

OPEN PARLIAMENT



Parliament of Montenegro

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FOREWORD

Dear readers,

The key information on activities of the Parliament of Montenegro from 1 to 31 March is outlined in the March issue of the bulletin "Open Parliament", prepared by the Service of the Parliament.

With regard to regular legislative activities in March, the Parliament adopted 13 laws; the Legislative Committee considered and positively assessed 12 proposals for laws, while the Committee for Political System, Judiciary and Administration positively assessed one law proposal. Moreover, the committees, within the scope of their oversight role, considered a set of reports and held discussions on a number of questions.

In focus of this bulletin is the Action Plan for Strengthening of the Legislative and Oversight Role of the Parliament of Montenegro in 2013, adopted at the meeting of the Collegium of the President of the Parliament of Montenegro, held on 19 March. The Action Plan, which consists of 68 activities and measures, should serve as a guideline in planning and realisation of activities at all levels in the Parliament, and provide a planned, systematic and coordinated action by all stakeholders in the work of the Parliament in order to contribute to the efficient fulfilment of its responsibilities as defined by the Constitution.

The Bulletin is published monthly 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 remain open to your comments and suggestions, as well as criticism, which can help us bring more quality to our work.

*Respectfully,
Service of the Parliament*



LEGISLATIVE AND OVERSIGHT ACTIVITY

During March, the Parliament adopted 13 laws. At the First Sitting of the First Ordinary Session of the Parliament of Montenegro in 2013, the following laws were adopted:

the Law on Ratification of the Agreement between the Government of Montenegro and the Government of the Republic of Macedonia on Police Cooperation, the Law on Ratification of the Agreement between the Government of Montenegro and the Government of the Republic of Moldova on Readmission (return and acceptance) of Persons without Residence Permit, the Law on Ratification of the Agreement between Montenegro and the Czech Republic on Cooperation in Fight against Crime, the Law on Ratification of the Agreement between the Government of Montenegro and the Government of the Slovak Republic on Cooperation and Mutual Assistance in Natural and Other Disasters, the Law on Ratification of the Annex VI to the MARPOL Convention 73/78, the Law on Ratification of the Agreement between the Government of Montenegro and Council of Ministers of the Republic of Albania on Border Control in Railway Traffic, the Law on Ratification of the Agreement on Establishment of the International Anti-Corruption Academy – as an International Organisation, the Law on Ratification of the Extradition Agreement between Montenegro and Bosnia and Herzegovina, the Law on Ratification of the Agreement on Legal Status of the Regional Centre for Environment for Central and Eastern Europe, the Law on Ratification of the Council of Europe Convention on

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.

preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence, the Law on Ratification of the Convention on the Settlement of Investment Disputes between States and Nationals of Other States, the Law on Ratification of the International Convention for the Protection of New Varieties of Plants and the Law on Amendments to the Law on Data Secrecy.

At the Second (Special) Sitting of the First Ordinary Session of the Parliament of Montenegro in 2013, within the item of the agenda "Prime Minister's Hour and Parliamentary Questions", MPs questions were answered by the Prime Minister of Montenegro Milo Đukanović and ministers in the Government. MPs posed seven questions to the Prime Minister and 67 questions to the ministers. Also, MPs posed eight supplementary questions to the ministers.

Proposals for laws deliberated in committees:

- **Proposal for a Law on International Private Law** was considered and positively assessed by the Legislative Committee.
- **Proposal for a Law on Railway** was considered and positively assessed by the Legislative Committee.
- **Proposal for a Law on Protection of Persons and Property** was considered and positively assessed by the Legislative Committee.
- **Proposal for a Law on Amendments to the Law on Trade Union Representation** was considered and positively assessed by the Legislative Committee.
- **Proposal for a Law on Amendments to the Law on Legal Protection of Industrial Design** was considered and positively assessed by the Legislative Committee.
- **Proposal for a Law on Amendments to the Law on Ports** was considered and positively assessed by the Legislative Committee.
- **Proposal for a Law on Amendments to the Law on Environmental Impact Assessment** was considered and positively assessed by the Legislative Committee.
- **Proposal for a Law on Amendments to the Law on Protection and Realisation of Rights of Mentally Ill Persons** was considered and positively assessed by the Legislative Committee.
- **Proposal for a Law on Amendments to the Law on Payment of Citizens's Foreign Currency Assets Placed with Dafiment Bank Beograd and the Bank of Private Economy Podgorica Passed through Enterprise Jugoskandik Beograd** was considered and positively assessed by the Legislative Committee.

- **Proposal for a Law on Amendments to the Law on Territorial Organisation of Montenegro** was considered and positively assessed by the Legislative Committee.
- **Proposal for a Law on Amendments to the Law on State and Other Holidays** was considered and positively assessed by the Legislative Committee.
- **Proposal for a Law on Amendments to the Law on Internal Affairs** was considered and positively assessed by the Legislative Committee.
- **Proposal for a Law on Amendments to the Law on Foreigners** was considered and proposed to the Parliament for adoption by the Committee on Political System, Judiciary and Administration.

Oversight activities of the working bodies:

- At the meeting of the **Committee on Political System, Judiciary and Administration**, held on 15 March, the MPs started discussing the Proposal for a Decision for holding control hearing of Minister of Interior Raško Konjević, Supreme State Prosecutor Ranka Čarapić and President of the Supreme Court and Judicial Council Vesna Medenica, on the topic: "Actions of police, prosecution and judiciary in current cases with characteristics of organised criminal actions and various types of corruption", with special regard to the cases "Škerović" and "Šarić-Lončar". The meeting was interrupted, with the consent of members of the Committee, in order to request interpretation of the provision of Article 75 paragraph 3 of the Rules of Procedure of the Parliament from the Collegium of the President of the Parliament. In continuation of the meeting, on 26 March, the Committee adopted the decision on holding the control hearing regarding this issue, by majority of votes. Upon the end of the sixth meeting of the Committee, the seventh meeting commenced, where the Report on the Work of the Committee for 2012 was adopted. In continuation of the seventh meeting on 27 March, the Committee adopted the amended Committee Work Plan for 2013. Also, by majority of votes, the Committee brought a decision on holding the control hearing of the President of the Board of Directors of the Investment and Development Fund of Montenegro Dragan Lajović, Director of the Employment Fund Kemal Đečević and Director of the Employment Bureau of Montenegro Vukica Jelić on the topic: "Using state resources in election campaign".
- At the meeting of the **Security and Defence Committee** on 18 March 2013, proposal of the Prime Minister of Montenegro for appointing Head of the Department for Military Intelligence and

Security Affairs in the Ministry of Defence was considered. After the discussion, with participation of the Minister of Defence and candidate for Head of the Department, the Committee adopted the Opinion to appoint Goran Poleksić at this position.



- **The Committee on International Relations and Emigrants** held on 22 March a control hearing of Vice President of the Government of Montenegro and Minister of Foreign Affairs and European Integration Igor Lukšić, PhD, regarding the Platform of the Government of Montenegro for the dialog on permanent demarcation with the Republic of Croatia in the region of Prevlaka. In continuation of the meeting on 29 March, the Committee adopted Conclusions and a recommendation regarding permanent demarcation with the Republic of Croatia, which concluded the meeting.

At the seventh meeting held on 29 March, the Committee adopted the Conclusions from the initial meeting of chairs of committees on foreign policy of the parliaments of South-Eastern Europe, held in Zagreb, in October 2012. The Committee also considered the Proposal for friendship groups of the Parliament of Montenegro with parliaments of other countries. The Committee also decided to form a working group, which will devise a Proposal for the Platform on cooperation of the Committee on International Relations and Emigrants with emigrants from Montenegro.

- **The Committee on European Integration** held a consultative hearing on 11 March, on the occasion of considering the 28th, 29th and 30th Quarterly Report on overall activities within the EU Stabilisation and Association Process, as well as the 7th, 8th and 9th Report on fulfilment of obligations from the Stabilisation and Association Agreement. The meeting was attended by the State Secretary for European Integration and Chief Negotiator for the Negotiations on the Accession of Montenegro to the EU Aleksandar Andrija Pejović.

- At the first joint meeting, held on 29 March, the **Committee on International Relations and Emigrants** and the **Committee on European Integration** held a consultative hearing for considering the 2012 Performance Report of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and European Integration. The Report was adopted, and present members of both committees welcomed the initiated practice of joint consideration of the Performance Report of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and European Integration, considering it to be a model of good practice, with expectation that this way of work will continue.
- **The Committee on Economy, Finance and Budget** at the meeting held on 12 March, commenced the discussion on implementation of the conclusions of the Parliament of Montenegro regarding consideration of proposals for financial Plans with the work Plans of independent regulatory bodies for 2013. In continuation of the meeting, the Committee defined assessments and positions that should be the framework for amendments to the financial plans of regulators for 2013 and thereof decided to inform independent regulatory bodies and the Central Bank of Montenegro.

During consideration of the application of the Law on Research and Production of Hydrocarbon, the Committee members got acquainted with the Fiscal Policy of the Upstream Industry of Hydrocarbon, aimed at establishing a stable and transparent long-term policy. The Committee deemed it necessary to accelerate drafting of the Proposal for a Law on Special Tax on the Upstream Industry, or other legal acts and agreed to request additional information from the Government, i.e. competent ministry, in order to define future activities in this field and ensure essential implementation of the Law on Research and Production of Hydrocarbon. The Committee supported the Report on the Use of Financial Resources of the Parliament and the Parliamentary Service for the period from 1 January to 31 December 2012, with the Report on Public Procurement for 2012, which, in accordance

with the Article 28 of the Rules of Procedure of the Parliament of Montenegro is submitted by the Secretary General to the Committee on Economy, Finance and Budget.



At the meeting held on 18 March, MPs continued the discussion on implementation of the Conclusions of the Parliament of Montenegro regarding implementation of the Conclusions of the Parliament of Montenegro regarding adoption of the Decision on Confirmation of the Decision on Assuming the Debt of Aluminium Plant Podgorica. Members of the Committee and representatives of the Government participated in the two-hour discussion, giving various opinions regarding the submitted information of the Government on implementation of the Parliament's conclusions regarding Aluminium Plant Podgorica. After the debate, the Chair of the Committee postponed the voting on the said information due to announced absence of some members of the Committee, the need for harmonisation of the considered Information with the third parliamentary decision from June 8, 2012, as well as due to the need for additional consultations at the Collegium of the President of the Parliament of Montenegro. Representatives of the Trade Union of KAP and the Trade Union of Bauxite Mine also attended the meeting.

At the fourth continuation of the fifth meeting on 25 March, the Committee on Economy, Finance and Budget did not support the Proposal for a Conclusion of the Government on the manner of realisation of Parliament's conclusions, from 29 February 2012. The Committee also discussed the proposal for conclusions submitted by MP Srđan Milić as well as proposals for conclusions submitted by MP Mladen Bojanić. Following the discussion, the Committee decided to propose to the Parliament for adoption five conclusions, submitted by MP Srđan Milić. Proposals for eight conclusions submitted by MP Mladen Bojanić were not supported by the Committee. In addition, the next meeting of the Committee is scheduled for 1 April 2013, when financial plans of independent regulatory bodies will be considered and amended.

- The **Committee on Human Rights and Freedoms**, at the meeting held on 6 March, considered and adopted the Performance Report of the Committee for 2012 and the Plan of Activities of the Committee on Human Rights and Freedoms for 2013. As Deputy Chairperson the Committee elected MP Ljiljana Đurašković.

At the meeting held on 15 March, the Committee considered and supported the Report on Work and manner of allocation of resources of the Fund for Protection and Realisation of Minority Rights for 2011. The Committee reached the Conclusion by which the Ministry for Human and Minority Rights as well as the Collegium of the President of the Parliament would be provided, one more time, with previously reached Conclusion, adopted at 72nd meeting of the Committee, regarding the suggested solutions contained in the Performance Report of the Working Group for the preparation of acts of the Fund.

At the meeting held on 25 March, the Committee on Human Rights and Freedoms got introduced with the activities of competent state authorities, conducted in the aim of fulfilling Recommendations from the Resolution 1890 (2012) of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe "The honouring of obligations and commitments by Montenegro", adopted on 27 June 2012 in PACE. The Committee assessed that Montenegro had conducted significant activities with the aim of realisation of the Recommendations from the PACE Resolution, and that these activities should continue in the following period, in order to meet all criteria and standards of democratic countries.



At the meeting held on 29 March, the Committee considered the following: the National Report on Human Rights in Montenegro within the second cycle of the United Nations Universal Periodic Review (period 2008-2012), presented at the meeting of the Council for Human Rights in Geneva, on 28 January 2013, the Report on Human Rights of the Ombudsman of Montenegro for the purpose of the Universal Periodic Review of the United Nations and Report on Child Protection, devised by

10 non-governmental organisations for the purpose of drafting the National Report on Human Rights in Montenegro (period 2008-2012). From the very reports and discussion at the meeting of the Committee it was concluded that in the period 2008-2012 Montenegro made significant progress in the protection of human rights and freedoms, which is the confirmation of Montenegro's dedication to the highest values of democracy and principles proclaimed in the Charter of the United Nations, the Universal Declaration and international documents on human rights.

- The **Gender Equality Committee** at the meeting held on 6 March, agreed on the Work Plan of the "Women's Parliament", which was held on the International Women's Day on 8 March 2013, with the aim of promoting women's human rights in Montenegro. At the "Women's Parliament", representatives of the Government of Montenegro answered the questions of participants – representatives of women groups of parliamentary parties as well as representatives of the civil sector. Also, in cooperation with the United Nations System, the Committee held a meeting on 15 March, with the topic "Post-Millennium consultations, the overview of gender dimensions". The meeting was attended by the UN System representative Benjamin Perks, with his associates, representative of the agency Defacto prof. Olivera Komar, Chair of the Committee on Human Rights and Freedoms Halil Duković and certain members of that Committee and MP Zorica Kovačević.
- At the meeting of the **Committee on Education, Science, Culture and Sport**, held on 25 March, MP Srđan Perić was elected Deputy Chair of the Committee. At the meeting, Work Plan of the Committee for 2013 was adopted at the meeting, as well as the Performance Report of the Committee for 2012 with technical corrections.



- At the meeting held on 27 March, the **Anti-Corruption Committee** adopted the Work Plan for 2013. Duško Marković, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Justice, attended the meeting, in which they discussed the role of the Government in combating corruption and organised crime in view

of the obligations from the EC 2012 Progress Report for Montenegro, as well as regarding the Screening Report for Chapters 23 and 24. The Committee agreed to address the Collegium of the President of the Parliament of Montenegro for the purpose of drafting the Rules of Procedure (code of conduct) on applications and complaints, in accordance with the Article 48a indent 4 of the Rules of Procedures of the Parliament of Montenegro.



- At the meeting of the **Administrative Committee**, held on 20 March, the Committee established the Rules for hearing procedures of candidates for appointment of one member of the Senate of the State Audit Institution. Additionally, the Committee adopted the Work Plan for 2013. Under the item "Current issues", members of the Committee reached a decision on a number of requests of state officials, on the basis of work performance. The Committee decided to take a stance, at one of the following meetings, regarding MP requests for providing consent for performing additional job.
- At the meeting held on 14 March, the **Commission for Monitoring and Control of Privatisation Process** established the Plan of Work of the Commission for 2013, which had been proposed by the Chair of the Commission Janko Vučinić. Privatization of HTP "Onogošt" Nikšić, was discussed at the meeting, with participation of representatives of the former trade union, President of the Assembly of the Club of Minority Shareholders and the Assistant Minister of Sustainable Development and Tourism. The discussion on privatisation process of HTP "Onogošt" continued on 28 March, with participation of the Secretary of the Council for Privatisation and Capital Projects of the Government of Montenegro Aleksandar Tičić, Advisor at the Pension and Disability Insurance Fund Stanko Kovačević, bankruptcy manager Dragan Smolović, representative of the former trade union of the HTP „Onogošt“ Janko Milatović and representative of the minority shareholders of HTP „Onogošt“ Milan Jauković.

NEWS FROM PARLIAMENT



The second "Women's Parliament" held in the Parliament

Vice President of the Parliament of Montenegro Branko Radulović opened the Session of the "Women's Parliament", where representatives of the Government of Montenegro answered questions posed by women associations of parliamentary parties, as well as representatives of the civil society. In his opening speech, Vice President Radulović said that the Constitution of Montenegro recognised the gender equality and a number of laws in that field were adopted, but that the practice indicated differently. As he said, presence of women in the Parliament should be strengthened. He also emphasised that he expected this field to be improved through the process of joining the EU.

Nada Drobnjak, Chair of the Gender Equality Committee, pointed out that there were good results regarding improvement of women human rights, in the last ten years. As she stated, today we should refer to

those results with criticism, aware of the fact that the gender equality provokes chain reaction beneficial for everybody, in the same way in which inequality effect is transferred from an individual to family and society. With existence of prejudice, stereotypes, hypocrisy, customary law, there are still fields of the social injustice, in which women are still discriminated. Those fields are: violence against women and domestic violence; workplace discrimination; possession i.e. non-possession of movable or immovable property; low political representation of women in institutions; pressure of conservative circles on women's human rights and freedoms.

The Women's Parliament was organised by the Gender Equality Committee, on the occasion of 8 March, the International Women's Day, aimed at promotion of women's human rights.

Committee on Economy, Finance and Budget adopted the Report on the Use of Financial Resources of the Parliament for the period 1-31 December 2012

The Committee on Economy, Finance and Budget, at the seventh meeting held on 12 March 2013, considered and supported the Report on the Use of Financial Resources of the Parliament of Montenegro, for the period 1 January to 31 December 2012, which is submitted by the Secretary General of the Parliament to the Committee on Economy, Finance and Budget, in accordance with the Article 28 of the Rules of Procedure. Together with the Report on the Use of Financial Resources, the Committee accepted the Report on Public Procurement for 2012.

The Report on expenditures contains information on the use of financial resources allocated to the Parliament through the Budget of Montenegro for 2012 by both programmes – the Improvement of the Legislative Infrastructure and the Administration.

The Report provides data on specific items, comparison between expenditures and planned amounts, as well as comparison with expenditures made in the last three years. The Budget Law of Montenegro for 2012 envisaged the planned resources for the Parliament of Montenegro to amount €6,451,151.67, whereby the revision of the Budget reduced the resources by €335,000.00, to amount €6,116,151.67. After the revision, the Budget of the Parliament for 2012 amounted 1.02% of the operating Budget of Montenegro or 0,43% of the overall Budget of Montenegro for that year. The funds of the budget of Montenegro for 2012 were allocated to two

programmes, namely: Improvement of the Legislative Infrastructure – €3,221,731.59 and Administration – €2,894,420.08. After the budget revision, the overall expenditures of the operating Budget of Montenegro for 2012 amounted €5,968,072.59 or 97,58% of the total funds allocated for 2012. Out of €3,221,731.59 allocated for the programme Improvement of the Legislative Infrastructure, €3,335,120.70 i.e. 103.52%, was spent, while within the programme Administration €2,632,951.89, i.e. 90.97% was spent in 2012. Within the programme Improvement of the Legislative Infrastructure, expenses exceeded planned expenditures within the items of the gross income and contributions paid by employers, where 5.69% was spent more than it was planned, as well as within the expenses for materials and services, where the plan was overdrawn for 1,21%. Within the programme Administration, expenses were lower than planned. Slightly higher expenses, 0.98% higher than the planned, were made for material and services expenditure, due to the fact that expenses for official journeys and contracted services increased by 41.06% and 4.61% respectively. This was primarily a result of the participation of the employees of the Parliament in work of the working bodies for preparation of the negotiations on accession of Montenegro to the European Union, i.e. their participation at explanatory and bilateral screening meetings, held in Brussels. Within this item, expenditures were significantly decreased in several

segments, particularly in segment of postal services, which decreased by 13.78%, as a result of using SMS messages to notify MPs on sittings and meetings.

Considering both programmes, the Parliament of

Montenegro saved €148,079.08, which is a confirmation of the continuation of the policy of rational attitude towards budget spending, as well as improvement of its planning.

Cooperation programme of the Parliament of Montenegro, the Westminster Foundation for Democracy and the British Council ended

On the occasion of ending of the two-year cooperation programme of the Parliament of Montenegro, the Westminster Foundation for Democracy (WFD) and the British Council, a meeting was held on 14 March, where achieved results were discussed by Secretary General of the Parliament of Montenegro Damir Davidović, Chair of the Committee on Economy, Finance and Budget Aleksandar Damjanović, Deputy Ambassador of the United Kingdom to Montenegro, Lyndon Radnedge, Head of the WFD Programme for Europe, Alex Romaniuc and Director of the British Council in Montenegro Vanja Madžgalj.

Implementation of the project “Building Capacities of the Parliament of Montenegro” started in 2011, when, after the successful implementation of the previous programme, cooperation between the Parliament of Montenegro and the Westminster Foundation for

Democracy was renewed by signing the new Memorandum of Cooperation, of which the third signatory was the British Council. The programme was aimed at strengthening of the capacities of the Parliament, within the framework of the four components: human resources management, internal and external communication, financial and legislative oversight and the rule of law. Within the aforementioned components, trainings, seminars and study visits were organised, which enabled MPs and employees of the Parliament to better acquaint themselves, inter alia, with the long-time parliamentary practice of the United Kingdom.

According to assessment given by all three parties, the project was very successful. Interlocutors particularly expressed content regarding the cooperation with the British Council, primarily in trainings organised for the employees of the Parliament of Montenegro.

The 100th jubilee democracy workshop “Democracy and Parliament”

The 100th jubilee democracy workshop in the line of workshops organised by the Parliament of Montenegro, in cooperation with the NGO Forum MNE and the ERSTE Foundation, which are implemented under the programme “Open Parliament”, was held on 19 March 2013. The guest of this workshop was MP Mladen Bojanić, who through conversation with students of VIII-5 Elementary School “Dašo Pavičić” from Herceg Novi, explained democratic values, role of the Parliament and division of powers in democratic society.

During March, guest of the workshops were MPs Nada Drobnjak, Žana Filipović, Milan Knežević, Obrad Gojković and Borislav Banović. Active participation of MPs represents a new phase in this project, in which children in direct encounters with the MPs may acquire new knowledge on democracy and the parliament.

Since the beginning of the project, on 8 October 2012, until the end of March 2013, the project “Democracy Workshops” gathered 2,606 elementary

school students from eight Montenegrin municipalities – Podgorica, Nikšić, Kolašin, Bar, Budva, Kotor, Herceg Novi and Danilovgrad, and it was planned to gather 4,000 students from all Montenegrin cities until the end of 2013.

Elementary school students, via the four-hour workshops, spend time with a team of trained lecturers/trainers, who assist them in acquiring and widening their knowledge on the parliamentary democracy, adopting and implementing laws, role of the MPs and functions of the Parliament of Montenegro. They incorporate their acquired knowledge into a journalist report, which is later published at the children parliamentary web page:

www.demokratskeradionice.me.

The atmosphere in the workshops, children’s involvement and interest, as well as their impressions after the workshops, give the unique twist on raising the level of knowledge in the field of civic education in Montenegro.



TEMA BROJA



Adoption of the Action Plan for Strengthening of the Legislative and Oversight Role of the Parliament of Montenegro in 2013

The Collegium of the President of the Parliament of Montenegro, at the meeting held on 19 March, adopted the Action Plan for Strengthening of the Legislative and Control Role of the Parliament in 2013. The Plan should serve as a guideline in planning and realisation of activities at all levels in the Parliament, and to provide a planned, systematic and coordinated action by all stakeholders in the work of the Parliament in order to contribute to the efficient fulfilment of its responsibilities as defined by the Constitution.

The Action Plan contains 68 activities and measures, with explanations, responsible authorities, implementation deadlines and success indicators. At the beginning of every part, findings and recommendations are given for each segment, which are set out in the EC 2012 Progress Report on Montenegro. Those findings and recommendations were taken into account in the process of defining future activities, so the Action Plan is simultaneously a fulfilment plan of the European Commission recommendations.

For the purpose of a better overview, activities and measures provided by this Action Plan are grouped in three parts. The first part is directly related to strengthening of the legislative and oversight role of the Parliament of Montenegro, through drafting and adoption of important acts, with the aim of promoting democratic values in Montenegro, including strengthening of independence and impartiality of judiciary, amendments to the Constitution and electoral legislation in line with European Commission recommendations, as well as adoption of Law on Financing Political Parties. One of the envisaged activities is also the development of a plan for gender sensitive parliament, as well as adoption of the Code of Conduct for MPs of the Parliament of Montenegro. The Action Plan further envisages preparation of the Resolution aimed at precisely defining the role of the Parliament of Montenegro in accession negotiations with the EU, and at providing guidelines to the Government of Montenegro in the negotiation process. The last activity envisaged by the Action Plan is monitoring of the Plan implementation, thus the quarterly reports will be prepared, which the Collegium of the President will consider.

The second segment comprises activities and measures directed towards strengthening of administrative and expert capacities, which the Service of the Parliament is responsible for. Measures and activities envisaged within the framework of strengthening administrative and technical capacities are aimed at providing better spatial and information conditions for the work of MPs as well as providing better technical and professional support for performing their legislative and oversight function. Training Plan for the current year is adopted, based on the priorities and goals set out in the Human Resources Development Strategy of the Parliament of Montenegro and Strategic Plan for implementation of the Strategy, as well as individual needs for training and development. Upon entering into force of the new Law on Civil Servants and Public Employees, which introduced new managerial staff (middle management staff) and new titles, it is necessary to adopt a new Rulebook on the Systematisation and Organisation of the Service of the Parliament of Montenegro. Also, in accordance with the new Law, the Parliament of Montenegro will independently conduct the hiring process, thus it is necessary to create all the legal



prerequisites for this process during 2013. The drafting of a Book of Welcome (for MPs)/Manual for new employees is also envisaged.

The third part is dedicated to activities for further improvement of openness and transparency of the Parliament towards citizens and civil organisations. Organising visits and educational programmes for the general public, particularly children and youth, will be one of the priorities in the continuous improvement of transparency of the Parliament's work. Organising of visits of the citizen groups to the Parliament and organising of the Children's Parliament will be continued, as well as the implementation of Democracy Workshops. A series of measures of this plan are aimed at improving the information of public on the work of the Parliament, through establishment of the parliamentary television channel, regular publishing of listings of public voting, annual performance reports of the Parliament of Montenegro as well as semi-annual and annual reports on the use of financial resources. Collections of research papers will be printed, and publication of the electronic bulletin "Open Parliament" will also be continued.

Full integration of Montenegro to the European Union is the strategic aim of Montenegro, for which there is a full consensus in the Parliament of Montenegro. The Service of the Parliament will monitor implementation of the Plan of Legislative Work for 2013 and prepare quarterly reports on its implementation. Additionally, the Information of Fulfillment of the Plan for the Spring Session, with the Proposal of the revised plan for the Autumn Session, will be submitted to the Collegium of the President of the Parliament in September 2013.

In addition to the Action Plan for Strengthening of the Legislative and Oversight Role of the Parliament of Montenegro in 2013, the Collegium of the President of the Parliament of Montenegro adopted the Plan of Legislative Work as well as the Calendar of the Spring Session, on 19 March 2013. The Plan of the Legislative Work of the Parliament of Montenegro was adopted on the basis of the Programme of Work of the Government for 2013 as well as on the Plan of Activities for fulfilling recommendations from the European Commission's 2012 Progress Report on Montenegro. The Plan includes an overview of the law proposals planned by quarters for 2013, as well as oversight activities of the Parliament conducted through consideration of the reports, submitted to the Parliament by certain institutions, in accordance with the law. The Plan of the Legislative Work includes 128 law proposals, out of which 54 law proposals are planned for the purpose of harmonisation with the EU acquis, as well as 31 report submitted to the Parliament by certain institutions, in accordance with the law.

The Calendar of activities of the Parliament of Montenegro for the Spring Session sets the dates in month dedicated to the Parliament sittings and meetings of the working bodies, as well as parliamentary days for the work of MPs in their Clubs and with citizens.

FROM THE PARLIAMENT'S GALLERY

Without title, author unknown

In addition to valuable works, parliamentary art collection contains two gifts – works of unknown authors. Those paintings are "Russian Landscape", which has already been presented, as well as graphics of the students of the Elementary School "Dimkata Angelov Gaberot" from Kavadarci.

The group of around twenty members of the Student's Parliament of that school paid a visit to the Parliament of Montenegro, as part of the programme Open Parliament, in 2008, during their several day visit to Montenegro.



FROM THE HISTORY OF MONTENEGRIN PARLIAMENTARISM



LAW ON PRINTING IN THE PRINCIPALITY OF MONTENEGRO

1 December 1905

**WE
NIKOLA I**
By the grace of God
announce and decree the following:

LAW ON PRINTING IN THE PRINCIPALITY OF MONTENEGRO

CHAPTER ONE GENERAL PROVISIONS

Article 1

Each citizen of Montenegro shall be guaranteed with the right to express and present their opinions via press according to the regulations of this Law.

Press in Montenegro shall be free. There shall be no censure nor fines for it.

The press shall not be subjected to any administrative warnings or measures.

Article 3

Each printed book which is published, as well as each thing made by mechanical or chemical means for the purpose of reproduction and distribution, must contain the name of a person who printed, painted or curved it and the printing place. If it is a book, or any other publication, which does not come in periodical press, and it is intended for distribution, then it shall contain the name of a writer or a publisher. The publisher may be the printing company itself.

Whoever acts contrary to this shall be fined with 50 to 100 crowns, or with imprisonment for 5 to 10 days

for each number, notebook, book and copy.

Article 6

Each paper (newspaper) as well as periodical writing shall have an Editor-in-chief.

The Editor-in-chief of a newspaper or periodical writing may be each Montenegrin citizen who has a permanent residence in Montenegro, and who graduated, at least, from a high school or vocational school in the country or abroad. He shall enjoy all civic rights, supposing that he has paid in the last three years 15 crowns of property tax and tax each, or together property tax and tax. Editor-in-chief must be at least 30 years old.

In case the Editor-in-chief is convicted and the judgement is executive, he shall cease to be the Editor-in-chief; in case he is convicted to a prison sentence, the cessation shall last until he serves it; and if he is convicted to fine, until he pays it off.

No one shall be the Editor-in-chief of several political newspapers in the same time.

Whoever publishes or prints a newspaper or political writing, and has not fulfilled provisions of this article, shall be punished by a fine of 100 to 600 crowns or by prison from one to six months.

Nikola, authentically signed

Cetinje, 1 December, 1905

From the Law on Printing in the Principality of Montenegro, 1905

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PARLIAMENTARY GLOSSARY

INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS. "International organisations are permanent forms of institutional intercourse established by multiparty agreements of three or more states, with special status and permanent bodies, among which, in the manner envisaged by the statute and other fundamental documents of organisation, processes of multilateral negotiation and common decision-making of the member states in corresponding areas of international cooperation are conducted".¹

¹ Obrad Račić, dr Vojin Dimitrijević, *Međunarodne organizacije (International Organisations)*, Beograd, Savremena administracija, 1988

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3 March

- At the invitation of the President of the National Assembly of the Republic of Bulgaria Cecka Caceva, Vice President of the Parliament of Montenegro Suljo Mustafić and MP Vladislav Bojović attended the ceremonies on the occasion of 135 years of liberation of the Republic of Bulgaria. During their visit to Bulgaria, the Delegation of the Parliament of Montenegro had official receptions with President of the Republic of Bulgaria Rosen Plevneliev and President of the National Assembly of the Republic of Bulgaria Cecka Caceva. At the official reception, Ms Cacev presented the Charter "Josif Gurko" to the Vice President Mustafić and MP Bojović, as an act of gratitude for contribution to the promotion of relations between Montenegro and the Republic of Bulgaria.

4 March

- Delegation of the Parliament of Montenegro attended the Seminar "Fight against organised crime, corruption and money laundering", with members of the parliaments of the countries in pre-accession negotiations and Members of the European Parliament (MEPs). The delegation consisted of: Secretary General of the Parliament of Montenegro Damir Davidović, and the following members of the Anti-Corruption Committee: Predrag Bulatović, Milorad Vuletić, Obrad Mišo Stanišić, Mićo Orlandić, Fatmir Gjeka, Koča Pavlović and Zoran Miljanić. During the two-day seminar the following topics were considered: role and position of the European Parliament within the EU policy on fight against organised crime, corruption and money laundering regarding the Western Balkans and Turkey; trafficking in human beings and organised crime; confiscation of the assets as an instrument for preventing criminal groups from continuing their activities; drug cartels and their relations with organised crime in Europe; corruption crimes regarding the public procurement; areas of systematic corruption in public administration of the member states and anti-corruption measures, as well as usage of European funds by the organised crime. It was agreed that the Delegation of the Committee of the European Parliament would pay a visit to the Anti-Corruption Committee of the Parliament of Montenegro in the following period.
- Expert debate on topic of "Human Rights in Montenegro – from the referendum to the start of negotiations with the European Union" was organised by the Parliament of Montenegro and NGO "Civic Alliance". President of the Parliament of Montenegro Ranko Krivokapić, Minister of Human and Minority

Rights Suad Numanović, and the U.S. Ambassador to Montenegro Sue K. Brown opened the debate. Ajša Hadžibegović, Program Director of the Civic Alliance, presented the report "Human Rights in Montenegro – from the referendum to the start of negotiations with the European Union", while Siniša Bjeković, legal advisor of Civic Alliance and Director of the Center for Human Rights of the Faculty of Law in Podgorica and Budimir Šćepanović, Deputy Ombudsman of Montenegro addressed the topics "Development of Legal Framework 2006-2012" and "Development of Institutional Framework 2006-2012". Representatives of the Parliament of Montenegro, the Government, institution of Protector of Human Rights and Freedoms, Judiciary, Prosecutor's Office, Police Administration, academic society, NGO sector and the media participated at the expert debate as well. At the end of the debate the Recommendations were adopted.

5 March

- During his official visit to Montenegro, the MP of the German Bundestag from the Alliance 90/the Greens Manuel Sarrazin, met with members of the Committee on European Integration. It was mutually assessed that the process of European integration should be even more transparent, and that the Parliament of Montenegro had the special role in acquainting the public with the course of negotiations and reforms being conducted according the European agenda. The Ambassador of the Federal Republic of Germany, H.E. Pius Fischer also attended the meeting.
- Chair of the Committee on International Relations and Emigrants Miodrag Vuković met with Advisor to the Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary Ambassador of the Republic of Azerbaijan to Montenegro Seyran Mirzazadeh. During the conversation, the interlocutors particularly emphasised cooperation in the field of tourism, economy and culture, the intensive cooperation on the political level, but also the interest of the Republic of Azerbaijan regarding investments in Montenegro. The interlocutors deemed the improvement of the parliamentary cooperation necessary, which, regarding the intensity was evidently lagging in comparison to other political forms of cooperation between the two countries.
- Members and the staff of the Committee on Defence and Security paid a study visit to the Republic of Croatia, upon the invitation of the Geneva Centre for Democratic Control of Armed Forces (DCAF). The Chair and the following members of the Committee participated in the study visit: Mevludin Nuhodžić, Obrad Mišo Stanišić, Luid Ljubo Škrelja, Borislav

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Banović, Vasilije Lalošević, Velizar Kaluđerović and Zoran Miljanić. During the visit, the delegation had a chance to hear discussions on the following topics: "Croatian Foreign Policy and Regional Perspectives", "Development of Security and Intelligence System of the Republic of Croatia", "The Croatian Coast Guard and Regional Cooperation". Then, the participants had the opportunity to discuss with the Ambassador H.E. Branko Baričević on the topics "Experiences of Republic of Croatia on Pre-Accession Negotiations with the European Union" and "Combating Corruption and Organised Crime". Members of the Security and Defence Committee met with their colleagues from the Committee on Internal Control and National Security and Committee on Defence of Croatian Parliament, with which they exchanged experiences and emphasised challenges in the work of these parliamentary bodies. Following the visit of the Croatian Parliament, they met with the representatives of the Border Administration.

6 March

- At the invitation of President Krivokapić, President of the National Assembly of Hungary László Kövér paid an official visit to Montenegro. Mr Kövér also spoke with Vice Presidents of the Parliament and heads of MP Groups, after which he and the President Krivokapić signed the Framework Partnership Agreement between the Parliament of Montenegro and the National Assembly of Hungary.

7 March

- Parliamentary forum titled: "International Cooperation regarding renewable energy sources - the role of regional and global agencies in promoting renewable energy sources and new energy networks", organised by the Parliament for Climate Change, was held in Brussels and attended by the MP Šefkija Murić, upon invitation. Participants of the Forum had the opportunity to exchange experiences and bring forward actual proposals and suggestions at previously considered issues. Within the planned activities, the meeting of the regional groups from Europe, Asia, and Africa was held, where MP Murić, among others, had an individual presentation.
- Head of the Delegation of the Parliament of Montenegro to PACE and the PACE Vice President MP Zoran Vukčević participated at the PACE Bureau Session held in Paris. In focus at the meeting of the Bureau was the discussion on determination of the agenda for the second, Spring Session of PACE, as well as consideration of reports of the elections

observation missions on elections held in Monaco, Armenia, and Bulgaria. The cooperation of the Council of Europe and Belarus as well as the implementation of Resolution 1912 on the situation in Kosovo and the role of the Council of Europe were also discussed.

- International Seminar: "Experiences of Italy, Bulgaria and the Balkans in research, confiscation and administration of property obtained in criminal activities. Best practice and comparison of the legal framework" was held in Hotel Crna Gora. MPs Snežana Jonica, Marta Šćepanović and Obrad Gojković, representatives of the staff of the Parliament, the Committee on Political System, Judiciary and Administration, the Committee on Economy, Finance and Budget, the Committee on European Integration, the Committee on Health, Labour and Social Welfare and the Anti-Corruption Committee attended the seminar as well. As part of this so called SAPUCCA project, lasting thirty months, promoted by the Italian Province Caserta, the final conference was planned to be held in Brussels at the end of the month.

8 March

- The Parliament of Montenegro organised the "Women's Parliament" for the second time, on the occasion of 8 March, International Women's Day, aimed at promotion of women's human rights in Montenegro. Vice President of the Parliament of Montenegro Branko Radulović opened the Session of the "Women's Parliament".
- President Krivokapić met with President of the Union of Free Trade Unions of Montenegro Srđan Keković and President of the Trade Union of the Military of Montenegro Nenad Čobeljić. During the conversation, interlocutors discussed the problems that the Trade Union of the Military of Montenegro faced, as well as the need for better communication aimed at more effective resolving of the issues that this organisation deals with.
- Vice President of the Parliament of Montenegro Branko Radulović met in his cabinet with H. E. Ivana Perić, the Ambassador of the Republic of Croatia to Montenegro. At the meeting they compared experiences of Montenegro and Croatia in the integration process to the European Union, as well as the oversight role of parliaments of both countries in the European integration process.
- MPs Nada Drobnjak, Žana Filipović and Milan Knežević have been visiting democracy workshops of the Parliament of Montenegro for the past three days, where they talked with the students of the elementary school "Oktoih" from Podgorica and introduced them with the work of MPs and the Parliament as an

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institution. This is the new phase in the project Democracy Workshops, in which the children, in direct contact with the MPs, can acquire new knowledge about democracy and parliament.



11 March

- Chair of the Committee on Tourism, Agriculture, Ecology and Spatial Planning Predrag Sekulić and Deputy Chair of the Committee Jelisava Kalezić participated in the Meeting of Chairpersons of Agriculture and Fisheries Committees of EU Member States and the European Parliament, held in Dublin. The topics of the meeting included the future of the Common Agricultural Policy and Common Fisheries Policy, as well as strategies of support for young farmers. The meeting was organised within the parliamentary dimension of the Irish presidency over the Council of the European Union.
- Vice President Mustafić received the ambassador of Ukraine to Montenegro H.E. Oksana Slyusarenko. The interlocutors pointed out that the relations between the parliaments of Montenegro and Ukraine are very good, and they are a part of generally good relations between the two countries. There was also discussion on further promotion of the inter-parliamentary cooperation which has been intensive so far, as well as on the role of the Parliament of Montenegro in the process of European integration, especially in the context of constitutional changes in Montenegro.

12 March

- President of the Parliament Ranko Krivokapić met with the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan Ilham Aliyev who paid an official visit to Montenegro. The topic of the meeting was the cooperation between Montenegro and Azerbaijan, which resulted in investments of the Azerbaijan state company in Montenegro.
- President of the Parliament Ranko Krivokapić met with Dirk Lange, Head of Department for Croatia and Montenegro in the European Commission Directorate General for Enlargement. The interlocutors exchanged

opinions regarding the current process of the European integration of Montenegro and further challenges that Montenegro was facing within the accession negotiations stage. At the meeting they also spoke of the latest development of political events regarding the holding of local and presidential elections.



- Chair of the Anti-Corruption Committee Predrag Bulatović met with the Head of Department for Croatia and Montenegro in the European Commission Directorate General for Enlargement Dirk Lange and H.E. Mitja Drobnič, Head of the EU Delegation to Montenegro. Bulatović introduced the guests with the initial activities of the Committee and issues which need to be defined for its full positioning in accordance with the Rules of Procedure of the Parliament of Montenegro and the importance of the Committee. He also met them with preparations for the establishment of short-term work plan of the Committee by 1 July, 2013, as well as the Work Plan for 2013. Regarding the question whether the Committee believed that the so-called affair "Recording" should be considered at the meeting, he stated that the issue "Recording" is significant for overall relations and according to him, its importance exceeds the discussion only at the Anti-Corruption Committee, and should be treated as such.

13 March

- President of the Parliament Ranko Krivokapić met with H.E Pekka Orpana, the Ambassador of Finland. The interlocutors spoke of strengthening of the economic cooperation, and they also expressed their pleasure with friendly relations of the two countries. One of the topics of conversation was the strengthening of parliamentary cooperation, i.e. forming of the Friendship Group of parliaments of Montenegro and the Nordic countries.

14 March

- During his visit to Croatia, Vice President of the Parliament Branko Radulović met with Deputy Prime

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Minister of the Republic of Croatia Neven Mimica; Vice President of the Croatian Parliament Dragica Zgrebec; Chair and members of the Finance and Budget Committee, and Chair and members of the European Integration Committee. Both parties exchanged their opinions and experiences regarding the EU membership negotiations as well as harmonisation of national legislation with the European legislation, concluding that a strong partnership is in the common interest of both countries. The representatives of the Croatian Parliament expressed readiness to support and assist Montenegro on its EU integration path.

- President of the Parliament of Montenegro Ranko Krivokapić met with H.E. Catherine Knight-Sands, the Ambassador of United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and representatives of the Westminster Foundation for Democracy. The interlocutors discussed about the cooperation programme which the Parliament of Montenegro implemented with the Westminster Foundation for Democracy and the British Council. It was assessed that the training programmes implemented by the Parliament are of great significance for the youth in Montenegro, their education and familiarisation with the decision-making system.



- President of the Parliament of Montenegro Ranko Krivokapić spoke with Head of the ODIHR Mission Ambassador Boris Frlec. The topic of the meeting was the upcoming presidential election in Montenegro. The interlocutors expressed conviction that the upcoming presidential elections would be held in fair and democratic atmosphere, in accordance with democratic standards.
- Head of Delegation of the Parliament of Montenegro to PACE Zoran Vukčević attended the 12th Meeting of the Network of Contact Parliamentarians to stop sexual violence against children in Berlin. The activities which Montenegro has been conducting were pointed out at the meeting (the National Council was established, different forms – roundtables, lectures, meetings, panel discussions, seminars, which

point to the problem were implemented), as well as the importance of preventive measures to suppress the problem and respect of the obligations from the Council of Europe Convention.

15 March

- Meeting of Chairs of Committees on Foreign Affairs of Croatia, Serbia, Montenegro and Bosnia and Herzegovina was held in Sarajevo, in organisation of the Parliamentary Assembly of Bosnia and Herzegovina. Delegation of the Committee on International Relations and Emigrants consisted of Chair Miodrag Vuković and the following members: Suljo Mustafić, Vasilije Lalošević and Dritan Abazović. During the Meeting of Chairs, the following was presented: the model of parliamentary cooperation in energy sector in countries of the Nordic Council, the experiences of Finland regarding the use of the clean energy, and the study “Stuck in the Past - Energy, Environment and Poverty in Serbia and Montenegro”. The next meeting will be held in Belgrade, while the fourth meeting will be held in Podgorica, in the second half of the 2013.
- In the previous two days, MPs Obrad Gojković and Borislav Banović visited the democracy workshops of the Parliament of Montenegro, where they spoke with students of the primary school “Milan Vuković” from Herceg Novi and introduced them to their work and the work of the Parliament of Montenegro, in an informal setting. Students of the primary school “Milan Vuković” had the opportunity to acquire new knowledge on democracy, role of the MPs, functions of the Parliament, as well as the election process, via conversation with the MPs.
- Chair of the Committee on Human Rights and Freedoms Halil Duković and Deputy Chair of the Committee Ljiljana Đurašković, as well as members of the Committee: Izet Bralić, Ljerka Dragičević and Kemal Zoronjić met with Milisav Korać, Executive Director and Slobodan Vuković, representative of the Union of Associations of Parents of Children and Youth with Disabilities “Our Initiative”, thus continuing the cooperation established at the beginning of 2010. It was concluded at the meeting that, in the following period, all relevant subjects should conduct activities in accordance with their competencies, in order to contribute to further improvement of the position of children with disabilities.
- President of the Parliament Ranko Krivokapić received in a farewell visit H.E. Sergio Barbanti, the Ambassador of Italy. Interlocutors expressed mutual pleasure over the cooperation during Barbanti’s term

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- of office as the Ambassador of Italy to Montenegro.
- President of the Parliament of Montenegro Ranko Krivokapić opened the National Anti-Corruption Conference organised by Network for Affirmation of NGO Sector (MANS). The following also spoke at the conference: the Ambassador of the United States to Montenegro H.E. Sue K. Brown, Head of the EU Delegation to Montenegro H.E. Mitja Drobnič, as well as Vanja Čalović, Executive Director of MANS.

17 March

- Delegation of the Committee on European Integration, consisting of Chair of the Committee Slaven Radunović and member of the Committee Predrag Sekulić, paid an official visit to Romania, upon invitation by Chair of the Committee on European Affairs of the Senate of Romania Anca Boagiu. They met separately with the Minister for European Funds in the Government of Romania Eugen Orlando Teodorovici, Deputy Speaker of the Senate of Romania Cristian Dumitrescu, Chair of the Committee on European Affairs of the Senate of Romania, Anca Boagiu, Chair of the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the Senate of Romania Filip Petru, Head of the Friendship Group between the Parliament of Romania and the Parliament of Montenegro Dorinel Ursulescu, as well as with State Secretary for Foreign Affairs in the Government of Romania, Radu Podgorean.

19 March

- Chair of the Committee on Education, Science, Culture and Sports Branka Tanasijević met with Vesna Atanasova, representative of the Council of Europe. The meeting was also attended by Bojka Đukanović, Coordinator of the Programme for Education/Human Rights of the Council of Europe and Vidosava Kaščelan, Advisor in the Bureau for Education Services and coordinator at the Council of Europe projects. The topic of the meeting was the joint project of the European Union and the Council of Europe "Regional support to inclusive education". The project is intended for the countries of the South East Europe (Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Montenegro, Serbia, Macedonia and Kosovo). Its implementation began in January 2013, and it is scheduled to last 35 months.
- Representatives of the staff of the Committee on Political System, Judiciary and Administration participated at the Conference in the Regional School of Public Administration (ReSPA) in Danilovgrad, which was dedicated to presentation of the Draft Law on General Administrative Procedure.

- The 100th jubilee democratic workshop within the project "Democracy Workshops", organised by the Parliament of Montenegro, in cooperation with the NGO Forum MNE and the ERSTE Foundation, under the programme "Open Parliament" was held. The guest of this workshop was MP Mladen Bojanić. Through the conversation he had with students of the class VIII-5 of the primary school "Dašo Pavičić" from Herceg Novi, he elaborated on democratic values, the role of the Parliament and the division of powers in a democratic society.

21 March

- Delegation of the Committee on Human Rights and Freedoms, consisting of: Halil Duković, Chair of the Committee, Ljiljana Đurašković, Deputy Chair of the Committee, and the members of the Committee: Srđa Popović, Kemal Zoronjić, Ljerka Dragičević and Dritan Abazović paid a two-day study visit to the Croatian Parliament and other relevant institutions that deal with issues of protection of human and national minority rights. Meetings with the following were set out: the National Ombudsman, the Ombudsman for Children, the Ombudsman for Persons with Disabilities and the Ombudsman for Gender Equality, then with representatives of the Office for Human and National Minority Rights and the Council for National Minorities, Committee on European Integration and Committee on Foreign Policy, as well as the Gender Equality Committee of the Croatian Parliament. The members of the delegation also visited the Child Protection Center of the City of Zagreb, and the meeting with the National Community of Montenegrins in Croatia was also planned. Delegation of the Committee also met with Josip Leko, President of the Croatian Parliament.
- Secretary General of the Parliament Damir Davidović received Laurie Walker, Chief of the NATO Desk for Montenegro. The topic of the meeting was strengthening of administrative capacities of the Parliamentary Service, as well as plans for greater use of expert assistance of the European Commission via the TAIEX programme, primarily in the expertise of compliance of the law with the EU law in certain areas.

22 March

- President of the Parliament Ranko Krivokapić spoke with Dirk Brengelmann, Assistant Secretary General of NATO for Political Affairs and Security Policy. Brengelmann commended the previous results that Montenegro made on its path towards NATO and emphasised that the organization valued commitment

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of our state to that process. President Krivokapić said that NATO accession is one of the key goals Montenegro strives to and thanked for the partnership assistance NATO offered in the process of Montenegro's defence system reform.

- Members of the Committee on European Integration met with the NATO's Assistant Secretary General for Political Affairs and Security Policy Dirk Brengelmann. On that occasion, the opinions on the issue of Montenegro's NATO membership were exchanged, pointing to the public opinion regarding the state joining this Alliance. The importance of informing citizens on the activities of the NATO was jointly assessed, in order to ensure higher level of public support via adequate promotion of NATO integration, needed for legitimate decision on state membership in the Alliance.
- President of the Parliament Ranko Krivokapić opened the first Montenegrin Entrepreneurship Parliament, where he stated that the idea of cooperation between the parliamentarians and the entrepreneurs was of great importance for the economic future of Montenegro, and that the Entrepreneurship Parliament was a project that would contribute to building of a stable political future of the country. In addition to Krivokapić, at the opening of the first Montenegrin Entrepreneurship Parliament also spoke: President of the Chamber of Economy of Montenegro Velimir Mijušković, Prime Minister Milo Đukanović, as well as the Deputy President of EUROCHAMBRES Martha Schultz.
- Delegation of the Parliament of Montenegro participated at the VII Conference of the Parliamentary Committees on European Integration/Affairs of the States Participating in the Stabilization and Association Process in South East Europe (COSAP), organised by the Parliamentary Assembly of Bosnia and Herzegovina on 21 and 22 March 2013. On behalf of the Committee on European Integration, MP Zoran Srzentić participated at the COSAP Conference.

24 March

- Members of the Committee on International Relations and Emigrants and the Security and Defence Committee participated in the work of the Interparliamentary Conference for Common Foreign and Security Policy and Common Security and Defence Policy, which was held in Dublin. The gathering was organised within the parliamentary dimension of the Irish Presidency over the Council of the European Union. On this occasion, the Delegation of the Parliament of Montenegro consisted of following MPs: Miodrag Vuković, Borislav Banović, Vasilije Lalošević and Zoran Miljanić.

26 March

- Chair of the Committee Džavid Šabović, and the Committee members Marta Šćepanović, Radovan Obradović, Luid Škrelja, Emilo Labudović and Srđan Perić met with Klaus Goetz, SIGMA (Support for Improvement in Governance and Management in Central and Eastern European Countries) expert. In his introductory speech, Goetz complimented the Parliament of Montenegro on public availability of its data and information. On that ground, according to him, it was possible to get the general impression on the work progress of the parliament. In continuation of the meeting, present members of the Committee spoke in detail on the manner and work methodology of the Legislative Committee within its competences.
- Secretary General of the Parliament Damir Davidović met with the SIGMA programme expert Klaus Goetz and representative of the programme Klaas Klas. The aim of the visit was obtaining information on the work of the Parliament and coordination of European integration which would be necessary for preparation of analytic document on the process of creating public policies, including legislative process, as well as coordination between state bodies and within the state administration.
- Members of the Committee on Political System, Judiciary and Administration met with SIGMA representatives. The meeting was aimed at informing the experts of SIGMA on competencies and work methodology of the Committee, with special emphasis on the process of considering laws at the Committee meetings. There was also discussion on the role of parliamentary staff in the analysis and preparation of material for needs of the MPs, as well as drafting of the informative overviews. The SIGMA Delegation consisted of Klaus Goetz, Parliamentary Capacity Expert and Klaas Klas, Parliamentary Issues Expert. The meeting was attended by the following members of the Committee: Chair Rifat Rastoder, Deputy Chair Snežana Jonica, MPs Azra Jasavić, Šefkija Murić and Milorad Vuletić, as well as the Service of the Committee.

27 March

- Chair of the Committee on Economy, Finance and Budget Aleksandar Damjanović met with the representatives of SIGMA, who paid a working visit to Montenegro. Representatives of SIGMA were informed on the manner and methodology of work of the Committee on Economy, Finance and Budget, as well as on the process of consideration of laws at the meetings of the Committee.

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- Members of the Committee on European Integration met with experts of SIGMA Programme, Klaus Goetz and Juhan Lepassaar and representative of the Programme Klaas Klas. Opinions on the work of the Parliament of Montenegro and on the coordination of European integration were exchanged at the meeting. In addition to the Chair Radunović, the meeting was attended by the following members of the Committee: Predrag Sekulić, Nada Drobnjak, Jovan Martinović, Zoran Srzentić and Genci Nimanbegu.
- Chair of the Committee on European Integration Slaven Radunović met with the non-resident Ambassador of the Republic of Cyprus to Montenegro H.E. Nafsika Krousti. Ambassador Krousti pointed out closeness and good relations between the countries of the Western Balkans region and Cyprus, emphasising that the future of the countries of this region, and Cyprus as well, is in the European Union. Chair Radunović expressed consent with regard to good relations and closeness between the people from the Western Balkans and Cyprus.
- Chair of the Committee on International Relations and Emigrants Miodrag Vuković received H.E. Nafsika Krousti, non-residential Ambassador of Cyprus to Montenegro. During the meeting, the interlocutors emphasized that Montenegro and the Republic of Cyprus have a very good cooperation and friendly relations, and pointed out the intensifying of political contacts at the high level between the two countries.
- MP of Democratic Party of Socialists Marta Šćepanović met with the SIGMA expert Klaus Goetz. The SIGMA representative was interested in manner of organization of the work of MP Group of ruling majority in the Montenegrin parliament. MP Šćepanović introduced the guest with organisation and manner of work of DPS MP Group, as well as methodology of work of DPS MPs in parliamentary working bodies. The control role of the Parliament was also discussed at the meeting.
- Secretary General of the Parliament Damir Davidović met with H.E. Nafsika Krousti, non-residential Ambassador of the Republic of Cyprus to Montenegro. Speaking of the cooperation between the parliaments of Montenegro and the Republic of Cyprus, the interlocutors agreed that there was room for further improvement through strengthening of communication at the level of MPs and the parliamentary service.

28 March

- Vice President of the Parliament Suljo Mustafić and Deputy Prime Minister Rafet Husović, along with Reis of the Islamic Community in Montenegro Rifat Fejzić,

visited Husein Kavazović, the newly elected Reis-ul-ulema of the Islamic Community in Bosnia and Herzegovina. Mustafić and Husović congratulated Reis Kavazović on his appointment and pointed out that it was greatly important for the Islamic Community in Bosnia and Herzegovina to be the institution that would adequately respond to the needs of the congregation, contribute to stability and prosperity and be in good relations with the Islamic communities in the region, as well as other religious communities. Mustafić and Husović also visited the Regional centre of Turkish news agency „Anadolija“ and spoke with Ömer Çetres, Director of the Agency.

29 March

- NGO Civic Alliance and the USAID/East West Management Institute organised an expert debate on judiciary reform, at the Faculty of Law of the University of Montenegro, at which the report “Monitoring the work of courts in Montenegro” was presented. Duško Marković, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Justice, H.E. Mitja Drobnič, Head of the EU Delegation to Montenegro, Vesna Medenica, President of the Supreme Court and Milan Marković, President of the Constitutional Court had the opening statements.
- President of the Parliament Ranko Krivokapić spoke with representatives of the Jewish National Fund headed by Chair of the Board of Directors Efi Stenzler. The interlocutors concluded that the state authorities and Jewish Community in Montenegro were achieving an excellent cooperation. Krivokapić and Stenzler spoke about plans for establishing the Jewish Centre in Montenegro. Stenzler extended an official invitation to President Krivokapić to visit Israel.
- As part of the cooperation programme of the Human Resources Administration of Montenegro and organisations NISPAce and Slovak Aid, from 25 to 29 March 2013, representatives of Montenegrin state bodies visited the Republic of Slovakia. Delegation, which included a representative of the Service of the Parliament of Montenegro, had the opportunity to meet with their Slovak colleagues from the Parliament, Government, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Justice and Ministry of the Environment. During the visit, special attention was paid to competencies of the state bodies of Slovakia in the EU affairs, drafting the National Programme for adoption of the acquis (NPAA) as an instrument for planning the accession process, amendments to the Constitution due to the need to regulate the issues regarding the Union, as well as the issues regarding Slovak experiences in harmonisation of the national legislation with the EU acquis.