



Parliament of Montenegro

NEWSLETTER OPEN PARLIAMENT

Newsletter on the Parliament of Montenegro Performance ♦ -No. 100 ♦ January 2020

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OPEN PARLIAMENT



Parliament of Montenegro

Newsletter on the Parliament of Montenegro Performance ♦ Electronic format ♦ Release: monthly ♦ Year X ♦ No. 100 ♦ January 2020

FOREWORD

Dear readers,

We present to you the key information on activities of the Parliament of Montenegro in the period from 1 to 31 January, which is, in the form of monthly newsletter "Open Parliament", prepared by Parliamentary Service.

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

In focus of this month's newsletter is the President's participance in the European Parliament - Western Balkans Speakers' Summit, in Brussels.

The newsletter is published monthly through which the Parliament endeavours to bring its work closer to Montenegrin citizens.

We consider this publication to be very significant as a reliable source of information regarding the work of the Parliament and we hope that you will find it useful.

We remain open to your comments and suggestions, as well as criticism, which can help us bring more quality to our work.

**Respectfully,
Parliamentary Service**



LEGISLATIVE AND OVERSIGHT ACTIVITY

Proposals for law deliberated in committees

- **Proposal for a Law on Amendments to the Law on Courts** was considered and proposed to the Parliament for adoption by the Committee on Political System, Judiciary and Administration.
- **Proposal for a Law on Amendments to the Law on State Prosecutor's Office** was considered and proposed to the Parliament for adoption by the Committee on Political System, Judiciary and Administration.

Other activities of working bodies

- At the 100th meeting of the **Committee on Political System, Judiciary and Administration**, on 30 January, there was a consultative hearing of candidates for the election of the Supreme State Prosecutor, as proposed by the Prosecutorial Council.
- At the 70th meeting of the **Committee on International Relations and Emigrants**, on 22 January, members of the Committee considered and unanimously supported the proposal to appoint Ivan Leković as Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary Ambassador of Montenegro to the Kingdom of Belgium, on a residential basis, in Brussels.
- At the 82nd meeting of the **Administrative Committee**, of 27 January, the Committee decided to advertise a Public Call on the Appointment of President of the State Electoral Commission.

Parliament of Montenegro

The newsletter is edited by the Education Centre of the Parliamentary Institute.

NEWS FROM PARLIAMENT



President Brajović meets with European Parliament's Rapporteur for Montenegro Tonino Picula

President Brajović met with European Parliament's Rapporteur for Montenegro Tonino Picula on 23 January, who was visiting Montenegro for the first time following his appointment as European Parliament's Rapporteur for Montenegro in October of the previous year. Vicepresidents of the Parliament Branimir Gvozdenović and Genci Nimanbegu also attended the meeting. Brajović emphasised the importance of the current Croatian Presidency of the Council of the European Union, which set the enlargement process high on its agenda, for the purpose of introducing a new dynamics and providing a clearer definition of the process. Brajović added that the Parliament welcomed and highly regarded the European Parliament's active initiative, requiring that the institutions

of the European Union and the EU member states cease any attempts of impediment of the enlargement process. Picula added that Montenegro and all the countries in the region could count on the partnership of both the European Parliament and President Sassoli, calling for the further enlargement, as the most efficient instrument of EU's foreign policy, by taking into account the individual progress of each country. MP Picula remained optimistic in the assertions that Montenegro would not be faced with any type of discrimination further in the process, given its significant progress during the entire reform process. Picula expressed hope that the new approach to negotiations would prove stable, reliable and credible, notwithstanding the internal issues of member states.

Conference on the occasion of marking the International Holocaust Remembrance Day

Parliament organised for a second time in a row the Conference on the occasion of marking 27 January - International Holocaust Remembrance Day - the day of liberation of prisoners of the death camp Auschwitz Birkenau in 1945. On the occasion, there was a conference within the frameworks of which the participants joined the *WeRemember* campaign, whose goal was to increase awareness on the holocaust and all types of xenophobia and genocide. Brajović addressed the participants, and on the occasion revealed the results of a last year's Eurobarometer survey indicating that Europe was being faced with increased anti-semitism and was convinced that Montenegro had no such affiliations, and assured them that it would remain as such, committed to promoting the development of the Montenegrin society which had never stood for nationalist incidents, in the contrary, it was determined in identifying and openly denouncing all types of chauvinism and display of fanaticism. The President thanked the Jewish Community for choosing the Parliament of Montenegro to join them in remembrance of the holocaust victims, enabling them to jointly foster anti-fascist values. Aside from the MPs, President of the Parliament and members of the Collegium of the President

of the Parliament, the following also attended: representatives of the Institution of the Protector of



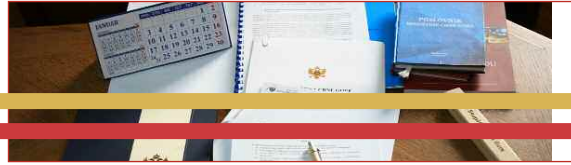
Human Rights and Freedoms, Ministry of Human and Minority Rights, Ministry of Education, Ministry of Culture, Federation of Associations of Veterans of the People's Liberation War in Yugoslavia and Anti-fascists of Montenegro, Rabbi of the Jewish Community in Montenegro Ari Edelkop, representatives of the Jewish Community and the Embassy of Israel in Montenegro, and representatives of the Delegation of the EU in Montenegro, UN Agency, OSCE, Council of Europe and diplomatic corps.

PARLIAMENTARY GLOSSARY

A **Parliamentary Delegation** is a group of MPs that represents a parliament in its relations with an international organisation or other states. Delegations may be permanent (mainly when it comes to multilateral cooperation with international organisations) or temporary, in the case of bilateral cooperation.¹

¹ Doc. dr Komar, Olivera, Prof. dr Ivana Jelić, Nataša Komnenić, Irena Mijanović, Jelena Radonjić, Vlatko Šćepanović, *Parlamentarni leksikon*, Podgorica, Skupština Crne Gore 2016, p 257.

IN FOCUS



President of the Parliament participated in the European Parliament - Western Balkans Speakers' Summit in Brussels

President of the Parliament participated, on 28 January, in the European Parliament - Western Balkans Speakers' Summit together with the heads of parliaments of Croatia, Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo, Northern Macedonia and Serbia, at the invitation of President of the European Parliament David Maria Sassoli. At the opening of the Summit, Sassoli affirmed that the enlargement policy had always been part of the European strategy, and at this point, a stronger role of national parliaments was required and further promotion of cooperation in the forthcoming European processes. In his address, the President highly commended the assertiveness shown by the European Parliament and its President in dismissing the attempts to undermine the further enlargement of South-Eastern Europe countries. Declarations provided by the parliamentarians and adopted resolutions were in line with Montenegro's position stating that the EU enlargement process was conditioned by individual progress, the most successful foreign policy instrument. Brajović added that whilst the future model of conducting negotiations with the candidate countries might differ, Montenegro would inevitably act in accordance with the previously determined rules further along in the process, and thusly enter its final stage of negotiations. He was also in full accord with the plans to increase the role of the national parliaments, civic society

and local communities in the enlargement process. This was also an opportunity to meet with the Commissioner for European Neighbourhood Policy and Enlargement Olivér Várhelyi in order to discuss the EU enlargement policy and the further activities of Montenegro. During the meeting with Chair of the Delegation to the EU-Montenegro Stabilisation and Association Parliamentary Committee Vladimír Bilčík, Brajović stressed the importance of placing the focus on the enlargement of the Western Balkan countries and also the future of the EU enlargement. Parliamentary dialogue and activities on the field of electoral and other legislation, were discussed, as well as activities related to the upcoming SAPC Meeting, scheduled to take place by the end of February. President Brajović also met with chairs and representatives of political groups of the European Parliament, and on the occasion had the great opportunity to meet with various policymakers and discuss the individual status and achievements of Western Balkan countries in the integration process, and also possible solutions to the challenges they were facing. During the meeting with the members of the Foreign Affairs Committee's Working Group on the Western Balkans, chaired by MP Tonino Picula, there were talks on the modalities of support of the European Union to the Western Balkans, and also concrete policies relevant for the inter-parliamentary cooperation.

PARLIAMENT OF MONTENEGRO-FROM CATALOGUE OF RECEIVED PRESENTS

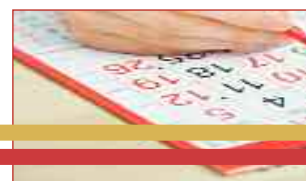
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Extended by: PRESIDENT OF THE GREEK PARLIAMENT
Recipient: PRESIDENT OF THE PARLIAMENT OF MONTENEGRO
Date of receipt: 24. 10. 2014.



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14 January

- A two-day workshop was organised by the World Health Organisation in Talin on strengthening intersectoral cooperation among interested parties aimed at combatting violence against children in the priority countries. The Delegation of the Parliament was composed of Chair of the Committee on Health, Labour and Social Welfare Suad Numanović, Chair of the Committee on Human Rights and Freedoms Halil Duković and MP Nikola Divanović. In his address, MP Numanović pointed out to the need of a multidisciplinary approach to protecting children from



violence, since early preventional measures were conceivable only through joint efforts. Since May 2017, Montenegro joined a group comprised of 50 states that had banned physical violence against children. It is the parliamentarians who played a very important role in both professional and humanitarian context, as well as other relevant entities within the society, via educational-preventional campaign, inter-sectoral cooperation, efficient implementation of legislation or action plans for the implementation of strategies. A strategy is currently being promoted in Montenegro, whereas the experience, findings and methods in the field of prevention of violence against children at both the national and local level have proven very useful in the implementation of the strategy.

15 January

- President of the Parliament received the Ambassador of the Republic of Slovakia Roman Hloben in a farewell visit, on the occasion of termination of his term of office in Montenegro. Brajović thanked Ambassador Hloben for his commitment and personal contribution in strengthening the relations between both countries, noting that political dialogue was upgraded in all levels,

and also overall institutional ties and cooperation were additionally strengthened. The interlocutors expressed expectation that the excellent political relations between both NATO members would be continued, and also that the Republic of Slovakia would continue to provide its strong support to Montenegro on its EU integration path.

17 January

- Committee on European Integration took part in the Sixteenth Meeting of Conference of the Parliamentary Committees on European Integration/Affairs of the States Participating in the Stabilization and Association Process in South East Europe (COSAP). The meeting was marked by discussion on the role and responsibilities of the Parliament in regards to the Berlin process. The Delegation was composed of members of the Committee Momčilo Martinović and Mihailo Anđušić. Within the first panel, the interlocutors discussed the mobility of young people, the issue of their unemployment and the demographic and migration trends in the region. The importance of promoting the educational system and training was emphasised, as well as undertaking of measures for improving the quality of work environment and promoting entrepreneurship, as well as promoting mobility of the young people in countries in the region, those being the main preconditions for a better life of the younger generations. Countries in the region were required to demonstrate political commitment and observe their commitments in regards to the European integration process, while the EU was required to provide a clearer definition of european perspective for the region and the enlargement process was to remain an EU agenda priority. A joint Declaration was adopted, which endorsed the idea of including the parliament in the Berlin process, which would additionally strengthen cooperation among parliaments in the region and their cooperation with the European Parliament and EU member states.

20 January

- Meeting of the Chairpersons of the Conference of Parliamentary Committees for Union Affairs of Parliaments of the EU (COSAC) within the frameworks of the parliamentary dimension of the Croatian Presidency of the Council of the European Union was marked by the key issues covering the six-month Presidency. The first part of the meeting was dedicated to the priorities of the Croatian Presidency of the

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Council of the European Union. The following four priorities were highlighted as the most important: Europe that develops, Europe that connects, Europe that protects and Europe that is globally influential. Chair Slaven Radunović and member of the Committee Momčilo Martinović attended the meeting on behalf of the Committee on European Integration. In his address, Radunović emphasised that the Western Balkan countries required the assistance from the European Union in conducting the reforms toward the final democratisation of the society. According to him, Montenegro's key challenges stem from the most important issues from chapters 23 and 24 - the rule of law, democratic capacity of institutions, media independence and freedom of expression. Martinović spoke about the importance of the Croatian presidency and high expectations when it comes to Montenegro and the region. He emphasised the hope that during the Presidency of the Republic of Croatia, Montenegro will open the last remaining Chapter 8 - Competition, and that a number of negotiation chapters will be closed for which there is internal readiness.

23 January

- President Brajović met with European Parliament's Rapporteur for Montenegro Tonino Picula, who was visiting Montenegro for the first time following his appointment as European Parliament's Rapporteur for Montenegro in October of the previous year. Vicepresidents of the Parliament Branimir Gvozdenović and Genci Nimanbegu also attended the meeting.
- President Brajović received member of Parliament of the German Federal Province Baden-Württemberg Willi Stächele. President Brajović commended the friendly relations between Montenegro and Federal Republic of Germany and expressed Montenegro's interest in continuously improving cooperation at all levels, including cooperation with the German federal states, in order to provide them with more information on Montenegro's achieved progress and give them more arguments in favour of their continuation of strong support to the European determination of Montenegro. Bearing in mind Montenegro's position with regard to other countries in the region, the President of the Parliament pointed out that individual progress should be respected in the integration process and that it was expected that this process would not follow the same pace for all countries. In this context, he underlined the important role of Germany, as the country presiding

over the Council of the European Union in the second half of the current year, which understands that the integration of countries that meet the necessary conditions helps the European Union to protect its interests and fulfil its international role. Stächele said that Germany has great sympathy for Montenegro, which is reflected in the constant communication on various levels, including frequent visits by

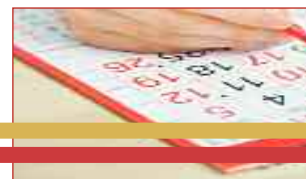


representatives of German provinces. In the context of the EU enlargement, Stächele stressed that Germany does not share the position of France, and that the operational weaknesses of the Union should not be linked to the stopping or slowing down of the negotiation processes, but that the weaknesses should be eliminated and the enlargement should be continued. There was also a meeting of the Committee on International Relations and Emigrants with the Chair of the Committee on European and International Affairs of the Parliament of the German Federal State of Baden-Württemberg.

27 January

- The Parliament organises for a second time in a row the Conference on the occasion of marking 27 January - International Holocaust Remembrance Day.
- Delegation of the Parliament participated in the first ordinary Winter PACE Session, which took place on 27-31 January, in Strasbourg. The Delegation was composed of Head of the Delegation Predrag Sekulić, as well as members Marija Čatović, Sanja Pavićević and Ervin Ibrahimović. At the beginning of the session, Hendrik Daems, Chairperson of the Alliance of Liberals and Democrats for Europe (ALDE) was elected the PACE President, who was also the only candidate eligible for the position, pursuant to the rotation

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principle among parliamentary groups. The Winter Session covered several topics involving the freedom of the media and security in Europe, protection of the freedom of religious freedom in the workplace, reported cases of political prisoners in Azerbaijan. The following were also covered by the session: an annual report on the activities realised within the monitoring process and post-monitoring dialogue of the Parliamentary Assembly, as well as two debates on migrant trafficking and missing refugee and migrant children, as well as organ transplant tourism and trafficking in human tissues and cells. There was also an urgent debate on the topic *Repatriating children from conflict zones is 'a humanitarian duty'*, on which occasion Council of Europe Commissioner for Human Rights Dunja Mijatović addressed the Assembly. Particular emphasis was given to the debate on *complementary joint procedure CM-PACE in response to a serious violation by a member State of its statutory obligations*, following which a resolution was adopted, containing specific guidelines on *how to react* on similar circumstances. Members of the Delegation also participated in the meetings of the political groups of the PA as well as in the meetings of the following working bodies: Committee on Political Affairs and Democracy, Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights, Committee on Migration, Refugees and Displaced Persons, Committee on Equality and Non-Discrimination, and Committee on Social Affairs, Health and Sustainable Development.

28 January

- President of the Parliament participated in the European Parliament - Western Balkans Speakers' Summit together with the heads of parliaments of Croatia, Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo, North Macedonia and Serbia, at the invitation of President of the European Parliament David Maria SASSOLI. This was also an opportunity to meet with the Commissioner for European Neighbourhood Policy and Enlargement Olivér Várhelyi as well as with the Chair of the Delegation to the EU-Montenegro Stabilisation and Association Parliamentary Committee Vladimír Bilčík. In addition, within the frameworks of the Summit, President Brajović also met with chairs and representatives of political groups of the European Parliament.
- Member of the Permanent Delegation of the Parliament of Montenegro to the NATO PA Genci Nimanbegu, in his capacity as a member of the Committee on the Civil

Dimension of Security and the UNIC, took part in the Meeting of the Ukraine-NATO Interparliamentary Council (UNIC), in Brussels. The first part of the meeting, covered NATO's current programme activities, with the special emphasis on the results achieved as well as the upcoming activities. Continuous cooperation at the NATO-Ukraine level was jointly noted as very important, as well as finding a modality for its further innovation and promotion. At the follow-up, Ojārsr Kalniņš was elected the NATO PA Co-chair of UNIC. During the second part of the Meeting, the



participants were acquainted with the "current state of affairs in Ukraine", with the special focus on providing for the accurate information, as well as providing full information and in a timely manner. A panel session of NATO Ambassadors ensued, on the topic: "National position on the current state of affairs in Ukraine and cooperation between NATO and Ukraine". The Meeting of the Ukraine - NATO Interparliamentary Council (UNIC) wished to provide the participants with the opportunity to conduct a dialogue aimed at increasing the level of transparency in terms of implementation of the Ukraine - NATO Charter, which would serve as a demonstration of interest by the parliaments and their engagement in the activities pertaining to the respective cooperation.

- Member of the Committee on Education, Science, Culture and Sports Aleksandra Vuković participated in Roundtable: „Dishonest behaviour in Education – national and global trends“, in Budva. The event was organised within the frameworks of the project "A Quality Education for Everyone" funded by the European Union and the Council of Europe, which gathered the representatives of relevant national institutions, Ministry of Education, Agency for Control and Quality Assurance of Higher Education, Ethics Committee, who had the opportunity to share opinions

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and experience with several international experts on trends in the field of education. The goal was to enable the representatives of both national and European institutions in the field of education to exchange good practice and experience. The keynote speakers were as follows: Mubera Kurpejović, General director of Directorate for Higher Education; Head of the Co-operation Section at the EU Delegation to Montenegro Hermann Spitz and representative of the Directorate of Democratic Citizenship and Participation Vesna Atanasova. Mubera Kurpejović deemed it very important that all relevant entities in the higher education system join their forces with the Council of Europe, in their efforts to provide for a quality education. During the discussion, Vuković emphasised that the academic union had been very responsible in managing its endeavours and as a member of the Academic union also assured the participants that the task of the Ethics Committee would remain a difficult one. Vuković also added that the high grades acquired in a deceitful manner would not be regarded as a reference of quality, since Montenegro would soon become a part of the European market, which perceived knowledge as self-evident, placing on it a great value. Vuković added that the software for uncovering plagiarism would not jeopardise the integrity of a reputable professor. The participants agreed that continuous efforts were required in strengthening social responsibility as well as educating the younger generations at an early age, by the means of promoting fundamental human values and principles.

29 January

- President of the Parliament met with the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Greece Nikos Dendias who was paying an official visit to Montenegro. The President emphasised that the visit was an enormous incentive to strengthening intergovernmental friendly relations, as well as an opportunity for an overview of wider relations in the Western Balkans. Parliamentary cooperation was highly regarded by both countries and deemed very important, whether in terms of cooperation via committees and friendship groups, or via regional initiatives among which adriatic-ionic parliamentary dimension was very highly regarded. Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Greece assessed that Montenegro had achieved great progress since restoring of its independence and expressed readiness to provide support to Montenegro in its integration process, and also the Western Balkans, as a whole. The interlocutors agreed that economic

cooperation was a high bilateral agenda priority, while the great experience should serve as means of intensifying the cooperation in the areas of shared interest.

30 January

- Within the frameworks of the Conference “Information and Documentation Centre - Atoning for the past - investing in the future”, organised by the Youth Initiative for Human Rights, within the project “Taking responsibility for the past”, a Memorandum was signed between the Parliament and the Youth Initiative for Human Rights on establishing a Research and Documentation Centre. The Memorandum was signed by the Secretary General Aleksandar Jovičević, on behalf of the President of the Parliament of Montenegro. In a letter of the President addressed to the participants of the Conference, which was conveyed by the Secretary General, it was affirmed that Montenegro prided itself in the presence of multi-ethnic, multi-confessional and multi-cultural harmony, and foremost for its capacity to conserve the peace even during the dark period of the 90'. The Signing of the Memorandum between the Parliament and the Youth Initiative for Human Rights marked the beginning of realisation of a project which would serve as common testimony, constant reminder and investment in the future of the young, as well as conservation of peace in Montenegro, the Western Balkans region, Europe and in the entire world. In the course of the said project, the Documentation Centre will be tasked with gathering relevant documents relating to the war crimes committed in the territory of Montenegro, together with all the provided statements, indictment, final judgement and the other sources connected to the war crimes committed during the 90', whereas the Parliament will have undertaken the task of conserving all the gathered documents, and making them accessible to the public.

