

NEWSLETTER OPEN PARLIAMENT



Parliament of Montenegro

Newsletter on the Parliament of Montenegro Performance ♦ No. 104 ♦ May 2020

CONTENT

Legislative and Oversight Activity.....	2
News from Parliament	4
<i>President of the Parliament Ivan Brajović invites European institutions observers to upcoming parliamentary elections.....</i>	<i>4</i>
<i>President of Parliament signs Decision on Establishing Information and Documentation Centre Montenegro.....</i>	<i>4</i>
Parliamentary glossary.....	4
In Focus.....	5
From the Catalogue of Received Presents	5
Calendar.....	6

IN FOCUS

President of the Parliament spoke with the OSCE PA officials

p. 5



PARLIAMENTARY GLOSSARY

*Do you know...
what is Accreditation?*

p.4

PARLIAMENT OF MONTENEGRO - FROM THE CATALOGUE OF RECEIVED PRESENTS

Presents extended by the Israeli official and the President of the Croatian Parliament - Sabor

p.5

OPEN PARLIAMENT



Parliament of Montenegro

Newsletter on the Parliament of Montenegro Performance ♦ Electronic format ♦ Release: monthly ♦ Year X ♦ No. 104 ♦ May 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 May, which is, in the form of monthly newsletter "Open Parliament", prepared by Parliamentary Service.

During May, the Fourth Special Sitting of the First Ordinary Session in 2020 took place. At the Fourth Special Sitting of the First Ordinary Session of the Parliament of Montenegro in 2020, within the agenda item Prime Minister's Questions and MPs' Questions, seven questions were posed to the Prime Minister, while 113 questions were posed to the ministers.

In May, Committees considered two proposals for a law, one proposal for a decision and performed other activities within their oversight role.

In focus of this month's newsletter is the video-call meeting between the President of the Parliament and the OSCE PA officials.

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 Medicines** was considered and proposed to the Parliament for adoption by the Committee on Health, Labour and Social Welfare.
- **Proposal for a Law on Amendments to the Law on Copyright and Related Rights** was considered and proposed to the Parliament for adoption by the Committee on Education, Science, Culture and Sports.

Proposals for other acts deliberated in committees

- **Proposal for a Decision on the Appointment of one member of the State Election Commission** was determined by the Administrative Committee. The Committee decided to propose that the Parliament appoint Andrija Radman as member of the State Election Commission.

Other activities of working bodies

- At the 72nd meeting of the **Committee on International Relations and Emigrants**, held on 14 May, members of the Committee supported the proposal to appoint Dragica Ponorac as Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary Ambassador of Montenegro to Ukraine, on residential basis, in Kiev.
- At the 73rd meeting, held on 15 May, members of the Committee supported the proposal to appoint Vladimir Beratović as Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary Ambassador of Montenegro to the United Kingdom of the Great Britain and Northern Ireland, on residential basis, with the headquarters in London.
- At the 108th meeting of the **Committee on Economy, Finance and Budget**, held on 5 May, the 2019 Performance Report of the Committee was adopted together with the 2020 Work Plan.
- At the 57th meeting of the **Committee on Human Rights and Freedoms**, held on 27 May, the 2020 Work Plan of the Committee was adopted.
- At the 44th meeting of the **Gender Equality Committee**, the 2020 Work Plan of the Committee was adopted.

Parliament of Montenegro

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

NEWS FROM PARLIAMENT



President of the Parliament Ivan Brajović invites European institutions observers to upcoming parliamentary elections

President of the Parliament of Montenegro Ivan Brajović addressed letters to European officials on 6 May inviting their organisations to get actively involved, as before, in observing the upcoming election process in Montenegro. In the letters addressed to President of the European Parliament David Sassoli, President of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly George Tsereteli, Director of the OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights Ingibjörg Gísladóttir and

President of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe Hendrik Daems, it is emphasised that transparency of the electoral process, the holding of free and fair elections in line with international standards and best democratic practices in Europe are essential for Montenegro. The invitation letters of the President of the Parliament of Montenegro state that, in line with legal procedure, the next parliamentary elections will be held no later than November of this year.

President of Parliament signs Decision on Establishing Information and Documentation Centre Montenegro

President of the Parliament of Montenegro Ivan Brajović, signed on 15 May the Decision on Establishing the Information and Documentation Centre Montenegro, the task of which is, inter alia, the gathering of relevant documents relating to war crimes committed on the territory of Montenegro, together with all statements, indictments, judgments and other sources connected to the war past during the 1990's. The Parliament of Montenegro has undertaken the obligation of conserving the gathered material and making it permanently available to all of the interested parties. This is a continuation of cooperation with the Youth Initiative for Human Rights within the partnership project of "Taking responsibility for the past", following the signing of the Memorandum on 30 January this year. President Brajović pointed out that he felt proud to have had the opportunity, in the capacity as the President of the Parliament as well,

to make one more contribution to his anti-war engagement and clear political orientation over more than 30 years of social activity. The President of the Parliament emphasised that this was an important project that would serve as our shared testimony, a permanent reminder and a pledge for the future of the youth, the peace in Montenegro and the region of the Western Balkans. President of the Parliament of Montenegro is a member of the Council of the Research and Documentation Centre, the members of which are the following as well: the Dean of the University of Montenegro Faculty of Law, Aneta Spaić, former Montenegrin judge of the Court of Human Rights and the professor at the University of Montenegro Faculty of Law, Nebojša Vučinić, publicist Rifat Rastoder, head of the Podgorica office of Radio Free Europe, Slavica Brajović, President of the Civic Alliance, Mr Boris Raonić and Executive Director of the Humanitarian Law Centre Kosovo, Bekim Blakaj.

PARLIAMENTARY GLOSSARY

Accreditation is an authorization to attend an event issued to third parties. In parliamentary life the function of accreditation is to identify individuals who attend events in the parliament as individuals, on behalf of certain organizations or interest groups, or on behalf of the media. With a view to increasing the openness and transparency of their work, the European Parliament and a large number of national parliaments allow citizens to be present during the work of the parliament, provided that they are registered beforehand. In the Parliament of Montenegro, accreditation can be issued as either annual or daily accreditation and they are most frequently issued to representatives of the media to enable to attend and cover events in the Parliament.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 170

IN FOCUS



President of the Parliament of Montenegro spoke with the OSCE PA officials

President Brajović talked on 25 May via video-conference with the OSCE PA's top officials - President George Tsereteli, Secretary General Roberto Montella and Special Representative on South East Europe Mark Pritchard as well as head of parliamentary delegations to the OSCE PA from Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, North Macedonia and Serbia. President of the OSCE PA George Tsereteli pointed out that during Covid 19 pandemic, the committees of this organisation, counting 57 states, were in constant communication, and that there was an exchange of information between members in the priority area of health security. Brajović expressed pleasure with the fact that as of yesterday Montenegro has been the first state with no coronavirus infections, whereby the great news is the result of timely and thorough strategy and efforts of institutions and individuals and the entire society. He informed his interlocutors in the OSCE PA that the Parliament of Montenegro operated in an efficient manner during the pandemic with maximum protection of employees and MPs. He emphasised that the region and Montenegro received political and economic support from the European Union, which confirmed the European perspective of the Western Balkans. Aside from health and economic challenges, Brajović added that Montenegro was simultaneously facing gross political destruction directed against the state and its

institutions, by the Serbian Orthodox Church, aided by individual political actors from the neighbouring state, all under the guise of defending religious rights and freedoms. Speaking of the upcoming parliamentary elections, Brajović stressed that they will be held in autumn within legislative deadline, and reminded that early in May he sent an invitation to the European institutions for observing the elections. Special Representative on South East Europe Mark Pritchard emphasised the satisfaction with the cooperation of states, solidarity and responsibility during the coronavirus epidemic, and now it is time to preserve stability in the Western Balkans and face economic challenges. He also called for sending observation missions to countries facing parliamentary elections, should the epidemiological situation be favourable. Participants agreed on the importance of developing strategies to overcome challenges in the coming months, and expressed the need for strong multilateral cooperation that can be a significant help to each country. Heads of regional delegations exchanged information on the current health, economic and political opportunities and challenges in their countries, especially ahead of the elections in Serbia and North Macedonia. They agreed that the new circumstances should be used as an opportunity to improve relations, especially in the field of health, transport, trade between the countries of the region.

PARLIAMENT OF MONTENEGRO-FROM CATALOGUE OF RECEIVED PRESENTS

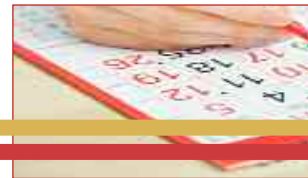
Title: JERUSALEM BELL
Recipient: PRESIDENT OF THE PARLIAMENT OF MONTENEGRO



Title: „THE ARCHERS OF DOMAGOJ“
Country of origin: CROATIA
Extended by: PRESIDENT OF THE CROATIAN SABOR
Recipient: PRESIDENT OF THE PARLIAMENT OF MONTENEGRO
Date of receipt: 3 February 2013



CALENDAR



2 May

- Chair of the Committee on International Relations and Emigrants Andrija Nikolić sent a letter to the organisations and associations of Montenegrin diaspora-emigrants. In the letter, he emphasised the importance of donations and patriotic engagement of our prominent emigrants and diaspora associations, which served at the same time as a confirmation that diaspora never forgets their roots, but on the contrary - inspires everybody to be their best version in overcoming the crisis. The engagement of the responsible people from the Clinical Centre, Public Health Institute, the entire health system, but also other Montenegrin institutions involved in implementing the Government measures during the pandemic, have confirmed that our state has achieved the high level of social and institutional development. Also, it was proven that the citizens believe to the institutions, so today Montenegro has the lowest mortality rate, low infection rate and high rate of those who have recovered. Great credit for the dedicated and organised response of the state to coronavirus outbreak belongs to our diplomatic and consular network, which has crucially helped organise the return of our citizens to Montenegro and foreigners from Montenegro, but also in providing humanitarian aid and donations from abroad and the diaspora. Nikolić emphasised that Montenegro will have a great challenge to face - how to maintain its economic stability and restore the course of strong progress achieved in the previous year and early this year. By turning to domestic production, buying Montenegrin products and spending the summer in the most beautiful place in the world - Montenegro, we will contribute to the recovery of our economy. With a sincere wish that Montenegro and the countries where you live and work get out of the crisis as soon as possible and start the recovery, he thanked everyone who helped our country with its donations and engagement in dealing with the coronavirus epidemic.

6 May

- President of the Parliament of Montenegro Brajović addressed letters to European officials inviting their organisations to get actively involved, as before, in observing the upcoming election process in Montenegro.

9 May

- President of the Parliament of Montenegro Ivan

Brajović, heading a delegation of Montenegro has laid a wreath at the Monument of the Partisan Fighter on Gorica hill, on the occasion of Victory Day. The delegation included Deputy Prime Minister for Political System, Internal and Foreign Policy Zoran Pažin and President of SUBNOR Zuvdija Hodžić. Victory Day commemorates 9 May 1945, the day when Germany signed capitulation in the World War Two.

15 May

- President Brajović signed the Decision on Establishing the Information and Documentation Centre Montenegro.

18 May

- Chair of the Committee on Education, Science, Culture and Sports Radule Novović issued a communiqué on the occasion of marking 18 May - International Museum Day, stating that International Museum Day is celebrated on 18 May, all over the world, from America, Australia and Oceania, to Europe, Asia and Africa. Every year, this day is marked by activities within a specific theme proposed by the International Council of Museums. The theme of this year's event is "Museums for Equality: Diversity and Inclusion". With the theme Museums for Equality: Diversity and Inclusion, the International Museum Day 2020 should be an occasion for gathering in order to celebrate the diversity of perspectives made up of museum communities and its personnel, and the best tools for identifying and overcoming bias in what museums display and the stories they tell to the visitors. In this regard, it is very important to mention that on the occasion of marking the International Museum Day, this year, the National Museum of Montenegro announced that the most attractive and significant exhibits kept in this institution will be presented virtually, and that this practice will continue even after the measures have terminated, taken to prevent the spread of the epidemic.

25 May

- President Brajović talked via video-conference with the OSCE PA's top officials - President George Tsereteli, Secretary General Roberto Montella and Special Representative on South East Europe Mark Pritchard as well as head of parliamentary delegations to the OSCE PA from Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, North Macedonia and Serbia.