Meeting of the Committee on Tourism, Agriculture, Ecology and Spatial Planning





Meeting of the Committee on Education, Science, Culture and Sports

Committee on Education, Science, Culture and Sports hosted a study visit by a delegation of the Committee on Education, Science, Culture and Health of the National People's Congress of the People's Republic of China (10-13 November).

During the year, multiple meetings were organised with representatives of different institutions dealing with topics that fall under competences of the Committee, such as: meeting with a regional advisor for education from UNICEF Office (14 September), meeting with representatives of the PRC Embassy (14 September), visit of the Committee representatives to education institutions in Mojkovac (20 September), visit by the Committee representatives to the Montenegrin Academy of Sciences and Arts (26 September), meeting of the Committee Chairperson with representatives of the Union of the Blind (2 October), meeting of the Committee Chairperson with the Ambassador of the PRC (4 October), visit by the Committee Chairperson to education institutions in Bar (4 October), visit by the Committee representatives to the National Museum of Montenegro in Cetinje (12 October) and a meeting with Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of France to Montenegro Mr Christine Toudic Gaborit (10 December).

Delegation of the Committee also paid a study visit to the Croatian Parliament (21-23 October), and they also took part in the inter-parliamentary meeting on "European Cultural Heritage" in Brussels,

organised by the European Parliament's Committee on Culture and Education (19 and 20 November).

In the organisation of the **Committee on Health, Labour and Social Welfare** a roundtable on "Strengthening social dialogue in Montenegro with a reference to the Proposal for the Law on Social Council" was organised in the Parliament of Montenegro (8 June).

Representatives of the Committee took part: in the workshop on presenting and assessing findings - Report on the evaluation of the system for monitoring the state of children's rights in Montenegro for the period 2014-2017 and planned approach of UNICEF to this topic for the period 2017-2021 on 16 February; in a semi-structured interview at the premises of the Institute for Social and Child Welfare in Podgorica, which, with the support of UNICEF, had been conducting qualitative research on the analysis and evaluation of the performance of centres for social work in Montenegro, on 7 June 2018; National Consultations - Mental Health Improvement Strategy, at Hotel "Podgorica". Multisector National Consultations organised under the auspices of the Ministry of Health, with the expert and financial support of the World Health Organization (11 June); presentation of the Draft Analysis of inter-sectoral support of different systems for children with developmental disabilities (12 December).

Meeting of the Committee on Health, Labour and Social Welfare



The Committee also paid a visit to the Special Psychiatric Hospital “Dobrota” on 23 April and Resource Center for Children and Youth “Ljubović” - Podgorica. The visit was paid on the occasion of marking International Children’s Day on 20 November. Also, several meetings were held including the meeting with experts regarding the drafting of analysis of inter-sectoral support of different systems for children with developmental disabilities in Montenegro and their families (27 September); as well as with Ambassador of

the Slovak Republic to Montenegro Mitja Močnik (3 October).

Members of the Committee on Health, Labour and Social Welfare also paid a study visit to the Republic of Turkey, Ankara, in the period 5-7 November.

Delegation of the **Anti-corruption Committee** took part in the work of the Regional meeting in Sarajevo, on the topic “Gender Equality and Corruption” (15 May).



Meeting of Anti-corruption Committee



Meeting of the Administrative Committee



Meeting of the Commission for Monitoring and Control of the Privatization Procedure

Representatives of the **Administrative Committee** took part in workshops organised by the OSCE, in cooperation with the Parliament of Montenegro, on 5, 19 and 26 November, with the aim of improving the work of the Administrative Committee, Legislative Committee and Committee on Political System, Judiciary and Administration of the Parliament of Montenegro.

3.2.3. TEMPORARY WORKING BODIES

Committee on further reform of electoral and other legislation

The Committee on Further Reform of Electoral and Other Legislation was established by a Decision of the Parliament of Montenegro adopted on 30 October, at the Third Sitting of the Second

Ordinary (Autumn) Session. The Decision on the election of the Chairperson, Deputy Chairperson, and members of the Committee was adopted by the Parliament of Montenegro on 12 November, at the Third Sitting of the Second Ordinary (Autumn) Session.

The Committee on Further Reform of Electoral and Other Legislation held its first meeting on 13 November, in order to determine the methodology and further activities of the Committee, and, in that respect, it adopted the Conclusions with 14 points containing tasks and obligations to be implemented in the upcoming period. At its second meeting of 27 November, the Committee continued to determine its methodology and further activities. A Commission was established to consider the submitted applications to the public invitation for the election of two associated members from among the academic community and public invitation for the election of three associated members from among the NGO sector, and submitted the reports to the Committee. On 27 November 2018, the Committee adopted the Decision on the election of associated members of the Committee. The organisation structure of the Committee was determined, implying the establishment of seven working groups in line with the Committee tasks, and the Secretariat of the Committee with 14 staff members was also established.

In December, six working groups held meetings in which MPs and associated members from the NGO sector and academic community considered the methodology of work and activities which the Committee's working groups would undertake in the upcoming period, in order to prepare legal solu-

tions and forward them to the Committee for consideration. During January, consultative meetings of the working groups were held, where legal frameworks were analysed in detail, recommendations were submitted and measures for further activities were considered. In this period, there was communication with the responsible state institutions (Ministry of Interior, Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Culture, Supreme Court of Montenegro - Judicial Council, State Election Commission, State Audit Institution, Agency for Prevention of Corruption, municipal election commissions), who submitted their proposals and suggestions to the Committee.

The Committee's Secretariat drafted an analysis of the legal framework within the purview of the Committee, an analysis of the OSCE/ODIHR recommendations for the 2016 parliamentary elections and 2018 presidential election, as well as an analysis of recommendations submitted by associate members of the Committee and responsible state institutions. Also, contacts were made with the Montenegrin Academy of Sciences and Arts and University of Montenegro, in order to enable the organisation of round tables in the future. A database of research papers from the field of electoral legislation was established and their supplementation and elaboration was continued. A web platform (www.izbornoskupstina.me) was created, which is in the testing stage, and it is aimed at enabling more intensive communication and online commenting on all available documents. There was also communication with the relevant international organisations (OSCE/ODIHR and the Venice Commission) and the EU Delegation to Montenegro, which showed willingness to provide expert support and assistance and follow the Committee's work.



Meeting of the Committee on Further Reform of Electoral and Other Legislation



IV INTERNATIONAL ACTIVITIES

4.1. EUROPEAN INTEGRATION

Parliamentary contribution to the European integration process is achieved, inter alia, through the work of the Stabilisation and Association Parliamentary Committee (SAPC). In the reporting period, the SAPC held two meetings: in Podgorica on 16 and 17 July, and in Strasbourg on 14 and 15 November. The meetings discussed the following: state of play of the accession negotiations and EU-Montenegro relations, role of the Parliament in strengthening democratic processes and election reform, activities of the Parliament on improving the overall electoral environment, progress and results in judiciary reform and the fight against organised crime and corruption, fundamental rights and freedoms, with the focus on the free and professional work of the media and the protection of private property. Role of Montenegro in the regional cooperation and its contribution to the Western Balkan stability, economic performance, sustainable development and environmental protection. Both meetings ended with the adoption of a joint document - Declaration and Recommendation.

The parliamentary contribution to the integration process was continued through the work of the Committee on European Integration, which

President Brajović referred to the fact that Montenegro was a candidate which had achieved the most progress and advanced the most in its negotiation process, as well as that on several occasions it had been demonstrated that Montenegro, with its positions and concrete steps, its commitment to good neighbourly politics and active participation in regional cooperation, fostered European values and that it was the most agile promoter of those values in the Western Balkans.

"I think that enlargement is one of the most successful Union policies that needs to be strongly promoted, primarily in the member states. I firmly believe that the membership and economic development of the Western Balkans are an investment in the long-term stability and security of the European region."
(SAPC, Podgorica, 16 July)

reviewed several documents from the European integration process by 31 December 2018: (Information paper on 2017 EU support programmes to Montenegro; Strategy "A credible enlargement perspective for and enhanced EU engagement with the Western Balkans"; Eight semi-annual report on the overall activities within the integration process of Montenegro to the European Union, for

the period July – December 2017; Sixteenth quarterly report on the overall activities within the integration process of Montenegro to the European Union, for the period July – December 2018; Report on implementation of the Montenegro's Programme of Accession to the European Union 2017 - 2018, for 2017; Sixth semi-annual report on implementation of the Action Plan for Negotiation Chapter - Judiciary and fundamental rights for the period July - December 2017, with the Third semi-annual report on implementation of the Operation document for prevention of corruption; Sixth semi-annual Report on Implementation of the Action Plan for Chapter 24 Justice, freedom and security for the period July - December 2017; Ninth semi-annual report on the overall activities within the process of Montenegro's integration in the European Union, for the period January - June 2018; Seventeenth quarterly report on the overall activities within the process of Montenegro's integration in the European Union, for the period January - March 2018; and Eighteenth quarterly report on the overall activities within the process of Montenegro's integration in the European Union, for the period April - June 2018). Furthermore, at one of its meetings, the Committee considered

and adopted the Draft negotiation position for Chapter 27 - Environment and climate change.

Members of the Parliament of Montenegro, also, regularly participate in meetings organised within the presidency of the EU Council. During the reporting period, members of the Committee on European Integration took part in meetings of the **Conference of Parliamentary Committees for Union Affairs (COSAC)**, namely:

1. *meeting of chairpersons of the committees organised within Bulgarian presidency* (Sofia, 21 and 22 January), marked by a discussion on presidency's priorities, EU future, and the role of macro-regional strategy of the EU for sustainable development, stability and security;
2. *Meeting of the Chairpersons of COSAC* (Vienna, 8th and 9th of July), outlining the priorities of the Austrian Presidency of the EU Council and discussing the future of the EU and key challenges such as the migrant crisis, the completion of negotiations on the UK's withdrawal from the EU and the functioning of the banking union, as well as on the relationship between the European Parliament and natio-





nal parliaments, and importance of involving national parliaments in European processes, especially in passing laws;

3. *the plenary session held during the Austrian Presidency* (Vienna, 18-20 November), discussing the priorities of the Austrian presidency of the EU Council, the current challenges facing the EU, including Bregzit, the negotiations on climate change politics and the Energy Union, as well as ways to further approximate the EU to its citizens.

Signing of the Protocol of Cooperation with the Committee on European Union Policies of the Italian Senate in 2017 was followed by two similar **protocols of cooperation with Croatia and Bulgaria:**

1. *Protocol on Cooperation between the Committee on European Integration of the Parliament of Montenegro and the European Affairs Committee of the Croatian Parliament* providing the following: a stronger inter-institutional dialogue and exchange of information and views aimed at joint action of the two parliaments at the European level, sharing of expertise from the EU accession process and implementation of the European legislation, as well

as promotion of the significance of the role of national parliaments in the European integration process.

2. *Protocol on Cooperation between the Committee on European Integration of the Parliament of Montenegro and the Committee on European Affairs and Oversight of the European Funds of the National Assembly of the Republic of Bulgaria* which aims to strengthen the close and friendly relations of the two committees and a closer parliamentary cooperation, proclaims the European perspective of the Western Balkans, but also to specify mutual parliamentary cooperation through the organisation of regular thematic meetings of the two committees and the exchange of professional experiences at the expert level.

4.2. VISITS BY REPRESENTATIVES OF OTHER STATES

Numerous international activities of the President and vice-presidents of the Parliament of Montenegro marked 2018. We highlight the following below:

ACTIVITIES OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE PARLIAMENT

Jean-Claude Juncker, President of the European Commission

President Brajović spoke on 27 February with the President of the European Commission, Jean-Claude Juncker. President Brajović pointed out that, after successfully completing the integration process in the NATO, Montenegro has been now directing

all its social capacities towards the integration process into the European Union.

“The visit of President Juncker and other high-level officials to our country is a confirmation of the strong commitment and openness of the Union for the admission of new members”, Mr Brajović said.

“Parliament is the temple of democracy, the place where the arguments are debated,” Mr Juncker said.

Habib El Malki, President of the House of Representatives of the Kingdom of Morocco

President of the Parliament of Montenegro, Ivan Brajović, and the President of the House of Representatives of the Kingdom of Morocco, Habib El Malki, signed on 25 June the Protocol on Parliamentary Cooperation, thus creating the foundations for strengthening bilateral relations including cooperation between parliamentary working bodies, friendship groups, as well as between the staff of the two legislatures. Visit of Habib El Malki is the first official visit by a Moroccan statesperson to Montenegro. The Kingdom of Morocco has advanced status with the European Union, and was among the first



President of the European Commission Jean-Claude Juncker and President of the Parliament of Montenegro Ivan Brajović, 27 February 2018



President of the House of Representatives of the Kingdom of Morocco Habib El Malki and President of the Parliament of Montenegro Ivan Brajović, 25 June 2018

countries to recognise Montenegro. In their statements after the meeting, the two presidents said that Montenegro and Morocco shared the same values, being stability factors in their respective regions of the Western Balkans and North Africa.

László Kövér, Speaker of the National Assembly of Hungary

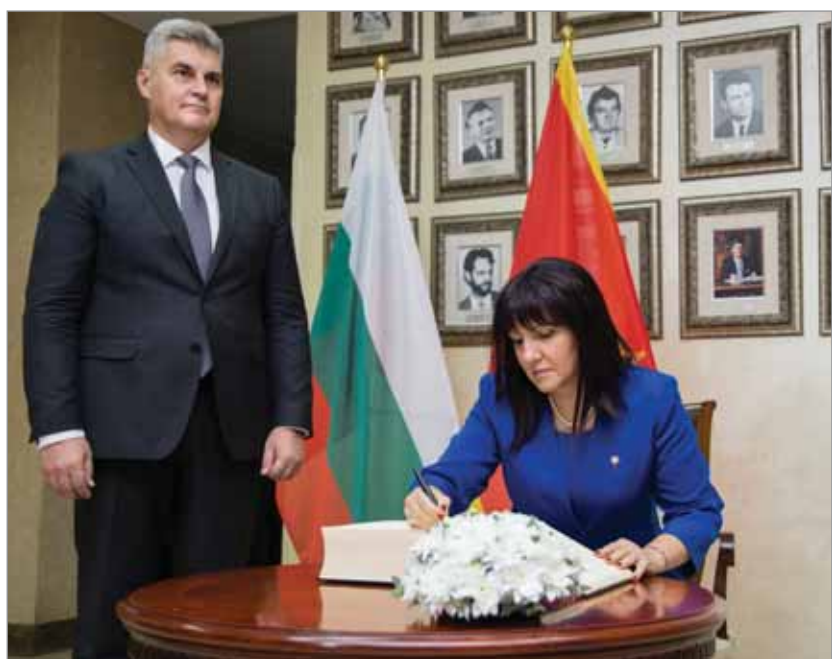
“Relations of our states are such that Hungary sees Montenegro as its honourable neighbour”, said in his press statement the Speaker of the National Assembly of Hungary, László Kövér, during his visit on 10 September to our country upon the invitation of the President of the Parliament, Ivan Brajović. President Brajović emphasised that outstanding political relations between Montenegro and Hungary, which aim to strengthen economic cooperation in the interests of citizens, can serve as an example. Brajović reminded that Hungary was the second country with the most direct foreign investments in Montenegro in this year, therefore parliaments should help and promote economic co-operation within their jurisdiction.



Speaker of the National Assembly of Hungary László Kövér, 10 September 2018

Tsveta Karayancheva, Speaker of the National Assembly of the Republic of Bulgaria

The meeting of President of the Parliament of Montenegro, Ivan Brajović and the Speaker of the National Assembly of the Republic of Bulgaria, Tsveta Karayancheva, held on 8 October, focused on the significance of keeping parliamentary and other types of relations between the two states dynamic, keeping in mind, among other things, the challenges in the region. Speaker Karayancheva also reiterated Bulgaria's advocacy for the indi-



Speaker of the National Assembly of the Republic of Bulgaria Tsveta Karayancheva and President of the Parliament of Montenegro Ivan Brajović, 8 October 2018

vidual merit-based approach for each country on the European path. Speaking of Bulgaria's focus on the Western Balkans, Karayancheva pointed out that the existence of those countries' desire to achieve European integration was of the utmost importance, therefore, for its commitment to the European values, Montenegro “has its EU lobbyist in Bulgaria”.

Wolfgang Sobotka, President of the National Council of Austria



President of the National Council of Austria Wolfgang Sobotka and President of the Parliament of Montenegro Ivan Brajović, 28 November 2018

President of the National Council of Austria, Wolfgang Sobotka, during his official visit to Montenegro on 28 November, said that the reasons for his visit were the improvement of bilateral parliamentary cooperation, and providing support to the countries of the Western Balkans, first of all Montenegro, as a leader in the process of European integration. President Brajović said that the visit of the President of the National Council of Austria was even more important given the fact that Austria has been presiding over the Council of the European Union.

“It is important to us that Austria has been trying and been able to raise awareness among other members of the European Union about the importance of the enlargement of the European Union. On the other hand, I am free to say that Montenegro has been the most credible promoter of European values in the Western Balkans. With our example, we have best shown to other countries in the region that the path of comprehensive reforms would eventually be worth the while, rewarded primarily by our citizens, and then by our European colleagues”, said the President Brajović.

The delegation of the National Council of Austria also met with members of the Committee on further reform of electoral and other legislation. An exhibition on important women of Austria in the past 200 years was opened in the Hall of the Parliament on the occasion of the visit of the President Sobotka to the Parliament of Montenegro, and was opened for citizens several days after. Presidents Brajović and Sobotka also visited the participants of “Barbara Prammer” Democracy Workshops.

Paul LePage, Governor of the State of Maine



President of the Parliament of Montenegro Ivan Brajović and Governor of the State of Maine Paul LePage, 16 July 2018

President Brajović met on 16 July with the Governor of the State of Maine, Paul LePage, who was paying the first official visit to Montenegro. Expressing his gratitude for the sincere help of the US in respect of Montenegro's membership in NATO, President Brajović stressed the importance of the strategic partnership with the State of Maine, being continually developed at all levels.

Viktor Orbán, Prime Minister of Hungary



Prime Minister of Hungary Viktor Orbán and President of the Parliament of Montenegro Ivan Brajović, 24 July 2018

It was concluded that the relationship between Montenegro and Hungary is distinguished by openness, sincerity and full confidence, without outstanding issues, representing the best possible basis for achieving results in all areas of mutual interest, at the meeting of the President of the Parliament of Montenegro, Ivan Brajović and Hungarian Prime Minister, Viktor Orbán, on 24 July.

Vasilica - Viorica Dăncilă, Prime Minister of Romania

President Brajović spoke on 26 July with the Prime Minister of Romania, Vasilica - Viorica Dăncilă, who was paying an official visit to Montenegro. President Brajović emphasised that the first visit at that level was a strong confirmation of the friendship of the two countries, both of which have marked this year a significant jubilee - the 140th anniversary of the Berlin Congress. During their conversation, they jointly noted that more intensive parliamentary cooperation, at the level of friendship groups and working



Prime Minister of Romania Vasilica - Viorica Dăncilă and President of the Parliament of Montenegro Ivan Brajović, 26 July 2018

bodies, as well as the development of partnership relations within NATO, stimulated the strengthening of the overall relations.

Boyko Borisov,
President of the Republic of Bulgaria



President of the Republic of Bulgaria Boyko Borisov and President of the Parliament of Montenegro Ivan Brajović, 23 September 2018

Active parliamentary cooperation between Montenegro and Bulgaria, in particular during the Bulgarian presidency of the European Union, is a significant contribution to strengthening the overall excellent political cooperation between the two countries – it was concluded at a meeting with the Bulgarian Prime Minister, Boyko Borisov, on 23 September.

Ivica Dačić, First Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Serbia

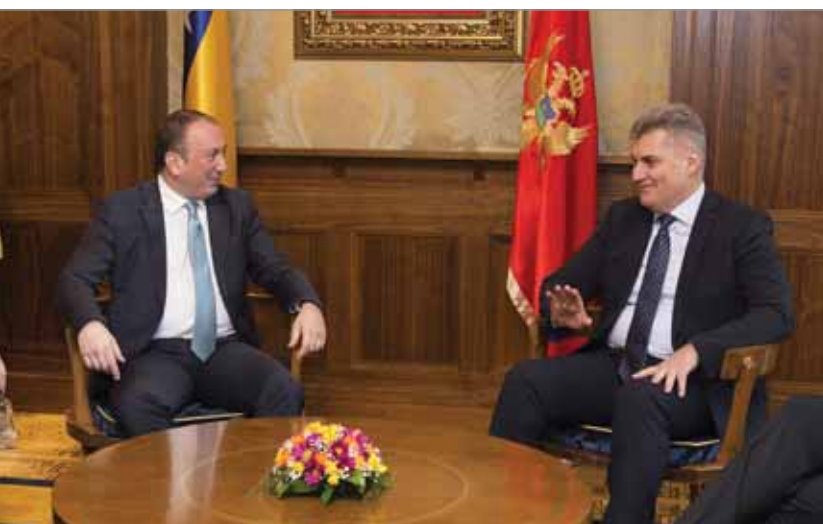


First Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Serbia Ivica Dačić and President of the Parliament of Montenegro Ivan Brajović, 16 January 2018

During the meeting of the President Brajović and Ivica Dačić, the First Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Serbia, on 16 January, a mutual commitment was noted for the development of good relations between Montenegro and Serbia.

Igor Crnadak, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Bosnia and Herzegovina

During the conversation between the President of the Parliament of Montenegro, Ivan Brajović and the



Minister of Foreign Affairs of Bosnia and Herzegovina Igor Crnadak and President of the Parliament of Montenegro Ivan Brajović

Minister of Foreign Affairs of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Igor Crnadak, on 27 February, it was noted that two countries have continuously developed friendly relations and cooperation based on multi-level connections.

***Radmila Šekerinska-Jankovska,
Deputy Prime Minister and Minister
of Defence of the Republic of Macedonia***

Montenegro and Macedonia are natural regional partners, with good political relations and numerous possibilities for strengthening economic cooperation – it was noted after the meeting with the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Defence of the Republic of Macedonia, **Radmila Šekerinska-Jankovska**, on 23 May.

“Montenegro, as a NATO member state and the first next country to join the EU, will share its integration experience with Macedonia and other countries that want to take the same path”, President Brajović said.



Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Defence of the Republic of Macedonia Radmila Šekerinska-Jankovska and President of the Parliament of Montenegro Ivan Brajović, 23 May 2018

President Brajović received on 27 September the “Charter of Excellence” and silver statuette on behalf of the World Festival of Poetry “Eminesku – Njegoš” that was held in Podgorica on 25-30 September. Upon the proposal of great Romanian poet and cultural worker, Jon Deakonesku, the Charter was awarded as a “sign of respect in renewing the independence of Montenegro, as well as cherishing identity values and encouraging the development of Montenegrin institutions of culture.”



***Péter Szijjártó, Minister of Foreign Affairs and
Trade of Hungary***

President Brajović, during his meeting with the Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade of Hungary, Péter Szijjártó, on 2 July, expressed his belief that the support of Hungary to the European path of Montenegro would be as strong as it has been for NATO membership, as well as the gratitude for the personal engagement of the Minister Szijjártó.



Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade of Hungary Péter Szijjártó and President of the Parliament of Montenegro Ivan Brajović, 2 July 2018

***Karin Kneissl, Federal Minister for Europe,
Integration and Foreign Affairs
of the Republic of Austria***

“Austria has continuously showed friendly relation towards Montenegro, which remembers and



Federal Minister for Europe, Integration and Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Austria Karin Kneissl and President of the Parliament of Montenegro Ivan Brajović, 5 October 2018

respects the support on Euro-Atlantic path and through projects in many fields”, said the President Brajović on 5 October at the meeting with Federal Minister for Europe, Integration and Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Austria, Karin Kneissl. Democracy workshops were also discussed at the meeting, project for children, started at the initiative of former President of the Austrian National Council, Barbara Prammer, implemented regularly and successfully by the Parliament of Montenegro in cooperation with primary schools in our country.

***Cardinal Pietro Parolin,
Secretary of State of the Holy See***



Secretary of State of the Holy See, Cardinal Pietro Parolin and President of the Parliament of Montenegro Ivan Brajović, 28 June 2018

During the conversation with the Secretary of State of the Holy See, Cardinal Pietro Parolin, on 28 June, Montenegro was stressed as an example of the country nourishing diversity of nations, religions, cultures, seeing them as its advantage. The President of the Parliament emphasised that the quality of co-existence was one in a series of true values that Montenegro has been dedicated to traditionally and continuously.

Rasa Juknevičienė, NATO PA President



President of the NATO Parliamentary Assembly Rasa Juknevičienė and President of the Parliament of Montenegro Ivan Brajović, 3 October 2018

“Montenegro attaches great importance to parliamentary democracy, we are active members of the NATO PA and other parliamentary organisations and we are very committed to inter-parliamentary dialogue at all levels”, President Brajović said at the meeting with newly-elected NATO PA President, Rasa Juknevičienė on 3 October. The interlocutors agreed that membership in both NATO and the EU were very significant for Montenegro, particularly bearing in mind the leadership role of Montenegro and its contribution to good neighbouring relations and stability in the region.

Vice President of the EP and MEPs

At the meeting with the Vice President of the EP and MEPs, on 13 April, President Brajović has expressed his gratitude with the fact that the EP



President of the Parliament of Montenegro Ivan Brajović with Vice President and members of the European Parliament, 13 April 2018

accepted his invitation to monitor the presidential election in Montenegro.

Delegation of the Committee on European Affairs of the House of Representatives of the States General of the Kingdom of the Netherlands



Meeting of the President of the Parliament of Montenegro Ivan Brajović with Delegation of the Committee on European Affairs of the House of Representatives of the States General of the Kingdom of the Netherlands, 8 May 2018

During the conversation with representatives of the Committee on European Affairs of the House of Representatives of the States General of the Kingdom of the Netherlands, headed by the Chairperson of the Committee, Malik Azmani, on 8 May, the significance of intensifying parliamentary cooperation and continuity of political dialogue was emphasised, for further strengthening of the friendly relations between the two countries.

Gunter Krichbaum, Chairman of the Committee on European Affairs of the German Bundestag

“In the process of negotiations, primarily in the interest of the citizens of Montenegro, priority should be given to the quality of reforms and to change the state and society for the better with their implementation,” said the President of the Parliament of



Chairman of the Committee on European Affairs of the German Bundestag Gunter Krichbaum and President of the Parliament of Montenegro Ivan Brajović, 10 May 2018

Montenegro, Ivan Brajović, on 10 May, during the meeting with the Chairman of the Committee on European Affairs of the German Bundestag, Gunter Krichbaum. “Germany advocates that the quality of reforms should determine the speed of accession of the candidate countries to the European Union and that the stabilising role and good neighbourly relations of Montenegro in the region have been especially appreciated”, Krichbaum said.

Delegation of the Senate of the Republic of France



President of the Parliament of Montenegro Ivan Brajović and Delegation of the Senate of the Republic of France, 24 May 2018

“On its integration path and for the reform processes which it implements, Montenegro needs support of the EU members, among which France holds a prominent position. A clear message is sent to the other candidate countries when the best are rewarded”, President Brajović pointed out at the meeting with the delegation of the Senate of the Republic of France, headed by Senator Simon Sutour, on 24 May.

Members of the European Parliament



President of the Parliament of Montenegro Ivan Brajović together with the MEPs, 16 July 2018

At the meeting with MEPs, held on 16 July, ahead of the 15th Stabilisation and Association Parliamentary Committee (SAPC), President Brajović emphasised the importance of active dialogue and continuous exchange of views with the aim of better understanding and strengthening of partnership relations.

Poland - Montenegro parliamentary Friendship Group

Poland is Montenegro's friend on its road to the EU, ready to provide any kind of assistance. We expect



Delegation of the Poland - Montenegro parliamentary Friendship Group and the President of the Parliament of Montenegro Ivan Brajović, 24 July 2018

that soon we will be partners in the EU as well, members of the delegation of the Poland - Montenegro parliamentary Friendship Group, headed by the Chair of the Group, Grzegorz Matusiak, stressed at the meeting with President of the Parliament of Montenegro, Ivan Brajović, held on 24 July.

Lithuania-Montenegro parliamentary Friendship Group

“Montenegro highly appreciates a great contribution that Lithuania has given to us on our path towards



Lithuania-Montenegro parliamentary Friendship Group and the President of the Parliament of Montenegro Ivan Brajović, 9 October 2018

NATO membership, which we see as the highest foreign policy success since the renewal of the statehood”, President Brajović said on 9 October at the meeting with the Lithuania-Montenegro parliamentary Friendship Group, headed by Chair of the Friendship Group, Gintaras Vaičekas.

Delegation of the Foreign Affairs Committee of the Grand National Assembly of Turkey

During the meeting of the President of the Parliament of Montenegro, Ivan Brajović, with the delegation of the Foreign Affairs Committee of the Grand



Meeting of the President Brajović with the Delegation of the Foreign Affairs Committee of the Grand National Assembly of Turkey, 4 December 2018

National Assembly of Turkey, headed by the Chairman of the Committee, Volkan Bozkir, that was held on 4 December, it was concluded that intensified parliamentary diplomacy of Montenegro and Turkey would contribute to strengthening the good overall relations between the two countries, both politically and economically.

Maryse Davie, Head of OSCE Mission to Montenegro



Meeting of the President of the Parliament of Montenegro Ivan Brajović with the Head of OSCE Mission to Montenegro, 6 November 2018

Mentioning the establishment of the Committee on further reform of electoral and other legislation as an example, President Brajović emphasised the active and constructive attitude of MP groups with the common goal to further strengthen the confidence of citizens in the electoral process, which once again showed the political maturity of the Parliament, during his meeting with Ms Maryse Davie, Head of OSCE Mission to Montenegro, held on 6 November. The President stressed that the consideration and implementation of the OSCE/ODIHR recommendations, obtained after the parliamentary and presidential elections, would be one of the most important tasks of the Committee.

Resident ambassadors in Montenegro

"In the next two years of our mandate, the parliamentary life will be dynamic and will help to accelerate the adoption of European standards with the aim of improving the quality of life of our citizens. I am pleased to state that once again we demonstrated the ability to preserve political stability, despite numerous challenges put before us", said the President of the Parliament of Montenegro, Ivan Brajović, among other things, at the annual meeting with the



President of the Parliament of Montenegro Ivan Brajović with the resident ambassadors in Montenegro, 29 November 2018

heads of diplomatic resident missions in Podgorica, held on 29 November.

Ms Ana Janković, the Ambassador of Austria to Montenegro, also addressed the participants on behalf of the presiding country of the Council of the European Union, stressing that 2018 was the year important and successful for Montenegro, Austria and bilateral relations between the two countries. Speaking about the European perspective of Montenegro and the Western Balkans, she cited the Federal Chancellor of Austria who said that "the EU will be complete only when the countries of the Western Balkans join."

EU ambassadors of member states and candidates for the EU membership



President of the Parliament of Montenegro Ivan Brajović at the meeting with the EU ambassadors of member states and candidates for the EU membership, 5 December 2018

President Brajović was a guest of honour at the meeting of EU ambassadors of member states and candidates for the EU membership on 5 December, upon the invitation of Austrian Ambassador, Ana Janković. The meeting was another opportunity for exchanging opinions on the EU enlargement policy.



MEETINGS

of President of the Parliament of Montenegro, Ivan Brajović, with representatives of foreign countries and international organisations in 2018

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| <p>12 January – Ambassador of the United States of America, Margaret Ann Uyhara</p> <p>16 January – First Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Serbia, Ivica Dačić</p> <p>17 January – Deputy Head of the ODIHR Election Department, Richard Lappin and Election Adviser, Tamara Otiashvili</p> <p>24 January – Head of the EU Delegation to Montenegro, Aivo Orav</p> <p>29 January – United Nations Under Secretary and Special Adviser on the Prevention of Genocide, Adam Dieng</p> <p>30 January – Non-resident Ambassador of Canada to Montenegro, Kati Csab</p> <p>31 January – Ambassador of the People's Republic of China to Montenegro, Cui Zhiwei</p> <p>2 February – UK Ambassador to Montenegro, Alison Kemp</p> <p>20 February – Director of the World Health Organization's Regional Office for Europe, Zsuzsanna Jakab</p> <p>20 February – Acting Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Slovak Republic, Ivan Korčok</p> <p>21 February – Ambassador of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Vinko Radovanović</p> <p>27 February – Minister of Foreign Affairs of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Igor Crnadak</p> <p>27 February – President of the European Commission, Jean-Claude Juncker</p> <p>2 March – Non-resident Ambassador of Georgia, Zaza Kandelaki</p> <p>6 March – Chairperson of the Foreign Affairs Committee of the National Assembly of the Republic of Bulgaria, Dzhema Grozdanova</p> <p>9 March – Ambassador of the United States of America to Montenegro, Margaret Ann Uyhara</p> <p>16 March – Head of the ODIHR Observation Mission for the upcoming presidential election, Tana de Zulueta</p> | <p>22 March – Non-resident Ambassador of the Republic of Azerbaijan to Montenegro, Eldar Hasanov</p> <p>29 March – Non-resident Ambassador of the Republic of Tunisia to Montenegro, Seyf Allah Rejeb</p> <p>30 March – Ambassador of the Italian Republic to Podgorica, Luka Zelioli</p> <p>13 April – EP Vice President, Fabio Massimo Castaldo, and MEPs Jose Inacio Faria, Tonino Picula, Javier Nart, Andre Elissen and Tamas Meszerics</p> <p>3 May – Members of the Venice Commission, Philip Dimitrov, Marta Cartabia and Simona Granata</p> <p>8 May – Committee on European Affairs of the Kingdom of the Netherlands, headed by Chairperson, Malik Azmani</p> <p>10 May – Chairman of the Committee on European Affairs of the German Bundestag, Gunter Krichbaum</p> <p>23 May – Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Defence of the Republic of Macedonia, Radmila Šekerinska-Jankovska</p> <p>24 May – Delegation of the Senate of the Republic of France, headed by Senator Simon Sutour</p> <p>24 May – Ambassador of Hungary to Montenegro, Christian Posa</p> <p>8 June – Ambassador of the People's Republic of China to Montenegro, Cui Zhiwei</p> <p>25 June – President of the House of Representatives of the Kingdom of Morocco, Habib El Malki</p> <p>27 June – Ambassador of the Great Britain to Montenegro, Alison Kemp</p> <p>28 June – Secretary of State of the Holy See, Cardinal Pietro Parolin</p> <p>2 July – Ambassador of the Arab Republic of Egypt to Montenegro, Abderahman Salaheldin</p> <p>2 July – Hungarian Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Péter Szijjártó</p> |
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6 July – Head of the UNDEF program, Hannah McGlue and coordinator of the MANS parliamentary programme, Danilo Kalezić

6 July – Ambassador of Hungary to Montenegro, Kristijan Poša

16 July – MEPs, ahead of the 15th SAPC

16 July – Governor of the State of Maine, Paul LePage

20 July – Ambassador of the United States of America, Margaret Ann Uyehara

20 July – Ambassador of the Republic of Bulgaria, Mladen Chervenjakov

24 July – Delegation of the Poland - Montenegro parliamentary Friendship Group, headed by Chair of the Group, Grzegorz Matusiak

24 July – Prime Minister of Hungary, Viktor Orbán

25 July – President of the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe, Gudrun Mosler-Törnström

26 July – Prime Minister of Romania, Vasilica - Viorica Dăncilă

3 September – Prime Minister of the Republic of Bulgaria, Boyko Borissov

4 September – Ambassador of the Federal Republic of Germany, Hans Günther Mattern

7 September – Ambassador of Hungary to Montenegro, József Négyesi

10 September – Speaker of the National Assembly of Hungary, László Kövér

12 September – Ambassador of the Federal Republic of Germany, Robert Heinrich Weber

12 September – Ambassador of the People's Republic of China, Liu Jin

24 September – Chair of the Serbia - Montenegro parliamentary Friendship Group, Igor Bečić

26 September – Representatives of the Igman Initiative, Branko Lukovac, Vesna Simović-Zvicer and Branislav Radulović

3 September – Ambassador of the Republic of Macedonia to Montenegro, Mihajlo Trpkoski

3 October – NATO PA President, Rasa Juknevičienė

5 October – Federal Minister for Europe, Integration and Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Austria, Karin Kneissl

8 October – Speaker of the National Assembly of the Republic of Bulgaria, Tsveta Karayancheva

9 October – Ukraine - Montenegro parliamentary Friendship Group, headed by the Chair of the Group, Andriy Shypko

9 October – Lithuania-Montenegro parliamentary Friendship Group, headed by the Chair, Gintaras Vaičekas

24 October – Ambassador of the Republic of Poland to Montenegro, Artur Dmochowski

30 October – Deputy Head of the ODIHR election observation mission for the presidential election in Montenegro, Donald Bisson, and the Senior Election Adviser, Vladimir Misev

31 October – Head of the EU Delegation to Montenegro, Aivo Orav

6 November – Delegation of OSCE Mission to Montenegro, headed by Ambassador Maryse Davie

12 November – Committee on Education, Science, Culture and Health of the All-China People's Congress, headed by the Chairperson, Li Xueyong

26 November – Ambassador of the Republic of Turkey, Serhat Galip

28 November – President of the National Council of Austria, Wolfgang Sobotka

28 November – Director of the Historical Archives of Vatican, Johan Ickx

29 November – Resident ambassadors

4 December – Foreign Affairs Committee of the Grand National Assembly of Turkey, headed by the Chairman of the Committee, Volkan Bozkır

5 December – Ambassadors of member states and candidates for the EU membership, upon the invitation of Austrian Ambassador, Ana Janković

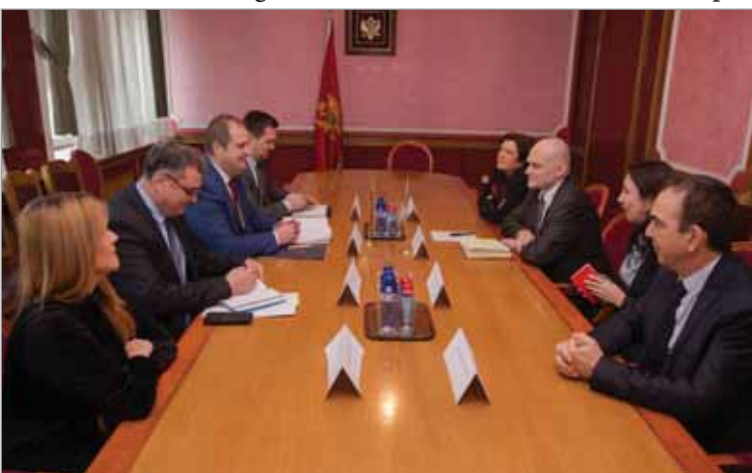
14 December – Ambassador of the Republic of Albania to Montenegro, Ridi Kurtezi

21 December – Ambassador of the United States of America to Montenegro, Judy Rising Reink

21 December – Non-resident Ambassador of Jordan, Fawwaz Al-Eitan

ACTIVITIES OF VICE PRESIDENTS OF THE PARLIAMENT

- Vice President of the Parliament of Montenegro and Head of the Friendship Group with France, Genci Nimanbegu, met on 10 January with the member of the National Assembly of the French Parliament, Frédéric Petit. During their meeting, Mr Nimanbegu and Mr Petit discussed the current po-



Vice President of the Parliament of Montenegro Genci Nimanbegu with the member of the National Assembly of the French Parliament Frédéric Petit, 10 January 2018

litical situation in Montenegro and France, as well as movements within the European Union. At the meeting they also discussed the election system in France with special focus on administering elections in 11 constituencies in which the French diaspora votes for their representatives in the Parliament.

- Vice President of the Parliament of Montenegro, Branimir Gvozdenović, in his capacity as the Head of the Friendship Group with the Parliament of Israel, held the meeting with Alon Fischer Kam, the Ambassador of Israel to Montenegro on a non-resident basis, headquartered in Belgrade, on 1 March. The meeting was an opportunity for interlocutors to jointly review the progress and contribution of co-



Vice President of the Parliament of Montenegro Branimir Gvozdenović with Alon Fischer Kam, the Ambassador of Israel to Montenegro on a non-resident basis, 1 March 2018

operation since the establishing of friendship groups in the Parliament of Montenegro and the Parliament of Israel respectively.

- Vice President Gvozdenović met on 4 May in Podgorica with non-resident Ambassador of Mexico to Montenegro, Marco Antonio García Blanco. The meeting was organised with the aim of initiating further political and economic cooperation between Montenegro and Mexico, and in that sense, Vice President Gvozdenović initiated the establishment of the friendship group between the Parliament of Montenegro and the Mexican Congress. The topics of the meeting were also the improvement of the



Vice President of the Parliament of Montenegro Branimir Gvozdenović with non-resident Ambassador of Mexico to Montenegro Marco Antonio García Blanco, 4 May 2018

trade exchange between the two countries, and the consideration of possibilities for scholarships for Montenegrin students and cooperation in the field of culture and education.

- Vice President Nimanbegu met on 16 May with the Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine, Vasyl Bodnar. The interlocutors agreed that the two



Vice President of the Parliament of Montenegro Genci Nimanbegu with the Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine Vasyl Bodnar, 16 May 2018

countries had no open issues, therefore there existed the interest for further improvement of relations in all fields, particularly in the field of tourism and economy.

- At the invitation of the Vice President of the Parliament of Montenegro and the Head of the Friendship Group with the Parliament of the Republic of Poland, Branimir Gvozdenović, the delegation of the Polish friendship group, led by the Head, Grzegorz Matusiak, paid an official visit to Montenegro in the period 23 - 26 July. The results that Montenegro had achieved since the restoration of its independence had made our country not only a member of the NATO alliance and being on the doorstep of the European Union, but also the one to have continuously contributed to the stabilisation of the entire region of the Western Balkans, Vice President Gvozdenović emphasised. Head of the Polish Friendship Group, Grzegorz Matusiak, emphasised that strengthening of parliamentary cooperation was one of the pillars of bilateral relations, noting that the Republic of Poland has remained strongly committed to supporting Montenegro on its way to the full membership in the EU, bearing in mind its progress so far in the negotiation process and successful implementation of reform processes in the country.

- The Montenegro – Serbia parliamentary Friendship Group, headed by Vice President of the Parliament, Branimir Gvozdenović, held a meeting on 24 September with the Serbia - Montenegro parliamentary Friendship Group, headed by Igor Bečić. The meeting discussed concrete possibilities for improving the cooperation aimed at linking and exchanging high quality ideas and projects of mutual interest, therefore upon the proposal of Vice President of the Parliament, Branimir Gvozdenović, they agreed to work on the protocol on cooperation of two friendship groups, as a fundamental framework for the development of parliamentary relations. The Head of the Serbia - Montenegro parliamentary Friendship Group, Igor Bečić, pointed out that the friendship group with Montenegro, as one of the largest parliamentary friendship groups in the Serbian Parliament, was a confirmation of strong ties and friendly relations, and that this type of cooperation should be used in the direction of constant and regular dialogue at the parliamentary level.

- Vice President Nimanbegu hosted on 10 October the newly appointed Ambassador of Germany, Robert Weber. Ambassador Weber particularly



Ambassador of Germany to Montenegro Robert Weber and the Vice President of the Parliament of Montenegro Genci Nimanbegu, 10 October 2018

focused on the situation regarding ecology - especially the Ulcinj Salina as an ecological oasis, not only of Ulcinj and Montenegro but also of Europe, which was a key point of Chapter 27 (Environment). Relations between Germany and Montenegro were assessed as good and friendly, with a remark that Montenegro had a worthy advisor in Germany, supporting it on its path towards the EU.

- As a member of the Parliament of Montenegro's Permanent Delegation, Vice President Nimanbegu met on 16 October with the Head of the Albanian Parliament's Permanent Delegation to the NATO PA, Mimi Kodheli. The participants of the meeting jointly stated during the discussion that the region must remain focused on its integration to the EU and NATO, by adopting the best models for strengthening democracy, economic development and prosperity of the overall society. The interlocutors of the meeting acknowledged the need for Montenegro and Albania to continue fostering their friendly relations, providing thus support to each other and strengthening cooperation, especially bearing in mind the importance of ensuring a secure environment for the region and beyond. Furthermore, they cited opportunities for improving the economic cooperation.

- Vice President Gvozdenović met on 18 October with the Ambassador of the Republic of Croatia to Montenegro, Veselko Grubišić. The topic of their conversation was the strengthening of parliamentary cooperation via friendship groups of the Parliament of Montenegro and the Croatian Parliament. The interlocutors voiced mutual willingness to intensify cooperation at the friendship group level, specifically aimed at exchanging parliamentary experiences in



Ambassador of the Republic of Croatia to Montenegro Veselko Grubišić and Vice President of the Parliament of Montenegro Branimir Gvozdenović, 18 October 2018

the fields of tourism, investment, and infrastructure projects of mutual interest.

- Vice President Gvozdenović met on 19 October with the Ambassador of the Republic of Kosovo to Montenegro, Skender Durmishi. Ambassador Durmishi assessed highly integration achievements of Montenegro within the EU negotiation process and stressed that Montenegro's accession to NATO strengthened the stability of the Western Balkans as a whole. Vice President Gvozdenović expressed pleasure with continuously dynamic relations between the two states, intensive political dialogue at the highest level and common European and Euro-Atlantic strategic goals. Efficient cooperation mechanism of the two countries are friendship groups between the Parliament of Montenegro and the Assembly of Kosovo, which should serve as a successful platform for dialogue on all topics of mutual concern.



Ambassador of the Republic of Kosovo to Montenegro Skender Durmishi and Vice President of the Parliament of Montenegro Branimir Gvozdenović, 19 October 2018



Ambassador of the People's Republic of China to Montenegro Liu Jin and Vice President of the Parliament of Montenegro Branimir Gvozdenović, 23 October 2018

- Vice President Gvozdenović, in his capacity of the Head of the Montenegro-China parliamentary Friendship Group hosted on 23 October the Ambassador of the People's Republic of China to Montenegro, Liu Jin. In the meeting they analysed the activities of the current projects in Montenegro in which the Chinese companies had been participating, especially concerning the works on the highway and wind power plant Možur, and they also considered Montenegro's potential as well as business and investment opportunities. The conversation focused on the cooperation at the parliamentary level, especially friendship groups, bearing in mind that this form of bilateral cooperation existed in both parliaments, and that this year such group with our Parliament was formed in the National People's Congress of the People's Republic of China. The interlocutors noted that cooperation at the friendship group level could help with further development of Montenegro-China relations, with focus on the fields of ecology, innovation, energy, science, culture, and education.

- Vice President Gvozdenović met on 31 October with the Head of the EU Delegation to Montenegro, Aivo Orav. The occasion for the holding of the meeting was the adoption of the Decision on the formation of the Committee on further reform of electoral and other legislation. Vice President Gvozdenović invited all political parties represented in the Parliament of Montenegro to be actively involved in the Committee's work, because, apart from those parties having responsibility towards their voters and the citizens, they also have responsibility toward the EU and international organisations, bearing in mind that, as he emphasised, the elements suppor-

ted or proposed by the EU and international organisations were included in the Decision on the formation adopted by the Parliament.

- Vice President Nimanbegu hosted on 31 October the Ambassador Aivo Orav. Ambassador Orav welcomed the formation of the temporary parliamentary committee, stressing it having an ambitious agenda ahead that was important for Montenegro's EU path. Vice President Nimanbegu voiced his deep respect and satisfaction with the engagement of Ambassador Orav and Commissioner Hahn, as well as



Head of the EU Delegation in Montenegro Aivo Orav and Vice President of the Parliament of Montenegro Genci Nimanbegu, 31 October 2018

their help during this entire process. Furthermore, he informed the Ambassador about the meeting of leaders of Albanian parties in Montenegro held with regard to the electoral legislation reform, and has two goals: 1) the harmonising of electoral legislation requests of Albanians aimed at authentic representation of Albanians in Montenegro and 2) the beginning of mutual dialogue of Albanian political parties in Montenegro, as a prerequisite for improving the state of Albanians.

- Vice President Gvozdenović met on 9 November with Alexander Shlyk, Head of ODIHR Election Department, Raul Muresan, ODIHR Expert, as well as with Maryse Daviet, Head of the OSCE Mission to Montenegro, and Barbara Rotovnik, Rule of Law and EU Integration Advisor within Delegation of EU to Montenegro. The occasion for the meeting was the newly formed Committee on Further Reform of Electoral and Other Legislation, which would be chaired by the Vice President Gvozdenović. Stressing the importance of implementing the recommendations and practices of international organisations and institutions such as the ODIHR and the European Commission, Mr Gvozdenović said that the formation of the Committee, with the

aim of upgrading electoral legislation, was one of the factors to contribute to the faster joining of Montenegro into the European Union. ODIHR representatives welcomed and supported the formation of the Committee and expressed their satisfaction with the invitation to participate in the work of the Committee.

- Vice President Nimanbegu, met on 13 November with Ambassador Maryse Daviet, Head of the OSCE Mission in Montenegro, regarding reforms of electoral legislation and the creation of a more favourable climate for elections in Montenegro. Vice President Nimanbegu informed the Ambassador Daviet about the reform of electoral legislation, and in relation to this about the already established Working Group in the Parliament of Montenegro. Special attention was paid to the representation of minorities and women in the Parliament. The Vice President used the opportunity to express his view regarding current legal solution that did not go in favour of minorities - especially Albanian minority, which has been left without the special constituency according to the Law from 2014, which practically changed the affirmative action into its opposite. Ambassador Daviet expressed OSCE's readiness to assist Montenegro in the upcoming reform of electoral legislation.



Head of the OSCE Mission in Montenegro Maryse Daviet and Vice President of the Parliament of Montenegro Genci Nimanbegu, 13 November 2018

- Vice President Gvozdenović met on 7 December with the Ambassador of the People's Republic of China to Montenegro, Liu Jin. The meeting covered topics on projects, among other things, that have been implemented by Chinese companies in Montenegro. Vice President Gvozdenović expressed his satisfaction with the manner of cooperation and the

possibility for further improving and expanding of areas for cooperation between Montenegro and China. Vice President Gvozdenović pointed to the importance of cooperation at the parliamentary level, and stressed that, in the capacity as the Head of the Friendship Group with the National People's Congress, he would keep advocating further cooperation through parliamentary cooperation in other areas as well, such as tourism, energy and innovation.

4.3. VISITS ABROAD

ACTIVITIES OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE PARLIAMENT

Participation at the 66th National Prayer Breakfast, Washington

During his participation at the 66th National Prayer Breakfast, on 7-10 February in Washington, President of the Parliament of Montenegro, Ivan Brajović had meetings with Senator Ron Johnson, congressmen Michael Turner, Eliot Engel, Doug Lamborn and Chellie Pingree. President Brajović informed his interlocutors about current political developments in Montenegro and in the Western Balkans region, particularly expressing gratitude for the support and assistance that the U.S. Congress continually provided to our country in achieving a key foreign policy goal - NATO membership. On day two of his visit to the USA, President Brajović met the Chairman of the U.S. Helsinki Commission, Senator Roger Wicker, President and CEO of the Center for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS), John J. Hamre and President of the German Marshall Fund of the United States (GMF), Karen Donfried. The President of

the Parliament also had a meeting in the Heritage Foundation, and he took part in the activities organised within the 66th National Prayer Breakfast. All conversations emphasised the importance of U.S. continuous activities on further strengthening of transatlantic ties and cooperation. As for integration processes, President Brajović stressed the importance of stronger affirmation of the "regatta principle" in order to properly stimulate positive examples, as it was the case with Montenegro's accession to NATO. Within the National Prayer Breakfast, President Brajović addressed the attendees at the event dedicated to the SEE countries, organised by the congressman Robert Aderholt, and expressed willingness of our country to help all Western Balkans countries, in the spirit of good neighbourly relations and friendly cooperation, and to share its experiences from the process of European and Euro-Atlantic integration.

Meeting with the President of the Austrian National Council, Wolfgang Sobotka, Vienna



President of the Parliament of Montenegro Ivan Brajović with the President of the Austrian National Council Wolfgang Sobotka, 24 February 2018



President of the Parliament of Montenegro Ivan Brajović at the 66th National Prayer Breakfast, Washington, 7-10 February 2018

Within the Winter Session of the OSCE PA in Vienna, ahead of the Austrian Presidency of the European Union, President Brajović met on 24 February with the President of the Austrian National Council, Wolfgang Sobotka. It was stressed at the meeting that during its Presidency of the European Union, Austria would strongly support the Western Balkans accession to the community of European nations, whereby Montenegro could serve as an example and a model, due to its clear commitment to the Union.

- In a friendly and sincere talk with the President of the Parliament of Austria, the state which will preside the EU Council from July, I was assured that Austria will be a true promoter of Montenegro's interests on its integration path, the President Brajović said after the meeting.

Visit to the Republic of Azerbaijan, Baku

President of the Parliament of Montenegro, Ivan Brajović, undertook a bilateral visit to the Republic of Azerbaijan upon the invitation of the Speaker of the National Assembly of Azerbaijan, Ogtay Asadov, where he also met with the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan, Ilham Aliyev and the Foreign Minister, Elmar Mammadyarov.

President Brajović was one of the speakers at the opening of the International Conference on "The role of Parliamentarians in boosting economic cooperation and cultural ties along the Silk Road". Speaking about Montenegro in the society of many bigger and powerful countries, its history and culture, as well as commitment to good relations with all countries, Mr Brajović said:

- We do not have Mahabharata, Iliad, and Odyssey,

but we have the oldest printing house in South Slavs and the Mountain Wreath. We do not have Homer, but we have Njegoš. We do not have Huseyn Javid in our literature, but we have his bust in the most beautiful park of our capital city. We do not have the Azure coast, but we have the Adriatic. We do not have Himalayas, but we have Durmitor. Some lost their face in the past, but Montenegro did not. It saved its face and its citizens, and also provided a home and a place under the sun to many people at the end of the last century in the Balkans. Among other things, this is the reason why the EU has opened its door to us that we will pass through in the upcoming years.

Meeting with the President of the National Council of the Swiss Confederation, Dominique de Buman, Bern

On 27 March, the meeting was held in Bern with the President of the National Council of the Swiss Confederation, Dominique de Buman, many issues have been considered under the competence of parliaments, as well as the possibilities of intensified co-



Meeting of the President of the Parliament of Montenegro Ivan Brajović with the President of the National Council of the Swiss Confederation Dominique de Buman, Bern, 27 March 2018



President of the Parliament of Montenegro Ivan Brajović visiting the Republic of Azerbaijan, 14 March 2018

operation in the field of economy, with the emphasis on the development of tourism and agriculture, especially in the north of Montenegro.

Conference of Speakers of the European Union Parliaments, Tallinn



President of the Parliament of Montenegro Ivan Brajović at the Conference of Speakers of the European Union Parliaments, Tallinn, 23-24 April 2018

At the Conference of Speakers of the European Union Parliaments, held in Tallinn on 23-24 April, the President Brajović said the following, inter alia, in a discussion on the future of the European Union: "Montenegro is not seeking for shortcuts on its path to membership in the European Union, but expects a more active and more realistic approach to enlargement. The degree of progress made should be borne in mind, as well as the numerous challenges that our country has been facing. Each candidate country should be admitted when it is ready for membership. We regard the regatta principle as the only rightful one."

Meetings were held with the presidents of parliaments of the states that have currently held and that would hold presidency of the European Union in the upcoming period: Tsveta Karayancheva from Bulgaria, Wolfgang Sobotka from Austria, Paula Risikko from Finland. Meetings were also held with the President of the Italian Senate, Maria Elisabetta Alberti Casellati, the President of the French Senate, Gerard Larcher and the Speaker of the Swedish Parliament, Urban Ahlin.

Visit to the People's Republic of China

President of the Parliament of Montenegro, Ivan Brajović, stayed in an official visit to China in the period 31 May – 2 June, upon the invitation of the Chairman of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference, Wang Yang. The interlocutors agreed that Montenegro and China could be an example of



President of the Parliament of Montenegro, Ivan Brajović in an official visit to PR China, 31 May – 2 June 2018

good partnering relation in political and economic cooperation, regardless of the differences in size of the countries and their geographic distance.

President of the Parliament also meet with the Chairman of the National People's Congress Standing Committee, Li Zhanshu, who stressed that they would continue and encourage Chinese companies to invest in Montenegro. President Brajović said that Montenegro was flattered by devoted friendship of the significant state that experienced continuous economic growth and invested in Montenegro through infrastructural, energy, medicine, and educational projects.

In addition to meetings with two top Chinese officials, President Brajović was welcomed in China at the highest level in the most respectable industrial and cultural institutions, medical examination centres, and he also met Montenegrin students who study in China.

Meeting with the President of the Bundestag, Wolfgang Schäuble, Berlin



President of the Parliament of Montenegro Ivan Brajović meeting with the President of the Bundestag Wolfgang Schäuble, Berlin, 10 July 2018

During the participation at the OSCE PA Annual Session, the President of the Parliament met on 10 July with the President of the Bundestag, Wolfgang Schäuble, with whom he exchanged views on numerous issues of interest for the future of Montenegro and the European Union. They also spoke about strengthening of bilateral cooperation with emphasis on the role of parliaments in diplomatic and economic relations between Germany and Montenegro.

“I am sure that in the continuation of our European path, we will have strong support of Germany as we had during the NATO integration process. I also hope that together we will celebrate the moment when Montenegro becomes the first next member of the European Union,” – Mr Brajović said.

Meeting with ODIHR Director, Ingibjörg Sólrún Gísladóttir



President of the Parliament of Montenegro Ivan Brajović with ODIHR Director Ingibjörg Sólrún Gísladóttir, 9 July 2018

Within the OSCE PA Winter Meeting held on 22-23 February in Vienna, and the OSCE PA Annual Session, held in Berlin on 7-11 July, President Brajović met with ODIHR Director, Ingibjörg Sólrún Gísladóttir. During both meetings, they talked about the good cooperation of Montenegro with the OSCE Mission and the importance of the ODIHR's report on the improvement of electoral legislation.

Conference of Presidents of the Parliaments of Small European States, Vaduz

President Brajović spoke on three topics, and held separate meetings with the presidents of other parliaments, during the Twelfth Conference of Presi-



12th Conference of Presidents of the Parliaments of Small European States, Liechtenstein, 20 September 2018
dents of the Parliaments of Small European States, held on 20 September in Liechtenstein.

Following the integration to the North Atlantic Alliance, the key priority is the EU membership. We see membership in these organisations as important, not only from the aspect of adopting standards that should provide better life to our citizens, but primarily as a guarantee of the permanent protection of our stability, sovereignty and integrity – the President of the Parliament of Montenegro concluded his speech.

Meeting with Antonio Tajani, President of the European Parliament

Within the 16th SACP Meeting, the President of the Parliament of Montenegro, Ivan Brajović, met on 15 November with the President of the European Parliament, Antonio Tajani.

“We will surely provide support to Montenegro in its efforts on the path to successful conclusion and full membership in the EU, following a successful



President of the Parliament of Montenegro Ivan Brajović meeting with the President of the European Parliament Antonio Tajani, 15 November 2018



President of the Parliament of Montenegro Ivan Brajović
in official visit to Romania, 10 December 2018

NATO membership. I want to commend the work and role of Montenegro in the stability of the Balkans, because without a stable Balkans there is no stability of the European Union, and we count that Montenegro will have a very important place there,” said the EP President Tajani, after the meeting.

President Brajović said that it was very important that we had a continuous cooperation with the President of the European Parliament, and that it was nice to hear the words about the importance of Montenegro’s presence on all European addresses, as well as that such words about our integration path and contribution in the Balkans region and beyond Europe came from that address.

Visit to Romania, Bucharest

President Brajović paid an official visit to Romania on 10 December, ahead of Romanian presidency of the Council of the European Union, upon the invitation of the President of the Chamber of Deputies, Nicolae Dragnea. President Brajović highlighted that Romania, as the state which, after Bulgaria and Austria, had been presiding the Council of the EU, was well aware of the regional developments, supported enlargement and understood the importance of membership of Montenegro and the Western Balkans in the Union. During the meeting with the Romanian Prime Minister, Viorica Dancila, it was highlighted that the Western Balkans would be one of priorities of the Romanian presidency, and Montenegro might count on the support in order to make

its achievements as visible as possible. Similar messages of recognition for Montenegro’s achievements at the European path were heard at the meeting with the President of the Romanian Senate, Călin Tăriceanu and the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Romania, Teodor Meleșcanu.

ACTIVITIES OF VICE PRESIDENTS OF THE PARLIAMENT

- Vice President of the Parliament, Branimir Gvozdenović took part in the Sarajevo Business Forum that was held on 25 April. Vice President Gvozdenović emphasised that global processes and digital transformation had a huge impact on economy, government and society of a country, and that the process of digitalisation of society, that is, the digitisation of “everything” was a reality, not a far-



Vice President of the Parliament of Montenegro Branimir
Gvozdenović in the Sarajevo Business Forum, 25 April 2018



Vice President of the Parliament of Montenegro Branimir Gvozdenović in the Western Balkans Conference, London, 29 June 2018

-off future. Speaking of chances of the region in the field of digitalisation, Vice President Gvozdenović emphasised that, since 2014, the governments of six Western Balkans countries had been working with dedication on accelerated development of regional cooperation and promotion of joint projects in the areas of common interest, where the best example for this was the regional initiative to reduce the roaming costs.

- Vice President Gvozdenović took part in the Western Balkans Conference that was held in London on 29 June at the UK House of Lords. Vice President Gvozdenović said at the gathering, inter alia, that the London Summit had to result in specific agreements that would contribute to strengthening of regional cooperation in the area of security, the rule of law, resolving bilateral issues and reconciliation issues and ensure overco-

ming of the political challenges that hamper the progress of the region.

- Vice President of the Parliament of Montenegro and the Chair of the Montenegro-Serbia parliamentary Friendship Group, Branimir Gvozdenović, and the Ambassador of Montenegro to the Republic of Serbia, Branislav Mićunović, met on 29 July in Belgrade, with the Chair of Serbia - Montenegro parliamentary Friendship Group, Igor Bečić and several members of the Group. Vice President Gvozdenović, stressing the importance of bilateral co-operation between the two parliaments, particularly through a significant form such as a friendship group, highlighted in particular the possibilities of parliamentary diplomacy in order to convey clear views and positive experiences and practices. He particularly stressed the importance of economic cooperation, especially taking into account the mutual foreign trade



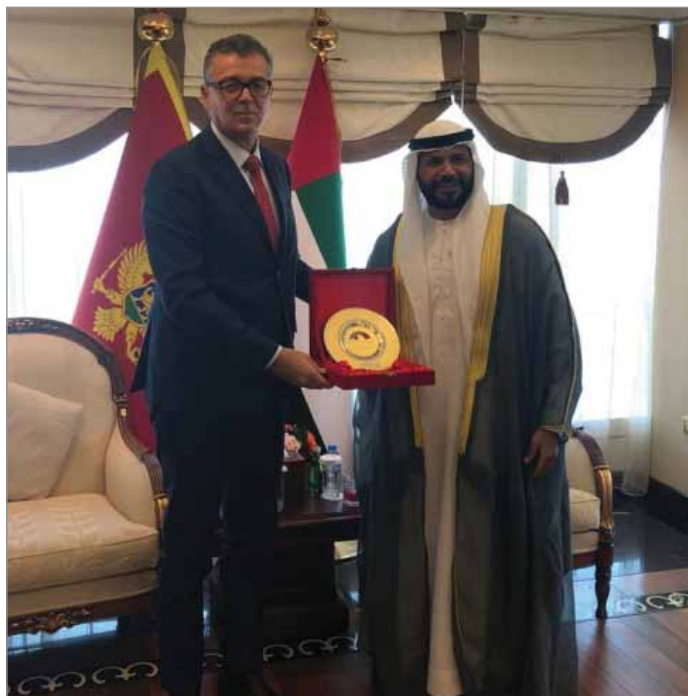
Vice President of the Parliament of Montenegro Genci Nimanbegu at the ceremony on the occasion of the 100th anniversary of the Republic of Azerbaijan National Assembly, 21 September 2018



Vice President of the Parliament of Montenegro Branimir Gvozdenović in the 100 Business Leaders of the South East Europe Summit, 2 October 2018

and the tourist market of Serbia, which was one of the most important for Montenegro.

- Vice President of the Parliament of Montenegro and the Chair of the Montenegro - Azerbaijan parliamentary Friendship Group, Genci Nimanbegu, attended and took part in the ceremonious event on the occasion of the 100th anniversary of the Republic of Azerbaijan National Assembly, held on 21 September.
- Vice President Gvozdenović participated in the 100 Business Leaders of the South East Europe Summit, which was held in Belgrade on 2 October. Speaking of advantages and the environment created by Montenegro for attracting investors, Vice President Gvozdenović especially highlighted the openness for foreign investors, who have had national treatment, the use of the euro as the national currency, and a competitive tax system, as well as free trade agreements with the EU, CEFTA, EFTA, Turkey,



Vice President of the Parliament of Montenegro Branimir Gvozdenović and the first Deputy Speaker of the Federal National Council (FNC) of the United Arab Emirates, Marwan Ahmed Ali Bin Ghalita, Dubai, 6 November 2018

Ukraine and Russia. Vice President Gvozdenović added that the country would not stop at creating an even more attractive investment environment, but would continue to constantly improve the environment for business and investment in Montenegro.

- Vice President Gvozdenović met in Dubai the first Deputy Speaker of the Federal National Council (FNC) of the United Arab Emirates, Marwan Ahmed Ali Bin Ghalita, on 6 November. During the meeting, the establishment of a friendship group between the two parliaments was initiated, bearing in mind the importance and opportunities for bilateral cooperation through this form of relationship. High level of cooperation between the two countries was



Vice President of the Parliament of Montenegro Branimir Gvozdenović at the second meeting of the Global Council for Tolerance and Peace, Tirana, 16 November 2018

assessed to have existed, and in particular, the fact was welcomed that United Arab Emirates had been the largest investor in Montenegro in the previous year.

- Vice-President of the Parliament Gvozdenović participated in the second meeting of the Global Council for Tolerance and Peace, which took place in Tirana on 16 November. This year's session gathered numerous officials from around the world, with the aim of considering ways to ensure lasting peace and strengthen inter-religious and inter-ethnic relations throughout the world. During his stay in Tirana, Vice President Gvozdenović had a separate meeting with the President of Global Council for Tolerance and Peace, Ahmed bin Mohammed Al-Jarwan, during which a possibility of cooperation between this organisation and Montenegro and its institutions, was considered.
- Vice President Nimanbegu, in a capacity as a member of the Permanent Delegation of the Parliament to the NATO PA, participated in the work of the Joint Economics and Security Committee and the OECD in Paris, in the activities of the mission for monitoring parliamentary elections in B&H, as well as at the Annual Session of the NATO PA. (more on page 57).

4.4. PERMANENT DELEGATIONS

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

Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (PACE)

During 2018, Delegation of the Parliament of Montenegro to the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (PACE) took part in four regular sessions of the PA held in Strasbourg.

First regular winter session of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe in 2018 was held in the period 22-26 January. At the session, the mandates were approved to parliamentarians, the leadership was elected, and the composition of permanent working bodies of the Parliamentary Assembly was determined. Mandates were approved to the following Montenegrin MPs: Predrag Sekulić, Head of the PACE Delegation, Marija Čatović and Milan Knežević, members of the Delegation, and Sanja Pavićević and Ervin Ibrahimović, substitute members. The winter session was marked by discussions on the progress made during 2017 as part of the monitoring process, the protection of regional and

Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (PACE) session





minority languages, and the establishment of a framework for contemporary sport management. MPs also spoke on the humanitarian consequences of the war in Ukraine, the protection of children affected by armed conflict, the role of the Council of Europe in the Israeli-Palestinian peace process, then Turkish military intervention in Syria, the fulfilment of Bosnia and Herzegovina's obligations in the Council of Europe, arguments in favour of basic income as well as the need to pass a convention on the attorney-at-law profession. Predrag Sekulić, Head of the PACE Delegation, Marija Čatović, member of the Delegation, and Sanja Pavićević and Ervin Ibrahimović, substitute members, took part in the winter session.

The second regular spring session of the PACE, attended by Head of Delegation Predrag Sekulić, was held from 23 to 27 April. The agenda of the session included topics such as: the position of journalists in Europe and the protection of editorial integrity, confiscation of illegal assets as means of combating corruption, legal challenges related to hybrid war, climate change and the implementation of the Paris Agreement, and the right to derogation from the provisions of the European Convention on Human Rights in the event of a state of emergency. The Spring Session also included discussions on the humanitarian needs of internally displaced persons, prevention of terrorist groups funding, the situation in Libya, as well as Europe's role in peace-making initiatives in Syria. Special interest was triggered by a debate on the report of the Independent Investigation Body on the allegations of corruption within the Parliamentary Assembly as well as a discussion on the Copenhagen Declaration on the reform of the European system of human rights protection. The Parliamentary Assembly elected a new judge from Montenegro to the European Court of Human Rights.

The third regular summer session of the PACE was held from 25 to 29 June, and particular attention was devoted to discussions regarding the situation of refugees and migrants and the effects of the so-called external dimension of EU migration policy regarding the protection and enjoyment of their human rights. Head of the parliamentary delegation Predrag Sekulić took part in the session. The agenda included the debates on the position of NGOs in certain Council of Europe member states, the protection of human rights defenders, the humanitarian situation

of refugees in the countries neighbouring Syria and the findings of the PACE observation mission on the presidential elections in Azerbaijan, and there was also discussion on the measures for economic empowerment of women, the fight against forced marriages in Europe, striking a balance between the best interest of the child and the need to keep families together and the protection of cultural heritage from the deliberate destruction and illegal trafficking.

Fourth, final ordinary Autumn PACE session in 2016, was held from 8 to 12 October. The key topic of this session was related to the decision-making process of the Parliamentary Assembly concerning the consideration of the credentials of national delegations and voting, when the proposals on amendments of the PACE's Rules were considered, subsequently returned to the responsible committee for reconsideration. The agenda included discussions on the role of national parliaments in the successful process of decentralisation, nuclear safety and security in Europe, as well as ensuring unhindered access to member states for human rights oversight bodies of the Council of Europe and the United Nations. Discussions were held on topical issues regarding the future of the Council of Europe, and there were talks about the treatment of Palestinian minors in the Israeli justice system, achieving equality in private and family life regardless of sexual orientation, and the 2010 Smolensk air disaster. Predrag Sekulić, Head of the PACE Delegation, Marija Čatović, member of the Delegation, Milan Knežević, member of the Delegation, and Sanja Pavićević and Ervin Ibrahimović, substitute members, took part in the Autumn Session.

In addition to participating in regular sessions, members of the parliamentary delegation to the PACE participated in numerous meetings, political group meetings, observation missions and other events aimed at promoting the values and standards of the Council of Europe.

NATO Parliamentary Assembly (NATO PA)

Spring Session of the NATO PA was held from 25-28 November in Warsaw. The session, attended by Deputy Head of the Parliament of Montenegro's Delegation to Mr Mišo Stanišić had gathered approximately 260 parliamentarians from 29 NATO member states, from North America and Europe, as well as delegates from partner countries and observer



98th Rose Roth Seminar

countries, with a goal to consider current security issues and draft reports of the Parliamentary Assembly's committees. In 2018, the 64th Annual Session of the NATO PA was held, from 16-19 November in Halifax. Head of Delegation Obrad Mišo Stanišić and member Genci Nimanbegu participated in the session, aimed at discussing common security issues of international character. During the session, members of the permanent delegation participated in voting at the meetings of all committees and at the plenary session on resolutions and other documents that were on the agenda of the parliamentary session.

In addition, in the period 7-9 February, members of the delegation participated in the joint meeting of the Committee on Economy and Security and the Organisation for Economic Co-Operation and Development (OECD), the joint meeting of the Defence and Security Committee, Economics and Security Committee and the Political Committee in Brussels from 19 to 21 February, as well as in the work of the NATO PA Spring Meeting of the NATO PA Permanent Committee, in Vilnius from 23 to 24 March. In 2018, the 97th and 98th Rose Roth seminars were held in Georgia and Macedonia, where parliamentary delegation also took part. With the participation of the parliamentary delegation, the Inter-Parliamentary Meeting of the NATO PA and the European Parliament were held in Brussels from 4 to 5 June in 2018, as well as a special conference ahead of the NATO Summit in Brussels on 10 July 2018. The dele-



Delegation of the Parliament of Montenegro at the 64th Annual Session of the NATO PA, Halifax, 16-19 November 2018

gation also participated in the visit of the Economics and Security Committee - Sub-Committee on Transition and Development in Azerbaijan from 12 to 14 September and in the NATO PA Mission for monitoring general elections in Bosnia and Herzegovina from 4 to 8 October. Transatlantic Forum of NATO PA, held in Washington, from 10-12 December, was an opportunity for a transatlantic dialogue on a wide spectrum of key issues shaping the transatlantic partnership, with special focus on informing the participants and developing a dialogue on current topics, such as: challenges in Afghanistan and southern Asia; new and old challenges in the Middle East; Iran and transatlantic relations; the challenges of transatlantic trade relations; the US approach to the issue of cyber security; elections in the United States of America; congressional views on the state



of transatlantic relations and the burden-sharing issue, and the host country's approach to Russia.

Significant events also include a meeting of new President of the NATO PA Rasa Juknevičienė with President Ivan Brajović and member of the Permanent Delegation Obrad Mišo Stanišić, when the interlocutors agreed that both NATO and EU membership were very important for Montenegro, especially given the Montenegro's leadership role and its contribution to good neighbourly relations and stability in the region. Additionally, a meeting was held with Head of the Albanian Parliament's Permanent Delegation to the NATO PA Mimi Kodheli.

OSCE Parliamentary Assembly (OSCE PA)

The OSCE PA Winter Session was traditionally held in Vienna on 22 and 23 February. The session was attended by around 240 parliamentarians from 53 OSCE participating states. The Delegation of the Parliament of Montenegro was composed of: President of the Parliament of Montenegro and the Head of the Delegation Ivan Brajović and substitute members Aleksandra Vuković and Nikola Rakočević. At a joint session of three general committees, President of the Parliament of Montenegro Ivan Brajović emphasised, during his remarks, that the next

elections in Montenegro would be held under the conditions of reformed electoral legislation, which proved Montenegro's commitment to democratic principles. During the winter session, President Ivan Brajović held bilateral meetings with the President of the Austrian National Council Wolfgang Sobotka, OSCE Secretary General Thomas Greminger, Italian Undersecretary for Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation Vincenzo Amendola, OSCE Parliamentary Assembly President George Tsereteli, Director of the OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR) Ingibjörg Sólrún Gísladóttir and OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media Harlem Désir.

The annual session of the OSCE PA was held from 7 to 11 July in Berlin. The session on "Implementing OSCE Commitments: The Role of Parliaments" brought together about 300 parliamentarians from 53 participating states and four partner countries. The Annual Meeting was attended by the Delegation of the Parliament of Montenegro, consisting of the President of the Parliament of Montenegro and the Head of the Delegation Ivan Brajović and substitute members Aleksandra Vuković and Nikola Rakočević. President of the Parliament of Montenegro Ivan Brajović had a special presentation at the plenary

session, where he emphasised the importance of the role of parliaments in promoting and implementing basic civilizational values. During his visit to Berlin, President Brajović held numerous meetings with German officials and leadership of the OSCE and his institutions, namely: President of the Bundestag Wolfgang Schäuble, OSCE PA President George Tsereteli, OSCE PA Secretary General Robert Montella, ODIHR Director Ingibjörg Sólrún Gísladóttir, OSCE Secretary General Thomas Greminger, Head of British Delegation to the OSCE PA Mark Pritchard, President of the Parliamentary Group for Southeastern Europe in the Bundestag Josip Juratović and Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of Italy Guglielmo Picchi Gulier. The delegation of the Parliament of Montenegro attended the reception hosted by President of the Federal Republic of Germany Mr Frank-Walter Steinmeier, which served as an opportunity for a short meeting.

The 2018 Annual Session of the OSCE PA was marked by a common assessment of the need for stronger political will to ensure full implementation of international obligations arising from the Helsinki Final Act and other OSCE documents. The session was finished by the adoption of the Berlin Declaration, which urges parliaments to strengthen oversight with regard to OSCE commitments and to renew commitment to the fundamental principles of international law, human rights and the rule of law enshrined in the UN Charter and the Helsinki Final Act. The declaration calls for renewed efforts on resolving the conflicts, with particular emphasis on Ukraine, Georgia, Moldova and the Nagorno-Karabakh. The session represents a clear manifestation of the importance of parliamentarians in promoting full respect for the OSCE principles, such as sovereign equality, territorial integrity of states, peaceful resolution of disputes, inviolability of borders and human rights. The President, Vice-Presidents and Heads of General Committees of the Parliamentary Assembly were elected at the annual session.

4.5. REGIONAL INITIATIVES

Cetinje Parliamentary Forum

The XX Cetinje Parliamentary Forum, organised by the Parliament of Montenegro, on the topic: "Election laws, participants and campaigns: is the voter in the spotlight?" was held on 9 November in

Cetinje with the participation of MPs from Podgorica, Zagreb, Skopje, Pristina and Belgrade, as well as representatives of the Venice Commission of the Council of Europe, the Parliamentary Assembly of the Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE PA), the OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and human rights (ODIHR) and the non-governmental sector. The 20th Cetinje Parliamentary Forum was held in two sessions: "Improvement of election laws and cooperation with international organisations" and "Impact of campaigns and financing of political actors on election integrity". At the end of the Forum, the participants adopted a Joint Statement noting that holding democratic elections was the essence of democracy and a prerequisite for security and stability, and therefore for the overall development of each country, and emphasised that democratic elections were a key aspect of human rights, i.e. civil and political freedoms. The statement encourages the active participation of citizens in political life, especially through participation in elections at all levels, and urges citizens not to disregard the democratic instruments at their disposal, including the most important - the right to vote in elections in order to be more involved in the decision-making process. It was also stated that parliaments, i.e. directly elected representatives of the people, have the greatest responsibility in strengthening citizens' confidence in the electoral process through continuous improvement of electoral legislation and conditions for holding democratic and free elections.

The significant role played by the Venice Commission of the Council of Europe and the OSCE/ODIHR in supporting the creation of an electoral environment in accordance with the highest democratic standards and obligations entailed by OSCE membership was welcomed, and the contribution of civil society and media organisations to the creation of a democratic environment for holding elections as well as transparency and reliability.

An MP is the medium through which the will of the voter speaks. In a multi-party system, the voter is no longer a passive observer who engages in political life every four years, but an active participant in the process and reform. Also, the voter does not have to wait for the elections to respond with satisfaction or dissatisfaction. And that is what makes political life uninterrupted and transparent - said, among other



things, President of the Parliament of Montenegro Ivan Brajović during the XX Cetinje Parliamentary Forum (CPF).

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

During 2018, several meetings of general committees were held, including the General Committee on Social Development, Education, Research and Science, hosted by the Parliament of Montenegro on 24 February, ahead of the Fifth Plenary Session of the SEEC PA. The meeting was dedicated to the topic “Education in the SEE region: current situation and perspectives”. Chairperson of this Committee, MP Novović, while presenting the report and the resolution prepared by the delegation of the Parliament of Montenegro to the PS SEEC PA, said that the countries of the region had made significant efforts to improve national education systems, which certainly was contributed by quality cooperation, exchange of information and good practices. Members of parliaments from the countries of the Southeast Europe region reflected on the situation in their respective countries, presented good practices, pointed to the problems they had been facing with regard to the policy implementation in this important area, and at the end of the meetings adopted the Report and the Resolution. In March, Meeting of the

General Committee on Justice, Home Affairs and Security Cooperation, was held in Sarajevo, with the participation of the member of the Permanent Delegation of the Parliament of Montenegro, Milorad Vuletić, MP. The Meeting was devoted to the topic: “Alternative Dispute Resolution Approaches in criminal proceedings in the region of Southeast Europe”, gathering parliamentarians from eight SEEC PA member states. Members of the General Committee adopted the wording of the Report and the Resolution, and it was concluded that the meeting was an exceptional opportunity to look at the positive experiences of the regional countries with the goal of individual improving of legislation and freeing of space for the judicial authorities of SEEC PA member states to commit to serious crimes that jeopardize social values. The meeting was attended by representatives of parliaments of Albania, Croatia, Romania, Slovenia, Serbia and Turkey as well. The meeting of the General Committee Economy, Infrastructure and Energy of the SEEC PA was held in March 2018 in Istanbul, with the participation of the member of the Permanent Delegation, Radule Novović, MP. The meeting was dedicated to the topic: “Opportunities for economic cooperation in the region of South-Eastern Europe”, and committee members from 12 countries SEEC PA member states participated. Members of the General Committee adopted the

Draft Report and the Draft Resolution. The text of the Draft Resolution recommends that SEECP participating governments work on the implementation of joint projects in the fields of energy, transport and tourism, as well as they adopt the necessary legislation in order to facilitate joint economic activities in the region. Also, they are recommended to step up discussions with the institutions of the European Union, as well as to initiate discussions on possible increase in the number of free trade agreements between SEECP member countries. In this regard, parliamentarians endorsed the possibility of organising an international conference with the Draft Resolution, which would be dedicated to the global economic challenges and opportunities for economic growth and development in the SEECP participating countries. Member of the Parliament of Montenegro, Radule Novović, took part in the SEECP PA Standing Committee Meeting on 16 and 17 March in Bled, as part of Slovenian chairmanship over the initiative. With the participation of parliamentarians from all 13 SEECP participating countries, the Proposal of the Final Declaration, with amendments submitted by parliaments, was considered. Following a comprehensive and constructive discussion, the text of the final declaration was unanimously formulated, ahead of the SEECP PA Plenary Session.

Fifth Plenary Session of the SEECP Parliamentary Assembly was held in 2018, with the participation of the member of the standing delegation of the Parliament of Montenegro and the Chair of the General Committee on Social Development, Education, Research and Science of the Parliamentary Assembly of the South-East European Cooperation Process (SEECP PA), Radule Novović. This year's session, held in Ljubljana on 14 April, within Slovenian Chairmanship-in-Office, was devoted to the topic: "SEECP PA perspective in the light of new geopolitical relations in Europe", gathering parliamentarians from 13 member states of the South-East European Cooperation Process. The main topic of the discussion between the heads of parliaments and other parliamentarians was focused on the state of play and perspectives of regional organisations in Southeast Europe, as well as on the European perspective of individual countries participating in the SEECP PA, which are not members of the European Union, in the light of recent events in the EU, such as Brexit and the developments regarding Catalonia.

The session stressed that the perspective of European Union accession and membership should continue to be the main driver for reform, stability and security in the region and that the European Union enlargement process represents an irreplaceable tool for strengthening the commitment of the SEECP Participants for the implementation of reforms. Also, it was assessed that the SEECP members should be committed to the dynamics of the European Union enlargement process on an individual merit-based approach, underlining the Union's responsibility and commitment for keeping the enlargement momentum alive and strengthening regional connectivity and integration through initiatives at EU level. Ahead of the session, meetings were held of the General Committee on Social Development, Education, Research and Science, General Committee on Economy, Infrastructure and Energy, General Committee on Justice, Home Affairs and Security Cooperation and Standing Committee, and the Joint Declaration was adopted at the end of the Plenary Session, as well as the Work Plan of the SEECP Parliamentary Assembly for the upcoming one-year period.

Central European Initiative Parliamentary Dimension (CEI-PD)

In the framework of the Initiative, Meeting of the CEI - PD parliamentary committee took place on 14 May in Zagreb. Head of the Montenegrin parliamentary delegation to the CEI-PD, Miodrag Vuković, said at the meeting that Montenegro had a good normative and institutional framework for sustainable tourism, explaining that the Constitution of our country provided a definition of Montenegro as an ecological state, and that the essence of sustainable development was made of consistent political action, focused on the development of national resources and prevention of making decisions that reduced the importance of these. It was stressed in the discussion, in which MPs from several parliaments of Bosnia and Herzegovina, the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Romania, Poland, Italy, Belarus, Bulgaria, Slovakia, Hungary, Ukraine and Austria took part, that tourism was one of the most important economic branches in these countries, and statistical indicators were presented in favour of this. Particularly welcomed was the amendment of the Italian delegation to the Joint Statement, recognising the efforts of the Western Balkan countries on their European path, encouraging them to continue the



implementation of reforms. The meeting concluded that it was necessary to adopt a balanced approach to the economic, social and cultural aspect of sustainability, with special care for the environment and the preservation of cultural and natural resources. Meeting of the CEI-PD General Committee on Economic Affairs, with the participation of Miodrag Vuković, MP was held in September in Warsaw. The meeting in the Polish Parliament, attended by representatives of nine CEI member states, discussed the road, infrastructural and energy connectivity among the Central European Initiative states as well as the Via Carpathian project. The Speaker of the Polish Parliament, Marek Kuchinski, pointed out that the Central European Initiative at the present moment was one of the most important regional cooperation frameworks that contributed to the establishment of new bridges of cooperation and that offered a recipe for effective dealing with new challenges in Europe. It was pointed out at the meeting that the countries of the Central European Initiative have been participating in a large number of infrastructure projects, aimed at connecting the CEI countries. With the Via Carpathia project, the Polish and Lithuanian Baltic ports will be connected to the Mediterranean and the Black Sea ports, which would meet the traffic needs of this part of Europe, and this project would have a long positive impact on the attractiveness of Central and Eastern Europe in the region in terms of investment, development of industry, trade and services, as well as increase in the employment and mobility of citizens. Head of the Permanent Delegation of the Parliament of Montenegro to the CEI-PD, Miodrag Vuković, addressed the participants of the Meeting, emphasising the importance of the Berlin Process for the Western Balkans region, and stressing that through this framework, European funds for financing infrastructure projects have been made available, which would facilitate the reconstruction and development of roads, energy and telecommunication networks to the countries of the region.

Session of the CEI Parliamentary Assembly took place on 26 November within the frameworks of the Croatian Presidency of the Initiative. This year's session of the Parliamentary Assembly was dedicated to the topic: "Development of tourism and local communities: ways to strengthen sustainability?". Deputy Speaker of the Croatian Parliament, Academician Željko Reiner, emphasised that tourism has become

a global phenomenon today, with an extremely large increase in tourist visits, particularly in Europe, but also in other parts of the world. CEI-PD President, Peđa Grbin, expressed his belief that the parliamentary dimension of this initiative possesses the importance and political experience in addressing the issues and challenges that the region has faced within the framework of the development of sustainable tourism. Participants of the Session were also addressed by the Head of the Parliament Delegation, Miodrag Vuković, emphasising that tourism was based on the principle of sustainability, one of the main incentives to economies of the CEI region, primarily for its indirect effect on nearly all industries. At the end of the Session, with the attendance of ten delegations, Final Declaration was adopted, containing summarised conclusions adopted during the session.

4.6. FRIENDSHIP GROUPS

The reporting year was marked by intense work within friendship groups. Aside from 40 Friendship Groups established, two more groups have been under the procedure of being formed, with the Parliament of Greece and the Parliament of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

You can find below activities held in 2018.

- Chair of the Friendship Group with the French Parliament and the Vice President of the Parliament, Genci Nimanbegu, met on 10 January with the member of the National Assembly of the French Parliament, Frédéric Petit.
- Friendship Group with the Parliament of Palestine met on 17 January with Ambassador of the State of Palestine to Montenegro, Rabii Alhantouli.
- Members of the Friendship Group with the Parliament of Italy and members of the Committee on International Relations and Emigrants and the Committee on European Integration, had a joint meeting on 26 February with the Italian senator, Lodovico Sonogo.
- The Friendship Group with the Parliament of the Islamic Republic of Iran, paid an official visit to Tehran in the period 25-27 February, upon the invitation of the Chair of the Iranian Parliamentary Friendship Group with Parliament of Montenegro, Parvaneh Salahshouri.

- Chair of the Friendship Group with the Parliament of Israel and Vice President of the Parliament, Branimir Gvozdenović, had a meeting on 1 March with the Ambassador of Israel, Alona Fisher-Kamm.
- During the bilateral visit of the President of the Parliament of Montenegro, Ivan Brajović, to the Republic of Azerbaijan on 14 March, Bogdan Fatić, MP and member of the Friendship Group with the National Assembly of the Republic of Azerbaijan, was also the member of the delegation.
- Chair of the Montenegro-Germany parliamentary Friendship Group, the Committee on International Relations and Emigrants and the Committee on European Integration, held a joint meeting on 10 May with a member of the German Bundestag, Gunther Krichbaum.
- Chair of the Montenegro-Ukraine parliamentary Friendship Group and Vice President of the Parliament, Genci Nimanbegu, met on 16 May with the Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine, Vasyl Bodnar.
- Friendship Group with the Parliament of France, headed by the Vice President of the Parliament, Genci Nimanbegu, held a meeting on 23 May with French senators, Simon Sutour and Claude Kern.
- The Parliament of Montenegro-National Assembly Republic of Bulgaria Friendship Group, headed by Chair of the Group, Tarzan Milošević, held a meeting on 30 May with a delegation of the Committee on European Affairs and Oversight of the European Funds of the National Assembly of the Republic of Bulgaria, headed by the Committee Chairperson, Kristijan Vigenin.
- The Vice President of the Parliament and the Chair of Montenegro-Serbia parliamentary Friendship Group, Branimir Gvozdenović, met on 9 July with the Chair of Serbia-Montenegro parliamentary Friendship Group, Igor Bečić and several of its members.
- Members of the Friendship Group with the Parliament of Israel, Miodrag Radunović and Andrija Popović, paid a visit to Tel Aviv in the period from 9 to 12 July, with the aim of participating in a conference that brought together chairs of parliamentary friendship groups with the Knesset in Tel Aviv, and in the light of marking the 70th anniversary of the State of Israel.
- Delegation of the Poland-Montenegro parliamentary Friendship Group, headed by Grzegorz Matusiak, paid an official visit to Montenegro in the period 23-26 July.
- The Chair of the Montenegro-Azerbaijan parliamentary Friendship Group and the Vice President of the Parliament, Genci Nimanbegu, paid a visit on 20 and 21 September to Baku on the occasion of the 100th anniversary of the independence of the Republic of Azerbaijan, held on 21 September
- The Serbia-Montenegro parliamentary Friendship Group, headed by the Chair of the Group, Igor Bečić, paid an official visit to Montenegro on 23 and 24 September, upon the invitation of the Vice President of the Parliament and the Chair of the Montenegro-Serbia parliamentary Friendship Group, Branimir Gvozdenović. On that occasion, a meeting of the two friendship groups was held.
- During the meeting of the President of the Parliament, Ivan Brajović with the Speaker of the National Assembly of the Republic of Bulgaria, Tsveta Karayancheva, who paid an official visit to Montenegro in the period 8-9 October, the meeting was attended by the Chair of the Friendship Group with the National Assembly of Bulgaria, Tarzan Milošević, as well as the members, Andrija Nikolić and Miloš Nikolić.
- Ukraine-Montenegro parliamentary Friendship Group, headed by the Chair of the Group, Andriy Shypko, met on 9 October with the Friendship Group in the Parliament of Montenegro during the official stay in Podgorica.
- Lithuania-Montenegro parliamentary Friendship Group paid an official visit to Montenegro on 9 October and on that occasion held a meeting with the Montenegro-Lithuania parliamentary Friendship Group.
- Chair of Montenegro-Croatia parliamentary Friendship Group and the Vice President of the Parliament, Branimir Gvozdenović, met on 18 October with the Ambassador of the Republic of Croatia to Montenegro, Veselko Grubišić.

- Vice President of the Parliament, Branimir Gvozdenović, in his capacity of the Chair of the Montenegro-China parliamentary Friendship Group, hosted on 23 October the newly appointed Ambassador of the People's Republic of China to Montenegro, Liu Jin.
- Friendship Group with the Parliament of the Republic of Poland paid an official visit to Poland, upon the invitation of the Chair of the Polish Friendship Group, Grzegorz Matusiak, in the period 2-5 December.
- Friendship Group with the Grand National Assembly of the Republic of Turkey held a meeting with a delegation of the Turkish Parliament's Foreign Affairs Committee on 4 December, during an official visit to Montenegro.
- Vice President of the Parliament and the Chair of the Montenegro-China parliamentary Friendship Group, Branimir Gvozdenović, met on 9 December with the China Ambassador, Liu Jin.
- Friendship Group of the Parliament of Montenegro with the Parliament of Jordan held a meeting on 21 December with the Ambassador of Jordan, Ricardo Fawwaz Al-Eitan.

4.7. COOPERATION WITH FOREIGN AND INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS

OSCE Mission to Montenegro

Several activities were implemented during 2018 as part of the continuing support program of the OSCE

Mission to the Parliament of Montenegro, including three workshops held on 5, 19 and 26 November for members and staff of parliamentary committees aimed at strengthening capacity in the field of inclusiveness, respect for international standards, communication with the media, citizens and civil society, as well as improving cooperation with independent state institutions.

A workshop on "Best practices in legislative and oversight practices in parliamentary work" was organised on 5 November for the representatives of committees, with the aim of achieving greater parliamentary legitimacy through the inclusion and application of international standards in this area.

In the field of cooperation with the Gender Equality Committee of the Parliament, members and staff of the Parliament participated on 23 and 24 April and 17 and 18 September in the workshops on "Gender equality and gender mainstreaming" in order to implement one of the measures from the Activity Plan for the Gender-Sensitive Parliament of Montenegro for the period September 2016 - September 2018, which envisages capacity building and procedures for the implementation of assessments at all stages of the creation and adoption of laws, policies and other acts. Workshop participants were presented with international standards on gender equality and gender sensitive legislation, and the publication "Laws for Women and Men: A Practical Guide to Gender Sensitive Legislation" was presented. Furthermore, in order to implement the aforementioned measure from the Action Plan, the Committee cooperated with the OSCE Mission in organising a two-day workshop



OSCE workshop organized for the members and staff of parliamentary committees

for members and staff of the Parliament on “Gender Responsive Budgeting”. Workshop participants were presented with the basics of gender budgeting, policy analysis, cost-effectiveness and efficiency analysis with special emphasis on gender, and international examples in practice of gender responsive budgeting. Delegation of the Gender Equality Committee of the Parliament of Montenegro, also with the support of the OSCE Mission, paid a study visit to the Austrian institutions in Vienna on 25 and 26 September. As part of the visit, the meetings were held with representatives in charge of gender issues in the OSCE Mission and the Parliament of Austria, as well as in the Federal Ministry of Finance and the Municipality of Vienna. The delegation exchanged experiences and best practice on gender budgeting, promotion of principles and standards of gender equality.

Co-operation with the OSCE continued through the organisation of training for the staff of the Parliament. In 2018, a “Training for Trainers” was organised, consisting of three modules held in periods 11-13 April, 26-27 April and 8-9 May -9, during which the participants underwent intensive training which offered them, range of skills of how to transfer knowledge to colleagues, as well as hands-on exercises and materials. Trainings on “Conflict Management” on 17 and 18 May, and “Change Management” on 31 May and 1 June were organised for staff of the Parliament to give participants an opportunity to explore the process of changing business culture and ways to manage change for the benefit of the institution.

As part of the support program, in the area of strengthening its administrative capacity of the Parliament, Secretary General of the Parliament of Montenegro, Mr Aleksandar Jovičević, and his associates, visited on 12 and 13 November the Upper House of the Italian Parliament (Senate) for a working visit. Meeting was held as part of the visit with the Secretary General of the Italian Senate, Ms Elisabetta Serafin. The interlocutors expressed satisfaction with the meeting and pointed to the importance of cooperation and exchange of experiences between the two parliaments. They exchanged information regarding the organisation and manner of work of the services, as well as the experience in part relating to administrative support to the legislative process. The delegation also held meetings with heads of departments for research, protocol, public relations and media, budget offices and others.

Westminster Foundation for Democracy

Early in 2018, the Parliament continued its cooperation with the Westminster Foundation for Democracy (WFD), which, on the basis of the Memorandum of Understanding between the Parliament of Montenegro and the Westminster Foundation for Democracy, signed on 19 May 2016, resulted in the implementation of a two-year program under which the Parliamentary Budget Office had been established and as part of the project “Strengthening Financial Oversight in the Parliament of Montenegro”, implemented by the WFD, with the support of the Embassy of United Kingdom in Podgorica. The said office started operations in September 2016, while the project was completed in April 2018, after which two staff members of the Secretariat of the Committee on Economy, Finance and Budget continued to perform the duties within the Parliamentary Budget Office.

National Democratic Institute (NDI)

The co-operation between the Parliament of Montenegro and the National Democratic Institute (NDI) in 2018 has mostly taken place as part of the NDI Initiative for Strengthening the Legislation of the Western Balkans (WBLSI), funded by the National Endowment for Democracy (NED). The aim of the initiative is to help parliaments in the Western Balkans region strengthen their capacity for adoption of laws, monitoring and representing citizens.

As part of this initiative, representatives of the Parliament of Montenegro participated in the Eighth Western Balkans Parliamentary Secretariat Forum, held in Ljubljana in June, where secretaries discussed experiences in strengthening professional capacities, primarily within the framework of legislative and research services: transparency of parliamentary activities and the involvement of civil society, the use of information technologies in the work of a parliament, the establishment of thematic MP clubs, and the parliamentary administration and organisation of services available to MPs. Employees of the Parliament, participated in a regional workshop in Skopje in November as part of this Initiative as well, bringing together employees from research units from Western Balkan parliaments to share experiences and discuss potential joint studies, the effectiveness and transparency of legislation focusing on the quality of political discourse as well as the further development of these services.



V TRANSPARENCY OF WORK OF THE PARLIAMENT OF MONTENEGRO

5.1. PARLIAMENT AND MEDIA

In 2018, the Department for Public Relations of the Parliament of Montenegro issued 359 permanent credentials for journalists and camera crews/photo-reporters, while a total of 322 daily credentials were issued. In the same period, 137 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 same period, 1 253 pieces of information, announcements and statements (not including their translation), were posted on the News page of the parliamentary website.

The total amount of database entries is 2506. Through the parliamentary calendar of activities, service providing daily record of events in the Parliament of Montenegro, 515 events were announced (without translation). The total number of database entries is 1030. During 2018, 6476



Meeting with the representatives of Media Trade Union of Montenegro, on the occasion of 23rd January - Journalists' Day

The Parliament of Montenegro, as well as other segments of the society, should support solutions that would improve economic and social status and rights of media workers, whereby the employees of this branch must take responsibility within its media outlets to make additional efforts aimed at safeguarding their personal integrity and mutual solidarity, so that they could act autonomously and with as few professional mistakes - President of the Parliament of Montenegro, Ivan Brajović and President and Vice President of the Media Trade Union of Montenegro, Marijana Camović and Radomir Kračković, respectively, have agreed at the meeting, On the occasion of 23rd January - Journalists' Day.

photographs were uploaded, while 7518 photos made available through Flickr. Also, parliamentary website provides live streaming of all main events organised by the Parliament of Montenegro, as well as high-quality multimedia content – videos and photos.

During the reporting period, broadcast was also provided for 20 sittings within two ordinary sessions, the duration of which 290 hours and 13 minutes, as well as broadcast of three extraordinary sessions, the duration of which 19 hours and 55 minutes. The Eight Sitting of the Women's Parliament was broadcasted live for 2 hours and 27 minutes, the Ninth Sitting of the Women's Parliament lasting for 3 hours and 15 minutes, the Ninth Sitting of the Children's Parliament lasting for 2 hours and 31 minutes, the 14th COSAP Meeting lasting for 5 hours and 7 minutes, First joint session of the Committee on European Integration and the Committee on International Relations and Emigrants lasting for 1 hour and 16 minutes, Cetinje Parliamentary Forum lasting for 4 hours and 38 minutes, as well as the SAPC Meeting lasting for 5 hours and 43 minutes.

5.2. 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 2018, the requests for access to information

were most frequently submitted by the NGOs. In the reporting period, a total of 77 requests for free access to information were submitted to the Parliament of Montenegro. 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.

5.3. COOPERATION WITH OTHER INSTITUTIONS AND ORGANISATIONS

Parliament of Montenegro signed on 11 May with the State Audit Institution (SAI) the Protocol on Cooperation, for the improvement of mutual cooperation in order to achieve effective budgetary control and promote accountability, transparency and good governance in the field of public finances. President of the Parliament, Ivan Brajović emphasised on that occasion that public attention had been, quite logically, directed particularly towards the disposal of state budget funds, and that was how things should be. The President of the SAI Senate, Milan Dabović, said that the State Audit Institution would by signing the Protocol pay special attention to the suggestions of the Parliament when adopting the Annual Audit Plan, submit individual audits when a conditional and negative opinion has been pronounced, provide the Parliament with all the information relevant to the quality of the discussion, regarding the use of public funds. SAI would also increase its participation in the work of the working bodies of the Parliament, especially during control or consultative hearings.

When it comes to cooperation with the civil sec-

"The first year of membership of Montenegro to NATO was marked by the establishment of the national policy directed towards further progress and values of developed democracies, development of partnership and good neighbourly relations, further work on strengthening the rule of law and economic progress" – President Brajović said at the opening of the Regional Conference "All for one one for all", on 19 July, organised by the Alfa Centre and dedicated to NATO membership issues of the Western Balkans countries.





Visit of the group of students from the Montenegrin Association of Political Science Students (MAPSS), 2 April 2018

tor, the Parliament and its relevant working bodies continue to analyse the received initiatives, attitudes and recommendations of non-governmental organisations and their representatives attend meetings of working bodies. Committee members also participate in meetings organised by civil society organisations. More information about this is available in the part relating to working bodies.

“The first year of membership of Montenegro to NATO was marked by the establishment of the national policy directed towards further progress and values of developed democracies, development of partnership and good neighbourly relations, further work on strengthening the rule of law and economic progress” – President Brajović said at the opening of the Regional Conference “All for one one for all”, on 19 July, organised by the Alfa Centre and dedicated to NATO membership issues of the Western Balkans countries.

5.4. VISITS OF CITIZENS

Listed below are collective and individual visits to the Parliament of Montenegro during 2018:

25 January – a photojournalist from Italy, associate to the first multilingual European portal CaféBabel Bruxelles based in Brussels, translated into six languages that deals with current issues through participatory journalism.

15 March – members of the Montenegrin American Youth Alumni Association (MAYAA), with the support of the FLEX program and the American Council, on the occasion of Civic Education Week, a project that provides an opportunity for selected high school students of Montenegro to learn more

about the development of democracy in Montenegro through lectures, visits to state institutions, the media and non-governmental organisations.

23 March – students of the Faculty of Law of the University “Mediterranean”. The students talked with MP and Chairperson of the Gender Equality Committee, Nada Drobnjak, and the Secretary of the Legislative Committee, representative of the expert service of the Parliament of Montenegro, Vlatko Šćepanović.

2 April – group of Montenegrin Association of Political Science Students (MAPSS). The students met Chairperson of the Constitutional Committee of the Parliament of Montenegro, Miodrag Vuković and Deputy Secretary General of the Parliament of Montenegro, Marija Mirjačić.

13 April – visit by a group of international students, members of the Student Association Bourgogne Balkan Express, and meeting with the chairpersons of the Committee for European Integration, Adrijan Vuksanović and Committee on International Relations, Andrija Nikolić.

13 April – Members of the Democrat Youth Community of Europe. The visit was organised as part of the activities of the 26th Congress of the Democrat Youth Community, which was held in Montenegro in the period 12-15 April.

25 May – A group of fourteen law students and trainees, members of the ELSA-Frankfurt (Oder) e.V.

27 September – group of youth workers from the Western Balkans and Turkey. The visit is a part of the training programme of the Agency for Local Democracy from Nikšić, organised within Open

Parliament project, together with the meeting with MPs Marta Šćepanović, Miloš Nikolić and Ervin Ibrahimović.

4 October – youth activists of the CSO “New Horizon” from Ulcinj. Following the usual tour of the building, representatives of the NGO from Ulcinj talked with Vice President of the Parliament of Montenegro, Genci Nimanbegu, and MPs Luigj Shkrela and Boris Mugoša.

20 November – 30 children of older educational groups coming from public preschool institution “Ljubica Popović” in Podgorica.

5.5. EXHIBITIONS. CONCERTS AND OTHER EVENTS

5.5.1. MARKING DAY OF VICTORY OVER FASCISM

Parliament of Montenegro organised several activities on the occasion of marking the Day of Victory



Discussion on “Resisting populist movements” on the occasion of marking the Day of Victory over Fascism 9 May, Parliament of Montenegro, 9 May 2018



Laying of wreath on the occasion of marking the Day of Victory over Fascism, 9 May



Concert of KIC Pop Chorus on the occasion of marking the Day of Victory over Fascism on 9 May

over Fascism on 9 May. On the plateau in front of the Parliament of Montenegro, on 8 May, in front of thousands of citizens, a concert was held with over 200 performers of the KIC Pop Chorus with guests - children's choir, folklore, ballerinas and more. The concert represented a gift of the highest legislative body to the citizens on the occasion of marking Day of Victory over Fascism.

On 9 May of this year as well, the President of the Parliament of Montenegro, Ivan Brajović, lead a delegation which will laid a wreath at the Monument of the Partisan Fighter in Gorica, with Deputy Prime Minister, Zoran Pažin and the academician, Zuvdija Hodžić, President of SUBNOR and antifascists of Montenegro.

On the same day a discussion on “Resisting populist movements” was held in the Parliament of Montenegro. Guests from the country and abroad discussed with MPs about the perception of the main values of anti-fascism, the emergence of populist movements in developed democracies, their influence on Mon-

tenegro and the region, and whether they deny anti-fascist values. A special accent was placed on the issues whether the way of presenting the main values and messages of anti-fascism should be changed and how seductive populist messages influence the formation of value criteria of young people. Also, they discussed the ways of fighting against stereotypes and indiscriminately adopting instant solutions and encouraging critical thinking among young people.

President Brajović said in his introductory speech: “Adhering to the anti-fascist values, Montenegro has shown that diversity has built a unique Montenegrin civil identity of coexistence and synergy of nations, religions and cultures. The character of populism is the opposite from all of these values. And that is the reason why we need to talk about populism, we need to identify it and we need to be taught to be careful when confronted with what it has to offer. Again, I need to return to the issue of responsibility, ours and of the whole society when it comes to vulnerable young generations. We want them to understand what the anti-fascism means in its core, what was the purpose of this struggle apart from freedom and how difficult it is to cultivate the values that Montenegro has acquired throughout history. And of how much it is important nowadays and in this areas.

5.5.2. MARKING CONSTITUTION DAY

On 22 October, after the ceremonious meeting of the Constitutional Committee, President of the Judicial Council and President of the Constitutional Court of Montenegro in the period 2005-2007 Mladen Vukčević, opened the exhibition Constitu-



Exhibition "Constitutions of Montenegro", 22 October 2018

tions of Montenegro in the hall of the Parliament of Montenegro. Copies of several constitutions of Montenegro were available to the public, from the first one adopted in independent Montenegro in 1905 up to the current one from 2007. Starting from the decision of the citizens of Montenegro to live in an independent and sovereign state of Montenegro, made in the referendum held on 21 May 2006, the Constitutional Assembly of the Republic of Montenegro, at its Third Sitting of the Second Ordinary Session in 2007 held on 19 October 2007, adopted the Constitution and the Constitutional Law for its enforcement. Constitution and the Constitutional Law for its enforcement, were promulgated on 22 October 2007.

“This institution is open to any type of discussion, marking of anniversaries and important dates, and the discussion on topics to be proud of and those less pleasant”, said President Brajović when offering congratulations on the eleven years since the adoption of the Constitution of Montenegro. “That Constitution is the symbol of our continued commitment towards progress and contemporary democratic so-



Ceremonious meeting of the Constitutional Committee, on the occasion of Marking Constitution Day, 22 October 2018



Marking Parliamentarism Day, 31 October



cieties, a legal confirmation of the common life of the civic Montenegro, the harmony of diversity and mutual respect”, emphasised Mr Brajović.

5.5.3. MARKING PARLIAMENTARISM DAY

The Parliament of Montenegro marked the 31 October, Parliamentarism Day, the day when, in accordance with the Constitution from 1905, the first National Assembly of Montenegro was constituted in Cetinje in 1906. The gathering with numerous invitees was addressed by the President of the Parliament of Montenegro Ivan Brajović and Prime Minister Duško Marković. Short illustrative history of 112 years of parliamentarism was presented, with a reminder of all the previous presidents of the Parliament. A group of music teachers from Podgorica performed newly arranged Montenegrin songs.

“Today, in contemporary Montenegro, MPs are participating in creating a better political and socio-economic environment through regular parliamentary work and communication with the citizens. In this way, MPs open the Parliament’s door to the citizens: from the smallest through the Democracy Workshops to the oldest at the roundtables, exhibitions and other activities. The role of the Parliament of Montenegro is to represent to the best of its ability the will and positions of citizens who - by voting for their representatives in free elections - formed its composition. Reconciling the interests of different social groups through a culture of dialogue, with the aim of further democratisation of society and general progress - that is our responsibility, honour and obligation”- concluded President Brajović in his presentation.



“Women in Society, Culture and Science” exhibition, 28 November 2018

5.5.4. “WOMEN IN SOCIETY, CULTURE AND SCIENCE” EXHIBITION

28 November - On the occasion of the visit of the President of the National Council of Austria to the Parliament of Montenegro, an exhibition on important women of Austria in the past 200 years was opened in the Hall of the Parliament, titled “Women in Society, Culture and Science”. The exhibition is designed to explore the past two centuries in the light of the biographies of significant Austrian women - women whose talents, willpower and persistent courage have enriched and shaped their country. Their lives and work, which are responsible for the intellectual identity of Austria, are recognised in the form of prominent examples.

5.5. DEMOCRACY WORKSHOPS

In 2018, “Barbara Prammer” Democracy Workshops intensively continued with 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.

Within the year, 149 workshops were held with 3,071 participants and 183 teachers from 50 primary and one secondary school (from 18 municipalities). There were 109 workshops held on the topic Democracy and Parliament, as well as 9 workshops on the topic European Union, and 31 workshops on the topic Human Rights. In the workshops, 99 newspaper editions were produced, 50 radio features and 42 TV features were created. Out of the total number of workshops, 3 mobile workshops were held in one primary school, where 45 children participated.

This year, Democracy Workshops also hosted a religious Islamic secondary school, Mehmed Fatih Medresa from Podgorica. A novelty and an inspiration in 2018 were the scouts groups of the Stara Varoš Scout Squad from Podgorica and the participants in the activities of the Roma Association of Montenegro, as well as the participants of the English Access Microscholarship Program from Rožaje.

This year, the tradition continues of Montenegrin parliamentarians and other local and foreign officials visiting and participating in the workshops and their discussions with students on the given topics. As part of his official visit to Montenegro, the President of the National Council of Austria, Wolfgang Sobotka, together with the President of the Parliament of Montenegro Ivan Brajović, visited the “Barbara Prammer” Democracy Workshops. Other guests of the Democracy Workshops include Montenegrin MPs Adrian Vuksanović and Andrija Nikolić. The Secretary General of the Parliament of the Republic of Albania Genci Gjoncaj also expressed great interest in the workshops, when he visited them with associates and representatives of the



MP Adrijan Vuksanović as a guest on the Democracy workshops "Barbara Prammer" OSCE Mission to Albania and the OSCE Mission to Montenegro.

The workshops were presented at the Third International Forum of Parliament Visitor Centers held at the European Parliament in Brussels in June 2018, as well as at a gathering of representatives of several OSCE missions in different countries, in Vienna. At these meetings, questions were raised with interest regarding program development and the plans to improve this pedagogical practice in the future. Printed copies of children's newspapers have been given to and taken to various parliaments of the world such as Japan, Australia, Brazil, Switzerland. Part of the material is also kept in the House of European History, which is part of the European Parliament in Brussels.

The traditional ceremony of presenting certificates to the participants of the workshops was held in October 2018. President of the Parliament of Montenegro Ivan Brajović presented the certificates to the children in attendance.

5.6. CHILDREN'S PARLIAMENT

The Ninth Children's Parliament was held on 19 November to mark 20 November - the day of adoption of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child. The event was opened by the President of the Parliament of Montenegro Ivan Brajović, who used this occasion to tell the participants that they should



never hesitate to ask what they wanted to know and never be afraid to present and defend their ideas or positions. The event was attended by 70 representatives of the local children's parliaments from 23 municipalities, namely by two representatives per school from both primary and secondary schools, including representatives of vulnerable groups of children from all municipalities of Montenegro. In addition to representatives of chairpersons of parliamentary committees and MP Groups in the Parliament of Montenegro, the session was also attended by the representatives of the Government of Montenegro, national institutions, and international organisations dealing with rights of the child, as well as members of the diplomatic corps. The Ninth 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 Ministry of Sport and the UNICEF Office.

"Everyone has the right to their own opinion and their particularities, but we must all learn to respectfully treat everyone who is for any reason different from us or has a different opinion", - Ivan Brajović.

5.7. WOMEN'S PARLIAMENT

In 2018, two sessions of the Women's Parliament of the Montenegrin Parliament's Gender Equality Committee were held.

The Eighth Session of the Women's Parliament is organised by the Gender Equality Committee, ahead of International Women's Day, to promote the women's human rights in Montenegro. Speaking at the opening session, President of the Parliament of Montenegro Ivan Brajović voiced his expectation that other segments of the government and the ci-

vilian sector would also provide their sincere and full contribution to the emancipation of the social community through the promotion of women's rights, such as the visible efforts that the Parliament of Montenegro was making in this respect, and he concluded that there was room for further action and awareness-raising on the need for women to be more present in decision-making positions and positions of power, to be more protected against violence, to be more economically independent, and to have equal rights in matters of property, inheritance and other matters. Chairperson of the Gender Equality Committee Nada Drobnjak noted that global society was still a traditional society in which women need to fight for a better position every day, and that this was also the case in Montenegro and that much more needs to be done so that we could speak about real equality of women and men. In the continuation of the session, the Protector of Human Rights and Freedoms of Montenegro Šučko Baković addressed the attendees, after which the members of the Government of Montenegro answered questions posed by representatives of women's associations of parliamentary parties and civil society.

The Ninth Session of the Women's Parliament was dedicated to the implementation of activities on prevention and elimination of violence against women and domestic violence, during the course of the global campaign "16 Days of Activism against Violence against Women". While opening the event, President Brajović said he supported the request by representatives of the Women's Political Network, made up of female politicians from 16 parties in Montenegro, that at least 40 percent of women should be on the lists, with an order of precedence implying that in each group of three candidates there should at least one woman. Chairperson of the Gender Equality Committee Nada Drobnjak said that Montenegro still had a high tolerance threshold for violence against women, and stressed that violence should not be tolerated, but must be sanctioned. Also speaking at the opening were the Supreme Court President Vesna Medenica, Protector of Human Rights and Freedoms Šučko Baković, and Marceline Naudi, rapporteur for the GREVIO Committee on Montenegro. Participants were also representatives of parliamentary and governmental mechanisms for gender equality issues, as well as members of women's associations of parliamentary parties and other segments of civil society.



The Ninth Session of the Women's Parliament, 26 November 2018



VI ADMINISTRATIVE CAPACITIES

6.1. HUMAN RESOURCES

In the reporting period, the parliamentary staff continued to strengthen its administrative capacities, as in the previous years. In that respect, the Human Resources Plan of the Parliament of Montenegro was adopted, which is also an obligation stemming from the Law on Civil Servants and State Employees. Human Resources Plan of the Parliamentary Service presents individual data on employees of the Service of the Parliament of Montenegro, and the requirements for new hiring in 2018. On 31 December 2018, there was a total of 198 employees in the Parliamentary Service.

In the field of human resources, it is important to note the Human Resources Development Strategy, which defines the goals and activities which, apart from the standard yearly ones, are mainly focused on establishing internationally recognised standards in the quality of management and work, and on the creation of conditions for assu-

ming and performing new tasks after Montenegro becomes an EU member.

In the reporting period, the parliamentary staff attended a large number of trainings. Thus in 2018, a total of 75 trainings were held, attended by 205 participants. Out of the above figure, employees attended 11 trainings organised by the Human Resources Administration, nine of them implemented pursuant to the Training Programme, while the remaining 64 were trainings organised by the Parliament of Montenegro in cooperation with its partners, or organised by the national, foreign and international organisations. In the reporting period, several meetings on the Secretary General level were held, as an opportunity to exchange information and experience in order to further strengthen and improve efficiency of the parliamentary administration. Secretary General of the Parliament of Montenegro Aleksandar Jovičević and his associates met with Secretary General of the parliament of the Republic of Albania Genc Gjoncaj and his associates. Stressing that a special

No.	Date	Total number of employees	Number of civil servants and employees
1	31.12.2017.	164	147
2	31.12.2018.	198	182

Table No 7: Comparable data on the number of employees in the Service of the Parliament of Montenegro on 31/12/2018 and 31/12/2017



Visit of the Secretary General of the parliament of the Republic of Albania Genc Gjoncay, 23 February 2018

attention has been devoted to improving the service capacities dealing with legislative solutions and harmonising the legislation with the EU acquis, Mr Jovičević referred to specific approach and role of the Service of the Parliament of Montenegro in accession negotiations with the EU. Secretary General of the Parliament of the Republic of Albania said that cooperation of the two services should be raised at higher level, particularly with regard to exchange of experience relating to technical and organisation aspects. In the previous period, Secretary General of the Parliament of Montenegro Aleksandar Jovičević attended a working visit to the Senat of the Republic of Italy as well as the meeting of secretaries general of the Western Balkans parliaments which was held in Ljubljana. A list of trainings is provided in the appendix.

6.2. LIBRARY AND RESEARCH 2018

In 2018, the Research Centre prepared a total of 22 research papers, containing a total of 376 pages, responding to all the submitted requests in accordance with the prescribed procedures. 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 2018. 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 papers drafted in English, to 91 requests sent by parliaments, including the requests submitted by e-ma-

il. The Centre regularly compiles weekly news from the EU institutions, which are then sent electronically every Friday to all MPs and MP groups. In the reporting period, there was continued cooperation within 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.

6.3. INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY 2018

In 2018, the Service of the Parliament of Montenegro also implemented a series of activities in the IT field, relating to the following: the introduction of Alfresco Document Management Software for the purpose of digitizing the documents currently including the parliamentary Archive and Registry Office, and there were also plans to extend it to other organisational units; the introduction of Confluence Collaboration Software, for the purposes of the Committee on the Further Reform of Electoral and Other Legislation, designed to also support the work of the standing working bodies of the Parliament in the future; and there was also an upgrade of the salaries and cash office, and it was expanded to provide support to the public procurement office.

VII FINANCE

According to the 2018 Budget Law of Montenegro, the planned funds for the Parliament of Montenegro amounted to **€9,178,757.90**. The Budget of the Parliament of Montenegro amounts to 1.10% of the operating Budget of Montenegro or 0.40% of the total Budget of Montenegro.

The funds were allocated for three programmes:

- Programme - Enhancing Legislative Infrastructure – €4,312,086.32
- Programme – Administration – €4,766,671.58
- Programme – Funding of the weekly “Koha Javore” – €100,000.00

Total expenditures of the operating 2018 Budget of the Parliament of Montenegro amounted to **€7,867,755.33** or **85.72%** of the overall funds planned by the operating 2018 Budget of the Parliament of Montenegro.

Spending by programmes amounts to:

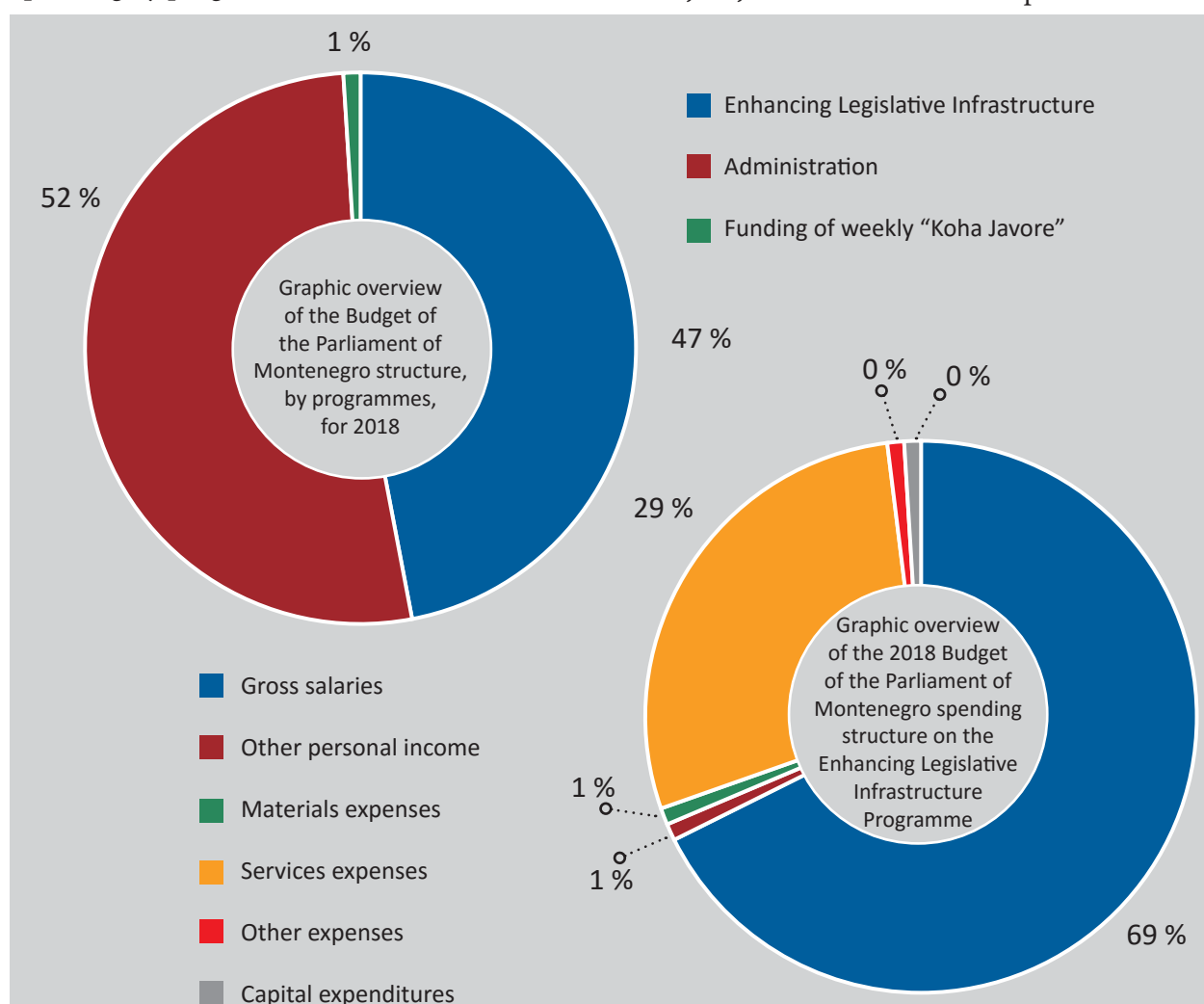
- Programme - Enhancing Legislative Infrastructure – €3,771,882.80 or 87.47%
- Programme – Administration – €3,995,872.53 or 83.83%
- Programme – Funding of the weekly “Koha Javore” – €100,000.00 or 100.00%.

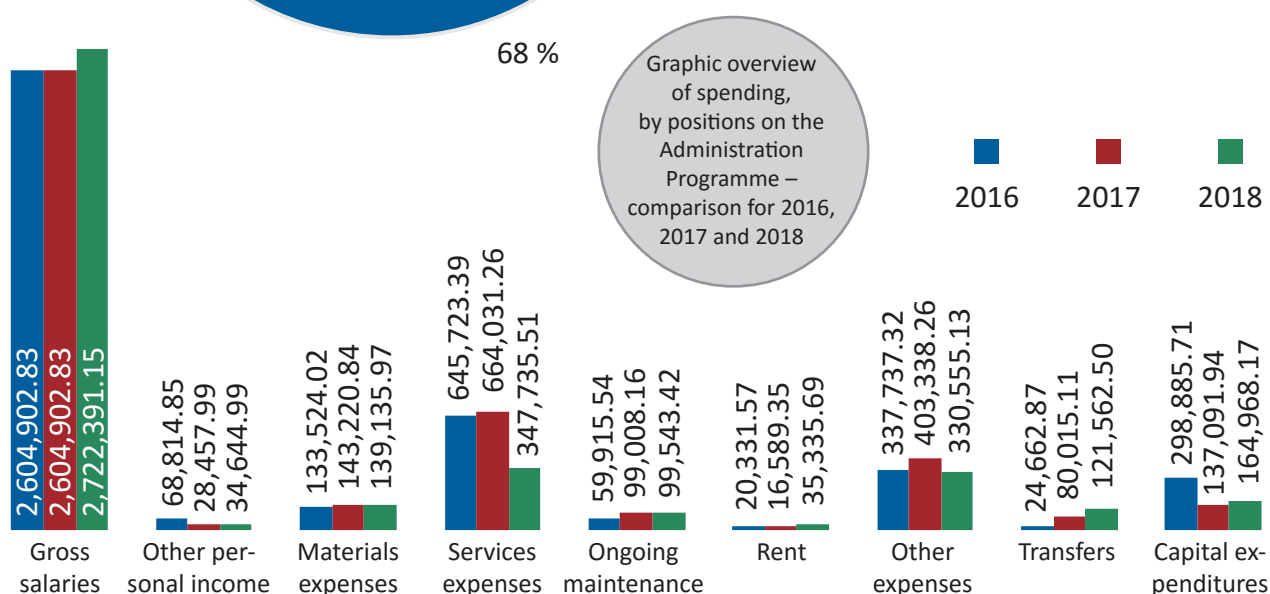
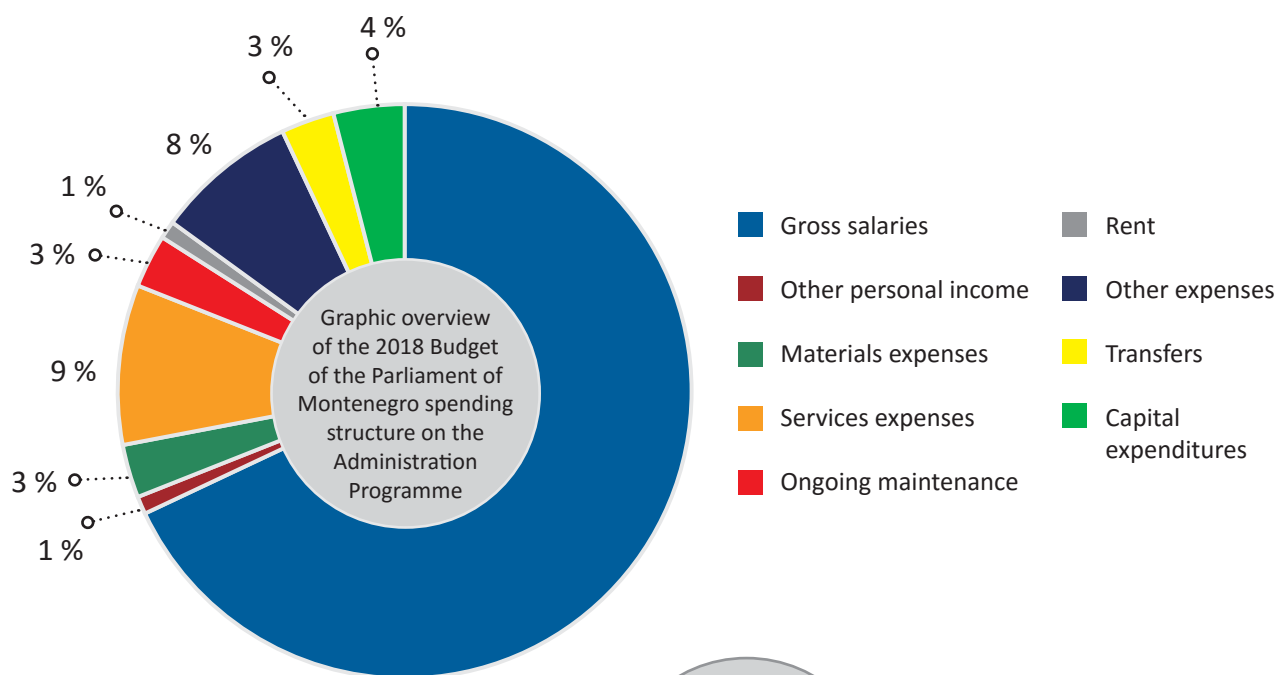
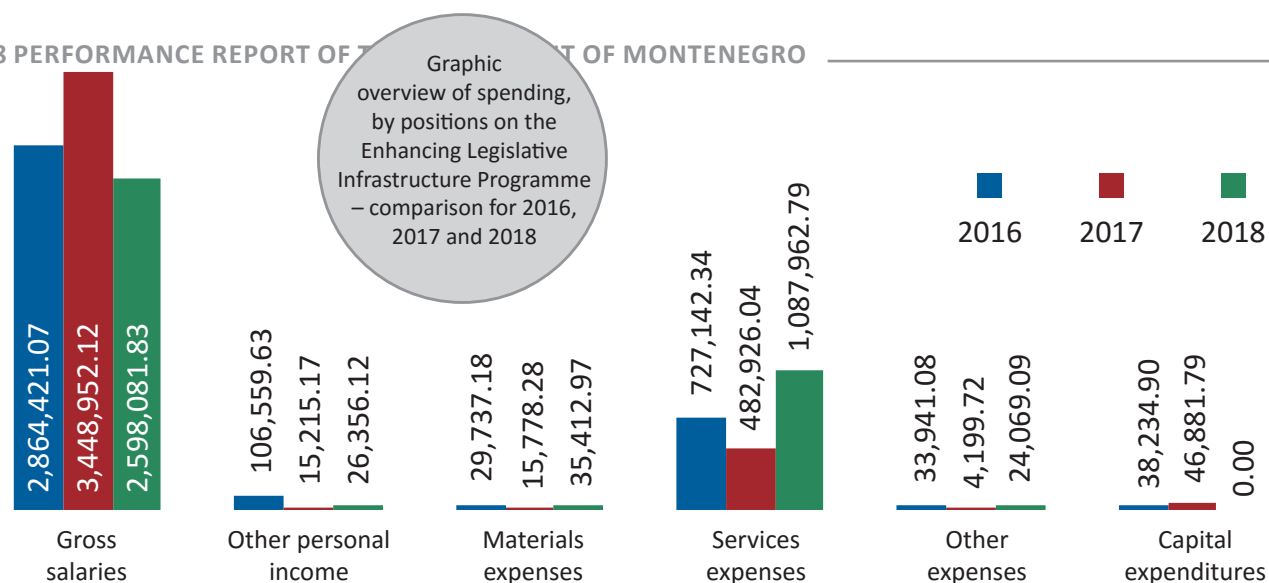
ENHANCING LEGISLATIVE INFRASTRUCTURE PROGRAMME

The approved amount of funds for the Enhancing Legislative Infrastructure Programme for 2018 amounted to **€4,312,086.32**, while a total of **€3,771,882.80** or **87.47%** was spent.

PROGRAMME ADMINISTRATION

The planned amount of funds of the operating budget allocated for the Administration Programme for 2018 amounted to **€4,766,671.58**, while a total of **€3,995,872.53** or **83.83%** was spent.





PROGRAMME FUNDING OF THE WEEKLY “KOHA JAVORE”

The 2018 Budget of the Parliament of Montenegro planned 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 2018 Budget of Montenegro. A total of €100,000.00 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 2018

1. Law on Amendments to the Law on Public Administration;
2. Law on Protection of Population against Communicable Diseases;
3. Law on Amendments to the Law on Transport of Hazardous Substances;
4. Law on Trade Union Representation;
5. Law on Amendments to the Voluntary Pension Funds Law;
6. Law on Amendments to the Law on Investment Funds;
7. Law on Foreigners;
8. Law on State Aid Control;
9. Law on Amendments to the Law on Protection of Competition;
10. Law on Amendments to the Law on the Protection of Natural and Cultural Historical Heritage of the Kotor Region;
11. Law on Amendments to the Law on Health Insurance;
12. Law on Amendments and Supplement to the Law on General Product Safety;
13. Law on Supplement to the Law on Public Sector Salaries;
14. Law on Amendments to the Law on Tourism and Hospitality Industry;
15. Law on Supplement to the Law on Youth;
16. Law on Supplement to the Law on Public Prosecution Office;
17. Law on Ratification of the Convention on Choice of Court Agreements;
18. Law on Ratification of Agreement between the Government of Montenegro and the Government of the United States of America on improving the execution of international tax obligations and the implementation of FATCA;
19. Law on Ratification of the Treaty establishing the Transport Community;
20. Law on Freshwater Fisheries and Aquaculture;
21. Law on Amendments to the Law on State Surveying and Cadastre of Immovable Property;
22. Law on Amendments to the 2018 Budget Law of Montenegro;
23. Law on Ratification of the Protocol relating to an amendment to article 50 (a) of the Convention on International Civil Aviation;
24. Law on Ratification of the Protocol relating to an amendment to Article 56 of the Convention on International Civil Aviation;
25. Law on International Developmental Cooperation and Delivering International Humanitarian Aid;
26. Law on Ratification of the Agreement on Establishing the European Molecular Biology Conference;
27. Law on Ratification of the Agreement on Establishing the European Molecular Biology Laboratory, with annexes;
28. Law on Ratification of the Amendment to Article 20 paragraph 1 of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women
29. Law on Ratification of the Council of Europe Convention against Trafficking in Human Organs;
30. Law on Ratification of the Agreement on the Establishment of the International Development Law Institute;
31. Law on Protection of Persons and Property;
32. Law on Amendments and Supplement to the Law on Plant Nutrition Products;
33. Law on Amendments to the Veterinary Law;
34. Law on the President of Montenegro;
35. Law on Cooperation of Montenegro with Diaspora - Emigrants;
36. Law on Amendment to the Law on Market Surveillance;
37. Law on Ratification of the Agreement between the Government of Montenegro and the Government of the Republic of Turkey on Defence Industry Cooperation;
38. Law on Amendments to the Law on Obligations and Basic Legal Property Relations in Air Transport;

39. Proposal for the Law on Amendments to the Law on Prevention of Money Laundering and Terrorism Financing;
40. Law on Amendments to the Law on Public Sector Salaries;
41. Law on Amendments to the Law on Consensual Financial Restructuring of Debts to Financial Institutions;
42. Law on Amendment and Supplement to the Law on Health Care;
43. Law on Social Council;
44. Law on Amendments to the Law on Safety and Health at Work;
45. Law on Sport;
46. Law on Supplements to the Law on the Judicial Council and Judges;
47. Law on Amendment to the Law on Tax on Turnover of used passenger motor vehicles, vessels, airplanes and aircrafts;
48. Law on Amendments and Supplement to the Law on Spatial Planning and Construction of Buildings;
49. Law on Amendments and Supplement to the Criminal Code of Montenegro;
50. Law on Amendment and Supplements to the Law on Budget and Fiscal Responsibility;
51. Law on Amendments to the 2018 Budget Law of Montenegro;
52. Law on Amendments and Supplement to the Excise Law;
53. Law on International Restrictive Measures;
54. Law on Recognition of Foreign Qualifications for Pursuing Regulated Professions;
55. 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 31/17);
56. Law on Amendments to the Law on Postal Services;
57. Law on Amendments to the Law on Integrated Prevention and Control of Pollution of the Environment;
58. Law on Amendment to the Law on Higher Education;
59. Law on Amendment and Supplement to the Law on Youth;
60. Law on Amendment to the Law on Spatial Planning and Construction of Buildings;
61. Law on Ratification of Doha Amendment to the Kyoto Protocol to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change;
62. Law on Ratification of the Council of Europe Convention on Cinematographic Co-production;
63. Law on Governance and Internal Controls in the Public Sector;
64. Law on Amendment to the Law on Default Interest Rate;
65. Law on Environmental Impact Assessment;
66. Law on Amendments to the Law on Expropriation;
67. Law on Public Administration;
68. Law on Amendments to the Law on Water;
69. Law on Certification of Signatures, Manuscripts and Transcripts;
70. Law on judicial cooperation in criminal matters with the EU member states;
71. Law on Amendments to the Law on Notaries;
72. Law on the 2017 Final Budget Statement of Montenegro;
73. Law on Amendments to the Law on Cinematography;
74. Law on Amendments to the Law on Maintenance of Residential Buildings;
75. Law on Ratification of the Joint Protocol Relating to the Application of the Vienna Convention and the Paris Convention;
76. Law on Amendments to the Law on International and Temporary Protection of Foreigners;
77. Law on Amendments to the Law on Internal Affairs;
78. 2019 Budget Law of Montenegro;
79. Law on Amendments to the Law on Foreigners;
80. Law on Local Self-Government Financing;
81. Law on Ratification of the ILO Convention No. 151 on Labour Relations in the Public Service;
82. Law on Ratification of Amendments to the Montreal Protocol on Ozone Layer damaging substances;
83. Law on Amendments to the Law on Higher Education.



APPENDIX II: TABULAR OVERVIEW OF SPENDING IN 2018

Economic classification	Parliament of Montenegro	2018 Budget Law	2018 Operating budget	Spent from 1 January to 31 December 2018	% of spending compared to the Budget Law
20101		9,178,757.90 €	8,278,757.90 €	7,867,755.33 €	85.72%
2941	Programme: Enhancing Legislative Infrastructure	4,312,086.32 €	3,935,086.32 €	3,771,882.80 €	87.47%
4	Expenditures	4,312,086.32 €	3,935,086.32 €	3,771,882.80 €	87.47%
41	Running costs	4,262,086.32 €	3,885,086.32 €	3,771,882.80 €	88.50%
411	Gross wages and employer contributions	3,087,086.32 €	2,658,086.32 €	2,598,081.83 €	84.16%
4111	Net wages	1,805,494.32 €	1,556,494.32	1,522,293.91	84.31%
4112	Income tax	288,034.80 €	246,034.80	239,790.55	83.25%
4113	Employee contributions	661,114.46 €	569,114.46	556,542.37	84.18%
4114	Employer contributions	289,237.58 €	249,237.58	243,486.13	84.18%
4115	Municipal dues	43,205.16 €	37,205.16	35,968.87	83.25%
412	Other personal income	32,000.00 €	32,000.00 €	26,356.12 €	82.36%
4122	Compensation for rent and separate living	20,000.00 €	19,450.00	14,870.78	74.35%
4125	Severance pay	2,000.00 €	2,550.00	2,527.02	126.35%
4127	Other compensations	10,000.00 €	10,000.00	8,958.32	89.58%
413	Materials expenses	40,000.00 €	40,000.00 €	35,412.97 €	88.53%
4135	Fuel expenses	40,000.00 €	40,000.00	35,412.97	88.53%
414	Services expenses	1,073,000.00 €	1,125,000.00 €	1,087,962.79 €	101.39%
4141	Business trips	500,000.00 €	570,000.00	557,316.67	111.46%
4142	Representation	35,000.00 €	41,000.00	37,885.09	108.24%
4143	Communication services	60,000.00 €	74,000.00	69,376.54	115.63%
4144	Banking services and negative exchange differences	3,000.00 €	3,000.00	2,759.49	91.98%
4147	Consulting services, projects and studies	420,000.00 €	382,000.00	366,861.24	87.35%
4148	Professional training services	2,000.00 €	2,000.00	976.00	48.80%
4149	Other services	53,000.00 €	53,000.00	52,787.76	99.60%
419	Other expenses	30,000.00 €	30,000.00 €	24,069.09 €	80.23%

4195	Membership contributions to domestic and international organisations	30,000.00 €	30,000.00	24,069.09	80.23%
44	Capital expenditures	50,000.00 €	50,000.00 €	0.00 €	0.00%
441	Capital expenditures	50,000.00 €	50,000.00 €	0.00 €	0.00%
4415	Equipment expenses	50,000.00 €	50,000.00	0.00 €	0.00%
2951	Programme: Administration	4,766,671.58 €	4,243,671.58 €	3,995,872.53 €	83.83%
4	Expenditures	4,766,671.58 €	4,243,671.58 €	3,995,872.53 €	83.83%
41	Running costs	4,511,670.58 €	3,917,570.58 €	3,709,341.86 €	82.22%
411	Gross wages and employer contributions	3,354,870.58 €	2,733,870.58 €	2,722,391.15 €	81.15%
4111	Net wages	1,968,998.88 €	1,603,998.88	1,603,076.01	81.42%
4112	Income tax	298,202.95 €	236,202.95	232,998.44	78.13%
4113	Employee contributions	713,209.71 €	585,209.71	580,818.70	81.44%
4114	Employer contributions	329,728.63 €	272,728.63	270,547.95	82.05%
4115	Municipal dues	44,730.41 €	35,730.41	34,950.05	78.13%
412	Other personal income	47,500.00 €	47,500.00 €	34,644.99 €	72.94%
4124	Jubilee awards	2,000.00 €	2,000.00	436.05	21.80%
4125	Severance pay	9,000.00 €	9,000.00	1,263.51	14.04%
4127	Other compensations	36,500.00 €	36,500.00	32,945.43	90.26%
413	Materials expenses	260,000.00 €	194,000.00 €	139,135.97 €	53.51%
4131	Administrative materials	170,000.00 €	107,000.00	88,088.43	51.82%
4133	Special purpose materials	60,000.00 €	60,000.00	47,231.31	78.72%
4135	Fuel expenses	30,000.00 €	27,000.00	3,816.23	12.72%
414	Services expenses	376,300.00 €	383,500.00 €	347,735.51 €	92.41%
4141	Business trips	70,000.00 €	70,000.00	69,837.77	99.77%
4142	Representation	30,000.00 €	27,000.00	23,207.63	77.36%
4143	Communication services	80,000.00 €	80,000.00	72,531.07	90.66%
4144	Banking services and negative exchange differences	3,000.00 €	3,000.00	1,289.73	42.99%
4145	Transportation services	50,000.00 €	45,000.00	36,244.78	72.49%
4147	Consulting services, projects and studies	10,000.00 €	9,000.00	0.00	0.00%



4148	Professional training services	18,000.00 €	16,200.00	11,993.60	66.63%
4149	Other services	115,300.00 €	133,300.00	132,630.93	115.03%
415	Running costs of maintenance	130,000.00 €	130,000.00 €	99,543.42 €	76.57%
4152	Running costs of buildings maintenance	10,000.00 €	10,000.00	7,720.51	77.21%
4153	Running costs of equipment maintenance	120,000.00 €	120,000.00	91,822.91	76.52%
417	Rent	78,000.00 €	70,200.00 €	35,335.69 €	45.30%
4171	Facilities lease	58,000.00 €	52,200.00	26,808.10	46.22%
4172	Equipment lease	20,000.00 €	18,000.00	8,527.59	42.64%
419	Other expenses	265,000.00 €	358,500.00 €	330,555.13 €	124.74%
4191	Expenses on the basis of payment of service contracts	200,000.00 €	300,000.00	283,920.99	141.96%
4193	Software development and maintenance	30,000.00 €	27,000.00	26,306.72	87.69%
4194	Insurance	35,000.00 €	31,500.00	20,327.42	58.08%
43	Transfers to institutions, individuals, NGOs and public sector	50,000.00 €	121,600.00 €	121,562.50 €	243.13%
431	Transfers to institutions, individuals, NGOs and public sector	50,000.00 €	121,600.00 €	121,562.50 €	243.13%
4318	Other transfers to individuals	25,000.00 €	25,000.00	24,962.50	99.85%
4319	Other transfers to institutions	25,000.00 €	96,600.00	96,600.00	386.40%
44	Capital expenditures	205,000.00 €	204,500.00 €	164,968.17 €	80.47%
441	Capital expenditures	205,000.00 €	204,500.00 €	164,968.17 €	80.47%
4415	Equipment expenses	200,000.00 €	200,000.00	164,968.17 €	82.48%
4416	Expenses for investment maintenance	5,000.00 €	4,500.00	0.00 €	0.00%
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 €	100,000.00 €	100.00%
4	Expenditures	100,000.00 €	100,000.00 €	100,000.00 €	100.00%
43	Transfers to institutions, individuals, NGOs and public sector	100,000.00 €	100,000.00 €	100,000.00 €	100.00%
431	Transfers to institutions, individuals, NGOs and public sector	100,000.00 €	100,000.00 €	100,000.00 €	100.00%
4319	Other transfers to institutions	100,000.00 €	100,000.00 €	100,000.00 €	100.00%

APPENDIX III: TABULAR OVERVIEW OF DATA ON REQUESTS FOR FREE ACCESS TO INFORMATION IN 2018

No.	Submitter of request	Date of reception	Date of reply	Answer
1.	Natural person	00-41/18-1 4.1.	16.1.	granted
2.	Network for Affirmation of Non-Governmental Sector - MANS	00-41/18-2 11.1.	24.1.	granted
3.	Network for Affirmation of Non-Governmental Sector - MANS	00-41/18-3 11.1.	24.1.	partially granted, and partially denied
4.	Network for Affirmation of Non-Governmental Sector - MANS	00-41/18-4 11.1.	22.1.	granted
5.	Network for Affirmation of Non-Governmental Sector - MANS	00-41/18-5 11.1.	22.1.	granted
6.	Network for Affirmation of Non-Governmental Sector - MANS	00-41/18-6 11.1.	22.1.	denied
7.	Network for Affirmation of Non-Governmental Sector - MANS	00-41/18-7 11.1.	22.1.	denied
8.	Network for Affirmation of Non-Governmental Sector - MANS	00-41/18-8 11.1.	22.1.	denied
9.	Network for Affirmation of Non-Governmental Sector - MANS	00-41/18-9 11.1.	24.1.	denied
10.	Network for Affirmation of Non-Governmental Sector - MANS	00-41/18-10 11.1.	22.1.	denied
11.	Network for Affirmation of Non-Governmental Sector - MANS	00-41/18-11/2 22.1.	25.1.	denied
12.	Network for Affirmation of Non-Governmental Sector - MANS	00-41/18-12 12.1.	24.1.	granted
13.	Network for Affirmation of Non-Governmental Sector - MANS	00-41/18-13 12.1.	17.1.	denied
14.	Network for Affirmation of Non-Governmental Sector - MANS	00-41/18-14 12.1.	17.1.	granted
15.	Network for Affirmation of Non-Governmental Sector - MANS	00-41/18-15 12.1.	25.1.	granted
16.	Network for Affirmation of Non-Governmental Sector - MANS	00-41/18-16 12.1.	25.1.	granted
17.	Network for Affirmation of Non-Governmental Sector - MANS	00-41/18-17 12.1.	25.1.	granted
18.	Network for Affirmation of Non-Governmental Sector - MANS	00-41/18-18 12.1.	25.1.	granted
19.	Network for Affirmation of Non-Governmental Sector - MANS	00-41/18-19 12.1.	19.1.	granted
20.	Network for Affirmation of Non-Governmental Sector - MANS	00-41/18-20 12.1.	19.1.	granted
21.	Network for Affirmation of Non-Governmental Sector - MANS	00-41/18-21 12.1.	19.1.	granted
22.	Network for Affirmation of Non-Governmental Sector - MANS	00-41/18-22 12.1.	19.1.	granted
23.	Network for Affirmation of Non-Governmental Sector - MANS	00-41/18-23 17.1.	24.1.	granted



24.	Natural person	00-41/18-24 24.1.	30.1.	denied
25.	Institute Alternative	00-41/18-25 29.1.	13.2.	denied
26.	Network for Affirmation of Non-Governmental Sector - MANS	00-41/18-26/2 7.2.	22.2.	partially granted, and partially limited
27.	NGO "Prima"	00-41/18-27 30.1.	5.2.	granted
28.	Natural person	00-41/18-28 1.2.	16.2.	denied
29.	Network for Affirmation of Non-Governmental Sector - MANS	00-41/18-29 12.2.	12.2.	announcement
30.	Natural person	00-41/18-30 13.2.	16.2.	denied
31.	Natural person	00-41/18-31 13.2.	8.3.	partially granted, and partially denied
32.	Centre for Development of NGOs (CRNVO)	00-41/18-32 14.2.	1.3.	denied
33.	Network for Affirmation of Non-Governmental Sector - MANS	00-41/18-33 19.2.	22.2.	announcement
34.	Network for Affirmation of Non-Governmental Sector - MANS	00-41/18-34 19.2.	5.3.	denied
35.	Centre for Development of NGOs (CRNVO)	00-41/18-35 23.2.	12.3.	partially granted, and partially limited
36.	Institute Alternative	00-41/18-36 19.3.	21.3.	announcement
37.	Natural person	00-41/18-37 3.4.	10.4.	partially granted, and partially limited
38.	Natural person	00-41/18-38 20.4.	4.5.	partially granted, and partially limited
39.	Institute Alternative	00-41/18-39 3.5.	14.5.	denied
40.	FOS Media	00-41/18-40 8.5.	14.5.	denied
41.	Network for Affirmation of Non-Governmental Sector - MANS	00-41/18-42 25.5.	31.5.	denied
42.	Network for Affirmation of Non-Governmental Sector - MANS	00-41/18-43 8.6.	22.6.	partially granted, and partially limited
43.	Vijesti TV	00-41/18-44 12.6.	20.6.	granted
44.	Natural person	00-41/18-45 12.6.	15.6.	granted
45.	Institute Alternative	00-41/18-46 14.6.	27.6.	denied
46.	Network for Affirmation of Non-Governmental Sector - MANS	00-41/18-47 15.6.	2.7.	partially granted, and partially limited

47.	Natural person	00-41/18-48 19.6.	4.7.	denied
48.	Natural person	00-41/18-49 19.6.	4.7.	denied
49.	Natural person	00-41/18-50 19.6.	4.7.	denied
50.	Network for Affirmation of Non-Governmental Sector - MANS	00-41/18-51 26.6.	11.7.	denied
51.	Independent Daily Vijesti	00-41/18-52 19.7.	3.8.	granted
52.	Natural person	00-41/18-53 3.9.	17.9.	partially granted and partially denied
53.	Association of Youth with Disabilities of Montenegro (UMHCG)	00-41/18-54 5.9.	19.9.	granted
54.	Association of Youth with Disabilities of Montenegro (UMHCG)	00-41/18-55 11.9.	26.9.	denied
55.	Natural person	00-41/18-56 19.9.	4.10.	denied
56.	Natural person	00-41/18-57 19.9.	4.10.	denied
57.	Natural person	00-41/18-58 19.9.	4.10.	denied
58.	Natural person	00-41/18-59 19.9.	4.10.	denied
59.	Natural person	00-41/18-60 19.9.	4.10.	denied
60.	Natural person	00-41/18-61 19.9.	4.10.	denied
61.	Natural person	00-41/18-62 19.9.	4.10.	denied
62.	Natural person	00-41/18-63 19.9.	4.10.	denied
63.	Natural person	00-41/18-64 19.9.	4.10.	denied
64.	Natural person	00-41/18-65 19.9.	4.10.	denied
65.	Natural person	00-41/18-66 19.9.	4.10.	denied
66.	Natural person	00-41/18-67 19.9.	4.10.	denied
67.	Natural person	00-41/18-68 19.9.	4.10.	denied
68.	Natural person	00-41/18-69 19.9.	4.10.	denied
69.	Independent Daily Vijesti	00-41/18-70 17.10.	1.11.	partially granted and partially denied



70.	Institute Alternative	00-41/18-71 18.10.	25.10.	granted
71.	Centre for Civic Education (CCE)	00-41/18-72 23.10.	5.11.	granted
72.	Network for Affirmation of Non-Governmental Sector - MANS	00-41/18-73 1.11.	16.11.	granted
73.	Non-Governmental Foundation "Civic Alliance"	00-41/18-74 9.11.	26.11.	partially granted, and partially limited
74.	Network for Affirmation of Non-Governmental Sector - MANS	00-41/18-75 16.11.	3.12.	granted
75.	Institute Alternative	00-41/18-76 23.11.	4.12.	denied
76.	Association of Youth with Disabilities of Montenegro (UMHCG)	00-41/18-77 4.12.	18.12.	denied
77.	Institute Alternative	00-41/18-78 20.12.	28.12.	granted

APPENDIX IV: RESEARCH PAPERS IN 2018

1. Senior management in certain EU Member States
2. Public participation in the legislative processes in France and Germany
3. Methods of state borrowing
4. Montenegro – The role of the Parliament in engaging the citizens in its work
5. Certain elements of real estate taxes in several European countries
6. Certain elements of pension insurance in small countries and countries of the region
7. Certain aspects of electoral legislation
8. Repealing decisions of the previous parliament by the current parliament
9. Judgments of the European Court of Human Rights
10. International events in the fields of education, science, culture, and sports for the period 2018/2019
11. The manners of financial stimulating of families in Croatia and Serbia
12. Number of students in primary and secondary schools and number of children in educational groups
13. Appointing members of independent regulatory bodies in EU Member States and countries in the region
14. Special parliamentary bodies in charge of digital economy issues
15. New chapter in the field of personal data protection - General Data Protection Regulation of the EU
16. Same-sex communities in several EU Member States
17. Croatian Parliament - Structure of responsibilities, legislative procedure, staff organisation scheme
18. An overview of legal solutions regarding old (historic) vehicles
19. Supervision of the implementation of laws and regulations adopted by legislative bodies
20. Constitutional solutions regarding sovereignty holders in the EU and the region
21. Constitutional regulation of the language issue in Montenegro
22. Constitutional regulation of official languages and languages in official use in the countries of the region and the EU

APPENDIX V: TABULAR OVERVIEW OF CONDUCTED TRAININGS AND DEVELOPMENT IN 2018

Table 1: Trainings by Human Resources Administration

No	Date	Name	Organiser	Venue	Participants
1	14 March	Employee motivation	Human Resources Administration	Podgorica	1
2	26-27 March	From idea to successfully implemented project	Human Resources Administration	Podgorica	5
3	12 April	Integrity in public administration and implementation of integrity plans	Human Resources Administration	Podgorica	1
4	18 April	Personal data protection	Human Resources Administration	Podgorica	3
5	26 April	European Court of Human Rights	Human Resources Administration	Podgorica	1
6	27 April	Procedure of drafting acts on organisation and job scheme	Human Resources Administration	Podgorica	1
7	17 May	Gender equality	Human Resources Administration	Podgorica	1
8	25 May	Code of Ethics	Human Resources Administration	Podgorica	1
9	5-9 June	Statistical process of collection and analysis of data	Human Resources Administration	Podgorica	2
10	22 June	Awaiting the new Law on Civil Servants and State Employees	Human Resources Administration	Podgorica	2
11	10-11 December	From idea to successfully implemented project	Human Resources Administration	Podgorica	1

Table 2: Trainings from the Training Plan

No	Date	Name	Organiser	Venue	Participants
1	5-8 February	Dante Networking Training	Audiente	Amsterdam, Netherlands	1
2	11-13 April	Training for Trainers	Parliament of Montenegro and OSCE	Podgorica, Montenegro	11
3	26-27 April	Training for Trainers	Parliament of Montenegro and OSCE	Podgorica, Montenegro	11
4	8-9 May	Training for Trainers	Parliament of Montenegro and OSCE	Podgorica, Montenegro	11
5	18-19 May	Conflict management	Parliament of Montenegro and OSCE	Podgorica, Montenegro	12
6	31 May - 1 June	Change Management	Parliament of Montenegro and OSCE	Podgorica, Montenegro	12
7	21-23 June	Parliamentary research in the digital age	ECPRD and the UK Parliament	London, Great Britain	1
8	10 September - 19 October	Fellowship Programme 2018	European Parliament	Brussels, Belgium	1
9	19-20 November	Defining performance management and key performance indicators	Parliament of Montenegro and OSCE	Podgorica, Montenegro	12



Table 3: Other trainings

No	Date	Name	Organiser	Venue	Participants
1	8-10 January	Study Visit - Section for International Relations, Protocol, and Translation	National Assembly of the Republic of Slovenia	Ljubljana, Slovenia	3
2	15-26 January	Fiscal Framework	IMF	Vienna, Austria	1
3	25 January 2018	The application of the standard cost model in the process of conducting regulatory impact assessment analysis	Ministry of Finance of Montenegro	Podgorica, Montenegro	1
4	19-20 February	Time Management Techniques	ICONSULT	Belgrade, Serbia	1
5	23 February	Human Resource Management Congress	MCB - education	Belgrade, Serbia	3
6	23 February	Proposal for a new Law on Public Procurement and compliance with EU Directives	Association of Internal Auditors in the Public Sector of Montenegro	Podgorica, Montenegro	2
7	1-2 March	The application of the standard cost model in the process of conducting regulatory impact assessment analysis	Ministry of Finance of Montenegro	Podgorica, Montenegro	2
8	3-11 March	International Training "In media we trust"	DRONI Centre and Komed	Erfurt, Germany	1
9	23 March	Training of an audio technology company	Max AP doo	Budva, Montenegro	2
10	26-27 March	Matra Rule of Law Training Programme	Government of the Netherlands	Belgrade, Serbia	1
11	11-20 April	Human Rights and Minorities	The Netherlands Helsinki Committee	The Hague, The Netherlands	1
12	18-19 April	Regulation improvement in the Western Balkans countries	RESPA	Sarajevo, B&H	1
13	18-20 April	"Western Balkans: Women's role in eliminating violent extremism	International Republican Institute (IRI)	Sarajevo, B&H	1
14	23-24 April	Gender equality and gender mainstreaming	Gender Equality Committee in cooperation with the OSCE Mission	Podgorica, Montenegro	13
15	23-25 April	Security and insecurity in Bosnia and Herzegovina	George Marshall Centre for European Security Studies	Berlin, Germany	1
16	23-25 May	Regional workshop for parliamentary committees	National Democratic Institute	Tivat, Montenegro	3
17	24-25 May	Parliamentary Cooperation for Sustainable Development: Combating Poverty and Promoting Health Care	Interparliamentary Union (IPU)	Belgrade, Serbia	1
18	27-30 May	Novelties and implementation of general and financial regulations in the public and private sectors	Paragraf Lex RS	Zlatibor, Serbia	1
19	31 May - 1 June	Organizations of the beginning of the parliamentary term	ECPRD and the German Bundestag	Berlin, Germany	2
20	3-16 June	Seminar for advisers employed in the parliament	Congress of Deputies of the Parliament of the Kingdom of Spain	Madrid, Spain	1
21	4-5 June	Seminar for members of the Government Working Group on Development Cooperation and Humanitarian Aid	Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Montenegro in cooperation with the International Aid Transparency Initiative and the United Nations Development Program	Budva, Montenegro	1

22	6-7 June	Women Political Leaders Summit 2018	European Institute for Gender Equality EIGE in Vilnius	Vilnius, Lithuania	1
23	6-8 June	International Forum of Parliamentary Visitor Centers	European Parliament	Brussels, Belgium	1
24	6-15 June	Public finance governance	The Dutch Helsinki Committee, the University of Leiden and the Hague Academy for Local Government	The Hague, The Netherlands	1
25	7-8 June	Study Visit - Regional Cooperation and Capacity Building for South-East European Parliamentarians on Energy Efficiency, Urban Mobility and Climate Protection	Open Regional Fund for South East Europe	Berlin, Germany	1
26	13-22 June	OSCE Summer Academy	Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE)	Stadtsleining, Austria	1
27	18-22 June	Conference for SEE countries	George Marshall Centre for European Security Studies	Garmisch-Partenkirchen, Germany	1
28	22 June	New legal solutions in the public procurement system of Montenegro	Association of Internal Auditors in the Public Sector of Montenegro	Podgorica, Montenegro	1
29	19-22 June	Information Seminar on the Structure and Functioning of the Interparliamentary Union (IPU)	Interparliamentary Union	Geneva, Switzerland	1
30	24-29 June	The role of NATO in the stabilisation process of the Western Balkan countries	Atlantic Council of Croatia (with support from NATO Public Diplomacy Division and the International Institute for Peace)	Šipan, Croatia	1
31	4-15 July	XVI seminar for parliamentary staff	Congress of Deputies of the Parliament of the Kingdom of Spain	Madrid, Spain	1
32	9-20 July 2018	Fiscal Sustainability	IMF	Washington, United States of America	1
33	15 July - 4 August	European and International Affairs	Diplomatic Academy of Vienna	Vienna, Austria	1
34	27 August - 7 September	Fiscal Policy Analysis	IMF	Vienna, Austria	2
35	14-18 September	IBC Convention	IBC Forum 2017	Amsterdam, The Netherlands	2
36	17-18 September	Gender equality and gender mainstreaming	Gender Equality Committee in cooperation with the OSCE Mission	Podgorica, Montenegro	1
37	24-25 September	Study visit to the Parliament of Bulgaria	Parliament of Bulgaria	Sofia, Bulgaria	1
38	27-29 September	The future of parliamentary research services	ECPRD	Brussels, Belgium	2
39	4-5 October	Negotiation techniques for joining the EU	Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Montenegro and Diplomatic Academy	Podgorica, Montenegro	1
40	9-12 October	Certified training for writing projects	EU Projects	Belgrade, Serbia	1



41	17-18 October	Third Regional Seminar on Global Education	North-South Centre of the Council of Europe	Zagreb, Croatia	1
42	22-23 October	Workshop on performance assessment framework	Organised by the Office for European Integration - Office of the National IPA Coordinator	Podgorica, Montenegro	1
43	22-23 October	Study visit to the Croatian Parliament	Croatian Parliament	Zagreb, Croatia	1
44	30 October	Election observation and election campaigns	ODIHR	Podgorica	1
45	5 November	Best practices regarding the legislative and oversight practice of parliamentary committees	Parliament of Montenegro and OSCE	Podgorica, Montenegro	7
46	5-7 November	Study visit to the Parliament of Turkey	Turkish Embassy to Montenegro	Ankara, Turkey	3
47	6-8 November	Study visit to the Croatian Parliament	Croatian Parliament - Committee on Education	Zagreb, Croatia	2
48	11-14 November	Study visit to the Italian Senate	Italian Parliament	Rome, Italy	6
49	11-16 November	Study visit to the National Assembly of the Republic of Slovenia and the Croatian Parliament	National Assembly of the Republic of Slovenia and the Croatian Parliament	Ljubljana and Zagreb	3
50	12-16 November	Young Public Policy Advisers for the Western Balkans	CEELI in collaboration with the Central European University's Global Policy Academy	Prague, The Czech Republic	1
51	14-15 November	Study visit to the National Assembly of Hungary	National Assembly of Hungary - Committee on Legislation	Budapest, Hungary	3
52	19 November	Improving communication with citizens, media and civil society	Parliament of Montenegro and OSCE	Podgorica, Montenegro	7
53	26 November	Improving cooperation with independent institutions: Better use of reports from independent institutions	Parliament of Montenegro and OSCE	Podgorica, Montenegro	7
54	4 December	Workshop "Recognizing Organizational Challenges"	Westminster Foundation	Podgorica, Montenegro	2
55	7-8 December	Gender responsive budgeting	Parliament of Montenegro and OSCE	Podgorica, Montenegro	4

