



Parliament of Montenegro

NEWSLETTER OPEN PARLIAMENT

Newsletter on the Parliament of Montenegro Performance ♦ No. 30 ♦ August and September 2013

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OPEN PARLIAMENT



Parliament of Montenegro

Newsletter on the Parliament of Montenegro Performance ♦ Electronic format ♦ Release: monthly ♦ Year III ♦ No. 30 ♦ August and September 2013

FOREWORD

Dear readers,

The key information on activities of the Parliament of Montenegro from 1 August to 30 September is outlined in the August/September issue of the newsletter "Open Parliament", prepared by the Service of the Parliament of Montenegro.

In August, the Parliament held one extraordinary session, where the Proposal for a Law on Amendments to the 2013 Budget Law of Montenegro was withdrawn. In September, the Parliament adopted four laws and one decision, while the committees considered 18 law proposals and two decision proposals. Furthermore, the committees considered numerous reports, held several control hearings and performed other activities in the scope of their competences.

In focus of this issue is the public discussion organised on 17 September by the European Integration Committee, on the topic "Montenegro and the EU – Information Society and the Media". It is the first in series of public discussions which will be organised by the Committee, with the aim to improve transparency of the negotiation process and to approach the topic of the EU integration to the general public.

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

AUGUST

At the Sitting of the Sixth Extraordinary Session of the Parliament of Montenegro in 2013, the Proposal for a Law on Amendments to the 2013 Budget Law of Montenegro was withdrawn.

SEPTEMBER

At the Sitting of the Seventh Extraordinary Session of the Parliament of Montenegro in 2013, the Decision on Appointment of the Municipal Election Commission of Petnjica was adopted.

At the Sitting of the Eighth Extraordinary Session of the Parliament of Montenegro in 2013, the following laws were adopted: the Law on Amendments to the Law on the Judicial Council, the Law on Amendments to the Law on Courts, the Law on Amendments to the Law on the Constitutional Court of Montenegro and the Law on Amendments to the Law on Public Prosecution Office.

Proposals for laws deliberated in committees

- **Proposal for a Law on Amendments to the Law on the Constitutional Court of Montenegro** was considered and proposed to the Parliament for

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.

adoption by the Committee on Political System, Judiciary and Administration and the Legislative Committee.

- **Proposal for a Law on Amendments to the Law on Public Prosecution Office** was considered and proposed to the Parliament for adoption by the Legislative Committee. The proposal was also considered by the Committee on Political System, Judiciary and Administration, but did not get required majority.
- **Proposal for a Law on Amendments to the Law on the Judicial Council** was considered and proposed to the Parliament for adoption by the Legislative Committee and the Committee on Political System, Judiciary and Administration.
- **Proposal for a Law on Amendments to the Law on Courts** was considered and proposed to the Parliament for adoption by the Legislative Committee and the Committee on Political System, Judiciary and Administration.
- **Proposal for a Law on Ratification of the Agreement on Double Taxation Avoidance and Prevention of Income Tax Evasion between the Government of Montenegro and the Government of the Republic of Azerbaijan** was considered and proposed to the Parliament for adoption by the Committee on International Relations and Emigrants and the Legislative Committee.
- **Proposal for a Law on Ratification of the Cooperation Agreement in the Field of Air Traffic between the Government of Montenegro and the Government of the Republic of Serbia** was considered and proposed to the Parliament for adoption by the Committee on International Relations and Emigrants and the Legislative Committee.
- **Proposal for a Law on Amendments to the Law on Higher Education** was considered and proposed to the Parliament for adoption by the Committee on Education, Science, Culture and Sports.
- **Proposal for a Law on Ratification of the Agreement between the Government of Montenegro and the Government of the Republic of Macedonia on Cooperation and Mutual Assistance in Customs Matters** was considered and proposed to the Parliament for adoption by the Committee on International Relations and Emigrants.
- **Proposal for a Law on Ratification of the Convention on International Hydrographical Organisation** was considered and proposed to the Parliament for adoption by the Committee on International Relations and Emigrants.
- **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 Committee on International Relations and Emigrants.
- **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 Committee on International Relations and Emigrants.
- **Proposal for a Law on Ratification of the Convention on Reduction of Statelessness** was considered and proposed to the Parliament for adoption by the Committee on International Relations and Emigrants.
- **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 Committee on International Relations and Emigrants.
- **Proposal for a Law on Amendments to the Law on Housing and Maintenance of Residential Buildings** was considered and proposed to the Parliament for adoption by the Committee on Tourism, Agriculture, Ecology and Spatial Planning.
- **Proposal for a Law on Conservation of Natural and Culturo-Historical Area of Kotor** was considered by the Committee on Tourism, Agriculture, Ecology and Spatial Planning, as interested committee, which proposed to the Committee on Education, Science, Culture and Sports, as lead committee, to propose it to the Parliament for adoption.
- **Proposal for a Law on Amendments to the Energy Law** was considered and proposed to the Parliament for adoption by the Committee on Economy, Finance and Budget.
- **Proposal for a Law on Amendments to the Law on Electronic Commerce** was considered and proposed to the Parliament for adoption by the Committee on Economy, Finance and Budget.
- **Proposal for a Law on Amendments to the Law on Foreign Investments** was considered by the Committee on Economy, Finance and Budget, which proposed to the Parliament not to adopt the said law proposal.

Proposals for other acts deliberated in committees

- **Proposal for a Decision on Appointment of the Municipal Election Commission of Petnjica** 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 Decision on Adoption of the Special Purpose Spatial Plan of the National Park "Lovćen"** was considered and proposed to the Parliament for adoption by the Committee on Tourism, Agriculture, Ecology and Spatial Planning.

Other activities of working bodies

- The **Committee on International Relations and Emigrants**, at the fourteenth meeting held on 19 September, supported the initiative for control hearing of Minister of Foreign Affairs and European Integration Igor Lukšić, regarding the Decision of the Government of Montenegro on joining the Joint Statement on Syria. In addition to that initiative, the Committee considered the Proposal of the Igman Initiative expert team on the topic "Improving Inter-parliamentary cooperation among Montenegro, Bosnia and Herzegovina and Serbia, by using experiences from the Nordic model". Branko Lukovac, Co-Chair of the Igman Initiative for Montenegro, gave his contribution to the discussion, emphasising the importance of this project in terms of consolidation and existence of deep awareness on advantages of togetherness. Following meaningful and constructive discussion, the Committee positively assessed the document, stating that it supports all good ideas aimed at strengthening of regional cooperation through parliamentary dimension. The Committee also considered the possibility of expanding friendship groups and decided to expand the current list with four countries, namely USA, Iceland, Malta and Germany, in accordance with interest of a number of MPs and concerned countries.
- At the eighth meeting held on 16 September, the **European Integration Committee** adopted a positive opinion on the Draft Negotiation Position of Montenegro for the Intergovernmental Conference on the Accession of Montenegro to the European Union for Chapter 5 – Public Procurement. The draft position, at the meeting which was closed to public due to the nature of the document marked as classified, was presented by Director of the Public Procurement Administration and Head of the Working Group for Chapter 5 Mersad Mujević, in attendance of Secretary of the

Negotiation Group Milivoje Jurišić. At the seventh meeting held on 19 September, the Committee positively assessed the Draft Negotiation Position of Montenegro for the Intergovernmental Conference on the Accession of Montenegro to the European Union for Chapter 6 – Commercial Law. The draft position was presented by Vladimir Savković, member of the Negotiation Group for Chapter 6 and Goran Nikolić, Head of the Working Group for Chapter 6, at the meeting which was closed to the public. The ninth meeting, held on 23 September, was marked by consideration of the Draft Negotiation Position for the Intergovernmental Conference on Montenegro's EU Accession for Chapter 10 – Information Society and Media, in the presence of the member of the Negotiation Group for Chapter 10 Anđelko Lojpur and Head of the Negotiation Working Group for Chapter 10 Ružica Mišković. The Committee unanimously adopted a proposal to amend the Draft Negotiation Position, with the agreement by the representatives of the Negotiation team of Montenegro.



- At the 24th meeting held on 17 September, the **Committee on Economy, Finance and Budget** gave consent to the election of the internationally recognised independent external auditor of the financial reports of the Central Bank of Montenegro. After acquainting with the Information on the public procurement procedure for election of the independent external auditor and the opinion of the Audit Committee of the Central Bank, the Committee agreed to elect "Deloitte Podgorica" LLC and "Deloitte Beograd" LLC as the independent external auditor. Furthermore, the Committee considered and decided to propose to the Parliament of Montenegro to adopt the 2012 Report on the State of Insurance Market in Montenegro. At the same meeting, the Committee considered and decided to propose to the Parliament of Montenegro not to adopt the 2012 Report on Implementation of the 2010-2014 Regional Development Strategy. At the 25th meeting held on 24 September, the Committee considered the Annual Report on Awarded State Aid in Montenegro

in 2012, which amounted to €41.8 million, i.e. 1.26% of GDP. The Annual Report did not receive the necessary majority of the Committee, among other things, because of the manner of awarding and the control of spending the said funds. Furthermore, the Committee got acquainted with the Performance Report and the Independent Auditor's Report on Auditing of Financial Statements of the Investment and Development Fund of Montenegro for 2012. The Committee concluded that the Report provided numerous information and data on activities of the Fund, which, among other things, referred to the aid to the micro, small and medium enterprises, infrastructure projects, etc. Additionally, the Committee requested additional information with a view of a more comprehensive overview of the Fund's business operations. At the 26th meeting held on 26 September, the Committee considered the 2012 Performance Report of the State Commission for the Control of Public Procurement Procedures for the first time, and decided to propose it to the Parliament for adoption. The Committee also got acquainted with the 2012 Performance Report of the Deposit Protection Fund. At the 27th meeting held on 30 September, the Committee adopted the Decision on announcing a vacancy for the appointment of three members of the Council of the Agency for Electronic Communications and Postal Services (President and two members of the Council). As agreed with Chair of the Committee on Health, Labour and Social Welfare, the Committee agreed to hold a control hearing on 21 October, on the topic "Public procurement in the health sector", at the joint meeting of the Committee on Economy, Finance and Budget and the Committee on Health, Labour and Social Welfare.



- At the fifteenth meeting held on 25 September, the **Committee on Human Rights and Freedoms** held a control hearing of Minister of Labour and Social Welfare, the Coordinator of the Coordination Committee for Monitoring of Implementation of the Strategy for Permanently Resolving the Issue of Displaced and Internally Displaced Persons, with special regard to the camps Konik I and II, Predrag

Bošković, on the topic: "Implementation of the Strategy for Permanently Resolving the Issue of Displaced and Internally Displaced Persons, with special regard to the camps Konik I and II". At the sixteenth meeting held on the same day, the Committee considered and supported the following documents: The Report on Development and Protection of Rights of the Minority Peoples and other Minority Communities in 2012, the Information on the Implementation of Measures from the Action Plan for Improving the Prison System, with a reference to Information on Actions of the Police Administration on the Recommendation of the Protector of Human Rights and Freedoms provided in the Special Report on the State of Police Administration Premises for Detaining Persons Deprived of Liberty from 2011, submitted to the Committee on Human Rights and Freedoms by the Police Administration in line with the Conclusion adopted by the Committee on its fourth meeting, held on 6 February 2013, and Information on Implementation on the Anti-discrimination Law.

- At the fifteenth meeting of the **Committee on Education, Science, Culture and Sports** held on 24 September, members of the Committee got acquainted with the Report on the Study Visit of the Committee Delegation to the National Assembly of Hungary, from 9 to 11 September. Furthermore, MP Srđan Perić demanded that the Committee hold a control hearing of the Minister of Education regarding the state of the publishing business, a control hearing of the Minister of Culture regarding frequent attacks on journalists and photo-reporters, and a control hearing of the Minister of Education and the Minister of Culture regarding the case of abuse of children for the political party purposes in the kindergarten "Zvezdani vrt" (Starry Garden) in Golubovci. MP Perić will deliver written requests to the Committee regarding this matter, which the Committee will consider.
- At the eighteenth meeting held on 20 September, the **Committee on Health, Labour and Social Welfare** did not elect the deputy chair of the Committee, although it had been envisaged by Agenda. The Committee decided to send a letter to Collegium of the President of the Parliament of Montenegro, requesting a statement on the model for election of the deputy chairperson of the Committee. At its nineteenth meeting held on same day, the Committee decided to hold a control hearing regarding the disease epidemic in Berane. At the 20th meeting held on 30 September, the Committee held a control hearing of the Minister of Health MD Miodrag Radunović, on the topic

“Epidemiological situation in Berane”. Upon the invitation by the Committee, the meeting was attended by the following, who also responded to the MPs’ questions: Director of the Institute for Public Health Boban Mugoša, Mayor of Municipality of Berane Vuka Golubović, Director of the Water Supply Berane Faruk Pačariz, Deputy Director of the Transport Directorate Ervin Adrović, epidemiologist from Berane Goran Čukić, virologist from Berane Milovan Živković, and water supply inspector Miodrag Radulović. During the discussion, MPs wanted to know when the water in Berane would be safe to drink, but that question was not answered. Chair of the Committee Zoran Jelić concluded the 20th meeting and proposed that the Committee submit the report on the control hearing to the Parliament, with appropriate conclusions.

- **The Commission for Monitoring and Control of the Privatisation Procedure** held its sixth meeting on 16 September, where they discussed the control of the privatisation procedure of the company “Marina Bar” JSC Bar. Apart from the Commission members, the following also attended the meeting and participated in the discussion: Chair of the Board of Directors of the “Marina Bar” JSC Bar Mladen Marjanović, Executive Director of the “Marina Bar” Tomislav Markolović; representative of the Ministry of Transport and Maritime Affairs Snežana Đurković, Director of the Port Administration, on behalf of the Privatisation and Capital Projects Council Mladen Lučić, Coordinator of NGO MANS Ines Mrdović, Head of the Workers’ Union of the company “Marina Bar” Tatjana Vukčević and representatives of the group of citizens of Bar Savo Vujošević and Rade Perović. Additionally, the Commission adopted the Initiative by the Commission member Mladen Bojanić to include in the agenda of one of the following meetings the monitoring of the privatisation procedure of the “New Tobacco Plant” JSC Podgorica and “Container Terminal and General Cargo” JSC Bar. Following the ending of the sixth meeting, the Commission concluded the previously started fifth meeting. In its continuation, the Commission adopted the Conclusions regarding the control of the privatisation procedure of the hotel company “Onogošt” JSC Nikšić. Commission member Branko Čavor was unanimously elected as Deputy Chair of the Commission. Acting upon Conclusions adopted at the meeting held on 16 September, regarding the control of the privatisation procedure of the hotel company “Onogošt” Nikšić, the Commission addressed the competent state bodies – Supreme Public Prosecutor’s Office and

Police Administration, initiating investigation on operations of the company in the period from stock market sale in 2005 up to introduction of bankruptcy in March 2012. The Commission also submitted an initiative to the Ministry of Sustainable Development and Tourism and the bankruptcy trustee, for launching labour in objects of the hotel company “Onogošt” JSC Nikšić, with special reference to considering possible launch of work process in the old part of hotel “Onogošt” in Nikšić, particularly “Gradska kafana” (Town’s cafe) and the restaurant, as well as part of the accommodation capacities with engagement of former employees.

- At the fifteenth meeting of the **Administrative Committee** held on 23 September, the procedure for appointment of one member of the Senate of State Audit Institution was initiated, by issuing a public notice via daily newspapers and the Parliament website. Also, the Committee rendered a decision on compensation to Đorđije Malović, former advisor to the Vice President of the Parliament, due to termination of his mandate. The Committee continued its work on procedure of consideration the Proposal of the Commission for Prevention of Conflict of Interest for initiating the motion of dismissal, suspension or imposition of disciplinary measures against Basri Lika, member of the Fund for Protection and Realisation of Minority Rights, discussing on that occasion the Information of the Commission for Prevention of Conflict of Interest regarding Lika’s answer on reasons for not submitting the Income and Property Report after his appointment to public office. With regard to that, the Committee decided to postpone voting on this issue after termination of possible procedure before Administrative Court. MPs also discussed two letters of the Podgorica Misdemeanour Court, requesting information whether the mandate of members of the Fund Miroslav Marić and Avdul Kurpejović ceased after the change of the legal entity name from “Minority Fund” to “Fund for Protection and Realisation of Minority Rights”. With regard to that, in line with competences of the Parliament, the Committee declared itself as not competent for giving an authentic interpretation and noted that it conducted the procedure of election of the Management Board of the Fund for Protection and Realisation of Minority Rights, in accordance with the Decision on the Establishment of the Fund. Furthermore, the Committee got acquainted with the Information on the decisions adopted within the jurisdiction of the Administrative Committee in the period between 14th and 15th meeting.

NEWS FROM PARLIAMENT



President of the Parliament Ranko Krivokapić paid the official visit to Georgia

President of the Parliament of Montenegro and President of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly Ranko Krivokapić, upon the invitation of the Speaker of the Parliament of Georgia David Usupashvili, paid the official visit to Georgia, from 16 to 18 September.

At the meeting of President Krivokapić with the Speaker of the Parliament of Georgia David Usupashvili, Usupashvili assessed this visit as highly significant, considering that Georgia would be having presidential elections in the end of October, which by decision of President Krivokapić would be observed by the election observation mission of the OSCE PA. Usupashvili emphasised that participation of PA in the last year's parliamentary elections in Georgia, when a democratic change of government had happened, had contributed to holding the elections in a democratic atmosphere.

President Krivokapić stated that during his presidential mandate, he would advocate that OSCE PA continue to be an active promoter of democratic values in member states. He emphasised that Georgia was continuously strengthening its democratic capacities, which had been confirmed at the previous elections, and that additional strengthening of the reform processes in this country through the upcoming presidential elections was expected. He expressed belief that activities would launch soon in order to open the OSCE mission to Georgia.

President and the Speaker agreed that the bilateral relations between Montenegro and Georgia were good,

that there were identical foreign policy priorities with regard to the path towards the EU and NATO, as well as that the two countries were facing similar challenges on the path of their full democratic growth.

During the first day of visit, Krivokapić also met with the Delegation of the Parliament of Georgia to the OSCE PA, as well as with one of the main candidates of the presidential elections in Georgia, David Bakradze.



During the second day in Georgia, President Krivokapić met with the President of Georgia Mikheil Saakashvili, and the Minister of Foreign Affairs Maia Panjikidze. He also held separate meetings with the political representatives of the parliamentary majority and the opposition in the Georgian Parliament.

On the third day of his visit, President Krivokapić met with the Prime Minister of Georgia Bidzina Ivanishvili, as well as with presidential candidates and representatives of NGOs dealing with monitoring of the pre-election campaign in Georgia.

Vice President Suljo Mustafić attended the Eighth Conference of Presidents of the Parliaments of Small European States in Reykjavik

Vice President of the Parliament of Montenegro Suljo Mustafić attended the Eighth Conference of Presidents of the Parliaments of Small European States, held in Reykjavik, from 27 to 30 August.

At the Conference, hosted by the Parliament of Iceland and its Speaker Einar Guðfinnsson, participants discussed current issues in national policies and parliaments of small European states, the impact of the economic and debt crisis on small countries, as well as the potential for cooperation of these countries in the field of education and research.

In his address, Vice President Mustafić presented the current situation in Montenegro and the important issues that the Parliament of Montenegro has been dealing with, especially highlighting recently adopted constitutional amendments, aimed at strengthening independence of the judiciary. Pointing out that

Montenegro was an example of the stable community in the Balkans, Mustafić said that further strengthening of institutions was needed, as well as that strengthening the Parliament entailed strengthening other institutions.

On the margins of the Conference, Vice President Mustafić met with Vice President of the Parliament of the Republic of Malta Vincent Galea. At the meeting, they pointed out the importance of cooperation of the two countries, especially in the field of European integration, as well as the fields of tourism, culture and maritime transport. Additionally, they emphasised the need to establish a more intensive parliamentary cooperation.

The Conference participants also had an official meeting with the President of Iceland Ólafur Ragnar Grímsson. At the end, the Joint Declaration was unanimously adopted, and it was agreed that the next, Ninth Conference, would be held in Andorra.

Interparliamentary Conference for Common Foreign and Security Policy and the Common Security and Defence Policy held in Vilnius

The delegation of the Parliament of Montenegro participated in the Interparliamentary Conference for Common Foreign and Security Policy and the Common Security and Defence Policy in Vilnius, the Republic of Lithuania, from 4 to 6 September.

At the Conference, participants discussed priorities and challenges for the Common Foreign and Security Policy and the Common Security and Defence Policy of the European Union, with special view on the Eastern Partnership of EU, as well as the preparation of the forthcoming meeting of the European Council.

The NATO Secretary General Anders Fogh Rasmussen, who spoke at the Conference, pointed out the global security challenges. He reminded of the problems of cutting budgetary allocations for defence in member states and highlighted the need for strengthening capacities, but also uniting and sharing the existing resources with a view to achieving the most efficient results possible. In accordance with the previous statements, he pointed out the significance of investment and building of strong structure in the European Union and NATO, and he reminded of the significance of maintaining a strong partnership

between the two organisations.

During the last day, two workshops were organised on the topic of Eastern Partnership and its strategic significance for the European Union, as well as the modality for overcoming the differences between ambitions and opportunities in this organisation, in the context of the upcoming meeting of the European Council. They also spoke about the amendments to the Rules of Procedure of the Interparliamentary Conference, as well as about the proposed conclusions.



MPs Miodrag Vuković, Obrad Mišo Stanišić, Vasilije Lalošević and Milan Knežević participated in the work of the gathering.

International Day of Democracy celebrated in the Parliament of Montenegro

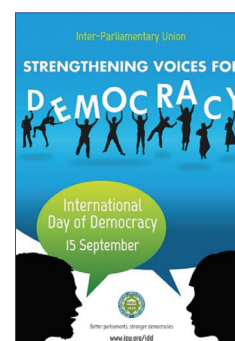
The Parliament of Montenegro joined the celebration of the International Day of Democracy by implementing the activities under this year's slogan "Strengthening Voices for Democracy". The activities within the celebration of the International Day of Democracy, 15 September, are aimed at highlighting the importance of citizens' opinions, expressed directly and through their elected representatives, in political, economic, social, developmental, environmental and technological debates.

On the occasion of celebrating this significant day, Vice President of the Parliament of Montenegro Suljo Mustafić met with the students from class III-4 of the Primary School "Oktoih" and spoke with them about democracy and the work of the Parliament. Vice President responded to the students' questions, who were interested in: how and where the first parliament was established; why it had that particular name; in what way do people vote; why the Parliament's sittings are broadcasted via TV; who are people who are visiting the Parliament etc. Additionally, the students attended the democracy workshop of the Parliament of Montenegro dedicated to this event and spoke with the MPs Zorica Kovačević and Azra Jasavić about the idea of democracy, the role of MPs in a democratic society and the importance of the voice of the people heard through their elected representatives during democratic decision making process.

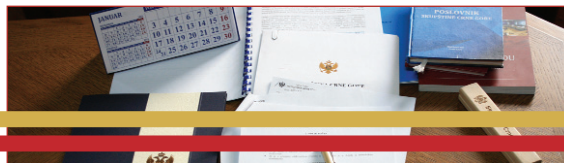
The celebration of the International Day of Democracy continued on Monday, 16 September, when students from class IX-2 of the Primary School "Risto Ratković" from Bijelo Polje had the opportunity to interview MPs Obrad Stanišić and Emilo Labudović, during the democracy workshop. Topics discussed at the workshop were: role and significance of the Parliament in the legislative process, division of powers and the types of elections.

The UN General Assembly declared 15 September the International Day of Democracy, encouraging member states to strengthen national programmes devoted to the promotion and consolidation of democracy. The IPU, under the slogan "Better parliaments, stronger democracies", is promoting the International Day of Democracy thought its member parliaments in 162 countries of the world.

Information on this year's celebration of the International Day of Democracy in the Parliament of Montenegro is also available on the website of the Inter-Parliamentary Union:
<http://www.ipu.org/idd>



IN FOCUS



The first in a series of public debates, “Montenegro and the European Union – Information Society and Media” organised by the European Integration Committee

The first in a series of public debates, on the topic “Montenegro and the European Union – Information Society and Media” was organised by the European Integration Committee on 17 September in Podgorica.

Panellists at the debate were: Chair of the European Integration Committee Slaven Radunović, Head of the EU Delegation to Montenegro H.E. Mitja Drobnič and member of the Negotiation Group for Chapter 10 - Information Society and Media Anđelko Lojpur.



Welcoming the audience, Chair of the European Integration Committee Slaven Radunović, pointed out that the Committee, with a view to promote transparency of the negotiation process, had decided to organise public debates where the wider Montenegrin public would have the chance to get informed on certain negotiation chapters, but also to point out the need for amending legislation in certain fields. He emphasised that, in order to achieve better communication and cooperation of the Committee with the Government, it was necessary to adopt a document which would define the position of the Parliament in a very dynamic and complex process of Montenegro’s EU accession.

Head of the EU Delegation to Montenegro Mitja

Drobnič welcomed the initiative of the Committee regarding organising of the public debates, emphasising the importance of informing the public on the negotiation process. Commenting the field covered by the Chapter 10, he pointed out that the digital society was developing faster than any other social field, and that the Internet services and mobile telephone services provide great opportunities for growth, development and new jobs. Additionally, he mentioned that the EU’s “Digital Agenda” contained a series of measures, which would contribute to development of the European economy and provide citizens with a series of advantages of using digital technologies. He commended Montenegro saying that progress had been achieved in regard to harmonisation with the EU laws relating to Chapter 10, and he also expressed hope that the discussion at the debate would contribute to raising awareness on how much reforms in this field could enhance the lives of citizens of Montenegro.

Presenting the legislation in this field, member of the Negotiation Group for Chapter 10 Anđelko Lojpur stated that the Chapter 10 included three fields: electronic communication, information society services and audio-visual policy. He pointed out that explanatory and bilateral meetings had been held for this chapter and that the working version of the negotiating position was already drafted. He stated that Montenegro would not ask for exemptions in this field, i.e. that it would be fully prepared to implement the European legislation.

The public debate was attended by representatives of the media, NGOs, company Telekom Crne Gore, members of the Working Group for Negotiation Chapter 10, MPs and the representatives of the Service of Parliament of Montenegro.

PARLIAMENTARY GLOSSARY

INTEREST GROUP. “An interest or pressure group is an organised association that aims to influence the policies or actions of government. Interest groups differ from political parties for aiming to influence from the outside, not to win or exercise power. In addition, they are usually concentrated in a small number of issues, i.e. are interested in a particular goal or interests of a certain group, and rarely have wider programmes or ideological characteristics, which mainly relate to political parties.”¹

¹ Endru Hejvud, *Politika (Politics)*, Beograd, Clio 2004, p. 507

FROM THE HISTORY OF MONTENEGRIN PARLIAMENTARISM



LAW ON JUDICIAL AUTHORITY

6/19 December 1902

**WE
NIKOLA I**
By the grace of God
PRINCE AND SOVEREIGN OF MONTENEGRO
At the proposal of the Acting Minister of Justice,
After hearing our State Council
Decided to order and we are ordering this

BASIC STATE LAW on JUDICIAL AUTHORITY

Article 1

The judicial authority in the state is performed in the name of the Prince and Sovereign.

All court rulings are proclaimed in the name of the Prince and Sovereign.

Article 5

Judges are independent in performing their court duties.

They cannot be dismissed from office or suspended but according to the regulations of the Law on civil servants.

Article 11

The judiciary is completely independent and separate from the administrative authorities.

The temporary exception is made for the for the captain courts of first instance.

Article 12

The judge cannot perform any other job during the judicial function.

Cetinje, on the Saint Nikola's Day, 1902

Nikola, handwritten signature

From the Basic State Law on Judicial Authority, Cetinje 1902

Pavićević, B., Raspopović, R., eds. *Crnogorski zakonici 1796-1916*, knj. II (*Montenegrin Codes 1796-1916*, Book II), Podgorica, Istorijski institut Crne Gore, 1998, pp. 607-609

FROM THE PARLIAMENT'S GALLERY

Naod Zorić: "King Nikola"

Naod Zorić is considered one of the most authentic authors in Montenegrin fine art, and in his creative work he is characterised by: honesty, intuition and undisputed talent. His paintings are charged with energy, which derives from strong emotions, as expression of the artist's internal dialogue.

Done with ink, charcoal or pencil on paper, and in the case of oil portraits or landscapes of Duklja, which he claims are painted, drawings are the essence of the painter's specific art expression. In his creation, spiritual sediments and accumulated experience of the Montenegrin region are recognised, while through series of characters of mountaineers with accentuated deformities or disproportions, artist's vision of the man from this area looms, expressed through poetics of new expressionism.



CALENDAR



AUGUST

5 August

- At the sixth meeting of the Working Group for Building Trust in the Election Process, the discussion lasting several hours was focused on the Draft Law on a Single Voters Register. Through the discussion on this law, MPs analysed the amendments submitted by the Network for Affirmation of the NGO Sector (MANS). Also, further work dynamics of the Working Group was agreed upon at the meeting.

6 August

- With the aim to fully inform the public on its work, the Parliament of Montenegro published on its webpage the information on participation of MPs in the discussions of the Parliament sittings, held since the beginning of 2013. The data was taken from the conference system of the Great Hall of the Parliament of Montenegro; therefore, it was not possible to provide accurate data for sittings held out of the Great Hall in this period. Data on the frequency of speaking and the total number of presentations are presented separately for each sitting of the first regular session (except the first and fifth sitting, which were held in Cetinje) and meetings of the extraordinary sessions of the Parliament of Montenegro, and are ordered by length of speech of MPs or other participants of the sittings. In the document, there is also an explanation of the methodology by which the data was gathered.

12 August

- At the seventh meeting of the Working Group for Building Trust in the Election Process, the Law on Registers of Permanent and Temporary Residence was considered within the agenda. For the purpose of improving the law, i.e. regulations prescribed by this law, proposals and suggestions pointed out by some members of the Working Group and representatives of NGOs were discussed.

13 August

- At the eighth meeting of the Working Group for Building Trust in the Election Process, the discussion was focused on the Law on Election of Councillors

and MPs. The significant part of the discussion was devoted to the chapter of this law relating to organs for conduction of elections. Proposals and suggestions, submitted by members of the Working Group and representatives of NGOs participating in its work, were also considered.

18 August

- President of the Parliament of Montenegro Ranko Krivokapić opened the Summer School of Science, organised for the sixth time in Ivanova Korita. The aim of the Summer School of Science, which is being organised by the Prona Foundation, from 18 to 24 August, is to acquaint best high school students with latest achievements and challenges of the contemporary science, through lectures, workshops, experimental practices and active independent work, films and panel discussions. The school is organised under the auspices of the Parliament of Montenegro and friends are European Commission FP7 Marie Curie programme, Radio Club and Forest Administration.

19 August

- The ninth meeting of the Working Group for Building Trust in the Election Process was marked by discussion on the Law on Election of Councillors and MPs. Each article of the Law was separately analysed by methodology that was previously agreed upon, as well as proposals for new legal solutions submitted by members of the Working Group and representatives of NGOs. The main topics that marked the meeting were related to voting by mail and realisation of the principle of authentic representation of minorities and minority national communities.

20 August

- At the tenth meeting of the Working Group for Building Trust in the Election Process, MPs discussed about the Law on Election of Councillors and MPs, i.e. provisions of the Law from the chapter "Bodies for conduction of elections". In the continuation of the meeting, the Law on Financing of Political Parties was considered through dilemmas, suggestions and possible recommendations.

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26 August

- At the eleventh meeting of the Working Group for Building Trust in the Election Process, the Law on Montenegrin Citizenship and the Law on Identity Card were considered. In accordance with previously established methodology, the analysis of concerned laws included both current law provisions and proposals for amendments submitted by members of the Working Group.

27 August

- President of the Parliament of Montenegro Ranko Krivokapić met with Co-Chairs of the Working Group for Building Trust in the Election Process Srđan Milić and Milutin Simović. Co-Chairs of the Working Group informed the President of the Parliament on activities which the Working Group has conducted so far.
- Vice President of the Parliament of Montenegro Suljo Mustafić attended the Eighth Conference of Presidents of the Parliaments of Small European States, held in Reykjavik, from 27 to 30 August. At this year's Conference hosted by the Parliament of Iceland, participants discussed about current issues in national policies and parliaments of small European states, the impact of the economic and debt crisis on small countries, as well as the potential for cooperation of these countries in the field of education and research. At the end of the Conference, the Joint Declaration was unanimously adopted, and it was agreed that the next, Ninth Conference of Presidents of the Parliaments of Small European States, would be held in Andorra.



- The twelfth meeting of the Working Group for Building Trust in the Election Process was marked by unified discussion on the Law on Financing of Political Parties and the Law on Financing the Election Campaign for the President of Montenegro, Mayor and President of Municipality. The meeting

was also attended by Minister of Finance Radoje Žugić, as well as members of the Working Group established within the Ministry of Finance, with a task to prepare amendments to the law which were the subject of this meeting.

- Within the project "Democracy Workshops", the Parliament of Montenegro and the Hellenic Parliament organised a visit to Athens for eight students and two teachers of the primary school "Bajo Pivljanin" from Donja Brezna, Plužine, from 27 to 30 August. During their visit to Athens, students and teachers visited the Hellenic Parliament, where they were received by the Secretary General of the Parliament Athanassios Papaioannou, who spoke about the importance of the parliament as an institution, as well as about Montenegro's EU accession. Apart from the Parliament, numerous visits to historic and cultural sites were organised for the students. The visit was organised and funded by the Parliament of Montenegro and the Hellenic Parliament, following the meeting of the Secretaries General of the two parliaments, held in May 2013 in Podgorica. During the official visit to the Parliament of Montenegro in May, Papaioannou had the opportunity to visit "Democracy Workshops" and to talk to the students of this school, who on that day participated in the workshop titled "Democracy and Parliament", after which he invited them to visit Athens.

SEPTEMBER

1 September

- The Bled Strategic Forum was held for the eighth time from 1 until 3 September. The Forum gathered around five hundred representatives from politics, science and various international organisations from around the world. The Parliament of Montenegro was represented by the Chair of the Committee on International Relations and Emigrants Miodrag Vuković and the Chair of the European Integration Committee Slaven Radunović.

3 September

- President of the Parliament of Montenegro Ranko Krivokapić met with President of the Republic of Croatia Ivo Josipović. They discussed about the policy of good neighbourly relations as the basic

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component of cooperation between the two states, as well as about historical closeness of Montenegro and Republic of Croatia. The subject of the discussion in particular was the role of national parliaments in European integration process and experience of the Croatian Parliament in that matter. The meeting was also attended by representatives of parliamentary groups in the Parliament of Montenegro, who had the opportunity to exchange views with the President of Croatia on current political moments in both states, existing and future models of cooperation, as well as political and logistical help which the Republic of Croatia provided so far to Montenegro, on its path to membership in NATO and the European Union.



- In organisation of the Parliament of Montenegro, NGO Civic Alliance and the Institution of the Protector of Human Rights and Freedoms of Montenegro, a press conference was held on the occasion of celebration of the sixtieth anniversary of entering into force of the European Convention on Human Rights. The following spoke at the conference: Chair of the Committee on Human Rights and Freedoms Halil Duković, Protector of Human Rights and Freedoms of Montenegro Šučko Baković, Head of the Political, European Integration and Trade Section of the EU Delegation to Montenegro Alberto Cammarata and Coordinator of Human Rights Programme in the NGO Civic Alliance Milan Radović.

4 September

- Delegation of the Parliament of Montenegro participated at the Inter-Parliamentary Conference for the Common Foreign and Security Policy and the Common Security and Defence Policy, which was held in Vilnius, the Republic of Lithuania, in the period from 4 to 6 September. At the Conference, participants discussed about priorities and challenges for the CFSP and CSDP of the European Union, with special reference to Eastern Partnership,

as well as the preparation of the upcoming meeting of the European Council. MPs Miodrag Vuković, Obrad Mišo Stanišić, Vasilije Lalošević and Milan Knežević participated in the work of the gathering.

5 September

- President of the Parliament of Montenegro and of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly Ranko Krivokapić had his first working visit to the OSCE PA Secretariat in Copenhagen. In his conversation with the OSCE PA Secretary General Spencer Oliver and the Secretariat staff, the President presented his work plan and priorities for the following period, with special focus on the upcoming OSCE PA Autumn Session in Budva and election observation in Georgia. President Krivokapić emphasised that the entire OSCE is facing numerous challenges in the following period, and that in view of 40 years since the signing of the Helsinki Act, the OSCE PA itself has to be prepared, via promotion of their own activities, to contribute to achieving key values of OSCE. They also spoke of the future activities and the upcoming visits of the President Krivokapić to Poland and Finland, as well as preparations for his participation in the OSCE Ministerial Council in October in Vienna. President Krivokapić also met with the Director of Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights – ODIHR, Janez Lenarčič, and they talked about promotion of cooperation of the Parliamentary Assembly and ODIHR in the field of election observation.

6 September

- President of the Parliament of Montenegro and President of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly Ranko Krivokapić paid an official visit to Poland, at the invitation of the Speaker of the Sejm – Parliament of Poland Ewa Kopacz. Speaker Kopacz congratulated Krivokapić on the election to important function such as the President of the OSCE PA, expressing expectation that during his mandate he would contribute to further strengthening of the role of the Parliamentary Assembly. President Krivokapić thanked for the support that Poland had been providing to Montenegro on its path to the EU and NATO and voiced expectance that the support would be also continued in the following phases of integration

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process. During the meeting with Speaker in the Polish Senate Bogdan Borusewicz, interlocutors jointly assessed that there were no open issues between the two countries and that relations were friendly, which should be used for strengthening cooperation primarily in the economic field. During his visit, President Krivokapić met with Chair of the Foreign Affairs Committee of the Sejm Grzegorz Schetyna and members of the Polish Parliament to the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly, and he also visited the seat of the OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR), where he spoke about modes of cooperation between the Parliamentary Assembly and the Office, which is in charge of election observation in OSCE countries.

9 September

- President of the Parliament of Montenegro Ranko Krivokapić received in a farewell visit the Ambassador of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland H.E. Catherine Knight-Sands. Krivokapić thanked Knight-Sands on her previous productive work, as well as on friendly help that she provided for Montenegro, as representative of her country. Ambassador of the United Kingdom H.E. Catherine Knight-Sands voiced pleasure over her engagement in Montenegro, adding that her country would help all efforts of Montenegro on its path to membership in the EU and NATO in the period to come.
- Delegation of the Committee on Education, Science, Culture and Sports, consisting of MPs Saša Pešić, Srđa Popović, Srđan Perić and Zdenka Popović, paid an official visit to the National Assembly of Hungary, in the period from 9 to 11 September. Within the official meetings, attended by Ambassador of Montenegro to Hungary Mirsad Bibović, the delegation held meetings with members of the Committee on Education, Science and Research, headed by the Deputy Chair of the Committee László Pószán, Chair of the Committee on Culture and Media László Simon, as well as the President of the Hungary-Montenegro Friendship Group of the National Assembly of Hungary Árpád János Potápi. During the meeting with members of the Committee on Education, Science and Research, interlocutors pointed out that the signing of an agreement between the two line ministries was expected soon, which would, among other things, envisage student exchange between two states. Head of delegation

Saša Pešić invited his colleagues from the Hungarian Parliament to visit the Parliament of Montenegro.

- President of the Parliament of Montenegro Ranko Krivokapić met with the President of the Senate of Canada Noël A. Kinsella, who stayed in the official visit to Montenegro. Following the meeting, Krivokapić and Kinsella expressed mutual pleasure over the good relations between Montenegro and Canada. President Krivokapić said that Canada had been providing support for Montenegro on its path towards NATO, which was, as he stated, immeasurably significant to our country. President of the Senate of Canada Kinsella stated that the goal of his visit to Montenegro, among other things, was the strengthening of cooperation between the institutions dealing with vocational education and connecting the young from Canada and Montenegro.



10 September

- Secretary General of the Parliament of Montenegro Damir Davidović participated at the two-day conference in Belgrade, organised jointly by the National Assembly of Serbia and Hellenic Parliament. "Parliaments in a changing Europe: Citizens and representative institutions in modern governance" was the topic of the conference organised within the Twinning Project "Strengthening Capacities of the National Assembly of the Republic of Serbia in the EU Integration Process" with the partnership of the Hellenic Parliament. Secretary General Damir Davidović had a presentation on parliamentary control where he presented experience of the Parliament of Montenegro in this field.
- Upon the invitation of the Protector of Human Rights and Freedoms of Montenegro, the Chair of the Committee on Human Rights and Freedom Halil Duković participated at the international seminar on the topic "Relationship between the institutions of Ombudsman and interested parties" which was held

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on 10 and 11 September in Regional School of Public Administration (ReSPA) in Danilovgrad. The seminar was organised by the European Commission DG for Enlargement, TAIEX in cooperation with the Regional School of Public Administration and the Regional Cooperation Council.

- At its thirteenth meeting, following discussion which lasted several hours, the Working Group for Building Trust in the Election Process adopted the Draft Law on Voter Registers and Draft Law on Amendments to the Law on Identity Card. In the continuation of the meeting, the Working Group began discussion on Draft Law on Amendments to the Law on Montenegrin Citizenship. Members of the Working Group also agreed to request additional time for their work from the Collegium of the President of the Parliament.

11 September

- President of the Parliament of Montenegro and of the OSCE PA Ranko Krivokapić paid an official two-day visit to Finland, at the invitation of the Speaker of the Parliament of Finland Eero Heinäluoma. The Speaker Heinäluoma congratulated President Krivokapić on election as the President of the OSCE PA, pointing out that President Krivokapić deserved to be the head of the largest parliamentary assembly of the world by his many years of engagement in the OSCE. Stating priorities of his presidency over the Parliamentary Assembly, President Krivokapić especially pointed out Finland as the place where OSCE was practically funded, saying that 40 years since the signing of the Helsinki Final Act it was necessary to have a clear vision of the role of OSCE in new international circumstances. During the second day of the visit, President Krivokapić met with the President of Finland Sauli Niinistö. He also met with Kimmo Sasi, rapporteur of the Council of Europe to Montenegro and with the Chair of the Grand Committee of the Parliament of Finland Miapetra Kumpula, which is dealing with parliamentary oversight of the issues of the common EU policy.

12 September

- Chair of the European Integration Committee Slaven Radunović held a press conference, where he presented planned activities and new ways of communication of the Committee. With regard to that, he emphasised that during September three

meetings of the Committee will be held with the purpose of considering the drafts of negotiation positions relating the negotiation chapters: 5 – Public Procurement, 6 – Commercial Law and 10 – Information Society and Media. He also announced a public debate on the topic “Montenegro and the EU – Information Society and Media”, in organisation of the Committee. Furthermore, he stated that the Committee would organise public debates in other municipalities in Montenegro, with the aim of informing high school students and heads of local authorities on what the European Union represented and which benefits it would provide to citizens of Montenegro, as well as on the role of the Parliament and the European Integration Committee in that process. For the purpose of further improvement of communication with citizens, Facebook account has been activated (“Odbor za evropske integracije Skupštine Crne Gore” – European Integration Committee) as well as Twitter account (@EUOdborCG). Another novelty in terms of this is coding of documents by so-called “QR Code”, which will enable downloading of the documents in the electronic format.

13 September

- President of the Parliament of Montenegro Ranko Krivokapić received the Ambassador of Austria to Montenegro Martin Pammer in a farewell visit. During the conversation with President Krivokapić, H.E. Pammer expressed pleasure with his work in Montenegro and emphasised that Austria would continue to give full support to the further progress of Montenegro on its path to European integration. President Krivokapić expressed gratitude to Pammer on his devoted work during his mandate in Montenegro, pointing out that the dedicated engagement of Pammer had contributed to democratic maturing of our country. Ambassador Pammer congratulated Krivokapić on his election as the President of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly, expressing convictions that, while holding that position, he would contribute to further affirmation of that institution.
- Co-Chairs of the Working Group for Building Trust in the Election Process Srđan Milić and Milutin Simović met with Rastislav Vrbensky, UNDP Resident Representative to Montenegro. The meeting was marked by the discussion on the Law

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on Election of Councillors and MPs, in part related to representation of the members of the less represented gender in the electoral lists and in the political life of Montenegro. Interlocutors concluded that it was time for greater representation of women in all spheres of the society, which would greatly contribute to affirmation of the civic character of the state of Montenegro.



- The Parliament of Montenegro joined the celebration of 15 September, the International Day of Democracy, by implementing activities under this year's slogan "Strengthening Voices for Democracy". Marking this significant day, Vice President of the Parliament of Montenegro Suljo Mustafić received the students of the Primary School "Oktoih" and spoke with them about democracy. Students also participated at democracy workshop dedicated to this event and talked with MPs Zorica Kovačević and Azra Jasavić about the idea of democracy, the role of MPs in a democratic society and the importance of the voice of the people heard through their elected representatives during democratic decision making.

14 September

- President of the Parliament of Montenegro Ranko Krivokapić spoke with the Prime Minister and Minister of Defence of the Government of Thailand Jingluk Shinawatra who was in official visit to Montenegro. Krivokapić and Shinawatra spoke about possibilities for improving the cooperation in the areas of interest of both countries. Krivokapić informed his interlocutor on pretensions of Montenegro to become the EU and NATO member, as well as on priorities during his presidency over the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly.

16 September

- President of the Parliament of Montenegro and

President of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly Ranko Krivokapić, upon the invitation of the Speaker of the Parliament of Georgia David Usupashvili, paid an official visit to Georgia from 16 to 18 September. At the meeting, Speaker Usupashvili stated that this visit was particularly important, considering that in the end of October Georgia would be having the presidential elections, which, by decision of President Krivokapić, would be observed by the election observation mission of the OSCE PA. The President and the Speaker agreed that the bilateral relations between Montenegro and Georgia were good and that there were identical foreign policy priorities with regard to the path towards the EU and NATO. President Krivokapić also met with the Delegation of the Parliament of Georgia to the OSCE PA, as well as with David Bakradze, one of the main candidates of the presidential elections in Georgia. During his second and third day of visit, President Krivokapić met with the President of Georgia Mikheil Saakashvili and the Minister of Foreign Affairs Maia Panjikidze, as well as with the Prime Minister Bidzina Ivanishvili.

- At the fourteenth meeting of the Working Group for Building Trust in the Election Process, MPs discussed the Draft Law on Amendments to the Law on Montenegrin Citizenship. Certain consent was achieved with regard to some solutions included in the Draft Law, while the alternative solutions were kept primarily in provisions that were the basis for the concept of this law.
- The activities within celebration of the International Day of Democracy were continued under this year's slogan "Strengthening Voices for Democracy", in the Parliament of Montenegro. On the occasion of celebrating this significant day, MPs Obrad Stanišić and Emilo Labudović visited today the democracy workshops of the Parliament of Montenegro, where they spoke with students of class IX-2 of the Primary School "Risto Ratković" from Bijelo Polje. During the workshop, the covered topics included: the role and significance of the Parliament in the legislative process, division of powers, and the types of elections.
- Chair of the European Integration Committee Slaven Radunović met with the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Finland Erkki Tuomioja, who was in the official visit to Montenegro. Minister of Foreign Affairs of Finland emphasised that Finland supported efforts of Montenegro on its European path and expressed

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willingness for improvement of economic and political cooperation between the two countries. Chair Radunović said that he saw negotiations as a shortcut leading to adoption of democratic principles, development of political awareness and provision of economic standards. It was jointly stated that opening of negotiations for chapters 23 and 24, when the preconditions are fulfilled, was important for the further process in order to meet European standards through effective implementation of reforms.



17 September

- At the fifteenth meeting of the Working Group for Building Trust in the Election Process, MPs discussed the Draft Law on Amendments to the Law on Election of Councillors and MPs. The Working Group started analysis of the proposed solutions in the Draft Law.
- The first in a series of public discussions on the topic “Montenegro and the European Union – Information Society and Media” was organised by the European Integration Committee. Along with the Chair of the Committee Slaven Radunović, the panellists were H.E. Mitja Drobnič, Head of the EU Delegation to Montenegro and Anđelko Lojpur, member of the Negotiation Group for Chapter 10 - Information Society and Media. Apart from the mentioned panellists, the public debate was also attended by representatives of the media, NGO sector, Telekom Crne Gore, as well as the members of the Working Group for Negotiation Chapter 10, MPs and the Service of Parliament of Montenegro.

18 September

- At the sixteenth meeting of the Working Group for Building Trust in the Election Process, the discussion on the Draft Law on Amendments of the Law on

Election of Councillors and MPs was continued. The meeting was marked by a discussion on provisions of this law regulating the constitution of bodies for conduction of elections.

19 September

- Secretary General Damir Davidović participated at the seminar of the European Centre for Parliamentary Research and Documentation (ECPRD) devoted to the topic “Modern Technologies for Support to the Parliamentary Activities – Tradition and Challenges”, which was organised with the State Duma of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation, in Saint Petersburg. In the seminar, participants discussed about the ways in which technological development influenced changes and promotion of parliamentary procedures and practices, as well as implementation of new technologies and innovation in the rules and procedures during adoption of laws and other parliamentary activities. The Secretary General presented the capacities of information and communication technologies in the Parliament of Montenegro and pointed out that preparation of the project task for projecting, development and implementation of the parliamentary information system was underway, with a view to develop a technological support system for the legislative process. Prominent experts from the field of information and communication technologies attended the seminar, as well as representatives of the parliamentary services of the ECPRD member states.

20 September

- At the seventeenth meeting of the Working Group for Building Trust in the Election Process, MPs discussed amendments to the Law on Election of Councillors and MPs, i.e. election and composition of bodies for conduction of elections.
- President of the Parliament of Montenegro Ranko Krivokapić met with Prime Minister of the Government of the Republic of Serbia Ivica Dačić. Krivokapić and Dačić spoke about understanding between Montenegro and Serbia, which resulted in good cooperation between the two countries, both at economic and administrative level. Interlocutors discussed about movement of goods and services between the two countries, with special emphasis on cooperation in the field of tourism and import of

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work force. During the meeting, Krivokapić pointed out that relations between Montenegro and Serbia had been improving, but that there were a number of fields in which the cooperation could be further strengthened for the benefit of citizens of both countries.

- FORCA MP Genci Nimanbegu received Mehmet Ekinci and Nedim Emin, representatives of the SETA Foundation from Turkey, dealing with research of political, economic, social and cultural issues at national, regional and international level.
- With the aim of providing support to the development and implementation of information system which would provide more efficient and transparent legislative process and improve the manner of preparation and monitoring of parliamentary acts, three-week long expert mission was organised in the Parliament of Montenegro, in the period 2-20 September and was successfully finished. The expert mission covered the following: analysis of the current state of information procedures in the Parliament of Montenegro, preparation of the strategic framework for development of information and communication system, defining the strategic goals of the Parliament and recommendation for realisation of those, and at the end, preparation of the Terms of Reference for the development and implementation of the legislative information system, as part of the Strategic Framework. During the mission, the experts met the Secretary General of the Parliament of Montenegro Damir Davidović. In addition to that, experts had a series of meetings with representatives of the organisational units of the Service, in order to acquire better insight of the state and needs of the development of the information system in the Parliament. Employees of the Parliamentary Service, primarily employees of the IT Section, worked with members of the expert mission on the daily basis.

23 September

- President of the Parliament of Montenegro and President of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly Ranko Krivokapić paid an official visit to Romania, upon the invitation of the President of the Chamber of Deputies of Romania Valeriu Zgonea and Chair of Romania's Senate Crin Antonescu. On this occasion, Krivokapić received the Honorary Medal of the

People of Romania, the highest national recognition in that country, which is awarded only to the highest countries' representatives, making him the first public official from the Balkans to receive this medal. Interlocutors emphasised good cooperation between the two parliaments under the regional initiatives where members are both Montenegro and Romania, with special regard to finding possibilities of stronger parliamentary connection of the Balkan region under the framework of OSCE and the South East Europe Cooperation Process, the initiative currently chaired by Romania. During the visit, Krivokapić also had meetings with the President of Romania Traian Băsescu and the First Vice President of the Government of Romania in charge of defence Gabriel Oprea.

24 September

- Presentation of the study-research "Restructuring and long-term sustainability of aluminium industry in Montenegro" created by Vice President of the Parliament of Montenegro Branko Radulović, was held in the Parliament of Montenegro. The aim of drafting the study-research is to answer the most important question for Montenegro – whether it is possible and how, from current dramatic and limiting state, to achieve optimal, efficient and long-term sustainable development of aluminium industry and therefore of the Montenegrin economy. Researches have shown that aluminium industry in Montenegro can be sustainable as well as that it represents the most significant potential that will have extremely significant direct and multiplication effects on all macroeconomic and social parameters in Montenegro. The study offers actual solutions in all segments, how, in which manner and at what pace to achieve the maximum effects and long-term sustainability of aluminium industry and overall metallurgical-energy complex.



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- Members of the standing delegation of the Parliament of Montenegro to the Parliamentary Dimension of the Central European Initiative MPs Damir Šehović and Vasilije Lalošević participated at the session of the Parliamentary Assembly, held in Budapest within Hungarian Presidency over this initiative, from 24 to 26 September. MPs also took part in meetings of general committees dealing with cultural and economic issues, which preceded the parliamentary session of the CEI-PD.

25 September

- Secretary General of the Parliament of Montenegro Damir Davidović spoke with the Head of the Political, European Integration and Trade Section of the EU Delegation to Montenegro Alberto Cammarata and Political Adviser at Delegation Annalisa Giansanti. In terms of drafting the Report of the European Commission on progress of Montenegro in 2013, the Secretary General informed the Delegation on current activities of the Parliament of Montenegro, especially referring to the work of the Working Group for Building Trust in the Election Process. The interlocutors exchanged opinions on possibility of engagement of experts from the field of election process, by using TAIEX as an instrument of European Commission support. During the meeting, the implementation of the Legislative Work Plan and Action Plan for Strengthening Legislative and Control Role of the Parliament for 2013 were also discussed, and the reports on it are being prepared, covering the period to the end of September.



- Chair of the Gender Equality Committee Nada Drobnjak gave an introductory speech at the Seminar on role of women in building integrity and promoting good practices in the area of defence and security, experiences from the South Eastern Europe, which was, in the framework of Montenegrin chairmanship

over the American-Adriatic Charter, held in Podgorica in organisation of the Ministry of Defence and the NATO. The aim of the seminar was for the NATO and its partners to gain deeper insight in the role of women in decreasing corruption risks in defence institutions in South Eastern Europe, as well as to exchange experiences and promote good practices in the defence and security sector, which will be used as addition to research and development of trainings within the NATO Building Integrity Programme for South Eastern Europe.

26 September

- In scope of cooperation with the UNICEF Office to Montenegro, as contribution to the Council of Europe campaign against sexual violence against children "One in Five", in which Montenegro also participates, Delegation of the Parliament of Montenegro to the PACE realised the research "Violence against children in Montenegro – Research on knowledge, attitudes and practices, 2013". In order to present this research, the Delegation of the Parliament of Montenegro to the PACE and the UNICEF Office to Montenegro organised a press conference, where the following spoke: Head of the Delegation to the PACE Zoran Vukčević, Head of the UNICEF Office to Montenegro Benjamin Perks, Chair of the Committee on Human Rights and Freedoms Halil Duković and Minister for Human and Minority Rights Suad Numanović.



- Members of the Committee on Political System, Judiciary and Administration met with the expert team and expert of SIGMA. The meeting was held with the aim to draft the Proposal for a Law on Administrative Procedure, as a procedural law with the widest practical application. Member of the expert team Jadranka Vojinović, Secretary in the Ministry of Interior, presented chronologically the work on drafting the law, emphasising significance of inter-institutional cooperation in that process.

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Professor Ivan Koprić, SIGMA expert, presented opinions of the European Commission and stated that it is a highly important law, which thoroughly regulates legal relations between citizens and administration.

27 September

- President of the Parliament of Montenegro Ranko Krivokapić received in a farewell visit the Ambassador of the French Republic to Montenegro Dominique Gazuy. H.E. Gazuy and Krivokapić stated that Montenegro and France have very good relations, and expressed pleasure over constructive cooperation of the two countries. Krivokapić stated that Gazuy as a devoted ambassador greatly contributed to that cooperation. H.E. Gazuy declared that France will continue to support Montenegro on its Euro-Atlantic path.
- Chair of the Gender Equality Committee Nada Drobnjak and members Draginja Vuksanović, Branka Bošnjak, Ljiljana Đurašković, Zdenka Popović and Goran Tuponja met with the UNDP Resident Representative to Montenegro Rastislav Vrbensky. The meeting was aimed at exchanging views on adopting gender quota in the electoral legislation, in order to improve existing legislative framework and discover mechanisms for making gender quotas more effective. They also spoke about the need for gender mainstreaming in the Law on Election of Councillors and MPs, Law on Political Parties and the Law on Financing Political Parties. UNDP Resident Representative Vrbensky emphasised that the work of the Working Group for Building Trust in the electoral process is an opportunity to include in those laws measures which are recognised in the recommendations of the CEDAW Committee and the EP Resolution on women's rights in seven countries of the South East Europe.
- Chair of the European Integration Committee Slaven Radunović met with participants of the 12th generation of the School of Democratic Leadership. The Chair acquainted the participants with the work of the Committee, as well as with relation of the Committee and the Parliament as a whole with the Government of Montenegro in the process of European integration. He emphasised that it was necessary to adopt a document which would regulate the cooperation of legislative and executive power, therefore creating conditions for stronger

positioning of the Parliament and the Committee in the monitoring of the negotiation process.

- The Committee on Human Rights and Freedoms, NGO Centre for Democracy and Human Rights (CEDEM) and the Open Society Institute from Budapest organised a public discussion on the topic "IPA 2014 – 2020 and inclusion of Roma and Egyptian people in Montenegro". The public discussion was dedicated to new possibilities and challenges in the social inclusion of Roma and Egyptian community in Montenegro, within the EU accession process.

28 September

- President of the Parliament of Montenegro Ranko Krivokapić opened the International Academic Conference in organisation of the Montenegrin Association of Political Science Students (MAPSS). Topic of the conference, in which around 60 political science students from 13 countries of the world participated, was "Challenges of Global Political Economy". Apart from President Krivokapić, participants of the conference were addressed by Thomas Linders, Secretary General of the International Association of Political Science Students (IAPSS) and Ksenija Martinović, President of the MAPSS.

30 September

- At the eighteenth meeting of the Working Group for Building Trust in the Election Process, the dominant topic was the State Election Commission, i.e. provisions of the Law on Election of Councillors and MPs, which define composition and manner of election of members of the State Election Commission.
- Premises of the "Democracy Workshops", project of the Parliament of Montenegro, were visited by Secretary General of the Parliament of Montenegro Damir Davidović and CEO of the Erste Group Bank AG Andreas Treichl. Secretary General Davidović acquainted Treichl with activities in the workshops and the contribution which the project brings to development of the civic education in Montenegro. CEO Treichl was interested in the development of the "Democracy Workshops" in Montenegro, as the project which is organised by the Parliament of Montenegro, with financial support of the ERSTE Foundation and expert and technical support of the NGO Forum MNE.