

NEWSLETTER OPEN PARLIAMENT



Parliament of Montenegro

Newsletter on the Parliament of Montenegro Performance ♦ No. 107 ♦ September 2020

CONTENTS

News from Parliament	3
<i>Aleksa Bečić elected President of the 27th Parliament at its Constituent Sitting</i>	<i>3</i>
Parliamentary glossary.....	3
In focus	4
From the catalogue of received presents	4
Calendar.....	5

IN FOCUS

Newly-elected President of Parliament meets the Head of EU Delegation to Montenegro

p.4



PARLIAMENTARY GLOSSARY

*Do you know...
what is a Session of Parliament?*

p.3

PARLIAMENT OF MONTENEGRO-FROM CATALOGUE OF RECEIVED PRESENTS

Presents extended by the Prime Minister and Minister of Defence of Thailand and the Speaker of the Representative Chamber of the Romanian Parliament

p.4

OPEN PARLIAMENT



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Newsletter on the Parliament of Montenegro Performance ♦ Electronic format ♦ Release: monthly ♦ Year X ♦ No. 107 ♦ September 2020

FOREWORD

Dear readers,

We present to you the key information on activities of the Parliament of Montenegro in the period from 1 to 30 September, which is, in the form of monthly newsletter "Open Parliament", prepared by Parliamentary Service.

During September, the First - Constituent Sitting of the 27th Parliament took place, in which Aleksa Bečić was elected President of the Parliament.

In focus of this month's newsletter is the meeting of the newly-elected President of the Parliament with the Head of the EU Delegation to Montenegro Oana-Cristina Popa.

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



NEWS FROM PARLIAMENT



Aleksa Bečić elected President of the 27th Parliament at its Constituent Sitting

On day one of the First - Constituent Sitting of the 27th Parliament, held on 23 September, Aleksa Bečić was elected President of the Parliament of Montenegro. Within today's sitting, the Parliament verified terms of office for members of the 27th Parliament, and established the MP Group Social Democratic Party SDP - "UNANIMOUSLY" Albanian Coalition and the MP Group "Black on White".

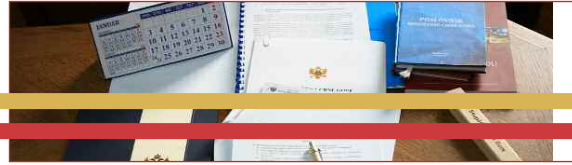


PARLIAMENTARY GLOSSARY

Session of Parliament. A session is the period within which the Parliament convenes and works in sittings. The Parliament of Montenegro works in regular and extraordinary sessions. Regular sessions are held twice a year. The first regular session starts on the first working day in March and lasts until the end of July, while the second regular session starts on the first working day in October and lasts until the end of December. According to the Constitution of Montenegro, an extraordinary session is convened upon request of the President of Montenegro, the Prime Minister or at least one third of the total number of MPs.

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 289

IN FOCUS



Newly-elected President of Parliament meets the Head of EU Delegation to Montenegro

President of the 27th Parliament of Montenegro Aleksa Bečić met, on 25 September, with the Head of the EU Delegation to Montenegro Oana-Cristina Popa. President Bečić welcomed to Montenegro the new Head of the Delegation of the European Union and expressed his satisfaction for his first meeting to be with her, following his taking over the function of the President of the Parliament of Montenegro. Bečić expressed gratitude for the support that the European Union has provided to Montenegro so far in the process of reforms and democratisation, which confirmed that the Western Balkans was still in the focus of the European Union. He especially stressed that it was acknowledged that the assistance provided by the European Union in the fight against the COVID 19 epidemic was far greater than by other international organisations. He said that bearing in mind the complex social and economic and epidemiological situation, it was very important for the new Government to be constituted as quickly and efficiently as possible. Bečić reiterated that the Agreement signed by the representatives of the coalitions of the new parliamentary majority confirmed that the new government will be pro-Montenegrin, pro-European, pro-Western, pro-civil and conciliatory. He said that it would strengthen cooperation within NATO and accelerate the process of European integration, which has united Montenegrin society. Speaking about the negotiation chapters 23 and 24, he pointed out that stagnation in integration process

was not an option, that the new model of negotiations provided the stimulus to those efficient in implementing reforms and that victory in the fight against organised crime and corruption was the only guarantee of a successful and stable Montenegro. Bečić concluded that he perceived the future of Montenegro and the Western Balkans as part of the European Union and that this time there existed no alternative for the entire region. Head of the EU Delegation, Popa, pointed out that she was looking forward to useful and efficient cooperation with the President and the new Parliament, in order to lead Montenegro to EU membership faster. Speaking about the consequences caused by the coronavirus epidemic, she emphasised that the European Union had operational mechanisms to support Montenegro. Popa announced that the European Commission would publish two important documents on 6 October – 2020 Enlargement Report and the EU Investment Plan. Popa stressed that the European Union recognised Montenegro as a leader in the integration process. A significant part of the work has already been done and therefore you have a great responsibility as a model to other countries in the region, she stated. The issue of integration of the countries of the Western Balkans is still on the table and the European perspective is something we take very seriously, Popa stressed. Head of the EU Delegation congratulated Bečić on his election as President of the Parliament of Montenegro and expressed satisfaction with the peaceful transition of power.

PARLIAMENT OF MONTENEGRO-FROM CATALOGUE OF RECEIVED PRESENTS

Title: SILVER FRAME

Country of origin: Thailand

Extended by: Prime Minister and Minister of Defence of Thailand

Recipient: President of the Parliament of Montenegro

Date of receipt: 14 September 2013



Title: OIL IN CANVAS PAINTING „PELES“

Country of origin: Romania

Extended by: Speaker of the Representative Chamber of the Romanian Parliament

Recipient: President of the Parliament of Montenegro

Date of receipt: 22 September 2012



CALENDAR



15 September

- President of the 26th Parliament Ivan Brajović hosted the Ambassador of the Czech Republic to Montenegro Karel Urban. It was jointly stated at the meeting that the elections were fair and transparent, in accordance with legal and democratic principles and norms, with improved election legislation, and high turnout was an indicator of citizens' responsibility towards the state. Brajović said that, in view of making an agreement on the organisation of the First Sitting of the 27th Parliament of Montenegro, he had invited leaders of candidate lists to a meeting, which had secured parliamentary status. In this regard, he expressed the expectation that the date of the Constituent Sitting of the Parliament would be determined during the mentioned meeting and explained the constitutional procedure for the formation of the new Government. - Montenegro has achieved significant results both domestically and internationally, and for that reason it has been recognised as a leader of the European process in the region. Therefore, it has even been greater obligation to maintain the European course and continue with the initiated reforms, and for the political differences to be demonstrated through the dialogue in the Parliament - Brajović pointed out. Ambassador Urban stressed that the Czech Republic would always be an advocate of an independent, civil, multi-ethnic Montenegro that would go forward with its European path, as a member of the North Atlantic Alliance, emphasising that Montenegro had shown institutional strength and democracy during the elections.

21 September

- Ambassador of the Republic of France in Montenegro Christine Toudic paid a farewell visit to the President of the 26th Parliament Ivan Brajović. Brajović thanked the French Ambassador for her devotion to improving bilateral relations of the two countries as well as for the support to the strengthening the overall capacities of Montenegro on its demanding path of European integration. As for the recent parliamentary elections, Brajović emphasised that they took place in a peaceful and democratic atmosphere and in line with an improved legislative framework. Toudic pointed out that she expects that Montenegro will continue its European path, and that the Government that will be formed soon, will be maximally committed to meeting strategic foreign policy goals, as well as further economic development.

23 September

- At the First - Constituent Sitting of the 27th Parliament

Aleksa Bečić was elected President of the Parliament of Montenegro.

25 September

- President of the Parliament of the 27th Parliament received the Head of the EU Delegation to Montenegro Oana-Cristina Popa.

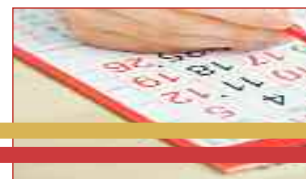
28 September

- President Bečić received in inaugural visit the British Ambassador to Montenegro Karen Maddocks. He expressed satisfaction with the fact that one of his first official meetings is with the representative of the United Kingdom, a country with whom the Montenegrin Parliament has excellent cooperation. He pointed out that the generous support to Montenegro, even in these challenging times due to coronavirus pandemic, is a proof that the UK hasn't forgotten its old ally. He emphasised that the agreement signed by the constituents of the new government clearly indicated that the strengthening of



the previous foreign policy path would be continued as well as affirmation of the civic character of Montenegro, that there would be no revanchism, but that the rule of law would be respected. Speaking of the priorities of the new parliamentary term, Bečić stressed that he would work on the strengthening of the legislative, oversight and control role, thus making this Parliament a true and responsible partner to the Government, adding that without joint agreement of the government and the opposition there can be no effective reforms and successful society. The President also said that he would improve the harmonisation of domestic legislation with European legislation, especially in the areas of justice and electoral legislation, so that the electoral process would never be a point of contention again. Thanking for the long-term support of the British Embassy for the institutional strengthening of the Parliament of

CALENDAR



Montenegro, especially through cooperation with the Westminster Foundation for Democracy, he expressed confidence that the Parliamentary Budget Office will soon become operational in full capacity and thus strengthen the control role of Parliament. Maddocks congratulated the President on his election, adding that the British Government and Parliament, which had a lot of experts from various fields, were willing to help them meet the set goals. The interlocutors exchanged views on the importance of improving economic cooperation, for which there is a lot of potential.

29 September

- President Bečić met with Ambassador of the People's Republic of China to Montenegro Liu Jin. Bečić emphasised that the support of citizens in the previous parliamentary elections obliged them to work in their full capacity and voiced his conviction that the mutual relations between Montenegro and the PR China would be deepened in the best interest of the citizens, and that parliamentary cooperation could contribute to the improvement of the overall relations. In that context, President Bečić voiced his satisfaction with the traditionally good and friendly relations of the two countries that were being built up via the 17+1 Mechanism and Belt and Road initiative, and voiced his full support to the "One-China policy". He referred to the intensifying of bilateral parliamentary relations via the future friendship group with the National People's Congress. The interlocutors noted that the cooperation at the friendship group level could help with further development of Montenegro-China relations, with focus on exchange of goods, people and capital, which would contribute to further mutual interest. Bečić also thanked the PR China for their support in combatting the COVID-19 pandemic and emphasised the decisive role of the Parliament in rendering important personnel decisions, as well as the challenges of the state in combating the pandemic. They also analysed the activities of the current projects in Montenegro in which the Chinese companies participate, and considered Montenegro's potential as well as business and investment opportunities.

30 September

- Deputy Secretary General of the Parliament of Montenegro Marija Mirjačić and Assistant Secretary General Nataša Komnenić took part in the online meeting of secretaries general of the Western Balkan parliaments, organised by the National Democratic Institute (NDI). The meeting was dedicated to good practice and current

challenges in the Western Balkans' parliaments during COVID-19 pandemic by giving an overview both of the legislative and administrative aspect of the parliamentary work. Mirjačić pointed out that the operations of the Parliament of Montenegro were adapted to the circumstances noting that the sittings of the Parliament and meetings of working bodies had been held with observation of all measures and with the support of the video-conferencing system, in order to meet the requirements to hold regular parliamentary activities. She noted that the legislative work of the Parliament and its oversight activities had been continued despite the pandemic, thus in the period since the first confirmed cases in Montenegro in March 2020, the Parliament of Montenegro held seven sittings of the ordinary session, including four special sittings dedicated to the prime minister's hour and parliamentary questions. In September, following the parliamentary elections, the First - Constitutive Sitting of the new 27th Parliament was held. At the meeting, which was attended by secretaries general from the parliaments of Albania, Kosovo and North Macedonia, as well as representatives of the Croatian Parliament and National Assembly of Serbia, they reaffirmed good cooperation among the Western Balkans' parliaments.

- President Bečić met with newly-appointed Permanent Representative of Montenegro to the United Nations and other international organisations in Geneva Ambassador Slavica Milačić. Bečić expressed his conviction that valuable diplomatic experience of Ambassador Milačić was a guarantee that she would perform her duty successfully and devotedly and work efficiently on improving the existing and creating new forms of cooperation between the Parliament of Montenegro and international organisations. Milačić said that the previous results in the Euro-Atlantic path committed Montenegro to remain open towards pro-European policy, and that, despite unfavourable global background, we should keep meeting our obligations towards the EU. The interlocutors also discussed the importance of the Parliament of Montenegro's continual participation in the IPU's activities, as an important organisation which contributes globally to the strengthening of parliamentary diplomacy and multilateralism. Bečić expressed his belief that through the formation of permanent delegations, the Montenegrin Parliament would continue to actively contribute to boosting cooperation at the international level and informed Milačić about the priorities of the new parliamentary term and emphasised that he would work on enhancing the legislative, oversight and control role of the Parliament, so that it would become a true and responsible partner of the Government.