



Parliament of Montenegro

NEWSLETTER OPEN PARLIAMENT

Newsletter on the Parliament of Montenegro Performance ♦ No. 29 ♦ July 2013

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OPEN PARLIAMENT



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Newsletter on the Parliament of Montenegro Performance ♦ Electronic format ♦ Release: monthly ♦ Year III ♦ No. 29 ♦ July 2013

FOREWORD

Dear readers,

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

In July, the Parliament adopted 30 laws, Amendments I to XVI to the Constitution of Montenegro and the Constitutional Law for Implementation of Amendments I to XVI to the Constitution of Montenegro. At the session held on 10 July, Damir Davidović was unanimously reappointed Secretary General of the Parliament of Montenegro. The committees considered 23 proposals for law and proposals of other legal acts. Furthermore, they considered numerous reports and held other activities within their oversight role.

In focus of this month's newsletter is the election of President of the Parliament of Montenegro Ranko Krivokapić for President of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly. The election for OSCE PA President was held at the 22nd Annual Session of the OSCE PA, in Istanbul from 29 June to 3 July 2013.

The newsletter is published monthly as a part of the "Open Parliament" programme, within which the Parliament endeavours to bring its work closer to Montenegrin citizens. We consider this publication to be very significant as a reliable source of information regarding the 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 Eighth Sitting of the First Ordinary Session of the Parliament of Montenegro in 2013, the following laws were adopted: the Law on Amendments to the Law on Internal Affairs, the Law on Amendments to the Law on the Prevention of Drug Abuse, the Law on Consumer Loans, the Law on Social Housing, the Law on Tax on Turnover of Real Estate, the Law on Protection from the Non-ionising Radiation, the Law on Amendments to the Law on Trade Union Representation, the Law on Amendments to the Law on Protection of Citizens of Montenegro Working Abroad, the Law on Amendments to the Law on Sports, the Law on Amendments to the Law on Contracts on Transport in Road Traffic, the Law on Amendments to the Law on International Legal Aid in Criminal Matters, the Law on Amendments to the Law on State and Other Holidays, the Law on Ratification of the Consular Convention between Montenegro and the Republic of Serbia, the Law on Ratification of the Protocol on Amendments to the TRIPS Agreement (Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights), the Law on Ratification of the Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, the Law on Ratification of the Memorandum on Legal and Judicial Guarantees against Unlawful Processing of Personal Data, the Law on Ratification of the Optional Protocol on Communication Procedures to the Convention on the Rights of the Child, the Law on Ratification of the Convention on the Law of Non-navigational Uses of International Watercourses,

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the Law on Amendments to the Law on Spatial Planning and Construction and the Law on Amendments to the Criminal Code.

The Parliament also adopted the Report on the Personal Data Protection in Montenegro for 2012, the Annual 2012 Performance Report of the Central Bank of Montenegro, with the following: 2012 Financial Report of the Central Bank of Montenegro, Opinion of the Independent External Auditor and the 2012 Report on the Stability of the Financial System and Price Stability, and the Conclusions of the Committee on Economy, Finance and Budget regarding the 2012 Performance Report of the Commission for Concessions of Montenegro.

Within item "Elections and Appointments", Damir Davidović was unanimously reappointed Secretary General of the Parliament of Montenegro. MP Goran Tuponja was elected member of the Committee on Health, Labour and Social Welfare. Feriha Muratović was elected Basic Public Prosecutor in Ulcinj.

At the Tenth Sitting of the First Ordinary Session of the Parliament of Montenegro in 2013, the following laws were adopted: the Law on Electronic Communications, the Law on Amendments to the General Law on Education, the Law on Amendments to the Law on Primary Education, the Law on Amendments to the Law on Vocational Education, the Law on Amendments to the Law on Gymnasium, the Law on Amendments to the Law on State Border Control, the Law on Amendments to the Law on Travel Documents, the Law on Amendments to the Excise Law, the Law on Amendments to the Law on Pension and Disability Insurance and the Law on Amnesty of Persons Convicted of Criminal Offences Prescribed by Montenegrin Law and Persons Convicted by Foreign Criminal Judgments which are Executed in Montenegro.

The Parliament also adopted the 2012 Performance Report of the Commission for Prevention of Conflict of Interests.

Under the item of the agenda "Elections and Appointments", MPs Branko Radulović and Borislav Banović were elected representatives of the Parliament of Montenegro in the Senate of the Old Royal Capital. Additionally, Milan Dabović was appointed Head of the State Audit Institution, while Nikola Kovačević was appointed member of the State Audit Institution.

At the Twelfth Sitting of the First Ordinary Session of the Parliament of Montenegro in 2013, the following was adopted: Amendments I to XVI to the Constitution of Montenegro and the Constitutional Law for Implementation of Amendments I to XVI to the Constitution of Montenegro.

At the Thirteenth Sitting of the First Ordinary Session of the Parliament of Montenegro in 2013,

MPs were informed with the Technical Report of the Inquiry Committee for the purpose of collecting information and facts on the events relating to the work of state authorities regarding publishing of audio recordings and transcripts from the meetings of DPS authorities and bodies.

At the Fourteenth Sitting of the First Ordinary Session of the Parliament of Montenegro in 2013, within one item on the agenda "Elections and Appointments", MP Darko Pajović was elected member of the Security and Defence Committee instead of MP Zoran Miljanić, thus the First Ordinary (Spring) Session of the Parliament of Montenegro was completed.

Prime Minister's Hour and Parliamentary Questions

At the Eleventh (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 Prime Minister of Montenegro Milo Đukanović and ministers in the Government. The Prime Minister was asked six questions, while ministers were asked 40 questions and one additional.

Proposals for laws deliberated in committees

- **Proposal for a Law on Amendments to the General Law on Education** was considered and proposed to the Parliament for adoption by the Committee on Education, Science, Culture and Sports and the Legislative Committee. It was also considered by the Gender Equality Committee in part of its competences, which proposed to the Committee on Education, Science, Culture and Sports, as the lead committee, to propose it to the Parliament for adoption.
- **Proposal for a Law on Amendments to the Law on Primary Education** was considered and proposed to the Parliament for adoption by the Committee on Education, Science, Culture and Sports and the Legislative Committee. It was also considered by the Gender Equality Committee in part of its competences, which proposed to the Committee on Education, Science, Culture and Sports, as the lead committee, to propose it to the Parliament for adoption.
- **Proposal for a Law on Amendments to the Law on Gymnasium** was considered and proposed to the Parliament for adoption by the Committee on Education, Science, Culture and Sports and the Legislative Committee. The proposal was also considered by the Gender Equality Committee in part of its competences, which proposed to the Committee on Education, Science, Culture and Sports, as the lead committee, to propose it to the

Parliament for adoption.

- **Proposal for a Law on Amendments to the Law on Vocational Education** was considered and proposed to the Parliament for adoption by the Committee on Education, Science, Culture and Sports and the Legislative Committee. The proposal was also considered by the Gender Equality Committee in part of its competences, which proposed to the Committee on Education, Science, Culture and Sports, as the lead committee, to propose it to the Parliament for adoption.
- **Proposal for a Law on Higher Education** was considered and proposed to the Parliament for adoption by the Committee on Education, Science, Culture and Sports and Gender Equality Committee. The proposal was also considered by the Legislative Committee, but it did not obtain necessary majority.
- **Proposal for a Law on Electronic Communications** was considered and proposed to the Parliament for adoption by the Legislative Committee.
- **Proposal for a Law on Amendments to the Law on Pension and Disability Insurance** was considered and proposed to the Parliament for adoption by the Legislative Committee and the Committee on Health, Labour and Social Welfare.
- **Proposal for a Law on Amendments to the Law on Value Added Tax** was considered and proposed to the Parliament for adoption by the Committee on Economy, Finance and Budget. The proposal was considered also by the Legislative Committee, but was not supported by the required majority.
- **Proposal for a Law on the Protection of the Natural and Cultural-Historical Area of Kotor** was considered and proposed to the Parliament for adoption by Committee on Education, Science, Culture and Sports.
- **Proposal for a Law on Communal Police** was considered and proposed to the Parliament for adoption by the Committee on Political System, Judiciary and Administration.
- **Proposal for a Law on Amnesty of Persons Convicted of Criminal Offences Prescribed by Montenegrin Legislation and Persons Convicted by Foreign Criminal Judgements which are Executed in Montenegro** was considered and proposed to the Parliament for adoption by the Committee on Political System, Judiciary and Administration and the Legislative Committee.
- **Proposal for a Law on Amendments to the Law on Travel Documents** was considered and proposed to the Parliament for adoption by the Committee on Political System, Judiciary and Administration and the Legislative Committee.
- **Proposal for a Law on Amendments to the Law on National Awards** was considered by the Committee on Political System, Judiciary and Administration, which did not support it.
- **Proposal for a Law on Amendments to the Law on National Awards** was considered by the Committee on Political System, Judiciary and Administration, which did not support it.
- **Proposal for a Law on Amendments to the Law on Pension and Disability Insurance** was considered and proposed to the Parliament for adoption by the Committee on Health, Labour and Social Welfare and the Legislative Committee.
- **Proposal for a Law on Blood Provision** was considered and proposed to the Parliament for adoption by the Committee on Health, Labour and Social Welfare.
- **Proposal for a Law on Amendments to the Law on State Border Control** was considered and proposed to the Parliament for adoption by the Security and Defence Committee and the Legislative Committee.
- **Proposal for a Law on Ratification of the Agreement between the Government of Montenegro and the Government of the Republic of Serbia on Readmission (return and admission) of Persons Whose Entry or Stay is Illegal**, with Implementation Protocol was considered and proposed to the Parliament for adoption by the Legislative Committee.
- **Proposal for a Law on Ratification of the Agreement between the Government of Montenegro and the Government of the Republic of Turkey on Readmission (return and admission) of Persons Whose Entry or Stay is Illegal** was considered and proposed to the Parliament for adoption by the Legislative Committee.
- **Proposal for a Law on Ratification of the Convention on Reduction of Statelessness** was considered and proposed to the Parliament for adoption by the Legislative Committee.
- **Proposal for a Law on Ratification of the Final Acts of the World Radio Communication Conference (WRC-07)** was considered and proposed to the Parliament for adoption by the Legislative Committee.
- **Proposal for a Law on Amendments to the Excise Law** was considered and proposed to the Parliament for adoption by the Legislative Committee and the Committee on Economy, Finance and Budget.
- **Proposal for a Law on Amendments to the Budget Law of Montenegro for 2013** was considered and proposed to the Parliament for adoption by the Legislative Committee. It was also considered, but not supported by the Committee on Economy, Finance and Budget.

Proposals for other acts deliberated in committees

- **Proposal for Amendments to the Constitution of Montenegro** was determined by the Constitutional Committee.

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- **Proposal for a Decision on Amendments to the Rules of Procedure of the Parliament of Montenegro** was considered and proposed to the Parliament for adoption by the Committee on Political System, Judiciary and Administration.
- **Proposal for a Decision on Appointment of President and one member of Senate of the State Audit Institution** was determined by the Administrative Committee.
- **Proposal for a Decision on Special Advisors in the Parliament of Montenegro** was determined by the Administrative Committee.
- **Proposal for a Decision on the Type and Procedure of Awarding a Civil Servant or a State Employee of the Service of the Parliament of Montenegro** was determined by the Administrative Committee.
- **Proposal for a Rulebook on Advertising Vacancies in the Service of the Parliament of Montenegro** was determined by the Administrative Committee.
- **Proposal for a Rulebook on Type of Aptitude Test during Filling Vacancies and the Manner of Access to Documents of the Advertisement in the Service of the Parliament of Montenegro** was determined by the Administrative Committee.
- **Proposal for a Rulebook on Contents, Manner of Preparation and Adopting, as well as Methodology of Drafting a Special Programme of Vocational Training of the Service of the Parliament of Montenegro** was determined by the Administrative Committee.
- **Proposal for a Rulebook on Criteria and Manner of Evaluation of Civil Servants and State Employees in the Parliament of Montenegro** was determined by the Administrative Committee.

Other activities of working bodies

- At the thirteenth meeting of the **Constitutional Committee**, held on 10 July, the work on constitutional amendments was continued. After the harmonisation and corrections of certain provisions, the Constitutional Committee established the Proposal for Amendments to the Constitution of Montenegro – Amendments I to XVI to the Constitution of Montenegro. At the fourteenth meeting held on 26 July, the Constitutional Committee established the Proposal for Constitutional Law for Implementation of Amendments I to XVI to the Constitution of Montenegro. At this meeting, proposals for changes in certain solutions of the Proposal of Amendments were made, and some of them were accepted.
- At the nineteenth meeting of the **Committee on Political System, Judiciary and Administration** held on 8 July, the 2012 Performance Report of the Commission for Prevention of Conflict of Interest was supported. At the twentieth meeting held on 18 July,

the Committee supported the Committee Report with Proposal for Conclusions regarding consideration of the 2012 Annual Report of the Judicial Council on Performance of Courts in Montenegro. The Committee unanimously supported the Initiative for holding of control hearing of Minister of Interior Raško Konjević and Minister of Finance Radoje Žugić on the topic: “Local Self-Governments Operation Analysis”. At the 21st meeting held on 23 July, the Committee supported the Report of the Committee with Proposals for Conclusions on the occasion of consideration of the 2012 Annual Performance Report of the Supreme State Prosecutor of Montenegro on the State Prosecutor's Office as well as the Committee Report with Proposal of Conclusions regarding consideration of the 2012 Annual Performance Report of the Judicial Council. At the 22nd meeting held on 30 July, the Committee unanimously made a decision for holding of a consultative hearing on providing independence of councils and local authorities in charge of legal offences through changes in the legal framework, in part relating to appointment and dismissal from duty of a judge for legal offences, which would be held at the joint meeting with the Anti-Corruption Committee.

- The eleventh meeting of the **Security and Defence Committee** started on 22 July. At the first continuation of the meeting, held on 25 July, MPs considered the Information on the state of security on the territory of Municipality Bar.
- The **Committee on International Relations and Emigrants**, at the twelfth meeting held on 26 July, gave a positive opinion on the Proposal for appointment of Ambassador Milan Begović for the position of Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary Ambassador to the Republic of Romania on residential basis and to the Republic of Moldova on non-residential basis.
- At the sixth meeting of the **Committee on European Integration** held on 24 July, Proposal for Resolution on Manner, Quality and Dynamics of the Integration Process of Montenegro to the European Union was presented. Vice President of the Parliament of Montenegro and Head of the Working Group which had been working on drafting the Proposal for Resolution Branko Radulović presented the composition and activities of the Working Group. Having in mind that the Committee members were particularly interested in the document and expressed their wish to contribute to its improvement, the meeting was adjourned, in order to provide additional time for considering guidelines from the Proposal of the Resolution. In the continuation of the meeting, on 25 July, Svetlana Rajković, member of the Negotiating Group in charge of Chapters 23 and 24 and Branka Lakočević, Head

of the Working Group for Chapter 23 presented the previous activities within the Negotiation Chapter 23 – Judiciary and Fundamental Rights. With regard to that, MPs considered the Action Plan for concerned chapter, where special attention is paid to commitments aimed at implementation of measures which have resulted from the European Commission recommendations. Regarding the consideration of the Proposal for Resolution on Manner, Quality and Dynamics of the Integration Process of Montenegro to the European Union, Committee members unanimously decided to submit a request to the Collegium of the President of the Parliament of Montenegro, to define the attitude towards the possibility of changing and harmonising the text of the Proposal for Resolution. In addition, the Semi-annual Performance Report of the Committee was adopted at the meeting. During the second continuation of the sixth meeting, held on 30 July, Secretary of the Negotiating Group Milivoje Jurišić presented procedures for adopting negotiation documents, both on national and the EU level. Head of the Working Group for Chapter 24 – Justice, Freedom and Security Dragan Pejanović presented the Action Plan to Committee members, pointing out that all suggestions of the European Commission and EUROPOL were accepted, in the manner that the recommendations were elaborated through definition of activities with specific implementation deadlines. Additionally, it was stated that the Proposal for Resolution on Manner, Quality and Dynamics of the Integration Process of Montenegro to the European Union would be considered during the fall session of the Parliament of Montenegro.

- At the seventeenth meeting on 3 July, the **Committee on Economy, Finance and Budget** held the control hearing of the acting Supreme Public Prosecutor Veselin Vučković, for the purpose of collecting information on the possible existence of illegal operations and violation of the interest of the state, regarding the current problem of supplying the Aluminium Plant Podgorica (KAP) with electrical energy. Representatives of the Supreme Public Prosecutor's Office notified the Committee that the Prosecutor's Office was in the stage of collecting information and evidence in regard to this issue, and that they would timely notify the public on their findings. At the nineteenth meeting held on 12 July, the Committee considered the level of implementation of eight out of ten conclusions adopted by the Parliament of Montenegro of the 25th Convocation, at the Third Sitting of the Second Regular Session in 2012, regarding consideration of the Proposal of the 2013 Budget Law. At the 20th meeting on 16 July, the Committee decided to propose to the Parliament for adoption the 2012 Report on the state of energy sector of Montenegro

and got acquainted with the 2012 Performance Report of the Council for Financial Stability. Also, MPs agreed to determine the proposal for conclusions regarding consideration of the 2012 Performance Report of the Central Bank of Montenegro and the 2012 Performance Report of the Commission for Concessions at the next meeting. At the 21st meeting held on 26 July, the Committee determined the Request for allocation of budgetary resources to the State Audit Institution in the 2014 Budget Law of Montenegro. The Committee decided to propose to the Parliament for adoption five conclusions which concern the 2012 Performance Report of the Commission for Concessions. The Committee considered the Proposal for conclusions made by MP Aleksandar Damjanović, with regard to the 2012 Performance Report of the Central Bank of Montenegro and got acquainted with the Proposal for conclusions made by MP Damir Šehović. It was agreed that amendments would be made by the beginning of the 22nd meeting, when the Committee would determine the final text of the conclusions. Also, the Committee determined the Proposal for a Law on Energy. The Committee considered and unanimously supported the Report on Use of the Funds of the Parliament for the period 1 January – 30 June 2013, also containing the Report on Public Procurement for the same period. At the 22nd meeting held on 30 July, the Committee considered and did not support two proposals for conclusions in regard to considering the 2012 Performance Report of the Central Bank of Montenegro.

- The **Committee on Human Rights and Freedoms**, at the fourteenth meeting held on 17 July, reached a Decision on control hearing of the Coordinator of the Coordination Committee for Monitoring of the Implementation of Strategy for Permanently Resolving the Issue of Displaced and Internally Displaced Persons, with special regard to the Camp Konik I and II, Minister of Labour and Social Welfare Predrag Bošković. Also, the Committee considered numerous reports, informative papers and strategies. The Committee considered and accepted the Report of the Protector of Human Rights and Freedoms of Montenegro on Protection against Discrimination, Information on Implementation of the Strategy for Improving the Position of Roma and Egyptian population in Montenegro in 2012 and the Information on Realisation of the Strategy for Improvement of the Position of LGBT Persons for 2013-2018. Also, the Committee accepted the 2012 Performance Report of the Centre for Preservation and Development of Culture of Minorities of Montenegro, assessing that funds allocated to the Fund were disproportionate with its tasks relating to promotion of minority cultures and protection of their identity. The Committee decided to adopt conclusions

which would be submitted to the Collegium of the President of the Parliament of Montenegro and the Ministry for Human and Minority Rights.

- At the tenth meeting held on 23 July, the **Gender Equality Committee**, within other topics, was informed about the organisation of the first public walk of LGBT persons in Montenegro, SeaSide Pride, and sent a support letter to the organisers. At the eleventh meeting, held on 24 July, the guest was Rose Sar, an expert in the UNDP HQ in New York, who spoke about the importance of gendering of social and economic policies and about frameworks for working on policy gendering and women empowerment. The Committee was informed about the implementation of the Gender Equality Programme IPA 2010, which has been implemented in Montenegro jointly by Ministry for Human and Minority Rights – Gender Equality Department and the EU Delegation to Montenegro. The Committee and the UNDP representative agreed to cooperate on realisation of the remaining activities of the Programme.
- At the eleventh meeting held on 2 July, the **Committee on Health, Labour and Social Welfare** received the information on the visit of Chair of the Committee Zoran Jelić and the Committee service to the Catholic Spiritual Centre “Sanctae Crucis” in Sukuruć. Chair of the Committee informed the MPs about the initiative of the Institute Alternative that the Committee on Economy, Finance and Budget and the Committee on Health, Labour and Social Welfare hold a joint consultative hearing on public procurement in the health care sector. The Chair stated that, according to the Rules of Procedure of the Parliament of Montenegro, only MPs may launch an initiative and if they wish to do so, they may do it in accordance with the Rules of Procedure of the Parliament of Montenegro. At the twelfth meeting held on 3 July, initiative for holding of consultative hearing on public procurement in the health sector was not supported with required majority by the Committee. At the thirteenth meeting held on 9 July, Chair of the Committee informed the members on the letter the Committee had received from the Association of Gaming and Betting Operators “Montenegro Bet”: VAT in games of chance. Members of the Committee got acquainted with the request for urgent intervention with regard to implementation of the Law on Amendments to the Law on Value Added Tax. Also, the Committee decided to hold a thematic meeting on the topic of voluntary blood donation in mid-July, during the Parliament sitting. At the fifteenth meeting held on 24 July, members of the Committee unanimously supported the initiative for holding of a control hearing on public procurement in the health sector. Committee members proposed the hearing of the following: Minister of Health Miodrag Radunović, Director of

the Health Fund Kenan Hrapović, Director of Clinical Hospital Centre (KBC) of Montenegro Milan Mijović, as well as Director of Montefarm Budimir Stanišić. Upon proposal of the Chair of the Committee Zoran Jelić, the control hearing would also include Director of Public Procurement Administration Mersad Mujević. The hearing would be held in late September or early October 2013. At the sixteenth meeting held on 25 July, Committee held a thematic meeting with the WHO, on the occasion of consideration of the Proposal for a Law on Blood Provision.



- At the sixth meeting of the **Anti-Corruption Committee** held on 24 July, which was attended by Duško Marković, Vice President of the Government and Minister of Justice, action plans of the Government for Chapters 23 and 24 in the part of judiciary, fight against corruption and fight against organised crime were considered. Within the current issues, MPs considered an initiative of the NGO MANS, for providing the independence of councils and local offices for offences through the change of legislative framework, in the part relating to the appointment and dismissing of judges for offences, proposal for holding control hearing in line with Article 12 of the Decision on Amendments to the Rules of Procedure of the Parliament of Montenegro, as well as the letter of the Secretary General of the Parliament of Montenegro by which the note of the Deputy Prime Minister was forwarded, relating to membership of the Chair of the Anti-corruption Committee in the National Commission for Implementation of the Strategy for Fight against Corruption and Organised Crime.
- At the fourth meeting on 18 July, the **Commission for Monitoring and Control of the Privatisation Procedure** started the discussion on the control of the privatisation procedure of HTP “Vektra Boka” Herceg Novi. MPs agreed to continue the discussion on privatisation procedure of this company at the next meeting. Election of the Vice Chair of the Committee was also deferred. At the fifth meeting held on 29 July, discussion on the control of privatisation procedure of HTP “Vektra Boka” Herceg Novi was continued. In addition to Commission members, the following participated in the discussion: Member of the Privatisation and Capital Projects Council Branko Vujović, Secretary of the Secretariat

for Development Projects Nebojša Popović, Owner of “Vektra Montenegro” Dragan Brković, Chair of the Board of Directors of “Vektra Boka” Milić Popović, President of the Trade Union of “Vektra Boka” Vojin Miljanić and MP of the Parliament of Montenegro, councillor of the local authorities in Herceg Novi and Chair of the Commission for Monitoring Privatisation Procedure and its Influence on Social Status of Citizens of Herceg Novi, Obrad Gojković.

- At the eleventh meeting held on 9 July, the **Administrative Committee** held a consultative hearing of candidates for appointing one member of the Senate of State Audit Institution. The Committee members stated that biographies of the candidates were respectable and that each one of them can be worthy of the responsible function such as being a member of the State Audit Institution Senate. At the twelfth meeting held on 11 July, the Committee established the Proposal for a Decision on Appointing the President and a Member of the Senate of State Audit Institution. The Committee elected Milan Dabović as President of the Senate of State Audit Institution and Nikola Kovačević as a Member of the Senate. Continuing the tenth meeting on 26 July, with regard to two requests from the Basic State Prosecution in Nikšić – to give approval for criminal proceedings against MP Veljko Vasiljević, for prolonged criminal act (Particular cases of counterfeiting documents) and MP Janko Vučinić, for criminal act (Extortion), the Committee decided to propose to the Parliament of Montenegro not to give the approval for criminal proceedings. The Committee also decided not to give the approval to MP Radoslav Nišavić to perform additional work, due to lack of jurisdiction over this matter. Furthermore, the Committee got acquainted with the Objection towards the work and manner of deciding in the Committee, which had been submitted by Milan-Mano Kastratović, one of the candidates for Member of the State Audit Institution Senate, as well as with “Analysis of legal solutions defining manner of participation and election of NGO members in the bodies appointed by the Parliament of Montenegro”, submitted by the NGO Civil Alliance. At the fourteenth meeting held on 31 July, the Committee gave consent to the Rulebook on Organisation and Systematisation of the Parliamentary Service, with commitment to propose no later than 1 December 2013 changes in the part relating to categorisation of the proposed working positions in the working bodies of the Parliament of Montenegro. Secretary General of the Parliament of Montenegro Damir Davidović participated in the work of the meeting as the proposer of the act. Upon the proposal of Vice President of the Parliament of Montenegro Branko Radulović, the Committee dismissed from duty an advisor to the Vice President of the Parliament of

Montenegro Đorđije Malović and appointed Jovana Duković at the said position. Also, upon the proposal of President of the Parliament Ranko Krivokapić, the Committee decided to appoint Anđela Radunović as advisor to the President of the Parliament of Montenegro. Upon the request of the MP Group “Positive Montenegro”, MP Zoran Miljanić was dismissed from duty of member of the Security and Defence Committee and Anti-Corruption Committee. MP Darko Pajović was proposed as a member of the Security and Defence Committee, while MP Mladen Bojović was proposed as a member of the Anti-Corruption Committee. In continuation of the consideration of the Proposal of the Commission for Prevention of Conflict of Interests for initiating the procedure for dismissal, suspension or disciplinary measures against Basri Lika, member of the Steering Committee of the Fund for Protection and Exercising of Minority Rights, the Committee got acquainted with the Information of Basri Lika on reasons for non-accomplishing the obligation to submit the Report on income and property within 30 days from the date of appointment to public office. The Committee decided to inform the Commission for Prevention of Conflict of Interests with the Information, and to decide on it afterwards.

- At the seventh meeting of the **Inquiry Committee for the Purpose of Collecting Information and Facts on the Events Relating to the Work of State Authorities regarding Publishing of Audio Recordings and Transcripts from the Meetings of DPS Authorities and Bodies**, held on 5 July, Budimir Dabetić i Jovan Martinović gave their statements. At the eighth meeting held on 10 July, Minister of Sustainable Development and Tourism Branimir Gvozdenović gave a statement, after which the meeting was adjourned. In accordance with the Article 13 of the Law on Parliamentary Inquiry, Boro Lazović and Slavoljub Stijepović gave their statements before the Inquiry Committee during the ninth meeting, held on 11 July. In continuation of the eighth meeting on 17 July, Tarzan Milošević, Political Director of the Democratic Party of Socialists, gave his statement. At the eleventh meeting, on 18 July, Miomir Mugoša, Mayor of Podgorica, and Vladan Vučelić, Head of the Municipal Board of DPS, gave their statements. At the tenth meeting of the Committee, Prime Minister of Montenegro and President of the Democratic Party of Socialists Milo Đukanović gave his statement. Twelfth meeting of the Inquiry Committee held on 29 July was adjourned after the agenda was unanimously established: consideration and adoption of the Report and consideration and adoption of the conclusions and recommendations of the Inquiry Committee. At the twelfth meeting held on 31 July, the Inquiry Committee decided to submit the Technical Report on its work to the Parliament of Montenegro.

NEWS FROM PARLIAMENT



The first visit of co-rapporteurs of the PACE Monitoring Committee to Montenegro

The visit of Nursuna Memecan and Kimmo Sasi, co-rapporteurs of the Monitoring Committee of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, the first of that kind to Montenegro was held from 8 to 10 July 2013. Montenegro is in the process of two-year monitoring by the Council of Europe and this is one of the two planned visits of co-rapporteurs of the PACE to Montenegro during 2013, in July and October.

The occasion for the first out of two planned visits of co-rapporteurs to Montenegro was establishing facts and monitoring activities undertaken in order to implement recommendations included in the PACE Resolution 1890 (2012) "Compliance with the duties and obligations of Montenegro", adopted on 27 June 2012. The Resolution 1890 defined basic obligations and guidelines which Montenegro should follow in the following period, as well as activities and measures it should undertake in order to promote democratic processes and values.

On the first day of the visit, co-rapporteurs were hosted by President of the Parliament of Montenegro Ranko Krivokapić. Discussing about the constitutional amendments, President Krivokapić informed the interlocutors about the additional opinion that the Venice Commission had extended to the Parliament, as well as about the readiness of all political subjects to work in order to reach a consensus on constitutional amendments within the scheduled timeline. President Krivokapić also informed his interlocutors on forming of new parliamentary committees, as well as about the work of the Inquiry Committee.

During the first day of the visit, numerous meetings were held with representatives of parliamentary groups in the Parliament of Montenegro, as well as with Halil Duković, Chair of the Committee on Human Rights and Freedoms and Ljiljana Đurašković, Vice Chair of the Committee. Additionally, Delegation of the Parliament of Montenegro to the PACE met with the co-rapporteurs at the working lunch, hosted by Head of Delegation Zoran Vukčević. During the second day of the visit, apart from meetings with representatives of judiciary, prosecution and other government officials, co-rapporteurs met with Koča Pavlović, Chair of the Inquiry Committee, Milutin Simović, Vice Chair of the Committee and Co-Chair of the Working Group for Building Trust in the Electoral Process and Srđan Milić, Co-Chair of the Working Group for Building Trust in the Electoral Process.

Topics of conversation at the meetings in the Parliament of Montenegro included the key areas

which are in the focus of interest of the monitoring procedure: ending judiciary reform and amending the Constitution; capacity of political parties to reach the necessary compromise; ensuring that the rights of all minorities, including LGBT persons, are respected and implemented; the situation of Roma, Ashkali and Egyptians; combating corruption and organised crime and strengthening oversight bodies, situation in the media and safe working environment for the journalists; legal status of displaced and internally displaced persons, as well as finding a permanent solution for them, based on the voluntary return or local integration.

On the occasion of ending the first monitoring visit to Montenegro, Head of Delegation of the Parliament of Montenegro to PACE Zoran Vukčević and co-rapporteurs of the PACE Monitoring Committee Nursuna Memecan and Kimmo Sasi held a press conference on 10 July 2013.

In his opening speech at the conference, Head of Delegation of the Parliament of Montenegro to PACE Zoran Vukčević stated that in accordance with the recommendations from the Resolution, Montenegro is actively orientated toward the judiciary reform and constitutional amendments, as well as the promotion of conditions for ensuring that the rights of all minorities, including LGBT persons and members of RAE population, are respected and implemented. In the Resolution 1890 (2012) PACE defined the obligation of combating corruption and organised crime, strengthening the oversight bodies, as well as promotion of conditions in the field of media and working environment of journalists. Head of Delegation of the Parliament of Montenegro to PACE added that special attention is paid to resolving the legal status of displaced and internally displaced persons, as well as finding a permanent solution for their situation.

PACE co-rapporteur Nursuna Memecan thanked all the subjects with whom they had been cooperating in the previous period in preparation and implementation of the visit, for both positive and constructive cooperation, citing that everyone had shown readiness and dedication to improvement of situation in the field of democracy and the rule of law. With regard to the independence of the judiciary, she pointed out that some positive steps had been made in that direction, deeming as very important the adoption of the constitutional amendments, which would allow for greater independence of judiciary. She assessed that this would increase not only the independence of judiciary, but also the citizens' perception of justice,

which would promote the economy, attract foreign investments and, either directly or indirectly, have a positive impact on the citizens' quality of life. She emphasised that the consensus and clear aspiration of Montenegro for the EU membership were encouraging.

Co-rapporteur of the PACE Monitoring Committee Kimmo Sasi urged all the subjects to adopt the amendments to the Constitution of Montenegro in order to be able to guarantee the independence of judiciary, in accordance with the Venice Commission recommendations, which is a very significant step on Montenegro's path to the EU. With regard to the respect of minority rights, he assessed that the situation had improved, but the efforts in that field should be continued, which would be monitored by the co-rapporteurs, with special emphasis on the Pride Parade, which is to be held the next autumn. With regard to combating corruption and organised crime, he stated that it was very important for the authorities to combat these phenomena, for which mechanisms exist. Addressing the journalists, Sasi stated that they know better than he does about the situation in the media. Sasi commended Montenegro's progress in defining the legal status of displaced and internally displaced persons, and pointed out that it was necessary for them to have their identity and personal documents. He deemed very significant the establishment of the Working Group for Building Trust in the Election Process, and commended the excellent cooperation between members of the Working Group. He highlighted two things that need to be ensured,

relating the accuracy of voter registers and transparency in funding the political parties and electoral campaigns. With appreciation for Montenegro's readiness to work on these issues, he assessed that progress had been achieved, but what remained to be seen was how the constitutional and other on-going reforms would end.

Co-rapporteur of the PACE Monitoring Committee Kimmo Sasi highlighted five key issues that are the determinants on the road map of Montenegro for exiting the monitoring stage:

- ending judiciary reform and amending the Constitution;
- respecting the rights of minorities, including the rights of LGBT persons, as well as improving the situation of the Roma, Ashkali and Egyptians;
- combating corruption and organised crime and strengthening oversight bodies;
- improving situation in the media and working environment for the journalists, and
- legal status of displaced and internally displaced persons, as well as finding a permanent solution for them, based on their voluntary return or local integration.

He stated that, apart from these five key areas, in light of the recently held parliamentary and presidential elections in Montenegro, another area of monitoring within this visit was added, which relates to the electoral process.

Alexandra Cas-Granje in official visit to the Parliament of Montenegro

Director for Montenegro, Macedonia, Turkey and Iceland in the DG Enlargement of the European Commission Alexandra Cas-Granje officially visited the Parliament of Montenegro on 22 and 23 July.

During her visit to Montenegro, Ms Granje spoke with President of the Parliament of Montenegro Ranko Krivokapić, Chair of the Inquiry Committee Koča Pavlović, Deputy Chair of the Inquiry Committee and Co-Chair of the Working Group for Building Trust in the Electoral Process Milutin Simović and Co-Chair of the Working Group for Building Trust in the Electoral Process Srđan Milić.

President of the Parliament of Montenegro Ranko Krivokapić and Alexandra Cas-Granje spoke about the current political and economic situation in Montenegro, progress in the field of the rule of law, as well as the process of European integration. President Krivokapić informed Ms Cas-Granje on the conclusions of the Parliament regarding establishing of the Working Group for Building Trust in the Election Process, opening of the parliamentary inquiry regarding the affair „Recording“, and the work on adopting the constitutional amendments. He pointed out that actual

progress was reported in each of these important topics and emphasised that the Proposal for Amendments to the Constitution gained support of the Constitutional Committee, and that the Parliament would finally vote on amendments to the Constitution on 31 July.



At the meeting with Alexandra Cas-Granje, Chair of the Inquiry Committee Koča Pavlović and Vice Chair Milutin Simović informed the guest about the Decision of the Parliament of Montenegro to open a parliamentary inquiry and establish the Inquiry Committee for the purpose of collecting information and facts on the events relating to the work of state authorities regarding publishing of audio recordings

and transcripts from the meetings of DPS authorities and bodies. They pointed out that the task of the Committee was to collect information, take statements and collect all relevant documents by the state authorities and responsible officials of the Democratic Party of Socialists, on the basis of which facts on the subject of parliamentary investigation could be determined. The Committee was obliged to prepare a report and submit it to the Parliament for adoption, no later than seven days since the date of closing the inquiry.

Co-Chairs of the Working Group for Building Trust in the Electoral Process Milutin Simović and Srđan Milić met Ms Cas-Granje with the scope of work which the Working Group should realise and with activities undertaken so far. They pointed out that meetings of the Working Group have a positive atmosphere and work dynamics, characterised by openness, constructiveness and responsibility. They dedicated a significant part of the meeting to constitutional amendments and their significance for further democratic processes in

Montenegro. Co-Chair Simović expressed his optimism when it comes to constitutional amendments, while Co-Chair Milić emphasised that his party would intervene on the proposed amendments, by proposing changes in certain solutions. They would also inform the EU Delegation to Montenegro on the proposed changes.



The meeting of Director Cas-Granje with the Co-Chairs of the Working Group for Building Trust in the Electoral Process was also attended by Ambassador Mitja Drobnič, Head of the EU Delegation to Montenegro.

President of the Parliament of Montenegro Ranko Krivokapić paid an official visit to the Republic of Serbia

President of the Parliament of Montenegro Ranko Krivokapić paid an official visit to the Republic of Serbia on 11 and 12 July, upon the invitation of the Speaker of the National Assembly of the Republic of Serbia Nebojša Stefanović.

On the first day of his visit, President Krivokapić held a speech at the special sitting of the National Assembly, scheduled in his honour by the Speaker Stefanović. President Krivokapić addressed the MPs as President of the Parliament of Montenegro and President of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly. The speech was preceded by the meeting between Mr Krivokapić and Mr Stefanović, during which the quality cooperation between the two parliaments was highlighted, resulting, inter alia, in strong support from the Serbian delegation in the OSCE PA to the candidacy of President Krivokapić for the OSCE PA President. The possibility of strengthened cooperation between the two parliaments in the field of exchange of experience relating to negotiation process with the EU and harmonisation of national legislation with the EU law was particularly stressed at the meeting.



President Krivokapić also held talks with Prime Minister of the Republic of Serbia Ivica Dačić. It was

concluded that Montenegro and Serbia, besides common historical ties, were also linked by economic cooperation, which could be additionally intensified in the following period. Interlocutors emphasised the significance of joint infrastructure projects which would, apart from connecting two states, make Montenegro and Serbia more attractive destinations for foreign tourists and investors as well.

On the second day of his visit to the Republic of Serbia, President Krivokapić held a meeting with the Delegation of Serbia to the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly and Head of the OSCE Mission in Serbia Peter Burkhard. The topic of conversation was the cooperation of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly and OSCE missions. The interlocutors concluded that there was a need for a more active communication between the delegations of the national parliaments and OSCE missions in their countries, but also for the increase of work visibility of the parliamentary dimension of OSCE.

In light of celebration of the Statehood Day on 13 July, President Krivokapić also held meetings with representatives of Montenegrin emigrants, gathered around Montenegrin associations in Belgrade and Lovćenac. Representatives of Montenegrin emigrants informed President Krivokapić about the news from the field of their activities, particularly about activities of collecting signatures necessary for founding the Montenegrin Minority National Council in the Republic of Serbia. President Krivokapić pointed out that the special emotion Montenegrins feel for their homeland in Serbia was recognisable and that emotion should be used for the glory of Montenegro and as assistance to Serbia where they live.

IN FOCUS



President of the Parliament of Montenegro Ranko Krivokapić elected President of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly

The 22nd Annual Session of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly, held in Istanbul from 29 June to 3 July 2013, gathered parliamentary delegations from 57 OSCE member states. At the Plenary Session held on 3 June, Ranko Krivokapić, President of the Parliament of Montenegro and Head of Delegation of the Parliament of Montenegro to OSCE PA, was elected OSCE PA President. The OSCE PA President was elected on one-year mandate, with possibility of re-election. The other candidate for the position was Kent Härstedt, member of the Delegation of the Kingdom of Sweden to OSCE PA. After election of President Krivokapić, six vice presidents were elected.



Apart from that, at the Plenary Session held on 3 July, the Istanbul Declaration was unanimously adopted, integrating 6 resolutions and additional items, along with general resolutions of three general committees.

The Plenary Session was preceded by numerous activities, where Delegation of the Parliament of Montenegro also participated, composed of President of the Parliament Ranko Krivokapić, Head of Delegation, and MPs Milutin Simović and Goran Danilović.

Marking the forthcoming 40th anniversary of signing of the final Helsinki Act, topic of this year's Session was "Helsinki + 40", within which parliamentarians discussed about key challenges that the Parliamentary Assembly and the whole OSCE will face in the following period, with emphasis on existing crisis areas and frozen conflicts in the OSCE area.

On the first day of the Session, meeting of the Standing Committee, Inaugural Session and Plenary Session were held. At the meeting of the Standing Committee, parliamentarians supported the

Resolution on Enhancing Trust, Transparency and Accountability within the OSCE Institutions, and referred 19 resolutions and additional items for consideration to the competent committees, while five resolutions were referred to the Plenary Session for consideration. The proposal of budget for 2013/14 was also supported, and it was increased by 4.9%, compared to the previous budgetary year.

At the Plenary Session, parliamentarians were addressed by President of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly Wolfgang Grossruck, OSCE Secretary General Lamberto Zannier, Speaker of the Grand National Assembly of Turkey Cemil Çiçek, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine Leonid Kozhara, Special Representative on Gender Issues of the OSCE PA Hedy Fry and Head of the Delegation of Turkey to OSCE PA Emin Onen.

During their address to the parliamentarians, interlocutors agreed that representatives of the national parliaments need to be more active, if they want to have a strong role in the international community. Furthermore, agreement was reached regarding the need to promote parliamentary, but also the intergovernmental cooperation. Speaker of the Grand National Assembly of Turkey Cemil Çiçek spoke about the need to combat racism and xenophobia, as the priorities of OSCE, but also about cyber safety and humanitarian crisis in Syria.

The second day of the Session was marked by meetings of the three general committees: Committee on Political Affairs and Security, Committee on Economic Affairs, Science, Technology and Environment and Committee on Democracy, Human Rights and Humanitarian Questions. Meetings of the three general committees were characterised by an intense discussion on the amendments to the proposed resolutions and additional items that deal with issues within the jurisdiction of these committees.

During the third day of OSCE PA Session, parliamentarians continued discussing about resolutions and other issues at the meetings of general committees.

General committees finished the discussion and voted on amendments to 26 resolutions and additional items on the fourth day. Also, they elected new leadership – chairs, vice chairs and rapporteurs

for one-year mandate. Afterwards, Plenary Session was held, during which four resolutions were adopted: Resolution on Freedom of the Media, Resolution on the Humanitarian Crisis in Syria, Resolution on Intercountry Adoptions and Resolution on Trafficking Victim Watchfulness: Planes, Trains, Buses and Hotels. At this session, election of new leadership of general committees was confirmed, as well as candidatures for election of OSCE PA president and six vice presidents.



During the Parliamentary Assembly, President Krivokapić met with the host, Speaker of the Grand National Assembly of Turkey Cemil Çiçek, with whom he exchanged views on bilateral relations of the two countries, with particular focus on parliamentary cooperation. The presidents stated that Montenegro-Turkey relations are intensive and of good quality. Along with good political relations and parliamentary cooperation, significant economic cooperation is present as well.

President Krivokapić also spoke with the OSCE Secretary General Lamberto Zannier, with whom he exchanged views on current cooperation between Montenegro and OSCE, which has given significant support to our country in all stages of its democratic development. During the Annual Session, President Krivokapić also met Kayrat Mami, Speaker of the Senate of Kazakhstan and David Usupashvili, Speaker of the Parliament of Georgia.

The OSCE Parliamentary Assembly is constituted at the Paris Summit in 1990, with the aim to promote higher level of participation of national parliaments in the OSCE structures, and since then it has become an active and valuable member of OSCE family.

Election of the OSCE PA President is regulated by the OSCE PA Rules of Procedure. The President is elected by secret ballot and each member entitled to vote may cast one vote. The voting method used is the second ballot voting system. If on the first ballot, no candidate has obtained an absolute majority of the votes cast, a second ballot is held between the two candidates who obtain the most votes in the first round. The candidate who obtains the most votes on the second ballot is elected. In the event of a tie, the election is decided by lot. The President is elected for one-year term and may be re-elected only once.

The OSCE PA President is the highest representative of the Parliamentary Assembly. He convenes and presides over meetings of the Assembly; maintains order and ensures observance of the Rules of Procedure. His duty is also to initiate and undertake contacts and dialogue, as well as participate in meetings and fora which would promote the aims and policies of the Assembly.

PARLIAMENTARY GLOSSARY

CONSTITUTION. “Generally speaking, the constitution is a set of rules, written or unwritten, which determine the duties, authorities and functions of the various institutions of government, their mutual relations, as well as relations between the state and the individual. The balance between the written (legal) and unwritten (customary or traditional) rules differ from system to system. The term constitution is also used in the narrow sense, which marks the highest single document (“written” constitution), which aims to codify the most important constitutional provisions; it is the supreme law of the country. Considering that all the most important terms cannot be contained in one document, the Constitution does not completely overlap the constitutional law.”¹

¹ Endru Hejvud, *Politika (Politics)*, Beograd, Clio 2004, p. 543

FROM THE HISTORY OF MONTENEGRIN PARLIAMENTARISM



LAW ON ORGANISATION OF THE GENERAL STATE AUDIT INSTITUTION

Ascension Day 1901

WE
NIKOLA I
By the grace of God
PRINCE AND SOVEREIGN OF MONTENEGRO
Adopting the proposal of Our State Council,
decided to order and we are ordering this

LAW on ORGANISATION OF THE GENERAL STATE AUDIT INSTITUTION

CHAPTER I COMPOSITION OF THE GENERAL AUDIT INSTITUTION

Article 1

The General State Audit Institution is in charge of reviewing all government accounts.

Article 2

The General Audit Institution has a president and two members. They are appointed by the princely decree.

Article 3

The President and members of the General Audit Institution cannot be relatives and shall take the prescribed oath.

CHAPTER TWO SCOPE OF WORK OF THE GENERAL AUDIT INSTITUTION

Article 6

The General Audit Institution reviews, corrects and liquidates the general administration bills. It controls that no expenditure in the budget is exceeded and that no sum is transferred from one party to another.

CHAPTER III SUBMISSION OF ACCOUNTS TO THE GENERAL AUDIT INSTITUTION FOR REVIEW

Article 8

All who are accountable are obliged to conclude their accounts at the end of the budget year and to submit them to the General Audit Institution for review by the end of January.

Cetinje, on the Ascension Day, 1901

Nikola, handwritten signature

From the Law on Organisation of the General State Audit Institution, Cetinje 1901.

Pavičević, B., Raspopović, R., eds. *Crnogorski zakonici 1796-1916*, knj. IV (*Montenegrin Codes 1796-1916*, Book IV), Podgorica, Istorijski institut Crne Gore, 1998, pp. 539

FROM THE PARLIAMENT'S GALLERY

Dragan Karadžić: "Unbreakable"

The works of academic Dragan Karadžić, of which the drawing is the main feature, are defined by: structure, symbolism, imagination, sensibility and personal opinion, regardless of whether he is occupied by the structure of stone slabs, soil and horizon, or pictorial alphabet and old scripts. His work is characterised by associative, lyrical and abstract treatment of the landscape, although painter believes that in creativity, allusiveness is more important than associations, because of the need for freedom in work, as an important part of the creative process.

Art critics rank highly his exceptional contribution to Montenegrin painting of the 20th century, through the modernisation and globalisation of local features, and above all the Mediterranean landscapes.



CALENDAR



1 July

- Members of the Security and Defence Committee: Borislav Banović, Luid Ljubo Škrelja, Vasilije Lalošević, Velizar Kaluđerović, Predrag Bulatović, Andrija Mandić and Zoran Miljanić participated in the Seminar in Garmisch-Partenkirchen, Germany from 1 to 2 July. The topics included responsibility of parliaments toward the citizens, European Union and European Security and Defence Policy, as well as key issues in NATO and the accession process. The MPs had the opportunity to speak with experts and lecturers from the Marshall Centre, on the topics relevant to Montenegro on its path to European and Euro-Atlantic integration.



- Chair of the Committee on Health, Labour and Social Welfare Zoran Jelić held a meeting with the experts of WHO and Protector of Human Rights and Freedoms of Montenegro, in the premises of Ombudsman. The Chair of the Committee proposed an urgent convening of the Committee, for a thematic meeting, so that the Parliament of Montenegro could get acquainted with the WHO mission. In accordance with the signed Two-Year Agreement of Cooperation for 2012-2013 between Montenegro and WHO, activities are being realised in Montenegro, and they are focused on policy of finance in health care, particularly on mitigation of negative effects of the financial crisis in the health sector and provision of financial arrangements harmonised with priorities of health care and public health. The meeting was aimed at raising awareness on social determinants of health and examining current relations and coordinated efforts between the health care sector and other sectors, with a view to reduce social inequalities, implement measures of inclusive growth and promote health level of the population.

- Chair of the Committee on International Relations and Emigrants Miodrag Vuković, upon the invitation of the Chair of the Foreign Affairs Committee of the European Parliament, attended the extraordinary meeting of that Committee, organised on the occasion of Croatia's EU accession. At the meeting of the Committee, attended by MPs from the countries of the region, opinions were exchanged on accession of the Western Balkans countries to the EU.

2 July

- MP Genci Nimanbegu met American alumni of the Marshall Memorial Programme. The meeting was also attended by the Programme Coordinator and Executive Director of the Centre for Civic Education Daliborka Uljarević. Marshall Memorial Fellowship Programme exists over thirty years within the German Marshall Fund and enables new leaders from the United States of America and Europe to explore societies, institutions and people from the other side of the Atlantic Ocean. Six years ago, this programme became available to Western Balkans countries.
- Members of the Committee on Political System, Judiciary and Administration participated at the meeting organised by German Organisation for International Cooperation (GIZ), on 2 and 3 July. The goal of the meeting was a presentation of the project "Legal reform", for potential establishment of permanent regional network of judiciary institutions, within the Open Regional Fund for South East Europe. On behalf of the Committee, the meeting was attended by MPs Snežana Jonica, Deputy Chair of the Committee, and Husnija Šabović, member of the Committee.

3 July

- President of the Parliament of Montenegro and Head of Montenegrin Delegation to the OSCE PA Ranko Krivokapić was elected OSCE PA President. The candidates for the OSCE PA President were President Krivokapić and member of the Delegation of Sweden to OSCE PA Kent Harstedt. The Delegation of the Parliament of Montenegro participated at the 22nd Annual Session of the OSCE PA, composing of: President of the Parliament of Montenegro and Head of Delegation Ranko Krivokapić and standing members MPs Milutin Simović and Goran Danilović.

Newsletter 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 newsletter is edited by the Service of the Parliament.

CALENDAR



4 July

- Vice President of the Parliament of Montenegro Željko Šturanović met with Head of European Affairs Department of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Netherlands Jean-Pierre Kempeneers. The interlocutors paid special attention to the constitutional amendments, expressing expectations that they would be adopted in the following period, in order to create further conditions for additional ensuring of an independent and autonomous role of judiciary, and starting primarily from the opinions and suggestions of the Venice Commission.
- Members of the Committee on Economy, Finance and Budget attended the First meeting of parliamentarians of member states of the Energy Community, held in Vienna, organised by the Secretariat of Energy Community and the Regional Cooperation Council. Delegation of the Committee on Economy, Finance and Budget consisted of MPs Aleksandar Damjanović, Filip Vuković, Mladen Bojanić and Almer Kalač. Topics of the meeting were priorities of the Energy Community in respect of harmonisation of member states' legislation with the EU acquis. Additionally, the meeting covered topics such as: social dimension of the Energy Community, rational use of renewable energy sources, regulation of electric energy and gas and directive on fuel supplies.
- Service of the Parliament of Montenegro welcomed President of the Parliament of Montenegro Ranko Krivokapić, on the occasion of his election for OSCE PA President. In the address to the President, employees of the Parliament stated that his election for the OSCE PA President was a victory of freedom loving Montenegro, the Montenegrin Parliament, the Delegation of the Parliament and his own victory.

5 July

- Members of the Committee on International Relations and Emigrants participated in the meeting of foreign affairs committees of parliaments of Montenegro, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia and Serbia, held in the National Assembly of the Republic of Serbia. This meeting is a continuation of the meetings held in Zagreb and Sarajevo, aimed at exchange of views on possible establishing of the regional initiative, which would, primarily, gather parliamentarians from the regional countries. On behalf of the Committee, MPs Žana Filipović, Vasilije

Lalošević and Mićo Orlandić attended the meeting.

- The Working Group for Building Trust in the Electoral Process held its third meeting, where MPs discussed about the Law on Electoral Registers. Upon invitation, the meeting was attended by Minister of Interior Raško Konjević, Minister for Information Society and Telecommunications Vujica Lazović, as well as representatives of NGOs: Dragan Koprivica from the Center for Democratic Transition, Vuk Maraš from the Network for Affirmation of NGO Sector and Vladimir Dedović from the Center for Monitoring and Research.

8 July

- From 8 to 10 July, co-rapporteurs of the Monitoring Committee of the Parliamentary Assembly of Council of Europe Kimmo Sasi and Nursuna Memecan paid an official visit to Montenegro. On the first day of their visit, they were received by President of the Parliament of Montenegro Ranko Krivokapić. After that, they met with representatives of parliamentary groups in the Parliament of Montenegro, also with Halil Duković, Chair of the Committee on Human Rights and Freedoms, Ljiljana Đurašković, Vice Chair of the Committee, Koča Pavlović, Chair of the Inquiry Committee, Milutin Simović, Vice Chair of the Committee and Co-Chair of the Working Group for Building Trust in the Electoral Process and Srđan Milić, Co-Chair of the Working Group for Building Trust in the Electoral Process. Furthermore, Delegation of the Parliament of Montenegro to the PACE met with the co-rapporteurs at the working lunch. On the occasion of ending the first monitoring visit to Montenegro, Head of Delegation of the Parliament of Montenegro to PACE Zoran Vukčević and co-rapporteurs of the PACE Monitoring Committee Nursuna Memecan and Kimmo Sasi held a press conference on 10 July 2013.
- Within parliamentary dimension of the Lithuanian presidency over the EU, the Meeting of chairs of parliamentary committees for Union affairs of parliaments of the European Union (COSAC) was held in Vilnius. MP Jovan Martinović, member of the Committee on European Integration, participated at the meeting.
- Chair of the Gender Equality Committee Nada Drobnjak was a keynote speaker at the Regional conference organised by the European Movement in Montenegro, within the implementation of the

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project “Improving women’s socio-economic rights in Montenegro”. One of the panellists at the Conference on the topic “The Role of the Parliament in achieving the objectives” was MP Snežana Jonica. During the Conference, experts from Montenegro and region had presentations, in order to exchange views in the gender equality field, especially in its economic aspect.

9 July

- In the continuation of the third meeting of the Working Group for Building Trust in the Electoral Process, topic of the discussion was the analysis of submitted proposals for amendments to the Law on Electoral Registers. A subgroup was formed which will deal exclusively with setting the rules in this law.



11 July

- Upon invitation of the host, Speaker of the National Assembly of the Republic of Serbia Nebojša Stefanović, President of the Parliament of Montenegro Ranko Krivokapić paid an official visit to the Republic of Serbia on 11 and 12 July. President Krivokapić held a speech at the extraordinary sitting of the National Assembly, scheduled in his honour by the Speaker Stefanović. The speech was preceded by the meeting between Krivokapić and Stefanović, during which the quality cooperation between the two parliaments was highlighted, resulting, inter alia, in strong support of Serbian Delegation to the OSCE PA for the candidacy of Krivokapić for the OSCE PA President. President Krivokapić also held talks with the Prime Minister of the Government of Serbia Ivica Dačić in Belgrade. On the second day of the official visit, President Krivokapić held a meeting with the Delegation of the Republic of Serbia to the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly and Head of OSCE Mission in Serbia Peter Burkhard. In light of celebrating the Statehood Day

on 13 July, President Krivokapić also held meetings with representatives of Montenegrin emigrants, gathered around Montenegrin associations in Belgrade and Lovćenac.

12 July

- Vice President of the Parliament of Montenegro Suljo Mustafić presented the 13 July Award to this year’s winners of the highest state recognition in Villa “Gorica”. The awards were presented to the following winners: political scientist Radule Knežević, for books “Politička kultura” (Political Culture) and “Politička teorija anarhizma” (Political Theory of Anarchism); writer Ilija Lakušić, for his four poetic novels “Bitka na tastaturi” (Battle on the Keyboard), “Ljubio sam život kao da je moj” (I Kissed Life as though It Had Been Mine), “Mala noćna lirika” (A Little Night Lyrics) and “Dva Petra” (Two Peters); and writer and literary critic Gojko Čelebić, for his books “Vjetrenjače Evrope” (The Windmills of Europe) and “Dostojevski i Zapad” (Dostoyevsky and the West).
- Members of the Working Group for Building Trust in the Electoral Process visited the Ministry of Interior. Activities and duties of the Ministry in regard to managing several databases were presented. Special part of the visit was devoted to presenting the managing of electoral registers and unified central electoral register, given by representatives of the Ministry for Information Society and Telecommunications. The visit is a part of activities dedicated to further strengthening of confidence in the electoral process, and it was realised upon the invitation of Raško Konjević, Minister of Interior and Vujica Lazović, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Information Society and Telecommunications.

16 July

- President of the Parliament of Montenegro Ranko Krivokapić held talks with Minister of European and Euro-Atlantic Integration of Georgia Alex Petriashvili. The topic of the conversation was the current political moment in cooperation of Montenegro and Georgia, with special emphasis on common aspirations for EU and NATO membership. Both states are currently in the phase of harmonisation of their legislations with EU law and both states participate in the NATO Alliance missions. The interlocutors pointed out that Georgia may have multiple benefits from sharing

CALENDAR



19 July

experiences with Montenegro, and voiced hope that both states would get clear signals at the next NATO Summit. President Krivokapić, as President of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly, was interested in the upcoming presidential elections in Georgia, which should be held in autumn.

- Chair of the Security and Defence Committee Mevludin Nuhodžić met with Minister on European and Euro-Atlantic Integration of Georgia Alex Petriashvili. At the meeting, they spoke about past results and aspirations of Montenegro and Georgia in the process of European and Euro-Atlantic integration, implementation of communication strategies, participation of soldiers in peace missions, as well as about support of the public in integration processes of both countries. The interlocutors deemed as important further promotion and sharing of experiences on the path towards European and Euro-Atlantic integration, and expressed beliefs that positive assessments on the progress of both countries on their path of implementation of foreign policy priorities would be presented at the next NATO summit.



18 July

- President of the Parliament of Montenegro Ranko Krivokapić spoke with H.E. Hana Hubáčková, Ambassador of the Czech Republic to Montenegro. The interlocutors estimated that the relations between Montenegro and Czech Republic are good, adding that there is room for improvement in the field of economic cooperation, and especially in the field of energy, protection of the environment and transport.
- The Working Group for Building Trust in the Electoral Process started its fourth meeting, which was dedicated to the discussion on Law on Registries of Permanent and Temporary Residence. MPs also discussed about the recent visit of the Working Group to the Ministry of Interior and issues related to the Law on Electoral Registers.

- President of the Parliament of Montenegro Ranko Krivokapić received in farewell visit the Ambassador of Kuwait to Montenegro Fawzi Al-Jasem. President Krivokapić thanked Al-Jasem on his previous engagement and work on improving relations between Montenegro and Kuwait. The topic of the conversation was the parliamentary cooperation between the two countries, and with regard to that the establishment of parliamentary friendship groups. The interlocutors also talked about possibilities for improving economic cooperation between Montenegro and Kuwait.
- Round table on the topic “Perspectives of production and processing of aluminium in the region” was held in the Parliament of Montenegro, with the aim of highlighting the importance of survival and development of the aluminium industry in Montenegro and the region. The round table was opened by President of the Parliament of Montenegro Ranko Krivokapić, while Vice President of the Parliament Branko Radulović moderated the work of the round table. The event was attended by the vice presidents of the Parliament of Montenegro, heads of MP Groups and MPs of the Parliament of Montenegro, Deputy Prime Minister for Economic Policy and Financial System, Minister of Economy, representative of the Ministry of Finance, representatives of the academic community, as well as guests from Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, and Serbia – representatives of the leading aluminium production plants in the region and Europe, in the field of production and processing of aluminium. The current situation in the aluminium industry of Montenegro and the region was considered at the round table. Analysing the experience of guests from the region, whose companies are prominent and highly ranked in the field of production and processing of aluminium in the region and Europe, interlocutors concluded that they should work on survival of aluminium industry and strengthening of regional cooperation that would be profitable both for producers of aluminium and companies engaged in the processing of aluminium, with maintenance of a healthy competitiveness.
- President of the Parliament of Montenegro Ranko Krivokapić held talks with Minister of Justice of the Republic of Slovakia Tomáš Borec. President Krivokapić thanked to the Republic of Slovakia for the help in the field of European integration, noting that

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it was very important for small countries such as Montenegro to have good friends in Brussels, who knew Montenegro and its opportunities well. The interlocutors emphasised the importance of cooperation relating the exchange of experiences in the field of negotiation chapters 23 and 24, noting that maturity of young democracies is acquired by establishing the rule of law. Talking about the current economic situation in Montenegro, President Krivokapić pointed out that the rule of law was being tested on its viability in the field of economy, which the European Union required from Montenegro, as an indicator of readiness for law implementation.

- Two-day seminar on gender equality for MPs of the Parliament of Montenegro was organised jointly by the Gender Equality Committee and OSCE Mission to Montenegro – Democratisation Department, on 19 and 20 July 2013, in Bar. The seminar was organised with the aim to improve the gender equality aspects of the Parliament's work. Chair of the Gender Equality Committee Nada Drobnjak and Deputy Head of the OSCE Mission to Montenegro Waldemar Figaj were keynote speakers at the seminar. Experts of OSCE/ODHIR Andreea Vesa and Kristin van der Leest were lecturers at the seminar. The following were panel topics at the seminar: Introduction to Gender Equality: Terminology, Why the Gender Equality is Important for the Parliament, Women, Peace and Security, Political Participation of Women, Parliamentary Mechanisms for Gender Equality and Strengthening of Inter-Party Cooperation in the field of Gender Equality.

22 July

- President of the Parliament of Montenegro Ranko Krivokapić spoke with Alexandra Cas-Granje, Director for Montenegro, Macedonia, Turkey and Iceland in the Directorate General of the European Commission for Enlargement. Krivokapić and Cas-Granje spoke about the current political and economic situation in Montenegro, progress in the field of the rule of law, as well as the EU integration process. President Krivokapić informed Ms Cas-Granje on the conclusions of the Parliament regarding establishing of the Working Group for Building Trust in the Electoral Process, opening of the parliamentary inquiry regarding the affair „Recording“, and the work on adopting the constitutional amendments. He pointed out that actual progress was reported in

each of these important topics and emphasised that the Proposal for Amendments to the Constitution gained support of the Constitutional Committee, and that the Parliament would finally vote on amendments to the Constitution on 31 July.

- President of the Parliament of Montenegro and President of the OSCE PA Ranko Krivokapić met with the OSCE PA Secretary General Spencer Oliver. President Krivokapić and Mr Oliver discussed about the plan of the activities of the Parliamentary Assembly for the following period, with special emphasis on forthcoming autumn session of the OSCE PA, which will be hosted by the Parliament of Montenegro in October, in Budva. The interlocutors agreed that the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly proved to be the institution crucially important for implementation of parliamentary diplomacy, as a mechanism for democratisation, but also as protector of human rights in all their respects.

23 July

- Chair of the Inquiry Committee for the Purpose of Collecting Information and Facts on the Events Relating to the Work of State Authorities regarding Publishing of Audio Recordings and Transcripts from the Meetings of DPS Authorities and Bodies Koča Pavlović and Deputy Chair of the Inquiry Committee Milutin Simović met with Alexandra Cas-Granje, Director for Montenegro, Macedonia, Turkey and Iceland in the Directorate General of the European Commission for Enlargement. They informed the guest about the Decision of the Parliament of Montenegro to open a parliamentary inquiry and establish the Inquiry Committee. On this occasion, they pointed out that the task of the Committee was to collect information, take statements and collect all relevant documents from the state authorities and responsible officials of the Democratic Party of Socialists, on the basis of which facts on the subject of parliamentary investigation could be determined. The Committee was obliged to prepare a report and submit it to the Parliament for adoption, no later than seven days since the date of closing the inquiry.
- Co-Chairs of the Working Group for Building Trust in the Electoral Process Milutin Simović and Srđan Milić spoke with Alexandra Cas-Granje, Director for Montenegro, Macedonia, Turkey and Iceland to the Directorate General of the European Commission for

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Enlargement. Co-Chairs informed Cas-Granje on the scope of work that needed to be implemented by the Working Group, as well as activities implemented so far. They pointed out the positive ambiance and work dynamics at the Working Group meetings, characterised by openness, constructiveness, and responsibility. Meeting was also attended by Ambassador Mitja Drobnič, Head of the EU Delegation to Montenegro.

24 July

- Advisor for Public Relations to the President of the Parliament of Montenegro Snežana Burzan, as delegate of the President Krivokapić, attended the Pride Parade, held in Budva. Chair of the Committee on Human Rights and Freedoms Halil Duković also participated in the first public walk of LGBT persons.

25 July

- President of the Parliament of Montenegro Ranko Krivokapić received in farewell visit Ambassador of Hungary to Montenegro Tibor Császár. Krivokapić thanked Császár for his previous engagement in Montenegro, stating that he contributed to excellent cooperation between Montenegro and Hungary. President Krivokapić thanked for the help which Hungary provided to Montenegro in the process of European integration from the very beginning, thus providing immeasurable contribution to further development of Montenegro. In the conversation with Krivokapić, Császár stated that Hungary would continue in the future to be a partner to Montenegro.
- President of the Parliament of Montenegro Ranko Krivokapić spoke with Minister of Justice of the Italian Republic Anna Maria Cancellieri. President Krivokapić and Minister Cancellieri assessed that relations between the two countries are good and that there is room for further improvement of cooperation in numerous fields, particularly in the field of strengthening rule of law. President Krivokapić emphasised that the Parliament of Montenegro dedicates special attention to strengthening the mechanisms of its control role, and that the process resulted in numerous control hearings of representatives of the executive power before the parliamentary committees. Ms Cancellieri assessed as very positive the progress in the parliamentary work and the active role of the Parliament of Montenegro

in developing mechanisms of parliamentary oversight.

- Within the Annual Consultations of Montenegrin Ambassadors abroad, held on 25 and 26 July in Podgorica, Chair of the Committee on International Relations and Emigrants Miodrag Vuković spoke with the ambassadors of Montenegro on the topic of parliamentary diplomacy, the competences of the newly formed Committee on International Relations and Emigrants, cooperation with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and European Integration, experiences of promotion of parliamentary policy of Montenegro via our embassies, as well as the issues of establishing and promoting cooperation between the Committee and emigrants from Montenegro.

29 July

- The Working Group for Building Trust in the Electoral Process held its fifth meeting. In addition to members of the Working Group and representatives of NGOs participating in its work, the meeting was attended by representatives of the Union of Municipalities of Montenegro. The meeting was marked by the discussion on the Law on Electoral Registers through dilemmas, suggestions and possible recommendations. Representatives of the Union of Municipalities of Montenegro stated their positions regarding the proposal on centralising the management of voter registers.
- Basic Public Prosecutor in Ulcinj Feriha Muratović took an oath before President of the Parliament of Montenegro Ranko Krivokapić, before assuming the office.

30 July

- President of the Parliament of Montenegro Ranko Krivokapić made a press statement, on the occasion of marking 10 years since his entry into office of the President of the Parliament of Montenegro.

31 July

- Following the Twelfth Sitting of the First Ordinary Session of the Parliament of Montenegro, President of the Parliament of Montenegro Ranko Krivokapić and Head of the EU Delegation to Montenegro Ambassador Mitja Drobnič spoke to the press, on the occasion of adoption of amendments to the Constitution of Montenegro.

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