

# OPEN PARLIAMENT



Parliament of Montenegro

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## FOREWORD

*Dear readers,*

You have before you the most important information on activities of the Parliament of Montenegro in the period from 1 to 31 March, published in the form of monthly bulletin "Open Parliament". This is also the first edition independently prepared by the Service of the Parliament. After a very successful cooperation with the Center for Democratic Transition (CDT), starting with this issue, the Service of the Parliament will edit the bulletin with its proper capacities and continue, as before, to bring before you the most important information on the monthly level.

The following editions of the bulletin will keep the existing concept; you will still have the opportunity to read about activities of the Parliament regarding its legislative and oversight role, but also about achieved international cooperation and other actualities. Other than that, I believe that you will continue to appreciate interesting facts from the column "From the history of Montenegrin parliamentarism", as well as the Parliament's art gallery presented in the column "From parliamentary gallery".

With regard to regular parliamentary activities in March, seven laws were adopted and the parliamentary committees deliberated on 15 proposals for laws, as well as on the Proposal for Amendments to the Constitution of Montenegro.

By means of its oversight role, the parliamentary committees discussed a series of issues, among which the consultative hearing held at the meeting of the Committee on Economy, Finance and Budget, on the topic: "Actual situation in the Aluminium Plant Podgorica after adoption of the Decision on the Subsequent Confirmation of the Decision on Taking over a Debt of the Aluminium Plant Podgorica to the Deutsche Bank and the corresponding conclusions in the Parliament of Montenegro".

Two preparatory meetings of MPs, members of the EU-Montenegro Stabilisation and Association Parliamentary Committee (SAPC) were organised this month, where the agenda and topics were discussed, as well as Draft declaration which will be debated upon on the 4<sup>th</sup>



## LEGISLATIVE ACTIVITY

**During March, the Parliament adopted seven laws.**

**At the First Sitting of the First Regular Session of the Parliament of Montenegro in 2012**, the following decisions were adopted: the decision to elect professor Milica Pejanović Đurišić, PhD as the Minister of Defence in the Government of Montenegro, the decision to dismiss Duško Marković from the function of Vice President of the Government and the Minister of Justice and to elect him as Vice President of the Government and Minister of Justice and Human Rights, as well as the decision to reappoint Slobodan Dragović as the Deputy Secretary General.

**At the Third Sitting of the First Regular Session of the Parliament of Montenegro in 2012**, the following laws were adopted: The Law on Chemicals, The Law on Official Statistics and Official Statistics System, The Law on Ratification of the Agreement on Economic Cooperation between the Government of Montenegro and the Government of the Republic of Slovenia, The Law on Ratification of the Agreement between Montenegro, on one hand, and the Belgium-Luxembourg Economic Union, on the other hand, on the Reciprocal Promotion and Protection of Investments, The Law on Ratification of the Additional Protocol to the Convention on Human Rights and Biomedicine, concerning Biomedical Research (CETS No. 195), The Law on Ratification of the Additional Protocol to the Convention on Human Rights and Biomedicine, concerning Genetic Testing for Health Purposes (CETS No. 203) and The Law on Ratification of the International Convention on Salvage, 1989.

Also, the Parliament adopted the Decision on Amendments to the Decision on the Appointment of the President, Secretary and nine Members of the State Election Commission.

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meeting of SAPC, to be held on 2 and 3 April in Podgorica. Previous month was marked with other numerous activities on the regional and international level as well.

The column "In Focus" presents you with the information on the "Women's Parliament", organised for the first time in the Parliament of Montenegro, on 8 March, on the occasion of the International Women's Day, with the aim to promote women's human rights. At the session of the Women's Parliament, representatives of women's associations of the parliamentary parties, as well as representatives of the civil society, had the opportunity to pose questions to members of the Government. With organisation of the "Women's Parliament", the Parliament of Montenegro expressed the readiness to implement and promote in practice issue of gender equality and to contribute to strengthening women's position in the Montenegrin society.

The bulletin "Open Parliament" presents one of the ways in which the Parliament seeks to bring closer its work to Montenegrin citizens. I consider this publication to be very significant as a reliable source of information on work of the Parliament. Therefore, I use this opportunity to express gratitude to the Center for Democratic Transition for all material and expert help provided. In addition, the Parliament owes a great debt of gratitude to the European Union, which financed publishing of the bulletin so far, through the EU Delegation to Montenegro.

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

*Respectfully,*

*Damir Davidović  
Secretary General*

Under the item of the agenda "Elections and appointments", the following decisions were adopted: to dismiss Zoran Vukčević and Zoran Čulafić from the function of members of the Committee on Political System, Judiciary and Administration, and elect Refik Bojadžić and Maida Bešlić as new members; to elect Zoran Čulafić as member of the Security and Defence Committee; to elect Valentina Radulović-Šćepanović as member of the Committee on International Relations and European Integration; to elect Nikola Gegaj as member of the Committee on Economy, Finance and Budget; to dismiss Valentina Radulović-Šćepanović from the function of member of the Gender Equality Committee and elect Jasmin Sutović and Ljubica Aranitović as new members; to dismiss Branko Čavor from the function of member of the Committee on Tourism, Agriculture, Ecology and Spatial Planning and elect him as the Chair of the Committee and Zoran Srzentić, Njegosava Vujanović and Samir Agović as members; to elect Mirsad Mulić as member of the Committee on Education, Science, Culture and Sports; and to elect Zoran Srzentić as member of the Committee on Health, Labour and Social Welfare.

### Proposals for laws considered before committees:

- **Proposal for a Law on the Prohibition of Abuse at Work** considered and proposed to the Parliament for adoption by the Committee on Health, Labour and Social Welfare, the Committee on International Relations and European Integration and by the Constitutional Issues and Legislative Committee. The Proposal for a Law was also considered by the Gender Equality Committee, which, as an interested committee, proposed to the Committee on Health, Labour and Social Welfare, as the lead committee, to propose the law for adoption to the Parliament.
- **Proposal for a Law on Chemicals** considered and proposed to the Parliament for adoption by the Committee on International Relations and European Integration.
- **Proposal for a Law on Road Safety** considered and proposed to the Parliament for adoption by the Committee on Political System, Judiciary and Administration, the Committee on International Relations and European Integration and by the Constitutional Issues and Legislative Committee.
- **Proposal for a Law on Air Transport** considered and proposed to the Parliament for adoption by the Committee on Economy, Finance and Budget, the Committee on International Relations and European Integration and by the Constitutional Issues and Legislative Committee.
- **Proposal for a Law on Amendments to the Law on Mediation** considered and proposed to the Parliament for adoption by the Committee on Political System, Judiciary and Administration and by the Committee on International Relations and European Integration.
- **Proposal for a Law on Control of Export of Dual-Use Goods** considered and proposed to the Parliament for adoption by the Committee on Economy, Finance and Budget, the Committee on International Relations and European Integration, and by the Constitutional Issues and Legislative Committee.
- **Proposal for a Law on Veterinary Service** considered and proposed to the Parliament for adoption by the Committee on Tourism, Agriculture, Ecology and Spatial Planning, the Constitutional Issues and Legislative Committee and the Committee on International Relations and European Integration.
- **Proposal for a Law on Amendments to the Law on the Protection of Population from Infectious Diseases** considered and proposed to the Parliament for adoption by the Committee on Health, Labour and Social Welfare and by the Constitutional Issues and Legislative Committee.
- **Proposal for a Law on Amendments to the Law on Games of Chance** considered and proposed to the Parliament for adoption by the Constitutional Issues and Legislative Committee.
- **Proposal for a Law on Amendments to the Law on Hydrographic Activities** considered and proposed to the Parliament for adoption by the Committee on Tourism, Agriculture, Ecology and Spatial Planning and by the Constitutional Issues and Legislative Committee.

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- **Proposal for a Law on Amendments to the Law on Hydro-Meteorological Affairs** considered and proposed to the Parliament for adoption by the Committee on Tourism, Agriculture, Ecology and Spatial Planning and by the Constitutional Issues and Legislative Committee.
- **Proposal for a Law on Amendments to the Law on Liability of Legal Entities for Criminal Offences** considered and proposed to the Parliament for adoption by the Committee on Political System, Judiciary and Administration and by the Constitutional Issues and Legislative Committee.
- **Proposal for Amendments to the Constitution of Montenegro** considered and proposed to the Parliament for adoption by the Constitutional Issues and Legislative Committee.
- **Proposal for a Law on Publishing Activities** considered and proposed to the Parliament for adoption by the Committee on Education, Science, Culture and Sports.
- **Proposal for a Law on Ratification of the Additional Protocol to the Convention on Human Rights and Biomedicine, concerning Biomedical Research (CETS No. 195)** considered by the Committee on Health, Labour and Social Welfare, as the interested committee. The Committee proposed to the Committee on International Relations and European Integration, the lead committee, to propose the law for adoption to the Parliament.
- **Proposal for a Law on Ratification of the Additional Protocol to the Convention on Human Rights and Biomedicine, concerning Genetic Testing for Health Purposes (CETS No. 203)** considered by the Committee on Health, Labour and Social Welfare, as the interested committee. The Committee proposed to the Committee on International Relations and European Integration, the lead committee, to propose the law for adoption to the Parliament.

### *Other acts considered before committees:*

- **Proposal for a Decision on Amendments to the Spatial Plan of Montenegro until 2020** considered and proposed to the Parliament for adoption by the Constitutional Issues and Legislative Committee. It was also considered by the Committee on Tourism, Agriculture, Ecology and Spatial Planning, which proposed to the Parliament not to adopt the given proposal.
  - **Eight proposals for a decision** considered and proposed to the Parliament for adoption by the Administrative Committee: to dismiss Branko Čavor from the function of the member of the Committee on Tourism, Agriculture, Ecology and Spatial Planning and elect him as the Chair of the Committee and Zoran Srzentić, Njegosava Vujanović and Samir Agović as members; to dismiss Zoran Vukčević and Zoran Ćulafić from the function of members of the Committee on Political System, Judiciary and Administration, and elect Refik Bojadžić and Maida Bešlić as new members; to dismiss Valentina Radulović-Šćepanović from the function of the member of the Gender Equality Committee and elect Jasmin Sutović and Ljubica Aranitović as new members; to elect Nikola Gegaj as the member of the Committee on Economy, Finance and Budget; to elect Valentina Radulović-Šćepanović as the member of the Committee on International Relations and European Integration; to elect Mirsad Mulić as the member of the Committee on Education, Science, Culture and Sports; to elect Zoran Ćulafić as the member of the Security and Defence Committee; and to elect Zoran Srzentić as the member of the Committee on Health, Labour and Social Welfare.
- Also, the Committee dismissed Omer Mehmedović from the function of the Advisor of the Vice President of the Parliament, because he shifted to another function.

## OVERSIGHT ACTIVITY



- At the Second (Special) Sitting of the First Regular Session of the Parliament of Montenegro in 2012, dedicated to Premier's hour and parliamentary questions, MPs' questions were answered by the President of the Government of Montenegro Igor Lukšić and the ministers from the Government. MPs posed seven questions to the President of the Government and 64 questions to the ministers.
- Working Group for the Preparation of Legal Acts on the Work of the Minority Fund (new name: Fund for Protection and Realisation of Minority Rights) held its second meeting on 1 March 2012. Members of the Working Group deliberated on proposals received from six national councils, for the principles on which the work of the Minority Fund should be based. It was agreed that the representative of the Ministry for Human and Minor-

ity Rights, in the context of the planned amendments to the Law on Minority Rights and Freedoms, should consider the proposals made at the Working Group meetings as potential legal solutions. In addition, the Working Group agreed that the suggestions made at the meeting should be delivered to all its members, in order for them to give concrete proposals for amendments to the existing normative regulations at the next meeting.

- At the meeting held on 2 March, the Committee on Human Rights and Freedoms discussed the Information on the Situation in the Institute for Execution of Criminal Sanctions concerning Prisoners' Strike, which was submitted by the Ministry of Justice. The meeting was attended by the Minister of Justice Duško Marković and the Protector of Human Rights and Freedoms of Montenegro Šučko Baković.

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The Minister of Justice Duško Marković informed the MPs that, on 6 February, 700 convicts started a hunger strike in the Institute, expressing their discontent with implementation of the provisions of the Law on Amendments to the Law on Execution of Criminal Sanctions, regarding parole. He assessed that during the seven-day hunger strike, all rights of convicted persons, set by national regulations and international documents were protected. The Protector Baković informed the Committee that, during the investigation of violation of human rights in the Institute, he concluded that the prisoners started the strike because their requests for parole were denied since the new law entered into force. Also, he determined that the prisoners misunderstood the regulations of the new law regarding parole (that this right is obtained automatically after serving 2/3 of the prison sentence).

The Committee members were also informed of the case of the detainee Milivoje Terzić, as well as about protection of rights of the prisoner Željko Bulatović. At the end of the meeting, the Committee decided that based on the Information and the discussion, conclusions are to be made, which the members will be voting upon at the next meeting, and which will be referred to the relevant authorities for further action.

- The Administrative Committee, at the session held on 6 March, decided to approve the Proposal for a Rulebook on the Internal Organisation and Systematisation of the Personal Data Protection Agency. Šefko Crnovršanin, the Chairman of the Council of the Agency, participated in a constructive discussion, as the proposer of the aforementioned act.
- The Committee on International Relations and European Integration, at its meeting held on 14 March, after the interview with the candidate for the Ambassador of Montenegro to the Republic of Croatia on a residential basis, Igor Građević, gave an affirmative opinion, based on his professional and expert abilities that recommend him for this function.
- The Committee on Economy, Finance and Budget held a consultative hearing on 22 March, on the topic: "Actual situation in the Aluminium Plant Podgorica after adoption of the Decision on the Subsequent Confirmation of the Decision on Taking over a Debt of the Aluminium Plant Podgorica to the Deutsche Bank and the corresponding conclusions in the Parliament of Montenegro". The invitation to the meeting was accepted by the Minister of Economy Vladimir Kavarić and the representative of the Government in the Board of Directors of the Aluminium Plant Podgorica Nebojša Dožić. The Chairman of the Board of Directors of KAP and the Executive Director of the En+ Group Alexey Kuznetsov had previously informed the Committee of the fact that he had been prevented from attending the meeting.

During a two-hour discussion, the following matters were discussed: dynamics of the implementation of the conclusions of the Parliament in terms of the adoption of the Decision on the Subsequent Confirmation of the Decision on Taking over a Debt of the Aluminium Plant

Podgorica to the Deutsche Bank, which amounts to 22 million euros, current situation in the Aluminium Plant, work results in 2011 and the first quarter of 2012, etc. The MPs were interested in issues related to the risk of activating guarantees towards the Hungarian OTP Bank and the Russian VTB Bank, and the influence of these guarantees on the public finances, as well as in the matter of possible arbitration at the court in Vienna, concerning the Settlement Agreement with the Central European Aluminium Company (CEAC). The Committee decided to determine assessments and opinions concerning this discussion at one of the following meetings.

- The Committee on Economy, Finance and Budget held a consultative hearing on 26 March, on the topic: "Actual issues related to the implementation of the Energy Law with respect to position and authorities of the Energy Regulatory Agency". The invitations to the meeting were accepted by the representatives of the Ministry of Economy, the Energy Regulatory Agency and the Electric Power Company of Montenegro.

The three-hour discussion covered issues which concerned, but were not limited to: independence and transparency of work of the Energy Regulatory Agency, content of newly adopted methodologies for the prices calculation and electricity tariffs, procedure for determining the revenue as allowed by regulations, strategy for debt collection and structure of the electricity bill. The MPs were also interested to hear about manner in which the Agency monitors and analyses work and operation of energy entities, amount of claims of the Electric Power Company against persons, legal entities and big corporate subjects, as well as about amount of subsidies for people in need.

- The Committee on Human Rights and Freedoms held a public discussion on the topic: "Implementation of the Law on Prohibition of Discrimination", on 30 March 2012. The participants of the public discussion were welcomed by the Mayor of the Capital of Montenegro Miomir Mugoša, MD, with associates. After the reception, the public discussion with citizens was held in the auditorium of the National Library "Radosav Ljumović". The aim of the panel discussion was to deliberate on effects of implementation of the Law on Prohibition of Discrimination, with special emphasis on citizen participation in the discussion.

The public discussion was, apart from the Chairman and members of the Committee and other MPs, attended by the representatives of: the Institution of the Protector of Human Rights and Freedoms of Montenegro, the Ministry for Human and Minority Rights, judicial authorities, local self-government, the Mission of OSCE to Montenegro, NGO sector and citizens.

Members of the Committee on Human Rights and Freedoms, at the end of the public discussion, emphasised that all remarks and suggestions regarding the implementation of the current law will be used in the process of amending the legal provisions whose implementation is problematic, in order to satisfy needs and interests of all citizens.

## NEWS FROM PARLIAMENT



### *Activities of the Parliament of Montenegro within the Council of Europe*

#### **Montenegro started preparations for participation in the "ONE in FIVE" Council of Europe Campaign**

The National team for preparation of Montenegro's participation in the Council of Europe's "One in Five" campaign held a meeting in the Government building, on 2 March 2012. Members of the National team are also MPs: Valentina Radulović – Šćepanović, Snežana Jonica, Zoran Vukčević and Džavid Šabović.

The objective of the "One in Five" Campaign is to decrease and stop the acts of sexual violence against children and it will include a wide spectrum of social factors, in accordance with the Council of Europe's proposals. Campaign will continue until 2014.

At the National team meeting, all the participants expressed deepest commitment to the objectives of this campaign and suggested that the main results of this campaign in Montenegro should be achieved and presented by the end of 2012.

The participants also agreed that all factors and departments involved should start with the precise realisation of their duties, in the shortest period possible. The goals are to increase the level of knowledge and consciousness among children and adults, as well as to prevent violence against children.

Due to gravity of the issue, National team consists of all-level representatives: MPs, which are also members of Montenegrin parliamentary delegation in the PACE; representatives of nine ministries; the Prime Minister's Cabinet; the Community of Municipalities of Montenegro; the Supreme State Prosecutor's Office; Office of the Protector of Human Rights and Freedoms; the Supreme Court; the Police Directorate; Public Relations Bureau of the Government of Montenegro and the Office of UNICEF in Montenegro.

The National team will also be open for cooperation with NGOs in this field.

#### **Representatives of the Parliament attended the 6<sup>th</sup> COSAP conference in Tirana**

**P**roactive approach and stronger involvement of parliaments in the European integration process, as institutions with democratic mandate to improve national integration process through legislative and oversight activities, will be indispensable for further progress of the region" – this was a joint message sent from the 6th Conference of the European Integration Parliamentary Committees of the States participating in the Stabilisation and Association Process in the South East Europe (COSAP), held on 9 March 2012, in Tirana.

Special focus of the Conference was on the role of the European integration committees in the procedure of harmonisation of national legislature with the acquis, as one

#### **The co-rapporteur of the PACE Monitoring Committee Jean-Charles Gardetto paid a visit to the Parliament**

The co-rapporteur of the PACE Committee on the Honouring of Obligations and Commitments by Member States of the Council of Europe Jean-Charles Gardetto paid a visit to the Parliament of Montenegro on 6 March 2012.

During the visit, the co-rapporteur Gardetto met with the parliamentary delegation of the Parliament of Montenegro in the PACE. Delegation members introduced him to Montenegro's progress in honouring of obligations and commitments taken over with the membership in the CoE. Continuity of a successful cooperation of Montenegro and the CoE, and especially good cooperation with the CoE expert bodies - Venice Commission, GRECO, MONEYVAL and other bodies of the CoE, was emphasised at the meeting.

Gardetto complimented the progress of Montenegro in the European integration process, as well as intensified participation of the Montenegrin delegation in the PACE work.

The meeting was attended by: Chair of the parliamentary delegation in PACE, Valentina Radulović-Šćepanović and the MPs: Džavid Šabović, Snežana Jonica, Zoran Vukčević and Ervin Spahić.

The co-rapporteur Gardetto also had an official meeting with the president of the Parliament of Montenegro, Ranko Krivokapić. President introduced the guest to the achievements that Montenegro made since the last visit of the PACE co-rapporteurs. On this occasion, he emphasised the adoption of the electoral law and the law on Ombudsman, in accordance with European standards, which is a demonstration of the Montenegrin commitment to the oldest pan-European organisation's values.

The President also informed the interlocutor on the Parliament's activities in the process of amending the Constitution, regarding the judiciary system and pointed out that, in the next period, work on amending the Constitution will be intensified.

of the main challenges in the association process.

Also, a debate was held on challenges of the implementation of the Stabilisation and Association Agreement, evaluations from the European Commission analytic reports, cooperation of parliaments with civil society and the EU institutions, as well as on the cooperation of COSAP with other regional parliamentary organizations and initiatives. At the end, the Joint Statement was adopted.

The Conference was attended, besides the representatives from the parliaments of Montenegro and Albania, by parliamentary delegations of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Macedonia, Serbia and delegations of Turkey and Kosovo, with the observer status.

### ***Delegation of the Committee on International Relations and European Integration attended the COFACC meeting***

Deputy Chair of the Committee on International Relations and European Integration Vasilije Lalošević and Committee member Obrad – Mišo Stanišić, attended the meeting of the Conference of Foreign Affairs Committee Chairpersons of the Parliaments of the Member States of the EU (COFACC), which was held in the framework of parliamentary activities of the Danish Presidency, on 11 and 12 March 2012, in Copenhagen.

During the meeting, High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy Catherine Ashton, Chair of the Foreign Policy Committee of the Danish Parliament Jeppe Kofod, Minister for Foreign Affairs in the Government of Denmark Villy Søvndal and Secretary General of NATO Anders Fogh Rasmussen delivered their speeches. During the debate, the importance of further improvement of the common foreign and security policy of the European Union as well as the need for strengthening the cooperation between EU and NATO was emphasised.

Members of the delegation of the Parliament of Montenegro had an informal meeting with the High Representative of the EU Catherine Ashton and the Sec-

retary General of NATO Anders Fogh Rasmussen, who complimented progress of Montenegro in the Euro-Atlantic integration process and the activities conducted in the reform process in Montenegro.

As Montenegro is a candidate country for the EU membership, Committee on Foreign Affairs and European Integration participated in the COFACC meeting in the observer status, along with other candidate countries.



### ***President Krivokapić met with Alexandra Cas Granje, Director in the EU's Directorate General for Enlargement***

President of the Parliament of Montenegro Ranko Krivokapić was a host to Alexandra Cas Granje, Director for Croatia, Montenegro, Macedonia, Turkey and Island in the EU's Directorate General for Enlargement, on 14 March 2012. The reception was attended by the Head of the EU Delegation to Montenegro, Leopold Maurer.

Krivokapić introduced the Director Granje to the activities conducted in the Parliament of Montenegro, with emphasis on the constant improvement of its oversight function and dynamic legislative activity. As a matter of great importance, he underlined the consensus reached in the Parliament on the issue of Montenegrin path towards EU.

He also mentioned activities in the Parliament in

the process of amending the Constitution of Montenegro, concerning the judiciary system, and it was stressed that in the forthcoming period work on the process of amending the highest legal act will be intensified. Krivokapić expressed full preparedness of the Parliament to continue open and constructive cooperation with the Venice Commission in this process.

Director at the European Commission's Directorate General for Enlargement Alexandra Cas Granje stated that Montenegro has achieved and is still achieving progress in European integration process, and expressed her expectations that in the next stages of this process Montenegro will be fully devoted to the duties standing on its European path.

### ***Delegation of the Committee on Economy, Finance and Budget attended the CFFAC meeting in Copenhagen***

In the framework of the Parliamentary dimension of the Danish Presidency over the European Union, members of the Committee on Economy, Finance and Budget of the Parliament of Montenegro attended the Chairpersons Meeting of Finance and Fiscal Affairs Committees (CFFAC), on 19 and 20 March 2012, in Copenhagen.

Focus of the meeting was on the issues related to the multiannual financial framework and financial

transaction tax, as well as the issue of parliamentary control over the new budgetary framework.

Being representatives of a candidate country for the EU membership, members of the Committee on Economy, Finance and Budget participated at the CFFAC meeting in the observer status.

On behalf of the Committee on Economy, Finance and Budget, MPs Aleksandar Damjanović and Damir Šehović took part in the meeting.



## Secretary General of the Parliament of Montenegro Damir Davidović paid a visit to the French Republic

Secretary General of the Parliament of Montenegro Damir Davidović paid a visit to the French Republic on 19-23 March 2012, on invitation of the French Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs.

Secretary General had a meeting with the secretaries general of the National Assembly of the French Parliament, Corinne Luquiens and Danièle Rivaille, and used the opportunity to discuss the work of parliamentary services, forms of direct exchange of experiences and setting up a stronger cooperation. During the meeting, they exchanged information on models of functioning of the two parliaments, in order to strengthen legislative institutions and to improve their efficiency. Best practices in conducting parliamentary oversight activities were particularly discussed. In order to promote oversight activity of the Parliament of Montenegro, they agreed to organise a study visit of its civil servants to the French parliament.

Secretary General Davidović also met with the

Deputy Director for the European Union at the Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs Laurent Delahousse. They discussed about wider context of the functioning of the EU, as well as current challenges which the EU is confronted with. Special attention was brought to the expectations of France, as the EU member country, towards negotiations with Montenegro on the prospective membership. One of the topics was also complexity of the European integration process in comparison with the previous enlargements, having in mind that the new model of negotiations requires monitoring of compliance with standards until the accession day. On current economic challenges the EU is confronting, the Secretary General spoke with the Advisor to the Minister for European issues, Walter Mathian.

The Secretary General also had a meeting in the organisation „Confrontations Europe“ and visited the Institute of Higher National Defence Studies and the European Union Institute for Security Studies.

## IN FOCUS



### Women's Parliament

On International Women's Day, on 8 March, the Parliament of Montenegro held its first "Women's Parliament", organised by the Gender Equality Committee. Session of the Women's Parliament was opened by the President of the Parliament Ranko Krivokapić.

In the opening remarks, President Krivokapić expressed his certainty that in future convocations of the Parliament, there will be more women MPs. "Two parliaments that are in session once a year before this noble House, Children's and Women's Parliament, offer the fullness of life and send the most beautiful image. We are left with the belief that we can be worthy of the creation which you, women, represent, the creation which characterises our mothers and sisters as well, because you make the Montenegrin society so strong, lasting, eternal", President Krivokapić concluded.

The session of the Women's Parliament was chaired by Nada Drobnjak, Chairwoman of the Gender Equality Committee. In her opening remarks, she emphasised that we owe all women's human rights nowadays to brave women who lived before us and that the 8 March is a holiday which reminds us that we, too, must get involved and enable our successors to enjoy more accessible and secure women's human rights.

MP Drobnjak also stated that "each day men and women should be equal; that is why we have to change

the cultural context, so that women's human rights could be realised without being loaded with stereotypes. In this process, it is certainly important to create an ambient in which 8 March could be celebrated as it befits – with dignity". In her presentation, she also paid attention to the findings of the Inter-Parliamentary Union research (IPU), on the obstacles which women face when they enter politics. The research has shown that the first place is occupied by private, cultural, psychological and material reasons, such as home and family duties, prejudices on women's place in the society, lack of family support, lack of self-confidence and of financial means. The other group of obstacles contains political reasons, such as lack of support from the political party, lack of experience in public activities, as well as absence of support from electoral body and other women politicians.

During the session, ministers of the Government of Montenegro responded to 25 questions from representatives of women associations of parliamentary parties, as well as from women representing civil society.

With organisation of the Women's Parliament, the Parliament of Montenegro expressed once again its readiness to pursue and promote gender equality and by doing so, to contribute to strengthening position of women in the Montenegrin society. One of elements of

that strengthening is equal participation in decision making. As MP Drobnjak reminded, women's participation in political life, which is primarily accomplished through right to vote, represents one of the most important aspects of gender equality and one of main indicators of openness and democratic character of a society.

In Montenegro, women gained electoral rights for the first time in 1941, when two women participated in the election of the Committee of People's Liberation: Hristina Nedić, teacher and Mileva Kastratović, professor. The very next day, the Temporary Supreme Command issued a directive which stated that "The right to vote and be voted for is enjoyed by all citizens who have 18 years, men and women, regardless of religion, nationality and race". First act which legalised women's suffrage was a statement of the CASNO (the Montenegrin Anti-Fascist Assembly of People's Liberation), which guaranteed electoral rights to all citizens of both genders who turned 18 years. This was a good basis for constitutional provision of women's suffrage in the article 21 of the Constitution of People's Republic of Montenegro of 1946. Since 1946, women's suffrage is guaranteed in each subsequent constitution, and the Constitution of Montenegro, adopted in 2007, provides for much more than electoral rights, because article 18 states: "The state shall guarantee the equality of women and men and shall develop the policy of equal opportunities."



Nowadays, as MP Drobnjak reminded, women make up 50.61% of the Montenegrin population; and in the Parliament there are 11 women MPs, which make up 13.58% of MPs. There is one female minister in the Government; one woman is president of a municipality and two women chair local parliaments. These numbers indicate the fact that women are underrepresented in decision-making positions in our country.

Still, significant efforts have been made to change this situation. In July 2007, just prior to adoption of the Constitution, the Parliament of Montenegro adopted the Law on Gender Equality, as the first anti-discriminatory law. This law is specific, because it binds state organs and all other legal entities with public authorities, to assess, during all phases of planning, adoption and implementation of decisions, the influence of these decisions on position of women and men. Also, by adopting the Law on Amendments to the Law on Election of Councillors and Members of the Parliament, in September 2011, the Parliament of Montenegro set an obligation that women must represent at least 30% of each electoral list, in order to gradually increase women's participation in political life. These legal acts, as well as a series of other activities of the Parliament, represent a significant contribution to strengthening women's position in Montenegro, which is something the Parliament will be dedicated to in the following period as well.



## PARLIAMENTARY GLOSSARY

**POLITICAL CULTURE**<sup>1</sup>. Culture, in its broadest sense, is the way of life of a people. Sociologists and anthropologists tend to distinguish between "culture" and "nature", the former encompassing that which is passed on from one generation to the next by learning, rather than through biological inheritance. Political scientists, however, use the term in its narrower sense to determine psychological tendencies of people, so that the political culture represents a "pattern of orientations" towards political objects, such as party, government, constitution, which are expressed through beliefs, symbols and values. Political culture is different from public opinion, because it is formed by permanent values, and not by daily responses of people to certain policies and problems.

<sup>1</sup>Source: Endru Hejvud, *Politika (Politics)*, CLIO, Beograd, 2004.



# FROM THE HISTORY OF MONTENEGRIN PARLIAMENTARISM



## THE LAW ON CIVIL SERVANTS

6th/19th December, 1902.

**WE**  
**NIKOLA I**  
By the grace of God  
**PRINCE AND SOVEREIGN OF MONTENEGRO**  
On the proposal of Our State Council  
Have decided to proclaim and  
decree the following

## LAW ON CIVIL SERVANTS

### GENERAL ORDERS

#### Article 1

Capacity of a civil servant is acquired by decree of the Prince and Sovereign, by which a person is appointed to a post in state service. The decree is to be published in the official gazette.

#### Article 2

Rights of a civil servant begin since the day of the appointment, and duties and related responsibilities begin with the day when the civil servant is introduced to the duties of his work.

\*\*\*

### PART I DUTIES AND RIGHTS OF CIVIL SERVANTS

#### Article 8

Every civil servant is obliged to correctly and earnestly fulfil duties of the title entrusted to him by laws, regulations and official acts.

#### Article 9

Behaviour of a civil servant in the service and out of it and conduct towards young and elderly must be an excellent behaviour, worthy of an educated person and a civil servant.

...

Cetinje, December 6th, 1902.  
Nikola, handwritten signature

*Excerpt from the Law on Civil Servants,  
Cetinje 1902*

## FROM PARLIAMENTARY GALLERY

### *Đorđe Andrejević Kun: „Portrait of Ivan Milutinović”*

The Parliament's art collection also contains works of authors from the former Yugoslavia, such as Đorđe Andrejević Kun, whose work represents time of living memories of the war epopee and its heroes. The work of Đorđe Andrejević Kun is classified by historians as the form of expressionism and poetic realism, with steps towards socially engaged themes, and it consists of over 300 paintings (from monumental to intimate) and more than 1000 drawings.

He was born in 1904 in Wrocław; he was schooled in Berlin, Belgrade, Italy and Paris. He was a Spanish soldier and a participant of the National Liberation War, which influenced his artistic work as well.



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## 1 March

- The Ministry of Culture, Ministry of the Interior, Ministry of Defence and the OSCE Mission in Montenegro organised a roundtable in hotel "Crna Gora", to discuss Draft Law on Free Access to Information, Draft Law on Amendments to the Law on Data Secrecy and Draft Law on Amendments to the Law on Personal Data Protection. The roundtable was attended by representatives of the Parliament of Montenegro.
- Vice-President of the Parliament of Montenegro Željko Šturanović hosted a delegation of the International Union of Notaries (UINL), headed by the President of the International Notarial Co-operation Commission of the UINL, in charge of the Central-Europe and the Balkans, Michel Merlotti. Meeting was attended by President of the Notary Chamber of Montenegro Tanja Čepić and representative of the Ministry of Justice, Jadranka Vukčević.

## 2 March

- Budimir Šćepanović, Deputy Protector of Human Rights and Freedoms, Rifat Hadrović, High State Prosecutor in Bijelo Polje, Ljiljana Klikovac, Basic State Prosecutor in Podgorica, Stevo Šekarić, Basic State Prosecutor in Nikšić and Erdan Feratović, Basic State Prosecutor in Plav, swore an oath before the President of the Parliament of Montenegro Ranko Krivokapić to perform their duties under the Constitution and law.
- The National team for preparation of Montenegro's participation in the Council of Europe's "One in Five" Campaign held a meeting in the Government building, on 2 March 2012. Members of the National team are MPs of the Parliament of Montenegro as well: Valentina Radulović – Šćepanović, Snežana Jonica, Zoran Vukčević and Džavid Šabović. The objective of "One in Five" Campaign is to decrease and stop the acts of sexual violence against children and it will include a wide spectrum of social factors, in accordance with the Council of Europe's proposal.
- Study visit to the Parliament of the Federal Republic of Germany - Bundestag, organised by the Konrad Adenauer Stiftung, ended. Employees in the Parliament of Montenegro and secretaries of the parliamentary clubs participated in this programme, with the objective to become acquainted with the working methods and procedures in the Bundestag, aimed at reaching full work efficiency.

## 3 March

- International conference: "Role of parliaments in the process of deciding on priorities: cutting public spending or stimulating economy" was held in Belgrade. The conference was attended by the Chairman of the Committee on Economy, Finance and Budget Aleksandar Damjanović and Committee member, Zarija Pejović.

## 5 March

- President of the Parliament of Montenegro Ranko Krivokapić sent a telegram offering his condolences, to H.E. Ewa Kopacz, Marshal of the Sejm of the Republic of Poland and H.E. Bogdan Borusewicz, Marshal of the Senate of the Republic of Poland, on the occasion of one of the most difficult railway accidents.

## 6 March

- The co-rapporteur of the PACE Monitoring Committee Jean-Charles Gardetto paid a visit to the Parliament of Montenegro. During the visit, he met with the parliamentary delegation of the Parliament of Montenegro in the PACE, as well as with the President of the Parliament Ranko Krivokapić.



## 7 March

- The Committee on Human Rights and Freedoms had its 4th meeting with representatives of the Union of Associations of parents with children and youth with developmental disabilities "Our Initiative", showing its preparedness to continue cooperation, in order to contribute to solving problems of children and youth with disabilities in development and improving their position in the society.
- Workshop on the topic "Reform of public administration in Slovakia – selected experiences", as a part of the NISPAcee project "Implementation of the Strategy of Public Administration Reform in Montenegro", in the organisation of the Human Re-

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sources Management Authority, was held in ReSPA premises in Danilovgrad.

## 8 March

- The Gender Equality Committee organised a session of the “Women’s Parliament”. The session was opened by the President of the Parliament of Montenegro Ranko Krivokapić and chaired by the Chairwoman of the Gender Equality Committee Nada Drobnjak.

## 9 March

- The 6th COSAP conference in Tirana, attended by representatives of the Parliament of Montenegro in the observer status, was finished. Special attention at the conference was paid to the role of committees on European integration, in process of harmonising national legislature with the acquis.

## 12 March

- Vice-Chairman of the Committee on International Relations and European Integration of the Parliament of Montenegro Vasilije Lalošević and Committee member, Obrad – Mišo Stanišić attended the COFACC meeting, which was held as a part of the Parliamentary dimension of the Danish Presidency of EU on 11 and 12 March in Copenhagen.

## 14 March

- President of the Parliament Ranko Krivokapić hosted NATO's Supreme Allied Commander Europe, Admiral James Stavridis. Referring to membership in the EU and NATO as a main priority for Montenegro, President Krivokapić introduced the guest to the numerous activities and results which Montenegro has achieved on the path towards accession to the Euro-Atlantic structures.
- President Krivokapić hosted Alexandra Cas Granje, Director for Croatia, Montenegro, Macedonia, Turkey and Island in the EU Directorate General for Enlarge-



ment. Head of the EU Delegation to Montenegro ambassador Leopold Maurer attended the reception as well.

## 15 March

- President of the Parliament Ranko Krivokapić sent a telegram offering his condolences to President of the Chamber of Representatives and President of the Senate of the Federal Parliament of Belgium, on the occasion of the traffic accident of the Belgian bus in Switzerland on 13 March, when 28 persons died, 22 of them students.

## 19 March

- Members of the Committee on Economy, Finance and Budget attended the Chairpersons Meeting of Finance and Fiscal Affairs Committees (CFFAC), held on 19 and 20 March in Copenhagen. The meeting was attended by MPs Aleksandar Damjanović and Damir Šehović, in the observer status, as representatives of the candidate country for the EU membership.

## 20 March

- Chairwoman of the Gender Equality Committee Nada Drobnjak attended the conference “Together against discrimination”, held in hotel “Splendid” in Bečići. The conference was aimed at promoting the Council of Europe Recommendation of the Committee of Ministers to member states on measures to combat discrimination on grounds of sexual orientation or gender identity.

## 21 March

- Chairman and members of the Security and Defence Committee of the Parliament had a meeting with Senior Diplomatic Advisor of the Geneva Centre for the Democratic Control of Armed Forces, Ambassador Gregor Zore and his associates. The topic discussed at the meeting was realisation of the future project “Strengthening parliamentary oversight activity over





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the security sector in the Western Balkans”.

## 22 March

- The first preparatory meeting of the MPs of the Parliament of Montenegro, members of the EU-Montenegro Stabilisation and Association Parliamentary Committee (SAPC), was held. At the meeting, the MPs discussed the agenda and topics of the 4<sup>th</sup> meeting of SAPC, planned for 2 and 3 April 2012, in Podgorica.

## 23 March

- Secretary General of the Parliament of Montenegro Damir Davidović paid a visit to the French Republic, from 19 to 23 March, having been invited by the French Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs, where he met Secretaries General Corinne Luquien and Danièle Rivaille. He also met with the Assistant Director for the European Union at the Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs Laurent Delahousse.
- Roundtable on the topic “Fight against corruption and role of the Law on Free Access to Information” was organised by NGO MANS, with the support from the Embassy of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland to Montenegro.
- A seminar was organised on the topic “Role of the Parliament in the Rule of Law”, as part of the cooperation programme of the Parliament of Montenegro and the Westminster Foundation for Democracy. The seminar was attended by members of the Constitutional Issues and Legislative Committee, Committee on Political System, Judiciary and Administration, Security and Defence Committee and Committee on International Relations and European Integration. Moderators of the seminar were the MP in the House of Lords of the Parliament of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Lord George Foulkes and the MP in the Scottish Parliament, Liam McArthur, presenting experiences of the UK in the legislative and oversight activity of the Parliament.

## 29 March

- President of the Parliament of Montenegro Ranko Krivokapić hosted the NATO Assistant Secretary General for Political Affairs and Security Policy, Ambassador Dirk Brengelmann. President Krivokapić emphasised Montenegro’s accession to NATO as one

of the key foreign policy priorities and willingness of the country to fulfil obligations and reach NATO standards in all fields.

- Chief of the NATO Desk for Montenegro Laurie Walker paid a visit to the Parliament of Montenegro, where he met with the Secretary General of the Parliament Damir Davidović. Walker also met with members of Security and Defence Committee and Committee on International Relations and European Integration of the Parliament.



## 30 March

- Committee on Human Rights and Freedoms organised a public debate in Podgorica on topic „Implementation of the Law on Prohibition of Discrimination“.
- President of the Parliament of Montenegro Ranko Krivokapić hosted the Vice-President of the Government of the People's Republic of China Hui Liangyu.
- The second preparatory meeting of MPs of the Parliament, members of the EU-Montenegro Stabilisation and Association Parliamentary Committee (SAPC) was organised, discussing Draft declaration and recommendations, which will be debated upon on the 4<sup>th</sup> meeting of SAPC.
- A three-day conference on the topic “Forms of legislative solutions in the fight against organised crime” was held in hotel “Maestral” in Pržno, on 27-30 March 2012. The conference was attended by MPs: Ervin Spahić, Snežana Jonica and Aleksandar Damjanović.
- A two-day seminar of the European Parliament on the topic “Environmental Protection” was held in Brussels. Seminar was attended by delegations of services of the national parliaments of Montenegro, Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo, Macedonia and Serbia.