

OPEN PARLIAMENT



Parliament of Montenegro

Bulletin on the Parliament of Montenegro Performance ♦ Electronic format ♦ Release: monthly ♦ Year II ♦ No. 21 ♦ November 2012

FOREWORD

Dear readers,

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

Topic of this month's issue is constituting of the 25th Convocation of the Parliament of Montenegro. At the first – Constitutive Sitting of the Parliament from 6 November, Ranko Krivokapić was re-elected President of the Parliament. In addition, Vice-Presidents elected are Željko Šturanović, who was at the same function during the previous term of office, Suljo Mustafić and prof. Branko Radulović, PhD.

After constituting of the 25th Convocation of the Parliament of Montenegro, the Administrative Committee held a meeting on 22 November, during which it elected Deputy Chair of the Committee and number of members of permanent committees in the Parliament. Additionally, it commenced the procedure for determination of the list of candidates for chairs and members of the permanent committees in the Parliament of Montenegro.

The bulletin is published monthly as part of the "Open Parliament" programme, by which the Parliament seeks to bring its work closer 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



Constituting of the 25th Convocation of the Parliament of Montenegro

The First – Constitutive Sitting of the 25th Convocation of the Parliament of Montenegro was held on Tuesday, 6 November, 2012.

Ranko Krivokapić was re-elected President of the Parliament. In addition, Vice-Presidents elected are Željko Šturanović, who was at the same function during the previous term of office, Suljo Mustafić and prof. Branko Radulović, PhD.

After the Sitting continued, on 7 November, Decision on Election of Chair and Members of the Administrative Committee of the 25th Convocation of the Parliament of Montenegro was adopted. Radivoje Lala Nikčević was elected Chair of the Administrative Committee, and the members elected are: Luid Ljubo Škrelja, Milorad Vuletić, Obrad Mišo Stanišić, Marta Šćepanović, Rifat Rastoder, Kemal Zoronjić, Emilo Labudović, docent Branka Bošnjak, PhD, Milutin Đukanović, Srđan Milić, Azra Jasavić and Srđan Perić.

Activities of the Working Bodies

The Administrative Committee of the 25th Convocation of the Parliament of Montenegro, at the meeting on 22 November, elected Emilo Labudović as Deputy Chair of the Committee.

The Committee established the number of members of permanent committees of the Parliament, namely: Constitutional Committee 13 members; Legislative Committee 13 members; Committee on Political

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.

System, Judiciary and Administration 13 members; Security and Defence Committee 13 members; Committee on International Relations and Emigrants 13 members; European Integration Committee 13 members; Committee on Economy, Finance and Budget 13 members; Committee on Human Rights and Freedoms 11 members; Gender Equality Committee 11 members; Committee on Tourism, Agriculture, Ecology and Spatial Planning 13 members; Committee on Education, Science, Culture and Sports 11 members; Committee on Health, Labour and Social Welfare 11 members and Anti-Corruption Committee 13 members.

The Committee commenced the procedure for establishing the candidate list for chairs and members of permanent committees in the Parliament of Montenegro. In this regard, the Committee established that the candidates for chairs of the European Integration Committee, Committee on Economy, Finance and Budget, Anti-Corruption Committee and Commission for Monitoring and Control of the Privatisation Procedure should be from the parliamentary minority. It was decided that the Committee should establish the candidate list for chairs and members of the permanent committees in the Parliament of Montenegro within seven days from the

day of the election of the Government of Montenegro.

In addition, the Committee adopted decisions on compensation upon termination of office (upon requests of MPs whose term of office was not confirmed by the Parliament of Montenegro on 6 November), decisions on earnings for MPs who decided to perform the function of MP professionally and decisions on the right to earnings difference, upon requests of the MPs.

The Committee dismissed Safet Korać from the position of the advisor to the Vice-President of the Parliament, due to the termination of office.

Under the item of the agenda "Current Issues", the Committee informed about the Annex to the Agreement of the Democratic Front, no. 00-63-14/12-2 from 9 November 2012. Furthermore, the Committee adopted the Decision on termination of Decision on establishing the procedure of control of commercial consumption of funds allocated to the parliamentary groups for engagement of secretaries and professional consultants of the groups. In this regard, the Committee established the Working Group with following members: Milorad Vuletić, Chair, Marta Šćepanović, Azra Jasavić and docent Branka Bošnjak, PhD, members, with the task to establish the proposal for the decision, in the shortest period possible.

IN FOCUS



The 25th Convocation of the Parliament of Montenegro constituted

The First Constitutive Sitting of the 25th Convocation of the Parliament of Montenegro was held on Tuesday, 6 November 2012. Pending the election of the President of the Parliament, the sitting was chaired by the oldest MP Jelisava Kalezić, with the assistance of the youngest MP Dritan Abazović, and the Secretary General of the Parliament Damir Davidović.

President of Montenegro Filip Vujanović, Supreme State Prosecutor Ranka Čarapić, Protector of Human Rights and Freedoms of Montenegro Šučko Baković, and President of the State Electoral Commission Ivan Kalezić attended the Sitting on its first day.

The Chair, followed by playing of the national anthem, opened the Sitting. Upon that, Ivan Kalezić, President of the State Electoral Commission, addressed the Parliament regarding the Report of the State Electoral Commission on results of elections for the MPs of the Parliament of Montenegro. The Chair stated that the State Electoral Commission had submitted the Report on election results and announced that the term of office of 81 MPs stated in the Report had started.

President of the Parliament of Montenegro was elected at the Sitting, after which the Decision on determining the number of Vice Presidents of the 25th

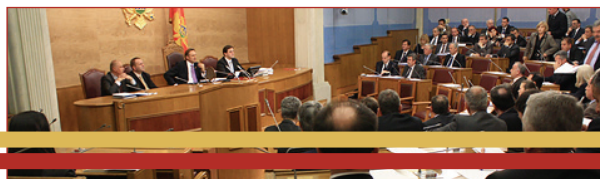
Convocation of the Parliament of Montenegro was reached. Ranko Krivokapić is re-elected President of the Parliament, and Vice Presidents elected are: Željko Šturanović, who performed the same function in the previous convocation, Suljo Mustafić and prof. Branko Radulović, PhD.

The Sitting ended on 7 November, when the Parliament adopted the Decision on election of chair and members of the Administrative Committee of the 25th Convocation of the Parliament of Montenegro.

The procedure of the Parliament's constitution is stipulated by the Constitution of Montenegro and by the Rules of Procedure of the Parliament of Montenegro.



NEWS FROM PARLIAMENT



The 58th Annual Session of the NATO Parliamentary Assembly

The Parliament of the Czech Republic hosted the 58th Annual Session of the NATO Parliamentary Assembly, from 9 to 12 November 2012. The Annual Session brought together some 350 parliamentarians from the 28 NATO member countries from North America and Europe, delegates from partner countries and observers, with the aim to discuss common international security concerns and to consider and adopt reports. On behalf of the Parliament of Montenegro, MPs Borislav Banović and Vasilije Lalošević, as permanent members of the delegation participated in the work of 58th Annual Session of the NATO Parliamentary Assembly.

NATO Parliamentary Assembly started the work with the meeting of secretaries of the delegation, during which organisational and technical issues of the gathering were discussed, as well as the Draft Agenda of the Permanent Committee. On the second and third day, meetings were held of the following committees: Political Committee, Defence and Security Committee, Committee on Civil Dimension of Security, Committee on Economics and Security and the Science and Technology Committee.

Topics of the meetings of committees and sub-committees included: "The Arab Spring – Implications on Euro Atlantic Security", "Afghanistan and Southwest Asian Security", "Budget constrains – a challenge to Alliance Cohesion?", "The Challenge of Piracy-International Response and NATO's Role", "Matching Capabilities to Ambitions: NATO towards 2020", "The Sources and Implications on the Euro Crisis", "Arctic Economic Opportunities, Environmental Obligations

and Security Stakes", "Afghanistan: towards 2014 and beyond", "The Forces of Change and Continuity in Russia: Domestic and International Implications", "The Iranian Nuclear Programme: Gauging Iran's Intentions", "The Iranian Nuclear Programme-Gauging Iran's Intentions", "Nuclear Energy After Fukushima" and "Unmanned Aerial Vehicles-Opportunities and Challenges for the Alliance".

During the last day of the Session, on 12 November, Plenary Session was held, where participants were addressed by: Karl A. Lamers, PhD, NATO PA President; Milan Stech, President of the Senate of Czech Republic; Miroslava Nemcova, Speaker of the Chamber of Deputies of the Parliament of the Czech Republic; Petr Necas, Prime Minister of the Czech Republic; Anders Fogh Rasmussen, Secretary General of NATO and Chair of the North Atlantic Council; Filip Vujanović, President of Montenegro; Božo Ljubić, President of the House of Representatives of Bosnia and Herzegovina; Mikheil Saakashvili, President of Georgia and Nikola Gruevski, President of the Government of Macedonia.

President of Montenegro Filip Vujanović, addressing participants of the Plenary Sitting under the theme "Enlargement and the future of NATO", spoke of Montenegro's progress regarding Euro-Atlantic integration and aspiration toward a full-fledged NATO membership.

In continuation of the work of the Plenary Sitting, Hugh Bayley (UK) was elected President of the NATO Parliamentary Assembly, and as Vice-Presidents were elected: Nicole Ameline (France), Cheryl Gallant (Canada), Giorgio La Malfa (Italy), Karl Lamers (Germany) and Julio Miranda Calha (Portugal).

Representatives of the staff of the Committee on Human Rights and Freedom participated in the Seminar: "Protection of Human Rights and Position of Women and Children"

Representatives of the staff of the Committee on Human Rights and Freedoms participated in the parliamentary seminar "Protection of Human Rights and Position of Women and Children", held in Brussels, on 14 and 15 November 2012. The seminar was organised by the Unit for Relations with Western Balkans Parliaments of the Directorate-General for External Policies of the European Parliament, as part of the Support Program to the Western Balkan Parliaments.

On the first working day, introductory remarks by Eduard Kukan, Chair of the Delegation for relations with Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Serbia, Kosovo and Montenegro, member of Committee on Foreign Affairs and Sub-Committee on Human Rights, were followed

by sessions entitled "Role and position of the European Parliament in the field of human rights and human rights in Western Balkans", "Protection of Minority Rights in the EU and Western Balkans" and "The Role of Civil Society in Protection of Human Rights". High representatives of the European Parliament, Eduard Kukan, Ulrike Lunacek, member of the Committee on Foreign Affairs and Cveto Stantič, member of the European Economic and Social Committee had presentations under these themes.

Comprehensive presentations were followed by discussion where MPs from the Western Balkans countries presented the state of human rights in their countries, position of minority groups, cooperation

with civil sector and problems that they were facing with. All participants unanimously agreed that exchange of experience with MEPs and mutual cooperation between Western Balkans parliaments on the path towards the European Union were very important.

The second working day was opened by Vice-Chair of the Committee on Women's Rights and Gender Equality of the European Parliament Livia Járóka. Mariya Gabriel, in charge for developing opinion on women's rights and gender equality in the annual report on human rights and democracy for 2011, addressed participants via video link and acquainted them with the situation in the field of gender equality in the European Union. Position of women and children in Western Balkan countries, particularly rights of women and children from REA population and rural areas and protection from domestic violence were discussed by Maria Cornelissen, Rapporteur for women's rights in Western Balkan countries, member of the Committee for

Women's Rights and Gender Equality and Kinga Gal, Vice-Chair of the Committee on Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs, member of Sub-Committee on Human Rights.

It was concluded that a parliament should have a very important role in protection of human rights and freedoms, and that the stress should be not only on adoption of laws, because, according the European officials' assessments, all countries mostly have good legislation. Further efforts should be directed towards implementation of adopted laws, and in reaching high standards in the field of human rights, democracy and rule of law, cooperation of all institutions in the country would be necessary, as well as cooperation with the civil sector.

Apart from representatives of the Service from the Committee on Human Rights and Freedom, the seminar was attended by representatives of the parliaments of Serbia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Albania, Kosovo, Croatia and Macedonia.

The IV Session of the Children's Parliament held in the Parliament of Montenegro

The IV Session of the Children's Parliament was held in the Great Hall of the Parliament of Montenegro, on 19 November. It was organised by the Parliament of Montenegro in cooperation with the Center for Children's Rights of Montenegro, with the support of the Office of UNICEF in Montenegro and Save the Children. The Children's Parliament is traditionally organised on the occasion of celebrating 20 November, the day of the adoption of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child. This year, it was dedicated to promotion of children's rights to participate and advocate, which are significant social needs and values.

In his opening statement, President of the Parliament of Montenegro Ranko Krivokapić said that he was exceptionally pleased that he was opening the happiest parliament in the world, for the fourth time. He pointed out that he believed that every generation carries new and better knowledge of Montenegro, and that the purity of the children's motives to ask questions in the Parliament represents true wealth.

President Krivokapić added that owing to the very visions of the children, and through their teachers, the Parliament of Montenegro realises many joint projects. In addition, he suggested that the Children's Parliament is not held only once a year in Podgorica, but that it would be good to organise something similar in all municipalities of Montenegro.

In addition to President Krivokapić, Vice Presidents Suljo Mustafić and Branko Radulović, as well as Secretary General Damir Davidović were sitting at the presiding table. On behalf of the Children's Parliament, chairpersons were students Sandra Manojlović, Zvezdana Ivanović and Tijana Nišavić. Ms. Manojlović said that by electing three females as chairpersons of today's session of the Children's Parliament they wanted to remind people of the need to respect gender equality.

A student from Berane Luka Bojović stated that it was particularly important that children would discuss serious issues on that day, while Marijana Blažević, a student from Podgorica, said that many things changed for the better through inclusive education, but there was still much left to do. Student from Nikšić Denisona Beriša had a presentation as well, and she spoke of the position of REA population in Montenegro and the fact that that were more and more Roma schoolchildren, but that their problem was obtaining medical care and the necessary documents.

After the presentations, many questions followed, one of which was related to recording questions from the previous sessions of the Children's Parliament, as well as to the realisation of the given answers. President Krivokapić said that each generation was fighting for justice, but sometimes answers were not easy to reach, which would not diminish the constant need of monitoring the government in keeping their promises. He reminded the little MPs that democracy was not a perfect system, but a system that was only strong as much as the citizens would persist in their intention to bring the society to a better level.

Apart from President Krivokapić, several ministers, their assistants, as well as associates of the Mayors of Podgorica and Cetinje, and the representative of the UNICEF answered children's questions. Representatives of parliamentary groups of the Parliament of Montenegro, embassies, UNICEF, organisation Save the Children, the European Commission, OSCE and the UNDP were also present.

The Session was attended by 42 students from 21 municipalities, representatives of local children's parliaments from Bar, Cetinje, Bijelo Polje and Podgorica and children's parliaments from elementary schools in 17 cities of Montenegro.

The fifth meeting of the European Union - Montenegro Stabilisation and Association Parliamentary Committee (SAPC) held in Brussels

The fifth meeting of the European Union – Montenegro Stabilisation and Association Parliamentary Committee, where participants were MPs of the Parliament of Montenegro and MEPs, was held in Brussels, on 28 and 29 November.

President of the Parliament of Montenegro Ranko Krivokapić and Deputy Co-Chair of SAPC, MEP Jelko Kacin chaired the meeting.

In the opening statement, President Ranko Krivokapić pointed out the importance of regular semi-annual meeting of Montenegrin and European parliamentarians and expressed gratitude to MEPs for the continuous support to Montenegro on its European path, which contributed to our great success – opening negotiations with the EU. He also pointed out the contribution of the Parliament of Montenegro to that success, achieved through serious approach of all its MPs in the overall European agenda. He emphasised that in that way Montenegro showed remarkable political maturity and that it was equally a success of parliamentary majority and minority.

President Krivokapić emphasised that it was obvious that the Parliament of Montenegro was in the phase of dynamic changes, capacity building and adjusting to the new European obligations. “Such activity of the Parliament is also notable in the assessments of our European partners through their regular annual reports that present significant and regular progress”, said Mr. Krivokapić.

Mr. Jelko Kacin congratulated Montenegro on having negotiations with the EU, which currently makes it, together with Iceland, the only negotiator for full-fledged membership in the EU.

After President Krivokapić and Co-Chair Kacin, on behalf of the Government of Montenegro, Montenegrin MPs and MEPs were addressed by the Vice-President of the Government and Minister of Justice Duško Marković and Minister of Foreign Affairs and European Integration Nebojša Kaluđerović. On behalf of the Council of the European Union, Andreas Mavrojanis, Deputy Minister of the European Affairs of the Republic of Cyprus – which presides over the EU – addressed the meeting, while on behalf of the European Commission, participants were addressed by Alexandra Cas Granje, Director of the Directorate General for Enlargement, in charge for Croatia, Montenegro, Macedonia, Turkey and Iceland.

During the two-day meeting of the Parliamentary Committee, several topics were discussed: monitoring the recommendations adopted at the previous meeting of SAPC, monitoring the course of negotiations and other available oversight mechanisms of the Parliament, regional cooperation, progress achieved in fight against organised crime and corruption and economic issues.

At the end of the meeting, the Parliamentary Committee adopted the Declaration and

Recommendations, where it highlighted the achieved progress of Montenegro, as well as its significant role as stability factor in the region and encourages the Montenegrin Government to continue reforms on its path to Euro-Atlantic integration.

Among other things, the Declaration emphasises that new negotiation chapters should be opened in the shortest period possible, with the condition that reform process continues and actual results are achieved, particularly regarding the rule of law. Also, the Parliamentary Committee welcomed including of the civic society representatives in different working groups in charge of accession negotiations, and also called for equal access possibility to all interested civic society organisations.

In addition, the Parliamentary Committee welcomed further strengthening of the oversight role of the Parliament of Montenegro, but called for additional amendments to the Law on Data Secrecy, so that the Anti-Corruption Committee may work efficiently.

The Parliamentary Committee decided to hold the next meeting on 29 - 30 April 2013 in Montenegro.

Stabilisation and Association Parliamentary Committee was formed in June 2010, upon entering into force of the Stabilisation and Association Agreement, with the aim of monitoring implementation obligations under SAA. The Parliamentary Committee, which is composed of 14 members of Montenegrin and the European Parliament each, meets twice a year, in Podgorica and Brussels.

During their visit to Brussels, Montenegrin MPs participated in the Meeting of the Subcommittee on Human Rights of the European Parliament, dedicated to the issues of the rule of law in Western Balkans countries. Taking into consideration aspirations of the countries of this region to the EU membership, and the new approach of the European Union that envisages chapters 23 and 24 to be opened during the whole negotiations process, necessity of respecting human rights and freedoms and promotion of anti-discrimination policy is especially emphasized at the meeting.



FROM THE HISTORY OF MONTENEGRIN PARLIAMENTARISM



LAW ON TEMPORARY RULES OF ORDER IN THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

30 September/13 October 1906

WE

NIKOLA THE FIRST

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,
have decided to proclaim and decree the
following:

LAW

ON

TEMPORARY RULES OF ORDER IN THE NATIONAL
ASSEMBLY

PART I

Arrival of the MPs and checking of the
credentials

Article 2

The first sitting of the National Assembly shall be presided by the oldest Member of the Parliament, who shall perform the duty of Interim President of the Assembly (Para. 61 of the Constitution); and temporary secretarial duty shall be performed by the two MPs proposed by the Interim President.

Article 9

If the National Assembly annuls the election as illegal or an MP seat becomes vacant due to resignation or death of an MP, it shall be decided that the Minister of Interior conducts the subsequent election, no later than a month from the date on which an MP seat became vacant. (Article 59 of the

Constitution).

The same procedure is envisaged for the case stipulated in Article 58 of the Constitution.

Article 13

The Presidency shall consist of President, Vice Presidents and two Secretaries, and their term of office shall last during one Convocation only, and they shall be elected by secret vote (Article 64 of the Constitution).

Article 15

It shall be a duty of the President of the Assembly: to maintain order in the Assembly during sittings and to ensure that the Law on Rules of Procedure, as well as other laws and regulations, which refer to the work of the Assembly, are enforced properly; to give the floor to speakers who applied to speak in the Assembly; to pose the questions to the Assembly on manner of debate and vote on the said subject; to announce the voting results and to take care of creating parliamentary decisions.

The President shall represent the Assembly and speak on its behalf.

He shall receive and open all letters addressed to the Assembly; employ and dismiss all parliamentary servants during the whole time of the parliamentary convocation.

Nikola, authentically signed

In Cetinje, 30 September 1906

From the Law on Temporary Rules of Order
in the National Assembly

Pavićević, B., Raspopović, R., eds. *Crnogorski zakonici 1796-1916, IV, (Montenegrin Codes 1796-1916, IV)*, Podgorica, Istorijski institut Crne Gore, 1998, pp. 343-347. (unofficial translation)

CALENDAR



1 November

- Representatives of the Service of the Parliament from the Sector for Research, Analysis, Library and Documentation and correspondent of the European Centre for Parliamentary Research and Documentation (ECPRD) paid a three-day visit to the National Assembly of the Republic of Serbia. During their visit, good practices regarding organisation of research and library activities were exchanged, as well as information on plans for further development of research activities. Representatives of the parliamentary services were acquainted with methodology of drafting research work, as well as with international cooperation, especially within the network of the European Centre for Parliamentary Research and Documentation.

7 November

- MP Mevludin Nuhodžić participated in the conference titled: "Financial Aspects of Economic Crisis and their Impact on Security Sector", organised in Budva by the Centre for Security Cooperation (RACVIAC) in cooperation with the Ministry of Defence of Montenegro. Topics of the conference were effects of economic crisis on defence and security sector, as well as its impact on budget allocations and general spending trends in the countries of the region. During the discussion, participants highly assessed seriousness of actions of the Parliament of Montenegro regarding reviewing the consequences of the economic crisis and its impact on security. The representatives of committees on security and

defence, ministries of defence and other competent bodies, as well as experts in the field of economy and finance in the region participated in the meeting.

9 November

- Regional workshop on efficient work of parliamentary committees ended in Bratislava. It was held under the auspices of NDI's Western Balkans Legislative Strengthening Initiative, resulting in exchange of experiences between the representatives of the parliaments of Montenegro, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo, Macedonia and Serbia and their colleagues from the Czech Republic and Slovak Republic. Representatives of the Service of the Parliament of Montenegro from the Committee on Political System, Judiciary and Administration and Committee on Human Rights and Freedoms participated in the Regional workshop.

12 November

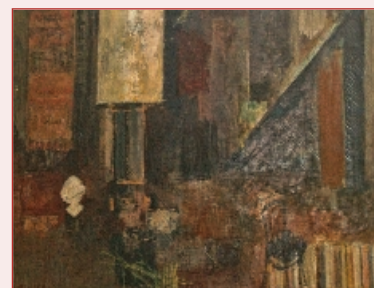
- The 58th Annual Session of the NATO Parliamentary Assembly ended its work. The delegation of the Parliament of Montenegro consisted of permanent members MPs Borislav Banović and Vasilije Lalošević.
- President of the Parliament of Montenegro Ranko Krivokapić met with Chair of the Committee on Defence and Security of the National Council of Slovak Republic Jaroslav Baška. Mr. Baška said that Slovakia would continue to support Montenegro in its aspirations to become a member of the EU and NATO. Mr. Krivokapić and Mr. Baška agreed that Montenegro and Slovakia have great possibilities for economic

FROM THE PARLIAMENT'S GALLERY

Nedeljko Gvozdrenović: "Iz ateljea" ("From the Studio"), 1959

Nedeljko Gvozdrenović was considered a painter of small things, a synonym for an intellectual painter, accepted as a sensitive colourist, whose personal quality was in visual equilibrium, chromatic audibility and rhythmic clarity of the painting. His works belong to intimate painting, no matter the subject: landscapes, still life, interiors or portraits with poetic ambience.

Gvozdrenović was born in 1902 in Mostar. He studied at the International school in Munich with Professor Hans Hofmann, and then he worked as a professor at the Art Academy in Belgrade. Soon, he became a member of the Serbian Academy of Sciences and Arts and initiated founding of the Heritage House as a special cultural institution. He donated all of his property to Belgrade, including 562 artworks.



CALENDAR



cooperation, but also for cooperation in the field of state administration reform, where the experience of Slovakia could be precious for Montenegro.

13 November

- President Krivokapić, upon the invitation of the Ambassador Mitja Drobnič, Head of the Delegation of the EU to Montenegro, participated in the regular monthly meeting of the heads of missions of the EU member countries to Montenegro. Topics of the meeting were exchange of opinions regarding current political situation in Montenegro after the parliamentary elections, held on 14 October, as well as relations between Montenegro and the EU. President Krivokapić gave an overview of the situation in the Montenegrin political scene in the post-election period, and informed on activities regarding complete constitution of the Parliament of Montenegro and expectations regarding the election of new Government of Montenegro after appointing the Prime Minister-designate. Ambassador Drobnič proposed that the Parliament of Montenegro, in particular the Committee on European Integration, and the EU Delegation establish an even closer cooperation in the upcoming period.

15 November

- Two-day seminar under the theme: “Protection of Human Rights and the Situation of Women and Children”, ended in Brussels. Representatives of the Service from the Committee on Human Rights and Freedoms participated in the seminar.

19 November

- The IV session of the Children’s Parliament held. It was organised by the Parliament of Montenegro, in cooperation with the Centre for Children’s Rights of Montenegro, with the support from the UNICEF Office in Montenegro and Save the Children.



21 November

- MPs of the Parliament of Montenegro, members of the European Union – Montenegro Stabilisation and Association Parliamentary Committee (SAPC) held their first preparatory meeting. This was also the first meeting of Montenegrin part of the Stabilisation and Association Parliamentary Committee in the new composition, following the second meeting of the Collegium of the President of the Parliament, held on 12 November, where the Decision on appointment of members of the European Union – Montenegro Stabilisation and Association Parliamentary Committee from the Parliament of Montenegro was reached.

22 November

- President of the Parliament of Montenegro Ranko Krivokapić met with Ivo Belan, marathon veteran who ran the Peace Race in Montenegro the day before. Mr. Belan, who started the race from the Montenegrin-Croatian border (Debeli brijeg) and ran to his hometown Tivat (31 km), thanked President Krivokapić for the meeting.

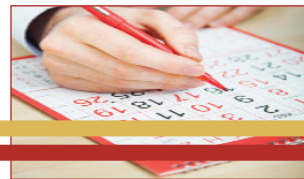


26 November

- In the scope of the “Open Parliament” programme, a group of 80 students of High School of Economics “Mirko Vešović” from Podgorica visited the Parliament of Montenegro. Deputy Secretary General of the Parliament of Montenegro Slobodan Dragović introduced students with activities of the Parliament of Montenegro, as well as with its organization, competences and functions. High school students were particularly interested in the legislative process, rights and responsibilities of MPs, issue of representation of women in the Parliament as well as certain details from the history of Montenegrin parliamentarism.

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

CALENDAR



27 November

- President of the Parliament of Montenegro Ranko Krivokapić received H. E. Nafsika Chr. Krousti, Ambassador of the Republic of Cyprus to Montenegro. Ms. Krousti said that numerous successes that Montenegro has achieved since renewal of its independence should be commendable. She stated that Montenegro had grown into a responsible and credible partner to the international community, and she noted that results achieved in the field of Euro-Atlantic integration were of utmost significance both for the country and the region.



29 November

- The fifth meeting of the European Union –Montenegro Stabilisation and Association Parliamentary Committee, held on 28 and 29 November in Brussels, ended.
- In the Parliament building, employees in the Parliamentary Service who carry out parliamentary

research attended the training on searching EBSCOhost database. The training session was held by Pavel Synek, Training and Support Representative of “EBSCO Publishing” and Nebojša Krstić, Director of the distribution company “Neolibris” from Belgrade. The training gave the employees a chance to learn how to choose a database they need, how to perform advanced search, as well as all the ways of how they can save the necessary information. EBSCOhost offers a large number of databases containing information from many areas, in the form of books, magazines, essays and other types of publications. Among other things, this base offers a significant number of relevant texts from the field of political and legal sciences.

30 November

- President of the Parliament Ranko Krivokapić met in Brussels with Sabine de Bethune, President of the Senate, and André Flahaut, President of the Chamber of Representatives of the Federal Parliament of Belgium. Importance of strengthening cooperation between the parliaments of Montenegro and Belgium, based not only on frequent meetings of leaders of these institutions but also on cooperation achieved through parliamentary friendship groups, was stressed during the meeting. The hosts expressed recognition to our country over achievements in the process of Euro-Atlantic integration and reminded that the official Brussels, as “the capital” of the European Union, would continue to be an ally of our country on its path towards the membership in the family of European peoples.

PARLIAMENTARY GLOSSARY

MANDATE. “Mandate (French *mandat*, German *Mandat*), the authorisation which voters give to chosen representatives, so that they would represent them in the representative bodies. Voters have the role of mandator, and representatives the role of receivers of the mandate. There are two fundamental types of representative mandates: free and imperative. 1. Free or independent mandate does not bind a representative to respect opinion and interests of voters who had chosen him, during discussions and voting in the parliament. (...) Members of the Parliament are representatives of the whole nation, instead of specific districts that chose them or specific groups of voters that elected them. (...) 2. Imperative or binding mandate, on the other hand, is completely contrary to the free mandate, because the representative is dependent on the opinion and interests of the voters who chose him. (...)”

The term mandate also has other meanings. Mandate is also a seat (*siège*, *Sitz*) gained by an individual or a party on the elections for a representative body. (...) Time span between the two rounds of elections for a political position or institution is also called mandate...”

Article 85 Paragraph 1 of the Constitution of Montenegro states that Member of the Parliament shall decide and vote according to his/her own conviction, meaning that free i.e. independent mandate exists in Montenegro.

¹Mirjana Kasapović, *Izborni leksikon (Electoral Lexicon)*, Zagreb, Politička kultura, 2003, pp. 221-222. (unofficial translation)