



Parliament of Montenegro

NEWSLETTER OPEN PARLIAMENT

Newsletter on the Parliament of Montenegro Performance ♦ No. 31 ♦ October 2013

CONTENT

Legislative and oversight activity.....2

News from the Parliament7

Vice President of the Parliament of Montenegro Branko Radulović participated in the Sixth Conference of the Speakers of the Parliaments of the Western Balkans countries.....7

Autumn Session of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe held in Strasbourg.....8

The second public debate, "Montenegro and the European Union – Negotiation Chapters 23 and 24" organised by the Committee on European Integration9

The 59th annual session of the NATO Parliamentary Assembly held in Dubrovnik...9

In focus.....10

Parliamentary glossary.....10

From the history of Montenegrin parliamentarism.....11

From the Parliament's gallery.....11

Calendar.....12

IN FOCUS

Autumn Meeting of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly held in Budva

p. 10



PARLIAMENTARY GLOSSARY

*Do you know...
what is civil society?*

p. 10

FROM THE HISTORY OF MONTENEGRIN PARLIAMENTARISM

Law on State Treasuries and Accounting

p. 11

FROM THE PARLIAMENT'S GALLERY

Vojo Tatar: "Calimeras in Ada"

p. 11

OPEN PARLIAMENT



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FOREWORD

Dear readers,

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

During October, three sittings of the Second Ordinary Session of the Parliament of Montenegro in 2013 were held. In addition, one (Special) Sitting was held, which was dedicated to the Prime Minister's Hour and Parliamentary Questions. In October, the Parliament adopted 12 laws and one decision. The committees considered 20 proposals for a law and five proposals of other legal acts. Furthermore, the committees considered numerous reports and held other activities within their oversight role.

In focus of this month's newsletter is the Autumn Session of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly, held on 13-15 October in Budva. 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 First Sitting of the Second Ordinary Session of the Parliament of Montenegro in 2013, the following laws were adopted: the Law on Ratification of the Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness, the 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, the 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, the 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, the Law on Ratification of the Agreement between the Government of Montenegro and Government of the Republic of Azerbaijan on Double Taxation Avoidance and Prevention of Income Tax Evasion, the Law on Ratification of the Cooperation Agreement in the field of air-traffic between the Government of Montenegro and Government of the Republic of Serbia, the Law on Ratification of the Convention on International Hydro-Graphic Organisation, the Law on Ratification of the Final Acts of the World Radio-Communications Conference (WRC-07), the Law on Ratification of the Agreement between the Government of Montenegro and the People's Republic of China on Promotion of Cooperation in Building Infrastructure, as well as the Law on Amendments to the Law on Higher Education.

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.

Proposal for a Decision on Amendments to the Rules of Procedure of the Parliament of Montenegro was withdrawn.

Under the item on the agenda Elections and Appointments, the MP of Positive Montenegro Mladen Bojanić was elected as a member of the Anti-Corruption Committee.

At the Second Sitting of the Second Ordinary Session of the Parliament of Montenegro in 2013, Proposal for a Decision on Amendments to the Rules of Procedure of the Parliament of Montenegro was adopted.

At the Third Sitting of the Second Ordinary Session of the Parliament of Montenegro in 2013, the following laws were adopted: the Law on Amendments to the Law on Constitutional Court of Montenegro and the Law on Amendments to the Law on Judicial Council.

Prime Minister's Hour and Parliamentary Questions

At the Fourth (Special) Sitting of the Second 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. Six questions were posed to the Prime Minister, while 45 questions and one supplementary question were posed to ministers.

Proposals for laws deliberated in committees

- **Proposal for a Law on Conservation of Natural and Culturo-Historical Area of Kotor** was considered and proposed to the Parliament for adoption by the Legislative Committee.
- **Proposal for a Law on Amendments to the Law on Military of Montenegro** was considered and proposed to the Parliament for adoption by the Legislative Committee.
- **Proposal for a Law on Amendments to the Law on Electronic Commerce** was considered and proposed to the Parliament for adoption by the Legislative Committee.
- **Proposal for a Law on Amendments to the Law on Protection from Noise in the Environment** was considered and proposed to the Parliament for adoption by 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 Legislative Committee.
- **Proposal for a Law on Communal Police** 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 People's Republic of China on Promotion of Cooperation in Building of Infrastructure** was

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

- **Proposal for a Law on Payments** 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 Security and Interoperability at the Railway** 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 Safety of Maritime Navigation** was considered and proposed to the Parliament for adoption by the Legislative Committee. The law proposal was also considered by the Committee on Economy, Finance and Budget; however, it did not obtain the necessary majority.
- **Proposal for a Law on Amendments to the Anti-Discrimination Law** was considered and proposed to the Parliament for adoption by the Gender Equality Committee and the Committee on Human Rights and Freedoms.
- **Proposal for a Law on Consumer Protection** was considered and proposed to the Parliament for adoption by the the Committee on Economy, Finance and Budget.
- **Proposal for a Law on Amendments to the Customs 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 Constitutional Court of 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 the Law on Judicial Council** was considered and proposed to the Parliament for adoption by the the Committee on Political System, Judiciary and Administration and the Legislative Committee.
- **Proposal for a Law on Ratification of the Additional Bilateral Agreement to the European Convention on Extradition from 13 December 1957, aimed at facilitating its implementation** was considered and proposed to the Parliament for adoption by the Legislative Committee.
- **Proposal for a Law on Ratification of the Additional Bilateral Agreement to the European Convention on Mutual Provision of Legal Assistance from 20 April 1959, aimed at facilitating its implementation** was considered and proposed to the Parliament for adoption by the Legislative Committee.
- **Proposal for a Law on Providing Blood** was considered and proposed to the Parliament for adoption by the Legislative Committee.
- **Proposal for a Law on Amendments to the Law on Administrative Fees** was considered and proposed to the Parliament for adoption by the Legislative Committee.
- **Proposal for a Law on Protection of State Interests**

in Mining and Metallurgy Sector was considered and proposed to the Parliament for adoption by the Legislative Committee.

Proposals for other acts deliberated in committees

- **Proposal for a Decision on Adoption of Spatial Plan for Special Purpose National Park "Lovćen"** was considered and proposed to the Parliament for adoption by the Legislative Committee.
- **Proposal for a Decision on amendments to the Rules of Procedure of the Parliament of Montenegro** submitted by the MP Andrija Popović was considered and proposed to the Parliament for adoption by the Committee on Political System, Judiciary and Administration.
- **Proposal for a Decision on amendments to the Rules of Procedure of the Parliament of Montenegro** submitted by MPs Milutin Simović and Aleksandar Damjanović was considered and proposed to the Parliament for adoption by the Committee on Political System, Judiciary and Administration.
- **Proposal for a Decision on amendments to the Rules of Procedure of the Parliament of Montenegro** submitted by MPs Goran Danilović, Borislav Banović, Mladen Bojanić, Almer Kalač and Ljerka Dragičević, was considered by the Committee on Political System, Judiciary and Administration, but it did not get the required majority.
- **Proposal for a Resolution on Manner, Quality and Dynamics of the Integration Process of Montenegro to the European Union** was considered and proposed to the Parliament for adoption by the Legislative Committee and the Committee on European Integration.

Other activities of working bodies

- At the thirteenth meeting of the **Security and Defence Committee** held on 3 October, in terms of considering the Annual Report of Foreign Trade with Controlled Goods for 2012, the Committee adopted a report and submitted it to the Parliament. The Committee did not state its position on the Proposal for adopting the Decision on organising a control hearing of the following: Vice President of the Government of Montenegro, Minister of Interior, Director of the National Security Agency, Advisor for national security to the President of Montenegro, Director of the Customs Administration and former Director of the National Security Agency, and Minister of Foreign Affairs and European Integration, regarding the statement of the Advisor to the President of Montenegro given before the court, on 30 September 2013, since it was withdrawn from parliamentary procedure by the proposer.
- At the sixteenth meeting of the **Committee on International Relations and Emigrants** held on 1 October, the Committee held a control hearing of Vice

President of the Government and Minister of Foreign Affairs and European Integration Igor Lukšić on Decision of the Government to join the Joint Statement on Syria. The Joint Statement on Syria was adopted on 6 September 2013, at the margins of the meeting G20 in Saint Petersburg. The Committee also adopted the Report on control hearing with conclusion that position of Montenegro regarding crisis in Syria were in line with its foreign-policy priority, values that Montenegro had been advocating both in home policy and international relations as well as with international conventions governing this field and forbidding the use and production of chemical weapon of mass destruction. In addition, it was emphasised in the conclusion that by signing the Statement on Syria with more than 30 other countries, Montenegro had joined members of the world organisation that wanted this difficult and delicate issue to be resolved in a just and permanent manner:

- At the tenth meeting of the **Committee on European Integration** held on 7 October, the Committee adopted the Proposal for amending the Draft negotiation position of Montenegro for Inter-governmental Conference on Accession of Montenegro to the European Union for Chapter 23 - Judiciary and fundamental rights. Additionally, the Draft negotiation position of Montenegro for Inter-governmental Conference on Accession of Montenegro to the European Union for 24 - Justice, freedom and security was positively assessed by the Committee.

At the eleventh meeting of the Committee held on 8 October, Jovan Martinović, member of the Committee on European Integration from DPS MP Group was elected as Deputy Chair of the Committee. Members of the Committee on European Integration gave a positive opinion on the Draft negotiation position of Montenegro for Inter-governmental Conference on Accession of Montenegro to the European Union for Chapter 7 - Intellectual Property Rights.

At the twelfth meeting of the Committee held on 17 October, Head of the EU Delegation to Montenegro Mitja Drobnič presented the 2013 Progress report on Montenegro.

At the thirteenth meeting of the Committee held on 21 October, members of the Committee spoke with the new Director General of the EC Enlargement Directorate Christian Danielsson. The importance of defining the framework, which would provide credibility, dedication and principles was emphasised, primarily referring to the rule of law, which is the essence of the most demanding chapters 23 and 24.

At the fourteenth meeting of the Committee held on 23 October, a positive opinion was given on the Report on Chapter 3 - Right of establishment and freedom to

provide services, the Report on Honouring of Commitments in Chapter 25 – Science and Research, and the Report on Honouring of Commitments in Chapter 26 – Education and Culture. The Committee additionally considered the 32nd Quarterly Report on Total Activities within the EU Stabilisation and Association Process.

- At its 30th meeting, which started on 21 October, the **Committee on Economy, Finance and Budget** held a consultative debate (hearing) on the topic: “Implementation of the Law on NGOs regarding their funding”. The provisions of the new Law on NGOs were analysed and it was pointed out that the centralised model of funding of NGOs did not take hold in practice due to, among other things, non-harmonisation of the Law on Games of Chance with the Law on NGOs, as well as the failure to adopt the necessary secondary legislation.
- At the seventeenth meeting held on 9 October, the **Committee on Human Rights and Freedoms** supported the Proposal for a Request for Allocation of Budget Funds for the Protector of Human Rights and Freedoms of Montenegro, submitted and elaborated upon by the Protector. The proposal included the increase of budget funds for the following year for 46,000€ with regard to the budget funds in this year. In addition, the members of the Committee reached a Decision on Control Hearing of the Minister of Labour and Social Welfare Predrag Bošković, on the topic: “Implementation of the Conclusion of the Parliament of Montenegro, adopted regarding consideration of the Special Report of the Protector of Human Rights and Freedoms of Montenegro on the state of human rights of mentally disabled persons residing in institutions, and in the context of CPT Report (advisory body of the Council of Europe) after the visit of the CPT Head of Mission, in February 2013”. The members of the Committee were also informed on the application submitted by the NGO AGP – Association of Gambling Providers from Podgorica to the Committee on Human Rights and Freedoms concerning infringement of fundamental human rights. Furthermore, the Chair of the Committee informed the members of the Committee on the invitation of the NGO Queer Montenegro to participate in the Pride Parade, scheduled for 20 October 2013, in Podgorica. The Chair of the Committee invited the members of the Committee to take part in the said parade.

At the eighteenth meeting, held on 22 October, the Committee held a control hearing of the Minister of Labour and Social Welfare on the topic: “Implementation of the Conclusion of the Parliament of Montenegro, adopted regarding consideration of the Special Report of the Protector of Human Rights and Freedoms of Montenegro on the state of human rights

of mentally disabled persons residing in institutions, and in the context of CPT Report (advisory body of the Council of Europe) after the visit of the CPT Head of Mission, in February 2013”.

- At the fifteenth meeting of the **Gender Equality Committee** held on 18 October, views on improvement of the current legislation regarding quotas for underrepresented sex in the electoral legislation and finding mechanisms to make those more effective were exchanged. Following the comprehensive discussion, it was decided that the Committee shall define conclusions and submit them to the Working Group for Building Trust in the Election Process.

At its thirteenth meeting held on 21 October, the Committee elected Goran Tuponja as Deputy Chair of the Gender Equality Committee and reached an agreement on methodology for drafting the plan for greater recognition of gender aspects in the work of Parliament. Within current issues, the Committee was informed on activities aimed at drafting a research on application of the Gender Equality Law.

At the twelfth meeting held on 25 October in Ostros, the Committee dealt with the topic – The Position of Women in the Country and their Political Empowerment. During the discussion, the Committee pointed out problems regarding unfavourable infrastructural conditions representing an obstacle to successful economic engagement of women from the country, and the difficult living conditions of women in this area. Additionally, it was pointed out that raising awareness of the public was necessary regarding appreciation of their contribution to rural development and the need for their economic empowerment – and thus ensuring equal access and full participation in authority structures, which would make their needs to create developmental policies in the country visible.

- At the tenth meeting of the **Committee on Tourism, Agriculture, Ecology and Spatial Planning** held on 9 October, the Committee decided to solicit from the Ministry of Sustainable Development and Tourism statistical data on noise (complaints filed for violation of regulations on noise with comparative data from the previous years), information on competences of the communal police and Inspection Directorate of Montenegro as well as data on European legislation in this field.
- At the sixteenth meeting held on 9 October, the **Committee on Education, Science, Culture and Sports** did not support the initiative submitted by MP Srđan Perić to hold a control hearing of Minister of Education Slavoljub Stijepović and Minister of Culture Branislav Mićunović on the following three topics: Misuse of children for party purposes in the

kindergarten “Zvezdani vrt” in Golubovci; State of play in publishing field in the light of findings from the Report of the State Audit Institution on the audit of Annual Financial Report of the Institute for textbooks and teaching aid for 2012, and Frequent attacks on journalists and photo-reporters.

At the eighteenth meeting held on 29 October, the Committee decided to hold a control hearing of Minister of Education Slavoljub Stijepović on the topic “Misuse of children for party purposes in the kindergarten ‘Zvezdani vrt’ in Golubovci”.

- The 21st meeting of the **Committee on Health, Labor and Social Welfare** held on 10 October, was dedicated to the international month of fight against breast cancer. Chair of the Committee Zoran Jelić said that October was the month during which the fight against breast cancer had been promoted. Jelić pointed out that the Committee on Health, Labour and Social Welfare was open for cooperation in realisation of the programme implemented in this field.
- At the joint meeting of the **Gender Equality Committee** and **Committee on Health, Labor and Social Welfare** held on 14 October, Deputy Minister of Health Mira Jovanovski Dašić presented the Strategy for keeping and enhancing reproductive and sexual health in Montenegro 2013-2020, along with the Proposal for Action Plan 2014-2015. In addition, the committees adopted many conclusions.
- The joint Meeting of the **Committee on Human Rights, Gender Equality Committee, Committee on Education, Science, Culture and Sports** and the **Committee on Health, Labour and Social Welfare** held on 14 October, was dedicated to the campaign “Every child needs a family”, jointly implemented by the Government of Montenegro, European Union and UNICEF. In addition to members of four parliamentary committees, representatives of the UNICEF and Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare, the meeting was attended by Professor Kevin Brown, Chair of Forensic Psychology of the University of Nottingham, who presented the key findings and facts on negative effects of institutional accommodation for children.
- At their first joint meeting, the **Committee on Health, Labour and Social Welfare** and the **Committee on Economy, Finance and Budget** held on 25 October, the committees held a control hearing of Minister of Health Miodrag Radunović and Director of the Public Procurement Administration Mersad Mujević, on the topic “Public Procurement in the Health Sector”.
- At the seventh meeting of the **Anti-corruption Committee** held on 11 October, the Committee hasn't reached any conclusions regarding control hearing of the Supreme Public Prosecutor on measures and activities taken by the Public Prosecutor's Office, on the occasion of publishing audio-recordings and transcripts

from the meetings of DPS authorities and bodies, relating to the period from their publishing up to holding of the meeting of the Committee, because Deputy Supreme Public Prosecutor Veselin Vučković left the meeting.

- At the seventh meeting of the **Commission for Monitoring and Control of Privatisation Process** held on 18 October, the Commission considered the privatisation procedure for “Gornji Ibar” JSC Rožaje and Forestry Enterprise JSC “Rožaje” Rožaje.

At the eighth meeting held on 22 October, the Commission decided to schedule a meeting which would be dedicated to the current situation in KAP. In addition, the Commission members worked on compliance of conclusions regarding the control of privatisation procedure of HTP “Vektra Boka” JSC Herceg Novi and agreed to continue working on these conclusions in the future.

At the ninth meeting held on 31 October, the Commission held a discussion dedicated to the current situation of the bankruptcy procedure and bankruptcy in the Aluminium Plant Podgorica (KAP).

- At the sixteenth meeting of the **Administrative Committee** held on 31 October, on the occasion of considering candidatures for appointment of one member of the Senate of the State Audit Institution, the Committee decided to hold on 5 November a consultative hearing of candidates who submitted necessary documentation in a timely manner, as follows: Branko Bulatović, Zarija Pejović, Nela Ćuković, Radule Žurić, Žarko Đurišić and Milan Radović. Upon the request of Democratic Front MPs, the Committee decided to propose to the Parliament to dismiss MP Koča Pavlović from the duty of the member of the Committee on Political System, Justice and Administration and to dismiss Veljko Vasiljević from the duty of the member of the Committee on European Integration. The Committee proposed Veljko Vasiljević to be a member of the Committee on Political System, Justice and Administration and Koča Pavlović to be a member of the Committee on European Integration. In accordance with the Law Governing the Wages of the State and Public Officials, the Committee issued two decisions on termination of the right to compensation after the expiration of term of office, upon the requests of Fahrudin Hadrović and Mirsad Mulić, former MPs of the Parliament of Montenegro. Concerning the requests for exercising the right to compensation after the expiration of term of office until gaining the right to pension of former MPs Hidajeta Bajramspahić and Njegosava Vujanović, the Committee concluded that, on the basis of submitted documentation, it could not be established that the applicant, in the period 6 November 2013 - 6 November 2014, acquired the right to pension, in line with Article 10 paragraph 5 of the Law Governing the Wages of the State and Public Officials.

NEWS FROM PARLIAMENT



Vice President of the Parliament of Montenegro Branko Radulović participated in the Sixth Conference of the Speakers of the Parliaments of the Western Balkans countries

Vice President of the Parliament of Montenegro Branko Radulović participated in the Sixth Conference of the Speakers of the Parliaments of the Western Balkans countries, held on 7-9 October in Budapest, upon the invitation of Speaker of the National Assembly of Hungary László Kövér. The Conference was also attended by speakers of the parliaments of Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Macedonia, Kosovo and Serbia as well as the honorary guests – the speakers of the parliaments of the Republic of Srpska, Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina and Vojvodina. Additionally, the Conference was attended by Ambassador of Montenegro to Hungary Mirsad Bibović. The topic of the first session was related to the achieved results in the field of the European integration, where Vice President Radulović shared Montenegrin experience and the so far accomplished achievements. He pointed out that Montenegro had institutionally begun negotiations in accordance with the new Brussels conditions, and that the accession negotiations essentially began by opening the most challenging chapters 23 and 24, which relate to judiciary and fundamental rights, and justice, freedom and security. He pointed out that two chapters relating to science and education had been officially opened and temporarily closed as well as that the screening process for 33 negotiation chapters had been completed. Vice President Radulović especially reflected on the necessarily strong regional cooperation as the key condition for political stability, security and economic development of the Western Balkans. Political elites and parliaments, as he emphasised, take the biggest responsibility in this process as well. He also pointed out that the regional cooperation must be established and strengthened especially in the field of valorisation of energy potentials, networking, and development of the aluminium industry as well as building of the road infrastructure.

During the second session, the main topic was related to the Security policy in the Western Balkans countries. The general position of all the participants was that a certain result has been achieved in security policy and that the cooperation in this area has been intensified compared to the last conference, but not sufficient enough to provide the necessary level of stability, as a precondition for the overall development of the whole region. Vice President Radulović emphasised that security of the Western Balkans was going through transition process - from a relatively well defined security structure to one, which is still not clear enough. He said that the international consensus on political and security policy of the Balkans was under the question

mark to the certain extent, and that the old forces were losing their influence and probably interest – while new forces were getting increasingly important role.



He also emphasised that, on the other hand, there are a number of reforms and initiatives on regional cooperation, including meetings of ministers of home affairs, forums organised for experts from this field and traditional debates of regional security services with security services of the EU and NATO institutions. In addition, regional initiatives should be raised to a higher institutional level, supported politically, so they could achieve the necessary effects in fighting all forms of organised crime, overtaking joint measures in prevention and fight against all forms of terrorism as well as in combating consequences of natural disasters and climatic change. The proposal of Vice President Radulović was supported by all participants in the Conference. Radulović emphasised that, when it comes to Montenegro, the country had preserved and enhanced multi-ethnic harmony and that it would face the opening of chapters 23 and 24 dealing with judiciary and fundamental rights, i.e. justice, freedom and security in the negotiation process with the EU, where political readiness and institutional capacities of Montenegro in terms of realisation of those rights will be shown to the full extent. During the Conference, Vice President Radulović held a number of bilateral meetings with Speaker of the Hungarian Parliament László Kövér, Speaker of the Croatian Parliament Josip Leka, Speaker of the National Assembly Nebojša Stefanović, Speaker of the Macedonian Parliament Trajko Veljanovski, Speaker of the Albanian Parliament Ilir Meta and Speaker of Bosnia and Herzegovina House of Speakers Ognjen Tadić. During these meetings, a set of activities related to the cooperation among parliaments, joint initiatives and projects were agreed upon, in order to intensify and make more efficient the mutual cooperation in favor of both, Montenegro and its neighbouring countries.

Autumn Session of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe held in Strasbourg

Autumn Session of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe was held from 30 September to 4 October in Strasbourg. Delegation of the Parliament of Montenegro to PACE, consisting of the Head of Delegation Zoran Vukčević, its members Draginja Vuksanović, Mladen Bojanić, Predrag Sekulić, Damir Šehović and Snežana Jonica, participated in the Session. The first working day started with the Plenary Session, opened by President of the PACE Jean Claude Mignon. Afterwards, the PACE dealt with procedural issues, during which two new Vice Presidents of the PACE were elected: Sandro Gozi (Italy) and Philippe Mahoux (Belgium). However, what drew special attention was the PACE's decision to suspend voting rights to the Delegation of Iceland, until at least one woman is appointed to the delegation as a representative. The Iceland Delegation was warned about this during June Session. In addition, during the plenum, changes of MPs membership to PACE committees were verified. President of the PACE underlined that the PACE had to make a political contribution to the conflict in Syria, because its members cannot and must not ignore the terrible war that had been going on in Syria. It was also emphasised that the Parliament is politically obliged to contribute to the resolution of this conflict. The event that drew a great deal of attention during the first day of the Autumn Session, was the Awarding of the first ever Václav Havel Human Rights Prize. It was awarded to the human rights activists from Belorussia Ales Bialiatski. Several debates were carried out on PACE Progress report of the Bureau and the Standing Committee and Report on Observation of the parliamentary elections in Albania. Head of the Delegation and PACE Vice President Zoran Vukčević attended the Bureau meeting, which was also held during the first day. Meetings of the following committees were also held: Committee on Political Affairs and Democracy, Committee on Culture, Science, Education and Media, Committee on Social Affairs, Health and Sustainable Development, Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights and Committee on Equality and Non-Discrimination; these meetings were attended by Delegation of the Parliament of Montenegro to PACE. Delegation members also participated in the work of the Socialist Group as well as the work of the Socialist Women's Working Group.

During the second day of the Autumn Session, Vukčević, as a representative of ruling party and member of the Delegation Mladen Bojanić, as representative of opposition, in line with PACE rules, participated at the meeting of the Monitoring Committee, during which the Information note by the co-rapporteurs on their fact-finding visit to Podgorica (8-10 July 2013) was considered. Previously, a meeting with the Co-rapporteurs of the Monitoring Committee Nursuna MEMECAN and Kimmo SASI was held, upon their request. Ana Vukadinović, Ambassador of Montenegro to the Council of Europe also attended the meeting. The PACE elected Iulia Antoanella Motoc as Romania's judge at the European Court for Human Rights. PACE parliamentarians also discussed the Report on the right of children to physical integrity and the Report of PACE monitoring progress. During the second day, meetings of the following committees were held:

Committee on Culture, Science, Education and Media, Committee on Social Affairs, Health and Sustainable Development, Committee on Equality and Non-Discrimination, Committee on Political Affairs and Democracy, Committee on Migration, Refugees and Displaced Persons, Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights as well as meeting of the Network of parliamentarians to stop sexual violence against children. These meetings were attended by members of the Delegation of the Parliament of Montenegro to PACE.



On the third day, the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe decided to restore the voting rights to the Icelandic Delegation, which in the meanwhile had complied with the PACE recommendation and appointed one woman as the permanent member of the Delegation, thereby honouring the PACE rules regarding the less represented gender in national delegations. During the day, meetings of the Committee on Social Affairs, Health and Sustainable Development and the Committee on Migration, Refugees and Displaced Persons were held, as well as a meeting of the Socialist Group, where the members of Delegation participated. During the fourth day, topics included in the agenda under urgent procedure "The Situation in Syria" and "EU and Council of Europe human rights agendas: synergies not duplication" were considered. Meetings of the following committees were held: Committee on Migration, Refugees and Displaced Persons, Committee on Culture, Science, Education and Media, Committee on Social Affairs, Health and Sustainable Development, Committee on Political Affairs and Democracy, Committee on Culture, Committee on Equality and Non-Discrimination, Foreign Affairs Sub-Committee, Sub-Committee on Co-operation with non-European countries of origin and transit. These meetings were attended by members i.e. substitute members of the Delegation of the Parliament of Montenegro to PACE. The last day, the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe considered the Report on combating discrimination against older persons on the labour market and Report on strengthening the institution of ombudsman in Europe. In addition, the Head of the Delegation Zoran Vukčević participated at the meeting of the Bureau, composed of the President and vice presidents of PACE, chairs of political groups and chairs of PACE committees.

The second public debate “Montenegro and the European Union-Negotiation Chapters 23 and 24” organised by Committee on European Integration

The second public debate, on the topic “Montenegro and the European Union – Negotiation Chapters 23 and 24”, organised by the Committee on European Integration was held on 4 October in Podgorica. The panel speakers of the public debate, moderated by Chair of the Committee on European Integration Slaven Radunović, were as follows: Head of the EU Delegation Mitja Drobnič, Chief Negotiator Aleksandar Andrija Pejović, member of the Negotiation Group Svetlana Rajković, as well as heads of the working groups for chapters 23 and 24 Branka Lakočević and Dragan Pejanović.

The speakers pointed out the new approach of the EU and member states regarding the accession process, relating to the fact that the chapters dedicated to judiciary, fundamental rights, justice, freedom and security, would remain open, both for Montenegro and other candidate countries, during the course of the negotiation process. During a part of the debate dedicated to the role of the Parliament of Montenegro, apart from the fundamental legislative function regarding adoption of laws, the thing especially pointed out was the importance of promotion of the oversight role in part of monitoring of implementation of the acquired *acquis*, but also the commitments in which the Parliament was marked as the carrier of activities, through the action plan. During the discussion, representatives of the civil sector as well as some MPs

expressed concern regarding deadlines for implementation of measures in the action plan. However, the negotiating team sent assurances that the Working Group, which had worked on drafting of the action plans, had tried to make the said deadlines realistic and therefore attainable. In addition, it was pointed out that the existence of political will for adoption and implementation of legislation was needed in order to reach the standard, which in the end would be the key criterion for opening and closing of negotiation chapters. Apart from the members of the Committee on European Integration, the debate was also attended by the representatives of the Security and Defence Committee, Committee on Political System, Judiciary and Legislation, Anti-Corruption Committee, and the Committee on Human Rights and Freedoms, Secretary General of the Parliament, representatives of the OSCE Mission, UNDP, NGOs and media.



The 59th annual session of the NATO Parliamentary Assembly held in Dubrovnik

Autumn Session of the NATO PA was held on 11-14 October in Dubrovnik. Montenegrin delegation, Borislav Banović, Luid Škrelja and Branka Bošnjak, participated in the Session. At the opening ceremony and first plenary session, the attendees were addressed by President of the NATO PA Hugh Bayley, President of the Republic of Croatia Ivo Josipović, President of the Croatian Parliament Josip Leko, First Deputy Prime Minister of Croatia and Minister of Foreign and European Affairs Vesna Pusić and NATO Secretary General Anders Fogh Rasmussen. President of the Croatian Parliament Josip Leko addressed the participants, emphasising that he was pleased over the fact that the Croatian Parliament had been hosting this year’s session. He added that Dubrovnik, for its history, was the right place for discussion both on the future of the Alliance and outstanding issues of Mediterranean. On the second and third day, meetings of the following committees were held: Political Committee, Defence and Security Committee, Committee on the Civic Dimension of Security, Economics and Security Committee, and Science and Technology Committee. The meetings were focused on discussions and adoption of reports and political recommendations on topics from the defence and security field, followed by addressing of distinguished representatives of governments, academia, NGO sector and NATO. Parliamentarians from 28 NATO countries discussed security issues, including crisis in Syria, continuation of NATO mission in Afghanistan and future of the Western Balkans. Issues on Balkans were

particularly emphasised during the Meeting, thus NATO re-confirmed the support to the “Open door” policy and aspirations of other countries in the region to follow the example of Croatia and Albania which joined the Alliance in 2009. During the Political Committee meeting, speaking on priorities of regional security policy, First Deputy Prime Minister of Croatia and Minister of Foreign and European Affairs Vesna Pusić particularly welcomed the progress of Montenegro and explained that sharing of experiences with neighbouring countries on negotiation for membership to the NATO and EU had been contributing to permanent stability in the whole region. Montenegro was appraised as strategically important neighbour. During the Second Plenary Sitting, the elections for the President of NATO PA, five Vice Presidents, as well as the Auditor of the Assembly were held. Afterwards, there was a vote on the proposed financial documents and the 2014 Draft Budget. The rest of the session was marked by the voting of delegates on the draft resolutions on the following topics: “Promotion of Sustainability of NATO ground forces”, “New Energy Ideas for NATO Armed Forces: enhancing responsibility, reducing demand, providing supplies”, “Economic and Strategic Implications of the Non-Conventional Oil and Gas Revolution”, “Growing Strategic Relevance of the Pacific Asia: implications for NATO and beyond”, “Afghanistan: Renewed Security, Political and Economic Roadmap for 2014 and Beyond”, “Furthering Stability and the Euro-Atlantic Prospects of the Western Balkans”, and “Syria Crisis: Implications for the Region and Beyond”.

IN FOCUS



Autumn Meeting of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly held in Budva

Autumn Session of the OSCE PA was held on 13-15 October in Budva. The Autumn Meeting of the biggest parliamentary assembly in the world gathered parliamentarians of 57 OSCE member states. It was dedicated to topics such as OSCE role in the promotion for respecting of human rights, terrorism and transnational threats and safety effects of the economic crisis, integration of different societies. In his opening remarks, President of the Parliament of Montenegro and President of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly Ranko Krivokapić said that the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly had been organising Mediterranean Forum for more than ten years, with the aim of strengthening democracy and rule of law for all citizens of Mediterranean area. "We, MPs, have a duty of being missionaries of values, and our task is to help the elimination of prejudice, division between civilisations, East and West, Islam and Christianity. As we have confirmed at the Annual meeting in Istanbul, the Parliamentary Assembly encourages the initiative for strengthening dialogues among MPs from our countries", Krivokapić stated. Krivokapić emphasised that Mediterranean, as a place connecting the two world parts is the best space to identify mutual understanding: "Even today, the whole world is looking at the Mediterranean, Egypt, Libya and Syria. It seems that the history of this area is constantly turbulent. Those, who used to shake their heads doubtfully, expressing disbelief regarding the revolutionary potential of Arabic nations, were wrong for their own prejudices and ignorance. These processes are not the chance for Arabic Mediterranean only. Expanding and strengthening of democracy in the Mediterranean is a historic opportunity and one of the biggest challenges of the OSCE", Krivokapić said. At the opening of the conference, Krivokapić stated that Montenegro had always been a cultural bridge between diverse civilisations in the Mediterranean,

between the East and the West, the North and the South.



"Precisely that kind of spirit of connecting diverse cultures and ideas reflects the essence and the existence of the OSCE itself. Our South-Slavic Nobel Prize winner Ivo Andrić once wrote that out of all things that were the work of human hands, bridges were the most valuable and the most significant. Therefore, our joint results will also be measured through our ability to build bridges – the bridges of inter-governmental, parliamentary and regional cooperation". At the closing of the Conference, Krivokapić said that by, participating in the OSCE Autumn Meetings, the parliamentarians had provided a great contribution to the democratic dialogue on the current global topics of importance. "Democracy does not have all the answers, but it is our task at this event of free ideas to work on the democratic dialogue and to leave behind the results." He added that the new generation of OSCE politicians would be facing numerous challenges. "The coasts of the Mediterranean had never been closer. We are facing challenges in the field of security and protection of human rights. However, we have additional responsibility to take care of the social rights as well, especially in these times of crisis. The politicians must be above the particular interests and take care of the citizens and social justice", said Krivokapić.

PARLIAMENTARY GLOSSARY

CIVIL SOCIETY. "The term civil society can be defined in various ways. Originally, it signified a "political community", a society governed by laws, which are enacted by the state. The term is used more often to describe institutions that are "private" in the sense that they are separate from the government, and that are organized by individual citizens to satisfy their own interests, thus, separating civil society from the state. "Civil society", therefore, refers to the field of autonomous groups and associations, as follows: enterprises, interest groups, clubs, families etc. "¹

¹ Endru Hejvud, *Politika(Politics)*, Beograd, Clio 2004, p. 21

FROM THE HISTORY OF MONTENEGRIN PARLIAMENTARISM



LAW ON STATE TREASURIES AND ACCOUNTING

21 March / 3 April 1903

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

Article 1

All state revenue shall be included in the treasury of Ministry of Finance.

In addition, all state expenditures shall originate from the Funds of Ministry of Finance.

Article 3

Treasurers within all the ministries and other areas within their competence, shall be in charge of the sums received during the year, namely, for all the regular and outstanding categories of revenues.

Article 4

All the expenditures originating from the Main Treasury of Ministry of Finance, shall be within the budgetary limit, as envisaged by the Law on State Budget.

Article 6

Each ministry shall have oversight and control jurisdiction over its treasury as well as over accountants from its subordinate departments, and shall be held accountable for them to the General State Control.

Cetinje, 21 March 1903.

Nikola, handwritten signature

From the Law on State Treasuries and Accounting

Pavičević, B., Raspopović, R., eds. *Crnogorski zakonici 1796-1916*, knj. II (Montenegrin Codes 1796-1916, Book II), Podgorica, Istorijiski institut Crne Gore, 1998, pp. 663-667

FROM THE PARLIAMENT'S GALLERY

Vojo Tatar : "Calimeras in Ada"

Art critics hold that the art of Voja Tatar is close to abstraction with faint figural parties. The painter is occupied by contrasts of Montenegrin landscape, which is dominated mainly by the red, white and blue. The harmony of form and color complements the impression of strength and dynamism, whereby vertical and horizontal balance gives an extra dimension of architectural characteristics to the work. Besides painting, Vojo Tatar also does sculpture. He is a recipient of several awards including the National Award 13 July in 1979.



CALENDAR



1 October

- Autumn Session of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe was held from 30 September to 4 October in Strasbourg. The Delegation consisted of: Head of the Delegation Zoran Vukčević, and members Draginja Vuksanović, Mladen Bojanić, Predrag Sekulić, Damir Šehović and Snežana Jonica.
- Chair of the Gender Equality Committee Nada Drobnjak and members Goran Tuponja, Branka Tanasijević, Branka Bošnjak, and Ljiljana Đurašković, participated in the Conference on the topic “Implementation of the European Anti-Discrimination Standards”, organised in the Parliament of Montenegro. The Conference was organised within the project “Implementation of the European Human Rights Standards in Montenegro and other countries in the region”, led by the German foundation for international legal cooperation (IRZ) and the Government of Montenegro.

2 October

- President of the Parliament of Montenegro Ranko Krivokapić spoke with the newly appointed and plenipotentiary Ambassador of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland Ian Whitting. Krivokapić and Whitting expressed satisfaction over good relations between Montenegro and Great Britain, as well as belief that the two countries would cooperate more intensively. In that context, the interlocutors spoke on strengthening the role of British Council in Montenegro as well as on Montenegro’s aspirations towards the EU and NATO membership, for which, as the Ambassador Whitting stated, they enjoy the full support of Great Britain.
- Chair of the Committee on European Integration Slaven Radunović participated in the panel discussion, organised by the Centre for Civic Education (CCE) and the European Stability Initiative (ESI), on the topic “Croatia’s EU Accession Process – What lessons can Montenegro learn?”. Director General for European Affairs of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and European Integration Snežana Radović and Deputy Chair of the European Stability Initiative Kristof Bender also spoke on the importance of reforms in the integration process.

3 October

- The nineteenth meeting of the Working Group for Building Trust in the Election Process was marked by

continuation of discussion and harmonisation of views on the concept of the State Election Commission. The meeting was also attended by representatives of the Association of Youth with Disabilities of Montenegro and the Union of Blind of Montenegro, who submitted a joint proposal to amend the Law on Election of Councillors and MPs.

4 October

- President of the Parliament of Montenegro Ranko Krivokapić spoke with Minister of Foreign Affairs of Hungary János Martonyi. President Krivokapić and Minister Martonyi noted that relations between Montenegro and Hungary were exceptionally good. Krivokapić thanked Martonyi on constant friendly assistance, which Hungary had been providing to Montenegro during the Euro-Atlantic integration process. In addition, President Krivokapić emphasised that the rule of law remained priority on Montenegro’s path to the EU and NATO. Interlocutors assessed positively parliamentary cooperation between Montenegro and Hungary, as well as the cooperation between ministries of justice of the two countries.
- Vice President of the Parliament of Montenegro Suljo Mustafić hosted the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Turkey Ahmet Davutoğlu, during his visit to Bar. Davutoğlu highlighted that Turkey would continue to assist with the development projects in Montenegro, as well as the strengthening of religious and educational institutions of the Islamic Community.



He also emphasised that Turkey has preserved good relations with all the countries in the Balkans, especially with Montenegro, and pointed out that the members of Islam in Montenegro are a good bridge that connects Turkey and Montenegro. Vice President of the Parliament Mustafić emphasised that the visit of

CALENDAR



Minister Davutoğlu was very significant and that it confirmed, in the best possible manner, the determination of Turkey to develop good relations with Montenegro. Mustafić also highlighted that the Islamic community is the most important and the most durable institution of the contemporary Muslims, and it is very important that Turkey is assisting with types of projects such as the Islamic Centre in Bar, as the largest object of such kind in Montenegro and in the region.

- The second public debate, on the topic “Montenegro and the European Union – Negotiation Chapters 23 and 24”, organised by the Committee on European Integration, was held in Podgorica. The panellists of the public debate, moderated by Chair of the Committee Slaven Radunović, were as follows: Head of the EU Delegation Mitja Drobnič, Chief Negotiator Aleksandar Andrija Pejović, member of the Negotiation Group Svetlana Rajković, as well as heads of the working groups for chapters 23 and 24 Branka Lakočević and Dragan Pejanović.

8 October

- President of the Parliament of Montenegro Ranko Krivokapić spoke with Dirk Lange, Head of the Unit for Montenegro within the European Commission’s Directorate General.



They talked about the current political topics concerning the role of the Parliament in the integration process. The interlocutors estimated that the Parliament has been strengthening its oversight function, and that it represents a place for dialogue between political actors. Lange commended the consensus that the Parliament had reached by adopting amendments to the Constitution and emphasised that it should continue in the same direction. During the conversation on Montenegro’s European integration, Krivokapić and

Lange agreed that the rule of law remained one of the country’s priorities.

- Vice President of the Parliament of Montenegro Branko Radulović participated in the Sixth Conference of the Speakers of Parliaments of the Western Balkans countries held on 7-9 October in Budapest. The topic of the first session was related to the results achieved in the field of the European integration, where Vice President Radulović shared Montenegrin experience and the results Montenegro has achieved so far. The topic for the second session was “Security policy in the Western Balkan countries”, with general position that certain results have been achieved in security policy and that the cooperation in this area is intensified when compared to the period of the last conference, but not sufficient enough to provide the necessary level of stability, as a precondition to the overall development of the whole region.
- Members of the Committee on European Integration met with Dirk Lange, Head of the Unit for Montenegro and Iceland within the European Commission’s Directorate General for Enlargement. Apart from Lange, the meeting was also attended by Mitja Drobnič, Head of the EU Delegation to Montenegro, Alberto Cammarata, Head of Political, European Integration and Trade Section in the EU Delegation, and Annalisa Giansanti, Political Advisor. On that occasion, they referred to the significance of the Committee, which was authorised, on behalf of the Parliament of Montenegro, to monitor and assess the course of the negotiations and pointed out that its full position in the negotiation process had not been defined yet. A suggestion was made on the establishment of regular communication of the European Commission and other EU institutions with the members of the Committee on European Integration, through joint participation in open meetings and public debates, in order to inform Montenegrin public on Montenegro’s progress, but also on challenges on its path towards the EU.
- On the panel devoted to the International Day of Democracy, which was set up in the Inter-Parliamentary Union premises in Geneva, where IPU’s meeting took place on 8-10 October, the Parliament of Montenegro was exemplified by the Inter-Parliamentary Union on celebrating the International Day of Democracy, as a model to other parliaments how this significant day should be celebrated. The Parliament of Montenegro celebrated the International Day of Democracy by implementing the set of activities within the project

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CALENDAR



“Democracy Workshops”. Those activities included meeting of Vice President of the Parliament Suljo Mustafić with third grade students from Primary school “Oktoih” as well as visit of MPs Zorica Kovačević, Azra Jasavić, Obrad Mišo Stanišić and Emilo Labudović to the democracy workshops. MPS spoke to the children about the concept of democracy, role of an MP in democratic society and importance of people’s voice that is heard through their elected representatives during democratic decision making process.



9 October

- Chair of the Security and Defence Committee Mevludin Nuhodžić and representative of the Cetinje Parliamentary Forum Secretariat Jelena Davidović met with representative of the Geneva Centre for the Democratic Control of Armed Forces (DCAF) Project Coordinator Teodor Fuior. During the meeting, future activities of the Security and Defence Committee and DCAF were discussed, with focus on holding a regional meeting of defence and security committees.
- Representatives of MP Groups of the Parliament of Montenegro spoke with the Head of the OSCE/ODIHR Limited Election Observation Mission Boris Frlec. The topic of the meeting was related to conclusions and recommendations from the OSCE/ODIHR Report following presidential elections held in April in Montenegro, harmonisation of the electoral legislation and practice with the OSCE recommendations as well as actual forms of cooperation which would support future measures of Montenegro regarding implementation of OSCE/ODIHR recommendations.

10 October

- President of the Parliament of Montenegro Ranko Krivokapić received Ambassador of Bulgaria Maya

Dobrova for a farewell visit. Krivokapić and Dobrova ascertained the really good relations between Montenegro and Bulgaria. Krivokapić thanked Dobrova for her engagement in Montenegro, during which, as Krivokapić pointed out, the strengthening of relations of the two countries had occurred. Dobrova stated that Bulgaria would continue to support Montenegro on its Euro-Atlantic path.

- The 20th meeting of the Working Group for Building Trust in the Election Process was marked by discussion on the State Election Commission and model of election for Commission Secretary and Commission member, who should be elected with active participation of the civil sector.

11 October

- Plenary session of the 59th annual session of NATO Parliamentary Assembly was held on 11-14 October in Dubrovnik. Delegation of the Parliament of Montenegro, consisting of Borislav Banović, Luid Škrelja and Branka Bošnjak, participated in the Session.
- Chair of the Committee on International Relations and Emigrants Miodrag Vuković participated in the “Ninth International Conference of the European Centre for Peace and Development (ECPD), on reconciliation, tolerance and human safety in the Balkans”, held on 11-12 October. Within the main topic, the issues of peace, development, international, interreligious relations, as well as the regional and international integration had been considered in a wider scope.
- At the 21st meeting of the Working Group for Building Trust in the Election Process, the Draft Law on Amendments to the Law on Election of Councillors and MPs was considered.
- The Regional Conference “Effective Monitoring and Parliamentary Oversight of IPA Funds”, organised by the Parliament of Macedonia and Westminster Foundation for Democracy, was held on 11-13 October in Ohrid. Delegation of the Parliament of Montenegro consisted of Genci Nimanbegu, Srđa Popović, Šefkija Murić and Aleksandar Damjanović.

13 October

- Autumn Session of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly was held on 13-15 October in Budva. The OSCE PA Autumn Meeting was dedicated to the topics such as:

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CALENDAR



the OSCE role in promotion of protection of human rights, terrorism and national threats, security effects of the economic crisis, and integration of diverse societies.

- Chair of the Committee on International Relations and Emigrants Miodrag Vuković, as a member of the Working group of the South-East European Cooperation Process Parliamentary dimension (SEEC PD), participated in the parliamentary seminar, held on 13-15 October in Sofia. The seminar was organised jointly by the Regional Secretariat for Parliamentary Cooperation in South-East Europe (RSPCSEE) and the National Assembly of the Republic of Bulgaria and was dedicated to the topic “Legal status and political functions of inter-parliamentary organisations”. Experts from the international law field and representatives of inter-parliamentary organisations held presentations on this topic.

14 October

- Members of Delegation of the Parliament of Montenegro to the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe Predrag Sekulić, Mladen Bojanić, Draganja Vuksanović, and Snežana Jonica met with the Delegation of the Council of Europe Secretariat composed of Deputy Director of the Directorate of the Council of Europe Danil Khoshabo and Advisors Biljana Prlja and Dario D'Urso.
- Delegation of the Parliament of the Republic of Moldova paid an official visit to the Parliament of Montenegro, within the official visit to Montenegro from 13 to 16 October, implemented within the UNDP project from Kishinev, on the topic “Promoting Democracy by Providing Electoral and Parliamentary Support in Moldova”.



Members of the Committee on European Integration, members of the Committee on Political System, Justice and Administration, as well as the representatives of the Section for research, analysis, library and documentation of the Parliament of Montenegro held meetings with the Parliament of Moldova delegation.

16 October

- President of the Parliament of Montenegro Ranko Krivokapić received Head of the European Union Delegation to Montenegro Mitja Drobnič, who handed to Krivokapić the regular annual report of the European Commission on Montenegro's progress to the EU. Krivokapić emphasised that he considered the Report as a guideline for main priorities related to the possibilities of further democratic reforms and development of Montenegro.
- The European Commission issued the 2013 Progress Report on Montenegro, representing a part of the 2013 Enlargement Package and covering the timeframe from October 2012 to September 2013. In key findings of the 2013 Progress Report on Montenegro by the European Commission, it was estimated that Montenegro had made some further progress towards a functioning market economy, improved the ability to take on the obligations of EU membership, and continued to sufficiently meet the political criteria. In part of the Progress Report on Montenegro relating to the work of the Parliament of Montenegro, it was concluded, inter alia, that the transparency of work had been further enhanced, and the administrative and professional capacities strengthened. Additionally, the oversight role of the Parliament had been enhanced, while it was estimated that the monitoring of implementation of the conclusions adopted by the parliamentary committees needed to be improved. The Report also highlighted that the Parliament had adopted the Action Plan for Strengthening the Legislative and Oversight Role of the Parliament, also representing the answer to the recommendations of the European Commission from the previous year Progress Report.
- Chair of the Committee on Economy, Finance and Budget Aleksandar Damjanović participated in the

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CALENDAR



Interparliamentary Conference on Economic and Financial Governance of the European Union, held on 16 and 17 October in Vilnius, within the Lithuanian presidency over the EU. The Interparliamentary Conference gathered the representatives of the national parliaments of the EU member states, the EU candidate countries, as well as the economic and financial governance experts.

17 October

- Delegation of the Committee on Education, Science, Culture and Sports of the Parliament of Montenegro, consisting of Branka Tanasijević, Head of Delegation, Srđa Popović, Srđan Perić and Zdenka Popović paid a visit to the National Assembly of the Republic of Slovenia on 17-20 October. The Delegation held a meeting with the Delegation of the Ministry, headed by Mirko Stopar, Head of Directorate for Higher Education. In the National Assembly of the Republic of Slovenia, the Committee Delegation met with Jožef Kavtičnik, Chair of the Committee on Education, Science, Sports and Youth, Majda Potrata, Chair of the Committee on Culture, and members of the two committees. The Visit to Slovenia was deemed to be very successful and of significant importance for the future work of the Committee on Education, Science, Culture and Sports.



18 October

- At the 22nd meeting of the Working Group for Building Trust in the Election Process, the discussion on the Draft Law on Amendments to the Law on Election of Councillors and MPs continued. Discussion was focused on election and composition of the polling board.

20 October

- The Public Relations Advisor to the President of the Parliament of Montenegro Snežana Burzan, as a representative of the President of the Parliament of Montenegro Krivokapić, attended the Pride Parade which was held in Podgorica.

21 October

- President of the Parliament of Montenegro Ranko Krivokapić spoke with the Speaker of the Grand National Assembly of Turkey Cemil Çiçek. Following their conversation in the Parliament, Krivokapić and Çiçek stated that the relations between Montenegro and Turkey were traditionally good. Krivokapić stated that Montenegro has special relations with Turkey, as a country that connects the East and the West, a country that connects all the differences in Europe. He emphasised that relations of both countries have a long historic memory, which, in the XX century, turned into friendship and cooperation, in order to develop into full fellowship within the NATO and the EU in XXI century. Çiçek emphasised that Montenegro is one of the most significant countries for the stability of the region.
- President of the Parliament of Montenegro Ranko Krivokapić spoke with the Director General of the Enlargement Directorate Christian Danielsson. Danielsson assessed that Montenegro had achieved a significant progress in European integration and pointed out that the agreement on Constitution made in the Parliament was very important for Montenegro. He expressed expectations for the continuation of reforms in the field of rule of law. Krivokapić emphasised that the Parliament was committed to fulfilling of its integration duties, confirming that by the recent adoption of constitutional amendments and devoted work within the Working Group for Building Trust in the Election Process. Krivokapić and Danielsson agreed that implementation of action plans for chapters 23 and 24 would be one of the biggest challenges for Montenegro in the period to follow.
- At the 23rd meeting of the Working Group for Building Trust in the Election Process, the Draft Law on Amendments to the Law on Election of Councillors

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CALENDAR



and MPs was considered. The focus of the meeting was on a discussion on proposed model for identification of voters at the polling station, using an electronic device.



22 October

- Chair of the Committee on International Relations and Emigrants Miodrag Vuković met with Ambassador of the Arab Republic of Egypt Mohamed Abdel Hakam. Vuković expressed pleasure over the friendly relations between Montenegro and the Arab Republic of Egypt, highlighting the interest for promotion of bilateral cooperation and intensifying of contact at the high level, especially through the inter-parliamentary friendship groups and committees of the two parliaments dealing with foreign policy. Vuković informed his guest that the procedure relevant for forming of the Friendship Group between the Parliament of Montenegro and the Parliament of Egypt was nearly complete, and that the official confirmation of its composition is expected. Additionally, Ambassador Hakam informed Chair Vuković that, after the parliamentary elections scheduled for the beginning of 2014, the Parliament of Egypt would also form a Friendship Group with the Parliament of Montenegro.

23 October

- President of the Parliament of Montenegro Ranko Krivokapić received Ambassador of Romania Mihail Florovic for a farewell visit. Krivokapić and Florovic noted excellent political relations between Montenegro and Romania. Krivokapić thanked Florovic for his engagement in Montenegro, assessing that the relation of the two countries was characterised by mutual understanding and friendly cooperation. Ambassador Florovic stated that, on its path to the EU and NATO,

Montenegro could count on Romania's support in the period to come.

- Delegation of the Security and Defence Committee participated in the Regional Seminar for Parliamentarians on OSCE Code of Conduct on Politico-Military Aspects of Security, which was held from 23 to 25 October 2013 in Konjic, Bosnia and Herzegovina. The Chair of the Security and Defence Committee Mevludin Nuhodžić, and its members Obrad Mišo Stanišić and Velizar Kaluđerović, participated in the work of the gathering.



- At the 24th meeting of the Working Group for Building Trust in the Election Process, the focus of discussion was on the implementation of voting by mail institute, through analysis of solutions that should contribute to transparency in its implementation and prevent possible abuses.

24 October

- President of the Parliament of Montenegro Ranko Krivokapić received Ambassador of Hungary Krisztian Posa. Krivokapić and Posa deemed that the relations of the two countries were reflected in historical understanding and excellent cooperation at the political level. The interlocutors concluded that the two countries should additionally strengthen the economic cooperation, but also cooperation in the field of culture and education. Posa announced that Montenegro could count on political and technical support of Hungary on its Euro-Atlantic path.
- President of the Parliament of Montenegro Ranko Krivokapić received the newly-appointed Ambassador of Austria Johann Fröhlich. Krivokapić and Fröhlich

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CALENDAR



noted good relations between Montenegro and Austria, expressing expectations that it would remain as such during the forthcoming engagement of Fröhlich in Montenegro. Krivokapić and Fröhlich voiced pleasure over the previous cooperation between Montenegrin and Austrian Parliament, assessing that the project Democracy Workshops had a significant contribution to it.



- At the 25th meeting of the Working Group for Building Trust in the Election Process, the consideration of the Draft Law on Amendments to the Law on Election of Councillors and MPs was continued. The meeting was focused on provisions regulating the issues such as: voting in imprisonment institutions, voting in diplomatic and consular missions abroad as well as provision regulating the allocation of mandates.

28 October

- The first joint meeting of the Committee on Economy, Finance and Budget of the Parliament of Montenegro and Committee on Finance, State Budget and Control of Public Spending of the National Assembly of the Republic of Serbia was held. The topic of the meeting was related to the cooperation of committees with independent regulatory bodies with the aim of better control of public spending. The members of the Committee on Economy, Finance and Budget of the Parliament of Montenegro, consisting of: Aleksandar Damjanović, Damir Šehović, Filip Vuković, Zoran Jelić, Zoran Vukčević, Rešid Adrović, Strahinja Bulajić, Milutin Đukanović, Almer Kalač and Mladen Bojanić, attended the meeting. It was agreed that the committees compose a proposal of assessments and positions resulting from the joint meeting discussion. The possibility for holding another meeting in Montenegro was announced.
- The 50th jubilee meeting of the Conference of Community and European Affairs Committees of Parliaments of the

European Union–COSAC, was held within the parliamentary part of the presiding over the European Union on 28 and 29 October in Vilnius. The two-day meeting was attended by representatives of the Parliament of Montenegro, Chair of the Committee on European Integration Slaven Radunović and members Nada Drobnjak and Genci Nimanbegu. The items on the agenda were: 2014 Elections for the European Parliament and Implementation of the Strategy Europe 2020.

- During the first part of the 26th meeting, the Working Group for Building Trust in the Election Process completed the discussion on the Draft Law on Amendments to the Law on Election of Councillors and MPs. During the meeting, attended by Minister of Interior Raško Konjević and his associates, the proposal for new model of identification of voters at the polling station – by using electronic device was considered.

29 October

- Chair of the Committee on Human Rights and Freedoms Halil Duković and Deputy Chair Ljiljana Đurašković participated in the First regional meeting of parliamentary bodies competent for human and minority rights and gender equality, held on 29 and 30 October in the National Assembly of the Republic of Serbia. Deputy Chair of the Gender Equality Committee Goran Tuponja and member of the Committee Žana Filipović also participated in the meeting. The participants gathered to consider the role of the parliamentary bodies in protection of human rights, rights of national minorities and gender equality.



- At the 27th meeting of the Working Group for Building Trust in the Election Process, the Draft Law on Amendments to the Law on Registries of Temporary

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and Permanent Residence was on the agenda. The discussion on proposed solutions, aimed at more precise regulation of terms temporary and permanent residence, has started.

- Vice President of the Parliament Suljo Mustafić and representatives of MP Groups: Branka Tanasijević, Draginja Vukasnović, Emilo Labudović, Zdenka Popović and Srđan Perić received a group of senior year high school students of the Montenegrin American Youth Alumni Association (MAYAA). The visit was organised within the project of celebrating the civic education week. The young adults got acquainted with rights and responsibilities of MPs, manner of organising and functioning of plenary sittings and meetings of working bodies. The young adults were particularly interested in the law adoption procedure and mechanisms for reaching decisions. The visit was held within the parliamentary programme "Open Parliament".



30 October

- At the 28th meeting of the Working Group for Building Trust in the Election Process, the discussion on the Draft Law on Amendments to the Law on Registers of Permanent and Habitual Residence ended.

31 October

- President of the Parliament of Montenegro and President of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly Ranko Krivokapić, during his stay in Vienna, spoke at the meeting of the OSCE Permanent Council. During his visit, Krivokapić met with President of Austria Heinz Fischer and the OSCE Secretary General Lamberto Zannier. During his talks with the OSCE Secretary General Lamberto Zannier, President Krivokapić spoke on further steps for promotion of cooperation between the Parliamentary Assembly and other structures inside the OSCE. They jointly concluded that that the PA, as one of the pillars of organisation, should be even more included in the OSCE policy creation. In Vienna, President Krivokapić spoke with President Fischer on bilateral relations between Montenegro and Austria.

- Day of Parliamentarism in Montenegro is celebrated on 31st October, on the day of constitution of the first National Assembly in Montenegro in 1906, in Cetinje. The Parliament of Montenegro is a key political institution, which in continuity promotes its position, not only in Montenegrin society, but also at the international level. The evidence of that lies in the evaluation of the last European Commission report, especially in the positive evaluation of the strengthening of the legislative and oversight mechanism, as well as the enhancing of administrative and professional capacities. The Parliament of Montenegro recognised the room and suggestions for improvement of its work and would, therefore, continue on its own and in cooperation with domestic and foreign partners to implement measures in all segments of its work, with a view to reaching the standards of the most developed countries of the European Union in the nearest future.

- Chair of the Gender Equality Committee Nada Drobnjak and member of the Committee Branka Bošnjak gave lectures on gender equality aspects to freshmen and senior year high school students in the American Corner. During the lecture, they referred to the significance of gender equality, implementation of the Law on Gender Equality, importance of the Committee and activities it had been implementing, as well as participation of women in political life and on positions where significant state decisions were made—all of those being significant issues on the path toward democratisation. The meeting was organised within the project "Government of the people, by the people for the people" and civic education week, which is realised by Montenegrin American Youth Alumni Association (MAYAA) and under the support of US Embassy in Montenegro.



- At the 29th meeting of the Working Group for Building Trust in the Election Process, the discussion on the Draft Law on Amendments to the Law on Montenegrin Citizenship ended.

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