



Parliament of Montenegro

NEWSLETTER OPEN PARLIAMENT

Newsletter on the Parliament of Montenegro Performance ♦ No. 33 ♦ December 2013

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OPEN PARLIAMENT



Parliament of Montenegro

Newsletter on the Parliament of Montenegro Performance ♦ Electronic format ♦ Release: monthly ♦ Year III ♦ No. 33 ♦ December 2013

FOREWORD

Dear readers,

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

In December, the Parliament adopted 31 laws. The committees considered 21 proposals for a law and proposals of other legal acts. Furthermore, they considered numerous reports and held other activities within their oversight role.

In focus of this month's newsletter is *the Seventh sitting of the European Union-Montenegro Stabilisation and Association Parliamentary Committee*, held on 11-12 December in Strasbourg. 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 Sixth Sitting of the Second Ordinary Session of the Parliament of Montenegro in 2013, the following laws were adopted: Law on Amendments to the Customs Law, Law on Ratification of the Additional Bilateral Agreement to the European Convention on Extradition from 13 December 1957, aimed at facilitating its implementation, 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, Law on Ratification of the Additional Protocol on Cooperation Between the Government of Montenegro and His Serene Highness Prince of Monaco in the Field of Sustainable Development, Law on Ratification of the Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes and Amendments to Articles 25 and 26 of the Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes, Law on Private International Law, Law on Payment Operations, Law on Consumer Protection, Law on Safety and Interoperability on the Railway, Law on Safety of Maritime Navigation the Law on Providing Blood, Law on Amendments to the Nature Protection Law, Law on Amendments to the Law on Housing and Maintenance of Residential Buildings, Law on Amendments to the Law on Employment and Exercising Rights with respect to Unemployment Insurance.

In addition, the Parliament adopted Performance Report and Report on Allocation of Means of the Fund for Protection and Exercising of Minority Rights for 2011, Performance Report of the Protector of Human Rights and

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.

Freedoms for 2012, Annual Performance Report of the Securities Commission and Report on Securities Market in 2012, Concession Act for Awarding Concession for the Reconstruction and Commercial Use of Port Terminals for Loading and Unloading of Containers and General Cargo in the Port of Bar, Decision on accepting the Annex of the Contract on Long-Term Renting of the Land, Signed Between the Government of Montenegro and the Northstar Consortium JSC.

At the Seventh Sitting of the Second Ordinary Session of the Parliament of Montenegro in 2013, the following Laws were adopted: the Law on Protection of Public Interests in Mining and Metallurgy Sector; the Law on Interest Write-offs on Tax and Customs Duties; the Law on Amendments to the Law on Corporate Profit Tax; the Law on Final Budget Statement of Montenegro for 2012 along with: Report on Audit of the Final Budget Statement of Montenegro for 2012 and Annual Report on Audits and Activities of the State Audit Institution, for the period October 2012 – October 2013 as well as proposal for financial statements together with performance reports of independent regulatory bodies for 2012, namely: Energy Regulatory Agency for 2012, Agency for Electronic Media for 2012, Insurance Supervision Agency for 2012, Agency for Medicines and Medical Devices for 2012 and Securities Commission for 2012, Law on Protection of Persons and Property, Law on Amendments to the Law on Foreigners, Law on Amendments to the Law on Protection from Noise in the Environment, Law on Amendments to the Law on Social Council, Law on Amendments to the Law on Research and Production of Hydrocarbon, Law on Amendments to the Law on Territorial Organisation, Law on Amendments to the Law on Games of Chance and the Law on Amendments to the Law on Tax on Insurance Premiums. Additionally, the Parliament gave consent to the Statute of the Agency for Electronic Communications and Postal Services.

Within the Seventh Sitting of the Second Ordinary Session in 2013, the Parliament stated that term of office for MP Veljko Zarubica has started. Under the item Elections and Appointments, the following were elected as members of the management board of the Fund for Protection and Exercising of Minority Rights: Šukrija Cikotić, representative of the Bosniak Council, Bujar Hasangjekaj, representative of the Albanian Council, Sabrija Vulić, representative of the Muslim Council, Zvonimir Deković, representative of the Croatian Council and Ana Popović, representative of the Roma Council.

At the Seventh Sitting of the Second Ordinary Session, the following was adopted: Proposal for conclusions on the occasion of considering the implementation of conclusions of the Parliament of Montenegro of 30 April 2013 regarding Aluminium Plant Podgorica (KAP). Additionally, under the item elections and appointments, the following were elected as judges of the Constitutional Court: Dragoljub Drašković, Milorad Gogić, Miodrag Iličković, Mevlida Muratović, Hamdija Šarkinović, Desanka Lopičić and Budimir Šćepanović, while the following were elected

as members of the Prosecutorial Council among respectable jurists: Mr Radovan B. Krivokapić, Slavko Lukić, Hakija Lješnjanić and Veselin Racković.

At the Eighth Sitting of the Second Ordinary Session of the Parliament of Montenegro in 2013, the following laws were adopted: 2014 Budget Law of Montenegro; Law on Amendments to the Law on Personal Income Tax; Law on Amendments to the Law on Fees for Access to Certain Services of General Interest and for the Use of Tobacco Products and Electro-Acoustic and Acoustic Devices; Law on Amendments to the Law on Mandatory Social Security Contributions. In addition, the following was adopted: proposals for financial plans with work plans of the independent regulatory bodies for 2014, for the following: Regulatory Energy Agency, Agency for Electronic Media, Insurance Supervision Agency, Agency for Medicines and Medical Devices, Agency for Electronic Communications and Postal Services and Securities Commission and Resolution on Manner, Quality and Dynamics of the Integration Process of Montenegro to the European Union.

At the Tenth Sitting of the Second Ordinary Session of the Parliament of Montenegro in 2013, the Law on Amendments to the Disability Insurance Law was adopted.

Prime Minister's Hour

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

Proposals for laws deliberated in committees

- **Proposal for a Law on Amendments on the Law on Ski Resorts** was considered and proposed to the Parliament for adoption by the Legislative Committee and the Committee on Tourism, Agriculture and Spatial Planning.
- **Proposal for a Law on amendments to the Law on Social Council** was considered and proposed to the Parliament for adoption by the Legislative Committee.
- **Proposal for a Law on Amendments to the Law on Insurance Premiums Tax** was considered and proposed to the Parliament for adoption by the Legislative Committee.
- **Proposal for a Law on Amendments to the Law on Employment and Exercising Rights with respect to Unemployment Insurance** was considered and proposed to the Parliament for adoption by the Legislative Committee and the Committee on Health, Labor and Social Welfare.
- **Proposal for a Law on Amendments to the Law on the Territorial Organisation of Montenegro** was considered by the Committee on Political System, Judiciary and Administration, which decided to propose to the Parliament not to adopt it. The law proposal was

also considered by the Legislative Committee, which decided to propose to the Parliament for adoption.

- **Proposal for a Law on Amendments to the Law on State and Other Holidays** was considered by the Committee on Political System, Judiciary and Administration, which decided to propose to the Parliament not to adopt it.
- **Proposal for a Law on the Combined Transportation of Cargo** was considered and proposed to the Parliament for adoption by the Committee on Economy, Finance and Budget.
- **Proposal for the Law on Amendments to the Law on Research and Production of Hydrocarbon** was considered and proposed to the Parliament for adoption by the Committee on Economy, Finance and Budget and the Legislative Committee.
- **Proposal for a Law on Amendments to the Law on Obligations** was considered by the Committee on Economy, Finance and Budget, which decided to propose to the Parliament not to adopt it.
- **Proposal for a Law on Protection of Persons and Property** was considered and proposed to the Parliament for adoption by the Security and Defence Committee.
- **Proposal for a Law on Final Budget Statement of Montenegro for 2012, along with Audit Report on the Final Budget Statement of Montenegro for 2012** was considered and proposed to the Parliament for adoption by the the Security and Defence Committee and the Committee on Economy, Finance and Budget.
- **Proposal for a Law on Deadlines for Settling Financial Obligations** 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 Budget of Montenegro for 2014**, was considered and proposed to the Parliament for adoption by the Legislative Committee and Committee on Economy, Finance and Budget. The following committees: Security and Defence Committee; Anti-corruption Committee; Gender Equality Committee; Committee on Political System, Judiciary and Administration; Committee on Tourism, Agriculture, Ecology and Spatial Planning; Committee on Human Rights and Freedoms; Committee on Education, Science, Culture and Sports; Committee on International Relations and Emigrants; Committee on European Integration, Committee on Health, Labor and Social Welfare, as interested committees, considered and submitted their opinion about the Proposal for the Budget Law to the lead committee - the Committee on Economy, Finance and Budget.
- **Proposal for a Law on the Old Royal Capital** was considered and proposed to the Parliament for adoption by the Legislative Committee.
- **Proposal for a Law on Amendments to the Law on Games of Chance** was considered and proposed to the Parliament for adoption by the Legislative Committee

and the Committee on Economy, Finance and Budget.

- **Proposal for a Law on Amendments to the Law on Pension and Disability Insurance** was considered and proposed to the Parliament for adoption by the Committee on Health, Labor and Social Welfare. The Law proposal was also considered by the Legislative Committee, which decided to propose to the Parliament not to adopt it.
- **Proposal for a Law on Amendments to the Law on Agriculture and Rural Development** was considered and proposed to the Parliament for adoption by the Legislative Committee. The law proposal was also considered by the Committee on Tourism, Agriculture, Ecology and Spatial Planning, which decided to propose to the parliament not to adopt it.
- **Proposal for a Law on Amendments to the Law on Foreigners** was considered and proposed to the Parliament for adoption by the Committee on Political System, Judiciary and Administration and the Legislative Committee.
- **Proposal for a Law on Amendments to the Law on Personal Income Tax** was considered and proposed to the Parliament for adoption by the Committee on Economy, Finance and Budget and the Legislative Committee.
- **Proposal for a Law on Amendments to the Law on Fees for Access to Certain Services of General Interest and for the Use of Tobacco Products and Electro-Acoustic and Acoustic Devices** was considered and proposed to the Parliament for adoption by the Committee on Economy, Finance and Budget and the Legislative Committee.
- **Proposal for a Law on Amendments to the Law on Mandatory Social Security Contributions** was considered and proposed to the Parliament for adoption by the Committee on Economy, Finance and Budget and the Legislative Committee.

Proposals for other acts deliberated in committees

- **Proposal for a Decision on Awarding Concession for Commercial Use of the Port Terminals for Loading and Unloading of the Containers and General Cargo in the area of KO Novi Bar** was considered and proposed to the Parliament for adoption by the Legislative Committee.
- **Proposal for a Decision on the Dismissal and Election of a member of the Committee for Tourism, Agriculture, Ecology and Spatial Planning** was determined by the Administrative Committee.
- **Proposal for a Decision on the Dismissal and Election of a member of the Committee on Political System, Judiciary and Administration** was determined by the Administrative Committee.
- **Proposal for a Decision on Adoption of Special Purpose Spatial Plan for the National Park "Lovćen"** was considered and proposed to the Parliament for adoption by the Legislative Committee and the

Committee on Tourism, Agriculture, Ecology and Spatial Planning.

- **Proposal for a Decision on Adopting the Contract on Long-Term Renting of the Land, signed between the Government of Montenegro and the Northstar Consortium JSC Podgorica and the Eguest Capital Limited Jersey, UK** was considered and proposed to the Parliament for adoption by the Legislative Committee.
- **Proposal for a Decision on Adopting the Annex 1 of the Contract on Renting the Hotel "Kraljičina plaža" in Budva** was considered by the Legislative Committee, which decided to propose to the Parliament not to adopt it.
- **Proposal for a Decision on Adopting the Annex 1 of the Contract on Renting the Hotel "Sveti Stefan" and "Miločer" in Budva** was considered by the Legislative Committee which decided to propose to the Parliament not to adopt it.
- **Proposal for a Decision on Amendments to the Rules of Procedure of the Parliament of Montenegro** was considered and proposed to the Parliament for adoption by the Committee on Political System, Judiciary and Administration and the Legislative Committee.
- **Proposal for a Decision on the election of five members of the Management board of the Fund for Protection and Exercising of Minority Rights** was determined by the Administrative Committee.
- **Proposal for a Rulebook on Amendments to the Rulebook on internal organisation and systematisation of the Agency for Personal Data Protection and Free Access to Information as well as Proposal for the amendments to the Statute of the Agency for Personal Data Protection and Free Access to Information** were given consent by the Administrative Committee.
- **Proposal for a Decision on the Election of a member of the Committee on Political System, Judiciary and Administration** was determined by the Administrative Committee.
- **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.
- **Proposal for a Decision on the Election of a member of the Committee on European Integration** was determined by the Administrative Committee.
- **Proposal for a Decision on the Election of a member of the Committee on International Relations and Emigrants of the Parliament of Montenegro** was determined by the Administrative Committee.
- **Proposal for a Decision on the Election of a member of the Anti-Corruption Committee** was determined by the Administrative Committee.

- **Proposal for a Decision on the Election of a member of the Commission for Monitoring and Control of the Privatisation Procedure of the Parliament of Montenegro** was determined by the Administrative Committee.
- **Proposal for a Decision on the Election of a member of the Committee on Education, Science, Culture and Sports** was determined by the Administrative Committee.
- **Proposal for a Decision on the Election of a member of the Gender Equality Committee of the Parliament of Montenegro** was determined by the Administrative Committee.
- **Proposal for a Decision on the Election of a member of the Security and Defence Committee** was determined by the Administrative Committee.

Other activities of working bodies

- At its sixteenth meeting held on 3 December, the **Constitutional Committee** determined the Rulebook on the procedure for determining proposals for election of five judges of the Constitutional Court. The Committee continued its 19th meeting on 27 December, during which it determined the Proposal for election of five judges of the Constitutional Court. The following candidates have been proposed for judges of the Constitutional Court: Dragoljub Drašković, Milorad Gogić, Miodrag Iličković, Mevlida Muratović i Hamdija Šarkinović.
- At its 50th meeting held on 27 December, the **Legislative Committee** considered and proposed to the Parliament for adoption the Proposal for Conclusion following consideration of the Proposal for a Law on Budget of Montenegro for 2014, submitted by MP Rifat Rastoder and also on the Proposal for Conclusion following consideration of the Proposal for a Law on Budget of Montenegro for 2014, submitted by MP Srđan Milić.
- At the 32nd meeting of the **Committee on Political System, Judiciary and Administration**, held on 9 December, the Committee held a consultative hearing of candidates for the election of four members of the Judicial Council, among the respectable jurists. At the 33rd meeting of the Committee, which took place on 10 December, the Committee held a consultative hearing of candidates for election of four members of the Prosecutorial Council, among respectable jurists. At the 34th meeting of the Committee, which took place on 11 December, the Committee held a consultative hearing of a candidate for the election of Supreme Public Prosecutor of Montenegro, proposed by the Prosecutorial Council. At the 37th meeting, which started on 17 December and continued on 23 and 27 December, members of the Committee shared their views concerning possible conflict of interest of candidates i.e. attorneys which have applied for the position of a member of Judicial Council. Upon reaching an agreement on the matter, the

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Committee has decided unanimously not to propose any candidates to the Parliament for the election of four members of the Judicial Council. In addition, the Committee decided unanimously to issue a Public Notice for the election of four members of the Judicial Council, among respectable jurists. Under the procedure for determining the Proposal for the election of four members of the Prosecutorial Council, among respectable jurists, the Committee determined the aforementioned Proposal and submitted it to the Parliament. At the same meeting, the Committee decided that it wasn't necessary to state its position on the Proposal for the election of Supreme State Prosecutor of Montenegro. At the 37th meeting continued on 23 December, 2013, the Committee determined the Proposal for the election of four members of the Prosecutorial Council, among respectable jurists and submitted it to the Parliament.

- At the first joint meeting of the **Anti-Corruption Committee** and the **Committee on Political System, Judiciary and Administration**, which took place on 20 December, the committees held a consultative hearing on the topic: "Ensuring independence of Councils and local offices through reforming the legal framework in part relating to appointments and dismissal from duty of magistrates".
- At its 15th meeting, on 18 December, the **Security and Defence Committee** held a consultative hearing of military and diplomatic representative of Montenegro Lieutenant Colonel Hajrudin Djerekarac, before assuming the office of Defence Attache in the Federal Republic of Germany – Berlin, and Republic of Poland, Kingdom of the Netherlands and Kingdom of Denmark on non-residential basis. Members of the Committee unanimously adopted the Report on the results of the consultative hearing and expressed their full support to the activities that Lieutenant Colonel Djerekarac would implement with the aim of realisation of defined priorities, while assessing that this would contribute the affirmation of the Military of Montenegro.
- At the eighteenth meeting, held on 6 December, the **Committee on International Relations and Emigrants** considered and accepted the following proposals: proposal to nominate Željko Perović as Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary Ambassador of Montenegro to the Republic of Portugal and Kingdom of Spain, on a non-residential basis, based in Podgorica; proposal to nominate Miroslav Šćepanović as the Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary Ambassador of Montenegro to the Kingdom of Sweden, Republic of Finland, Kingdom of Norway and Kingdom of Denmark, on a non-residential basis, based in Podgorica, and the proposal to nominate Petar Popović as the Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary Ambassador of Montenegro to the Republic of Greece, on a non-residential basis, based in Athens.
- At the 16th meeting of the **Committee on European Integration**, held on 26 December, representatives of

the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and European Integration presented the Proposal for Montenegro's EU Accession Programme, which represents a comprehensive plan for adopting regulations and their implementation in the next five years. Information on bilateral cooperation between Montenegro and the EU member states was also presented at the meeting. The emphasis was placed on the intensity and dynamics of bilateral relations between Montenegro and EU member states as well as the possibility of sharing embassy buildings with countries in the region, which would significantly reduce the costs of the functioning of diplomatic and consular representations.

- **Committee on Economy, Finance and Budget**, at its 38th meeting held on 9 December, decided to propose Šaleta Đurović as the Chair of Council of the Agency for Electronic Communications and Postal Services. Furthermore, the Committee decided to propose Aleksandar Mijač and Branko Kovijanić as members of the Council.

At the continuation of the 37th meeting, the Committee decided to propose to the Parliament of Montenegro to adopt conclusions which support the results and recommendations of the State Audit Institution aimed at further improving the system of public expenditures.

At the 40th meeting held on 16 December, the Committee decided to propose to the Parliament of Montenegro to adopt the following financial plan proposals for 2014, along with work plans of the following independent regulatory bodies: Securities Commission, Insurance Supervision Agency, Energy Regulatory Agency, Agency for medicines and medical devices, Agency for Electronic Communications and Postal Services and Agency for Electronic Media. The Committee was acquainted with the Financial Plan of the Central Bank of Montenegro for 2014, in accordance with Article 71 of the Law on the Central Bank of Montenegro.

At its 42nd meeting held on 27 December, the Committee decided to propose to the Parliament to adopt the Proposal for Conclusion following consideration of implementation of conclusions of the Parliament of Montenegro as of 30 April 2013, concerning the Aluminium Plant Podgorica, submitted by MPs Srđan Milić, Aleksandar Damjanović and Velizar Kaluđerović. In Addition, the Committee decided to propose to the Parliament to adopt the slightly amended Proposal for Conclusion following consideration of the Proposal for Decision on accepting the annex of the contract on long-term renting of the land, signed between the Government of Montenegro and the Northstar Consortium JSC Podgorica and the Equest Capital Limited Jersey, UK, submitted by MPs of Socialist People's Party of (SNP). Additionally, the Committee considered proposals for new financial plans of six independent regulatory bodies and decided to propose the Parliament to adopt them.

- The **Committee on Human Rights and Freedoms**, dedicated its 21st meeting, held on 17 December, to the

rights of the child, during which it considered the following: Information on realisation of the 2013-2017 National Action Plan for children, Information on realisation of 2013-2017 Strategy for Social and Child welfare development in Montenegro, and Information on realisation of children's rights in terms of inclusion of children in the educational system, especially children with disabilities, within the scope of competence of institutions, responsible for the enforcement of these rights. Following the consideration of information, the Committee has decided to draft Reports, along with draft conclusions, and submit them to the Collegium of the President of the Parliament of Montenegro, Ministry of Labor and Social Welfare, Ministry of Education, Ministry of Sustainable Development and Tourism and the Protector of Human Rights and Freedoms of Montenegro.

At its 24th meeting held on 27 December, the Committee considered and unanimously adopted four reports with conclusions following information considered at its 21st meeting.

- At the 21st meeting of the **Gender Equality Committee** held on 4 December, which was attended by Aleksandra Cas Granje, Director at the Directorate General for Enlargement of the European Commission, there was a discussion on political participation of women in the accession process to the EU. In addition, the meeting was attended by Rastislav Vrbenski, UN Resident Coordinator/UNDP Resident Representative to Montenegro, Mitja Drobnič, Head of the EU Delegation to Montenegro, Alberto Cammarata, Head of the Political, European Integration and Trade Sections of the EU Delegation to Montenegro, Dawn Adie Baird, Deputy Head of Operations Section of the EU Delegation to Montenegro, André Lys, Head of Operations Section at the Delegation of the European Union to Montenegro, and others.

The 22nd meeting of the Committee, held on 5 December, was dedicated to the 70th Anniversary of political participation of women in Montenegro, on the occasion of the Women's Anti-Fascist Congress of Montenegro and Boka Kotorska primarily held on 5 December 1943. The meeting was attended by Gospava Kovačević from Herceg Novi, Bosa Mihajlović from Podgorica and Milosava Strunjaš from Pljevlja.

At the 24th meeting held on 27 December, the Committee voted in favour of the Report on Honouring Recommendations of the UN CEDAW, which was drafted by the Ministry for Human and Minority Rights. Assistant Minister in the Ministry of Human and Minority Rights Sabahudin Delić presented the Report to the members of the Committee.

- At the fifteenth meeting of the **Committee for Tourism, Agriculture, Ecology and Spatial Planning**, held on 10 December, the Committee decided to hold a control

hearing of Minister of Sustainable Development and Tourism Branimir Gvozdenović, Minister of Health Miodrag Radunović, President of Municipality Berane Vuko Golubović, Director of Public company "Komunalno" from Berane Milijana Vučeljić and Director of Montenegro's Environmental Protection Agency Ervin Spahić, regarding the waste disposal in »Vasove vode«, Beranselo, Municipality of Berane.

At its 19th meeting held on 27 December, the Committee considered the information on activities regarding harmonisation of the national legislation with the European Union *acquis* for the following chapters: 11 - Agriculture and rural development; 12 - Food safety, veterinary and phytosanitary policy; 13 - Fisheries and 27- Environment and Climate.

- The **Committee on Health, Labor and Social Welfare** dedicated its 27th meeting held on 2 December to celebrating the World AIDS Day. Chair of the Committee Zoran Jelić has emphasised that the main purpose of celebrating the World AIDS Day was countering discrimination and stigma towards people living with HIV as well as raising awareness.

At its 28th meeting, held on 3 December, the Committee adopted a report along with conclusions reached during the control hearing on the topic: "Epidemiological situation in Berane".

The Committee dedicated its 29th meeting, held on 4 December, to celebrating the International Day of People with Disability. Representatives of associations dealing with issues concerning people with disability have shortly presented their plans, proposals and initiatives as well as advantages and disadvantages in their profession. All the representatives have referred to the disadvantages of social policy and problems that people with disability encounter in getting a job or healthcare. They pointed out inconsistencies in the implementation of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

- At the 24th meeting held on 26 December, the Committee on Education, Science and Sports decided that the study visit of the Committee members to Finland will be held in March 2014. Additionally, the Committee decided that the members of the Committee pertaining to the opposition-DF, SNP and PCG shall jointly decide who from their party will be a part of the delegation.

At the 26th meeting held on 27 December, the Committee elected MP Radosav Nišavić, from SNP, as Deputy Chair of the Committee.

- At the joint meeting of the **Gender Equality Committee** and the **Committee on Education, Science and Sports**, held on 27 December, committees considered the initiative on introducing compulsory sexual education in the education system in Montenegro, which was submitted by the Center for women's and peace education Anima. Following the submission of the initiative, upon ending their discussion, the members of

the committee have adopted several conclusions.

- At the tenth meeting of the **Anti-corruption Committee**, held on 23 December, Montenegro's Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Justice Duško Marković acquainted the Committee with the Sixth Report on the Realisation of the Action Plan 2013-2014 for implementation of the Strategy for the Fight Against Corruption and Organised Crime 2010-2014 and commitments of Montenegro in negotiations with the EU under chapters 23 and 24.

At its eleventh meeting, held on 27 December, the Committee held consultative hearing of the following: Minister of Finance, Director of the Department of Public Revenues, Director of Real Estate Administration and Director of Agency for the protection of personal data and free access to information. The reason for the hearing was the removal of identification numbers from the webpage of the Central Register of Commercial Entities and Real Estate Administration.

- **Commission for Monitoring and Control of the Privatization Process** started its 10th meeting on 11 December, during which it held a discussion following the control of privatisation process "Montavar Metalac" DOO Nikšić.

At the eleventh meeting of the Commission, held on 16 December, there was a discussion following the monitoring of privatisation process of "Container terminal and General Cargo" AD Bar.

- At the 19th meeting of the **Administrative Committee**, on 5 December, the Committee determined two proposals for a Decision and proposed to the Parliament to dismiss MP Genci Nimanbegu from his duty as member of the Committee on Tourism, Agriculture, Ecology and Spatial Planning of the Parliament of Montenegro and elect MP Šefkija Murić as a member of the Committee on Tourism, Agriculture, Ecology and Spatial Planning of the Parliament of Montenegro. The Committee proposed to the Parliament to dismiss MP Šefkija Murić from his duty as a member of the Committee on Political System, Judiciary and Administration and elect MP Genci Nimanbegu as a member of the Committee on Political System, Judiciary and Administration.

At its 20th meeting, held on 10 December, the Committee decided to ask for additional information from the Ministry on Human Rights and Minorities on the reasons for not establishing the Serbian National Council and implementation of Article 42b of the Law on Minority Rights and Freedoms. In addition, the Committee was acquainted with the Draft Decision on the method and procedure for the election of representatives from NGO sector in working bodies formed by the Parliament of Montenegro. The Committee also stated that it did not

participate in the procedure for the election of members of the Board of the Energy Regulatory Agency, that it was not competent to give an authentic interpretation, and that the Law on Energy stipulates that the election of the members of the Board fall under the competencies of the Government of Montenegro.

At its 22nd meeting, held on 16 December, on the occasion of consideration of candidates for appointment of one member of the Senate of the State Audit Institution, the Administrative Committee held a consultative hearing of the following candidates: Nela Čuković, Žarko Đurišić, Branko Bulatović, Mirko Jovović, Radule Žurić, Milan Radović, Sonja Smolović and Ruždija Kalač.

At its 23rd meeting, the Committee decided to propose to the Parliament to elect MP Veljko Zarubica as the member of the Committee on Political System, Judiciary and Administration of the Parliament of Montenegro.

At its 24th meeting, on 23 December, the Committee determined seven proposals for a decision and decide to propose to the Parliament to elect the MP Danko Šarančić, as a member of the Committee on European Integration and the Committee on International Relations and Emigrants of the Parliament of Montenegro, to elect the MP Dragoslav Šćekić as a member of the Anti-Corruption Committee and the Commission for Monitoring and Control of the Privatisation Procedure of the Parliament of Montenegro, to elect the MP Radosav Nišavić, as a member of the Committee on Education, Science, Culture and Sports and the Gender Equality Committee of the Parliament of Montenegro, and to elect the MP Snežana Jonica as a member of the Security and Defence Committee.

At its 25th meeting held on 26 December, the Committee, with the presence of the Secretary General of the Parliament of Montenegro Damir Davidović, positively estimated the implementation of the Rulebook on Organisation and Systematisation of the Parliamentary Service as of 31 July and gave consent to the Proposal of the Rulebook on Amendments to the Rulebook on Organisation and Systematisation of the Parliamentary Service. Upon the Proposal of the President of the Parliament of Montenegro Ranko Krivokapić, the Committee dismissed from duty Snežana Burzan from the position of Advisor to the President of the Parliament of Montenegro, upon her personal request. The Committee also decided, upon the Proposal of the President of the Parliament of Montenegro Ranko Krivokapić, to appoint Marin Radojević as the Advisor for Public Relations. In accordance with the Law on Public Broadcasting Services of Montenegro, the Committee decided to initiate the procedure on appointing the Council of Radio Television of Montenegro by the end of January 2014.

NEWS FROM PARLIAMENT



Fifteenth Cetinje Parliamentary Forum held

Fifteenth Cetinje Parliamentary Forum, opened by Vice President of the Parliament of Montenegro Suljo Mustafić, was dedicated to the topic “Strengthening the oversight role of parliament in the defence and security sector”. Mustafić emphasised that full implementation of constitutional and law provisions was a significant guarantee that democratic oversight of institutions in the defence and security sector would be at a high level and that this goal could be achieved through continuous work and constant efforts which required improvement of knowledge and exchange of experience. Mustafić also stated that in the following period Montenegro will continue with its serious preparation for full-fledged membership in NATO, through further implementation of its defence and security reform and democratic standards. Opening remarks were made by Chair of the Security and Defence Committee Mevludin Nuhodžić and Assistant Director and Head of Department for Operations for South East Europe DCAF from Geneva Darko Stančić. In his opening remarks, Chair of the Security and Defence Committee Mevludin Nuhodžić referred to the importance of the role of parliaments, especially at this moment, when budget allocations for security and defence are decreasing in countries across the world and yet remains the challenge we are all facing on how not to affect the security in our countries and the region as a whole, given that there is an ongoing economic stagnation.

In her remarks, Minister of Defense Milica Pejanović Đurišić emphasised that the issue of democratic political oversight in the defense sector is one of the main EU and NATO membership requirements. The Minister of Defense assessed the role of the Parliament to be very important for a more transparent and efficient use of defense budget funds, in the context of civil and democratic control of the security and defense sector.



The continuation of the Forum was on the legal framework of monitoring the security and defence sector. During the discussion, participants exchanged their experience and made assessments on whether the current legal framework in the participating countries was sufficient for ongoing and effective enforcement of parliamentary oversight, with special emphasis on models, aimed at improving the work in practice. At the end of the Forum, a Joint Statement was adopted.

Fifth Session of the Children's Parliament held

The Parliament of Montenegro, in cooperation with the Children's Right Center of Montenegro and with the support of UNICEF Office and Save the Children organised the Fifth Session of Children's Parliament. The topic of this year's Fifth Children's Parliament was poverty.

President Krivokapić emphasised that Montenegrin Parliament was committed to respecting human rights and values and creating a democratic society where family holds an important place. He emphasised that he was glad that Montenegrin society was acquiring awareness on public good, also recognised by the Parliament of Montenegro, which has been including the youngest in the process of democratisation through projects “Open Parliament” and “Democracy Workshops”. Thanks to those projects, the Parliament of Montenegro had been visited by more than 7000 children, Krivokapić reminded, also telling to the participants of the Children's Parliament that they were the future of Montenegro. He expressed gratitude for the previous successful cooperation to

representatives of the Children's Rights Centre and Save the Children for Western Balkans, with whom the Parliament of Montenegro realised this year's V Children's Parliament. Chair Students, on behalf of the Children's Parliament, introduced their colleagues and their presentations. Following the presentations, children posed questions to president Krivokapić, ministers and their assistants, assistants of the mayor of Podgorica, mayor of Cetinje and representative of UNICEF.



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Awards handed to this year's best employees

President of the Parliament of Montenegro awarded this year's best employees. In his addressing to employees, President Krivokapić stated: "With you, my colleagues, we have a chance to be good. This building is not composed of walls, but the spirit of people in it, and the faith that the spirit would create a new and bigger building. Without you, this institution would not be what it is. You are much more than mere civil servants and state employees. You are the spirit of this building".

Momir Joksimović, Vesna Peković, Mirko Milošević and Igor Radulović were awarded as best employees in 2013. Twelve-years old Nađa Janković, student of the fourth grade of the primary music school from Tivat in the class of professor Srđan Bulatović, who won the

first award at the International Classical Guitar Competition in Almere (Andalusia), performed during the ceremony. That is her second international award after winning a gold award at the international competition in Slovenia, at "Days of guitars - Krško".



President of the Parliament of Montenegro and OSCE Parliamentary Assembly Ranko Krivokapić participated in the 20th OSCE Ministerial Council in Kiev

President of the Parliament of Montenegro and OSCE Parliamentary Assembly Ranko Krivokapić participated in the 20th OSCE Ministerial Council, held on 5-6 December in Kiev. At the opening of the Council, Krivokapić addressed ministers of external affairs from 57 OSCE participating states, as follows: "Each era has its challenges, which, even though similar, require new solutions."

"Let us show now, inspired by the Helsinki +40 process, that we are ready to set a noble and creative path in times of new uncertainty. Today's world is not a bipolar one, but rather a polycentric one and therefore more complex and less predictable than it was at the time when OSCE was founded. Let me be more precise: the OSCE can afford to be static only in one respect-its values. These values must remain indisputable, now more than ever, in our rapidly changing world". "I am sure that OSCE can be a driving force, capable of ensuring freedom and democracy as well as a source of guidance on how best to use them", emphasised Krivokapić.

First day, during the meeting with Minister of the Russian Federation Sergey Lavrov, the interlocutors spoke about the future of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly and the efforts made by the Russian Federation in drafting the final +40 Helsinki document. Lavrov expressed his full support in regards to the Krivokapić's presidency plan and also expectation that with his entering into office, the existing cooperation would be improved. In addition to that, Krivokapić met with Minister of Foreign Affairs of Germany Guido Westerwelle. Krivokapić stated that Montenegro had dedicated its special attention to cooperation with Germany, as a founding state and one of the key EU members, while Westerwelle emphasised that all the talks about enlargement were currently focused on Montenegro, which in terms of future EU and NATO membership was currently the most ready country

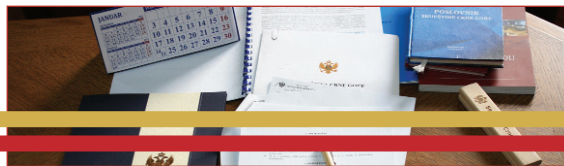
candidate. Westerwelle also commended Krivokapić's presiding over the OSCE PA. Interlocutors agreed that the credibility and the leadership which has been shown by the PA, especially in terms of monitoring elections, have been recognised in a wider circle of countries, in addition to the OSCE ones.

Krivokapić had a press conference in the capital city, organised by the hosts, at which he answered over thirty questions related to the recent political momentum in Kiev as well as the position of the OSCE PA on other issues. On this occasion, Krivokapić commended the Ukrainian presidency over OSCE, particularly emphasising the country's commitment in solving 'frozen' and prolonged conflicts in the OSCE area. He also commended the continuity in solving important issues within all three OSCE dimensions, which would be achieved through good coordination of Ukrainian presidency with presidencies of Switzerland and Serbia. When asked about the recent protests in Kiev, Krivokapić stated the following: "I believe that the parliamentary democracy is the foundation of democracy, especially important in the young democratic states. The message of the OSCE PA is that a strong parliament means a stronger democracy and that the precondition for solving the crisis is dialogue within institutions, because without establishing trust in the institutions, even though sometimes they are neither functional, nor perfect, it means investment in the future."



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IN FOCUS



Seventh sitting of the European Union-Montenegro Stabilisation and Association Parliamentary Committee held in Strasbourg

The Seventh sitting of the European Union-Montenegro Stabilisation and Association Parliamentary Committee, chaired by President of the Parliament of Montenegro Ranko Krivokapić and Eduard Kukan, Chairman of EP Delegation for relations with Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Serbia, Montenegro and Kosovo, was held on 11-12 December in Strasbourg.

At the opening of SAPC, Krivokapić emphasised that since the last meeting of this committee, the Parliament of Montenegro had additionally improved its legislative and oversight role, as confirmed in the last Montenegro Progress Report. As particularly important achievement, he named the adoption of constitutional amendments in the part referring to judicial reform, through which the Parliament has shown the needed maturity in terms of making key decisions, relevant for our path toward the EU. While referring to the opening of chapters 23 and 24, Krivokapić emphasised that the rule of law was crucial for future democratic development of Montenegro. In this context, he emphasised that Montenegro had been a sovereign state for a long time now, but with little democratic experience. Therefore, we need all the help we can get, especially from the European parliamentarians. Krivokapić expressed his belief that, at this meeting, the Montenegrin parliamentarians would once more show their ability to negotiate and consensually adopt joint recommendations. Co-chair of SAPC Eduard Kukan emphasised that Montenegro continues to be a regional European integration leader, serving as a successful example to other countries. He placed the emphasis on the significance of Montenegro's progress in chapters 23 and 24 in the period to come, since they covered issues which are the most important indicator of a successful democracy in every country. During the first

day, Montenegrin and European parliamentarians considered questions referring to the following: current state of affairs concerning accession negotiations between the EU and Montenegro, implementation of legislation concerning the fight against organised crime and the judicial practice covering this field as well as fulfilling recommendations from the previous meeting held in Podgorica. The main topic of discussion during the second day of SAPC were the instruments in the fight against corruption as well as policies and practices related to public procurement, protection of investigative journalists and "whistleblowers". During the second topic, related to the field of protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms, Vice-President of the Parliament of Montenegro Suljo Mustafić, MP Dritan Abazović and MEP Göran Färm referred to the steps ought to be taken for the sake of further improvement of human rights protection.

At the SAPC meeting, co-chaired by Eduard Kukan and Deputy Chair of Montenegrin Delegation Slaven Radunović, a Declaration with recommendations was adopted. This Declaration welcomed Montenegro's progress toward the EU, especially in light of opening chapters 23 and 24. In addition, relevant institutions were called to continue efforts on further improvement in the aforementioned fields.



PARLIAMENTARY GLOSSARY

Control hearing. "In order to obtain information or professional opinion on specific issues under its competence, issues related to establishing and implementing of policy and law or other activities of the Government and state authorities which cause obscurity, dilemmas or principle related disputes, the competent Committee may invite a responsible representative of the Government or other state administration authority to the meeting and ask him/her to express the position with regard to such issues."¹

¹ Rules of Procedure of the Parliament of Montenegro

FROM THE HISTORY OF MONTENEGRIN PARLIAMENTARISM



LAW ON STATE BUDGET

1/14 May 1901

**WE
NIKOLA I**

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

**LAW
ON
STATE BUDGET**

Article 2

Every state administration organ shall draw up its budget expenditures and revenues. In drawing up this budget, state expenditures shall be laid down first, whereas, state revenues second. Therefore, by comparing expenditures and revenues, the overall results concerning financial management by the said organ of state would be noted. All amounts shall be provided in krunas. In order to make a comparison, the amounts from the last year's budget shall also be laid down.

Article 3

All the regular expenditures and revenues shall be laid down in the budget proposal separate from the extraordinary ones. Within the regular expenditures

and revenues shall be included all expenses and revenues, which are always planned within the budget, sometimes even in variable amounts. Within the extraordinary expenditures and revenues shall be included all expenses and revenues, which are sometimes planned within the budget, or even, more often, but always transient and irregular.

Article 4

Extraordinary expenses and revenues shall always be defined separately within the said estimates.

Article 10

Expenditures envisaged by the Budget shall be covered by the amounts gained from loans, only when issued a special decree by The Prince Sovereign. Therefore, these amounts shall not be included in the estimated regular revenues.

Article 19

Annual State Budget Account shall be submitted to the Prince Sovereign for approval.

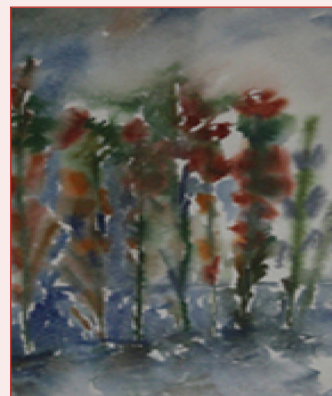
Nikola, handwritten signature

From the Law on State Budget, 1 May 1901.
Pavićević, B, Raspopović, R, eds. Crnogorski zakonici 1796-1916, knj. II (Montenegrin Codes 1796-1916, Book II), Podgorica, Istorijski institut Crne Gore, 1998, pp. 534-539

FROM PARLIAMENT'S GALLERY

Vojimir Vlahović: „Landscape”

The work of Vojimir Vlahović shows the artist's strong attachment to the expressive approach and a skillful use of light-dark contrast in painting, aimed at creating a balance between the edges of the real and imaginary and answer the fundamental questions of man's existence. Whether it's Still life, some segmented motif, or a detail from the urban milieu, through showing the said lyrical forms he's trying to create a parallel world with dominant spiritual impulses, where the painting becomes a symbol, which is quite associative and eloquent.



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CALENDAR



1 December

- Fifteenth Cetinje Parliamentary Forum, which this year has gathered fifty parliamentarians from the region, was organised by the Parliament of Montenegro in cooperation with the Center for Security, Development and the Rule of Law from 1 until 3 December.



2 December

- In the organisation of German Foundation Konrad Adenauer Stiftung (KAS), MPs and staff of the Parliament of Montenegro, in the period 2-6 December 2013, paid a study visit to Berlin, during which several meetings were held in the Parliament of Germany, Office of the Federal Chancellor, Ministry of Foreign Affairs as well as with representatives of the Christian Democratic Union (CDU).
- The Parliament of Montenegro, in cooperation with the Centre for Children's Rights of Montenegro and Save the Children, has organised the Fifth Session of Children's Parliament. The topic of this year's Children's Parliament was poverty.
- Upon the invitation of the Committee on Rules of Procedure, Immunities and Institutional Affairs of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, MPs Predrag Bulatović, Milorad Vuletić, Mićo Orlandić and Andrija Mandić attended a seminar on the mechanisms available to national Parliaments to counter corruption, held in Belgrade.

3 December

- Chair of the Committee on European Integration Slaven Radunović participated in the European policy Summit titled "Western Balkans: Fast Lane, Slow Lane". The Summit was organised by the NGO "Friends of Europe", in cooperation with the Konrad-Adenauer Foundation and the media partner European World.

4 December

- Members of the Committee on Political System, Judiciary and Administration and the members of the Legislative Committee, upon the invitation of the Ministry of the Interior, met with the Working Group which was working on the Proposal for the Law on Communal Police, recently withdrawn from the parliamentary procedure.

5 December

- President of the Parliament of Montenegro and OSCE Parliamentary Assembly Ranko Krivokapić participated in the 20th OSCE Ministerial Council, held on 5-6 December in Kiev.

6 December

- Vice President of the Parliament of Montenegro Suljo Mustafić received the newly appointed Plenipotentiary Ambassador of Romania in Montenegro H.E. Ferdinando Nagy. During the discussion, it was emphasised that political relations between Montenegro and Rumania were good and also assured that the two countries would cooperate more intensively on the political, economical and other fields.
- Vice President of the Parliament of Montenegro Suljo Mustafić received the newly appointed Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary Ambassador of Islamic Republic of Iran in Montenegro H.E. Majida Fahim Poura. It was emphasised that the necessity to promote all mutual relations, considering that parliamentary diplomacy, which is realised through friendship groups and through other forms of parliamentary cooperation, represents a very important segment of mutual relations.
- Chair of the Committee on International Relations and Emigrants Miodrag Vuković met with H.E. Imants Viesturs Liegis, newly appointed Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary Ambassador of the Republic of Latvia to Montenegro. Vuković congratulated the newly appointed Ambassador on taking office, expressed satisfaction over relations between the two countries and acquainted the Ambassador with the current socio-political situation in Montenegro as well as with issues on which MPs are primarily focused.

9 December

- Chair of the Gender Equality Committee Nada Drobnjak received Lia Mangaguagno, Head of the Sector for

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CALENDAR



Democratisation in the OSCE Mission to Montenegro. During the conversation, both parties expressed willingness to continue a successful cooperation, especially in regards to monitoring the implementation of the Law on Gender Equality, in terms of the control function of Parliament. In addition, further cooperation was agreed on participation of women in political and public life, prevention and combating violence against women and domestic violence, and the economic empowerment of women.



- President of the Parliament of Montenegro and OSCE PA Ranko Krivokapić opened the 7th National Anti-Corruption Conference, titled "Electoral Legislation and Political Corruption".

10 December

- Chair of the Committee on Human Rights and Freedoms Halil Duković and Deputy Chair of the Committee Ljiljana Đurašković participated at the Ceremonious Meeting, on the occasion of celebrating the International Human Rights Day, which was organised by Protector of Human Rights and Freedoms of Montenegro, Ministry of Human Rights and Minorities, the OSCE mission in Montenegro and the "Civic Alliance". Two panels were held on the following topics: "Ten years since the Institution of the Protector of Human Rights and freedoms was formed" and "Freedom of Gathering in Montenegro".

11 December

- Seventh Meeting of the European Union - Montenegro Stabilisation and Association Parliamentary Committee (SAPC), co-chaired by Ranko Krivokapić, President of the Parliament of Montenegro and Eduard Kukan, Chair of European Union Delegation for relations with Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Serbia, Montenegro and Kosovo, was held on 11-12 December in Strasbourg.

12 December

- Members of the Committee on European Integration met with Dominique Kühling, non-resident Deputy

Ambassador of the Netherlands to Montenegro. The participants of the meeting expressed mutual satisfaction following the opening of the Honorary Consulate of the Netherlands in Budva, which represents another confirmation of a good bilateral cooperation. During the meeting, the emphasis was placed on the success that Montenegro has achieved in the negotiation process, especially regarding the upcoming opening of chapters 23 and 24.

13 December

- President of the Parliament of Montenegro and the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly Ranko Krivokapić received Coordinator of the South East Europe Cooperation Initiative (SECI) Erhard Busek. Krivokapić and Busek had talks related to the project "Democracy Workshops", organised by the Parliament of Montenegro within the programme "Open Parliament". The interlocutors assessed the project to be immensely important for encouraging interest of young people in politics and democratic processes and expressed expectation that the cooperation between the Parliament of Montenegro and Parliament of Austria would remain good, whether in this or other projects of common interest.

- Genci Nimanbegu, an MP of the Parliament of Montenegro paid a visit to "Democracy Workshops" of the Parliament of Montenegro, during which he spoke with students- members of Children's Parliament of the Primary School "Maršal Tito" from Ulcinj. During the conversation with the students, Nimanbegu answered a number of questions that students were interested in, regarding the work of MPs and the Parliament, parliamentary elections in Montenegro, the legislative procedure as well as ways of including citizens in the legislative procedure.

16 December

- Chair of the Gender Equality Committee Nada Drobnjak participated in the First national conference, on the topic "Promotion of the Council of Europe Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence". A Slovenian Expert in the field of Gender Equality, member and Vice Chair of the United Nations Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women and a member of the Gender Equality Commission (GEC) of the Council of Europe Violeta Neubauer informed the participants on the key aspects of the Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence, and obligations deriving from it.

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CALENDAR



- The 33rd meeting of the Working Group for Building Trust in the Electoral Process was marked by the analysis of achieved results and realised activities. Guidelines for furtherwork of the Working Group were given at the meeting.

19 December

- Chair of the Security and Defence Committee met with Gilles de Kerchove, EU Counter-terrorism Coordinator. In addition to Gilles de Kerchove, the meeting was also attended by Mitja Drobnjč, Head of the EU Delegation to Montenegro; Alberto Cammarata, Head of the Political, European Integration and Trade Sections of EU Delegation to Montenegro; Annalisa Giansanti, Political Advisor at Delegation of the European Union to Montenegro. During the meeting, it was referred to the important role of the Parliament, as the lead institution in creating the adequate legislative framework and its accountability in the efficient and successful implementation of parliamentary oversight.
- Chair of the Committee on International relations and Emigrants Miodrag Vuković met with President of the Montenegrin Community in the FYR Macedonia Miroljub Orlandić. On this occasion, Vuković acquainted Orlandić with the current socio-political situation in Montenegro, with the realised activities of the Committee on International Relations and Emigrants and its plans envisaged for the next year. This meeting was a chance to start a practice of holding regular consultations with Montenegrin emigrant associations and communities abroad, in order to create continuity, and a more advanced cooperation on the matter.

24 December

- The Parliament of Montenegro of the 25th Convocation constituted Friendship Groups of the Parliament of Montenegro for cooperation with the parliaments of other countries, with the aim of promoting relations and cooperations of the Parliament of Montenegro with Parliaments of other countries on a voluntary basis.
- Chair of the Gender Equality Committee Nada Drobnjak participated in the panel discussion, titled "How can we affirm rights of marginalized groups- echo of the Fast Forward Human Rights Film Festival 2013", organised by the Centre for Civic Education, with the support of the Embassy of Canada. Nada Drobnjak spoke on the topic "How to achieve gender balance in decision-making processes in Montenegro".

25 December

- President of the Parliament of Montenegro Ranko Krivokapić awarded certificates to elementary school students from Montenegro, that have participated in Democracy workshops on topics „Democracy and Parliament“ and „European Union“ from 7 June until 24 December 2013.

26 December

- At the 34th meeting of the Working Group for building trust in the election process, according to the agenda, it was envisaged that within the scope of its competence, the Working group determine a set of laws, in line with conclusions regarding building trust in the election process. At this meeting, proposals for laws, weren't proposed to the Parliament for adoption, since the Committee hasn't achieved a required majority.



30 December

- President of the Parliament of Montenegro awarded this year's best employees. The awards for the best employees in 2013 were given to Momir Joksimović, Vesna Peković, Mirko Milošević and Igor Radulović. During the ceremony, there was a performance of the 12-year-old Nađa Janković, a fourth grade student at the primary music school in Tivat, who won the first award at the International Guitar Competition in Almere (Andalusia).
- In order to fully inform the public on the work of the Parliament, there is a practice of periodic publishing of data on the website of the Parliament of Montenegro regarding legislative and oversight activities of the Parliament during the Spring and Autumn sessions in 2013.

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