

Parliament of Montenegro

Action Plan for Strengthening Legislative and Oversight Role of the Parliament of Montenegro in 2014 Implementation Report

Podgorica, January 2015

Introduction

Annual Implementation Report on the *Action Plan for Strengthening Legislative and Oversight Role of the Parliament of Montenegro in 2014*, covering the period from 1 January to 31 December, provides a summary of the implementation of measures and activities with regard to the Plan. The Report comprises a table overview with the description of activities implemented in the reporting period, performance indicators and status or degree of implementation.

The Collegium of the President of the Parliament of Montenegro adopted the *Action Plan for Strengthening Legislative and Oversight Role of the Parliament of Montenegro in 2014*, at the meeting held on 24 March 2014. Following the practice of previous years, the Plan has been envisaged to serve as a guideline for planning and implementation of activities at all levels in the Parliament, and to provide a planned, systematic and coordinated action of all involved in the work of the Parliament with the intention to contribute to a more efficient exercise of its powers as stipulated by the Constitution. This paper is also based on the findings of the European Commission set out in the 2013 Progress Report on Montenegro, simultaneously being the implementation plan of the European Commission's recommendations.

Action Plan for Strengthening Legislative and Oversight Role of the Parliament of Montenegro in 2014 contains 77 activities and measures, with explanations, stakeholders, implementation deadlines and performance indicators. For a better overview, activities and measures provided by this Action Plan are grouped in three parts. The first part is related to strengthening of the legislative and oversight role of the Parliament of Montenegro, through drafting and adoption of acts, frequent use of oversight mechanisms, and work of the Parliament and its working bodies. The second segment comprises activities and measures aimed at strengthening the administrative and technical capacities under the responsibility of the Service of the Parliament. The third part is dedicated to the activities intended to further improve openness and transparency of the Parliament towards the citizens and civil society.

The last measure of the Parliament's Action Plan stipulates that the Parliamentary Service is due to prepare semi-annual and annual reports on the implementation of the Action Plan for Strengthening Legislative and Oversight Role of the Parliament of Montenegro.

Summary

Out of a total of 77 activities and measures contained in the *Action Plan for Strengthening Legislative and Oversight Role of the Parliament of Montenegro in 2014*, 31 measures were envisaged for continuous implementation, one measure was planned for quarterly implementation, while deadline for implementation of 45 measures was during 2014.

Each of the continuous 31 measures was implemented in the reporting period, while one quarterly measure was delayed. Out of 45 measures, which were due for 2014, 22 measures were fully implemented, whereas implementation of 10 measures and activities is on track.

Overall, considering time-limited and continuous activities envisaged to be implemented in the previous year, 53 out of 77 planned measures and activities were implemented as planned, 10 measures are ongoing and 14 were not implemented.

The Report provides below a table overview of the implementation of the Action Plan in 2014, showing implementation by deadlines and defined performance indicators, with implementation degree and description of the activities implemented.

Action Plan for Strengthening Legislative and Oversight Role of the Parliament of Montenegro in 2014

Implementation Report

- Table overview -

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Implemented	Continuous implementation
Ongoing implementation	Not implemented

STRENGTHENING LEGISLATIVE AND OVERSIGHT ROLE

1. Activity/measure:

Adopt the Law on Amendments to the Law on Election of Councillors and MPs in accordance with OSCE/ODHIR and Venice Commission recommendations

Responsibility of:

Parliament

Timescale:

II quarter

Performance indicator:

Law adopted

Implementation:

The Parliament of Montenegro adopted the Law on Amendments to the Law on Election of Councillors and MPs at the third sitting of the first ordinary (spring) session of the Parliament of Montenegro in 2014, held on 21 March 2014.

The adoption of this law was preceded by months of work of the Working Group for Building Trust in the Election Process, which was followed by a final harmonization at the meeting of the Collegium of the President of the Parliament. Law on Amendments to the Law on Election of Councillors and MPs features provisions that introduce electronic identification of voters in the electoral process. These provisions came into force as of 1 November 2014. Amendments to the election law have also included electoral bodies, i.e. provisions governing the composition and manner of election of the State Election

Commission and municipal election commissions. The law has improved the position of the underrepresented gender in the political life of Montenegro, stipulating that, in determining order of candidates in the electoral lists, there must be at least one candidate of the underrepresented gender for every four seats. In addition, the law has prescribed a mechanism in filling vacant seats of councillors or MPs, which should contribute to the affirmation of the underrepresented gender.

2. Activity/measure:

Conduct procedure for the election of members of the Prosecutorial and Judicial Council, in accordance with the Constitution

Responsibility of:

Committee on Political System, Judiciary and Administration

Timescale:

II quarter

Performance indicator:

Procedure for the election of members of the Prosecutorial and Judicial Council, in accordance with the Constitution, conducted Members of the Judicial and Prosecutorial Council elected

Implementation:

Procedure for the election of members of the Prosecutorial and Judicial Council was conducted in accordance with the Constitution.

The 25th Parliament of Montenegro adopted the Decision on the election of four members of the Prosecutorial Council from among eminent jurists: Radovan B. Krivokapić, prof Slavko Lukić PhD, Hakija Lješnjanin and Veselin Racković, at the seventh sitting of the second ordinary (autumn) session of the Parliament of Montenegro in 2013, held on 27 December 2013.

Pursuant to Article 40 of the Rules of Procedure of the Parliament of Montenegro and Article 13a of the Law on the Judicial Council, the Committee on Political System, Judiciary and Administration issued a new public call on 13 January 2014 for the election of four members of the Judicial Council from among eminent jurists. By 30 January, the Committee received 12 applications.

At its 42nd meeting held on 17 February, the Committee conducted a consultative hearing (interview) of the candidates for the election of four members of the Judicial Council from among eminent jurists. In accordance with the Amendments to the Rules on procedure for determining proposal for election of four members of the Judicial Council from among eminent jurists, which were previously adopted, at resumption of the 42nd meeting held on 12 March, the Committee opted for four candidates after three rounds of open voting and proposed them to the Parliament.

At resumption of the second sitting of the first ordinary (spring) session in 2014, held on 26 March, the 25th Parliament of Montenegro adopted the Decision on the election of two members of the Judicial Council from among eminent jurists - Dobrica Šljivančanin and Loro Markić. At the second sitting of the first ordinary (spring) session in 2014, held on 19 June, the Parliament of Montenegro adopted the Decision on the election of two members of the Judicial Council from among eminent jurists - prof. Mladen Vukčević, PhD and Vesna Simović Zvicer, PhD.

3. Activity/measure:

Adopt the plan for a greater consideration of gender aspects through the work of the Parliament

Responsibility of:

Collegium

Gender Equality Committee

Timescale:

III quarter

Performance indicator:

Plan adopted

Number of female MPs

Number of female MPs in delegations to international organisations and bodies

Implementation:

On 31 December 2014, there were 14 (17.3%) female MPs out of 81 MPs in the Parliament of Montenegro (25th convocation) as was the case at the beginning of the current convocation. Meanwhile, in June 2013 this number fell to 16% then to 14.81%, and on 25 November 2014 it rose again to 17.3%. Compared to the previous reporting period, the number of women increased in certain working bodies (though Committee on Economy, Finance and Budget and Commission for Monitoring and Control of the Privatisation Procedure remain without female members). Permanent Delegation of the Parliament of Montenegro to the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (PACE) comprises two female MPS, while Delegation of the Parliament of Montenegro to the Parliamentary Assembly of the North Atlantic Alliance (NATO PA) has one female MP.

Due to understaffing and lack of space, the Gender Equality Committee did not develop the plan for a greater consideration of gender aspects through the work of the Parliament.

4. Activity/measure:

Draw up the Draft Law on the Parliament of Montenegro

Responsibility of:

Service of the Parliament

Timescale:

IV quarter

Performance indicator:

Working group set up

Experience of other parliaments considered

Draft law prepared

Implementation:

Text of the working version of Draft Law on the Parliament of Montenegro was not prepared in 2014; therefore, this measure is to be transferred to the next year.

Based on the analysis of legal regulations governing the functioning of parliaments, the Research Centre of the Service of the Parliament prepared a research paper on the topic "Law on Parliament: legal basis and organization of parliamentary work" in December 2013, which provides an overview of parliaments whose work organization is regulated by the rules of procedure and law on parliament, and parliaments that adopt the rules of procedure in the form of a law, together with key provisions. Since the National Assembly of the Republic of Serbia and the Assembly of the Republic of Macedonia have laws on the parliament in addition to their rules of procedure, the research paper contains a more detailed review of the provisions related to parliamentary procedures contained in the Law on the National Assembly of Serbia and the Law on the Assembly of Macedonia.

Representatives of the Parliament of Montenegro participated, in October 2014, in the roundtable organized by the Institute Alternative within the parliamentary program context, on the topic: *Do we need a law on the Parliament*? On that occasion, the participants discussed the law on parliament as a legal basis for the functioning of the Montenegrin Parliament, practice in other countries, necessity of financial independence of parliament, rights and duties of MPs and staff in professional services, as well as the organization of parliament's work through regional experiences. Representatives of all MPs Groups in the Montenegrin Parliament, civil society, as well as representatives of the parliaments of Serbia and Macedonia, which have the law on parliament, attended the roundtable.

5. Activity/measure:

Adopt the Code of Ethics for Members of the Parliament of Montenegro

Responsibility of:

Collegium

Service of the Parliament

Parliament

Timescale:

IV quarter

Performance indicator:

Draft Code of Ethics prepared by the Service

Code of Ethics adopted

Implementation:

The Code of Ethics for Members of the Parliament of Montenegro was adopted at the fifth sitting of the second ordinary (autumn) session in 2014, on 9 December. Working Group, which was set up by the Conclusion of the Collegium of the President of 30 July and chaired by Vice President of the Parliament Suljo Mustafić, prepared Draft Code of Ethics.

Previously, the Service of the Parliament prepared the text of Draft Code of Ethics, based on research of experience of parliaments of the EU and regional countries, which was carried out by the Parliament's Research Centre.

The Code of Ethics provides that the supervision over the implementation and monitoring of compliance with the Code is responsibility of the Committee on Human Rights and Freedoms. It also prescribes that Deputy Chair of the Committee convenes the session of the Committee and proposes agenda with

acts relating to the violation of the Code. The Committee on Human Rights and Freedoms keeps a record of all activities and prepares annual reports. The Parliament may consider the report of the Committee once a year.

6. Activity/measure:

Working bodies will, at least once every half year, hold a meeting where representatives of the competent ministries will be invited and, where necessary, representatives of other state administration bodies, with the aim of considering implementation of policies under their competence

Responsibility of:

All competent working bodies

Timescale:

July/September

January 2015

Performance indicator:

Number of committees meetings held

Number of representatives of the Government and state administration at the meetings

Implementation:

During 2014, working bodies held 42 meetings to discuss the implementation of policies in the areas under their competence, which were attended by 135 representatives of the Government and state administration.

Committee on Political System, Judiciary and Administration, at its 50th meeting on 25 April, held a control hearing of the Director and members of the Council of the Agency for Electronic Media, entitled "Program standards in the electronic media - consistent application of the Law on Electronic Media".

Committee on Security and Defence, at its 16th meeting on 14 April, which was closed to the public, held a control hearing of the Director of the National Security Agency on "Recording and storing data in the context of the application of the Law on the National Security Agency".

At the 21st meeting on 11 April, which was closed to the public, the Committee held a control hearing of the Supreme State Prosecutor, Minister of the Interior and Director of the National Security Agency regarding frequent attacks on journalists.

At the 31st meeting on 26 December, the Committee considered the Annual report on foreign trade in controlled goods for 2013, taking into account the obligations determined by the adoption of the Conclusions of the 11th meeting of Cetinje Parliamentary Forum on "The Role of Parliament in the Arms Import and Export Control System" and item 3.5 of the Plan of Parliamentary Oversight in 2014. Deputy Minister of Economy attended the meeting.

Committee on International Relations and Emigrants, at the 28th meeting on 16 June, held a control hearing of the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs and European Integration regarding the action of the Croatian Government in granting concessions for oil and gas exploration in the region of Prevlaka. Director General of the Consular Affairs Directorate at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and European Integration attended the meeting.

Committee on Economy, Finance and Budget, at the 46th meeting on 10 March, held a consultative hearing on the topic "Housing loans indexed in CHF (Swiss Francs) and implementation of foreign currency clauses in loan agreements - Legislation".

At the 49th meeting on 24 March, the Committee held a consultative hearing on "Efficient use of energy, the situation in Montenegro with regard to the Draft Law on the Efficient Use of Energy". Director General of the Energy Efficiency Directorate and Senior Advisor at the Energy Efficiency Department at the Ministry of Economy attended the meeting.

At its 51st meeting on 4 April, the Committee held a control hearing of the Minister of Finance, Minister of Economy and bankruptcy trustee of the sea salt company Solana "Bajo Sekulić" to obtain information about bankruptcy proceedings in the company, with particular emphasis on the protection of workers' rights and property of the company.

At its 52nd, 54th, 56th, 57th and 59th meetings, the Committee conducted parliamentary oversight over the implementation of the Law on Financing of Political Parties, in line with Article 32a of the Law on Financing of Political Parties. Minister of Finance, Director of Budget Directorate and State Secretary in the Ministry of Finance attended the 54th meeting. The Committee considered a number of letters of state authorities and local governments, as well as numerous documents submitted in accordance with the Law that were, among other things, related to: analytical cards of all state authorities and local governments, lists of debtors for water and other public utilities of local governments, lists of debtors for electricity, information about payments, etc.

At its 69th meeting held on 15 September and 16 October, the Committee conducted a control hearing of the Minister of Education, Director of Centre for Vocational Education, Director of Institute for textbooks and teaching aids and Director of the Contemporary Art Centre regarding the negative opinion of the State Audit Institution on the audit of the annual financial statements of these institutions.

Committee on Human Rights and Freedoms, at the 39th meeting held on 4 December, considered the performance reports of the Centre for the preservation and development of cultural minorities for 2013 and for the first ten months of 2014. The meeting was attended by acting Director General of the Directorate for the promotion and protection of national minorities and other minority groups in the Ministry for Human and Minority Rights and the Secretary of the Ministry for Human and Minority Rights.

At its 40th meeting on 5 December, the Committee considered the Information on use of resources of the Fund for Professional Rehabilitation and Employment of Persons with Disabilities. The meeting was attended by the Director of the Budget Directorate in the Ministry of Finance, Advisor to the Budget Directorate in the Ministry of Finance, Director of the Directorate for Labour Market and Employment in the Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare, Head of the Department for Labour Market and Employment in the Ministry of Labour and Director of the Employment Agency of Montenegro.

At its 43rd meeting held on 23 December, the Committee considered the Information on international legal procedures against Montenegro before the European Court of Human Rights in 2013. The State Agent of Montenegro for the ECHR and Deputy Minister of Justice attended the meeting.

Gender Equality Committee, at the 27th meeting held on 21 February, was presented with the study "The position of women in the armed forces of the Western Balkans countries" by the Minister of Defence. In addition to the Minister, the meeting was attended by three representatives of the Ministry of Defence, 11 representatives of the Army of Montenegro, two representatives of the Ministry for Human and Minority Rights and the Ministry of Culture, and one representative from each of the Ministry of Education, Ministry of Health, Ministry of Science, Ministry for Information Society and Telecommunications, Ministry of Transport and Maritime Affairs and the Police Directorate.

At the 28th meeting held on 21 March, the Committee presented the results of the "Second survey on the awareness and application of the Gender Equality Law in Montenegrin institutions". The survey was conducted with the support of the OSCE Mission to Montenegro, UNDP Office in Montenegro and the Ministry for Human and Minority Rights, at the initiative of the Committee. The meeting was attended by the Minister for Human and Minority Rights, Adviser to the Secretary General of the Government, two representatives from each of the following institutions: Secretariat for Legislation, Ministry for Human and Minority Rights, Ministry of Defense and the Agency for Development of Small and Medium-sized Enterprises, and one representative from each of the following institutions: Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare, Ministry of Sustainable Development and Tourism, Customs Administration, Real Estate Administration, Administration for prevention of money laundering and terrorist financing, Inspection Directorate, Human Resources Administration, Police Directorate, Tax Administration, Directorate of Public Works, Directorate for Protection of Confidential Data, Employment Agency, Intellectual Property Office, Statistical Office, Bureau for Education Services and Office for Care of Refugees.

At the 31st meeting on 30 June, the Committee considered the Report on the implementation of the Gender Equality Action Plan (2013-2017) for 2013. Head of the Gender Equality Department in the Ministry for Human and Minority Rights attended the meeting.

At the 35th meeting on 31 October, the Committee presented the activities conducted for the implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 1325 in the education system. The meeting was attended by two representatives of the Ministry for Human and Minority Rights and one representative of the Ministry of Defense, Ministry of Education, Ministry of the Interior, Police Directorate, Human Resources Management Agency and Bureau for Education Services, respectively, and the regional instructor for gender equality in peacekeeping missions.

At its 37th meeting on 17 November, the Committee discussed the situation of women with disabilities. Also, the results of the research "People with disabilities and parenting" were presented.

At its 38th meeting on 21 November, the Committee discussed the networking of women in political parties/politics. The experience of women's parliamentary networks in Serbia and Macedonia and comparative study of working bodies of women parliamentarians in the OSCE Member States were presented. Advisor and Associate in the Gender Equality Department in the Ministry for Human and Minority Rights attended the meeting.

At its 36th meeting on 24 November, the Committee was presented with the Opinion on the impact of the ratified Council of Europe Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence on the Montenegrin legislation, which was prepared by ODIHR experts from Warsaw. The meeting was attended by Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs and European Integration and President of the Council for Protection against Discrimination, Minister for Human and Minority Rights, five representatives of the Ministry for Human and Minority Rights, two representatives

of the Ministry of Education and one representative of the Council for Protection against Discrimination, Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and European Integration and Ministry of Defense, respectively.

Committee on Tourism, Agriculture, Ecology and Spatial Planning, at the 32nd meeting on 25 September, held a consultative hearing on the Proposal for the Law on Olive Growing. The meeting was attended by the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development, Deputy Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development and two Advisors in the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development.

At its 37th meeting on 18 December, the Committee examined the current environmental situation in the Municipality of Pljevlja.

Committee on Education, Science, Culture and Sport, at the 29th meeting held on 11 April, considered the Information on financing of scientific research activities of Montenegro in 2014. The Secretary of the Ministry of Science attended the meeting.

At its 30th meeting on 14 April, the Committee considered the issue regarding the delay of payment of student loans on the grounds of the Law on Financing of Political Parties.

At its 35th meeting on 24 September, the Committee considered the Report on implementation of the project "Revalorization of Cultural Assets of Montenegro". The Director of the Cultural Heritage Directorate in the Ministry of Culture attended the meeting.

At its 42nd meeting on 3 November, the Committee deliberated on the current situation at the University of Montenegro, with particular emphasis on legal solutions in the Statute of the University of Montenegro and the Law on Higher Education.

At its 47th meeting on 16 December, the Committee considered the Information on the implementation of the Law on Culture at the municipal level. The Director of the Directorate for culture and art in the Ministry of Culture attended the meeting.

At its 48th meeting on 22 September, the Committee held a control hearing of the Minister of Science, coordinator of the Ministry of Education, on the topic "Current Situation at the University of Montenegro".

Committee on Health, Labour and Social Welfare, at its 35th meeting on 12 March, discussed "The effects of combating informal economy in the labour market". The meeting was attended by the Director of the Directorate for Labour Market and Employment in the Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare, Assistant Director of Tax Administration, Director of the Inspection Directorate, chief inspector in the Inspection Directorate and Assistant Director of the Employment Agency of Montenegro.

At its 39th meeting held on 26 March in Podgorica and 41st meeting held on 30 March in Bijelo Polje, the Committee considered the current situation regarding the strike of disabled workers from Northern Montenegro. The Director of the Directorate for Pension and Disability Insurance, Veteran and Disability Protection in the Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare and spokesperson for the Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare attended the meeting

held on 26 March, while the Minister of Labour and Social Welfare, spokesperson for the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs and Director of the Labour Directorate in the Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare attended the meeting held on 30 March.

At its 40th meeting on 31 March, the Committee held a consultative hearing on the topic "Frequent attacks on health workers in Montenegro". The Minister of Health, Minister of the Interior, Secretary of the Ministry of Health and two representatives of the Police Directorate attended the meeting.

At its 49th meeting held on 24 June, the Committee considered the Report on the rights of children in Montenegro. Director of the Statistical Office of Montenegro attended the meeting.

At its 52nd meeting on 8 July, the Committee analysed the consumption of drugs in Montenegro. The Minister of Health, Chief of Cabinet of the Minister of Health, spokesperson for the Ministry of Health and Director of the Agency for Medicines attended the meeting.

At its 54th meeting on 9 September, the Committee discussed about "Free movement of labour".

At its 56th meeting on 23 September, the Committee analysed the previous experience in the work of the Public Institution for Accommodation, Rehabilitation and Resocialization of Psychoactive Substances Users (Kakaricka gora). Adviser in the Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare attended the meeting.

At its 57th meeting on 19 September, the Committee considered the current situation in the company "Montavar-Metalac" from Nikšić.

At its 59th meeting on 2 October, the Committee discussed about "Support to the rehabilitation of children with disabilities in practice of the spiritual center Sukruć in Tuzi". Assistant Minister of Education for pre-school and primary education and education of people with special needs, Adviser in the Ministry of Health and Advisor in the Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare attended the meeting.

The Committee's 63rd meeting, held on 28 November, was dedicated to the thematic session "Free movement of labour between countries signatories of the Dayton Agreement - using the experience of the Nordic model of cooperation".

At its 68th meeting on 12 December, the Committee held a control hearing of the Director General of the Health Protection Directorate in the Ministry of Health, Director of Institute for Public Health and resigning Director of the General Hospital in Bijelo Polje on the topic "The current situation in the General Hospital in Bijelo Polje".

Anti-corruption Committee, at its 17th meeting on 30 June, held a control hearing of the Minister of Economy and Director of the Institute for Intellectual Property regarding the petition lodged by the Association of Composers of Montenegro.

At its 22nd meeting on 30 October, the Committee held a control hearing of the Minister of Economy, Minister of Finance and Director of Public Procurement Directorate on "Multimillion contracts for legal and consulting services paid by EPCG".

In the reporting period, the competent working bodies also considered the reports that are submitted to the Parliament and the working bodies in accordance with the law, enabling them to consider the implementation of policies in certain areas as well.

7. Activity/measure:

Working bodies will regularly consider implementation of conclusions previously adopted by the working bodies and/or Parliament

Responsibility of:

All competent working bodies

Timescale:

Continuous

Performance indicator:

Number of conclusion considered

Ratio between the number of conclusions considered and number of conclusions adopted in the previous semi-annual/annual period

Implementation:

During 2014, 30 conclusions of the Parliament (30 acts with 71 items-conclusions) were published in the "Official Gazette of Montenegro", of which 17 were adopted in 2014. Of that number, 19 were conclusions related to the acceptance/adoption of reports, acceptance of the financial statements and approval of draft decisions, which means that these conclusions did not require follow up of their implementation.

The remaining 11 conclusions, containing 47 items-conclusions, which require the implementation follow-up, refer to the areas under the competence of several working bodies: Committee on Political System, Judiciary and Administration, Committee on Economy, Finance and Budget, Committee on Human Rights and Freedoms and Commission for Monitoring and Control of the Privatisation Procedure.

In 2013 and 2014, the working bodies adopted 130 conclusions, five assessments and positions, and one recommendation, and determined the Proposal for assessments and positions (five). The working bodies considered the implementation of 27 of its conclusions (adopted in 2013 and 2014), as well as 32 Parliament's conclusion adopted in 2013 and seven adopted in 2011, while the Parliament deliberated on the implementation of one conclusion adopted in 2013.

Committee on Political System, Judiciary and Administration proposed to the Parliament to adopt 28 conclusions (seven of which were proposed in 2013), and the Parliament adopted 24 of the proposed conclusion.

At its 45th meeting on 26 February, the Committee proposed to the Parliament to adopt the conclusion regarding the consideration of the Proposal for the Law on Amendments to the Law on Territorial Organization of Montenegro. The proposed conclusion was adopted at the sitting of the second extraordinary session of the Parliament of Montenegro in 2014, held on 26 February.

At the joint meeting, Committee on Political System, Judiciary and Administration and Committee on Economy, Finance and Budget proposed to the Parliament to adopt seven conclusions following the control hearing of the Minister of the Interior and Minister of Finance on "Analysis of the functioning of local government" on 11 November 2013.

At its 55th meeting on 11 July, the Committee considered the 2013 Performance Report of the Commission for the Prevention of Conflict of Interest. At the second sitting of the second ordinary (autumn) session in 2014, held on 16 December, the Parliament adopted the Conclusion accepting the said report.

At its 60th meeting on 24 September, the Committee proposed to the Parliament to adopt 11 conclusions regarding the consideration of the Annual report on the work of courts in Montenegro for 2013.

At its 64th meeting on 20 October, the Committee proposed to the Parliament to adopt nine conclusions regarding the consideration of the Report of the Supreme State Prosecutor's Office of Montenegro on the State Prosecutor's Office in 2013 and the Report on the work of the Prosecutorial Council for 2013.

At the fourth sitting of the second ordinary (autumn) session of the Parliament of Montenegro in 2014, held on 16 December, 22 conclusions were adopted: 12 conclusions regarding the consideration of the Annual Report on the work of courts in Montenegro for 2013 (annual report is accepted in the first conclusion) and 10 conclusions regarding the consideration of the Report of the Supreme State Prosecutor's Office of Montenegro on the State Prosecutor's Office in 2013 and the Report on the work of the Prosecutorial Council for 2013 (reports are accepted in the first conclusion).

Committee on Security and Defence adopted 26 conclusions and considered the implementation of 15 conclusions (adopted in 2013).

At the 25th meeting on 13 October, the Committee adopted five conclusions regarding the consideration of 2013 Performance and Status Report on administrative domains within the jurisdiction of the Ministry of Defence and 2013 Status Report of the Army of Montenegro, and three conclusions regarding the consideration of the Report on the participation of members of the Army of Montenegro in the international forces, peacekeeping missions and other activities abroad in 2013. Furthermore, the Committee considered the implementation of four conclusions adopted regarding the deliberation on the 2012 Performance Report of the Ministry of Defence and 2012 Status Report of the Army of Montenegro, at the seventh meeting held on 9 May 2013.

At the 26th meeting held on 22 July and 17 September, the Committee adopted seven conclusions regarding the consideration of 2013 Performance Report of the Ministry of the Interior and six conclusions regarding the consideration of the Report on the protection and rescue system in Montenegro in 2013. Furthermore, the Committee considered the implementation of five conclusions adopted regarding the consideration of 2012 Performance Report of the Ministry of the Interior and six conclusions adopted regarding the consideration of the Report on the protection and rescue system in Montenegro in 2012, at the eighth meeting held on 10 May 2013.

At the 27th meeting on 29 September, the Committee adopted five conclusions regarding the consideration of the 2013 Performance Report of the National Security Agency.

Committee on International Relations and Emigrants adopted four conclusions and one recommendation (adopted in 2013), whose implementation was considered twice.

At the 28th meeting on 16 June, the Committee considered the implementation of four conclusions and one recommendation, adopted at the sixth meeting on 22 March 2013, regarding the control hearing on the dialog platform of the Government of Montenegro for permanent delimitation with Croatia in the region of Prevlaka.

The implementation of the above conclusions and recommendations was considered at the third joint meeting of the Committee and Committee on European Integration, held on July 21, regarding the consideration of the Report of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and European Integration for 2013.

Committee on Economy, Finance and Budget proposed to the Parliament to adopt 20 conclusions in 2014, and the Parliament adopted 21 conclusions. In the reporting period, the Committee adopted five assessments and positions and determined the Proposal of assessments and positions (five). Furthermore, the Committee considered the implementation of 32 Parliament's conclusions out of 33 conclusions under its competence, which were adopted in 2013, and reconsidered the implementation of seven Parliament's conclusions adopted in 2011.

The Committee considered the implementation of the Parliament's conclusions adopted in 2013:

- At the 53rd meeting, on 16 April, the Committee considered the implementation of one conclusion concerning the Aluminium Plant Podgorica, which was adopted at the eighth sitting of the second ordinary (autumn) session of the Parliament of Montenegro in 2013, on 27 December 2013. The implementation of this conclusion was also discussed at the eighth sitting of the first ordinary (spring) session of the Parliament of Montenegro in 2014.
- At the 58th meeting, on 4 June, the Committee considered the implementation of five conclusions regarding the deliberation on the 2012 Performance Report of the Concession Commission at the eighth sitting of the first ordinary (spring) session of the Parliament of Montenegro in 2013, held on 30 July 2013;
- At the 60th meeting, on 13 July, the Committee considered the implementation of six conclusions regarding the deliberation on the 2012 Performance Report of the Investment Development Fund at the third sitting of the second ordinary (autumn) session of the Parliament of Montenegro in 2013, held on 20 November 2013;
- At the 63rd meeting, on 7 July, the Committee considered the implementation of six conclusions regarding the deliberation on the 2012 Performance Report of the Financial Stability Council at the third sitting of the second ordinary (autumn) session of the Parliament of Montenegro in 2013, held on 20 November 2013;
- At the 64th meeting, on 18 July, the Committee considered the implementation of five conclusions regarding the deliberation on the 2012 Performance Report of the Deposit Protection Fund at the third sitting of the second ordinary (autumn) session of the Parliament of Montenegro in 2013, held on 20 November 2013;
- At the 81st meeting, on 19 November, the Committee considered the implementation of nine conclusions: two conclusions made regarding the deliberation on the Proposal for the Law on Budget for 2014 and seven conclusions made upon the deliberation on the Proposal for the Law on

Final Budget Account of Montenegro for the period October 2012 - October 2013, at the eighth sitting of the second ordinary (autumn) session of the Parliament of Montenegro in 2013, held on 27 December 2013.

The Committee informed the Parliament on the conclusions that were implemented, unrealized and conclusions with the ongoing implementation in its meeting reports. In 2014, the Committee considered 97% of the Parliament's conclusions under its competence that were adopted in 2013.

At the 61st meeting, regarding the deliberation of the 2013 Performance Report of the Insurance Supervision Agency and financial statements with the Report on audit of financial statements, the Committee re-examined the degree of implementation of seven conclusions made with regard to the deliberation of the Performance Report and Financial Report of the Insurance Supervision Agency and Report on the Insurance Market in Montenegro in 2010, at the fifth sitting of the second ordinary (autumn) session of the Parliament of Montenegro in 2011.

The Committee will request information from the Government and the relevant ministry in relation to two unrealized conclusions and continue to follow up on their implementation.

In 2014, the Committee proposed to the Parliament to adopt 20 conclusions, while the Parliament adopted 21 conclusions that were under the Committee's competence. The Committee will follow up implementation of these conclusions during 2015.

At the 46th meeting on 10 March, the Committee held a consultative hearing on the topic "Housing loans indexed in CHF (Swiss Francs) and implementation of foreign currency clauses in loan agreements - Legislation". At the 50th meeting on 28 March, the Committee adopted five assessments and positions regarding the consultative hearing.

At its 67th meeting on 24 July, the Committee determined the proposal of assessments and positions (five) regarding the meeting of the Committee on Economy, Finance and Budget of the Parliament of Montenegro and the Committee on Economy and Finance of the Parliament of the Republic of Albania, on the subject of "Transport policy and Cooperation of Montenegro in the field of transport with the Republic of Albania" held on June 15 in Ulcinj. The proposal was forwarded to the Committee on Economy and Finance of the Parliament of the Republic of Albania, in order to harmonize the text of assessments and positions.

Committee on Human Rights and Freedoms proposed to the Parliament to adopt six conclusions, which the Parliament adopted.

At its 31st meeting, on 2 June, the Committee proposed to the Parliament to adopt three conclusions regarding the consideration of 2013 Report on the Protection of Personal Data in Montenegro and three conclusions regarding the consideration of 2013 Report on Access to Information in Montenegro. The Parliament adopted the proposed conclusions at the eighth sitting of the first ordinary (spring) session in 2014, held on 16 July.

Committee on Tourism, Agriculture, Ecology and Spatial Planning proposed to the Parliament to adopt four conclusion, which the Parliament adopted.

At its 37th meeting, on 18 December, the Committee examined the current environmental situation in the Municipality of Pljevlja and proposed to the Parliament four conclusions for adoption. The Parliament adopted the proposed conclusions at the ninth sitting of the second ordinary (autumn) session in 2014, held on 27 December.

Committee on Health, Labour and Social Welfare adopted 38 conclusions and followed the implementation of eight conclusions.

At the 35th meeting, on 12 March, the Committee considered "The effects of combating informal economy in the labour market" and adopted three conclusions.

At the 39th meeting, on 26 March, the Committee considered "The current situation regarding the strike of disabled workers from Northern Montenegro" and adopted four conclusions.

At the 41st meeting, which was held on 30 March in Bijelo Polje, the Committee reconsidered "The current situation regarding the strike of disabled workers from Northern Montenegro" and adopted another four conclusions.

At the 45th meeting, the Committee examined the implementation of eight conclusions adopted at the 39th and 41st meetings.

At the 40th meeting, on 31 March, the Committee held a consultative hearing on the topic "Frequent attacks on health workers in Montenegro" and adopted seven conclusions.

The Committee dedicated its 42nd meeting, held on 2 April, to the World Autism Awareness Day and on that occasion adopted five conclusions.

At its 57th meeting, on 19 September, the Committee considered the current situation in the company "Montavar-Metalac" from Nikšić and adopted seven conclusions.

At its 60th meeting, on 17 October, the Committee considered the initiative of the NGO Euromost and representatives of companies from the North and adopted four conclusions.

The Committee dedicated its 63rd meeting, held on 28 November, to the thematic session "Free movement of labour between countries of the Dayton Agreement using experience of the Nordic model of cooperation" and on that occasion adopted four conclusions.

Anti-Corruption Committee adopted four conclusions.

At the 22nd meeting, on 30 October, the Committee held a control hearing of the Minister of Economy, Minister of Finance and Director of Public Procurement Directorate on "Multimillion contracts for legal and consulting services paid by EPCG" and on that occasion adopted four conclusions.

8. Activity/measure:

Working bodies will organise consultative/control hearings dedicated to consideration of implementation of laws, which are, according to the members of the working bodies, essential or prevailing in the area concerned, and which have been adopted in the previous one-year period or earlier

Responsibility of:

All competent working bodies

Timescale:

Continuous

Performance indicator:

Number of hearings organized

Number of conclusions adopted

Implementation:

Committee on Political System, Judiciary and Administration held a control hearing of the Director and members of the Council of the Electronic Media Agency entitled "Program standards in the electronic media - the consistent application of the Law on Electronic Media", at the 50th meeting held on 25 April.

At its 56th meeting, on 16 July, the Committee held a consultative discussion with members of the Working Group who participated in the drafting of laws in the field of judiciary (Draft Law on the State Prosecutor's Office, Draft Law on the Judicial Council and the rights and duties of judges and the Draft Law on Courts).

At the 61st and 62nd meetings, on 25 September, the Committee held a consultative discussion on the Proposal for the Law on Administrative Procedure with scientific and expert consultants, representatives of the Government and NGOs.

Committee on Security and Defence held a control hearing of the Director of the National Security Agency on "Recording and storing data in the context of the implementation of the Law on the National Security Agency", at the 16th meeting, which was closed to the public, on 14 April.

Committee on Economy, Finance and Budget conducted a consultative hearing on "Housing loans indexed in CHF (Swiss Francs) and implementation of foreign currency clauses in loan agreements - Legislation", at the 46th meeting held on 10 March.

At the 49th meeting on 24 March, the Committee held a consultative hearing on the topic "Efficient use of energy, the situation in Montenegro with regard to the Draft Law on the Efficient Use of Energy".

At its 51st meeting on 4 April, the Committee held a control hearing of the Minister of Finance, Minister of Economy and bankruptcy trustee of the sea salt company Solana "Bajo Sekulić" to obtain information about bankruptcy proceedings in the company, with particular emphasis on the protection of workers' rights and property of the company.

Committee on Health, Labour and Social Welfare, at its 68th meeting held on 12 December, conducted a control hearing of the Director General of the Directorate for Health Protection at the Ministry of Health, Director of Institute for Public Health and resigning Director of the General Hospital in Bijelo Polje on the topic "The current situation in the General Hospital in Bijelo Polje".

9. Activity/measure:

In line with Article 75 of the Rules of Procedure of the Parliament, once during the ordinary session of the Parliament the working bodies will reach a decision on a control hearing at the request of one third of a committee's members, with a single item on the Agenda

Responsibility of:

All competent working bodies

Timescale:

July

December

Performance indicator:

Number of control hearings held in line with Article 75 of Rules of Procedure of the Parliament of Montenegro

Number of conclusions/recommendations adopted

Total number of control and consultative hearings

Implementation:

Committee on Security and Defence held a control hearing of the Director of the National Security Agency on "Recording and storing data in the context of the implementation of the Law on the National Security Agency", at the 16th meeting on 14 April.

Committee on International Relations and Emigrants held a control hearing of the Vice Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs and European Integration regarding the action of the Croatian Government in granting concessions for oil and gas exploration in the region of Prevlaka, at the 28th meeting, on 16 June.

Committee on Economy, Finance and Budget held a control hearing of the Minister of Education, Director of the Centre for Vocational Education, Director of the Institute for textbooks and teaching aids and Director of the Contemporary Art Centre regarding the negative opinion of the State Audit Institution on the audit of annual financial statements of these institutions, at the 69th meeting held on 15 September and 16 October.

Committee on Education, Science, Culture and Sports held a control hearing of the Minister of Science, coordinator of the Ministry of Education, on the topic "The current situation at the University of Montenegro", at the 48th meeting, on 22 September.

Anti-Corruption Committee held a control hearing of the Minister of Economy, Minister of Finance and Director of the Public Procurement Directorate on the subject of "Multimillion contracts for legal and consulting services paid by EPCG", at the 22nd meeting, on 30 October.

At the 26th meeting held on 12 December, the Committee adopted a decision to hold a control hearing of the Minister of the Interior Mr. Rasko Konjević, Director of the Public Procurement Directorate doc. Dr. Mersad Mujević and Ivica Stanković, the Supreme State Prosecutor on the subject of "Construction of the Police Security Centre in Podgorica". The date of the control hearing will be determined at a later date.

10. Activity/measure:

In accordance with Article 85 of the Rules of Procedure of the Parliament of Montenegro, a proposal for an act submitted by MPs of the parliamentary minority will be included in the Parliament's agenda

Responsibility of:

Collegium

Timescale:

Continuous

Performance indicator:

Number of considered proposals for acts submitted by members of the parliamentary minority in relation to the number of sittings of the Parliament

Implementation:

During 2014, the Parliament's agenda included a total of 19 proposals for laws submitted by MPs of parliamentary minority, as well as four proposals for laws tabled by a group of MPs from both the parliamentary majority and minority. Out of these 23 proposals for laws, the Parliament adopted nine.

If we consider only acts listed in the agenda in accordance with Article 85 of the Rules of the Parliament of Montenegro in the reporting period, the following proposals for acts were submitted by MPs of the parliamentary minority:

- Proposal for the Law on Amendments to the Law on Labour Fund, deliberated at the second sitting of the first ordinary (spring) session in 2014;
- Proposal of the Decision on Setting up Interim Committee for supervision of state authorities, state and local administration bodies, in terms of consistent law implementation aimed at building trust in the electoral process, which was deliberated at the eighth sitting of the first ordinary (spring) session in 2014;
- Proposal for the Law on Amendments to the Law on Obligations, which was deliberated at the tenth sitting of the first ordinary (spring) session in 2014;
- Proposal for the Law on Amendments to the Law on Pension and Disability Insurance, which was deliberated at the second sitting of the second ordinary (autumn) session in 2014;
- Proposal for the Law on Funding of Veterans' Organizations, which was deliberated at the fourth sitting of the second ordinary (autumn) session in 2014; and
- Proposal of the Environment Resolution, which was deliberated at the seventh sitting of the second ordinary (autumn) session in 2014.

11. Activity/measure:

Establish Sub-committee on Budget of the Committee on Economy, Finance and Budget

Responsibility of:

Committee on Economy, Finance and Budget

Timescale:

III quarter

Sub-Committee set up

Implementation:

No activities were undertaken to set up the Sub-committee on Budget of the Committee on Economy, Finance and Budget in 2014.

12. Activity/measure:

Consider draft negotiating positions by chapters at the meetings of the Committee on European Integration with lead committees, provide opinions and suggestions, and, where needed, hold meetings to obtain information on preparation of negotiating positions from the Government's negotiating structures

Responsibility of:

Committee on European Integration

Timescale:

Continuous

Performance indicator:

Number of negotiating positions considered

Number of meetings dedicated to preparation of negotiating positions

Number of members of lead committees attending the meetings

Implementation:

In the reporting period, 14 negotiating positions were considered at the meetings of the Committee on European Integration, and eight meetings were devoted to the preparation of negotiating positions. The Committee unanimously adopted the proposal to amend draft negotiating positions for five chapters: 2, 3, 4, 14 and 28. A total of 23 members of lead committees participated in the meetings of the Committee on European Integration where draft negotiating positions were discussed.

At the 17th meeting, held on 31 January, draft negotiating position for Chapter 4 - Free movement of capital was discussed. Six members of other committees attended the meeting.

At the 18th meeting that began on 31 January, draft negotiating position for Chapter 31 - Foreign, security and defence policy was discussed. Eight members of other committees attended the meeting.

At the resumption of the 18th meeting, held on 10 February, members of other committees did not participate.

At the 19th meeting, held on 10 February, draft negotiating positions for Chapter 32 - Financial control and 33 - Financial and budgetary provisions were discussed. Members of the lead committee were not present.

At the 22nd meeting, held on 28 April, draft negotiating positions for Chapter 16 - Taxation and 29 - Customs union were discussed. Two members of other committees attended the meeting.

At the 23rd meeting, held on 29 April, draft negotiating position for Chapter 18 - Statistics was discussed. There were no members of other committees.

At the 25th meeting, held on June 5, draft negotiating positions for Chapter 2 – Freedom of movement for workers and 28 - Consumer and health protection were discussed. Six members of other committees attended the meeting.

At the 26th meeting, held on 10 July, draft negotiating positions for Chapter 9 - Financial services, 21 - Trans-European networks and 30 - External relations were discussed. One member of the lead committee participated in the meeting.

At the 27th meeting, held on 9 September, draft negotiating positions for Chapter 3 - Right of establishment and freedom to provide services and 14 - Transport policy were discussed. There were no members of other committees.

13. Activity/measure:

At least once in a quarter, the Committee on European Integration will organise meetings where progress in accession negotiation will be considered for each opened negotiation chapter, and invite interested members of the lead committees, where needed

Responsibility of:

Committee on European Integration

Timescale:

Ouarterly

Performance indicator:

Number of negotiation chapters considered

Number of meetings

Number of conclusions adopted

Implementation:

Ministry of Foreign Affairs and European Integration so far has not drawn up reports on the progress made in chapters of acquis individually.

14. Activity/measure:

In cooperation with lead committees, the Committee on European Integration will organise thematic forums for certain negotiation chapters in the form of public debates, roundtables, etc., where expert and other interested public will have an opportunity to express opinions and suggestions prior to establishing negotiating positions and considerations by the Committee

Responsibility of:

Committee on European Integration in cooperation with lead committees

Timescale:

Continuous

Number of thematic forums

Number of chapters considered

Number of opinions obtained

Number of participants

Implementation:

Five thematic forums and public panels were held in 2014, where 149 participants discussed seven negotiating chapters.

The Committee organized a public debate "Montenegro and the European Union - Free movement of capital", on 29 January 2014, which was attended by 32 participants.

The Committee organized a public debate "Montenegro and the European Union: legislation on taxes", on 18 February 2014, which was attended by 35 participants.

The Committee organized a public debate on negotiation chapters 2 – Freedom of movement for workers and 28 - Consumer and health protection, on 14 April 2014, which was attended by 32 participants.

The Committee organized a public debate dedicated to negotiation chapter 29 - Customs union, on 24 April 2014, which was attended by 24 participants.

The Committee organized a public debate "Legislation of Montenegro and the EU in chapters 9 - Financial services and 30 - External relations", on 9 July 2014, which was attended by 26 participants.

In the reporting period three panel discussions were organized with high school students, with a total of 110 participants:

- panel discussion with Gymnasium students and meeting with the management of the Royal Capital Cetinje, on 9 April 2014. The panel was attended by 20 students of Gymnasium, and
- two panel discussions with Gymnasium students in Berane and Bijelo Polje and meetings with municipal management, on 9 November 2014. The panel in Berane was attended by 56 students, and the one in Bijelo Polje by 34 students.

15. Activity/measure:

Monitor implementation of the Montenegro's EU Accession Programme for the period 2014-2018 and action plans for negotiation chapters, at least once in six months

Responsibility of:

Committee on European Integration in cooperation with lead committees

Timescale:

Continuous

Number of meetings dedicated to implementation of the Montenegro's EU Accession Programme for the period 2014-2018 and action plans for negotiation chapters

Number of conclusions

Number of opinions/recommendations given

Implementation:

At the 31st meeting, held on 22 December, the Committee considered 1st, 2nd and 3rd quarterly report on realisation of commitments arising from the Montenegro's EU Accession Programme for the period 2014-2018.

At the 24th meeting, held on 29 April, the Committee considered the first quarterly reports on the implementation of action plans for negotiation Chapters 23 and 24.

At the 31st meeting, held on 22 December, the Committee adopted a recommendation in relation to the length of the public hearing for amendment of the action plans for Chapters 23 and 24.

16. Activity/measure:

Monitor the process of planning and implementation of IPA funded programmes and other available EU funds, at least once a year

Responsibility of:

Committee on European Integration

Timescale:

Continuous

Performance indicator:

Number of meetings dedicated to planning and implementation of EU funded programmes

Number of conclusions

Number of opinions/recommendations given

Implementation:

At its 21st meeting, held on 16 April, the Committee was advised of the Information on EU support programs to Montenegro in 2013.

17. Activity/measure:

Parliament of Montenegro will consider semi-annual reports on the course of European integration process, during ordinary sessions at the sittings attended by the Minister of Foreign Affairs and European Integration

Responsibility of:

Committee on European Integration

Parliament

Timescale:

Continuous

Number of meetings

Number of reports considered

Number of conclusions

Implementation:

At its 31st meeting, held on 22 December, the Committee considered the Report on the course of European integration of Montenegro for the period January –June 2014 and forwarded it to the Parliament with suggestions and opinion to accept the Ministry's report.

18. Activity/measure:

Committee on European Integration will regularly consider reports on implementation of obligations arising from SAA and reports on overall activities within the stabilisation and association process submitted by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and European Integration

Responsibility of:

Committee on European Integration

Timescale:

Continuous

Performance indicator:

Number of meetings

Number of reports considered

Number of conclusions

Implementation:

At its 21st meeting, held on April 16, the Committee considered 33rd and 34th quarterly reports on overall activities in the framework of the EU stabilisation and association process.

At the 21st meeting, the Committee expressed an objection to the content of quarterly reports, as they did not include information about the work of the Committee. At the suggestion of the Committee's Chair, chief negotiator Pejović confirmed that there was a possibility to incorporate information on the work of the Committee delivered by its Secretariat. Subsequently, the information forwarded by the Secretary of the Committee has become an integral part of each report on the overall activities in the EU integration process of Montenegro.

At the 28th meeting, held on 19 September, the Committee considered the first and second quarterly reports on overall activities in the EU integration process of Montenegro.

At its 31st session, held on 22 December, the Committee considered the Second report on implementation of obligations arising from SAA, with a table of annual reporting for the period September 2013 - September 2014 (in the context of innovated annual reporting on commitments under the SAA), and the third quarterly report on overall activities in the EU integration process of Montenegro.

19. Activity/measure:

Committee on European Integration will consider the Communication strategy on informing the public on the European Union and preparations of Montenegro for membership in the period 2014-2018 to be submitted by the Government; the Committee will follow up its implementation through consideration of annual action plans

Responsibility of:

Committee on European Integration

Timescale:

Continuous

Performance indicator:

Number of meetings

Number of reports considered

Number of conclusions

Implementation:

At the 21st meeting held on 16 April, the Committee was advised of 2014 – 2018 Strategy for informing the public on the European Union and Montenegro's membership preparations.

The Government adopted the Decision on setting up of the Operational body responsible for implementation of 2014-2018 Strategy for informing the public on Montenegro's accession to the European Union at its session held on 30 July. One representative of the Service of the Parliament is a member of the Operational body.

20. Activity/measure:

Adopt annual Legislative Work Plan of the Parliament, including the legislation harmonisation plan with the EU acquis and the plan for consideration of reports submitted to the Parliament by certain bodies, in accordance with the law

Responsibility of:

Collegium (draft prepared by the Secretary General's Office)

Timescale:

I quarter

Performance indicator:

Draft Plan prepared

Legislative Work Plan of the Parliament adopted

Service monitors implementation of the Plan

Implementation:

At the 72nd meeting held on 24 March 2014, the Collegium of the President of the Parliament of Montenegro adopted 2014 Legislative Work Plan of the Parliament, which included the legislation harmonisation plan with the EU acquis and the plan for consideration of reports submitted to the Parliament by certain bodies, in accordance with the law.

The Legislative Work Plan comprised an overview of proposals for laws, planned to be deliberated in 2014. The document included 201 proposals for laws, out of which 47 were envisaged for alignment with the EU law. The Plan is available at the Parliament's website at http://skupstina.me/images/dokumenti/akcioni-plan/Plan_zakonodavnog_rada_za_2014.godinu.pdf.

21. Activity/measure:

Prepare table overview with data on legislative work of the Parliament for the period ending with the spring session, as well as the Information on Legislative Work of the Parliament for 2014

Responsibility of:

Secretary General's Office

Timescale:

September

Performance indicator:

Table overview with data on legislative work of the Parliament for the period ending with the spring session prepared Information on Legislative Work of the Parliament for 2014 prepared (I quarter of 2015)

Implementation:

Information on the implementation of 2014 Legislative Work Plan of the Parliament for the period ending with the spring session, i.e. by the end of July 2014, was published on the Parliament's website in September at http://www.skupstina.me/images/dokumenti/plan-zakonodavnog-rada_za_2014_godinu_za_period_do_31._jula.pdf.

The Information containing data for the entire 2014 will be prepared and available to the public on the Parliament's website by the end of January 2015, as envisaged in the Action Plan.

22. Activity/measure:

Adopt Calendar of Activities for the period from 1 January to 31 July and from 1 September to 31 December

Responsibility of:

Collegium (draft prepared by the Secretary General's Office)

Timescale:

March

September

Performance indicator:

Draft Calendar prepared

Calendar of Activities adopted

Implementation:

At the 72nd meeting of 24 March 2014, the Collegium of the President of the Parliament adopted the Calendar of Activities for the period 1 January – 31 July.

The Calendar of Activities for the period from 1 September to 31 December was adopted by the Collegium of the President of the Parliament at a meeting held on 8 October 2014. The Calendar specifies dates for holding the sittings of the Parliament, meetings of working bodies as well as MP's days, intended for the work of MPs in MPs Groups and with citizens. Activity/measure: Adopt annual work plans of the working bodies **Responsibility of:** All working bodies¹ Timescale: I quarter **Performance indicator:** Working bodies adopted annual work plans for 2014 **Implementation:** All working bodies of the Parliament adopted annual Work Plans for 2014, except for the Constitutional Committee owing to its specific competences. In addition, the Security and Defence Committee adopted the Parliamentary Oversight Plan for 2014 in line with Article 12, paragraph 1 and 2 of the Law on Parliamentary Oversight in the Field of Security and Defence. Activity/measure: Prepare the text of possible amendments to the Rules of Procedure of the Parliament of Montenegro Responsibility of: Service of the Parliament Timescale: III quarter **Performance indicator:** Text prepared **Implementation:** This activity was not implemented in 2014 and will be transferred to the next year. **Activity/measure:** Establish procedures for ensuring greater interaction between the work of parliamentary delegations to the international parliamentary assemblies and other bodies and the work of the Parliament **Responsibility of:**

¹ Apart from Legislative and Constitutional Committee, having in mind their specific competencies

Service of the Parliament

Timescale:

III quarter

Performance indicator:

Procedures established

Implementation:

Procedures were not established and this activity is to be transferred to 2015.

26. Activity/measure:

Establish procedures for ensuring better coordination of international activities at the Parliamentary Service level

Responsibility of:

Service of the Parliament

Timescale:

II quarter

Performance indicator:

Procedures established

Implementation:

Draft rules for the coordination of international activities in the Parliament of Montenegro have been prepared. The document includes approval procedure for business trips, keeping record of business trips and other international activities, reporting procedure in terms of content and submission of reports, and other issues related to the coordination of international activities in the Parliament.

27. Activity/measure:

Provide specialised training for MPs and the Service for certain areas of EU law, particularly related to negotiation chapters 23 and 24

Responsibility of:

Service of the Parliament

Timescale:

Continuous

Performance indicator:

Number of organised trainings

Number of training participants

Implementation:

From 1 January to 31 December 2014, Members of the Parliament of Montenegro participated in 15 trainings (seminars, study visits, etc.) related to specific areas of EU law, most of which were related to the negotiation chapters 23 and 24, with a total of 62 participants. The trainings were organized by the European Parliament, national parliaments of EU Member States and the parliaments of the region, as well as other international and domestic organizations.

From 1 January to 31 December 2014, staff members of the Parliamentary Service attended 26 trainings related to specific areas of EU law, most of which were related to the negotiation chapters 23 and 24, with a total of 46 participants.

ADMINISTRATIVE AND TECHNICAL CAPACITIES

28. Activity/measure:

Provide adequate expert support through preparation of quality reports, minutes and other material from the sittings of the Parliament and meetings of working bodies

Responsibility of:

Sector for Support to Legislative and Oversight Function

Timescale:

Continuous

Performance indicator:

Drafting instructions for reports and minutes, including publishing procedures, adopted

Uniformity reached and quality of reports and minutes from the meetings of working bodies improved

Implementation:

In the reporting period, attention was paid to the preparation of quality reports and minutes and other material from the sittings of the Parliament and meetings of working bodies in order to ensure suitable professional support to MPs. The adoption of drafting instructions for reports and minutes, including procedures for publication, has been transferred to the next period.

29. Activity/measure:

Following the pace of referral of acts to the working bodies, draft briefings with overview of alignment with EU law and with the Regulatory Impact Assessment (RIA) submitted by the Government along with certain proposals for laws pursuant to

Responsibility of:

Sector for Support to Legislative and Oversight Function

Timescale:

Continuous

Performance indicator:

Number of briefings

Number of briefings containing RIA

Implementation:

A total of 177 briefings were prepared for proposals for laws submitted by the Government and MPs, as well as for other agenda items.

Committee on Political System, Judiciary and Administration prepared 47 briefings (of which 38 for proposals for laws), Security and Defence Committee six (for proposals for laws), Committee on International Relations and Emigrants 36 (of which 18 for proposals for laws), Committee on Economy, Finance and Budget 22 (of which 20 for proposals for laws), Committee on Human Rights and Freedoms 17 (of which seven for proposal for laws), Gender Equality Committee three (for two proposals for laws), Committee on Education, Science, Culture and Sports four (for proposals for laws), Committee on Tourism,

Agriculture, Ecology and Spatial Planning 19 (of which 17 for proposals for laws), Committee on Health, Labour and Social Welfare two (for proposal for laws), Anticorruption Committee eight (of which five for proposals and draft laws) and Administrative Committee prepared 13 briefings.

In the reporting period, the secretaries of working bodies prepared 80 briefings for proposals for laws submitted by the Government with the findings of review of tables of concordance.

In 2014, the Government submitted to the Parliament 109 proposals for laws, of which 53 were envisaged by the Government's 2014 Agenda and/or Montenegro's EU Accession Programme for the period 2014-2018, while drafting of Regulatory Impact Assessment (RIA) was planned for 42 of those.

RIA was submitted with 19 proposals for laws in 2014.

Seven proposals for laws (Proposal for the Law on Efficient Use of Energy, Proposal for the Law on Amendments to the Law on Obligations and Basis of Property Relations in Air Traffic, Proposal for the Law on Amendments to the Law on Foreign Trade, Proposal for the Law on Amendments to the Law on Public Procurement, Proposal for the Law on the Prevention of Corruption, Proposal for the Law on Weapons and Proposal for the Law on Ratification of Additional Protocol 2 and Additional Protocol 3 to the Agreement on Amendments and Accession to the Central European Free Trade Agreement) were planned by the Government's 2014 Agenda and/or Montenegro's EU Accession Programme for the period 2014-2018.

Two proposals for laws were planned in the Government's Agenda for which RIA was not envisaged (Proposal for the Law on Amendments to the Law on Amendments to the Law on Accreditation).

Ten proposals for laws, which were submitted with RIA, were not planned by the Government's Agenda nor the EU Accession Programme (Proposal for the Law on Ratification of the European Convention on the Legal Protection of Services based on, or consisting of, Conditional Access, Proposal for the Law on Amendments to the Law on Agriculture and Rural Development, Proposal for the Law on Ratification of the Agreement on Trade in Arms, Proposal for the Law on Amendments to the Law on Protector of Human Rights and Freedoms of Montenegro and Proposal for the Law on Amendments to the Law on Ratification of the Agreement on Economic Cooperation between the Government of Montenegro and the Government of the Slovak Republic, Proposal for the Law on Lobbying, Proposal for the Law on Ratification of the Energy Charter Treaty, Proposal for the Law on Ratification of the Agreement Establishing the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD)).

In the reporting period, six briefings were drafted with findings of review of the Regulatory Impact Assessment (RIA), out of which one was for a proposal for a law submitted late last year.

30. Activity/measure:

Effectively monitor alignment of Montenegrin legislation with the EU acquis

Responsibility of:

Sector for Support to Legislative and Oversight Function

Timescale:

Continuous

Performance indicator:

Number of tables of concordance

Number of corrections

Implementation:

Secretariats of the committees in charge of monitoring and assessing the alignment of Montenegrin laws with the EU acquis continuously analysed proposals for laws, justifications for adoption of a law and tables of concordance, which were submitted by the Government along with the proposals for laws.

In the reporting period, a total of 89 tables of concordance were reviewed, and eight substantial and three technical corrections were made.

31. Activity/measure:

Regularly update database with data from the tables of concordance and available information on screening

Responsibility of:

Sector for Support to Legislative and Oversight Function

Timescale:

Continuous

Performance indicator:

Databases updated

Number of entries

Implementation:

Database is regularly updated and, as of 31 December, it contained data for 671 proposals for laws with 1387 CELEX numbers, while the screening database had 1519 files. Data for 110 proposals for laws with 164 CELEX numbers were entered in the reporting period.

32. Activity/measure:

Hire experts in specific fields for review of tables of concordance, primarily through TAIEX

Responsibility of:

Service of the Parliament

Timescale:

Continuous

Performance indicator:

List of proposals for laws requiring expert support determined

Number of submitted and number of approved requests by TAIEX

Number of expert missions

Number of staff participating in trainings

Implementation:

TAIEX Expert Mission for electoral law and financing of political parties was carried out from 20 through 24 January 2014 in the Parliament of Montenegro. During the mission, TAIEX experts met with members of the Working group for building trust in the election process, as well as representatives of relevant state authorities and civil society organizations. The goal of the mission was to review and analyse the drafts of the Law on Financing of Political Parties and Law on Voter Registers. Upon completion of the mission, expert report containing key findings and recommendations regarding the two discussed laws was sent to the Parliament of Montenegro.

Furthermore, TAIEX mission on drafting of procedures for acting on petitions submitted to the Anti-Corruption Committee and the Committee for Human Rights and Freedoms was carried out in July. In addition to the expert support rendered for developing petition rules for two committees, this mission included drafting of recommendations for acting on petitions for the Parliamentary Service and development of IT solution for handling of e-petitions.

33. Activity/measure:

Adopt the Rulebook on Work of the Parliamentary Institute

Responsibility of:

Parliamentary Institute

Timescale:

IV quarter

Performance indicator:

Rulebook on Work of the Parliamentary Institute adopted

Implementation:

Parliamentary Institute was established as a new organizational unit with the adoption of the new Rulebook, which enabled gathering of all activities related to parliamentary research, library, archive, and educational activities under one "umbrella". Given the nature of the Institute's activities that include dealing with users, it was decided to regulate the work of the Institute in a separate rulebook. Hence, in December 2014 the Secretary General adopted the Rulebook on Work of the Parliamentary Institute, which defined the Institute as a specialized information centre that provides information and use of archive and library material necessary for timely and quality performance of MPs functions or work in the Parliament and MPs groups. The Rulebook closely regulates the tasks and activities of the Institute, rights and duties of users and manner of exercising these rights, terms and conditions regarding borrowing and use of publications, documents, files and other material that the Institute collects, processes, stores and makes available, as well as issues related to the type and manner of implementation of educational activities carried out by the Institute.

New Rules on drafting research papers were established also in December. The Rules have defined detailed conditions regarding the submission and content of a request for research papers in the Parliament, as well as their preparation, availability, and storing. Research centre, as a unit within the Parliamentary Institute, prepares research papers at the request of MPs and the Secretary General, or on its own initiative.

34. Activity/measure:

Prepare research papers in a timely and quality manner, in accordance with the users' requests

Responsibility of:

Parliamentary Institute (Research Centre)

Timescale:

Continuous

Performance indicator:

Number of requests for research papers

Percentage of requests fulfilled

Implementation:

In 2014, the Research Centre prepared and published 12 research papers, containing about 350 pages, and fulfilled all submitted requests in accordance with the established procedure.

35. Activity/measure:

Provide answers to queries submitted through the ECPRD network

Responsibility of:

Parliamentary Institute (Research Centre)

Timescale:

Continuous

Performance indicator:

Percentage of responses provided in line with or above average in the ECPRD network

Implementation:

The Research Centre prepared and forwarded responses, in the form of brief information in English, to 79 ECPRD requests in the reporting period. The Research Centre prepared and posted responses to nearly 90% of ECPRD questionnaires sent to the Parliament of Montenegro, which exceeds the average by some 10% when it comes to responding within the ECPRD network.

36. Activity/measure:

Organise an ECPRD seminar on information and communication technologies, which will enable cooperation and exchange of experience among parliaments of the ECPRD member states

Responsibility of:

Section for Information and Communication Technologies and Parliamentary Institute

Timescale:

IV quarter

Performance indicator:

ECPRD seminar held

Number of participants

Implementation:

In cooperation with the European Centre for Parliamentary Research and Documentation (ECPRD), the Parliament of Montenegro organized a seminar for representatives of the parliaments of the ECPRD network member states, dealing with information and communication technologies. The two-day seminar, which was held from 6 to 7 November on the topic "The e-Parliament in action: best practises about ICT strategic planning, information security, mobility and cloud computing" and evaluated as successful, was attended by nearly 40 experts. Representatives of the Parliamentary Service took an active part in the seminar, particularly for strategic planning of information and communication technologies in the parliament.

37. Activity/measure:

Enable connection and provision of conditions for interlibrary dialogue and cooperation through COBISS

Responsibility of:

Parliamentary Institute (Library and Documentation Centre)

Timescale:

Continuous

Performance indicator:

Conditions for downloading of books provided

Implementation:

In 2014, the procedure was initiated for obtaining license for shared cataloguing of library material issued by the Commission of the National Library "Đurđe Crnojević - Cetinje".

Thirty records were made and selected in the license database, which were then sent to the Commission for evaluation. Consultations continued to prove work proficiency for shared cataloguing, which is the last requirement for applying for the license. The license is officially expected in the first half of 2015. Upon obtaining the above license, the library of the Parliament of Montenegro will become an active participant in the national library and information system and COBISS.Net, which means it will commence library automation according to international recommendations and standards, ensuring an improved access to the library for its users.

38. Activity/measure:

Draft conceptual design for the permanent provision of adequate premises for the needs of the Parliament of Montenegro

Responsibility of:

Parliament

Directorate of Public Works

Timescale:

IV quarter

Performance indicator:

Conceptual design drafted

Implementation:

Conceptual design for the permanent provision of adequate premises for the needs of the Parliament of Montenegro was not drafted, and this activity is transferred to 2015.

39. Activity/measure:

Continue implementation of the project for the development and implementation of the legislative information system, within the Strategic Framework, funded under 2011 IPA, after carrying out tender procedure based on the Terms of Reference prepared in 2013

Responsibility of:

Service of the Parliament in cooperation with EUD

Timescale:

II quarter

Performance indicator:

Tender announced by EUD

Best bidder selected

Project implementation started

Implementation:

In the reporting period, cooperation with the EUD for completion of tender documentation was implemented. In the meantime, modification was requested for the solutions proposed in relation to the document that had been previously prepared in cooperation with an expert, which was carried out by the Service of the Parliament intensively in the last quarter so that the final proposal relates to the procurement of equipment for a new server room and hardware for the upgrade of information and communication infrastructure in the Parliament. Announcement of an open procurement procedure is expected in the first half of 2015.

40. Activity/measure:

Adopt a set of rules – policies regulating IT system of the Parliament (Information Systems Security Policy, Internet Usage Policy, Email Server Policy, Computer Anti-virus Policy, etc.)

Responsibility of:

Section for Information and Communication Technologies

Timescale:

III quarter

Performance indicator:

Set of rules adopted

Implementation:

Section for Information and Communication Technologies amended drafts of 18 policies/rules/plans for management and security of information systems. These include project management procedure, computer virus policy, training plan for users in accordance with security policy and procedures, internet usage policy, rulebook on competencies and accountability, rulebook on managing passwords, procedure on disposal of equipment, procedure for reporting on information system, incidents and IT risks, back-up managing procedure, risk management in information environment of the Parliament of Montenegro. Some procedures have been put in practice recently, although they have not been formally adopted during 2014.

41. Activity/measure:

Further develop intranet portal

Responsibility of:

Section for Information and Communication Technologies

Timescale:

Continuous

Performance indicator:

New features introduced

Average number of users per week

Total number of registered users

Implementation:

Intranet portal has proved to be a successful means of communication among employees, which is evidenced by data on its use; there are 137 registered users, who made 188,881 visits since 1 March 2014, when visit counter was introduced.

42. Activity/measure:

Initiate the creation of digital documentation/archives

Responsibility of:

Section for Information and Communication Technologies; Sector for Research, Documentation and IT Network

Timescale:

IV quarter

Performance indicator:

Digitalisation initiated

Percentage of digitalised material

Implementation:

All legislative process related documents of the 24th and 25th convocations are available in electronic format (PDF). Specifically, all legislative documents are continually scanned at the Registry Office of the Parliament and then posted on the website in a separate application that can be searched by various criteria. At the same time, this means that a document lifecycle can be followed through stages including from proposal, referral, amendments, reports, to the final text of the law. Possibility of digitizing other documentation, which would be merged in a way that would enable easier management of information and better access to both internal and external users, is currently under consideration.

43. Activity/measure:

Revise the Human Resources Strategy

Responsibility of:

Human Resources Management Bureau

Timescale:

I quarter

Performance indicator:

Strategy revised

Percentage of activities implemented against the plan

Implementation:

The Human Resources Strategy was revised in March 2014.

44. Activity/measure:

Adopt Special Training and Development Programme and Training Plan for 2014

Responsibility of:

Human Resources Management Bureau

Timescale:

I quarter

Performance indicator:

Special Training and Development Programme adopted

Training Plan for 2014 adopted

Number of trainings envisaged in the Plan for 2014 compared to the Training Plan for 2013

Implementation:

Special Training and Development Programme and the Training Plan for 2014 were adopted in March 2014.

Special Training and Development Programme, which includes the Training Plan given as a table, contains all professional development activities including trainings, learning by doing, manuals and other materials, and funding for special vocational training and development.

Training Plan for 2014 envisaged 11 trainings.

45. Activity/measure:

Implementation of the Training Plan for 2014

Responsibility of:

Human Resources Management Bureau

Timescale:

Continuous

Performance indicator:

Number of trainings implemented

Number of participants

Implementation:

From 1 January to 31 December 2014, staff of the Parliamentary Service attended 61 trainings, with 143 attendees in total.

Out of the total number of trainings held in 2014, three trainings were implemented out of 11 envisaged in the Trainings Plan for 2014, with tree participants. Due to large scope of work and intense legislative activity of the Parliament during the year, the implementation of a number of planned training was postponed until 2015.

46. Activity/measure:

Adopt the Integrity Plan

Responsibility of:

Service of the Parliament

Timescale:

I quarter

Performance indicator:

Integrity Plan adopted

Implementation:

The Secretary General of the Parliament passed the Integrity Plan on 27 June 2014, pursuant to Article 68 of the Law on Civil Servants. The Integrity Plan is a document resulting from the self-assessment of corruption risk exposure of institutions and other irregularities, carried out in order to maintain and improve the integrity of the institution.

The purpose of the plan is to establish mechanisms that will ensure efficient and effective functioning of institutions by strengthening accountability, simplifying complicated procedures, increasing transparency in decision-making, controlling discretionary powers, strengthening ethics, eliminating inefficient practices and inapplicable regulations and by introducing effective system of supervision and control.

Officer for the preparation and implementation of the Integrity Plan (integrity manager) was appointed on 7 June 2013.

47. Activity/measure:

Adopt the Human Resources Plan of the Parliamentary Service

Responsibility of:

Human Resources Management Bureau

Timescale:

I quarter

Performance indicator:

Draft Human Resources Plan of the Parliamentary Service prepared

Human Resources Plan of the Parliamentary Service adopted

Implementation:

Human Resources Plan of the Parliamentary Service for 2014 was adopted in January 2014.

48. Activity/measure:

Implement the Human Resources Plan of the Parliamentary Service

Responsibility of:

Human Resources Management Bureau

Timescale:

Continuous

Performance indicator:

Number of job vacancies announced

Number of tests conducted for filling vacancies in the Parliamentary Service

Number of new staff

Implementation:

On 30 January 2014, the Parliament of Montenegro announced two internal job vacancies within the institution for two positions in the Parliamentary Service. To this end, two testing procedures were carried out, after which Decisions were made on the selection of two employees.

On 19 March 2014, the Parliament announced 19 public job vacancies for 27 positions in the Parliamentary Service. Following the testing procedure, Decisions were made on selection of 26 employees.

For the needs of the Parliament's Service, on 12 November 2014, 11 job vacancies were announced for 12 positions, specifically: one internal vacancy within the institution for one employee; two internal vacancies within the state authorities for two positions and eight public vacancies for nine positions.

49. Activity/measure:

Adopt documents for development of internal communication

Responsibility of:

Service of the Parliament

Timescale:

IV quarter

Performance indicator:

Documents for development of internal communication adopted

Percentage of activities implemented compared to the plan

Implementation:

Recognizing the importance of effective internal communication and good relations among employees, as factors that increase work productivity, the Service of the Parliament of Montenegro has begun drafting a strategic document for internal communication. Analysis of the current state in the Parliament in terms of internal communication and exploratory research to obtain information from other parliaments on ways of dealing with this issue served as an initial step in the preparation of this document, which is in the drafting stage. Based on the information collected, the vision, mission, values and target audience were defined with table overview of tasks, activities, target groups with key stakeholders, deadlines, indicators and estimated resources. Although the document has not been formally adopted, some of the activities of this plan are continuously implemented, such as the intranet, regular staff meetings, monthly reporting, publishing of newsletters, etc.

50. Activity/measure:

Adopt documents for development of external communication

Responsibility of:

Service of the Parliament

Timescale:

IV quarter

Performance indicator:

Documents for development of external communication adopted

Percentage of activities implemented compared to the plan

Implementation:

Draft document "Development of external communication of the Parliament of Montenegro" was drawn up.

Developing the communication plan for external communication unfolded in several stages, which included an analysis of the current practice and international experience, defining the vision, mission, values and goals related to external communication, and identification of activities, target groups, stakeholders, deadlines and costs for their implementation and performance indicators for each of the formulated goals.

Of the four planned activities for 2014, two were realized: Democracy workshops project within the Open Parliament programme and monthly newsletter of the Parliament of Montenegro-electronic edition.

51. Activity/measure:

Draft Book of Welcome for new employees in the Parliamentary Service

Responsibility of:

Service of the Parliament

Timescale:

IV quarter

Performance indicator:

Book of Welcome for new employees in the Parliamentary Service drafted

Implementation:

Preparation of the final draft for the Book of Welcome for new employees has been postponed for the next period.

52. Activity/measure:

Draft Book of Welcome for MPs

Responsibility of:

Service of the Parliament

Timescale:

IV quarter

Performance indicator:

Book of Welcome for MPs drafted

Drafting of the Book of Welcome for MPs has been postponed for the next period, primarily due to changes in the legal framework concerning MPs during 2014, which should be included in this document as well.

53. Activity/measure:

Draft handbooks

Responsibility of:

Service of the Parliament

Timescale:

Continuous

Performance indicator:

Number of handbooks prepared

Number of distributed/received handbooks

Implementation:

Work on handbooks continued in 2014 in terms of additions, updating and finalization of final version of the material. Drafts of the following eight handbooks were completed so far:

- Basics of Management,
- Strategic Planning
- Change Management,
- Increasing Performance and Motivation,
- Communications Skills for Managers,
- Teamwork and Leadership,
- Planning and Evaluation of Trainings, and
- Mentorship.

54. Activity/measure:

Adopt Book/List of knowledge, skills and conduct

Responsibility of:

Service of the Parliament

Timescale:

IV quarter

Performance indicator:

Book/List of knowledge, skills and conduct adopted

Implementation:

Preparation of the final draft List of skills/knowledge of the Parliamentary Service has been postponed for the next period, given the changes to the pending Rulebook on organization and systematization.

TRANSPARENCY AND OPENNESS

55. Activity/measure:

Establish procedures for acting of the Committee on Human Rights and Freedoms and the Anti-Corruption Committee on petitions submitted by the citizens and civil society, with TAIEX expert support

Responsibility of:

Committee on Human Rights and Freedoms

Anti-Corruption Committee

Service of the Parliament

Timescale:

III quarter

Performance indicator:

TAIEX mission conducted

Procedures established

Procedures disclosed to the public

Implementation:

TAIEX expert mission for establishing procedures for acting on petitions submitted to the Anti-Corruption Committee and the Committee on Human Rights and Freedoms was carried out in the Parliament from 8 to 11 July 2014. The objective of the mission was to formulate recommendations for further work and establish clear rules for the exercise of the competencies of the two committees concerning petitions, which would be based on an analysis of the current situation, best practices and needs of the Parliament. TAIEX has not yet submitted the draft procedures with the mission report. Since it was envisaged that the procedures would be based, among other things, on TAIEX recommendations, the final procedures for acting of the Committee on Human Rights and Freedoms on petitions of citizens and legal entities related to the exercise of civil rights, as well as procedures for acting of the Anti-Corruption Committee concerning its competence to process petitions and refer them to the competent authorities, in accordance with the scope of its work, will be determined pending TAIEX draft procedures and expert mission report.

56. Activity/measure:

Improve procedures for citizens addressing the Parliament of Montenegro

Responsibility of:

Service of the Parliament

Timescale:

IV quarter

Performance indicator:

Procedures improved

Procedures disclosed to the public

Number of addresses

Implementation:

The Parliament of Montenegro regularly responds to all communication and inquiries received from citizens and legal entities. During 2014, citizens and legal entities filed 141 petition to the Cabinet of the Parliament. In addition, citizens referred 22 requests for information to the Department for Public Relations and Protocol, which contained various questions from the Parliament's scope of work, while 132 individual reporters' questions concerning parliamentary activities were submitted in the same period.

In order to further improve the existing procedures, TAIEX expert mission was carried out in the Parliament of Montenegro from 8 to 11 July 2014, which, in addition to the support for establishing rules for acting on citizens' petitions of the Anti-Corruption Committee and the Committee on Human Rights and Freedoms, included drafting of recommendations for acting on petitions for the Parliamentary Service, as well as development of IT solutions for handling e-petitions. After TAIEX submits the final version of the recommendations, procedures for acting on petitions submitted to the Parliamentary Service will be defined and IT solutions for handling e-petitions of general interest will be optimized, which will allow for a greater degree of public participation in policy-making and further contribute to the openness of the Parliament.

57. Activity/measure:

Continue to provide opportunities for the representatives of interested public to participate in the work of the working bodies

Responsibility of:

Working bodies

Timescale:

Continuous

Performance indicator:

Number of attendances and participation of civil society representatives in the work of working bodies

Implementation:

Interested public has the possibility to participate in meetings of the working bodies in line with Article 67 of the Rules of Procedure. In 2014, there were about 180 attendances of representatives of civil society, including individuals and representatives of 72 NGOs. Participation of about 30 representatives of international organizations in Montenegro was also recorded.

In addition, representatives of a number of NGOs attend meetings of the working bodies and follow their work. In 2014, there were close to 90 attendances of representatives of 16 NGOs and over 30 attendances of representatives of international organizations in Montenegro.

58. Activity/measure:

Initiate the process of regular participation of the Parliament of Montenegro in the work of the international parliamentary Legislative Openness Working Group

Responsibility of:

Collegium of the President

Service of the Parliament

Timescale:

III quarter

Performance indicator:

Parliament of Montenegro participates in the work of Legislative Openness Working Group

Implementation:

Collegium of the President of the Parliament endorsed Parliaments' joining in the work of the Legislative Openness Working Group at its 78th meeting, held on 16 June 2014. One representative of each MPs' Group and the Secretary General of the Parliament were nominated as members of the LOWG.

The Parliament of Montenegro hosted LOWG regional meeting "Increasing civic participation and strengthening parliament through legislative openness", which took place on 15 and 16 September 2014 in Podgorica. The regional meeting was attended by about 50 MPs, representatives of governments, parliamentary services and NGOs from 13 countries, as well as representatives of several international organizations.

Special attention was paid to the best practices in publishing and use of parliamentary information, application of new technologies aimed at encouraging greater involvement of citizens in parliamentary activities, role of parliaments in promoting civic education, especially youth education, and strengthening parliament's role in Open Government Partnership process.

Participation in the LOWG, in addition to the exchange of experience and views on parliamentary openness and transparency, and particularly on opportunities for greater involvement of citizens in the legislative process by taking advantage of information technology and social networks, also entails participation in studies and research concerning the above issues. In this respect, the Parliament took part in the survey that the Working Group conducted to collect information on the availability of parliamentary information, accessible data on parliamentary work, and manner of disclosure.

59. Activity/measure:

Provide access for persons with disabilities to the building of the Parliament by installing an appropriate platform

Responsibility of:

Service of the Parliament

Timescale:

IV quarter

Performance indicator:

Tender procedure conducted

Platform installed

Implementation:

The implementation of the measure that provides for the installation of appropriate access platform for persons with reduced mobility in the Parliament building is underway.

Action plan of adjustment of public facilities for access, movement and use of persons with reduced mobility in 2014 was adopted by the Ministry of Sustainable Development and Tourism in accordance with the Government's Agenda for 2013. The plan provided for the necessary elements of accessibility amounting to EUR 140,400.090. During 2014, the tender procedure was initiated for the development of technical documentation for all facilities covered by the plan, including the building of the Parliament. In late 2014, after the completion of the tender, the main design for inclined mounting platform for persons with reduced mobility was prepared. Procurement and installation of the platform are expected in 2015.

60. Activity/measure:

Consider possibility of making Parliament's website features more accessible to persons with disabilities

Responsibility of:

Service of the Parliament

Timescale:

IV quarter

Performance indicator:

Assessment of required technical and financial resources

Analysis of experience of other parliaments

Preparation of conceptual design

Implementation:

In the reporting period, initial activities were launched in terms of considering the possibility of making the features and contents on the website of the Parliament more accessible to persons with disabilities through consideration of the experience of other parliaments and offer of suitable software on the market.

The Service of the Parliament of Montenegro, i.e. Research Centre of the Parliamentary Institute prepared a research paper "Using sign language in the parliaments", presenting data about translation to sign language during events held in the parliaments of 15 EU MS and regional countries. The Parliament of Montenegro has expressed its willingness to cooperate on these issues with civil society and, within the limits of its financial resources, make accessible part of parliamentary activities or information to persons with impaired vision or hearing.

61. Activity/measure:

Organise the "Children's Parliament"

Responsibility of:

Department for Public Relations and Protocol

Timescale:

December

Performance indicator:

"Children's Parliament" held

Number of participants

Parliament of Montenegro organized VI Children's Parliament in cooperation with the Centre for Child Rights of Montenegro and with the support of Save the Children International, on the occasion of 20 November, the date of the adoption of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, and ahead of the new reporting to the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child (2015).

President of the Parliament of Montenegro Ranko Krivokapić opened VI session of the Children's Parliament that was attended by 44 representatives of local children's parliament from 22 municipalities, who were informed by the representatives of the Government of Montenegro about actions taken to improve the children's rights in the past five years and on matters children had asked at previous sessions.

In addition to representatives of the MP's Groups in the Parliament, the session was attended by representatives of national institutions and international organizations dealing with children's rights, as well as members of the diplomatic corps.

62. Activity/measure:

Organise the "Women's Parliament"

Responsibility of:

Gender Equality Committee

Department for Public Relations and Protocol

Timescale:

March

Performance indicator:

"Women's Parliament" held

Number of participants

Implementation:

"Women's Parliament" was held on 7 March, with 76 participants, in addition to 11 representatives of the Government who answered the questions. Gender Equality Committee organized the third session of the "Women's Parliament" to promote women's human rights, where members of the Montenegrin Government responded to questions of representatives of women's groups of the parliamentary parties and representatives of universities, trade unions, local governments and NGOs. Women's Parliament is important as it is aimed at increasing the visibility of the need for greater participation of women in political and public life and the possibility to get an overview of the situation in the field of gender equality and identify areas where additional efforts are needed in order to achieve significant results through dialogue between the Parliament, the Government and civil society. The session was attended by Vice-Presidents of the Parliament, female MPs, chairs of MPs Groups, representatives of women's groups of the parliamentary parties, representatives of universities, trade unions, local governments and NGOs, Deputy Secretary General of the Parliament and guests - presidents of the Supreme Court and the Constitutional Court, the Protector of human rights and freedoms of Montenegro, president of the Municipality of Kotor, presidents of the municipal assemblies of Bar and Herceg Novi, advisor to the President of Montenegro, the diplomatic corps and representatives of international organizations. The session was held on March 7 ahead of the International Women's Day.

Women's Parliament session was preceded by the opening of the exhibition "The Road to Love" in the lobby of the Parliament, featuring the works of children with intellectual disabilities and children from the regular population from atelier "I know the way." Children's artwork was donated to participants of the Women's Parliament.

63. Activity/measure:

Organise the "Entrepreneurship Parliament"

Responsibility of:

Service of the Parliament

Timescale:

IV quarter

Performance indicator:

"Entrepreneurship Parliament" held

Number of participants

Implementation:

Entrepreneurship Parliament was not held in the reporting period.

64. Activity/measure:

Continue to implement "Democracy Workshops" project and introduce the third product of workshops (TV report)

Responsibility of:

Parliamentary Institute (Education Centre)

Timescale:

Continuous

Performance indicator:

Number of workshops held

Number of students involved in the project

Number of guests

TV report introduced

Implementation:

There were 247 workshops in 2014, with 5494 students and 350 teachers from 82 primary schools. During 159 workshops on "Democracy and Parliament", 54 workshops on "European Union" and 34 workshops dealing with "Human Rights", a total of 151 children's newspapers, 42 radio reports and 54 TV reports were made. The guests of the workshops included President of the Parliament of Montenegro Ranko Krivokapić and Speaker of the Parliament of Greece Evangelos Meimarakis, President of the Federal Council of the Parliament of Austria Ana Blatnik, Head of the OSCE Mission Janina Hrebickova, MP Slaven Radunović, British Ambassador Ian Whitting and Secretary General of the Parliament of Kosovo.

In addition to introducing TV reports, as the new product in the first half of the year, another topic of the workshop entitled "Human Rights" was introduced in October.

65. Activity/measure:

Organise visits to the Parliament for the groups of citizens and similar events (exhibitions, concerts, etc.)

Responsibility of:

Department for Public Relations and Protocol

Timescale:

Continuous

Performance indicator:

Number of visits and similar events

Number of citizens visiting the Parliament

Implementation:

Parliament of Montenegro regularly organizes visits of citizens, including students and pupils, and various events, such as exhibitions, concerts and the like, which amounted to 12 events in 2014. Some of the events organized in the Parliament were:

- Representatives of the debate club of the Gymnasium "Slobodan Škerović" from Podgorica visited the Parliament on 21 February.
- Group of participants of the international student conference Montenegro international Model of United Nations (MIMUN) visited the Parliament on 17 March, within the Open Parliament programme.
- Group of students of the Montenegrin Association of Political Science Students visited the Parliament on 21 March and learned more about the history of the Montenegrin parliamentary system, the organization and structure of the Parliament, its powers and functions.
- Group of students of the Montenegrin Association of Political Science Students visited the Parliament on 17 April.
- Graduates of the Secondary School of Economics and Hospitality from Bar, Legal and Administrative Department, visited the Parliament on 9 May. The visit was organized on the occasion of Europe Day.
- Group of former MPs of the Parliament of France visited the Parliament of Montenegro on 19 June. The visit was part of the Open Parliament programme.
- Vice President of the Parliament Branko Radulović spoke with representatives of the EDS (European Democrat Students) on 19 June. Prof. Radulović expressed satisfaction with their visit and the fact that the role of young people in the EU integration was strengthened in this way.
- Within the framework of the third session of the Women's Parliament, which was held on 7 March, an exhibition of artworks of children with intellectual disabilities and children from regular population was opened.
- Members of the Committee on European Integration met with participants of XIII Democratic Leadership School on 17 October. On this occasion, MPs presented the Committee's work, its role as the hub of the parliamentary dimension of the European integration process, and discussed the current challenges on Montenegro's path to EU membership.
- Day of parliamentarism in Montenegro was celebrated on 31 October.

Fundraising event "For Children of Montenegro", initiated by President Ranko Krivokapić to raise money for a maternity hospital in Montenegro, brought together MPs, ambassadors in Montenegro and employees of the Parliamentary Service on 15 December in front of the Parliament. In addition to the money raised in this action, the Parliament of Montenegro allocated certain amount from its budget savings, which are made every year in spite of continued intensification of work and activities, and donated it to the maternity ward.

Concert of *Montenegro Muses* (the first female string orchestra in Montenegro) was held on 24 December, on presenting awards to the best employees of the Parliament.

In total, about 440 people visited the Parliament in 2014 in this way.

In addition, 3,634 students and 217 teachers from Montenegrin primary schools visited the Parliament through the Democracy Workshop project.

66. Activity/measure:

Develop a model for implementation of the Internship Programme and begin its application in 2014

Responsibility of:

Parliamentary Institute (Education Centre)

Timescale:

IV quarter

Performance indicator:

Model of Internship Programme implementation developed

Implementation of Internship Programme started

Number of students participating in the Programme

Implementation:

In the previous period, implementation models for Internship Program and possible support of international organizations and civil society in this area were discussed. Internship program was not launched in 2014 due to objective limitations. Work on this measure is to be transferred for the next year.

67. Activity/measure:

Prepare, design and print brochures about the work of the Parliament

Responsibility of:

Parliamentary Institute (Education Centre)

Timescale:

IV quarter

Performance indicator:

At least two parliamentary brochures designed

Brochures printed and published online

Brochures "Parliament of Montenegro" and "Open Parliament" were prepared and printed in Montenegrin and English in the reporting period. In addition, brochure "History of the Parliament" was prepared, and it would be printed in early 2015.

68. Activity/measure:

Draft the Parliamentary Glossary

Responsibility of:

Service of the Parliament in cooperation with OSCE Mission to Montenegro

Timescale:

IV quarter

Performance indicator:

Text of Glossary prepared in Montenegrin and English

Parliamentary Glossary available at the Parliament's website

Parliamentary Glossary printed

Implementation:

In the previous period, the Service of the Parliament of Montenegro launched an initiative to create the Parliamentary Glossary defining its concept and setting a goal of developing a comprehensive document with definitions, in Montenegrin and English, of the most important concepts related to parliamentary theory and practice in the context of representative democracy. With the support of the OSCE Mission to Montenegro, external experts and staff of the Parliament of Montenegro defined around 380 parliamentary terms in the reporting period. Wherever possible, a term is generally defined with reference to the theoretical aspect and its wider use, and with the explanation of the term in relation to the valid legislation and practice in Montenegro. Where necessary, synonymous (S) and related terms (RT) are listed below definitions. Some terms have label - closer term (CT), which means that their definition is given within another term to which the reader is referred. Such labelling is important for the printed version, and even more so for electronic form of the glossary as it facilitates search and retrieval of related concepts. To this end, application software has been prepared for computers, tablets and mobile phones, which will be connected to the parliamentary website and open to the public. Versions in both languages are ready for proofreading and final text editing, followed by layout design and printing, and loading of electronic database.

69. Activity/measure:

Regularly respond to all requests for free access to information submitted in accordance with the law

Responsibility of:

Secretary General's Office in cooperation with other organizational units

Timescale:

Continuous

Performance indicator:

Number of requests answered with regard to the number of requests submitted

All requests for access to information are responded to on a regular basis. In 2014, a total of 161 requests for free access to information were submitted to the Parliament (with 186 items) that were responded to as follows:

- access was allowed for 136 requests (access to information was partially restricted for four requests due to protection of privacy);
- for one request, information was already available on the Parliament's website;
- applicants withdrew five requests;
- access was partially allowed for seven requests, mostly due to the lack of information requested;
- access was denied for eight requests because the Parliament was not in possession of information requested,
- access was denied for one request because the applicant was given access to the same information in the previous six months, and because access to information requested or implied compiling new information.

Access was allowed in 2014 for two requests that had been submitted in December 2013. Three requests, submitted after 24 December 2014 would be responded to in January 2015.

70. Activity/measure:

Regularly publish information on the parliamentary activities on the website of the Parliament

Responsibility of:

Service of the Parliament

Department for Public Relations and Protocol

Timescale:

Continuous

Performance indicator:

Amount of information published

Implementation:

All information on the work of the Parliament is regularly published on the website. The website contains all information relating to the legislative procedure, including proposals for laws, amendments, reports and minutes of working bodies, as well as voting listings. In the period from January to December 2014, 4622 announcements, information and statements were published and accompanied with 3145 photos.

In the same period, Department for Public Relations and Protocol of the Parliament of Montenegro issued 386 permanent press accreditations for journalists and cameramen/photographers, of which, individually for 286 journalists permanently accredited and 91 permanent accreditations to cameraman/photographers from 28 electronic and print media, 10 of which are editorials outside Montenegro. Additionally, 145 daily accreditations were issued. In the same period, 132 individual reporters' questions concerning parliamentary activities were processed and responded.

Citizens may post questions on the website *skupstina.me*, and during 2014, 22 such requests were sent to the address of the Department for Public Relations and Protocol.

From January to December 2014, the website of the Parliament was visited 230,518 times in total, of which 72,453 were unique visits. The average time spent on the website was 5 minutes and 6 seconds. Additionally, there were 914,991 page views, of which 642,162 were unique visits. The average time spent on a page of the website was 1 minute and 43 seconds, and visits were recorded from 154 countries.

71. Activity/measure:

Publish all information on the budget and expenditures, and present it in a simple and understandable manner

Responsibility of:

Service of the Parliament

Timescale:

Continuous

Performance indicator:

Information regularly published

Information presented in a clear manner with illustrations and graphs

Number of visits to financial data webpage

Implementation:

All information on the budget and expenditures is published on the Parliament's website, including the Law on Budget and Fiscal Responsibility, i.e. annual state budget, with the proposal for the Law and any pertaining amendments and acts in the legislative process, including all financial parliamentary acts and reports.

Annual and semi-annual reports on the use of resources of the Parliament, which the Secretary General submits to the Committee on Economy, Finance and Budget, are also published on the website.

Part of the website dedicated to finances summarizes the budget adoption procedure and key budget information, as well as Overview of items by economic classification for both budgetary programs of the Parliament. Information on monthly salaries and allowances of MPs are also available here.

Part of the website dedicated to the public procurement provides annual public procurement plans, individual acts and contracts on the use of financial resources from public revenues and state property, in accordance with the Public Procurement Law.

In 2014, the Parliament's webpage dedicated to public procurement was visited 2966 times, of which 2419 were unique visits, and average time visitors spent on the website was 1 minute and 49 seconds. Webpages dedicated to finances were visited 612 times, of which there 519 were unique visits, and the average time visitors spent on the website was 3 minutes and 10 seconds.

72. Activity/measure:

Inform the public on the most important parliamentary activities via online bulletin "Open Parliament"

Responsibility of:

Parliamentary Institute (Education Centre)

Timescale:

Continuous

Performance indicator:

11 bulletins published (excluding August due to annual leave)

Implementation:

Publication of the monthly newsletter "Open Parliament" continued in 2014 (for every month except August). "Open Parliament" is an electronic publication about the work of the Parliament of Montenegro, which provides information about the most important parliamentary activities on a monthly basis. The newsletter is published on the Parliament's website, in Montenegrin and English, and sent electronically to nearly 900 domestic and international addresses, including embassies in Montenegro and MEPs.

During 2014, the webpage of a monthly newsletter "Open Parliament" was visited 1782 times, of which 1195 were unique visits (data shown are given collectively for both Montenegrin and English version).

73. Activity/measure:

Regularly update listings of public voting on the website of the Parliament

Responsibility of:

Department for Public Relations and Protocol and Section for Information and Communication Technologies

Timescale:

Continuous

Performance indicator:

Listings of voting regularly published on the Parliament's website

Implementation:

This measure is continuously implemented. All listings of voting, which were generated through the electronic voting system, were published on the Parliament's website.

74. Activity/measure:

Introduce Parliamentary television channel on cable networks

Responsibility of:

Service of the Parliament

Timescale:

III quarter

Performance indicator:

Parliamentary TV channel introduced on cable networks

Number of networks where the channel is available

	Number of households with the channel available
	Implementation:
	This measure was not conducted in 2014.
75.	Activity/measure:
	Perform analysis of conditions and assessment of the need to introduce the broadcasting parliamentary television channel
	Responsibility of:
	Collegium
	Timescale:
	IV quarter
	Performance indicator:
	Analysis and assessment of the need for introducing the broadcasting parliamentary TV channel completed
	Implementation:
	This measure was not conducted in 2014.
76.	Activity/measure:
	Prepare and publish Annual Performance Report of the Parliament of Montenegro for 2013
	Responsibility of:
	Secretary General's Office in cooperation with other organizational units
	Timescale:
	I quarter
	Performance indicator:
	Annual report published
	Implementation:
	Annual Report of the Parliament of Montenegro for 2013 was prepared and is now available in Montenegrin and English on the website of the Parliament.
	The report is also available in printed version.
77.	Activity/measure:
	Report on the implementation of the Plan
	Responsibility of:
	Secretary General's Office in cooperation with other organizational units
	Timescale:
	III quarter of 2014
	I quarter of 2015
	Performance indicator:
	Reports on the implementation of the Plan prepared

Semi-annual report on the implementation of the Action Plan for strengthening of legislative and oversight role of the Parliament of Montenegro in 2014, for the period from 1 January to 30 June, which contained an overview of the implementation of measures and activities in relation to the Plan, was published in July 2014 on the website of the Parliament. Annual Report on the Implementation of the Action Plan will be prepared and published by the end of January 2015.