

# OPEN PARLIAMENT



Parliament of Montenegro

Bulletin on the Parliament of Montenegro Performance ♦ Electronic format ♦ Release: monthly ♦ Year II ♦ No. 19 ♦ September 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 September, which is, in the form of a monthly bulletin "Open Parliament", prepared by the Service of the Parliament.

Due to shortening of the Parliament's mandate, September was not marked with extensive legislative activity. Committees considered and the Parliament adopted the Proposal for a Law on Amendments to the Law on Identity Card. In terms of control activities, the Inquiry Committee in charge of Collecting Information and Facts on Corruption in Privatisation of the Company Telekom Crna Gora held three meetings, where several persons gave statements and answered questions of the Committee members. Also, the newly formed Committee for Monitoring of Implementation of the Law on Election of Councillors and MPs in the part related to the media held two meetings in September.

In the column "In Focus", we present to you projects and other activities of the Service during the 24th Convocation of the Parliament, in areas such as: improvement of the transparency of work, providing expert support to MPs, training of employees, improvement of the Parliament's IT system and education of children on democratic values. We believe that these activities significantly contributed to making the Parliament even more open and efficient.

The bulletin is published monthly as 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 September, the Parliament adopted one law.**

**At the Sitting of the Eighth Extraordinary Session of the Parliament of Montenegro in 2012, the Law on Amendments to the Law on Identity Card was adopted.**

### Proposals for laws considered at committees:

- **Proposal for a Law on Amendments to the Law on Identity Card** considered by the Committee on Political System, Judiciary and Administration and the Constitutional Issues and Legislative Committee, and proposed to the Parliament for adoption.



Bulletin is 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.

# OVERSIGHT ACTIVITY



- **The Committee for Monitoring of Implementation of the Law on Election of Councillors and MPs in the part related to the media** held its first consultative meeting on 14 August. In accordance with the Law on Election of Councillors and MPs, the Committee's competence is to oversee media's conduct, since the date of establishment of the Committee until the announcement of the final results of the elections. The Committee members proposed to organise a meeting with representatives of the media and self-regulatory bodies in early September, in order to establish closer cooperation during the electoral campaign. Also, the Committee reminded of the media's duty to abide the Law on Election of Councillors and MPs, in the part related to representation of submitters of electoral lists and candidates from electoral lists. In other words, public broadcasters, commercial and non-profit broadcasters, have the duty to adopt and make public the rules of representation of submitters of electoral lists, within ten days from the day of announcement of elections. The Committee stated that it did not want to infringe the freedom of media, but to strengthen and improve responsibility of everyone in the society, because it is what democratic and fair elections demand.
- At the meeting held on 7 September, **the Inquiry Committee in charge of Collecting Information and Facts on Corruption in Privatisation of the Company Telekom Crna Gora** started a discussion about the proposal of the Chairman Andrija Mandić, who proposed persons to be interrogated by the Inquiry Committee. Members agreed to continue the meeting on 13 September to allow for necessary consultations with regard to that proposal.
- **The Inquiry Committee in charge of Collecting Information and Facts on Corruption in Privatisation of the Company Telekom Crna Gora** finished the meeting on 13 September, where it adopted a decision to invite the following persons to give statements to the Committee: Oleg Obradović, former Director of Telekom Crna Gora, Miodrag Ivanović, former Director of MONET, Milan Perović, former Director in Telekom Crna Gora, Veselin Vukotić, co-owner of the University Donja Gorica and former Deputy President of the Privatisation Council, Branko Vujović, former President of the Tender Commission, Darko Uskoković, former Minister of Economy in the Government of Montenegro, Branimir Pajković, former Director of the Euromarket Bank, Duško Knežević, President of the Atlas Group and Milo Đukanović, President of the Democratic Party of Socialists and former Prime Minister of Montenegro.
- **The Inquiry Committee in charge of Collecting Information and Facts on Corruption in Privatisation of the Company Telekom Crna Gora** held a meeting on 20 September. Summons for the meeting were answered by Oleg Obradović, former Director of Telekom Crna Gora,

Miodrag Ivanović, former Director of MONET and Milan Perović, former Director in Telekom Crna Gora, who gave their statements. After the discussion, members of the Inquiry Committee decided to address Crnogorski Telekom and propose the company to relieve the said persons of their obligation to preserve the secrecy, which was specified in a clause of their employment contracts.

- **The Inquiry Committee in charge of Collecting Information and Facts on Corruption in Privatisation of the Company Telekom Crna Gora** held a meeting on 25 September, where Veselin Vukotić, co-owner of the University Donja Gorica and former Deputy President of the Privatisation Council, Branko Vujović, former President of the Tender Commission and Darko Uskoković, former Minister of Economy gave statements and answered questions made by members of the Inquiry Committee.
- At the meeting of **the Inquiry Committee in charge of Collecting Information and Facts on Corruption in Privatisation of the Company Telekom Crna Gora**, held on 26 September, Branimir Pajković, former Director of the Euromarket Bank, gave a statement to members of the Inquiry Committee, regarding information on the alleged corruption in Telekom Crna Gora.
- **The Inquiry Committee in charge of Collecting Information and Facts on Corruption in Privatisation of the Company Telekom Crna Gora** held a meeting on 27 September, where Oleg Obradović, former Director of Telekom Crna Gora, Milan Perović, former Director in Telekom Crna Gora and Miodrag Ivanović, former Director of MONET, gave their statements. They stated that Telekom Crna Gora had not relieved them of the obligation to preserve the business secrecy. Ivanović informed the Committee members that his earlier statement remained in force until receipt of the authorisation of Telekom, while Obradović and Perović submitted their written statements.
- **The Inquiry Committee in charge of Collecting Information and Facts on Corruption in Privatisation of the Company Telekom Crna Gora** held a meeting on 28 September, where Milo Đukanović, President of the Democratic Party of Socialists and former Prime Minister of Montenegro gave a statement and answered questions of the Committee members.
- **The Committee for Monitoring of Implementation of the Law on Election of Councillors and MPs in the part related to the media**, at the meeting held on 28 September, considered the objection submitted by the Committee members Slaven Radunović and Koča Pavlović, to the reporting in news broadcasts of the TV CG during 21 and 22 September 2012. The Committee decided that the service of the Committee shall obtain recordings of the said news broadcasts. Also, the Committee decided that the members who had requested a new meeting in order to discuss a TV show "Historical parallels" of TV Montena must submit their request in an appropriate form.

## NEWS FROM PARLIAMENT



### *Conference of Presidents of Parliaments of Small European States held in Kotor*

The Parliament of Montenegro and its President Ranko Krivokapić hosted for the first time the Conference of Presidents of Parliaments of Small European States, which was held on 9-11 September 2012, in Kotor.

Topics of the 7th Conference of Presidents of Parliaments of Small European States were: "Parliamentary diplomacy of small states as stimulus for foreign investments", "Role of parliaments in the control of security sector" and "Small states and financial services".

Opening the Conference, President of the Parliament Ranko Krivokapić stated that globalisation could additionally marginalise small countries and added that those countries fought back, through "awareness that small peoples often do not have the right to justice".

„Small societies are more open and committed to themselves and just with the use of that commitment, those societies demonstrated that they can provide economic independence with their political wisdom.“

Speaking on the topic "Role of parliaments in control of security sector", where the introductory speaker was former US Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense Daniel Fata, President Krivokapić stated that one of the forms of effective democratic control in the field of security policy was parliamentary control. The Parliament of Montenegro, as he emphasized, had played an important role in that process: "The number of control and consultative hearings of highest representatives of executive bodies is increasing

every year, so it became an inevitable parliamentary practice in the Parliament of Montenegro, particularly in certain committees. An additional institutional assumption of strengthening such role of committees is the Law on Parliamentary Oversight in the Field of Security and Defence, which was adopted in the Parliament of Montenegro by consensus in December 2010."

At the end of the Conference, a Joint Declaration was adopted.

The Conference of Presidents of Parliaments of Small European States is held each year in a different member state, on a rotating basis. This year's 7th Conference gathered parliamentary representatives from nine small European states (with less than a million inhabitants), three of them being members of the EU (Malta, Luxembourg, Cyprus – currently presiding over the EU), as well as two candidates for the EU membership (Iceland and Montenegro). The Conference was attended by presidents of parliaments of Andorra and Malta, Vicenç Mateu Zamora and Michael Frendo respectively, First Deputy Speaker of the Parliament of Iceland Ragnheidur Rikhardsdottir, Members of the Parliament of Cyprus Adamos Adamou, Luxembourg Alex Bodry, San Marino Giovanni Francesco Ugolini and Mirco Tomassoni, as well as former US Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense Daniel Fata.

The next, Eighth Conference of Presidents of Parliaments of Small European States will be held in Iceland.

### *Delegation of the Inter-Parliamentary Union Advisory Group on UN Affairs paid an official visit to Montenegro*

Delegation of the Inter-Parliamentary Union Advisory Group on UN Affairs paid an official visit to Montenegro on 13 September.

President of the Parliament of Montenegro Ranko Krivokapić hosted the delegation. He expressed his satisfaction with the previous collaboration of the Parliament and the UN offices in Montenegro, which gave significant contribution to improvement of the Montenegrin society. He informed the guests of the adopted amendments to the Rules of Procedure of the Parliament, which envisage formation of new working bodies. Guests were also interested in learning about percentage of women MPs in the Parliament. In this context, president Krivokapić informed them about the fact that now parties have an obligation to include at least 30% of women in electoral lists and pointed out that this would contribute to better quality of parliamentary life in Montenegro.

Delegation of the Inter-Parliamentary Union also met with members of the Committee on International

Relations and European Integration of the 24<sup>th</sup> Parliament of Montenegro. On this occasion, and on the request of guests, MP Miodrag Vuković briefed them on previous competencies of the Committee on International Relations and European Integration. MP Vuković particularly pointed out new amendments to the Rules of Procedure, in part related to establishment of two new committees, the Committee on European Integration and the Committee on International Relations and Emigrants.

The Acting Chairman of the IPU Committee on UN Affairs Melegue Traore stated that parliaments played an important role in the dynamic process of reform and that there existed a wide range of opportunities for cooperation between the Parliament of Montenegro and the UN. Members of the Inter-Parliamentary Union Advisory Group on UN Affairs congratulated on the achievements of Montenegro in its integration path towards the European Union.

Delegation of the Inter-Parliamentary Union Advisory Group on UN Affairs also met with representatives of the



Committee on Human Rights and Freedoms, the Gender Equality Committee, the Committee on Health, Labour and Social Welfare and the Committee on Economy, Finance and Budget, which pointed out the extraordinary cooperation with the UN offices in Montenegro.

Head of the UNICEF Office in Montenegro Benjamin Perks stated that he was proud of the cooperation with the Parliament of Montenegro, because of its openness and courage to discuss topics such as those of children with special needs and sexually abused children.

### ***President of the Parliament of Montenegro Ranko Krivokapić participated in the European Conference of Presidents of Parliaments of the Council of Europe***

President of the Parliament of Montenegro Ranko Krivokapić participated in the European Conference of Presidents of Parliaments of the Council of Europe, held in Strasbourg on 20-21 September.

Speaking on the topic: "Is representative democracy in crisis? Challenges for national parliaments", President Krivokapić stated that states were tempted to become more corporative, while the political elite was becoming a representative of interests of financial capital, companies and different lobbies, instead of being a powerful representative of citizens.

At the margins of the conference, President Krivokapić had many bilateral meetings. Krivokapić talked with the Speaker of the Senate of Canada Noël Kinsella, who praised rapid progress of Montenegro towards the EU and NATO, which was, according to President Krivokapić, one of the priorities of Montenegro. President Krivokapić met for the first time the newly elected Speaker of the National Assembly of Serbia Nebojša Stefanović. Krivokapić and Stefanović assessed that Montenegro and Serbia relied on each other and concluded that they needed to build good and friendly relations.

In his talk with President of the Parliamentary Assembly of OSCE Riccardo Migliori, President Krivokapić expressed his pleasure over relations between the Montenegrin Parliament and OSCE PA. Migliori assessed that it was particularly important that OSCE PA had

Members of the delegation of the Inter-Parliamentary Union Advisory Group on UN Affairs expressed their satisfaction with the exchange of information on cooperation of the UN offices in Montenegro with the Parliament of Montenegro, noting that our country is progressing rapidly, thus being the good example for other countries in the region.

The delegation of Inter-Parliamentary Union Advisory Group on UN Affairs was composed of members of parliaments of Algeria, Burkina Faso, Finland and Uruguay.

been invited by President Krivokapić to monitor the forthcoming parliamentary elections in Montenegro. Interlocutors expressed expectation that the elections, such as the past ones, would fulfil high level of democratic standards.

President Krivokapić also spoke with President of the PACE Jean-Claude Mignon. Interlocutors expressed pleasure over successes that Montenegro had achieved on its European path so far. He assessed that Montenegro represented anchor of regional stability and emphasised that it had full support of the CoE. "Europe perceives that and appreciates the commitment of Montenegro to implement all required reforms."

Speaker of the Parliament of Finland Eero Heinälouma, in his talks with Krivokapić, stated that Montenegro had full support of Finland in further process of the European integration and that Finland perceived it as a credible partner owing to its present credits.

In talks with President of the Nordic Council and co-rapporteur of the PACE Kimmo Sasi, it was assessed that Montenegro was committed to the rule of law and that it progressed very rapidly and devotedly toward the membership in the EU. Sasi, new co-rapporteur of the PACE for Montenegro, said that he would like to see all countries of the Western Balkans in the European Union. Krivokapić stated that the entire process of accession of Montenegro to the EU had been stimulating for our state.

### ***Secretary General of the Parliament of Montenegro at the Meeting of Secretary Generals of Parliaments of Member States of the Council of Europe in Strasbourg***

Secretary General of the Parliament of Montenegro Damir Davidović participated in the Meeting of Secretary Generals of Parliaments of Member States of the Council of Europe, which was held on 21 September in Strasbourg. Meeting of the Secretary Generals was held within the European Conference of Presidents of Parliaments of Member States of the Council of Europe.

Participants considered the Activity Report and the Programme for 2012-2013 of the European Center for Parliamentary Research and Documentation (ECPRD). The meeting was also an opportunity to discuss priorities necessary for functioning of the ECPRD in the following period, as well as to discuss revision of the ECPRD Statutes. Participants stated that it was necessary to encourage further the exchange of information via the

procedure of comparative requests, in particular on topics of common interest for larger number of parliaments in the ECPRD network, such as: parliamentary libraries, research, ICT in parliament, etc. The possibility to enhance ECPRD website was mentioned as well, through development of special pages dedicated to specific topics. Model of participation of friends of democracy countries in the ECPRD's work was also supported.

ECPRD network, which is composed of the European Parliament, Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, as well as national parliaments of member states of the EU and member states of the CoE, provides unique possibility for making requests and receiving the answers to questions of common and comparable interest for parliaments and their representatives throughout Europe.

## IN FOCUS



### *Enhancement of capacities of the Service of the Parliament during the 24<sup>th</sup> Convocation*

In the previous edition of the bulletin, we presented the most important legislative and oversight activities, as well as activities on the international level, during the 24<sup>th</sup> Convocation of the Parliament. This edition is dedicated to the strengthening of administrative capacities of the Service of the Parliament, conducted with the aim to further enhance expert support to MPs, as well as to improve communication with citizens.

Since the legislative acts of the EP and all Member States are indexed through the Eurovoc descriptors, using the same descriptors for laws and other acts adopted by the Parliament of Montenegro offers the possibility for easier comparison with the relevant EU and other countries' regulations, which is especially important in the process of harmonisation with the EU legislation and in the accession negotiations.

#### *Expert support to MPs*

In order to provide more quality support to MPs in performing their legislative and oversight function, in the Service of the Parliament, during the 24<sup>th</sup> Convocation, many novelties were introduced, particularly in regard to the Parliament's jurisdiction to control harmonisation of the legislation with the EU law.

In February 2011, a new practice was introduced for secretaries of committees to prepare an expert opinion in the form of informative review – briefing for each act proposal. This informative review contains: introductory information on the proposed act; a brief comparative review of experiences of other countries, if possible; findings on the review of compliance table with relevant regulations of the EU submitted by the Government; findings on the review of the fiscal impact form submitted by the Government and a list of all civil sector representatives which contacted the committee. In this regard, the guidelines, which define preparation, content and submission procedure of the informative reviews, were introduced. It should be noted that Service of the Constitutional Issues and Legislative Committee does not prepare informative reviews, but rather makes expert analyses to every proposed act placed on the Committee's agenda for consideration.

In 2010, on the basis of the Rulebook on Organisation and Systematisation of the Service of the Parliament, the Section for research, analysis, library and documentation was formed. In the Section, employees conduct parliamentary research, which represents an important aspect of expert support to MPs. So far, 16 research papers have been done, and are available on the Parliament webpage. Also, from May 2010, "News from the EU Institutions" have been prepared and delivered every Friday, by e-mail to all MPs and members of the Service.

Apart from these activities, the Service regularly responds to requests from other members of the European Centre for Parliamentary Research and Documentation (ECPRD). During the 24<sup>th</sup> Convocation of the Parliament, the ECPRD correspondent was appointed, and from May 2011 until 30 September 2012, total of 97 responses were prepared and sent in the form of brief information upon ECPRD requests.

The Parliament of Montenegro was given the licence from the Publications Office of the European Union for translation and use of the Eurovoc Thesaurus, a multidisciplinary, multi-language glossary, which covers all the EU activities, notably the European Parliament, and contains terms in 22 languages of the EU Member States, as well as Croatian and Serbian.

#### *Transparency of work*

Through the programme "Open Parliament", the Parliament carries out numerous activities, in order to improve continuously its communication with citizens and the civil sector and to ensure quality and prompt information on its work.

During the 24<sup>th</sup> Convocation, cooperation of the Parliament with the civil sector has been significantly improved. This is particularly visible through the increase of participation of civil sector representatives at meetings of the working bodies, especially in the case of consultative hearings. Cooperation with the NGO sector has been accomplished through many projects.

As a result of cooperation with the Center for Children's Rights, in 2009 the Parliament hosted the first session of the Children's Parliament, on the occasion of 20 years from adoption of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child. The idea to open the doors of its Great (Plenary) Hall to the youngest ones proved to be extraordinary, and two more sessions of the Children's Parliament were organised, in 2010 and 2011. At these sessions, President of Parliament, representatives of the MP groups and representatives of the Government of Montenegro were answering children's questions.

Cooperation with the Center for Democratic Transition (CDT) was conducted through a series of joint programmes, the most important one being "Open Institutions". Through this project, a great number of citizens visited the Parliament. Also, the brochure "How a Bill Becomes a Law", 2008 Performance Report and 2009 Performance Report were printed. From 2010, the Parliament prepares and publishes with its own capacities the annual performance reports, as well as semi-annual and financial reports, all resulting in greater transparency of work. Furthermore, from 2003, the Parliament has been conducting the Internship Programme in cooperation with the CDT. Through this programme, final year students from Montenegrin universities are doing an internship in state institutions for few months, in order to acquire practical knowledge and experience. In the Parliament, the pilot generation and nine generations of interns successfully finished the programme, and some of them later got employed as trainees.

The electronic bulletin "Open Parliament", which you have the opportunity to read every month, also represented a part of the cooperation with CDT. From January 2011 until March 2012, the bulletin was released in cooperation with the CDT and the financial support of the European Commission, through the EU Delegation in Podgorica. In March 2012, the Service of the Parliament, within its own programme "Open Parliament", completely took over editing, translation,

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wrapping and publishing of the bulletin. It is still being published in the electronic form at the official webpage of the Parliament, in Montenegrin and English language, and sent to nearly 900 e-mail addresses, including the European Parliament, diplomatic missions, academic community, political parties, business sector, domestic and foreign media.

In 2011, within the "Open Parliament" programme, the Service of the Parliament started preparations for the project "Democracy Workshops". The project is envisaged as a programme of civil education for elementary school students, and is being organised in cooperation with the NGO Forum MNE, with the financial support of the ERSTE Foundation. The aim of "Democracy Workshops" is to stimulate interest of children for democracy, decision-making process and the political system, by familiarising them with the work of MPs and the Parliament as institution. Through interactive contents, with help of experienced trainers, children will learn through games how democracy functions. At the end of each workshop, children will be tasked to make a newspaper or a radio podcast, which will be released at the "Democracy Workshops" webpage. The pilot project starts on 8 October 2012 and will last approximately 30 days, after which the realisation of the project will start.

Important segment of transparency of work principle is availability of information. Article 51 of the Constitution of Montenegro prescribes the right of each person to obtain information in possession of the state institutions and organisations which exercise public authority. This right is exercised by submitting a request for free access to information, which is answered by decision, conclusion or information, according to the Law on Free Access to Information. During this convocation, the Parliament received the highest number of requests from NGOs, which mostly requested copies of electronic listings of MP voting results, as well as information on financial management of the Parliament. From the start of the 24<sup>th</sup> Convocation until the end of September 2012, Service of the Parliament received and answered to 429 requests for free access to information.

Within the "Open Parliament" programme, the Parliament enables individual and group visits of citizens, who can get in direct touch with representatives of the Service and get familiar with the work of the Parliament. This convocation was marked by numerous visits of citizens, but also exhibitions and other events, organised on the occasion of state holidays and other important dates.

### *Human resources*

During the 24<sup>th</sup> Convocation, great attention was given to development of the human resources. The new Rulebook on Organisation and Systematisation of the Service of the Parliament was introduced in 2010, based on which new organisational units were established: Section for Recording and Broadcasting the Parliament Sessions, Human Resources Management Bureau, Internal Audit Department and Public Procurement Bureau.

The Human Resources Management Bureau has conducted a series of activities in this period, such as: detailed SWOT analysis of the Service, adoption of the three-year Strategy for the Development of Human Resources along with the Strategic Plan for the period January 2011 – January 2014 and the Training Plan, as well as preparation of the Guidelines for the Human Resources and the Management Development

Programme in the Service of the Parliament.

Furthermore, the Human Resources Management Bureau has intensified its activities on the following materials: "Examples of Good Practices for Human Resources", "Management Development Programme (Managing tasks in the Parliament)", "Welcome Handbook for the Newly Employed", "Handbook of Knowledge, Skills and Conduct". Apart from these materials, strategic documents for internal and external communication are being drafted at the moment.

With the aim to enhance and increase work efficiency, employees in the Service of the Parliament have had the chance to participate in a great number of trainings and seminars, which were organised by the Human Resources Management Authority, but also in cooperation of the Parliament with international and non-governmental organisations. The Human Resources Management Bureau continuously keeps record and performs evaluations of all trainings and participants. From the start of the 24<sup>th</sup> Convocation until 30 September 2012, employees attended 277 trainings total, from different areas, such as: knowledge and skills needed for work in the state institutions, the European integration, preparation of budget, management skills, exchange of experiences with parliaments of the region etc.

The Service of the Parliament had 87 employees on 31 December 2009, while on 30 September there were 127 employees.

### *Information technologies*

Apart from intensive activities aimed at improving transparency of work and strengthening administrative capacities, the 24<sup>th</sup> Convocation of the Parliament will be remembered by a series of IT projects, which contributed to better informing of citizens and better functioning of the institution.

During the year 2010, project "Procurement and Installation of the Equipment for the Great Hall of the Parliament of Montenegro in Podgorica" was successfully realised. This project equipped the Plenary Hall with the state-of-the-art audio-visual equipment, which provided conditions for independent TV broadcasting, as well as graphic displays of voting, listings of voting etc.

Setting up of the new Parliament webpage contributed to more content-rich informing of citizens on legislative and other activities. Also, in March 2010, the Parliament commenced live TV broadcasting with its own capacities, as well as live streaming of sessions on its webpage. Furthermore, on 1 December 2011 a new SMS Broadcasting Service was introduced, to inform MPs on the Parliament sessions via SMS.

In 2011, the Service started scanning complete documentation connected to the legislative process and publishing it on the Parliament webpage. Electronic voting listings from 2009 and 2010 are also published; publishing of other listings is still underway.

The IT Section of the Parliament also prepared working versions of a set of internal rules – policies related to the information system of the Parliament (Information System Security Policy, Internet User Policy, E-Mail Server User Policy, Antivirus Policy for Computers) during the last year.

In 2012, the Service conducted a series of activities in the framework of introducing e-Parliament and the new Internet portal of the Parliament. Also, preparation of technical documentation has started in order to equip meeting rooms and the master control room for needs of the Parliamentary Channel.

# FROM THE HISTORY OF MONTENEGRIN PARLIAMENTARISM



## THE LAW ON ELECTIONS OF PEOPLE'S REPRESENTATIVES

24 June/7 July 1906.

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

Announce and declare:  
That on the proposal of Our Ministerial Council,  
Upon hearing Our State Council, in the purpose of  
implementing par. II of Article 221 of the Constitution,  
We have decided to proclaim and decree  
the following:

## LAW ON ELECTIONS OF PEOPLE'S REPRESENTATIVES

### General provisions

#### Article 1

Elections of people's representatives for the People's Assembly, which by the Constitution convenes (meets) every year on the Day of St. Luka, 18 October (Article 42 of the Constitution), shall be held according to the provisions of this law on 14 September and shall be valid for the next 4 years (Article 43 of the Constitution), except for situations specified in Article 17, related to Article 66 of the Constitution.

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#### PART I

### Electoral districts and towns and number of representatives

#### Article 5

Each Captaincy shall represent one electoral district and elect one representative.

All county towns: Cetinje, Nikšić, Podgorica, Kolašin and Bar, as well as Ulcinj, shall also elect one representative each (Article 47 of the Constitution).

Other towns and small towns shall elect together with the captaincy they belong to.

#### PART II

### Right to elect people's representatives

#### Article 6

Every Montenegrin citizen of the age of 21 shall have the right to vote at elections for the People's Assembly, regardless of the amount of tax he pays (Article 48 of the Constitution).

\* \* \*

Cetinje, 24 June 1906

Nikola, personally signed

### From the Law on Elections of People's Representatives, Cetinje 1906

*Crnogorski zakonici 1796-1916, IV, (eng. Montenegrin Codes, IV), eds. B. Pavičević, R. Raspopović, Podgorica 1998.*

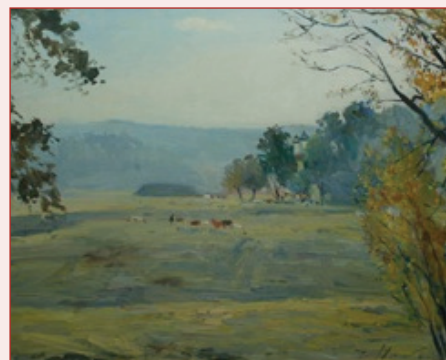
## FROM PARLIAMENTARY GALLERY

### Author unknown, "Russian Landscape"

The parliamentary art gallery was rarely replenished in the seventies and the eighties of the XX century. Dating from that period are landscapes done in different techniques, among which are collage of dried flowers, watercolour paintings and oils on canvas.

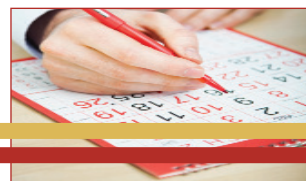
A part of that group is also a painting from an unknown Russian painter, "Russian Landscape", which reveals lyrical realism and a calming atmosphere, with clearly defined perspective and a solid composition, as well as with clear colouring, which through something concrete, reveals an overall artistic idea.

It is one of two gifts, which are part of the art collection of the Parliament of Montenegro.





# CALENDAR OVERVIEW OF PARLIAMENTARY ACTIVITIES IN AUGUST



## 1 August

- President of the Parliament of Montenegro Ranko Krivokapić officially invited President of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe Jean-Claude Mignon, President of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe Riccardo Migliori and director of the OSCE's Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights Janez Lenarčič, to send observer missions to Montenegro, regarding the forthcoming parliamentary elections to be held on 14 October.

## 3 August

- Information Paper on Legislative and Oversight Activity of the Parliament of Montenegro published for the period until the end of the Spring Session in 2012.

## 29 August

- President Krivokapić held talks with representatives of the European Jewish Parliament (EJP) from Brussels and the European Jewish Union (EJU) from London, as well as with representatives of the Jewish Community of Montenegro.

# CALENDAR



## 5 September

- Member of the Committee on Human Rights and Freedoms Halil Duković met with Richard Carver, UNDP Consultant for assessment of capacities of the institution of Protector of Human Rights and Freedoms of Montenegro. MP Duković pointed out that the Committee has a continuous and satisfying cooperation with the institution of the Protector.

- Members of the Committee on Political System, Judiciary and Administration received the participants of the seminar "Rule of Law in Montenegro", organised by the NGO Civic Alliance within the project "School of Democratic Leadership". The meeting was attended by MPs Ervin Spahić, Chairman of the Committee, Snežana Jonica, Deputy Chair of the Committee, Refik Bojadžić, Budimir Aleksić, as well as the Service of the Committee.

## 6 September

- The 22nd Economic Forum finished in Krynica-Zdrój, in organisation of the Institute for Eastern Studies from Warsaw. On behalf of the Parliament of Montenegro, MP Miodrag Vuković participated in and spoke on the topic: "Does Europe need to continue the enlargement?" On that occasion, strong message was sent that states which are on the path towards the EU membership should be additionally encouraged to continue with the reforms, and that it was necessary to continue the EU enlargement, since Europe needs the "new energy" carried by its future members.

## 9 September

- Chairwoman of the delegation of the Parliament of Montenegro to the PACE Valentina Radulović-Šćepanović and substitute, Zoran Vukčević, participated in the seminar organised by the Secretariat of the PACE Socialist Group. Topic of the seminar was: "Growth of nationalism and the democratic deficit in Europe – causes, consequences and proposals for the reform in Europe".

## 7 September

- Secretary General of the Parliament of Montenegro Damir Davidović and the ECPRD correspondent Jelena Ulić participated in the ECPRD Conference "Building of the Parliament – construction, maintenance, appearance and design of the building of the parliament", which was organised by the Dutch Tweede Kamer (the House of Representatives) on 6-7 September 2012 in the Hague.

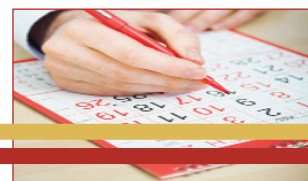
## 10 September

- The Inter-Parliamentary Conference for the Common Foreign and Security Policy and the Common Security and Defence Policy ended in Cyprus. High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy Baroness Catherine Ashton participated and spoke about the current state and missions carried out in the countries of the Arab world, with particular emphasis on the situation in Syria, as well as about participation of the Russian Federation and China in resolving the conflict in that region. On behalf of the Parliament of Montenegro, MP Miodrag Vuković participated in the Conference.

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## 11 September

- Head of the Montenegrin delegation to PACE Valentina Radulović-Šćepanović and the substitute, Zoran Vukčević, participated in the Meeting of the PACE Committee for Political Affairs and Democracy, held on 10-11 September, in Helsinki.



- The Seventh Conference of Presidents of Parliaments of Small European States, hosted for the first time by the Parliament of Montenegro, ended in Kotor. The Conference was attended by presidents of parliaments of Andorra and Malta, Vicenç Mateu Zamora and Michael Frendo respectively, First Deputy Speaker of the Parliament of Iceland Ragnheidur Ríkharðsdóttir, Members of the Parliament of Cyprus, dr Adamos Adamou, Luxembourg, Alex Bodry, San Marino, Giovanni Francesco Ugolini and Mirco Tomassoni, as well as former US Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense Daniel Fata.
- Secretary General of the Parliament of Montenegro Damir Davidović met with Deputy Head of the EU Delegation to Montenegro and Head of the Political, EU Integration and Trade Section Alberto Cammarata. Interlocutors exchanged opinions on amendments to the Rules of Procedure of the Parliament of Montenegro, in part related to the duty of working bodies to monitor and assess, within the scope of their competences, level of harmonisation of Montenegrin laws with the EU acquis. Cammarata reminded that the European Commission would publish the progress report on Montenegro in the first half of October and, in this regard, thanked for the contribution of the Service of the Parliament in providing information for its drafting.

## 12 September

- President of the Parliament of Montenegro Ranko Krivokapić held talks with Head of the EU Delegation to Montenegro Mitja Drobnič. Mr. Drobnič stressed that the European integration offered new opportunities for Montenegro and expressed confidence that Montenegro would make good use of them. He also pointed out that

in the forthcoming period of the EU integration, the Parliament of Montenegro would play a key role. In that context, President Krivokapić informed the guest of results the Parliament had achieved so far, which relate to the establishment of new working bodies that will intensify the oversight function of the Parliament and further strengthen the role of the opposition in the overall parliamentary work.



## 13 September

- Representatives of the Committee on Human Rights and Freedoms, the Gender Equality Committee, the Committee on Health, Labour and Social Welfare and the Committee on Economy, Finance and Budget met with the delegation of the Inter-Parliamentary Union Advisory Group on UN Affairs, which paid an official visit to Montenegro. On the same day, Members of the Committee on International Relations and European Integration of the 24th Convocation of the Parliament of Montenegro and President of the Parliament of Montenegro Ranko Krivokapić met with the representatives of the Inter-Parliamentary Union Advisory Group on UN Affairs.



## 14 September

- The ECPRD seminar, organised by the German Bundesrat, was held in Berlin on 13-14 September 2012. The Service of the Parliament of Montenegro was also represented. Aim of the seminar was to exchange experiences about role of parliament in the legislative

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process and about control mechanisms over the government's work. Participants spoke, inter alia, about control over government's work in legislative process, parliamentary control over government's decision-making process regarding the European Stability Mechanism (ESM) and the Fiscal Pact, as well as about control mechanisms which are at the disposal of the upper houses of parliaments.

## 15 September

- Secretary General of the Parliament of Montenegro Damir Davidović and Assistant Secretary General Nataša Komnenić took part in the World e-Parliament Conference, which was held on 13-15 September 2012 in the Chamber of Deputies of Italy, in Rome. The Conference, which takes place once in two years, represents the most significant global forum, where presidents and other leading political and expert representatives of parliaments worldwide, as well as experts of international organisations and academic communities, have an opportunity to exchange opinions regarding the newest trends in the field of information technology, to analyse good practice, as well as to build partnerships.

## 17 September

- Chairman and Deputy Chairman of the Committee on Economy, Finance and Budget, Aleksandar Damjanović and Zoran Vukčević, met with the Member of the German Bundestag and Spokesperson for Energy of the SPD parliamentary group, Rolf Hempelmann. During the meeting, topics of the discussion were: the situation in the energy sector and energy potentials of Montenegro, development paths and construction of new energy facilities, need for cooperation with countries in the region in order to evaluate in a quality manner the hydropower potential, improvement of energy efficiency, market regulation, etc. The meeting was attended by H.E. Pius Fischer, Ambassador of the Federal Republic of Germany to Montenegro.

## 18 September

- The Sixth Meeting of the South-East European Cooperation Process Parliamentary Dimension Working Group was held in the National Assembly of the Republic of Serbia, in Belgrade. During the meeting, ways of institutionalising the Parliamentary Dimension, in terms of decision-making and organisational structure were mostly discussed. The Report on Activities of the SEECF PD Working Group during the presiding of the

Republic of Serbia was adopted at the meeting.

## 19 September

- Chairman of the Committee for Monitoring Application of the Law on Election of Councillors and MPs in the part related to the media Mevludin Nuhodžić met with Head of the ODIHR Limited Election Observation Mission to the 14 October early parliamentary elections, Ambassador Geert-Hinrich Ahrens and his associates.

## 21 September

- The European Conference of Presidents of Parliaments of the Council of Europe finished in Strasbourg. President of the Parliament of Montenegro Ranko Krivokapić participated and spoke on the topic: "Is representative democracy in crisis? Challenges for national parliaments".



- Member of the Committee on Tourism, Agriculture, Ecology and Spatial Planning, MP Halil Duković spoke with Team Leader of the Mediterranean Component of the EU Water Initiative Gert Soer, on the subject of management, status and use of water.
- Secretary General of the Parliament of Montenegro Damir Davidović participated in the Meeting of Secretary Generals of Parliaments of Member States of the Council of Europe, which was held in Strasbourg. Participants considered the Report on Work and the Programme of Activities for 2012-2013 of the European Center for Parliamentary Research and Documentation (ECPRD).

## 24 September

- The Conference of Justice and Home Affairs Committee Chairs, dedicated to the European asylum policy and protection of personal data in the digital era, was held in Nicosia as part of the Cyprus presidency over the EU. Delegation of the Parliament of Montenegro, composed of Chair of the Committee on Political System, Judiciary and Administration Ervin Spahić and Vice Chair Snežana Jonica attended the Conference.

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## 25 September

- President of the Parliament of Montenegro Ranko Krivokapić received H. E. Ambassador Šarūnas Adomavičius, Head of the OSCE Mission to Montenegro in a farewell visit.

## 26 September

- In the event of the manifestation “Days of Parliamentarism in Montenegro”, and on occasion of the European Day of Languages, 26 September, President Krivokapić met with Minister of Science Sanja Vlahović and distinguished persons who continually contribute to the institutional recognition of the Montenegrin language, such as representatives of: Duklja Academy of Arts and Sciences, Matica crnogorska, PEN Center, the Montenegrin Association of Independent Writers, Sveti Petar Cetinjski Foundation, and the Institute for Montenegrin Language. Mr. Krivokapić also talked to students of the “21 May” Primary School, and said that they are children of the state that originated and survived thanks to words. Afterwards, guests enjoyed the show “Poetry Montenegrina”, performed by poetic duo: Slobodan Marunović, actor and Slobodan Kovačević, singer-songwriter.

## 27 September

- Member of the Security and Defence Committee Obrad Mišo Stanišić met with representatives of the Parliamentary Assembly of Bosnia and Herzegovina, headed by Chair of the Joint Commission for Defence and Security Dušanka Majkić. The meeting was attended by representatives of the South Eastern and Eastern Europe Clearinghouse for the Control of Small Arms and Light Weapons (SEESAC) and the UNDP, headed by the Acting

Head of the SEESAC Office Ivan Zverzhanovski.

- Vice President of the Parliament of Montenegro Rifat Rastoder received H. E. Laurent Stokvis, non-resident Ambassador of the Kingdom of Netherlands to Montenegro, with the seat in Belgrade. Ambassador Stokvis particularly emphasised the efforts of Montenegro on its path towards the EU, and activities carried out so far in the process of harmonisation with the European standards.

## 28 September

- President of the Parliament Ranko Krivokapić paid an official visit to Brussels, where he held talks with President of the European Parliament Martin Schulz, as well as with the EU Commissioner for Enlargement and Neighbourhood Policy Štefan Füle.
- The meeting of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Parliamentary Dimension of CEI was held in Kiev on 26-28 September, within the scope of the Ukrainian presidency over the Central-European Initiative. The delegation of the Parliament of Montenegro, headed by MP Vasilije Lalošević, attended the meeting. At the meeting of the CEI-PD General Committee on Political and Home Affairs, MP Miodrag Vuković, Head of the Delegation of the Parliament of Montenegro to CEI-PD was re-elected Deputy Chair. Meeting of the Parliamentary Assembly was marked by discussion on traffic infrastructure, as an effective instrument for intensifying cooperation among CEI member states.
- The Parliament of Montenegro participated in the II Student Practice Fair, in addition to 20 state administration bodies and 15 private companies, which are interested in providing practice for final year students from state and private faculties of Montenegro, in the period from 1 November 2012 to 1 January 2013. The Fair was held in the shopping mall Delta City.

# PARLIAMENTARY GLOSSARY

**ELECTORAL SYSTEM AND ELECTORAL METHOD.** “The electoral system is a set of principles and procedures which shape and regulate the election process for holders of public offices, particularly in the representative bodies and government authorities.”<sup>1</sup> According to Lijphart, the most important elements of the electoral system are: 1) electoral formula – method of mandate allocation, (2) manner of voting – type of electoral lists and (3) number and size of the electoral constituencies.

The electoral formula (method) is a manner of translating votes of the electoral body into mandates; and it can be by majority, proportional or mixed. In Montenegro, allocation of electoral mandates is carried out by proportional method, through applying modified d’Hondt method or formula of the lowest common divider.

<sup>1</sup> Source: Radovan Radonjić, *Demokratija* (eng. *Democracy*), Centar za građansko obrazovanje, Podgorica, 2007, p. 92.