

OPEN PARLIAMENT



Parliament of Montenegro

Bulletin on the Parliament of Montenegro Performance ♦ Electronic format ♦ Release: monthly ♦ Year II ♦ No. 15 ♦ April 2012

FOREWORD

Dear readers,

You have before you the most important information on activities of the Parliament of Montenegro in the period from 1 to 30 April, which is, in the form of monthly bulletin "Open Parliament", prepared by the Service of the Parliament.

With regard to regular parliamentary activities in April, the parliamentary committees deliberated on six proposals for laws.

This month, in scope of their oversight role, committees carried out a number of activities, among which consultative hearing held at the meeting of the Committee on Health, Labour and Social Welfare, on occasion of the epidemiological situation in the Institute "Komanski most", as well as thematic meeting on position of Roma women in Montenegro, organised by the Gender Equality Committee, on occasion of the International Roma Day, 8 April.

The column "In Focus" presents you with the information on the 4th meeting of the EU-Montenegro Stabilisation and Association Parliamentary Committee (SAPC). At the SAPC meeting, members of the EP Delegation complimented progress of Montenegro in various fields, but also identified next steps which Montenegro needs to take in order to advance in the European integration process.

The bulletin is published monthly as a part of the programme "Open Parliament", with 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 and I hope it will be useful to you.

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*



LEGISLATIVE ACTIVITY

Proposals for laws considered before committees:

- **Proposal for a Law on Amendments to the Law on Games of Chance** considered by the Committee on Economy, Finance and Budget. The given proposal did not obtain necessary majority.
- **Proposal for a Law on Amendments to the Law on Local Self-Government** 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 System of Internal Financial Control in Public Sector** considered and proposed to the Parliament for adoption by the Committee on Economy, Finance and Budget and by the Constitutional Issues and Legislative Committee.
- **Proposal for a Law on Amendments to the Law on Rights and Freedoms of Minorities** considered and proposed to the Parliament for adoption by the Constitutional Issues and Legislative Committee.
- **Proposal for a Law on Ratification of the Regional Convention on Pan-Euro-Mediterranean Preferential Rules of Origin** considered and proposed to the Parliament for adoption by the Constitutional Issues and Legislative Committee.
- **Proposal for a Law on Ratification of the Basic Agreement between Montenegro and the Holy See** considered and proposed to the Parliament for adoption by the Constitutional Issues and Legislative Committee.

Bulletin is a part of the programme "Open Parliament", aimed at increasing transparency of work of the Parliament of Montenegro and citizen participation in the parliamentary activities. The bulletin is edited by the Service of the Parliament.

Other acts considered before committees:

- **Proposal for a Decision on Election of eight members of the Management Board of the Fund for Protection and Realisation of Minority Rights** considered and proposed to the Parliament for adoption by the Administrative Committee.
- **Proposal for a Decision on Election of two members**

of the Judicial Council considered and proposed to the Parliament for adoption by the Administrative Committee.

- **Decision on Determination of the Coefficient for Calculation of the Fixed Income of the Protector of Human Rights and Freedoms of Montenegro** adopted by the Administrative Committee.

OVERSIGHT ACTIVITY



- The Committee on Economy, Finance and Budget, at the meeting held on 4 April, adopted the Parliament and the Service of the Parliament Spending Report, for the period 1 January – 31 December 2011 and stated that spending of the financial resources in the previous year was presented in the Report in a clear, transparent and comprehensive manner. The Committee also unanimously adopted the Committee Performance Report for 2011 and the Committee Work Plan for 2012.
- At the meeting held on 4 April, the Committee on Health, Labour and Social Welfare held a consultative hearing on occasion of the epidemiological situation in the Institute "Komanski most". The meeting was attended, apart from the Committee members, by Vaseľ Dušaj, Director of the Institute "Komanski most", Slavka Mirović, defectologist, Borislav Đurović, social worker, Boban Mugoša, M.D., Director of the Institute of Public Health, Mensud Grbović, M.D., Assistant Minister of Health and the chosen doctor at the Institute and Remzija Ademović, Assistant Minister of Labour and Social Welfare.
The Committee assessed that it was necessary to provide a better position for persons who are staying in these institutions, through legislative regulations, strengthen staff capacities of the Institute and to provide adequate material resources for better functioning of this institution.
- The Committee on International Relations and European Integration, at the meeting held on 5 April, considered the 2011 Performance Report of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and European Integration, presented by the Minister Milan Roćen.
At the meeting, it was assessed that Montenegro's progress was confirmed through recently adopted EP's Resolution and Stabilisation and Association Parliamentary Committee (SAPC) recommendations, which represent additional incentive for Montenegro and its further path towards the EU membership. Minister Roćen expressed his certitude that Montenegro will be given the date for starting accession negotiations.
- The Gender Equality Committee held a thematic meeting on position of Roma women in Montenegro, on 6 April. The meeting was attended by Assistant Minister for Minority Rights Sabahudin Delić, coordinator of the Department for Gender Equality of the Ministry for Human and Minority Rights Irena Bošković, representative from the Center for Roma Initiatives Fana Delija and activist of

the NGO REA Women's Network "PRVA" Behija Ramović. The Committee found that it should include more activities in its work, which will contribute to socio-political strengthening of Roma and Egyptian women. Furthermore, it was concluded that it was necessary to invite Roma and Egyptian community to get rid of elements of their traditionalist heritage, which break basic human rights and freedoms, especially women's rights and which prevent progress of this community. In this process they should be particularly helped by state organs, civil sector and media.

- The Committee on International Relations and European Integration, at the meeting held on 9 April, considered the Committee Work Plan for 2012 and the Framework Programme of International Cooperation of the Parliament of Montenegro. The Committee members assessed that it was necessary for the existing Committee to continue activities in the sphere of international relations and European integration, although a reorganisation of the working bodies was announced, through amendments to the existing Rules of Procedure. These changes envisage a division of competences and forming of a new working body, which would cooperate with the Government of Montenegro in the area of European integration, primarily with regard to preparing negotiation positions. The Committee members unanimously supported the Committee Work Plan and the Framework Programme of International Cooperation of the Parliament of Montenegro.
- At the meeting held on 10 April, the Administrative Committee held a consultative hearing of all candidates who applied to the repeated Public competition for nominating two members of the Council of the Agency for Electronic Communication and Postal Services. Several Committee members assessed that repeating Public competition had given excellent results and that six-seven highly qualified candidates had applied. The meeting was attended by 11 candidates, who represented themselves to the Committee members.
The Committee members posed a number of questions to the candidates, among which about: Agency's competencies, candidate's vision on improving Agency's work, ways of protecting service operators' customers, monopolist position of "Telekom", tripartite relations among operator, Agency and the customer, as well as

about candidate's opinion on the ACTA.

- The Committee on Human Rights and Freedoms, at the meeting held on 11 April, organised a control hearing of Minister of Labour and Social Welfare Sud Numanović, M.D, on the topic: "Implementation of the Conclusion of the Parliament of Montenegro adopted after discussing the Special report of the Protector of Human Rights and Freedoms of Montenegro on state of human rights of persons with mental disabilities housed in institutions". The meeting was attended, apart from the Committee members, interested MP Nataša Vuković and Minister Numanović, by representatives of institution of the Protector of Human Rights and Freedoms of Montenegro, several ministries, Institute "Komanski most", Children's Home "Mladost", Center for Education and Training "1. jun" and NGO sector. Minister Numanović stated that a large number of Recommendations of the Protector was fulfilled. Also, it will be sought to fulfil the remaining Recommendations in the following period.

The MPs posed a number of questions, which were, inter alia, related to: actual situation in the Institute "Komanski most" with regard to the flu epidemic, number of employees and professional qualification of staff who works directly with residents, employees' salaries in these institutions, working engagement of persons with disabilities, disappearance of two residents and recent death of two persons from the Institute "Komanski most", quality of health care provided to persons placed in closed institutions etc.

- At the meeting held on 12 April, the Commission for Monitoring and Control of the Privatisation Procedure finished discussing privatisations of companies "Staklenici" and "Elastik-plastik". Commission members agreed to postpone voting on conclusions with regard to these privatisations, which were proposed by the Chairman Andrija Mandić, until all the Commission members were present. The Commission also began discussing privatisation procedure of company "Vektra Jakić".
- At the third meeting of the Working Group for Preparation of Legal Acts on Work of the Fund for Protection and Realisation of Minority Rights, held on 12 April, members discussed existing proposals for functioning of the Fund. The Working Group concluded that all members are obliged to submit their suggestions in written form by 1 May 2012 the latest. After discussing them, the Working Group will determine its final position, based on which the report will be made.
- At the meeting held on 19 April, the Committee on Economy, Finance and Budget organised a consultative hearing on the topic: "Public dialogue on sustainable use of energy in South East Europe – situation in Montenegro with particular emphasis on implementation of the Law on Energy Efficiency". The meeting was attended by representatives of the Ministry of Economy, the German Society for International Cooperation (GIZ), Chamber of Economy of Montenegro, Montenegrin Employers Federation, as well as representatives of the NGO sector.

The participants discussed about basic strategic and plan documents which derive from the Law on Energy Efficiency, as well as about: amount of funds allocated for stimulating energy efficiency, factors due to which implementation of the Law and adoption of the secondary legislation is late and human resources capacities of state bodies and local self-governments.

It was stated that it is necessary to work more on promoting principles of energy efficiency, cutting energy spending, as well as on increasing investments in renewable energy resources.

- The Administrative Committee, at the meeting held on 20 April, gave an affirmative opinion on the Proposal for Rulebook on Internal Organisation and Systematisation of the Protector of Human Rights and Freedoms of Montenegro. Furthermore, the Committee formed a Working Group with the task to determine proposal for a decision related to the Request for adopting a decision for president and secretary of the State Election Commission. The Committee unanimously accepted a proposal of the Secretary General, where the Service of the Parliament would prepare a model for financial costs and establishment of a fixed amount to be paid monthly, along with MPs salaries, in order to cut total costs of the Parliament. The Committee determined a List of candidates who met legal requirements for nomination of two members of the Council of the Agency for Electronic Communication and Postal Services. After two voting rounds, the Committee decided to propose to the Parliament to nominate Milica Vukotić and Ana Radonjić as members of the Council of the Agency.
 - Members of the Security and Defence Committee visited the National Security Agency, Ministry of Defence and Directorate for Secret Data Protection on 20 April, for purpose of monitoring implementation of the security standards.
 - Members of the Security and Defence Committee visited locations for storing surplus weapons and ammunition on 26 April. During the visit, Colonel Rifet Kosovac acquainted the Committee members with quantity and types of ammunition which ought to be destroyed, as well as with methods and techniques which are used in the destroying process. The Committee members also had the opportunity to see the functioning of electronic protection system of ammunition storage, in Taraš by Danilovgrad, which is one of the most perfected systems of that type in the region.
 - The Committee on Health, Labour and Social Welfare held a thematic meeting on implementation of the Law on State and Other Holidays on 27 April. The meeting was attended by Vesna Simović, Assistant Minister of Labour and Social Welfare, Angelina Mededović, Chief Labour Inspector, Sandra Obradović, Union of Free Trade Unions of Montenegro representative and Nataša Vuković, as an interested MP.
- The Committee called for respect of the Law on State and Other Holidays, in order to protect employees' right to work-free days during holidays.

NEWS FROM PARLIAMENT



President of Parliament Ranko Krivokapić paid an official visit to the Kingdom of Denmark

President of the Parliament of Montenegro Ranko Krivokapić paid an official visit to the Kingdom of Denmark, on 11-12 April 2012, on invitation of President of the Parliament of Denmark Mogens Lykketoft. The visit was organised with the aim of obtaining support from Denmark, as a country presiding over the EU, to opening negotiations between the EU and Montenegro. It is the official visit on the highest level so far between officials of the two countries.

During the meeting, President of the Parliament of Denmark Mogens Lykketoft pointed out that Denmark will strongly support the EU to open accession negotiations with Montenegro in June, so that the European process is sustained on the Balkans after Croatia joins the EU. Speaking about scepticisms over further enlargements, the interlocutors agreed that the Western Balkans countries naturally belong to Europe and they will be-

come EU members when they are ready for that step.

Apart from meeting President Lykketoft, President Krivokapić met with members of the Foreign Affairs Committee and the European Affairs Committee, with whom he spoke about Montenegro's progress on the European path and about intensifying cooperation between the two parliaments. Chairman of the Foreign Affairs Committee Per Stig Møller, who had been Foreign Minister of Denmark for almost a decade, including the period before Montenegrin referendum on independence, highlighted that Montenegro had justified expectations of European countries and expressed strong support to further strengthening of relations between Montenegro and the EU.

President Krivokapić also had meetings in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Denmark and with representatives of Montenegrin diaspora.

The Parliament of Montenegro published the 2011 Performance Report

Service of the Parliament prepared the Performance Report of the Parliament of Montenegro for 2011, containing all information and statistical indicators necessary for right assessment of the Parliament's work in the previous year. Our intention was to contribute to better informing of the public on all aspects of our work and to point at achieved progress, greater efficiency, but also at challenges we will face, as a parliament of the candidate country for the EU membership.

After the European Commission presented the Avis in November 2010, the Action Plan for Strengthening of the Legislative and Oversight Role of the Parliament of Montenegro was prepared. Its implementation resulted in great changes in our work. Quality of MPs' legislative work and the Parliament's oversight role had signifi-

cantly improved, along with administrative capacities, which were key demands of the EU with regard to our institution. The European Commission, our partners and non-governmental sector recognised many of our fulfilled projects and activities as examples of good practices.

It is our intention to continue with implementation of these measures in this year as well, in order to continue strengthening legislative and oversight role of the Parliament of Montenegro, so that it evolves into a modern European parliament.

2011 Performance Report of the Parliament of Montenegro can be found at the following link:

http://www.skupstina.me/index.php?language_id=2&strana=fiksna&id=595.

Chairpersons Meeting of Business, Growth & Export and Employment Committees held in Copenhagen

Delegation of the Parliament of Montenegro participated at the Chairpersons Meeting of Business, Growth & Export and Employment Committees, which was, in framework of the six-month Danish Presidency over the EU, held on 16 and 17 April 2012 in Copenhagen.

The focus of the Chairpersons Meeting was on issues of re-establishing the single market and designing new strategies for stimulating economic growth and employment. Participants of the discussion highlighted the need for respect and implementation of the flexicurity principle, which provides a greater level of workers' flexibility on the labour market, which would contribute

to decreasing the unemployment level in the Union.

Parliamentarians also characterised investing in young people as a long-term and worthy investment, aimed at improving existing and adopting new skills and knowledge, so that they can adapt more easily to continuous challenges on the labour market.

Members of the Committee on Economy, Finance and Budget, as representatives of a candidate country for the EU membership, along with other candidate countries participated at the Chairpersons Meeting in the observer status. On behalf of the Committee on Economy, Finance and Budget, MPs Zoran Jelić and Veselin Bakić took part in the meeting.

President of the Parliament Ranko Krivokapić participated at the Conference of Speakers of the Parliaments of the EU

President of the Parliament of Montenegro Ranko Krivokapić participated in the work of the two-day Conference of Speakers of the Parliaments of the EU, which was held on 20-21 April in Warsaw.

Topics of the conference were: "Crisis of the European unity", "Parliamentary control of the Common Foreign and Security Policy and the Common Security and Defence Policy" and "Parliament, public opinion and the media".

During the conference, President Krivokapić met with the Vice President of the EP Miguel Martínez, in charge of countries in the EU association process. On that occasion, President Krivokapić stated that the EP had given strong support to Montenegrin efforts in all phases of our integration process and pointed out that joint Parliamentary Committee of the Montenegrin Parliament and the EP is an example of excellent cooperation and generator of our European intra-parliamentary consensus.

President Krivokapić also met with officials of other parliaments, and at the end of his stay in Warsaw, he visited the Tourism Fair, at which participants were representatives of Montenegrin tourism industry.

The Conference of Speakers of the Parliaments of the EU is held since 1963, with aim to promote inter-parliamentary cooperation and exchange of experiences and opinions on issues of common interest. Along with speakers of the member states and the EP President, speakers of parliaments of candidate countries for the EU membership participated in the work of the conference.

The conference ended with adoption of the joint Declaration. One of the most important conclusions of the conference was decision to form the Inter-Parliamentary Conference for the Common Foreign and Security Policy (CFSP) and the Common Security and Defence Policy (CSDP), where Montenegro will participate on an equal basis with the EU member states.

Second regular session of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe in 2012

Delegation of the Parliament of Montenegro in the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (PACE) attended the spring session of the PACE, which was held on 23-27 April 2012 in Strasbourg. The spring session was attended by MPs: Valentina Radulović-Šćepanović, Zoran Vukčević, Ervin Spahić and Snežana Jonica.

On the first day, MPs elected two Vice Presidents of the Assembly, and put on the agenda, under urgent procedure, topics: "Situation in Syria" and "Future of the European Court of Human Rights and the Brighton Declaration".

Delegation of the Parliament of Montenegro in the PACE met with co-rapporteurs of the Monitoring Committee for Montenegro Jean-Charles Gardetto and Nursuna Memecan. The co-rapporteurs complimented extraordinary progress of Montenegro and excellent cooperation with the Delegation. The meeting was also attended by Ana Vukadinović, ambassador of Montenegro to the Council of Europe. Apart from that, Montenegrin delegation participated in work of the parliamentary working bodies.

On the second day of the spring session, MPs Valentina Radulović-Šćepanović and Snežana Jonica participated in the work of the Monitoring Committee.

In the morning part of the session, MPs adopted the Resolution on Report on responsibility for lives lost in the Mediterranean Sea. Also, parliamentarians debated on the Proposal for a resolution and Proposal for recommendations on Report on equality between women and men, as a condition for the success of the Arab Spring. After that, topic of the discussion was promotion of active citizenship.

MP Valentina Radulović-Šćepanović, as a national coordinator of the CoE Campaign "One in Five" and a contact parliamentarian for Montenegro, participated at the seventh meeting of the network of contact parliamentarians in fight against sexual violence over children.

On the third day of the spring session of CoE, parliamentarians discussed a series of reports on good governance and ethics in sport, as well as on the need to combat match fixing.

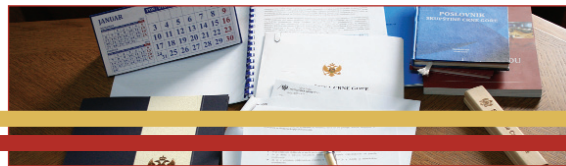
PARLIAMENTARY GLOSSARY

HUMAN RIGHTS. Human rights are rights to which people are entitled by virtue of being human; they are a modern and secular version of natural rights. Human rights are "universal", because they belong to all humans, not only those who belong to a certain country, race, faith, gender or group. They are also "fundamental" in that they are inalienable; unlike civil rights, human rights do not depend on freedoms and status enjoyed by citizens in particular societies.

The Constitution of Montenegro stipulates that rights and freedoms shall be exercised based on the Constitution and confirmed international agreements, that all persons shall be deemed equal before the law and that everyone shall have the right to equal protection of rights and freedoms thereof.

¹ Source: Endru Hejvud, *Politika (eng. Politics)*, CLIO, Beograd, 2004.

IN FOCUS



The 4th SAPC Meeting

The 4th meeting of the EU-Montenegro Stabilisation and Association Parliamentary Committee (SAPC) was held on 2-3 April 2012 in the Parliament of Montenegro.

On that occasion, the Co-Chairs of the meeting, President of the Parliament of Montenegro Ranko Krivokapić and the Chairman of the European Parliament's Delegation for relations with Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Serbia, Montenegro and Kosovo Eduard Kukan addressed the media at the formal reception in the Villa "Gorica", on Sunday, 1 April. At the ceremony in the Villa "Gorica", Eduard Kukan stated that Montenegro is a champion among the Western Balkans countries in the European integration process. He reminded that last year in December, the European Council concluded that accession negotiations with Montenegro may start in June and said that the EP hopes it will happen.

Kukan stated that he was looking forward to conversations in the following two days, in order for them to present their views on the situation in Montenegro, as well as what the country needs to do, for the beginning of negotiations in June to become a continuation of a very successful process.

President of the Parliament of Montenegro Ranko Krivokapić stated that for Montenegro, the European integration path means improvement of all state capacities by European standards. "For us, it is a learning process until the final diploma. On that path, among all the help we receive, the dearest to us is help of the European parliamentarians. One Montenegrin poet said that "understanding is helping" and we are best understood by our colleagues from the EP", Krivokapić stated.

After the introductory speeches, jazz quartet "Ishi-Jazz" held a concert, marking the beginning of the Jazz Appreciation Month in Podgorica.

At the 4th SAPC meeting, President Krivokapić declared that Montenegro is strong enough to continue the pace with which it progressed from 2006 until 2012. This period represents the historic moment, from the democratic referendum to candidate status, but this progress could not have been achieved without support of the friends from the European Union.

Chairman of the EP Delegation Eduard Kukan emphasised that the vote on the Resolution on Montenegro demonstrated positive opinion of the European institutions. Montenegro has got a lot of potential to move forward, and on that long and demanding path, the Parliament of Montenegro has a key role. Kukan highlighted the importance of wide national consensus as one of the biggest advantages of Montenegro, concluding that results of this process will be measured by the govern-

ment's decisiveness to implement profound reforms.

In the introductory part, the meeting was addressed by Milan Roćen, Minister of Foreign Affairs and European Integration, Stefano Sannino, the European Commission's Director General for Enlargement and by Leopold Maurer, Head of the EU Delegation to Montenegro.

Afterwards, the parliamentarians discussed about Montenegro's progress with respect to recommendations adopted at the 3rd SAPC meeting, as well as about building capacities for absorbing EU funds at the state and local levels. Rapporteurs for the first item on the agenda were Tanja Fajon, Milutin Simović and Vasilije Lalošević, and for the second Francesco de Angelis, Miodrag Vuković and Genci Nimanbegu.

The meeting continued on 3 April. The discussion was held about implementation of the existing legal framework for decreasing discrimination – the rapporteurs were Ulrike Lunacek, Nada Drobnjak and Slaven Radunović, about progress in fight against organised crime and corruption – the rapporteurs were Jelko Kacin, Vice President of the Government of Montenegro Duško Marković, Goran Danilović and Obrad Mišo Stanišić and about economic developments, which was reported by Jutta Steinruck, Antonio Cancian, Branko Radulović and Zoran Vukčević.

After a two-day work, the SAPC members adopted the Declaration and recommendations, which confirmed progress achieved in various fields within the European integration process of Montenegro, and identified areas in which additional efforts should be made in the following period, in order to meet European standards, necessary for full membership in the EU.

The EU-Montenegro Stabilisation and Association Parliamentary Committee (SAPC) was formed in June 2010, after the Stabilisation and Association Agreement between EU and Montenegro came into force, in order to monitor implementation of the SAA. The Parliamentary Committee is composed of 14 MPs of the Parliament of Montenegro and 14 MEPs and convenes twice a year, in Podgorica and Brussels.



FROM THE HISTORY OF MONTENEGRIN PARLIAMENTARISM



DECREE OF THE MINISTRY OF INTERIOR TO CAPTAINS ON PROHIBITION OF CARD GAMES

24 January/5 February 1883

MINISTRY OF THE INTERIOR

No. 76

Cetinje 24 January 1883

Mr Captain!

Since some time, in towns, as well as in inns and other places in the villages, card games have become a custom. Playing cards is a misfortune and ruin of people. They waste all their precious time, which can be spent in a useful way, in work or friendly conversation or in enjoying games and popular entertainment.

For these reasons, Mr Captain, I hereby order you to announce that starting from today, all card games, for money or for fun, is strictly prohibited. Whoever is caught playing cards, shall be fined 5 forints. Also, a bar owner or an inn keeper or a host at whose place people would play cards shall be fined 5 forints. One who gets caught for a second time, shall be fined double, and for the third time, they will be sent to prison in Cetinje. Money which is found by the caught players will be confiscated and forwarded to town or village budget.

Card games will be allowed only in towns, in cafe bars which obtain permission from the town captain, but only games for fun are permitted, not for money under any circumstances.

**President of the State Council,
Minister of Interior,
Božo Petrović**

Crnogorski zakonici 1796-1916, II, (eng. Montenegrin Codes, II), eds. B. Pavićević, R. Raspopović, Podgorica 1998.

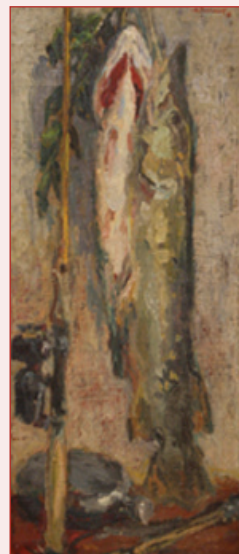
FROM PARLIAMENTARY GALLERY

Matija Zlamalik: "Fish", 1958

Matija Zlamalik, born in Sarajevo (1905–1965), was a painter, graphic artist, caricaturist, banknote designer and stamp designer. He particularly contributed to field of applied arts – designing banknotes, posters, coats of arms and mostly, stamps. He gave additional value to post-war Yugoslav art, distancing himself from provincialism and approaching the most significant standards of European art of that age. He was a remarkable drawer, with a particular sense of importance of lines, as he attached himself to advertising and propaganda art.

American magazine *Life* in 1960 declared his stamp from the collection "Flora and fauna of Yugoslavia" the best in the world; and his design of the state coat of arms of Serbia was used for 57 years.

He was a Head of Department at the Applied Arts Academy in Belgrade.



CALENDAR



2 April

- President of the Parliament of Montenegro Ranko Krivokapić opened in the parliamentary hall the first exhibition of the traditional female Roma women clothing, which was prepared by the RAE Women's Network "PRVA", as part of the project "Promotion of Roma national identity and Roma women's traditional clothing in Montenegro", which was realised with financial help of the Fund for Protection and Realisation of Minority Rights.



- Members of the Committee on International Relations and European Integration met with Mayor of Gaeta Antonio Raimondi. Chairman of the Committee expressed his satisfaction with signing the Friendship and Cooperation Agreement between Old Royal Capital Cetinje and Gaeta, and the interlocutors declared their readiness to cooperate in cultural, sport, industry and other fields.
- President Krivokapić sent a telegram of condolence to President of National Assembly of the Republic of Serbia Slavica Đukić Dejanović, President of the Assembly of AP Vojvodina Sándor Egeresi and to Mayor of Novi Sad Igor Pavličić, on occasion of the tragic death of six young people in fire in discotheque "Kontrast" in Novi Sad.

3 April

- The fourth meeting of the EU-Montenegro Stabilisation and Association Parliamentary Committee (SAPC) was held on 2-3 April 2012 in the Parliament of Montenegro.

4 April

- A two-day international conference on the topic: "Cooperation of national parliaments and independent regulatory bodies in the South East Europe", was organised in Belgrade by the National Assembly of the Republic of Serbia and the European Movement in Serbia, with help of OSCE and the Friedrich Ebert Stiftung.

The conference was attended from the Parliament of Montenegro by members of Delegation of the Committee on Human Rights and Freedoms, as well as MP Valentina Radulović-Šćepanović, as a member of the SEECP Parliamentary Dimension Working Group.

- Fifth meeting of the Parliamentary Dimension Working Group of the South East Europe Cooperation Process (SEECP) was organised by the National Assembly of the Republic of Serbia, as a country presiding over PD SEECP. MP Valentina Radulović-Šćepanović attended the meeting as a Working Group member.
- President Krivokapić congratulated the Students' Day, 4 April, to all of Montenegrin students.

5 April

- MPs Ervin Spahić, Chairman of the Committee on Political System, Judiciary and Administration and Aleksandar Damjanović, Chairman of the Committee on Economy, Finance and Budget attended the meeting of the National Commission for Implementation of the Strategy for Fight against Corruption and Organised Crime.
- President of the Parliament of Montenegro Ranko Krivokapić, on occasion of the greatest Christian holiday – Easter, celebrated by Roman Catholics and Protestants, sent a congratulatory message to Archbishop of Bar and Primate of Serbia Monsignor Zef Gaši, Bishop of Kotor Monsignor Ilija Janjić, priesthood and to Roman Catholic and Protestant citizens.
- President Krivokapić congratulated the Jewish holiday Pesach to all members of the Jewish community in Montenegro.

6 April

- President of the Parliament of Montenegro Ranko Krivokapić hosted H. E. Edmond Haxhinasto, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Albania. The interlocutors emphasised that the period to come should be used in order to strengthen interstate economic cooperation, by realising concrete joint projects in areas such as: energy, traffic and road infrastructure, environment, agriculture, tourism etc.
- The Gender Equality Committee held a thematic meeting on position of Roma women in Montenegro, which was, apart from the Committee members, attended by representatives of several ministries and institutions, as well as representatives of NGOs which deal with issues of position of Roma and Egyptian women in Montenegro.

Bulletin is a part of the programme "Open Parliament", aimed at increasing transparency of work of the Parliament of Montenegro and citizen participation in the parliamentary activities. The bulletin is edited by the Service of the Parliament.

CALENDAR



- Chairwoman of the Gender Equality Committee Nada Drobnjak spoke with the representative of the Helsinki Committee for Human Rights in Serbia Jelena Radoman, on the topic of protection and improvement of women's position in Montenegro, and especially about mechanisms for increasing women's participation in politics. Also, Chairwoman Drobnjak hosted a representative of the Women's Section of the Joint Syndicate of State Institutions Milanka Ivanović, who expressed interest of the JSSI representatives in participating at the Committee meetings, when items on the agenda concern position of employed women.

7 April

- President Krivokapić congratulated the water polo representation of Montenegro on their placement to the Olympic Games in London.

11 April

- Public hearing "The Future Financing of Enlargement: The New Instrument for Pre-Accession Assistance (IPA-2)" was organised by the EP's Committee on Foreign Affairs (AFET). It gathered representatives of the European Parliament and the European Commission, parliamentarians of countries of the region, representatives of the European Court of Auditors as well as non-governmental organisations. As Chairman of the Committee on International Relations and European Integration, MP Miodrag Vuković took part at the public hearing.

12 April

- President Krivokapić stayed in a two-day visit to the Kingdom of Denmark, on the invitation of the Speaker of the Danish parliament (the Folketing) Mogens Lykketoft. Apart from meeting with Speaker Lykketoft, President Krivokapić met with members of the Foreign Affairs Committee and the European Affairs Committee, with whom he spoke about Montenegro's progress on the European path and about intensifying cooperation between the two parliaments.
- The Parliament of Montenegro published the 2011 Performance Report, which was prepared by the Service of the Parliament and which contains all information and statistical indicators necessary for right assessment of the Parliament's work in the previous year.
- President Krivokapić congratulated the greatest Christian holiday, Easter, to citizens who celebrate it, to His Eminence Metropolitan Mihailo, Metropolitan of Mon-

tenegrin Orthodox Church, His Eminence Metropolitan Amfilohije, Metropolitan of Montenegro and the Littoral of the Serbian Orthodox Church in Montenegro and the priesthood of Orthodox churches in Montenegro.

17 April

- Members of the Security and Defence Committee and the Committee on International Relations and European Integration held a meeting in the Parliament of Montenegro with the delegation of the Atlantic Council (ACUS), which was composed of experts in the field of the Euro-Atlantic integration – Damon Wilson, ACUS Executive Vice President, Jean-Paul Perruche, former General Director of the European Union Military Staff, Rastislav Káčer, former Ambassador of the Slovak Republic to the United States and Ian Brzezinski, Senior Fellow at the Atlantic Council. Members of the ACUS delegation were also hosted by President Krivokapić, who introduced them to numerous activities and results which Montenegro has achieved on the path of acceding to the Euro-Atlantic structures.



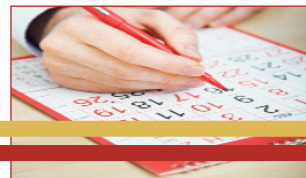
- In scope of the six-month Danish presidency over the European Union, the Chairpersons Meeting of Business, Growth & Export and Employment Committees was held in Copenhagen. The meeting was attended by members of the Committee on Economy, Finance and Budget, MPs Zoran Jelić and Veselin Bakić.

20 April

- President of the Parliament of Montenegro Ranko Krivokapić participated in the work of the Conference of Speakers of the Parliaments of the EU, which was held in Warsaw. During the conference, he met with Vice President of the EP Miguel Martínez, in charge of countries in the EU association process.
- Chairman of the Committee on International Relations and European Integration Miodrag Vuković met with Head of the Konrad Adenauer Stiftung Offices in Serbia and Montenegro Henri Bohnet.

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KALENDAR



23 April

- Vice President of the Parliament Željko Šturanović hosted the Vice President of the Supreme People's Court of the People's Republic of China Xi Xiaoming. The meeting was also attended by the President of the Supreme Court of Montenegro Vesna Medenica. Vice President Šturanović expressed his satisfaction with established judicial cooperation between the two countries.
- President Krivokapić hosted Rastislav Vrbensky, UN Resident Coordinator and UNDP Resident Representative in Montenegro. During the meeting, the interlocutors exchanged opinions on previous projects realised in Montenegro, as well as on future plans.

24 April

- President Krivokapić hosted H. E. Nils Ragnar Kamsvåg, Ambassador of the Kingdom of Norway to Montenegro. At the meeting, interlocutors expressed their expectations that, after Croatia successfully finished the negotiations, Montenegro will be the next country to keep the EU enlargement policy opened.
- Delegation of the Parliament of Montenegro, composed of MPs: Mevludin Nuhodžić, Head of Delegation to the Parliamentary Assembly of NATO, and Obrad Mišo Stanišić and Mehmet Bardhi, both members of the Security and Defence Committee participated in the work of the two-day conference on the topic: "Smart defence in South East Europe", which was organised by the Parliament of Albania, in cooperation with the NATO PA.
- Delegation of the Parliament participated at the 47th plenary meeting of the Conference of Parliamentary Committees for Union Affairs of Parliaments of the European Union – COSAC, held on 22-24 April 2012 in Copenhagen. At the meeting, the following topics were discussed: sustainable and inclusive growth, digital single market, sustainability of the service market, as well as jubilee marking 20 years of free movement of goods, persons, services and capital in the single framework of the European Union. Delegation of the Parliament was composed of Chairman of the Committee on International Relations and European Integration Miodrag Vuković, Deputy Chairman Vasilije Lalošević and Committee member Raško Konjević.
- Chairman of the Committee on Human Rights and Freedoms Đorđe Pinjatić met with Kristie Evenson, consultant of the Foundation for Open Society, at the initiative of the Center for Democracy and Human Rights. Topic of the meeting was implementation of the evaluation of quality of CEDEM's activities, which were supported by institutional grants of the Open Society Foundation in the last three years. The meeting was at-

tended by Maša Đorđević from the Open Society Foundation and Marija Vuksanović from CEDEM.

25 April

- Chairman of the Constitutional Issues and Legislative Committee Džavid Šabović met with the Ambassador of the Kingdom of Netherlands to Montenegro, H. E. Laurent Stokvis and Second Secretary of the Embassy Helen Baartmans. The discussion was mainly about actual constitutional changes.
- Working visit to the Parliament of the Republic of Macedonia (Sobranie) is finished. During the visit, members of the Parliamentary Service met with Secretary General Žarko Denkovski, who they spoke with about the organisation of the Service of Sobranie.

26 April

- Conference of Presidents of Parliaments of Adriatic-Ionian Initiative was held in Belgrade, in scope of Serbian presidency over this regional initiative, which gathers countries of ex-Yugoslavia – Serbia, Croatia, Slovenia, Montenegro and Bosnia and Herzegovina, as well as Italy, Greece and Albania.



- President of the Parliament of Montenegro Ranko Krivokapić sent a telegram of condolence to the family of deceased Boka Navy Admiral Miloš Milošević, PhD.

27 April

- The second regular session of the Council of Europe Parliamentary Assembly (PACE) in 2012 was held in Strasbourg (23-27 April). The session was attended by MPs: Valentina Radulović-Šćepanović, Zoran Vukčević, Ervin Spahić and Snežana Jonica.
- General Committee on Cultural Affairs of the Central European Initiative Parliamentary Dimension held a meeting on 26-27 April in Bolzano, Italy. The meeting is chaired by Italian senator Oskar Peterlini in 2012, on whose invitation, members of the permanent delegation of the Parliament of Montenegro to CEI-PD, MPs Miodrag Vuković and Vasilije Lalošević attended the meeting.

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