

OPEN PARLIAMENT



Parliament of Montenegro

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FOREWORD

Dear readers,

The December issue of monthly bulletin "Open Parliament", prepared by the Service of the Parliament, outlines key information on activities of the Parliament of Montenegro from 1st until 31st December.

At the Sitting held on December 4, 2012, the Parliament of Montenegro elected, by majority votes of MPs, the 40th Government of Montenegro. Chairs and members of working bodies of the 25th Convocation of the Parliament were elected and most of the committees held their first meetings in December.

The main topic of this Bulletin is the Budget Law of Montenegro for 2013, adopted at the Sitting of the Parliament of Montenegro on December 28, 2012.

The Bulletin is published as a part of the "Open Parliament" programme, which enables the Parliament to bring its work closer to Montenegrin citizens. We consider this publication to be a very reliable source of information regarding the work of the Parliament and hope that you will find it very useful.

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

**Respectfully,
The Service of the Parliament**



LEGISLATIVE AND OVERSIGHT ACTIVITY

In December 2012, two sittings of the Second Ordinary Session of the Parliament of Montenegro were held.

At the Second Sitting of the Second Ordinary Session held on December 4, members of the Parliament of Montenegro, by majority of votes, elected the 40th Government of Montenegro composed of 18 ministers with Milo Đukanović as the Prime Minister. After the voting took place, the Prime Minister and newly elected ministers took the oath.

At the reconvened Second Sitting, held on December 20, the MPs elected chairs and members of the following working bodies: Constitutional Committee; Legislative Committee; Committee on Political System, Justice and Administration; Security and Defence Committee; Committee on International Relations and Emigrants; European Integration Committee; Committee on Economy, Finance and Budget; Committee on Human Rights and Freedoms; Gender Equality Committee; Committee on Tourism, Agriculture, Ecology and Spatial Planning Committee on Education, Science, Culture and Sport; Committee on Health, Labour and Social Welfare; Anti-corruption Committee and Commission for Monitoring and Control of the Privatisation Process.

At the Third Sitting of the Second Ordinary Session, the Parliament of Montenegro adopted five laws:

The Law on Final Budget Statement for 2011, with the Report on the Audit of the Final Budget Statement of Montenegro for 2011, the Annual Report on Performed Audits and Activities of the State Audit Institution for the period October 2011 – October 2012 and Financial Statements and Performance Reports for 2011 of the Energy Regulatory Agency, Agency for Electronic Communications and Postal Services, Agency for Medicines and Medical Devices, Agency for Electronic Media, Agency for Insurance Supervision and Securities Exchange Commission; the Budget Law of Montenegro for 2013, with financial plans and work plans for 2013 of the Regulatory Agency, Agency for Electronic Communications and Postal Services, Agency for Electronic Media, Agency for Insurance Supervision and Commission for Securities; the Law on Amendments to the Law on Labour; the Law on Amendments to the Law on Pension and Disability Assurance, and the Law on Amendments to the Law on Civil Servants and State Employees.

With the adoption of the Proposal for the Law on Final Budget Statement of Montenegro for 2011, the Parliament also adopted conclusions which support findings and recommendations of the State Audit Institution indicated in the Annual Report, implying on deficiencies that need to be solved until submitting the Final Budget Statement for 2012, all in order to improve the system of public spending. The Parliament adopted 17 conclusions on such occasion.

Upon the discussion held about financial plans and work plans of independent regulatory bodies, the Parliament adopted three conclusions. These conclusions provide recommendations for regulators to start taking internal measures for rationalisation of costs and carry out necessary activities in order to prepare the modification of financial plans, which in the form of a proposal should be submitted to the Parliament for adoption.

At the same Sitting, the Parliament also adopted: the Decision on Appointment of the President, Secretary and nine members of the State Election Commission, and the Decision on the Election of two members of the Judicial Council.

Proposals for laws deliberated in committees:

- **Proposal for the Budget Law of Montenegro for 2013** was considered and proposed to the Parliament for adoption by the Committee on Economy, Finance and Budget and the Legislative Committee.

The following committees: *Committee on Tourism, Agriculture, Ecology and Spatial Planning; Committee on Education, Science, Culture and Sport; Committee on Human Rights and Freedoms; Committee on International Relations and Emigrants; Committee on Health, Labour and Social Welfare; Security and Defence Committee; Committee on Political System, Justice and Administration, and Gender Equality Committee*, as interested committees, considered and submitted their opinion about the Proposal for the Budget Law to the lead committee - the Committee on Economy, Finance and Budget.

- **Proposal for the Law on Final Budget Statement of Montenegro for 2011** was considered and proposed to the Parliament for adoption by the Committee on Economy, Finance and Budget; the Legislative Committee, and the Security and Defence Committee.
- **Proposal for the Law on Amendments to the Law on Civil Servants and State Employees** was considered and proposed to the Parliament for adoption by the Committee on Human Rights and Freedoms and the Legislative Committee.
- **Proposal for the Law on Amendments to the Law on Labour** was considered and proposed to the Parliament for adoption by the Committee on Health, Labour and Social Welfare and the Legislative Committee.
- **Proposal for the Law on Amendments to the Law on Pension and Disability Insurance** was considered and proposed to the Parliament for adoption by the Legislative Committee.

Other activities of the committees:

- **The Administrative Committee**, at the meeting held on December 17, 2012, established the List of candidates for election of the Chair and members of the following permanent committees of the 25th



Convocation of the Parliament of Montenegro: Constitutional Committee; Legislative Committee;

Committee on Political System, Justice and Administration; Committee on International Relations and Emigrants; Committee on Human Rights and Freedoms; Committee on Tourism, Agriculture, Ecology and Spatial Planning; Committee on Education, Science, Culture and Sport, and Committee on Health, Labour and Social Welfare. The Administrative Committee unanimously gave consent to the Proposal for the Rulebook Amending the Rulebook on Organisation and Systematisation of the Parliamentary Service, submitted by Damir Davidović, Secretary General to the Parliament of Montenegro.

- At its first meeting held on December 21, the **Committee on Economy, Finance and Budget** considered and proposed to the Parliament to accept the following proposals: Proposal for the Financial Statement together with the Performance Report for the Insurance Supervision Agency; Proposal for the Financial Statement of the Securities and Exchange Commission; Proposal for the Financial Statement of the Energy Regulators Agency; Proposal for the Financial Statement of the Agency for Medicines and Medical Devices; Proposal for the Financial Statement of the Agency for Electronic Communications and Postal Services together with the Performance Report, and Proposal for the Financial Statement of the Agency



for Electronic Media, for the past year. Additionally, during the meeting held on December 28, the Committee unanimously decided to adopt conclusions proposed to the Parliament upon considering financial plans with the activity plans for 2013 of the following independent regulatory agencies: Securities and Exchange Commission; Agency for Insurance Supervision; Energy Regulators Agency; Agency for Medicines and Medical Devices; Agency for Electronic Communications and Postal Service, and Agency for Electronic Media.

- At the first meeting of the **Anti-Corruption Committee** held on December 26, the Decision was made to hold the Control Hearing of the Supreme State Prosecutor Ranka Čarapić and the Director of

the Administration for Prevention of Money Laundering and Financing Terrorism Predrag Mitrović, in relation to (non)existence of new findings about the Telecom affair. Members of the Committee also exchanged opinions regarding the initiative of a group of MPs for amending the Law on Data Secrecy.

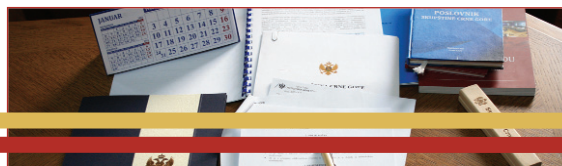
- At the first meeting of the **Committee on European Integration** held on December 26, information about the dynamics of the whole negotiation process was considered, with special regard to the recently closed Chapter 25 – Science and Research. The Chair of the Committee Slaven Radunović expressed expectations that the Committee will establish regular communication with the Government and Chief Negotiator.
- At its third meeting, held on December 27, the **Administrative Committee** decided to propose to the Parliament of Montenegro to elect MP Džavid



Šabović, a member of parliamentary majority, to become a member of the Judicial Council. The Committee adopted two decisions, namely: Decision on Amendments to the Decision on Establishment of the level, manner and procedure of purposeful spending of funds allocated for MP groups for hiring secretaries and expert consultants in MP groups, and the Decision on Determination of Salaries and Allowances of the President and Secretary of the State Electoral Commission. At the reconvened third meeting, the Committee established the Proposal for a Decision on Appointing the President, Secretary and nine members of the State Electoral Commission and decided to propose to the Parliament of Montenegro MP Neven Gošović, a member of parliamentary opposition, to become a member of the Judicial Council.

- At its fourth meeting held on December 28, the **Administrative Committee** adopted the Decision on determining the coefficient value for calculating fixed and starting salary amount, which decreased the established coefficient value for calculating fixed salary amount of the President of Montenegro, state and public officials working in the Parliament of Montenegro, the Ombudsman, Deputy Ombudsman

IN FOCUS



The Budget Law of Montenegro for 2013 adopted

At the Third Sitting of the Second Ordinary Session of the Parliament of Montenegro, held on December 28, the Budget Law of Montenegro for 2013, amounting to 1.23 billion euro, was adopted. In total, 44 MPs voted for the adoption of the Law, while 33 MPs were against the adoption.

The Budget provides for original revenues in the amount of € 1,161.80 million or 33.26% of GDP, which is 1.02% more compared to the previous year. The expenditures are planned in the amount of €1,257.12 million, or 0.24% less than in 2012.

Taxes (€ 700.43 million), contributions (€ 384.22 million), fees (€ 29.07 million), as well as reimbursements, other income and loan repayments present the largest share of the budget revenue.

Tax revenue is reduced by 3.5%, while revenues from compensation are reduced by 10.03%. Revenues from contributions and fees, other revenues and loan repayments are envisaged to grow.

The Budget for 2013 projects deficit in the amount of € 95.32 million, or 2.7% of GDP. This deficit is lower than the deficit in 2012, when it reached the level of € 110.13 million, or 4.14% of GDP (according to the rebalance, the deficit was planned in the amount of € 86.7 million + activation of guarantees in the amount of € 23.43 million). The lower amount of loans is projected (from € 308 mil to € 250 mil) or 18.83% less than the amount projected by the Budget Rebalance for 2012. The interest payments increased by 28.2%, from € 54.9 million to € 70.40 million. The primary deficit, or deficit with no interest on loans, is

projected to amount 0.71% of GDP.

The Budget Law for 2013 envisages issuance of guarantees worth € 66.2 million. The state debt is predicted to amount to € 1.904 million and it will be € 170 million higher than the amount projected by the rebalance of the budget for 2012 and in the amount of 54.51% of GDP (Maastricht criteria is 60% of GDP).

The Budget further envisages funds for the Capital Budget in the overall amount of € 65.64 million, which is at the same level as in 2012. The budget for the Public Works Directorate amounts to € 35.639 million and the budget for the Transport Directorate amounts to € 30 million.

The 2013 Budget is based on the projection of the real economy growth at the rate of 2.5%, or equivalent to the amount of € 3.493 million.

Within the Budget Expenditures, *inter alia*, the following expenditures are planned:

- Expenditures for Social Protection are higher by 4.2% and amount to € 49.9 million, which is 14.23% of GDP for 2013.
- Transfers to institutions, individuals, non-governmental and public sector increased for about 20% and amount to € 34.83 million.
- Gross income decreased by 1.5% and amounts to € 371.9 million, while other personal income decreased by 1.4% and amounts to €10.82 million.
- Capital Expenditures decreased by 3% and amount to € 67.66 million.



NEWS FROM THE PARLIAMENT



The Prime Minister and members of the 40th Government of Montenegro elected

At the Second Sitting of the Second Ordinary Session in 2012, the Parliament of Montenegro elected, by majority of votes, the 40th Government of Montenegro consisting of 18 ministers headed by the Prime Minister Milo Đukanović.

At the beginning of the Sitting, the Prime Minister-Designate for the composition of the Government addressed the Parliament and presented the Programme and Proposal for the Composition of the Government, which was followed by a nearly six-hour long debate. The Parliament accepted the Programme of the Prime Minister-Designate and Proposal for the Composition of the 40th Government of Montenegro. A total of 71 MPs voted, 44 MPs voted for, 26 MPs voted against and one MP was abstained.



The 40th Government of Montenegro:

- Milo Đukanović, Prime Minister;
- Igor Lukšić, PhD, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs and European Integration;
- Duško Marković, Deputy Prime Minister for Political System, Internal and Foreign Affairs and Minister of Justice;
- Vujica Lazović, PhD, Deputy Prime Minister for Economic Policy and Financial System and Minister for Information Society and Telecommunication;
- Rafet Husović, Deputy Prime Minister;
- Milica Pejanović – Đurišić, PhD, Minister of Defence;
- Raško Konjević, Minister of Internal Affairs;
- Radoje Žugić, PhD, Minister of Finance;
- Suad Numanović, PhD, Minister of Human and Minority Rights;
- Vladimir Kavarić, Minister of Economy;
- Branimir Gvozdrenović, Minister of Sustainable Development and Tourism;
- Petar Ivanović, PhD, Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development;
- Ivan Brajović, Minister of Transport and Maritime Affairs;
- Predrag Bošković, MSc, Minister of Labour and Social Welfare;
- Branislav Mićunović, Minister of Culture;
- Slavoljub Stijepović, Minister of Education;
- Sanja Vlahović, PhD, Minister of Science;
- Miodrag Radunović, Minister of Health, and
- Marija Vučinović, Minister without Portfolio.

The President of the Parliament of Montenegro Ranko Krivokapić opened the International Conference “Strengthening the Role and Function of the Parliament of Montenegro in the Decision-Making Process”

On December 21, 2012, the President of the Parliament of Montenegro Ranko Krivokapić opened the International Conference “Strengthening the Role and Function of the Parliament of Montenegro in the Decision-Making Process”. The conference was dedicated to the issue of functioning of national parliaments of Montenegro, Serbia, and Bosnia and Herzegovina, and was held as part of the project implemented by the Faculty of Political Science in Podgorica, Faculty of Political Science in Belgrade and Open Centre from Sarajevo, under the auspices of the Programme for Promotion of Research of the University in Freiburg. Within the project called “Comparative Analysis of Democratic Performances of Parliaments in Serbia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, and Montenegro”, a group of researchers in the area of public policies who gathered at the Faculty of Political Science in Podgorica, carried out a study aimed at analysing the functioning of Montenegrin Parliament, with the aim to make recommendations for strengthening its role

and function in the decision-making process. The study titled “Strengthening the Role and Function of the Parliament of Montenegro in the decision-making process – Recommendations for Improvement” is primarily aimed at decision makers and strongly relies on the research of the national team that gathered at the Faculty of Political Science in Podgorica.

At the conference, President Krivokapić stated that this project was a synonym for reintegration and reconciliation and contributed to strengthening of the unity of emotion. “The Montenegrin Parliament will always welcome the initiatives that enable each of us not to learn individually, which is difficult and expensive, but to let each of us achieve a certain level of knowledge that we would integrate and use in the work of our parliaments”, said Krivokapić. The President also added that the Parliament is getting stronger every day, primarily in the field of the autonomy of finance as well as capacities in the legislative and oversight functions of the Parliament.

Performance Report of the Parliament of Montenegro of the 24th Convocation published

The Parliament of Montenegro published its Performance Report of the 24th Convocation, containing information on the legislative and oversight activities of the Parliament, its international activities, cooperation with the civil sector and international and foreign organisations, publicity of work, as well as other numerous pieces of information.

This is the first time that the report is made as such that it comprehensively summarises the work of parliamentary convocation, and is made with the aim to strengthen transparency and publicity of the parliamentary work.

One of the key features of the 24th Convocation was an exceptionally dynamic legislative and oversight activity of the Parliament. From April 2009 until November 2012, a total of 63 ordinary and 14 extraordinary sittings of the Parliament were held, where a total of 305 new laws, 156 laws amending the laws, five constitutional laws and 235 other acts were adopted. The work on amending the Constitution of Montenegro had began, and, *inter alia*, the laws fully determining implementation of the parliamentary investigation and performing of parliamentary oversight in the area of security and defence were adopted. Also, the obligation for harmonisation of the Law on the Election of Councillors and MPs with the Constitution of Montenegro was fulfilled. Moreover, oversight mechanisms of the Parliament were additionally strengthened and thus, during the 24th Convocation, there were 14 special sittings dedicated to the Prime

Minister’s Hour and to MPs Questions, where over 1,110 questions were posed to the Prime Minister and the members of the Government. A parliamentary investigation was initiated for the first time in 2012.

During the 24th Convocation, the work focus was to a great extent transferred from Plenum to working bodies and, thus, the intensity of their work had significantly increased. Over 800 meetings of working bodies were held and over 3,000 items on the agenda were discussed. A large number of control and consultative hearings, themed meetings, meetings outside the Parliament building, visits to various institutions, public debates, roundtables, conferences and similar events were organised.

The 24th Convocation of the Parliament will also be remembered by significant events and activities in the area of integration of Montenegro to the EU. By obtaining the candidate status, and later by making a decision on opening of negotiations, an essentially new phase in this process had begun, setting significantly more serious demands to all the state bodies, including the Parliament of Montenegro. In that regard, a great deal of attention had been paid to harmonisation of Montenegrin legislation to the EU legislation, but also to strengthening of cooperation of the Parliament with Member States as well as the EU institutions, especially the European Parliament, with which the Parliament of Montenegro formed the joint body – Stabilisation and Association Parliamentary Committee (SAPC) in 2010.

In order to provide a more quality service to MPs in performing their legislative and oversight function, a number of novelties were introduced in the Parliamentary Service and a great deal of attention was paid to development of human resources, i.e. professional development of the Parliamentary Service through various types of training. For the first time, the practice of planning the Parliament's activities for each sitting, annual plan of activities of each working body and adoption of implementation reports at the meetings open to public was introduced. Also, October 31 was established as the Day of Parliamentarism in Montenegro; publishing listings of voting statistics in the plenary sittings was introduced; a licence by the EU Office for publication of Eurovoc was obtained, etc.

The Memorandum on Cooperation between the Parliament of Montenegro and Network of

Organisations of Civil Society for Democracy and Human Rights, defining the principles of cooperation with other interested NGOs was signed and participation of the representatives of the civil sector in the meetings of the working bodies was increased.

Within the programme "Open Parliament", numerous visits and exhibits, sittings of the Children's Parliament had been organised; semi-annual and annual performance reports and monthly issues of the bulletin "Open Parliament" had been published. In October 2012, with the financial assistance of ERSTE Foundation and technical and expertise support of the NGO Forum MNE, a pilot project "Democracy Workshops" was launched. It is estimated that the workshops would be attended by close to 4000 students in 2013. Additionally, the project on digitalisation of the legislative process had been launched, with the assistance of the EU Delegation in Montenegro.

A special channel of the Parliament of Montenegro on YouTube

The Parliament of Montenegro has gotten another significant form of presentation aimed to reach wide public audience. A special channel on YouTube was launched on December 4, 2012. It is planned that all the sittings of the current Convocation, as well as all other significant parliamentary events be available at the following internet address:

<http://www.youtube.com/user/SkupstinaCrneGore>.

The special parliamentary channel on YouTube is another way of the Parliament of Montenegro to continue strengthening the principle of publicity and transparency of the parliamentary work and promote informing the public on all aspects of its work.

President of the Parliament Ranko Krivokapić presented awards to best employees in 2012

At the ceremony held in the Parliament on December 24, President Krivokapić presented awards to best employees in 2012. The best employees in 2012 award went to: Vlatko Šćepanović, Nađa Vukićević, Gorica Jakić, Dražen Vlahović and Petar Vujović. Addressing the awardees, President Krivokapić said: "All these years we worked as hard as we could. Both when there were thirty-eight of us and now when there are one hundred and forty. The Parliament made significant political steps in the key phase until the beginning of negotiations. That is the knowledge that the parliamentarians were acquiring with you, through your suggestions and your provision of time for the MPs." A young Montenegrin concert pianist Aleksandar Božović performed at the award presentation ceremony.



PARLAMENTARY GLOSSARY

"Coalition Governments are formal agreements of two or more parties which include distribution of ministry resources. Usually, they are stimulated by the need of ensuring the majority control in the Parliament. 'Grand Coalitions' or 'Government of National Salvation' are composed of all most significant parties, but they are usually created in times of national crises or great economic difficulties."*

*Andrew Heywood, Politika, CLIO, Belgrade, 2004,

FROM THE HISTORY OF MONTENEGRIN PARLIAMENT



LAW ON STATE BUDGET

1/14 May 1901

**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
STATE BUDGET**

Article 1

State Budget must contain all state expenditure and all state revenue for the said year. Budget year shall start on the 1st January and end on 31st December.

Article 6

The Budget shall consist of the estimates from certain Ministries. In these, the state revenue and expenditure of the state must be distributed to parties and subparties. In separate appendixes, necessary explanations on expenditures shall be stated.

Subordinate departments shall make separate estimates until 1st November and send them immediately to their superior Ministries.

The Ministries, upon receiving and assessing special estimates submitted to them on revenue and expenditure in their branch profession shall compose the budget estimate for their entire profession and then submit it to the Ministry of Finance no later than 1st December.

Article 7

The Ministry of Finance shall collect into the state estimate all the estimates of other Ministries, adding their own to these, and shall submit thusly composed state estimate until 15th December before the State Council to be finally determined. It is understood, that the issues of all orders to be paid by the state budget for the said budget year are included in the consideration of the state estimate.

Thusly adopted budget project shall be submitted to the Prince Sovereign for approval.

Article 8

State budget estimate shall be followed by a separate financial law, which must contain:

- a) the amount of expenditure provided for in the budget,
- b) the amount of revenue – both overall;
- c) difference between the amounts;
- d) in the case of revenue shortfall, the manner to compensate it; in the case of surplus, where it shall be used;
- e) possible provisions, applicable only for that financial year.

Article 9

If the state expenditure, according to the Budget Proposal, should be higher than the state revenue, the Proposal for the Financial Law must include the manner to equalize this difference.

Article 18

Annual Financial Statement, which is to be composed no later than the end of January (Article 8, Law on Main Control) must illustrate for the budget by parties:

- a) Arrears of expenditure and revenue from the previous year,
- b) amount of the expenditure and revenue, determined by budget,
- c) actual spent amounts of expenditure,
- d) actual received amounts of revenue,
- e) approximately actual spent amounts of revenue, as well as approximately actually received amounts of expenditure,
- f) arrears of expenditure and revenue for the following year.

Annual Financial Statement, with respective explanations, shall be handed over for review to the Main Control, which shall, after composing its objections in case there are any – give back to the Ministry of Finance, together with confirmation on regularity.

Nikola, s.r

Cetinje, 14 May 1901

From the Law on State Budget of Montenegro, 1906

Pavićević, B., Raspopović, R., eds. Crnogorski zakonic 1796-1916, II (Montenegrin Books of Law), Podgorica,

CALENDAR



7th December

- President of the Parliament of Montenegro Ranko Krivokapić opened the Closing Plenary Conference of the National Convention on European Integration of Montenegro, organised by: the European Movement in Montenegro and Slovak Foreign Policy Association, with the support of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Slovakia and SLOVAKAID, with participation of the Parliament and the Government of Montenegro. After introductory speeches, co-chairs of working groups presented recommendations and conclusions adopted during the realisation of the project.

10th December

- Vice President of the Parliament of Montenegro Suljo Mustafić received Alexandra Cas Granhe, Director of the Directorate General for Enlargement of the European Commission to Montenegro, Croatia, Iceland, Macedonia and Turkey. The interlocutors agreed that, for the next period, the most important would be to focus on the fight against organised crime and corruption. The meeting was also attended by Mitja Drobnič, Head of the EU Delegation to Montenegro and Alberto Cammarata, Head of the Political Section of the EU Delegation to Montenegro.



- Member of the Parliament Halil Duković, PhD, participated in the panel discussion “Protection of Human Rights within the Prison System”, which was held at the Rectorate of the University of Montenegro. The panel discussion was organised on the occasion of celebrating the International Day of Human Rights and the Day of Adopting Universal Declaration on Human Rights. The event was organised by the Government of Montenegro, the Protector of Human Rights and Freedoms of Montenegro (the Ombudsman), University of Montenegro, UN agencies in Montenegro, OSCE Mission to Montenegro and

NGO Civic Alliance (“Građanska alijansa”). In order to further improve the respect for the rights of imprisoned, the Recommendations were adopted at the Panel.

11th December

- During his visit to Italy, the President of the Parliament of Montenegro Ranko Krivokapić met with the President of Italian Chamber of Deputies Gianfranco Fini, Chief Anti-mafia Prosecutor in Italy Pietro Grasso and Italian Lady Minister of the Interior Anna Maria Cancellieri. Presidents Fini and Krivokapić agreed that Montenegro could be the first next EU and NATO member if it continued with the current politics. The interlocutors exchanged views on contemporary issues of the EU functioning and key challenges in overcoming economic and financial crisis facing the EU. President Krivokapić participated in the 7th Consultative Assembly of Parliamentarians for the International Criminal Court and the Rule of Law, at the invitation of the President of Italian Chamber of Deputies Gianfranco Fini. President Krivokapić also met with the President of the International Criminal Court Sang - Hyun Song and had several bilateral meetings with participants of the Consultative Assembly, comprised of high level parliamentary officials from a number of world countries.

13th December

- Members of the Parliament of Montenegro Obrad Mišo Stanišić and Vasilije Lalošević participated in the Conference called “Defense and Security Committees”. The Conference was organized by RACVIAC, Centre for the Democratic Control of Armed Forces (DCAF) from Geneva and Joint Committee on Defense and Security of the Parliamentary Assembly of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

14th December

- At the invitation of the President of the Venice Commission Gianni Buquicchio, the President of the Parliament of Montenegro Ranko Krivokapić participated in the Ordinary Session of the Venice Commission, where it was discussed about the Proposal of the Amendments to the Constitution of Montenegro, submitted by the Constitutional Issues and Legislative Committee of the Parliament of Montenegro. It was also discussed about the amendments of the Socialist People’s Party. The Venice Commission adopted the

CALENDAR



Opinion on Amendments to the Constitution of Montenegro, related to the judiciary.

18th December

- President of the Parliament of Montenegro Ranko Krivokapić met with the Head of OSCE Mission to Montenegro Ambassador Lubomir Kopaj. Krivokapić and Kopaj discussed the possibilities of promoting cooperation between the OSCE Mission and the Parliament of Montenegro, especially within projects concerning the education of youth.

20th December

- President of the Parliament of Montenegro Ranko Krivokapić ceremoniously handed over certificates of attendance to representatives of 17 Montenegrin elementary schools, who participated in the pilot project "Democracy Workshops". The ceremony of



awarding the certificates for successful participation in the pilot project, among others, was attended by 55 students and 22 teachers. Democracy Workshops are organised within the program "Open Parliament" and are aimed at stimulating interests in politics and democratic processes of youth, enabling them to become familiar with the work of MPs and the Parliament as an institution. So far, 1,224 children participated in the pilot phase of the project.

- President of the Parliament of Montenegro Ranko Krivokapić was a key speaker at the award ceremony "Safe Compass" for outstanding merits in spreading the Euro-Atlantic thoughts in Montenegro, organised by NGO Alfa Centre. The ceremony was held at the Cultural and Information Centre "Budo Tomović".

21th December

- President of the Parliament of Montenegro Ranko Krivokapić participated in the discussion on the topic "Constitution of Montenegro – Five Years Later", organised by the Lawyers Association of Montenegro. The event was held on the occasion of celebrating five years of adoption of the Constitution of Montenegro in 2007. "The fundamental value of Montenegrin Constitution is the civic Montenegro. In the Balkans, there is only one country that has a citizen as a holder of sovereignty. That is the basic value of civic Montenegro", concluded President Krivokapić. The discussion was held at the Faculty of Law, University of Montenegro.

FROM PARLIAMENTARY GALLERY

Vida Bauković: „Platije“, 1976.

Vida Bauković belongs to the circle of autodidacts, who gained international recognition by their work, and her creation is a part of the parliamentary art collection, which, in addition to works of professional artists, contains works of this group of creators. The authoress is known for rarely used and extremely demanding phyto collage technique, which enabled her to complement distinctive creative vision on refinement, transparency and incompressibility with idea on transience and decay of the material. Stuffed dry leaves and flower petals served to the artist in chromatic and compositional shaping of the picture, which further harmonises and enriches her work.

