

OPEN PARLIAMENT



Parliament of Montenegro

Bulletin on the Parliament of Montenegro Performance ♦ Electronic format ♦ Release: monthly ♦ Year II ♦ No. 23 ♦ January 2013

FOREWORD

Dear readers,

The January issue of our monthly bulletin "Open Parliament", prepared by the Service of the Parliament, outlines key information on the activities of the Parliament of Montenegro between January 1st and 31st.

On January 18, 2013, after a two-day consultation, the President of the Parliament of Montenegro Ranko Krivokapić made a Decision to call an election for the President of Montenegro which will be held on April 7, 2013. At the Sitting of the first extraordinary session of the Parliament of Montenegro held on January 28, 2013, seven laws were adopted.

The main topic of this bulletin is the commencement of the project "Democracy Workshops", which was ceremoniously opened by the President of the Parliament of Montenegro Ranko Krivokapić and the President of the National Council of Austria Barbara Prammer.

The Bulletin is published as part of the "Open Parliament" programme, which enables the Parliament to bring its work closer to Montenegrin citizens. We consider this publication 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 criticisms, which can help us bring more quality to our work.

*Respectfully,
The Service of the Parliament*



LEGISLATIVE AND OVERSIGHT ACTIVITY

In January, two sittings of extraordinary sessions of the Parliament of Montenegro were held.

At the Sitting of the first extraordinary session, held on January 28, 2013, seven laws were adopted: Law on Amendments to the Law on Personal Income Tax, Law on Amendments to the Law on Insurance, Law on Amendments to the Law on Securities, Law on Amendments to the Law on Electronic Communications, Law on Amendments to the Energy Law, Law on Amendments to the Law on Medicines and Law on Amendments to the Law on Electronic Media.

At the Sitting of the second extraordinary session, held on January 29, 2013, Milojica Dakić was appointed as the Governor of the Central Bank.

Proposals for laws deliberated in committees:

- At the meeting, held on January 23, 2013, the **Legislative Committee** considered and decided to propose to the Parliament the adoption of the following proposals: Proposal for the Law on Amendments to the Law on Securities; Proposal for the Law on Amendments to the Law on Electronic Media; Proposal for the Law on Amendments to the Law on Electronic Communications; Proposal for the Law on Amendments to the Law on Insurance; Proposal for the Law on Ratification of the Agreement between the Government of Montenegro and the Government of the Republic of Macedonia on Police Cooperation; Proposal for the Law on Ratification of the Agreement between the Government of

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.

Montenegro and Czech Republic on Cooperation in the field of combating crime; Proposal for the Law on Ratification of the Agreement between the Government of Montenegro and the Government of Republic of Moldova on re-admission (return and acceptance) of entities without residence permits; Proposal for the Law on Ratification of the Extradition Agreement between Montenegro and Bosnia and Herzegovina; Proposal for the Law on Ratification of the Agreement on Legal Status of the Regional Centre for Environment for Central and Eastern Europe; Proposal for the Law on Ratification of the Founding Agreement of the International Academy of Anti-Corruption; Proposal for the Law on Ratification of the Convention of the Council of Europe on Prevention of Violence against Women and Domestic Violence. At the sitting, the following proposals for laws were deliberated on: Proposal for the Law on Amendments to the Energy Law, Proposal for the Law on Amendments to the Law on Medicines and Proposal for the Law on Amendments to the Law on Personal Income Tax. However, these proposals did not have the support of the necessary majority. .

- At the meeting, held on January 28, 2013, the **Legislative Committee** considered and assessed as legally acceptable the amendments that the MPs submitted to the Proposal for the Law on Personal Income Tax.
- At the meeting, held on January 28, 2013, the **Committee on Political System, Justice and Administration** considered a Proposal for the Law on Amendments to the Law on Electronic Media and, by majority vote, decided to propose it to the Parliament for adoption.
- At the meeting, held on January 24, 2013, the **Committee on Economy, Finance and Budget** had a discussion on the Proposal for the Law on Amendments to the Law on Insurance, Proposal for the Law on Amendments to the Law on Securities, Proposal for the Law on Amendments to the Law on Electronic Communications and Proposal for the Law on Amendments to the Energy Law and concluded that the proposed amendments establish the obligations of independent regulatory bodies to deposit the surplus of income over expenditures into the budget of Montenegro. Additionally, it was concluded that the proposed solutions are of temporary character and are a part of the set of measures of fiscal adaptation aimed at decreasing negative effects of the crisis. After the debate, the Committee postponed their declaration on the set of said laws for the continuation of the meeting.
- Meeting of the **Committee on Economy, Finance and Budget** that continued on January 28, 2013,

considered a Proposal for the Law on Amendments to the Law on Personal Income Tax. After the discussion and the statement of the Minister of Finance on readiness to accept the proposed correction, the Committee decided to propose to the Parliament to adopt this Proposal as well as: Proposal for the Law on Amendments to the Law on Insurance, Proposal for the Law on Amendments to the Law on Securities, Proposal for the Law on Amendments to the Law on Electronic Communications and Proposal for the Law on Amendments to the Energy Law.

- At the meeting, held on January 28, 2013, the **Committee on Health, Labour and Social Welfare** considered a Proposal for the Law on Amendments to the Law on Medicines and decided to propose its adoption to the Parliament.
- At the meeting, held on January 30, 2013, the **Committee on Tourism, Agriculture, Ecology and Spatial Planning** considered a Proposal for the Law on Amendments to the Law on Environmental Impact Assessment, Proposal for the Law on Amendments to the Law on Nature Protection and Proposal for the Law on Organic Agriculture. Following the comprehensive and constructive discussion, the Committee decided to propose their adoption to the Parliament.

Other Activities of the Committees:

- During January, the **Constitutional Committee** held six meetings. During these meetings, the Committee considered further dynamic and manner of work of the Committee, amendments to the Constitution of Montenegro, primarily to define the basis, issues related to the State Prosecution, with emphasis to the recommendations from the Venice Commission Opinion and models for solving this issue through a constitutional norm. Individual decisions relating to the composition and election of members of the Judicial Council were analysed



which were set in the previously defined models and models in relation to the issue of appointment of the Supreme State Prosecutor. The meeting held on January 31, 2013, was dedicated to the Constitu-

tional Court. Following a detailed analysis of the solutions that were contained in the previously proposed constitutional amendments and recommendations from the Venice Commission Opinion, the Committee defined the appropriate model which will be further developed in the following meetings.

- On January 30, 2013, the **Security and Defence**



Committee, held a meeting closed to the public, at which the Performance Report of the Police Directorate and the Security Situation in 2011 was considered. Additionally, the Annual Performance Report of the Security and Defence Committee for 2012 was adopted.

- At the meeting, held on January 28, 2013, the **Administrative Committee** positively declared on the Rulebook on Amendments to the Rulebook on internal organization and systematization of the administrative service of the Commission for Prevention of Conflict of Interest. At the proposal of the Democratic Front, the Committee elected Branka Bošnjak, docent PhD, as Deputy Chairwoman of the Committee and decided to propose to the Parliament to dismiss Branko Radulović, PhD, and to elect Veljko Vasiljević as a member of

the Committee on European Integration. At the proposal of the MPs Group of Albanian Parties, HGI



and LPCG, the Committee decided to propose to the Parliament to dismiss Fatmir Gjeka and to elect Ljerka Dragičević as a member of the Constitutional Committee.

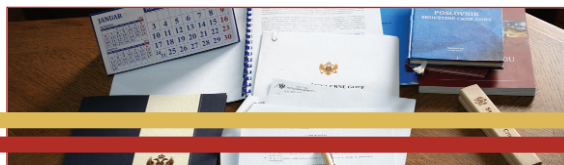
- At the meeting held on January 30, 2013, the **Committee on Tourism, Agriculture, Ecology and Spatial Planning**, at the proposal of the Democratic Front MPs, unanimously elected prof. Jelisava Kalezić, PhD, as a Deputy Chairwoman of the Committee. prof. dr Jelisavu Kalezić.
- The Commission for Monitoring and Control of the Privatisation Process on January 30, 2013, held the first meeting at which the election of deputy chairman was postponed for the following meeting due to insufficient consultations. After the debate on the proposed work plan of the chairman of the Commission, the establishment of the work plan of the Commission for 2013 was also postponed for the next meeting, in order to establish as realistic plan as possible and due to necessary additional

PARLIAMENTARY GLOSSARY

Legality / legitimacy - in the broader context, the term of legitimacy (from Latin legitimare, meaning “to declare legal”) marks legitimacy. Legitimacy establishes the order or provides it with authoritative or binding character, transforming power into authority. Unlike legitimacy, legality does not ensure respect for the authority or acceptance of the obligation of civic obedience. Political philosophers interpret legitimacy as a moral or rational principle, on the basis of which governments can demand obedience from its citizens. Reference to legitimacy is thus more important than the fact of obedience. Political scientists, however, attach the sociological nature to the legitimacy: they see it as a willingness to comply with the system of government, regardless of the manner it has been established.

*Endru Hejvud, Politika, CLIO, Beograd, 2004.

IN FOCUS



Democracy Workshops” officially opened

The “Democracy Workshops” project, launched by the Parliament of Montenegro in cooperation with the ERSTE Foundation and the NGO Forum of Youth and Informal Education, was formally opened on January 22, in the presence of the President of the Parliament of Montenegro Ranko Krivokapić, the President of the National Council of the Republic of Austria Barbara Prammer, the Chairman of the Advisory Board of the ERSTE Foundation Erhard Busek and the Executive Director of NGO Forum of Youth and Informal Education, Elvira Hadžibegović Bubanja.

The “Democracy Workshops” project was designed as a program of civil education for primary school students, which provides knowledge on parliamentary democracy, functioning of a parliament, adoption and application of laws, as well as the role of media in the pluralist society. The project is conducted in the form of workshops, at which children from primary schools (from eight to fourteen/fifteen years of age), with the help of selected and trained teachers/trainers, through an interactive program, and in the way suitable for their age, learn how democracy functions. They write about their obtained knowledge and experience in a journalist essay, which is later published on the site of the Children’s Parliament. In addition to the workshop “Democracy and Parliament”, the project will be further developed to include more topics for discussion. Future plans include creating TV and radio broadcasts of the knowledge and experiences obtained from these workshops.



The ceremonial opening of the “Democracy Workshops” project was marked by the signing of the Memorandum of Understanding between the Parliament of Montenegro, the ERSTE Foundation and the NGO Forum of Youth and Informal Education for the implementation of the project “Democracy Workshops”, and as a part of the program “Open Parliament” of the Parliament of Montenegro.

During the ceremony, President Krivokapić said that the “Democracy Workshops” project is of immeasurable importance and that it gathered Montenegrin children in the Parliament of Montenegro. The President of the National Council of Austria Barbara Prammer expressed expectations that the “Democracy Workshops” project will be greatly beneficial to the youth in Montenegro.

Within preparation activities for the official opening of the project, pilot project democracy workshops was conducted, which commenced on October 8, 2012. From the beginning of the pilot project until the end of 2012, a total of

1,339 students, from 17 primary schools from Podgorica, Nikšić and Manastir Morača, participated in 56 workshops named “Democracy and Parliament” and 56 editions of the children’s newspaper were made, and each participant received a copy of the newspaper. Apart from the active participation in workshops, children had the opportunity to visit Montenegro’s Parliament building and educate themselves on the history and responsibilities of the institution. Furthermore, the Parliament of Montenegro allowed representatives of the Service of the Parliament to participate during the pilot project, and in 2013 it will endeavour to facilitate connecting children and parliamentarians, so that children can make direct contact with MPs and learn basic characteristics of parliamentary system and their work.

On December 20, at the commencement of the pilot project the President of the Parliament, Ranko Krivokapić, ceremoniously delivered certificates to 17 Montenegrin primary schools that participated in the pilot project.

“Democracy Workshops” were opened during the official visit of the President of the National Council of Austria Barbara Prammer, who stayed in Montenegro upon the invitation of the President of the Parliament of Montenegro Ranko Krivokapić.

The interlocutors praised the current cooperation between the two parliaments, as well as the relations between Montenegro and Austria. During the meeting of two presidents, it was pointed out that Austria is one of the greatest allies that Montenegro has on its path towards the European integration.

Democracy workshops in Podgorica are modeled after the democracy workshops, which have been conducted in the Austrian Parliament since 2007, where over 10,000 children participate on yearly basis. Montenegro is the first country in the region to implement this project, and the initiative for further spreading of this project in South Eastern Europe was supported by the Montenegrin Parliament, Parliament of Austria and ERSTE Foundation. The project in Montenegro is financially supported by the ERSTE Foundation, while technical and expertise support is provided by the NGO Forum MNE (Forum of Youth and Informal Education).

NEWS FROM THE PARLIAMENT



Presidential elections in Montenegro scheduled

On January 18, 2013, the President of the Parliament of Montenegro Ranko Krivokapić reached a Decision on Scheduling Montenegro Presidential Elections. This was decided after two-day consultations were held with political parties representatives, and is pursuant to Article 89 paragraph 2 of the Constitution of Montenegro and Article 2 of the Law on election of the President of Montenegro (“Official Gazette of Montenegro, no 17/07 and 08/09). Elections for the President of Montenegro are to be held on April 7, 2013.

Meeting of the President of the Parliament of Montenegro Ranko Krivokapić and the President of the Republic of Serbia Tomislav Nikolić

The President of the Parliament of Montenegro Ranko Krivokapić met the President of the Republic of Serbia Tomislav Nikolić, on January 18, 2013. During his meeting with the President of the Republic of Serbia Tomislav Nikolić, the President of the Parliament of Montenegro Ranko Krivokapić said that Montenegro is dedicated to developing friendly and neighbourly relations based on mutual respect with the Republic of Serbia.

Montenegro and Serbia share mutual interests and it is logical to rely on each other, said President Nikolić, adding that Montenegro has his full respect as a state and its development path.

Interlocutors pointed out the need for further strengthening of the political dialog of the two states. The cooperation between Montenegro and Serbia in the field of regional organizations and initiatives, as well as multilaterally, was praised. The meeting was held in Villa Gorica.



Winter Session of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (January 21-25, 2013)

Winter Session of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe was held from January 21 to 25, 2013, in Strasbourg. The Delegation of the Parliament of Montenegro consisted of: the Head of Delegation Zoran Vukčević, a permanent member Damir Šehović, deputy members Predrag Sekulić and Borislav Banović. The Head of Montenegrin Delegation Zoran Vukčević was elected Vice-Chair of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, and the permanent member Damir Šehović was elected Vice-President of the Group of Socialists.

At the Winter Session of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe in 2013, Members of the Parliamentary Assembly elected a new Chairman of PACE, Jean-Claude Mignon (France EPP/CD). The Resolution of Kosovo was adopted, which emphasizes the need for the Council of Europe to maintain direct working contacts with the Kosovo authorities at all levels, and to intensify the dialogue with representatives of parliamentary political structures. The Agenda included debates on activities of the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development as well as ways of ensuring the sustainability of the European Court for Human Rights in Strasbourg.

The Head of Montenegrin Delegation Zoran Vukčević attended the meeting together with the President of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe as well as the heads of other national delegations, where it was spoken about the way of electing judges to the Court in Strasbourg, at the member states level, aimed at increasing the level of its credibility.

Meetings of the following committees were held: Committee on Political Affairs and Democracy, Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights, Committee on Social Affairs, Health and Sustainable Development and Committee on Culture, Science, Education and Media, where the members of Montenegrin Delegation took part. Also, meetings of the Committee on Equality and Non-Discrimination as well as the Committee on Migration, Refugees and Displaced Persons were held.

At the Plenary Session of PACE, there was a discussion about humanitarian situation in the areas in Russia and Georgia, affected by conflicts and war. In addition, the Report on Observance of Commitments by Azerbaijan was discussed and adopted, which recognized the achieved progress of the country regarding the establishment of legal frameworks for the functioning of democratic institutions. The Report on Issue of Political Prisoners in Azerbaijan which, *intel alia*, notes violation of European Convention on Human Rights and Freedoms, regarding the manner of treatment of political prisoners, was not adopted at the Plenary Session of PACE.

Following the urgent procedure, the debate on migrations and Asylum, growing tensions in East Mediterranean region, primarily in Greece and Turkey, was included in the Agenda.

Meetings of the Standing working bodies of the Parliamentary Assembly were also held, and the members of Montenegrin delegation participated in their work. The MPs also attended the reception hosted by the Mayor of Strasbourg Roland Ries.

MPs of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe were addressed by the European Commissioner for Enlargements and Neighbourhood Policy Stefan Füle. He emphasized that in future the parliamentary side of joint assistance and cooperation program of the European Union and Council of Europe will be amplified, and that the special attention will be paid to increasing capacities of national parliaments in drafting legislation, as well as the establishment of parliamentary procedures which fully respect political pluralism.

At the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, the Resolution with specific recommendations on the prevention of human trafficking for forced labour, as well as the Resolution on gender equality were adopted. By adopting these the PACE invited governments of member states to introduce measures that



are based on shared responsibility, such as parental leave that enables parents to equally take care of their children, as well as laws that enable a more flexible form of organisation that does not have a negative impact on career advancement.

The meeting of the Bureau of the Parliamentary Assembly was also held, attended by MP Zoran Vukčević. At the meeting, the agenda for the April session was agreed upon, as well as the topics that will be co-nsidered in the meeting of the Standing Committee in Paris, which will be held in March this year. Additionally, an ad hoc Committee on observation of the upcoming presidential elections in Montenegro was formed and Roman Jakić from Slovenia was elected as its chairman.

The meeting of Chairs of Committees on European affairs of national parliaments of the member states of the European Union

Within the Irish half-year presidency of the European Union, the meeting of Chairs of committees on European affairs of national parliaments of the member states of the European Union (COSAC) was held in Dublin, on January 27-28, 2013. The Delegation of the Parliament of Montenegro attended the meeting, as observer, consisting of the Chairman of the Committee on European integration Slaven Radunović and the member of the Committee Jovan Martinović.

During the introductory part of the meeting, the attendees were addressed by Brendan Howlin, Minister for Public Expenditure and Reform of the Republic of Ireland, who pointed out, as presidency priorities, stimulation of economic recovery and employment of youth. Investment to resources was stressed, as well as development that promotes creating new jobs, taking into consideration the advantage of single market and agreement on future investment of the EU for the period 2014-2020. Referring to the achievements during the Cyprus presidency, the Minister noted the importance of Unitary Patent Packages and Single Control Mechanism.

During his address the Chairman of the Committee on European Integration Slaven Radunović, pointed out that the decision of the European Council from 2012, by which Montenegro got the "green light" to start negotiations, as well as the positive opinion of the European Commission from October on previous efforts made by the Parliament, the Government and the whole Montenegrin society was recognized as a confirmation of that intensive and overall work in the process, in which we successfully fulfilled our European agenda commitments. "It is important for the region of Western Balkan as a whole", the Chairman continued, "that despite the difficulties that the European Union is faced with, the policy of enlargement of the European Union continues to reasserts. We are certain that the issue of enlargement is important for further progress of the Western Balkans and its long-term stability and we welcome the decision that enlargement issue should stay at the top of priorities of the European Union". Chairman Radunović informed parliamentarians on the work of the Parliament, stating that after recent amending of the Rules of Procedure, the Parliament of Montenegro started functioning with larger number of working bodies and new obligations that guarantee stronger control role of the Parliament. The Committee on European Integration was established, which would directly oversee the negotiation process, as well as Anti-corruption Committee as a kind of response to demanding negotiation chapters 23 - Judiciary and fundamental rights

and chapter 24 - Justice, freedom and security. Mr. Radunović concluded his addressing with the message that Montenegro will stay dedicated to adopting European values, fulfilment of obligations and full implementation of the reforms that lead to the full-fledged membership to the European Union. During the presidency of Ireland to the European Union, the Minister for Public Expenditure and Reform of Republic of Ireland expressed expectation, that Montenegro would open negotiation chapters 23 and 24.

The continuation of the Meeting was marked by the discussion on challenges of functioning economic and monetary union, when the European Commissioner for Inter-Institutional Relations and Administration Maroš Šefčovič, had his presentation. The Commissioner presented six measures of the European Commission, directed to strengthening of monetary union and maintenance of macroeconomic stability. The special attention must be paid to creating of the instruments which would overcome economic shocks that occur during structural changes, Šefčovič said. The evident tendency of citizens fall of trust to the European Union must be prevented through special strategies directed to the more transparent work of the European institutions, as well as to policies caused by them, aimed at joint answer to the economic crises. Šefčovič concluded that closer cooperation of the member states, careful decision-making on national level and overcoming of democratic gulf between the citizens and the European Union through stronger activity of the national parliaments represent answers to the situation that the Union is in.

During the COSAC Meeting, Delegation of the Par-



liament of Montenegro met with several parliamentary delegations, and agreed to the closer cooperation with them. It was specially pointed out to the need of exchanging experiences with the parliamentarians from the countries that are going through the similar negotiation phase.

Meeting of the members of the Committee on European Integration with the Deputy Director General for Enlargement in the European Commission Jost Korte

During the official visit to Montenegro, on January 17, 2013, the meeting of the members of the Committee on European Integration of the Parliament of Montenegro with the Deputy Director General for Enlargement in the European Commission Jost Korte was held.

The Chairman of the Committee Slaven Radunović, acquainted the distinguished guests and members of the European Commission with competences of the recently established Committee on European integration, as well as with planned activities related to monitoring and overseeing of the negotiating process. He emphasized that it was necessary to adopt, as soon as possible, the document that would define relations between the Parliament and the Government of Montenegro, regarding the exchange of information on negotiating process.

Referring to the activities from the previous year, Korte praised the achieved results of Montenegro, emphasizing that the 2012, regarding the enlargement process, would be recognized by starting negotiations with Montenegro. Korte said that screening was in progress that started with the most demanding chapters 23 and 24, and showed expectations that the process will be ended by the mid-year with drafting of action plans.

Emphasizing the importance of the Parliament in the negotiation process, Korte pointed out the need for more active including of the legislative body in the negotiation process.

Commenting on the interest of the MPs for IPA funds, the Head of Political Sector of the European Union Delegation in Podgorica Andrew List, stressed the importance of good quality projects and strong management system in Montenegro, characterizing the available funds as investment, so that these funds can attract other investors.



FROM PARLIAMENTARY GALLERY

Cvetko Lainović: "Portrait of Svetozar Marović"

At the end of the XX century, parliamentary art collection was significantly enriched and Cvetko Lainović stands out among the authors. He is known for a simple stroke on the white background and simplified drawing as well. He treated painting in a traditional manner, distinctive by formal and meta-physical structure. His works are distinguished by white layered structure, from which shades of cold and bluish tones radiate. Painting and drawing of portraits was Lainović's life-long preoccupation, which proves a significant number of works of that kind in his prolific opus. According to the criticism of art, the portrait is the only art domain that he strived for, not only by resemblance to the original, but by classical beauty as well.



FROM THE HISTORY OF MONTENEGRIN PARLIAMENT



LAW ON ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES TAX

December 24, 1909 / January 6, 1910

WE

NIKOLA I

By the grace of God

PRINCE AND SOVEREIGN OF MONTENEGRO

We declare and announce to everyone and everybody that the National Assembly decided and that We confirmed and decree the following

LAW

ON

ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES TAX

Article 1

All consumption of alcoholic beverages on the territory of the Principality of Montenegro, unless it is exempt from paying of this tax by Article 3 of this Law, shall be subjected to paying of specific tax, called excise tax on alcoholic beverages.

Article 2

Alcoholic beverages subjected to excise tax, according to this Law, shall pay the same amount, whether they are produced in the country or imported in Montenegro from abroad.

Article 3

Owners of the hans, pubs, taverns or shops with beverages shall pay excise tax on domestic beverages, as well as other intermediaries for the sale and consumption of the beverages subjected to excise tax.

Alcoholic beverages subjected to the excise tax, according to this Law, shall pay the same amount to the extent to which they are intended for the sale or consumption in Montenegro.

According to this, excise tax shall not be charged, and the charged one shall be returned: if the alcoholic beverage produced in the country from the producer is exported abroad, or if the alcoholic beverage from the abroad is not issued for selling or consumption in Montenegro, but redispached to the abroad again, according to the rules of the Customs Law and Rulebook for Exercising the Law on Alcoholic Beverages Tax.

Article 6

No alcoholic beverage subjected to excise tax must not be sold or consumed before paying excise tax envisaged by this Law.

A person who acts contrary, shall be punished by ten times the amount of excise tax on the amount of beverages sold or consumed in such a way, but that punishment in no case can be lower than fifty perpers.

Nikola, authentically signed

Bar, December 24, 1909

From the Law on Alcoholic Beverages Tax

Pavićević, B., Raspopović, R., eds. Crnogorski zakonici 1796-1916 (Montenegrin Books of Law), II, Podgorica, Istorijski institut Crne Gore, 1998

CALENDAR



January 16

- The President of the Parliament of Montenegro Ranko Krivokapić, had two-day consultations with the representatives of political parties regarding the scheduling of presidential elections. President Krivokapić acquainted the representatives of political parties with the Constitutional obligation of the President of the Parliament regarding the scheduling of presidential elections and deadlines for their holding. During the talks, it was jointly stated that, that during the upcoming election process, all political parties have to contribute to additional strengthening of democratic reputation of Montenegro as a country in the negotiation phase with the European Union.
- Chairwoman of the Gender Equality Committee Nada Drobnjak, held talks with the Minister for Human and Minority Rights Dr. Suad Numanović.



As special topics of significance, the following was emphasized: strengthening of higher participation of women in political and public life, as well as stimulation of female entrepreneurship and combating violence against women. Interlocutors agreed that close cooperation of legislative and executive power was directed at enhancement of female human rights and achieving of equality. Cooperation of the parliamentary committee and Department for Gender Equality was recognized in the previous activities, especially regarding drafting Plan of Activities for achieving gender equality for the period of 2013-2017, that should be adopted soon by the Government.

January 17

- The Secretary General of the Parliament of Mo-

ntenegro met with the Deputy Director General for Enlargement in the European Commission Joost Korte. At the meeting, they exchanged opinions on novelties in the organisation and the work of the Parliament, its role in the process of negotiations of Montenegro with the European Union and further promotion of administrative capacities, especially in relation to monitoring and assessment of harmonisation of Montenegrin legislation with the EU legislation. The interlocutors agreed that a significant progress had been made in various segments of the parliamentary work, as well as that the negotiations process will condition an even more intensive work in the upcoming period. Other topics at the meeting included the transparency and publicity of work, plans for this year, as well as working conditions of the MPs and employees.

January 22

- At the invitation of the President of the Parliament of Montenegro Ranko Krivokapić, in official visit to Podgorica, resided the President of the National Council of the Republic of Austria Barbara Prammer. Ceremonial reception was arranged in front of the Montenegro's Parliament building. The President of the Parliament of Montenegro and the President of the National Council of the Republic of Austria praised current cooperation among these two Parliaments as well as the relations between Montenegro and Austria. At the meeting was pointed out that friendship that associates Montenegro and Austria indicates that, even though are not border countries, they foster extremely well neighbourly relations and that this visit additionally shows that Austria is one of the greatest allies Montenegro has on its path towards the European Union.
- Within the official visit of the Speaker of the National Council of Austria Barbara Prammer to Montenegro, a meeting was also held with the members of the Committee on International Relations and Emigrants of the Parliament of Montenegro. Chairman of the Committee Miodrag Vuković, docent PhD, presented to Speaker Prammer competencies of the newly formed Committee on International Relations and Emigrants and emphasised its significance defined by the amendments to the Rules of Proce-

CALENDAR



ture of the Parliament of Montenegro, especially in the part of issues relating to promotion and protection of the rights of emigrants from Montenegro who live in other countries. It was agreed at the meeting that the further cooperation of these two parliaments shall continue



through more intense meetings of the representatives of line committees dealing with foreign affairs, and especially through activities of Friendship Groups.

January 23

- The Chairman of the Committee on International Relations and Emigrants of the Parliament of Montenegro Miodrag Vukovic, docent PhD, met today the Ambassador of the Arab Republic of Egypt, H. E. Mohamed Abdel Hakam. The Chairman Vuković informed the distinguished guest that forming a Group of Friendship between the Parliament of Montenegro and the Parliament of Egypt is in process, in compliance with the tradition of forming groups of friendship with close countries. It was agreed at the meeting that in the following period further efforts should be made in order to promote economic relations of two countries and reach the level of great political relations, as well as to continue further cooperation of our two countries through frequent meetings.
- The President of the Parliament of Montenegro Ranko Krivokapić, sent the letter of invitation to the President of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe Jean-Claude Mignon, President of the Parliamentary Assembly of OSCE Riccardo Migliori and Director of the Office for

Democratic Institutions and Human Rights within OSCE Janez Lenarčič, to send their observation missions to Montenegro on the occasion of presidential elections scheduled for April 7, 2013.

January 24

- Chairman of the Committee on Human Rights and Freedoms of the Parliament of Montenegro Halil Duković, PhD and members of the Committee Ljerka Dragičević and Dritan Abazović, MA, held the meeting with the Delegation from Albania, consisting of MPs, representatives of OSCE mission to Albania, representatives of Ombudsman,



the Ministry of Labour, the Ministry of Education and disabled persons. The Delegation paid a study visit to Montenegro organized by the Mission of OSCE in Albania with the aim of familiarising with the activities of our state in the field of promotion of position of disabled persons. Upon the invitation of the Chairman of the Committee on Human Rights and Freedoms, the meeting was attended by: the Ambassador H.E. Lubomir Kopaj, Head of the OSCE Mission to Montenegro Ana Zec, Coordinator in the UNICEF Office Blanka Radošević Marović, Assistant to the Minister of Human and Minority Rights Vesna Vučurović, Assistant to the Minister of Education Tamara Milić, Advisor for education of children with special needs and youth with development disabilities in Ministry of Education and Milisav Korać, Executive Director of NGO The Association of Parents of Children and Youth with Development Disabilities "Our Initiative". The Ambassador of Albania in Montenegro H.E. Tonin Beci, also attended the meeting. It was concluded that information and

exchanged experiences from this meeting will be useful to all participants, and that information obtained during the study visit to Montenegro, will be very useful to the Delegation from Albania in future work, in order to promote legislation relating to the rights of disabled persons.

January 29

- Regarding petitions on urgent construction and/or reconstruction of public pre-school institutions, a meeting of representatives of the MPs Group of DPS with the NGO “Udruženje Roditelji” was held in the Parliament of Mo-



ntenegro. On behalf of the MPs Group of DPS, the following MPs attended the meeting: Branka Tanasijević, Nada Drobnjak, Zoran Jelić and Halil Duković. NGO “Parents” was represented by: Kristina Mihajilović and Jelena Miljanić. It was agreed, at the meeting that the implementation of program solutions should be followed and that the next meeting on that occasion should be held at the end of this year.

- Secretary General of the Parliament of Montenegro Damir Davidović, participated at the Forum of Secretary Generals of Parliaments of



Western Balkans, which was held in Warsaw (Poland), organized by the National Democratic Institute (NDI) as part of the Initiative for strengthening parliaments of the Western

Balkan countries. At the Forum, secretary generals of the parliaments of Montenegro, Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo, Macedonia and Serbia presented innovations in work that marked the previous year. In addition, they exchanged experiences on work of parliamentary research centres, implementation of new information and communication technologies, strengthening of administrative capacities and harmonization of national legislation with the EU law.

January 30

- Chairwoman of the Gender Equality Committee Nada Drobnjak, received the Head of the Democratization Section of the OSCE Mission to Montenegro Lloyd Tudyk. During the conversation, the readiness for the continuation of successful cooperation was expressed, especially regarding following the implementation of the Law on Gender Equality, in the context of control function of the Parliament, as well as participation of women in the political and public life, and prevention and combating violence against women and domestic violence.

January 31

- President of the Parliament of Montenegro Ranko Krivokapić, received the farewell visit from H.E. Toshio Tsunozaki, the Ambassador of Japan. Tsunozaki expressed pleasure over the work in Montenegro, and cooperation with Montenegrin institutions. The President of the Parliament of Montenegro Ranko Krivokapić thanked the previous development help that



Japan provided for Montenegro. Krivokapić and Tsunozaki agreed that there is mutual readiness for further strengthening of the relation of the two countries.