

OPEN PARLIAMENT



Parliament of Montenegro

Bulletin on the Parliament of Montenegro Performance ♦ Electronic format ♦ Release: monthly ♦ Year II ♦ No. 18 ♦ July 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 31 July, which is, in the form of monthly bulletin "Open Parliament", prepared by the Service of the Parliament.

With regard to regular legislative activities in July, the Parliament adopted 17 laws, while the committees deliberated on 13 proposals for laws. In the scope of their oversight role, the committees considered a series of reports, while the Inquiry Committee for Collection of Information and Facts on Corruption in Privatisation of Telekom Crna Gora held three meetings to consider information of the competent institutions related to examining allegations of corrupt activities during and after the privatisation process of Telekom.

On occasion of the shortening of the Parliament's mandate, the column "In Focus" presents you with the statistics of the 24th Convocation of the Parliament, along with the overview of the most important legislative and international activities in the given period. The data unequivocally point to the increase in the volume of work, which resulted in significant progress in work of the Parliament and its committees, which was also recognised in the Report of the European Commission on Montenegro's progress in implementation of reforms.

The bulletin is published monthly as a part of the "Open Parliament" programme, with which the Parliament seeks to bring closer its work to Montenegrin citizens. We consider this publication to be very significant as a reliable source of information on work of the Parliament and hope it will be useful to you.

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

*Respectfully,
Service of the Parliament*



LEGISLATIVE ACTIVITY

During July, the Parliament adopted 17 laws.

At the Seventh Sitting of the First Ordinary Session of the Parliament of Montenegro in 2012, the following laws were adopted: the Law on Amendments to the Law on Culture, the Law on Amendments to the Law on Road Transport, the Law on Vocational Training of Persons with Acquired Higher Education, the Law on Amendments to the Law on Local Self-Government, the Law on Parliamentary Inquiry and the Law on Amendments to the Law on Data Secrecy.

The Parliament of Montenegro considered the Interpellation on the work of the Government in the field of economy, related to the Decision on the new borrowing in the amount of 150 million euros from the "Credit Suisse Bank", after which MPs submitted the Motion of no confidence in the Government of Montenegro, which was not adopted.

Furthermore, the Parliament of Montenegro stated that the Minister of Foreign Affairs and European Integration in the Government of Montenegro Milan Roćen resigned from office.

At the Eighth Sitting of the First Ordinary Session of the Parliament of Montenegro in 2012, the following laws were adopted: the Law on Financial Security, the Law on Protection of Competition, the Law on Free Access to Information, the Law on Amendments to the Law on Data Secrecy, the Law on Amendments to the Law on Personal Data Protection, the Law on Amendments to the Law on Trademark, the Law on Internal Affairs, the Law on Compulsory Traffic Insurance, the Law on Amendments to the Law on Insurance and the Law on Amendments to the Law on Public Broadcasting Service of 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.

Furthermore, the Parliament adopted the Decision on Amendments to the Spatial Plan of Montenegro until 2020 and the Decision on Establishing the Committee for Monitoring Application of the Law on Election of Councillors and MPs, in part related to the media.

Under the agenda item "Elections and appointments", the Parliament gave an affirmative opinion on the proposal of the Government of Montenegro to appoint Božidar Vuksanović Director of the Police Directorate. Moreover, Veselin Vučković, Petar Kapuci, Miljana Radović, Rifat Hadrović, Vesna Jovičević, Mladen Vukčević, Jelena Popović, Vladimir Šušović, Tatjana Marković and Branka Lakočević were elected members of the Judicial Council, while Miodrag Latković and Hamid Kujević were elected members of the Insurance Supervision Agency Council.

At the Tenth Sitting of the First Ordinary Session of the Parliament of Montenegro in 2012, the Law on Amendments to the Law on Employment and Rights of Unemployment Insurance was adopted. Also, the Parliament adopted the Decision on Granting a Long-Term Lease of Location of the Army Quarters "Orjen Battalion" – Kumbor, Municipality Herceg Novi and the Decision on Shortening the Mandate of the 24th Convocation of the Parliament of Montenegro. Conclusion of the Tenth Sitting of the Parliament of Montenegro ended the 2012 Spring Session.

Proposals for laws considered before committees:

- **Proposal for a Law on Amendments to the Law on Investment Funds** considered by the Constitutional Issues and Legislative Committee and proposed to the Parliament for adoption.
- **Proposal for a Law on Protection of State Interests in Electric Power Company of Montenegro, Nikšić** considered by the Constitutional Issues and Legislative Committee and the Committee on Economy, Finance and Budget, and proposed to the Parliament for adoption.
- **Proposal for a Law on Restoration of the Chapel of Prince Petar the Second Petrović Njegoš** considered by the Committee on Economy, Finance and Budget, in part related to creating commitments for the budget of Montenegro. The Committee decided to submit negative opinion to the leading Committee on Education, Science, Culture and Sports.
- **Proposal for a Law on Mandatory Traffic Insurance** considered by the Committee on Economy, Finance and Budget, the Committee on International Relations and European Integration and by the Constitutional Issues and Legislative Committee, and proposed to the Parliament for adoption.
- **Proposal for a Law on Amendments to the Law on Insurance** considered by the Committee on Economy, Finance and Budget, the Committee on International Relations and European Integration and the Constitutional Issues and Legislative Committee, and proposed to the Parliament for adoption.
- **Proposal for a Law on Amendments to the Law on Employment and Unemployment Insurance Rights**

considered by the Committee on Health, Labour and Social Welfare, the Committee on International Relations and European Integration and the Constitutional Issues and Legislative Committee, and proposed to the Parliament for adoption.

- **Proposal for a Law on Amendments to the Law on Trade Union Representation** considered by the Committee on Health, Labour and Social Welfare and the Committee on International Relations and European Integration, and proposed to the Parliament for adoption.
- **Proposal for a Law on Railway** considered by the Committee on International Relations and European Integration, and proposed to the Parliament for adoption.
- **Proposal for a Law on Amendments to the Law on Data Secrecy** considered by the Security and Defence Committee, and proposed to the Parliament for adoption.
- **Proposal for a Law on Internal Affairs** considered by the Committee on Political System, Judiciary and Administration, the Committee on International Relations and European Integration and the Constitutional Issues and Legislative Committee, and proposed to the Parliament for adoption.
- **Proposal for a Law on Ratification of the Annex VI of the Marpol Convention 73/78** considered by the Constitutional Issues and Legislative Committee and proposed to the Parliament for adoption.
- **Proposal for a Law on Abrogation of the Law on tax for access to certain services of general interest and for use of tobacco products and electro-acoustical and acoustical devices** considered by the Constitutional Issues and Legislative Committee and proposed to the Parliament for adoption.
- **Proposal for a Law on Amendments to the Law on Public Broadcasting Service of Montenegro** considered by the Committee on Political System, Judiciary and Administration and the Constitutional Issues and Legislative Committee, and proposed to the Parliament for adoption.

Other acts considered before committees:

- **Proposal for a Decision on Shortening the Mandate of the 24th Convocation of the Parliament of Montenegro** considered by the Committee on Political System, Judiciary and Administration and the Constitutional Issues and Legislative Committee. The Committee on Political System, Judiciary and Administration proposed it to the Parliament for adoption, while at the meeting of the Constitutional Issues and Legislative Committee, the proposal did not receive majority of votes.
- **Proposal for a Decision on Establishing the Committee for Monitoring Application of the Law on Election of Councillors and MPs, in part related to the media** determined by the Administrative Committee.
- **Proposal for a Decision on Granting a Long-Term Lease of Location of the Army Quarters "Orjen Battalion" – Kumbor, Municipality Herceg Novi** considered by the Committee on Economy, Finance and Budget and proposed to the Parliament for adoption.

OVERSIGHT ACTIVITY



- At the Ninth (Special) Sitting of the First Ordinary Session of the Parliament of Montenegro in 2012, dedicated to **Prime Minister's Hour and parliamentary questions**, MPs' questions were answered by Prime Minister of Montenegro Igor Lukšić and the ministers from the Government. MPs posed seven questions to the Prime Minister and 69 questions to ministers. In addition, MPs posed three supplementary questions to ministers.
- **The Committee on Health, Labour and Social Welfare**, at the meeting held on 2 July, deliberated on the situation in the Home for Elderly People "Grabovac" in Risan and the Children's Home "Mladost" in Bijela (following visits of the Committee to these institutions), as well as the Strategy for Development of Foster Care in Montenegro 2012-2016. The meeting was attended, apart from the Committee members, by interested MPs and representatives of the Ministry of Health, the Institute for Public Health, the Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare, the Home for Elderly People "Grabovac" from Risan, the Children's Home "Mladost" from Bijela, UNICEF, Secretariat for Social Welfare of Podgorica and the Association for Protection of Retirees and Disabled Persons of Montenegro. The Committee members and other representatives were informed of the mode of work of these institutions, health care they provide, user structure, adjustment process of users after being admitted to the institutions, ways of contacting their families, as well as how free time and culture and entertainment events are organised in these institutions. Also, the Strategy for Development of Foster Care in Montenegro 2012-2016 was discussed and positively assessed.
- Based on the conclusions of the Parliament of Montenegro adopted at the sitting of 8 June, to which, among else, the Government is invited to report to **the Committee on Economy, Finance and Budget** at least once in 15 days, on the level of implementation of all conclusions of the Parliament related to the Aluminium Plant Podgorica, Minister of Economy Vladimir Kavarić informed the Committee on the activities undertaken since the adoption of conclusions. At the meeting held on 9 July, the Committee stated that, in the future, its members must be informed every 15 days, in written form, on the implementation of the Conclusions of the Parliament of Montenegro concerning examining the implementation of the Conclusions of the Parliament, with regard to the Decision on confirmation of the Decision on Taking Over the Debt of the Aluminium Plant Podgorica.

Furthermore, the Committee supported the Annual Report on Granted State Aid in Montenegro in 2011, stating that the Report is substantially and methodologically done with more quality and that it contains information of the effects of the assigned state aid. The Committee also considered the Proposal for conclusions related to considering the 2011 Performance Report of the Central Bank of Montenegro. The proposal for conclusions did not receive a majority vote of the Committee.

- At the meeting held on 10 July, **the Gender Equality Committee** got acquainted with the making of the activity plan for achieving gender equality in Montenegro for the period 2013-2017. Coordinator of the Department for Gender Equality Irena Bošković and the expert hired by the Department for Gender Equality for the project of making the plan of activities Lovorka Marinović presented future activities for the plan, which should be adopted by the Government of Montenegro in the IV quarter.
- **The Committee on Economy, Finance and Budget**, at the meeting held on 16 July, decided to propose to the Parliament to adopt the Report on state of the insurance market in 2011 and the 2011 Performance Report of the Insurance Supervision Agency. The Committee also considered the Report on state of the energy sector of Montenegro in 2011 and, at the initiative of a number of Committee members, decided to reach certain conclusion when the meeting continues.
- **The Administrative Committee**, at the meeting held on 16 July, determined the Proposal for a Decision on Appointment of one member of the Insurance Supervision Agency Council and the Proposal for Election of two members of the Council of Prosecutors, from amongst renowned lawyers in Montenegro. The Committee proposed to the Parliament to appoint Hamid Kujević member of the Insurance Supervision Agency Council, as well as to elect prof. Mladen Vukčević, PhD, and Jelena Popović members of the Council of Prosecutors, from amongst renowned lawyers in Montenegro.
- At the meeting held on 20 July, **the Security and Defence Committee** considered the Proposal for Appointment of Director of the Police Directorate, which the Government submitted to the Parliament for an opinion. The Committee meeting was attended, as summoned, by Minister of the Interior Ivan Brajović and the candidate for the post of Director of the Police Directorate, Božidar Vuksanović. Following the talks with the candidate and the dis-

cussion, the Committee adopted by majority of votes the report, proposing to the Parliament of Montenegro to initiate an Opinion with the proposal to appoint Božidar Vuksanović Director of the Police Directorate.

- **The Inquiry Committee for Collection of Information and Facts on Corruption in Privatisation of Telekom Crna Gora**, at the meeting held on 20 July, adopted the decision on summoning Supreme State Prosecutor Ranka Čarapić, Director of the Directorate for Prevention of Money Laundering and Terrorism Financing Predrag Mitrović, as well as Acting Director of the Police Directorate Božidar Vuksanović, to give statements and respond to questions of the Committee members on facts known to them, concerning the subject of the parliamentary inquiry, at the following meetings which will be closed to the public.
- **The Committee on Economy, Finance and Budget**, at the meeting held on 23 July, decided to propose to the Parliament to adopt the Report on state of the energy sector of Montenegro in 2011. Additionally, the Committee got familiarised with the 2011 Performance Report of the Council for Financial Stability.
- At the meeting held on 23 July, **the Committee on Economy, Finance and Budget** considered the Information of the Ministry of Economy on implementation of conclusions of the Parliament of Montenegro, related to the Aluminium Plant Podgorica, in accordance with the determined obligation of the Ministry to report to the Committee every 15 days, on level of realisation of the undertaken responsibilities. Furthermore, the Committee got acquainted with the Performance Report of the Investment and Development Fund and the financial statements for 2011, with the Report of the independent auditor. The MPs posed a great number of questions and they were able, through responses of the President of the Board of Directors of the Fund and his associates, to get a perspective of institution's activities throughout the previous year.
- **The Commission for Monitoring and Control of the Privatisation Procedure**, at the meeting held on 23 July, adopted the conclusions on the topic of control of the privatisation procedure of "Željezara Nikšić". Following the discussion on proposal for conclusions concerning partial privatisation and capitalisation procedure of Electrical Power Company of Montenegro, the Commission did not vote on the proposal, due to lack of quorum.
- **The Committee on International Relations and European Integration**, at the meeting held on 23 July, considered reports on the work of the working groups for preparation of accession negotiations of Montenegro with the European Union and reports on the realisation of explanatory and bilateral meet-

ings of the screening for chapters 23 and 24. On that occasion, the meeting was attended by Ambassador Aleksandar Andrija Pejović, State Secretary for European Integration and Chief Negotiator, who presented the reports to the Committee members and responded to their questions.

- **The Inquiry Committee for Collection of Information and Facts on Corruption in Privatisation of Telekom Crna Gora**, at the meeting held on 25 July, considered the information of the Supreme State Prosecution and the Directorate for Prevention of Money Laundering and Terrorism Financing, regarding the privatisation process of Telekom Crna Gora.
- At the meeting held on 25 July, **the Inquiry Committee for Collection of Information and Facts on Corruption in Privatisation of Telekom Crna Gora** considered the information of the Police Directorate, concerning the privatisation procedure of Telekom Crna Gora.
- **The Administrative Committee**, at the meeting held on 26 July, decided to start a procedure for appointment of one member of the Senate of the State Audit Institution, by publishing an open announcement in daily newspapers: "Pobjeda", "Dan", ND "Vijesti", "Dnevne novine", as well as on the Parliament of Montenegro website. Added to that, at the proposal of Damir Davidović, Secretary General of the Parliament, the Committee adopted the Decision on Appointment of Jelena Radonjić, graduate jurist, as Assistant Secretary General, Head of the Sector for Support to Legislative and Oversight Functions of the Parliament.
- **The Security and Defence Committee**, at the meeting held on 31 July, considered the information of the Supreme State Prosecution and the Directorate for Prevention of Money Laundering and Terrorism Financing, concerning the control hearing on the topic of activities of competent state organs, conducted in order to investigate allegations of corrupt activities during and after the privatisation process of Telekom Crna Gora. The meeting was attended, as summoned, by Supreme State Prosecutor Ranka Čarapić and Director of the Directorate for Prevention of Money Laundering and Terrorism Financing Predrag Mitrović. The Committee stated that in the previous period the two institutions carried out numerous activities, in order to determine whether there were elements of corrupt activities in the privatisation process of Telekom, as well as that their professional approach to the case and respect of legal procedures resulted in gathering important data. In the forthcoming period, the Committee will continue to follow the case and the activities of competent state authorities with special care, taking into account the complexity of the procedure and the case.

NEWS FROM PARLIAMENT



Annual Session of the Parliamentary Assembly of OSCE held in Monaco

21st Annual Session of the Parliamentary Assembly of OSCE was held in Monaco, from 5 to 9 July. The session was attended by President of the Parliament of Montenegro Ranko Krivokapić and members of the delegation of the Parliament of Montenegro to the Parliamentary Assembly of OSCE, MPs Milutin Simović and Goran Danilović.

On the first day of the session, President Krivokapić had a meeting with Prime Minister of Monaco Michel Roger and President of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe Jean-Claude Mignon.

At the first meeting, interlocutors agreed that there was a great number of fields in which Montenegro and Monaco could actively cooperate, and mutual wish was expressed to achieve stable relation between marina in Monte Carlo and Porto Montenegro.

During the talks with President of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe Jean-Claude Mignon, possible models of common projects between the parliamentary assemblies of OSCE and Council of Europe were discussed. They considered the possibility for projects of strengthening the role of parliaments in Europe and President Mignon invited President Krivokapić to speak about this subject at the Summit of the Presidents of Parliament in September.

On the second day of the OSCE PA session, general committees – the Committee on Political Affairs and Security, the Committee on Economic Affairs, Science,

Technology and Environment and the Committee on Democracy, Human Rights and Humanitarian Issues held their meetings. Also, the Mediterranean Forum was held, on the topic “The OSCE Mediterranean partnership in a changing region: the impact of elections since the events of 2011”.

The next day, the OSCE PA continued with meetings of the three general committees, and the first part of the fourth day was dedicated to the last meetings of the third and the first general committee.

On the last day of the annual session of the OSCE PA, parliamentarians from Europe, Central Asia and North America adopted the Political Declaration, with the specific plans for action regarding human rights, military transparency and global economic crisis. The Declaration, among else, claims for the liberation of all political prisoners and invites countries of the OSCE, currently presiding and to be presiding in future, to “set the standards” of human rights and invites national parliaments to increase green investment, in order to encourage economic growth.

The 21st Annual Session ended with the election of Riccardo Migliori as President – the first Italian on that position. Parliamentarians also elected five Vice Presidents: Robert Aderholt (United States of America), Jean-Charles Gardetto (Monaco), Alain Neri (France), George Tsereteli (Georgia) and Uta Zapf (Germany).

The COSAC Meeting held in Limassol

In the scope of the six-month Cyprus Presidency of the European Union, the Meeting of Chairs of the Union Affairs Committees of Parliaments of the EU was held in Limassol on 9 July. The meeting was attended by the delegation of the Parliament of Montenegro, composed of Chairman of the Committee on International Relations and European Integration Miodrag Vuković and Vice Chairman Vasilije Lalošević.

The program of the Presidency of the Republic of Cyprus, titled “Better Europe”, was presented at the meeting. It is based on the principles and values of the European Union through which, as deemed by Chairs, Europe could become a better place for life of citizens and their neighbours. They also promoted a policy which calls for finding, through principles of solidarity and efficiency, adequate solutions for the economic crisis, through development of competition, social cohesion and opening of new jobs.

Chairman of the Committee on International Relations and European Integration Miodrag Vuković also addressed the participants, pointing out the importance of participation of Montenegrin parliamentarians at the meetings organised under the presidencies, which offer them the possibility to be acquainted with the current European agenda, composed of interesting topics, important for functioning of the Union and member states. He thanked the European colleagues for stating Montenegro’s achieved progress in seven areas, marked by the European Commission as key areas for opening of negotiations.

The meeting was in addition covered with topics on the influence of the Treaty of Lisbon on the functioning of the European Union, Energy Strategy 2020 and the level of democratic changes of the societies which were involved in the changes during 2011, through so called “Arab Spring”.

Secretary General of the Parliament Damir Davidović paid a visit to the Global Centre for Information and Communication Technologies in Parliament in Rome

Delegation of the Parliament of Montenegro, headed by the Secretary General Damir Davidović, paid a one day working visit to the Global Centre for Information and Communication Technologies in Parliament on 9 July in Rome.

Visit to the Global Centre for ICT in Parliament, which was established as joint initiative of the UN and the Inter-Parliamentary Union, was organised with the aim to exchange experiences in the field of using IT as means of improvement of the work of parliaments, with special emphasis on the legislative process, but also on support for modernisation of transparency principle and enhancement of overall efficiency in work.

On that occasion, Secretary General met with Gherardo Casini, Director of Global Centre for ICT in Parliament, his associates and representatives of professional services of the House of Representatives and the Senate of the Italian Republic, in charge for in-

formation technologies. Secretary General informed the interlocutors of Parliament of Montenegro's completing of significant preparations for creating conditions for implementation of the E-Parliament in the legislative procedure, as well as with the plans to start the realisation of this project as soon as possible.

Furthermore, opinions on the most significant challenges in this field were exchanged and the two discussed about the experience of the Italian parliament in preparation and implementation of projects of this type, as well as about other relevant experiences of parliament members of the IPU, and future trends of connecting the IT development and modernisation of work of parliaments.

At the meeting, the interlocutors agreed on further cooperation and support of the Global Centre for ICT in Parliament for further stages of e-parliament implementation, but also for other processes of modernisation in the IT Sector of the Parliament of Montenegro.

The Parliament hosted the Competition of Rhetoric on the topic: "Montenegro through Centuries of Statehood"

On the occasion of the Statehood Day of Montenegro, 13 July, the Parliament of Montenegro hosted the competition of rhetoric, on the topic: "Montenegro through Centuries of Statehood".

The competition was attended by 10 students from the School of Rhetoric of Professor Radovan Radonjić, PhD, who presented speeches of famous Montenegrins throughout history (Petar I Cetinjski, King Nikola, governor Vuko Radonjić, Nikola Petanović, Veljko Vlahović, etc.).

President of the Parliament Ranko Krivokapić spoke to the contestants:

"You are at the right place today, in the Parliament, where not only is the politics carried out – but where representatives of the citizens, on behalf of citizens, seek the truth and speak the truth. The relation among

speech, politics and truth is not just a rhetorical question – the relation towards the truth determines the very essence of the speech and the politics as well. Speech is the cornerstone of the Montenegrin culture. And not just any kind of speech – but the truthful talk. As the saying goes: Say well or be still."

Maja Pavićević won the competition with her own speech, "Montenegro through Centuries of Statehood". The second place went to Danijela Ljepavić, with the speech of Prince Nikola "Proclamation of the General Property Code", while the third place went to Šučo Orahovac, with the speech of Veljko Vlahović "Montenegro".

Competitors who won the first, second and third place are awarded with a study visit to Strasbourg and the participation at the World Forum for Democracy, on 5-11 October 2012.

President of the Parliament Ranko Krivokapić was a host to Ban Ki-moon, Secretary General of the United Nations

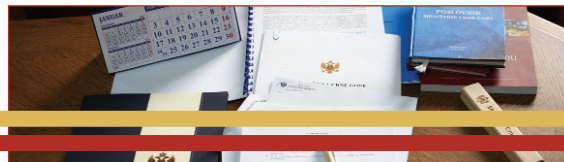
President of the Parliament of Montenegro Ranko Krivokapić met with Ban Ki-moon, Secretary General of the United Nations, on 23 July 2012 in Podgorica.

Ban Ki-moon and President Krivokapić held talks on significant role of the Parliament in strengthening human rights, as well as on the necessity for greater participation of women in politics. President Krivokapić informed the Secretary General of the UN about the obligation which was initiated by the new

electoral law, relating to representation of women of minimum 30% at electoral lists of political parties. Furthermore, Krivokapić informed Ban Ki-moon about novelties in the Rules of Procedures of the Parliament, such as establishment of new working bodies.

Secretary General of the UN Ban Ki-moon congratulated Montenegro for starting negotiations on membership in the EU and stated that our country has achieved immense success since the renewal of independence.

IN FOCUS



Undisputable progress in work of the 24th Convocation of the Parliament

At the Tenth Sitting of the First Ordinary Session in 2012, on 26 July, the Parliament adopted the Decision on Shortening the Mandate of the 24th Convocation of the Parliament of Montenegro. For this reason, the column In Focus presents to you the most important acts and events which marked this period. During this convocation, legislative and oversight functions of the Parliament were significantly strengthened, the volume of work increased and many novelties were introduced, contributing to higher efficiency, promptness and transparency in work.

Legislative and oversight activity

During the 24th Convocation, the Parliament of Montenegro further intensified the work of its working bodies, making them key actors of parliamentary activities. The need for strengthening its oversight role was recognised; therefore, significantly more control and consultative hearings were organised, compared to the 23rd Parliament. Also, the institute of Prime Minister's Hour and MPs' questions was improved.

Implementation of the Action plan for strengthening legislative and oversight role of the Parliament of Montenegro for period December 2010 – November 2011 significantly contributed to intensification of work of the Parliament, particularly that of the work-

ing bodies. The Action plan was adopted at the meeting of the Collegium of the President of Parliament on 9 December 2010, after the European Commission published the Opinion on Montenegro's application for membership in the EU. For the purpose of successfully fulfilling the EC's recommendations, the Collegium envisaged 31 measures and activities in the Action plan, related to adopting laws and other acts, improving efficacy and transparency of the Parliament's work, strengthening administrative capacities, as well as to strengthening the Parliament's ability to monitor and follow harmonisation process of the national legislation with the EU law. During the period covered by the Action plan, 22 measures were completely realised, while nine measures were partially implemented.

One of the measures envisaged by the Action plan was related to adopting a set of new legal acts, such as:

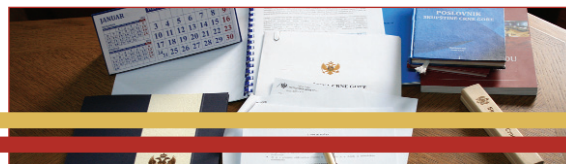
- The Law on Amendments to the Law on Budget and the Law on Amendments to the Law on Civil Servants, adopted in 2010, which improved the administrative and financial autonomy of the Parliament and secured better conditions for fulfilment of its functions, particularly having in mind numerous obligations in the EU negotiation process, as well as the need for increasing administrative capacities.
- The Law on Amendments to the Law on Election of MPs and Councillors, adopted on 8 September 2011, by whose adoption the Parliament fulfilled the ODIHR's and Venice Commission's recommendations and harmonised its electoral law with the Constitution. This law solved two important issues, the electoral right and the authentic representation of minority peoples and minority national communities in the parliaments.
- The Decision on Amendments to the Rules of Procedure of the Parliament of Montenegro, adopted on 8 May 2012. With the aim to strengthen the oversight role of the Parliament and its role in the European integration process, new working bodies are established and competences of the existing ones are expanded. Also, oversight institutes, such as control hearing and MPs' questions, are improved. Furthermore, new Rules of Procedure provide for greater possibility for the act proposals of MPs of parliamentary minority to be included in the agenda of the Parliament's sittings. The Decision applies from 31 July 2012.

*Statistics of the 24th Parliament**

During the 24th Convocation, the Parliament held 76 sittings, where it adopted 465 laws (306 laws and 159 amendments to the laws). At sittings dedicated to Prime Minister's Hour and MPs' questions, 90 questions total were asked to the Prime Minister, along with one additional question, while 953 questions were posed to the ministers in the Government, along with 110 additional ones. Furthermore, during this convocation, two interpellations on the work of the Government and one parliamentary inquiry were started, while the MPs voted twice on the motion of no confidence in the Government. Working bodies of the Parliament held 15 control and 71 consultative hearings.

*The statistical data relate to the period from the beginning of the 24th Convocation until 31 July 2012.

IN FOCUS



International activities

Internationally, the Parliament also intensified its activities, through different forms of parliamentary diplomacy, such as meetings, official visits, but also organisation of international gatherings. In that sense, year 2010 is particularly important, because during that year the Parliament of Montenegro chaired three regional initiatives: the Central European Initiative (CEI), the South-East Europe Cooperation Process (SEECP) and the Adriatic-Ionian Initiative (AII).

During the 24th Convocation of the Parliament, Montenegro progressed substantially in the European integration process. From submitting responses to the EC Questionnaire on 15 December 2009 to the European Council's decision on opening negotiations with Montenegro, our country has come a long way, and the Parliament actively contributed to that process. One of the most important activities of the Parliament in that sense was establishment of the Stabilisation and Association Parliamentary Committee (SAPC). The Parliamentary Committee was formed in June 2010, after the Stabilisation and Association Agreement between the European Communities and Montenegro came into force, with the aim to monitor implementation of the SAA. It consists of 14 members from the Parliament of Montenegro and 14 MEPs, and four meetings have been held so far, two in Brussels and two in Podgorica.

Also, after Montenegro was granted candidate status for the EU membership, representatives of the Par-

liament got an opportunity to participate as observers at meetings of representatives of committees of national parliaments of EU member states. In that way, Montenegrin MPs established regular political dialogue with the European parliamentarians and got a chance to exchange opinions on the EU policies with them. Some of the meetings that the Parliament representatives participated in were: COSAC (Conference of Parliamentary Committees for Union Affairs of Parliaments of the European Union), COFACC (Conference of Foreign Affairs Committee Chairs) and CFFAC (Conference of Finance and Fiscal Affairs Committee Chairs).

In the next issue of the bulletin, you will have the chance to read about the most important activities of the Service of the Parliament during the 24th Convocation, which were aimed at strengthening administrative capacities, development of the IT system and on further improvement of communication with citizens and transparency in work.



| | 23 rd Convocation | 24 th Convocation |
|---|---|---|
| Number of sittings held | 42 | 76 |
| Number of adopted laws | 249 (182 laws and 67 amendments to the laws) | 465 (306 laws and 159 amendments to the laws) |
| Prime Minister's Hour | 41 questions | 90 questions and one additional |
| MPs' questions | 356 questions and 38 additional | 953 questions and 110 additional |
| Interpellations on work of the Government | 4 | 2 |
| Motion of no confidence in the Government | - | 2 |
| Parliamentary inquiries | - | 1 |
| Number of control hearings | 2 | 15 |
| Number of consultative hearings | 4 | 71 |

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.

FROM THE HISTORY OF MONTENEGRIN PARLIAMENTARISM



LAW ON INSURANCE COMPANIES IN THE PRINCIPALITY OF MONTENEGRO

27 May / 10 June 1904

WE
NIKOLA I
By the grace of God
PRINCE AND SOVEREIGN OF MONTENEGRO

On the proposal of Our Minister of Finance
Upon hearing Our State Council
Have decided to proclaim
and decree the following

LAW ON INSURANCE COMPANIES

Article 1

In the Principality of Montenegro, functioning of anonymous, mutual, subsidiary and any other kind of companies for insurance against: fire, lightning, hail, accidents at sea or land, life insurance, in case of death etc. shall be allowed.

Article 2

Companies which can be permitted to function in the Principality shall:

a) submit to the Ministry of Finance, along with request for permission to work, necessary proof of their legitimate work, of at least 10 years, in one or more of the following countries: the Austro-Hungarian Empire, Germany, France, Russia, Italy, England and the United States of America,

b) submit to the Ministry correct and properly approved latest financial balance, (...)

Article 11

If the society, within three months, fails to pay out the money upon the court verdict to the insured person, that person shall be entitled to collect money from the deposit.

From the Law on Insurance Companies,
Cetinje, 1904

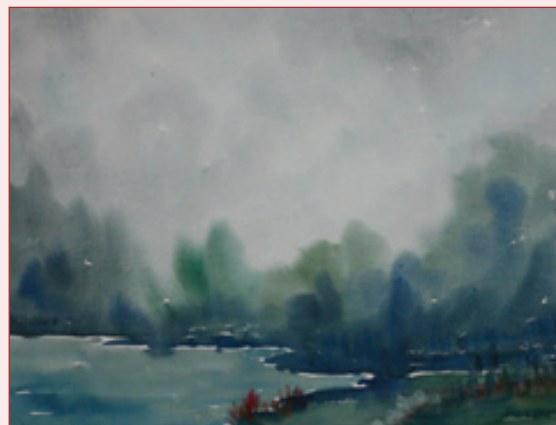
Crnogorski zakonici 1796-1916, II, (eng. Montenegrin Codes, II), eds. B. Pavićević, R. Raspopović, Podgorica 1998.

FROM PARLIAMENTARY GALLERY

Zaga Malinkovska: "Mountain Lake"

The art collection of the Parliament of Montenegro contains 45 works, from 32 authors who are mostly from Montenegro, while smaller number of artists originates from the former SFR Yugoslavia. Among them is also Zaga Malinkovska, a painter from Macedonia, whose most fruitful creative period is linked to the second half of the XX century.

The motive of nature on the painting shows extraordinary skills of the artist and a rich, restrained and refined coloring, which accurately conveys the atmosphere of the scene. It absorbs elements of famous artistic expressions and sensibility of the Far East art, which gives the aquarelle, the basis of her artistic work, a special value.



CALENDAR



2 July

- President of the Parliament of Montenegro Ranko Krivokapić received H.E. Mr. Mehmet Niyazi Tinilir, the newly appointed Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of Turkey to Montenegro. Interlocutors stated good political and economic relations between Montenegro and Turkey. Krivokapić and Niyazi Tinilir also expressed pleasure over the present cooperation of the parliamentary friendship group between the two countries.

3 July

- Secretary General of the Parliament of Montenegro Damir Davidović held talks with the Chief Coordinator of the UN System to Montenegro and Permanent Representative of the UNDP to Montenegro Rastislav Vrbensky. Secretary General of the Parliament assessed as important the work of the UNDP Office to Montenegro and pointed out that there was significant space for enhancement and deepening of cooperation – structured in different manner.



6 July

- Members of the Committee on Political System, Judiciary and Administration met with representatives of the Commission for Prevention of the Conflict of Interest of Montenegro and the delegation of PR China, paying an official visit to Montenegro, headed by the Vice Minister of the Ministry of Supervision and Vice Director of National Bureau of Corruption Prevention of China Qu Wanxiang. Members of the Committee introduced the Chinese delegation with the powers and oversight capacity of the Committee when discussing annual reports on the work of individual institutions, with the emphasis on the Report of the Commission for Prevention of Conflict of Interest.
- Chairman of the Committee on International Relations and European Integration Miodrag Vuković met with Robert de Groot, Director General for European Cooperation at the Foreign Ministry of the Netherlands. Groot congratulated on the opening of the accession negotiations and stated that the Government and the Parliament of the Netherlands would be watching carefully the reform processes in the region, and that Montenegro, in this context, deserved to negotiate accession to the EU membership.
- Vice President of the Parliament Rifat Rastoder held talks with the Advisor in the Diplomatic Mission of the Republic of Azerbaijan to Montenegro Seyran Mirzazade. Mirzazade delivered to Vice President Rastoder letter of gratitude from the Ambassador of the Republic of Azerbaijan to Montenegro, H. E. Eldar Hasanov, on the occasion of forming the Friendship Group of the Parliament of Montenegro with the Parliament of the Republic of Azerbaijan.

PARLIAMENTARY GLOSSARY

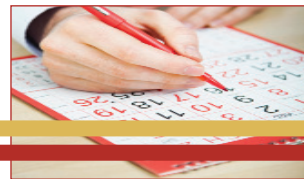
POLITICAL PARTIES¹. The name of political parties is derived from Latin part (a part), or partire (to split). Therefore, political parties, in the widest sense, can be defined as groups of people connected by a common political interest. The constitutive elements of political parties are: organisation, programme, ideology and objective.

One of the most famous typologies of political parties is the one which divides them into cadre and mass parties. According to Duverger, characteristics of cadre parties are restrictive membership and narrow field of activities. Opposite to them, mass parties are characterised by large membership and a wide field of activities.

Also, parties can be divided based on their relation towards democracy as a goal and as a mean: to democratic and totalitarian parties.

¹ Source: Radovan Radonjić, *Demokratija (Democracy)*, Centar za građansko obrazovanje, Podgorica, 2007.

CALENDAR



7 July

- President of the Parliament Ranko Krivokapić attended Croatia Summit from 6 to 7 July, which gathers leaders from the region, Europe and USA, as a panelist on the topic “Building a state in the post-conflict societies – political and security challenges”.

9 July

- Delegation of the Security and Defense Committee attended the workshop held in Konjic, Bosnia and Herzegovina, on the topic “Debate on the Draft Law on the Parliamentary Oversight in the Security and Defense of the Bosnia and Herzegovina”. Participation of the Committee in this meeting was highly appreciated as well as the importance of the suggestion arising from the preparation of the Law on the Parliamentary Oversight in the Security and Defense, as an example of good practice in the region and beyond.
- 21st Annual Session of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly was held in Monaco. Parliamentarians elected the President – Riccardo Migliori, as well as five vice presidents. They also adopted Political Declaration with the specific plans for the action in the field of human rights, military transparency and global economic crisis.
- Meeting of Chairs of the European Affairs Committees of Parliaments of the EU was held in Limassol, within the six-month Cyprus Presidency of the Council of the European Union. The meeting was attended by the delegation of the Parliament of Montenegro, composed of Chairman of the Committee on International Relations and European Integration Miodrag Vuković and Vice Chairman Vasilije Lalošević.
- Delegation of the Parliament of Montenegro, headed by Secretary General Damir Davidović paid one-day working visit to the Global Center for ICT in Parliament, in Rome. The visit was organised with the aim to exchange experiences in the field of IT use as means of improvement of the work of parliaments.

10 July

- Petar Ivezic, Deputy Ombudsman, took the Oath of Office before the President of the Parliament of Montenegro Ranko Krivokapić. President Krivokapić stated that the rule of law represented the largest level of maturity of a society and expressed his belief that Institution of Protector of Human Rights and Freedoms would be enhanced through strengthening of democratic capacities in Montenegro.

- Representatives of the Parliament of Montenegro attended the seminar in Sofia, 9-10 July, organised on the topic “Modernisation of Agriculture and Implementation of Agricultural Policy”. Preparations for membership in the European Union and steps which should be taken by candidate countries for membership and potential candidate countries in order to adjust their agricultural policy to common agricultural policy of the European Union were discussed.

11 July

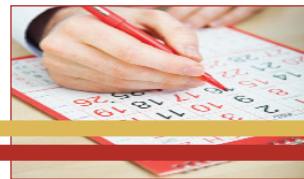
- Members of the Security and Defense Committed attended the Annual Discussion on the implementation of the OSCE Code of Conduct in the Politico-Military Aspects of Security, held in Vienna, organised by the Forum for Security Co-operation. Chair of the Committee Mevludin Nuhodžić addressed the participants with the topic: “Legislative Framework of the Democratic Oversight in the Security and Defense Sector and Significance of the OSCE Code of Conduct in the Politico-Military Aspects of Security”.
- On the Occasion of 13 July, Statehood Day of Montenegro, the Parliament hosted the Competition of Rhetoric on the topic of “Montenegro through Centuries of Statehood”.
- On the occasion of 11 July, European Commemorative Day for the victims of Srebrenica and the Commemorative Day for Civil Victims of the wars waged in the period 1991 – 2001 on the territory of the former Yugoslavia, President Krivokapić paid tribute to victims in Memorial Park “Pobrežje”.

12 July

- President of the Parliament Ranko Krivokapić presented Trinaestojulska Award for 2012 for lifetime achievement to – performance artist Marina Abramović. He also presented Trinaestojulska Award for 2012 to director Branko Baletić, Women’s Handball Team “Budućnost” and company „Plantaže 13. jul”.



CALENDAR



16 July

- Vice President of the Parliament of Montenegro Rifat Rastoder, as the Chairman of the Parliamentary Group of Friendship with Parliaments of the States in the Region, Mediterranean, Asia and overseas states and Miodrag Vuković, Chairman of the Committee on International Relations and European Integration, received the delegation of the Islamic Republic of Iran, composed of: Mr. Ali Asghar Khaji – the envoy of President of Iran Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, Mr. Majid Nili Ahmadabadi, Deputy Director General of the Directorate General for Northern and Eastern Europe in the Iranian Foreign Ministry and Mr. Abolghasem Delfi, Ambassador of Iran to Montenegro.

18 July

- Secretary General of the Parliament of Montenegro Damir Davidović received trainers and representatives of NGO Forum MNE, who visited the Parliament on the occasion of carrying out the two-day training which was organised for them within the final stage of preparation of the project “Democracy Workshops”.
- Agreement on the need to establish the rules on manner and procedure of election of representatives of NGO Sector in the bodies formed by the Parliament of Montenegro was reached at the meeting between Chairman of the Administrative Committee Radivoje Lala Nikčević and Deputy Chairman Emilo Labudović with representatives of the Civic Alliance and the CDT – Boris Raonić and Dragan Koprivica.

19 July

- President of the Parliament of Montenegro Ranko Krivokapić held talks with Alexander Vershbow, Deputy Secretary General of NATO. Interlocutors agreed that Montenegro made rapid progress on its path toward NATO and expressed expectation that the coming NATO Summit would be the summit of enlargement. President of the Parliament Ranko Krivokapić pointed out that Montenegro was committed to further fulfilling its obligations and reaching full NATO standards in all the fields within NATO integration.
- MPs Šefkija Murić, Nikola Gegaj and Novica Stanić attended conference on the topic “Protection of the Minority Rights with the Focus on Strengthening of the Minority Councils”, held 17-19 July in Miločer.

20 July

- Second day of the conference “Protection of the Minor-

ity Rights with the Focus on Strengthening of the Minority Councils” was attended by MPs: Koča Pavlović, Ljerka Dragičević and Novica Stanić.

23 July

- President of the Parliament of Montenegro Ranko Krivokapić held talks with Ban Ki-moon, Secretary General of the UN. Secretary General of the UN Ban Ki-moon congratulated Montenegro for starting negotiation on membership in the EU and stated that the country has achieved great success since the renewal of independence.



- Members of the Committee on Health, Labor and Social Welfare, representatives of parliamentary groups and interested MPs, visited the Catholic Spiritual Center “Sanctae Crucis” in Sukuruć.

24 July

- President of the Parliament of Montenegro Ranko Krivokapić held talks with H. E. Ms. Maria do Carmo de Sousa Pinto Allegro de Magalhães, newly appointed Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of Portugal to Montenegro. Interlocutors stated friendly relations between Montenegro and Portugal and agreed that political contacts between the two countries should be stepped up in the following period.

26 July

- President of the Parliament of Montenegro Ranko Krivokapić received the delegation of the European Broadcasting Union (EBU) headed by Vice President of the EBU Claudio Cappon and by Boris Bergant and David Lewis. Vice President of the European Broadcasting Union Claudio Cappon conveyed to President of the Parliament Ranko Krivokapić his satisfaction with the enhancement of the work of Public Broadcasting Service in the part of the management structure as well as costs control.

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.