

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 30 April is outlined in the April issue of the bulletin "Open Parliament", which is prepared by the Service of the Parliament.

In April, the Parliament considered the Information on the manner of implementation of the conclusions of the Parliament from 29 February 2012, with the Proposal for Conclusions of the Committee on Economy, Finance and Budget, relating to the Aluminium Plant Podgorica (KAP), and adopted the Proposal for Conclusions. The committees considered nine law proposals, while, within their oversight role, they considered a series of issues, among which were proposals for amendments to the financial plans of regulatory agencies. Proposals for amendments to the financial plans, which generated savings, thus implementing conclusions of the Parliament relating to the rationalisation of expenses, was considered by the Committee on Economy, Finance and Budget and proposed to the Parliament for adoption.

In focus of this bulletin is the sixth meeting of the European Union – Montenegro Stabilisation and Association Parliamentary Committee (SAPC), held on 29 and 30 April in the Parliament of Montenegro. After a two-day work, members of SAPC adopted the Declaration and Recommendations, which confirm the achieved progress in the association process of Montenegro and the EU. Additionally, the members identified the areas where investment of extra efforts is needed in the following period, in order to meet the European standards that are necessary for a full-fledged EU membership.

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 very significant as a reliable source of information regarding work of the Parliament and we hope that you will find it 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

At the Third Sitting of the First Ordinary Session of the Parliament of Montenegro in 2013, the Parliament considered the Information on the manner of implementation of the Conclusions of the Parliament from 29 February 2012, with Proposal for Conclusions of the Committee on Economy, Finance and Budget, relating to the Aluminium Plant Podgorica (KAP). Following the discussion, the Parliament adopted the Proposal for Conclusions.

Prime Minister's Hour

At the Fourth (Special) Sitting of the First Ordinary Session of the Parliament of Montenegro in 2013, within the item of the agenda "Prime Minister's Hour", MPs' questions were answered by the Prime Minister of Montenegro Milo Đukanović. Six questions were posed to the Prime Minister.

Proposals for laws deliberated in committees:

- **Proposal for a Law on Ratification of the Consular Convention between Montenegro and the Republic of Serbia** was considered and proposed to the Parliament for adoption by the Legislative Committee.
- **Proposal for a Law on Consumer Loans** was considered and proposed to the Parliament for adoption by the Legislative Committee.
- **Proposal for a Law on Amendments to the Law on Health Care** was considered and proposed to the Parliament for adoption by the Legislative Committee.
- **Proposal for a Law on Amendments to the Law on Protection of Citizens of Montenegro Working**

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.

Abroad was considered and proposed to the Parliament for adoption by the Legislative Committee.

- **Proposal for a Law on Amendments to the Law on Prevention of Drug Abuse** was considered and proposed to the Parliament for adoption 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 Legislative Committee.
- **Proposal for a Law on Amendments to the Law on State and Other Holidays** was considered by the Committee on Political System, Judiciary and Administration which, however, took no position.
- **Proposal for a Law on Amendments to the Law on Payment of Foreign Currency Assets of Citizens Placed with the Dafiment Bank Belgrade and Banka Privatne Privrede Podgorica, placed via the company Jugoskandik Belgrade** was considered and proposed to the Parliament for adoption by the Committee on Economy, Finance and Budget.
- **Proposal for a Law on Social and Child Welfare** was considered and supported by the Gender Equality Committee under its competencies, which submitted its opinion to the Committee on Health, Labour and Social Welfare, as the lead committee, to propose the adoption thereof to the Parliament.

Oversight activities of the working bodies:

- At the eleventh meeting of the **Legislative Committee** held on 2 April, the Proposal for the Decision on opening of the parliamentary inquiry and establishing the Inquiry Committee for collecting information and facts on the events related to the work of state authorities regarding publishing of the audio recordings and transcripts from the body meetings of the Democratic Party of Socialists in daily newspaper "DAN", submitted by the group of 27 MPs of parliamentary minority, did not obtain the necessary majority. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted the Performance Report of the Committee for 2012, as well as the Work Plan of the Committee for 2013.
- At the ninth meeting of the **Committee on Political System, Judiciary and Administration**, held on 1 April, the date for holding of control hearing on the topic: "Use of State Resources during an Election Campaign" was being determined. The meeting was postponed, because MPs who belong to parliamentary minority took a position that they did not want to attend the mentioned hearing. The tenth meeting of the Committee, which was scheduled for 9 April, on the occasion of the control hearing of Minister of the Interior Raško Konjević, Supreme State Prosecutor Ranka Čarapić and

President of the Supreme Court and Judicial Council Vesna Medenica, on the topic: "Acting of the police, prosecution and judiciary in cases which have characteristics of organised crime with special reference to the cases "Škerović" and "Šarić-Lončar"" was postponed due to the absence of MPs of parliamentary minority, who were also the submitters of the initiative for holding of the control hearing.

- At the eighth meeting of the **Committee on Economy, Finance and Budget**, held on 1 April, the Committee proposed the following to the Parliament for adoption: Proposal for Amendments to the Financial Plan of the Energy Regulatory Agency, Proposal for Amendments to the Financial Plan of the Agency for Medicines and Medical Devices, Proposal for Amendments to the Financial Plan of the Agency for Electronic Communications and Postal Services, Proposal for Amendments to the Financial Plan of the Agency for Electronic Media, Proposal for Amendments to the Financial Plan of the Securities Commission, and Proposal for Amendments to the Financial Plan of the Insurance Supervision Agency, for 2013. The Committee concluded that with proposals for amendments to the financial plans of the independent regulatory bodies they achieved savings in the total amount of 662,755€, thus implementing conclusions of the Parliament, adopted regarding consideration of financial plans of regulators for 2013, which referred to rationalisation of expenses. The Committee determined the Work Plan for 2013.



- At the sixth meeting held on 23 April, the **Gender Equality Committee** adopted the Performance Report of the Committee for 2012 and determined the Work Plan for 2013.
- At the ninth meeting held on 30 April, the **Committee on Human Rights and Freedoms** brought a Decision on control hearing of the ECRI National Coordinator for Montenegro, Deputy Minister for Human and Minority Rights Blanka Radošević-Marović, on the topic: "Honouring of Obligations of Montenegro in part of the Recommendations given in the ECRI Report on Montenegro, from February 2012". The control hearing will be held on 17 May 2013.

NEWS FROM PARLIAMENT



Meeting of members of the Gender Equality Committee with representatives of Roma and Egyptian women in Montenegro

Members of the Gender Equality Committee Nada Drobnjak, Ljerka Dragičević and Branka Tanasijević held a meeting on 9 April with representatives of Roma and Egyptian women in Montenegro, where they discussed the social and economic position and education of Roma and Egyptian women in Montenegro, with emphasis on the arranged marriages.

At the beginning, the present were addressed by Vice President of the Parliament of Montenegro Suljo Mustafić. During the introductory part of the meeting, the following also spoke: Representative of the UN

System Benjamin Perks, Deputy Minister for Human and Minority Rights Sabahudin Delić and representative of the Center for Roma Initiatives Fatima Naza.

An underage Roma girl, mother of a two-year-old daughter, shared her life story. During the meeting, a documentary film "Arranged Marriage" was screened.

In addition to the members of the Committee, the meeting was attended by representatives of certain ministries and other institutions, international organisations, as well as representatives of non-governmental organisations dealing with the issue of position of Roma and Egyptian women in Montenegro.

Speaker of the Parliament of Iceland Ásta Jóhannesdóttir paid an official visit to Montenegro

Upon the invitation of President of the Parliament of Montenegro Ranko Krivokapić, Speaker of the Parliament of Iceland Ásta Jóhannesdóttir paid an official visit to Montenegro on 10 April.

President Krivokapić thanked her for the friendly relation that Iceland has with Montenegro, as well as for the help that it has offered in the European integration process. President Krivokapić added that the parliamentary experience of Iceland is of immeasurable significance for Montenegro.

Speaker of the Parliament of Iceland Ásta Jóhannesdóttir stated that the Parliament of Montenegro and the Parliament of Iceland were connected by common values, and she pointed out that in the future as well, Iceland would offer unconditional support to Montenegro on its path to the EU.

Members of the Committee on International Relations and Emigrants, as well as members of the Committee on European Integration met with the Speaker of the Parliament of Iceland Ásta Jóhannesdóttir. Chair of the Committee on International Relations and Emigrants Miodrag Vuković informed the Speaker of the Parliament Jóhannesdóttir on activities of the newly established Committee on International Relations and Emigrants. The interlocutors pointed out that these two small European countries should promote cooperation in the following period, in all areas with mutual interest. The meeting was also attended by Jorundur Kristjansson, Advisor on International Affairs in the Parliament of Iceland and H.E. Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary Ambassador of Iceland Gunnar Snorri Gunnarsson, as well as Vice President of the Parliament of Montenegro Suljo Mustafić, and MPs Obrad Mišo Stanišić, Dritan Abazović and Vasilije Lalošević.

Meeting of the members of the Committee on European Integration with the Speaker of the Parliament of Iceland was also attended by the non-residential Ambassador of Iceland to Montenegro H. E. Gunnar Snorri Gunnarsson. Mentioning the connection of Iceland and Montenegro regarding European perspective of two states, member of the Committee Nada Drobnjak presented activities of the Parliament in this area, namely the responsibilities of the newly formed Committee on European Integration in view of the control role and oversight of the negotiations process with the European Union. At the meeting they also spoke on promotion of tourism potentials of Montenegro and possibilities of connecting small countries through joint activities in various social, political and economic areas.

Speaking of the importance of establishing close inter parliamentary cooperation between small countries, at the level of presidents of parliaments, MPs and employees, the Speaker of the Parliament of Iceland Ásta Jóhannesdóttir expressed readiness of her country to offer assistance to Montenegro on its further path of integration into the European family of nations.



IX Plenary Session of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Union for the Mediterranean

The Ninth Plenary Session of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Union for the Mediterranean, presided over by Martin Schulz, President of the European Parliament, was held in Brussels from 11 to 12 April 2013. On behalf of the Parliament of Montenegro the session was attended by Miodrag Vuković, Chair of the Committee on International Relations and Emigrants.

On the first working day, the Committee on Political Affairs, Security and Human Rights held a meeting and discussed the Report of the Institute for Economic Forecast on the topic: "Europe and the Mediterranean: Proposals for development of the great region of global influence". There was also discussion on development of the Middle East countries, as well as burning issues of Israel, Palestine and Syria. The report was presented to the members of the Committee by Abderrahmane Hadj Nacer, former governor of the Central Bank of Algeria and Carmen Romero López, member of the European Parliament. On that occasion, it was pointed out that the aim of the Report was promotion of relations between the countries of Mediterranean, namely the promotion of cooperation between the northern and southern part of this region.

Chair of the Session Tokia Saïfi pointed out the need to respect the principle of dialogue, but also the values such as rule of law and observation of human rights. On that occasion, she especially focused on the rights of women and their role in the political life.

On the second working day, the participants of the

plenary session were addressed by Martin Schulz, President of the European Parliament. After consideration, the following recommendations of the committees in accordance with their competencies were adopted: providing support to the parliaments of the countries undergoing democratic transition; development of investment possibilities and business in the Mediterranean area, namely building of the financial instruments for Mediterranean countries; role of women in management; recommendations with regard to the renewable energy sources; building of national parks and ecologic cities, and finally – recommendations regarding the intercultural dialogue and new initiatives in the field of education.

Upon the adoption of the recommendations, Sa'ad Hayel Srou, President of the House of Representatives of Jordan, was elected the new Chair of the Union for Mediterranean.



President of the Parliament of Montenegro Ranko Krivokapić participated at the Conference of the Speakers of the Parliaments of the EU

President of the Parliament of Montenegro Ranko Krivokapić participated at the Conference of Speakers of the Parliaments of the EU, held in Nicosia from 21 to 23 April. The Conference was opened by President of the House of Representatives of Cyprus Yiannakis Omirou. At the Conference, presidents of parliaments discussed the role of European parliaments in improving democracy and human rights in the Mediterranean region, as well as the social cohesion in the period of crises. President Krivokapić was one of the speakers on the topic of the role of European and national parliaments in improving democracy and human rights in the third countries, especially regarding the Mediterranean region.

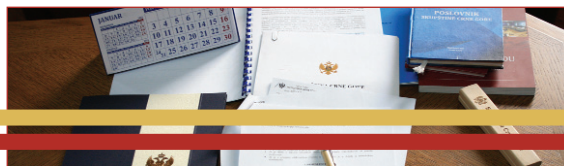
"The European Union is much stronger today, so I believe that our parliaments will play a key role in full understanding of democratic needs of our Mediterranean friends. Parliaments are obliged to spread democratic values and help great democratic energy to be adequately channelled towards sublime ideals of democracy and human rights", President Krivokapić said.

During the Conference, President Krivokapić had a series of bilateral meetings with presidents of

parliaments of the EU Member States, including meetings with Vydas Gedvilas, Speaker of the Lithuanian parliament (the Seimas). Also, President Krivokapić met with Josip Leko, Speaker of the Croatian Parliament. New competences of the European Union were discussed for the first time at this Conference, as well as competences of national parliaments in the context of measures undertaken by the European Union with the aim of strengthening fiscal management within the European Monetary Union, which resulted in concluding the Treaty on Stability, Coordination and Governance in the Economic and Monetary Union. Article 13 of the Treaty is particularly important for the parliaments, stipulating greater competences for parliamentarians at national and European level in this field. Through inter-parliamentary conferences, the parliamentarians get the opportunity for stronger participation in defining and implementing integrated and harmonised financial, budgetary and economic policies of the Member States of the European Union who are signatories of this Treaty.

Montenegro participated at the Conference of Speakers of the Parliaments of the EU for the third time, as a candidate for membership to the EU.

IN FOCUS



The European Union – Montenegro Stabilisation and Association Parliamentary Committee adopted the Declaration and Recommendations

The sixth meeting of the European Union – Montenegro Stabilisation and Association Parliamentary Committee (SAPC), held on 29 and 30 April 2013, in the Great Hall of the Parliament of Montenegro, was co-presided by President of the Parliament of Montenegro Ranko Krivokapić and Chair of the European Parliament Delegation for relations with Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Serbia, Montenegro and Kosovo Eduard Kukan.

In his opening statement, President of the Parliament of Montenegro Ranko Krivokapić thanked the SAPC members from the European Parliament for significant and crucial contribution to development of Montenegro, as well as help for faster and safer movement on the European path with as few as possible mistakes. President Krivokapić concluded that Montenegro was historically orientated to great challenges. Regarding the amendments to the Constitution, he stated that the main part of the job was done, that the content of the constitutional amendments was agreed and that there were few things left to agree upon, with regard to guidelines of the Venice Commission.

Chair of the European Parliament Delegation for relations with Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Serbia, Montenegro and Kosovo Eduard Kukan congratulated Montenegro on its progress in the accession process. He stated that basic values should always be strengthened and pointed out to the areas which should be changed in the democratisation process, especially when it comes to the election process.

Within the discussion on the state of accession negotiations and relations between the European Union and Montenegro, the present were addressed by Vice President of the Government of Montenegro and Minister of Foreign Affairs and European Integration Igor Lukšić. He stated that Montenegro had been fulfilling obligations according to the planned dynamics, that it opened and temporarily closed two negotiation chapters, rounded the structure for negotiations and that adoption of action plans for the most vulnerable chapters was pending.

On behalf of Irish presidency over the Council of the European Union, Ambassador of the Republic of Ireland to Montenegro Kevin Dowling also spoke, saying that Montenegro achieved progress, especially regarding the work of the Parliament and reform of the administration system, but also that further efforts were necessary for strengthening judicial independence and administrative capacities.

On behalf of the European Commission, Head of the Unit for Croatia and Montenegro Dirk Lange addressed the participants, emphasising that Montenegro showed its firm commitment to the tasks set before it, and that the opening and closing of chapters 23 and 24 was the biggest challenge. He expressed hope that amendments to the Constitution would be adopted prior to opening of these two chapters. In addition, Lange expressed expectation that the screening process would be finished until June 2013, pointing out that all negotiation teams had been properly prepared and devoted to negotiations.

In the continuation of the meeting, MPs considered the progress of Montenegro compared with recommendations adopted on the previous SAPC meeting, as well as results in the field of fighting organised crime and corruption, including strengthening of the role of the Parliament in the process, legal framework and recent developments in media sector.

During the following day, the topic of the discussion was the recent presidential elections, including amendments to the electoral law and its application, as well as relation between the Eurozone and Montenegro and developments following financial crisis.

After a two-day work, the SAPC members adopted the Declaration and Recommendations confirming achieved progress in various areas within the association process of Montenegro to the EU, and identified areas in which additional effort needs to be invested in the following period, in order to fulfil the European standards, necessary for the full-fledged EU membership.

Following the meeting, President of the Parliament of Montenegro Ranko Krivokapić and Chair of the European Parliament Delegation for relations with Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Serbia, Montenegro and Kosovo Eduard Kukan held a press conference.

The Committee discussed the following topics:

- *Fight against organized crime and corruption, including strengthening the role of the Parliament of Montenegro in that process;*
- *Media sector – legal framework and latest developments;*
- *Recent elections – lessons learnt;*
- *The European Union, Euro-zone and Montenegro – developments after the financial crisis.*

The European Union – Montenegro Stabilisation and Association Parliamentary Committee (SAPC) was established in June 2010, following the entry into force of the Stabilisation and Association Agreement, with the aim of monitoring the implementation of the SAA.

Parliamentary Committee is composed of 14 members of the Parliament of Montenegro and European Parliament each, meeting twice a year in Podgorica and Brussels.

FROM THE HISTORY OF MONTENEGRIN PARLIAMENTARISM



LAW ON LOTTERY TICKET STAMP DUTY

16/26 June 1909

WE
NIKOLA I

By the grace of God
PRINCE AND SOVEREIGN OF MONTENEGRO
Announce and declare to everyone that
the National Assembly has decided and
we have confirmed and are confirming the
following:

LAW ON LOTTERY TICKET STAMP DUTY

Article 1

In Montenegro only lottery tickets, promissory notes etc. with previously obtained permission of the Ministry of Finance may be sold.

Selling and buying lottery tickets, promissory notes etc. with no previously obtained permission, must be done in no case, and shall entail for a buyer and a seller penalties envisaged in Article 5 of this Law.

Article 4

Each lottery ticket, promissory note etc., sold or

bought on the grounds of obtained permission, shall be subjected to paying of stamp duty, amounting 20% of the concerned lottery ticket value.

This stamp duty shall not be paid by institutions mentioned in the previous Article.

Article 5

Any person who sells in the country a lottery ticket, promissory note etc. with no permission obtained for it from the Ministry of Finance, shall be fined for the first time with 200, in the repeated case with 300, and each further case with 500 crowns.

Any person who buys such lottery tickets, promissory notes etc., shall be fined with the half of these fines.

If convicted person is not able to pay a fine with the half of his property, his fine shall be turned into prison sentence, calculating for each day five crowns.

Nikola, authentically signed

Cetinje, 16 June 1909

*From the Law on Lottery Ticket Stamp Duty,
1909*

Pavićević, B., Raspopović, R., eds. *Crnogorski zakonici 1796-1916, knj. IV (Montenegrin Codes, Book IV)*, Podgorica, Istorijски institut Crne Gore, 1998, p. 766-767.

FROM THE PARLIAMENTARY GALLERY

Srdan Vukčević: "For the wing of roses"

Since his first appearance on the art scene in the early eighties of the 20th century, Srdan Vukčević offered atypical and eccentric art model, based on a poetic vision of intimate spaces.

Art critics see him as a postmodernist, because his repertoire consists of apparently tangled stories and fragments of visual sentences, which usually calls for eighteenth century-old aesthetics and a delicate choice of motives. He stands out with his individual artistic expression and unique poetic of figuration, revived in his paintings, drawings, objects and installations. He lives and creates in Paris.



CALENDAR



3 April

- Chair of the Committee on Health, Labour and Social Welfare Zoran Jelić met with Head of the UNICEF Office to Montenegro Benjamin Perks. The common interests of the Committee on Health, Labour and Social Welfare and UNICEF were discussed at the meeting. On behalf of the Committee, Chair Zoran Jelić supported the projects which Perks announced that should be conducted in Montenegro, emphasising that he expected direct cooperation in that field with full support of the Committee, which would be beneficial for Montenegro and its citizens.

4 April

- Secretary General of the Parliament of Montenegro Damir Davidović, on the occasion of initiating the drafting of the Parliamentary Glossary, had a meeting with the members of the Working Group which is to work on this project. It is planned for the Parliamentary Glossary to be finished by the end of the year, and the Working Group for its drafting will consist of doc. Ivana Jelić, PhD, doc. Olivera Komar, PhD, doc. Igor Lakić, PhD and doc. Jelena Pralas, PhD, as well as employees of the Service of the Parliament of Montenegro.
- Chair of the Gender Equality Committee Nada Drobnjak received the representative of the Public Policy Institute Selena Tasić. The possibility of cooperation between the Gender Equality Committee and the Public Policy Institute was considered during the conversation, with special regard to gender mainstreaming of the security sector.
- Chair of the Security and Defence Committee Mevludin Nuhodžić met with Head of the OSCE Mission Democratisation Programme to Montenegro Lloyd Tudyk. The meeting was organised with the aim to

exchange ideas on possible forms of cooperation in the following period, primarily implementation of the plans and needs of the Security and Defence Committee.

5 April

- Members of the Committee on Economy, Finance and Budget met with the Delegation of the Budget Committee of the European Parliament. The meeting was attended by members of the Committee Zoran Jelić, Strahinja Bulajić, Srđan Milić, Milutin Đukanović, Zoran Vukčević, MP Zdenka Popović, as well as members of the European Parliament Salvador Garriga Polledo (Head of the Delegation), Theodor Dumitru Stolojan, Jan Kozłowski and Ivars Godmanis.
- Within implementation of the second phase of the project "Public Dialogue on Energy Efficiency in Montenegro", NGO "Civic Alliance" organised a three-day study visit to the Energy Community Secretariat in Vienna, with participation of the Committee on Economy, Finance and Budget members Aleksandar Damjanović, Almer Kalač and Mladen Bojanić. Participation in the study visit to the Energy Community Secretariat gave an opportunity to invited members of the Committee to become familiar with institutions of the Secretariat and its activities, and also, through exchange of opinions with Secretariat experts, to find out more on its work in the light of obligations which the Parliament of Montenegro has regarding the field of energy and energy efficiency.
- President of the Parliament of Montenegro Ranko Krivokapić received Head of monitoring mission of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (PACE) for monitoring presidential elections in Montenegro Christopher Chope and the delegation of PACE observers which will monitor presidential elections in Montenegro. Interlocutors expressed confidence that the elections would be held in a fair

PARLAMENTARY GLOSSARY

STATISM. "Statism (French *étatisme*) is a belief that government intervention is the most appropriate means for resolving political problems and promoting economic and social development. This view is based on deep or even unreserved belief in a state as mechanism for organisation of group action and meeting of common goals."¹

¹ Endru Hejvud, *Politika (Politics)*, Beograd, Clio 2004, p. 192

CALENDAR



and free atmosphere, and that the principle of democratic electoral process would be fulfilled to the greatest extent possible.

- President of the Parliament of Montenegro Ranko Krivokapić received the delegation of the European Parliament, composed of the Committee on Budget members, headed by MEP Salvador Garriga Polledo. Further parliamentary challenges in the negotiations phase were discussed, on occasion of which, President Krivokapić informed interlocutors on activities that were continuously conducted, so that the Parliament of Montenegro is institutionally prepared for new European obligations.

7 April

- President of the Parliament of Montenegro Ranko Krivokapić participated at the First Summit of Presidents of Parliaments of the Union for the Mediterranean, held in Marseilles. The Summit was opened by the President of the European Parliament and Chair of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Union for Mediterranean Martin Schulz. On the Summit margins, President Krivokapić met with President of the European Parliament Martin Schulz, Commissioner for Enlargement Štefan Füle and President of the Chamber of Deputies of the Romanian Parliament Valeriu Ștefan Zgonea. The Summit ended with the adoption of the Declaration by which the countries were invited to strengthen cooperation with the aim of promoting values of the Union for the Mediterranean.

8 April

- Chair of the Committee on Economy, Finance and Budget Aleksandar Damjanović met with the delegation of the International Monetary Fund (IMF), headed by Sami Yalaoutinen, Advisor for technical assistance issues in the Fiscal Affairs Department of the IMF. This is the IMF technical assistance mission to Montenegro, funded by the Government of Japan, through the Programme of Strengthening Fiscal Management in the South East Europe.
- Chair of the Gender Equality Committee Nada Drobnjak was a keynote speaker at the first National Conference "Forced and Arranged Marriages", held in Podgorica on the occasion of the International Day of Roma.
- President of the Parliament of Montenegro Ranko Krivokapić met with Head of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly Wolfgang Grossruck. Analysing the election day, interlocutors expressed belief that state authorities would, within their competences, eliminate possible

objections and remarks to the democratic quality of the presidential elections which had been held.

9 April

- President of the Parliament of Montenegro Ranko Krivokapić received the Chair of the Committee on the Affairs of the European Union of Bundestag Gunther Krichbaum. Further parliamentary challenges in the phase of the accession negotiation were discussed at the meeting and with regard to that, President Krivokapić informed the interlocutor on activities conducted in the Parliament of Montenegro aimed at its further institutional preparation for the new European obligations. The interlocutors assessed that it was very important to continue good and successful parliamentary and overall cooperation between Montenegro and Germany.



- Delegation of the Parliament of Montenegro to the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe held its first meeting in the 25th Convocation of the Parliament. The meeting was attended by Zoran Vukčević, Head of the Delegation and members of the Delegation Draginja Vuksanović, Predrag Sekulić and Damir Šehović. Following issues were discussed at the meeting: the Work Plan of the Delegation for 2013, the Proposal for the Rules of Procedure of the Delegation, adoption of the Performance Report of the Delegation from the PACE January session, introduction of the PACE Report on the work of national delegations, consideration of criteria for election of judges of the European Court on Human Rights, introduction with the possible changes of the PACE Monitoring System, observation of early parliamentary elections in Montenegro with Information from the meeting of representatives of MP Groups of the Parliament of Montenegro with the Head of the OSCE/ODIHR Mission held on 6 February 2013, activities between two sessions: Report on condition of gender equality – Paris, 8 March 2013 and Report on campaign "1 out of 5" – Berlin, 14 March 2013; preparations for Spring

CALENDAR



Session and current issues.

- Members of the Gender Equality Committee Nada Drobnjak, Ljerka Dragičević and Branka Tanasijević held a meeting with representatives of Roma and Egyptian women in Montenegro, where they spoke about social and economic position and education of Roma and Egyptian women in Montenegro, with the emphasis to arranged marriages.

10 April

- Vice President of the Parliament of Montenegro Suljo Mustafić met with the founder and President of the Rif Group, Paige Rif and Vice President of the Group, Bane Enis. Opinions on the current political affairs, as well as the role of the Parliament and political actors in the process of Euro-Atlantic integration of Montenegro were exchanged.
- Upon the invitation of the President of the Parliament of Montenegro Ranko Krivokapić, the Speaker of the Parliament of Iceland Ásta Jóhannesdóttir paid an official visit to Montenegro. President Krivokapić thanked her for the friendly relation that the Iceland had had with Montenegro, as well as the help that it offered in the European integration. During the visit the Speaker of the Parliament of Iceland Ásta Jóhannesdóttir also met with members of the Committee on International relations and Emigrants and members of the Committee on European Integration.

11 April

- The Ninth Plenary Session of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Union for the Mediterranean, chaired by Martin Schulz, President of the European Parliament, was held in Brussels. On behalf of the Parliament of Montenegro Miodrag Vuković, Chair of the Committee on International Relations and Emigrants participated at the Session.

12 April

- Chair of the Committee on Human Rights and Freedoms Halil Duković, Chair of the Committee on Education, Science, Culture and Sports Branka Tanasijević, representatives of the Government of Montenegro, NGOs, media, as well as members of the team that worked on research and drafting of the report on abuse of children via Internet, participated at the gathering held on the occasion of presentation of this Report, organized by the Institution of Protector of Human Rights and Freedoms of Montenegro.
- President of the Parliament of Montenegro Ranko

Krivokapić met with Head of the ODIHR Mission Boris Frlec. On that occasion, President Krivokapić thanked the ODIHR Mission for its presence during the presidential elections, emphasising that the presence of that mission was of an exceptional significance for improvement of democratic process in the state. Frlec thanked the representatives of all state institutions for their cooperation, pointing out that all complaints related to electoral process as well as allegations of irregularities should be resolved within the competent institutions.

- President of the Parliament of Montenegro Ranko Krivokapić opened the First Conference of the National Convention on the European Integration of Montenegro, NCEI 2013-2014, at which, in addition to President Krivokapić, also spoke Prime Minister of Montenegro Milo Đukanović, Head of the EU Delegation to Montenegro H.E. Mitja Drobnič and President of the European Movement in Montenegro Momčilo Radulović. After the introduction, speakers presented themes planned for sessions in 2013, within six working groups, whose members are representatives of the civil sector and public institutions of Montenegro. The project "National Convention on the European Integration of Montenegro" is dedicated to creating a synergetic effect of all social forces in Montenegro, with the aim to strengthen and multiply efforts for speeding up social, political and economic reforms within the European integration process. It is organised by the European Movement in Montenegro and the Slovak Association for Foreign Policy, with support of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Slovak Republic and the SlovakAid and with participation of the Parliament of Montenegro and the Government of Montenegro.



14 April

- President of the Parliament of Montenegro Ranko Krivokapić participated at the meeting of the OSCE Ad Hoc Committee on Reform and Transparency in Copenhagen, as member of this body. President Krivokapić met with Speaker of the Danish Parliament Mogens Lykketoft and also participated at the meeting of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly Bureau.

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18 April

- Vice President of the Parliament Suljo Mustafić and MP Almer Kalač stayed for several days in visit to Izmir, Turkey. Upon the invitation of the Association gathering Bosniak emigrants of Montenegrin origin, the visit was paid to the headquarters of this association, where Mustafić and Kalač were introduced to the activities of the association, which gathers many unions in the Aegean region. There was also a visit organised to the Izmir municipality Bornova which has a signed Twinning Charter with the Municipality of Bar in Montenegro, as well as Municipality of Buca, which started the town twinning process with the Municipality of Rožaje. Mustafić and Kalač were also the guests of the Mayor of Izmir, Aziz Kocaoğlu, on which occasion they spoke about the further promotion of cooperation of Montenegrin municipalities with Turkish municipalities. In the Chamber of Commerce of the Aegean region, they also spoke with the President Akim Kazancioğlu about the possibilities of promotion of economic cooperation in the field of tourism, trade, agriculture and transport. Mutual pleasure over the strengthening of relations of Montenegro and Turkey in political, economic, educational and scientific field was expressed and pointed to the need for further promotion of these relations.

19 April

- President of the Parliament of Montenegro Ranko Krivokapić held talks with Ivan Mrkić, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Serbia. Interlocutors agreed that economic relations of the two countries carried a great potential for the further development. In that context they talked about construction of the highway Bar-Boljare, as a project of common interest. Krivokapić and Mrkić pointed to the importance of stronger cooperation in the field of strengthening regional international framework.



22 April

- President of the Parliament of Montenegro Ranko Krivokapić, participated at the Conference of Speakers of the Parliaments of the EU, held in Nicosia. During the Conference, President Krivokapić had a series of bilateral meetings with presidents of parliaments of the EU Member States, including meeting with Vydas Gedvilas, Speaker of the Lithuanian Parliament. Also, President Krivokapić met with Josip Leko, Speaker of the Croatian Parliament.
- Delegation of the Parliament of Montenegro to the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe participated at the Spring Session, which was held from 22 to 26 April 2013 in Strasbourg. The focus of interest of the Spring Session was especially directed to the issue of protection of children from sexual and other types of abuse, and in that regard the following was considered: Draft Resolution on Fighting “child sex tourism”, Draft Resolution on Ending discrimination against Roma children, as well as the Draft Semi-Annual Report on the “One in Five” campaign, in which Montenegro also participates. Montenegrin Delegation at the Spring Session is headed by Zoran Vukčević, including MPs Draginja Vuksanović, Predrag Sekulić and Damir Šehović.

23 April

- President of the Parliament of Montenegro Ranko Krivokapić spoke at the closing of the conference “Progressive governments and parties in the Western Balkans”, held in Budva. President Krivokapić stated that Montenegro had always been successful in implementation of the clear European vision and emphasised that the joining of Montenegro into the EU must not come down to mere accession, but our country must bring an additional quality to the family of European countries. President Krivokapić concluded that in the future we must turn to the trade unions and the non-governmental sector; and that was the only way that we could achieve the victory unbound by the right-wing ideas.
- In organisation of the Human Resources Administration, NISPAcee Network and SlovakAid, in the Regional School for Public Administration in Danilovgrad, the closing conference of the Project “Building capacities in Montenegro for harmonisation of laws and other regulations with the EU legislation” was held on 23 April 2013. At the conference, the publication “Sharing selected Slovak experience with Montenegro for its EU accession process” was

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presented. The conference was attended by the representatives of the staff of the Committee on Economy, Finance and Budget, the Committee on Political System, Judiciary and Administration and the Committee on European Integration.

24 April

- The regional workshop “Overcoming challenges in implementation of the control function of parliamentary committees” was held in Bečići from 24 to 26 April. The regional workshop is part of the Western Balkans legislative strengthening initiative (WBLSI) of the National Democratic Institute (NDI), which helps parliaments in the region to strengthen their legislative, control and representative function. The workshop was attended by representatives and secretaries of committees from the parliaments of Montenegro, Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Kosovo, Macedonia, Serbia and Slovenia, with a view to exchange regional experience in implementation of oversight mechanisms by the committees. MP Marta Šćepanović introduced the participants of the workshop with the adopted Action Plan for Strengthening of the Legislative and Oversight Function of the Parliament of Montenegro in 2013, as well as with control mechanisms that are being used in the Parliament of Montenegro.

25 April

- President of the Parliament of Montenegro Ranko Krivokapić talked with Dirk Lange, Head of the Unit for Croatia and Montenegro of the Directorate General for Enlargement of the European Commission. Interlocutors talked about the current political situation in Montenegro and agreed that it was very important to establish a dialog between political actors in the state in the following period, for joint work on the issues crucial for further European development of Montenegro.

28 April

- Members of the Committee on Health, Labour and Social Welfare Zoran Srzentić and Ana Ponoš participated at the Meeting of Chairs of Employment, Enterprise, Innovation and Social Affairs Committees of EU Member States and the European Parliament. The meeting was organised within the parliamentary dimension of six-month Irish presidency over the EU

in Dublin, on 28 and 29 April. Within three sessions, strategies on prevention of youth unemployment, development of potential of small and medium enterprises and innovations in entrepreneurship were discussed.

29 April

- The sixth meeting of the EU – Montenegro Stabilisation and Association Parliamentary Committee (SAPC) was held on 29 and 30 April. President of the Parliament of Montenegro Ranko Krivokapić and Chair of the European Parliament Delegation for relations with Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Serbia, Montenegro and Kosovo Eduard Kukan co-presided the meeting. At the end of the meeting, Declaration and recommendations were adopted.



30 April

- MEP Ulrike Lunacek paid a visit to democracy workshops of the Parliament of Montenegro, where she talked with students of VIII-2 class of the Elementary school “Yugoslavia” from Bar. During the conversation, MEP Lunacek acquainted children with the following: work of the Parliament in working bodies and plenary session, difference in functioning between the European Parliament and national parliaments, importance of democracy and separation of powers, as well as role of the parliaments in the democratic process.

