



*Parliament of Montenegro*

# NEWSLETTER OPEN PARLIAMENT

Newsletter on the Parliament of Montenegro Performance ♦ No. 35 ♦ February 2014

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# OPEN PARLIAMENT



Parliament of Montenegro

Newsletter on the Parliament of Montenegro Performance ♦ Electronic format ♦ Release: monthly ♦ Year IV ♦ No. 35 ♦ February 2014

## FOREWORD

*Dear readers,*

The key information on activities of the Parliament of Montenegro from 1 to 28 February is outlined in the February issue of the monthly newsletter "Open Parliament", prepared by the Parliamentary Service.

In February, the Parliament adopted five laws, while Committees considered 23 proposals for a law, began deliberation of one proposal for a law and held other activities within their oversight role.

In focus of this month's newsletter is the Winter Session of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly, which took place on 13-14 February in Vienna.

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 Sitting of the First Extraordinary Session of the Parliament of Montenegro in 2014**, the following laws were adopted: Law on Electoral Registry, Law on Amendments to the Law on Financing of Political Parties, Law on Amendments to the Law on Identity Card and Law on Amendments to the Law on Local Self-Government. Proposal for a Law on Amendments to the Law on Montenegrin Citizenship and Proposal for a Law on the Amendments to the Law on Election of Councillors and MPs didn't get the required majority.

**At the Sitting of the Second Extraordinary Session of the Parliament of Montenegro in 2014**, the Law on Amendments to the Law on Territorial Organisation of Montenegro was adopted.

### *Proposals for laws deliberated in committees*

- **Proposal for a Law on Budget and Fiscal Responsibility** 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 the Protector of Human Rights and Freedoms** was considered and proposed to the Parliament for adoption by the Legislative Committee.
- **Proposal for a Law on Amendments to the Law on Tourist tax** was considered and proposed to the Parliament for adoption by the Legislative Committee and the Committee on Tourism, Agriculture, Ecology and Spatial Planning.

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- **Proposal for a Law on Construction Products** was considered and proposed to the Parliament for adoption by the Committee on Tourism, Agriculture, Ecology and Spatial Planning.
- **Proposal for a Law on Amendments to the Law on Plant Protection Products** was considered and proposed to the Parliament for adoption by the Committee on Tourism, Agriculture, Ecology and Spatial Planning.
- **Proposal for a Law on Amendments to the Law on Montenegrin Citizenship** was considered and proposed to the Parliament for adoption by the Committee on Political System, Judiciary and Administration. 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 Local Self-Government** 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 Identity Card** was considered and proposed to the Parliament for adoption by the Committee on Human Rights and Freedoms and the Legislative Committee.
- **Proposal for a Law on Amendments to the Law on Financing of Political Parties** was considered by the Committee on Economy, Finance and Budget and the Legislative Committee which proposed to the Parliament not to adopt it.
- **Proposal for a Law on Amendments to the Law on Road Transport** was considered and proposed to the Parliament for adoption by the Committee on Economy, Finance and Budget.
- **Proposal for a Law on Electoral Registry** 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 to adopt it.
- **Proposal for a Law on Amendments to the Law on Election of Councillors and MPs** was considered and proposed to the Parliament for adoption by the Legislative Committee.
- **Proposal for a Law on Ratification of Amendments to the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants** was considered and proposed to the Parliament for adoption by the Committee on International Relations and Emmigrants.
- **Proposal for a Law on Ratification of Amendments to the Agreement for the Conservation of Cetaceans of the Black Sea, Mediterranean Sea and Contiguous Atlantic Area** was considered and proposed to the Parliament for adoption by the Committee on International Relations and Emmigrants.
- **Proposal for a Law on Ratification of the United Nations Convention on the Use of Electronic Communications in International Contracts** was

considered and proposed to the Parliament for adoption by the Committee on International Relations and Emmigrants.

- **Proposal for a Law on Ratification of the European Convention on the Legal Protection of Services based on, or consisting of, Conditional Access** was considered and proposed to the Parliament for adoption by the Committee on International Relations and Emmigrants and the Legislative Committee.
- **Proposal for a Law on Ratification of the Social Security Agreement between Montenegro and the Republic of Croatia** was considered and proposed to the Parliament for adoption by the Committee on International Relations and Emmigrants.
- **Proposal for a Law on Amendments to the Law on Territorial Organisation 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 Registers of Temporary and Permanent Residence** was considered and proposed to the Parliament for adoption by the Legislative Committee.
- **Proposal for a Law on Coastal Commons** was considered and proposed to the Parliament for adoption by the Committee on Tourism, Agriculture, Ecology and Spatial Planning.
- **Proposal for a Law on Amendments to the Law on Sea Protection from Pollution from Vessels** was considered and proposed to the Parliament for adoption by the Committee on Tourism, Agriculture, Ecology and Spatial Planning.
- **Proposal for a Law on Transport of Hazardous Substances** was considered and proposed to the Parliament for adoption by the Committee on Tourism, Agriculture, Ecology and Spatial Planning.
- **Proposal for a Law on Amendments to the Law on Explosive Substances** was considered and proposed to the Parliament for adoption by the Committee on Tourism, Agriculture, Ecology and Spatial Planning.

**Proposal for a law deliberated within a Committee during February is the following:**

- **Proposal for a Law on Amendments to the Law on Registers of Temporary and Permanent Residence** was considered by the Committee on Political System, Judiciary and Administration. The voting on the law proposal was postponed for one of the upcoming meetings.

#### *Proposals for other acts deliberated in committees*

- **Proposal for a Decision on holding control hearing of Minister of Economy Vladimir Kavarić and President of the Board of Directors of Elektroprivreda Crne Gore A.D. Nikšić Srđan Kovačević in order to obtain information on reasons for the increase of electricity bills for December** was



considered by the Committee on Economy, Finance and Budget. It was decided that the position on the said proposal would be specified at one of the upcoming meetings.

#### *Other activities of working bodies*

- At the 40<sup>th</sup> meeting of the **Committee on Political System, Judiciary and Administration** held on 4 February, the Committee determined the list of applicants to the Public Call on the Election of four members of the Judicial Council, among respectable jurists and adopted unanimously the 2013 Performance Report of the Committee.

At its 42<sup>nd</sup> meeting held on 17 February, the Committee held a consultative hearing of applicants to the Public Call on the Election of four members of Judicial Council, among respectable jurists. The position on four candidates to be proposed to the Parliament will be specified at one of the upcoming meetings of the Committee.

- At its seventeenth meeting held on 10 February, the **Security and Defence Committee** adopted the 2014 Parliamentary Oversight Plan as well as the Decision on holding a control hearing following the Initiative submitted by Media Trade Union of Montenegro and after the submission of information by the competent authorities.
- At the nineteenth meeting of the **Committee on International Relations and Emigrants**, held on 7 February, the Committee gave a positive opinion on the Proposal to nominate Gordan Stojović as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Montenegro to the Republic of Argentina on a residential basis at the headquarters in Buenos Aires.  
At its 21<sup>st</sup> meeting held on 25 February, the Committee decided to form a friendship group with the Benelux countries (Belgium, Netherlands and Luxembourg).

- At the 20<sup>th</sup> meeting of the **Committee on European Integration**, held on 7 February, the Committee adopted the 2013 Performance Report of the Committee and 2014 Work Plan.

At its 19<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Committee, held on 10 February, the Committee gave a positive opinion on the Draft negotiating position of Montenegro for Intergovernmental Conference on Accession of Montenegro to the European Union for Chapter 32 - Financial control and the Draft negotiating position of Montenegro for Intergovernmental Conference on Accession of Montenegro to the European Union for Chapter 33 - Financial and budgetary provisions.

The same day, the Committee continued with its eighteenth meeting, where it considered and gave a positive opinion on the Draft negotiating position of Montenegro for Intergovernmental Conference on Accession of Montenegro to the European Union for

Chapter 31- Foreign, Security and Defence Policy.

- **Committee on Economy, Finance and Budget** held its 44<sup>th</sup> meeting on 11 February, during which the Committee adopted the 2013 Performance Report. In addition, the Committee gave consent to the Report on the Use of Financial Funds of the Parliament and Parliamentary Service, for the period 1 January–31 December 2013 along with the Report on Public Procurement and Spent Funds in the period 1 January 2013 – 31 December 2013.

At its 45<sup>th</sup> meeting held on 24 February, the Committee determined the 2014 Work Plan and also unanimously supported the Initiative for consultative hearing on the topic: "Housing loans indexed to the swiss franc (CHF) and application of foreign currency clause in loan contracts-Legislative Regulation" and the Initiative for consultative hearing on the topic: "Efficient use of energy, current situation in Montenegro and the review of Draft Law on the Law on Efficient Use of Energy".

- At its 25<sup>th</sup> meeting held on 6 February, the **Gender Equality Committee** adopted the 2013 Performance Report of the Committee, determined its 2014 Work plan and for the third time, decided to hold a meeting titled "Women's Parliament", aimed at promoting human rights of women and celebrating International Women's Day.  
At the 27<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Committee, held on 21 February, a study on Position of Women in the Armed Forces in the Western Balkans was presented. The meeting was attended by Members of the Security and Defence Committee Borislav Banović, Suljo Mustafić, Obrad Mišo Stanišić and Luid Škrelja, representatives of the Ministry of Defence, Military of Montenegro, the EU Delegation, UNDP/SEEAC, UNDP in Montenegro, the OSCE, NGOs and others.

- **Committee on Tourism, Agriculture, Ecology and Spatial Planning** held the 20<sup>th</sup> meeting on 7 February, during which the 2013 Performance Report of the Committee was unanimously adopted.

The Committee held its 21<sup>st</sup> meeting on 25 February, during which it determined the 2014 Work Plan.

- At the 27<sup>th</sup> meeting of the **Committee on Education, Science, Culture and Sports** held on 17 February, the Committee adopted the 2013 Performance Report of the Committee and its 2014 Work Plan. In addition, the Committee has initiated cooperation with institutions in the field of Culture and Sports in order to get a better insight into the activities implemented in these fields.

- At its twelfth meeting, held on 6 February, the **Commission for Monitoring and Control of Privatisation Process** adopted conclusions, following the control of privatisation process of the following enterprises: "Rudnik mrkog uglja" JSC Berane, HTP "Vektra Boka" AD Herceg Novi, "Marina Bar" JSC Bar and "Gornji Ibar" JSC Rožaje and ŠPAD "Rožaje" Rožaje.

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## NEWS FROM PARLIAMENT



### *President of the Parliament of Montenegro and the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly Ranko Krivokapić visited Washington during the National Prayer Breakfast*

**P**resident of the Parliament of Montenegro and the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly Ranko Krivokapić visited Washington on the occasion of the National Prayer Breakfast which was also attended by Barack Obama, host and President of the United States of America.

During his stay in Washington, Krivokapić met with Congressmen that are particularly dedicated to providing support to Montenegro on its path toward the NATO integration. Krivokapić had meetings with Congressman Michael Turner, Chairman of the U.S. Delegation to the NATO Parliamentary Assembly, members of the Helsinki Committee and former President of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly Congressman Hastings.

During the visit, it was agreed that the Montenegro's caucus headed by Congressman Turner would send a letter to the U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry, containing over 30 signatures of reputable Congressmen, asking that the enlargement issue remains a key priority of the U.S. at the NATO Summit in Wales and that Montenegro is given the support as the most prepared candidate.

During a separate meeting with former President of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly Congressman Hastings, Hastings has shown readiness and willingness to start an additional initiative that would gather a wide circle of republicans and democrats specifically dealing with NATO enlargement, aimed at bringing Montenegro closer to the Alliance. During all of the meetings, it was emphasised that the upcoming months were very important requiring further work and progress, up until the meeting of Ministers of Foreign Affairs of NATO

members taking place in June, in order for Montenegro to fulfill its commitments and preserve the interest of its allies in terms of enlargement.



During the visit, Krivokapić also met with Senator John McCain, who still strongly supports Montenegro on its path toward a full-fledged membership in the NATO. Krivokapić and McCain both assessed the upcoming months as crucial in fulfilling the needed membership criteria. McCain emphasised that Montenegro plays a very important role in the Western Balkans region and wider; therefore, its membership in the Alliance would be of great significance to other countries also, especially on their path toward the Euro-Atlantic Integrations. Krivokapić also met with President of the German Marshall Fund (GMF) of the United States Craig Kennedy.

The OSCE Parliamentary Assembly headed by Krivokapić and GMF shall organise a special meeting and other various events taking place at the U.S. Congress in June. These events are to be held for the purpose of meeting the OSCE challenges, and for the need of adopting new OSCE strategies.

### *A meeting held on the occasion of completion of the project on cooperation realised between the Parliament of Montenegro and NICO*

**U**pon the termination of the project on cooperation between the Parliament of Montenegro and organisation Northern Ireland Cooperation Overseas, a meeting was held, during which Secretary General of the Parliament of Montenegro Damir Davidović, British Ambassador to Montenegro Ian Whitting, NICO representative Fiona Coyle and leader of this project, Human Resources expert Paul McCallion as well as employees of the Parliamentary Service actively engaged in the project, shared their thoughts on the results achieved within the project.

The project, which according to interlocutors' assessments had been a success, was initiated in October 2012, following the termination of the cooperation

programme realised between the Parliament of Montenegro and the Westminster Foundation for Democracy (WFD).



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Upon the termination of cooperation with WFD, cooperation with NICO continued. NICO was one of the partners in a previous cooperation programme.

During the meeting, Secretary General emphasised that this project was an example of a successful cooperation, the results of which represented encouragement for further progress. Davidović especially thanked the British Embassy, the Ambassador Ian Whitting and his associates without whose support this

project wouldn't have been realised.

Whitting expressed pleasure over the fact that the Embassy was able to contribute to improving administrative capacities of the Parliament of Montenegro, whose role he assessed as very important in the change and reform process of public administration and especially emphasised that not only has this project contributed to sharing of experiences but also making the process of human resources development sustainable.

### *Committee on European Integration paid a visit to Finland*

**C**ommittee on European Integration paid a two-day visit to Finland. First day of the visit, the Delegation of the Committee on European Integration met with Prime Minister Jyrki Katainen. Meetings were also held with Vice President of the Parliament Pekka Ravi, Chair of the Parliament's Commerce Committee Mauri Pekkarinen as well as representatives of the Department for Europe in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs – Deputy Director General Juha Ottman and Director Päivi Laivola. The Delegation of the Committee consisted of Chair of the Committee Slaven Radunović and members Srđa Popović and Genci Nimanbegu.



During the meeting with the Prime Minister Katainen, Chair of the Committee Slaven Radunović expressed gratitude to Finland for the overall political support regarding the European integration process and took the opportunity to acquaint his interlocutor with recent activities of the Committee on European Integration, and the Parliament of Montenegro. Radunović referred to challenges that Montenegro was facing in the intensive negotiating process and expressed hope that the country would fulfill all the necessary requirements in the years to come, in order to fully prepared welcome the decision on the membership. During the meeting they jointly highlighted the sensitivity of each country candidate's negotiating process, since the results of negotiations would determine the later form of a country's EU membership; therefore, extreme caution would be advised during negotiations, in order to protect the national interests in the best manner possible.

Delegation was acquainted with the work dynamics of the Parliament of Finland, where special position is held by the Grand Committee, consisting of 25 members,

which, on behalf of the Parliament, is responsible for providing opinion on Finland's position regarding proposals for the decisions from Brussels.

Second day of the visit, the delegation met with Chairman of the Grand Committee Miapetra Kumpula-Natri, Chairman of the Finland's Foreign Affairs Committee Timo Soini as well as with Advisor to the Minister of Justice for EU coordination and international affairs Eeva Aittoniemi.

Chairman of the Foreign Affairs Committee of the Parliament of Finland Timo Soininen, a leader of the Finnish party that had shown most reservation during decision-making on Croatia's membership, positively assessed the course of negotiations with Montenegro, with assurance that the True Finns party would be in favour of Montenegro's accession to the European Union, if the majority of citizens, fully informed on the Union, were for the membership.

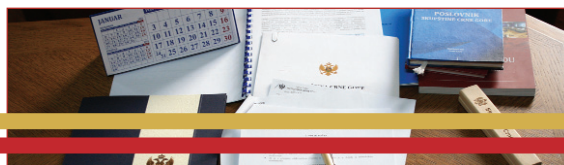
The Delegation was more closely informed on the adoption procedure of positions on the decisions that need to be made at the European Union level, where the Parliament's working bodies have a saying, especially the Grand Committee, which shall adopt the opinion on the official position of Finland in the closing procedure.

During the two-day visit, on several occasions the interlocutors emphasised that the preparation of regulations relating to the Union policy was a significantly more closed process than the one used in Finland, where they had more transparent procedures, i.e. more open to the citizens. For that reason particularly, interlocutors highlighted the importance of continuing to inform the public on the European Union functioning and new policies affecting the daily lives of citizens.





## IN FOCUS



### *Thirteenth Winter Session of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly held*

**T**hirteenth Winter Session of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly took place on 13-14 February in Vienna. At this year's winter session, representatives of 57 member states considered political decisions in the field of democracy, human rights as well as security.



At the opening, President of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly Ranko Krivokapić emphasised that challenges OSCE was facing at the moment were very significant. "Our organisation must strengthen and intensify its efforts in promoting fundamental values in order to provide efficiency and relevance of the OSCE within international frameworks", emphasised Krivokapić.

On this occasion, Krivokapić stated that these times were filled with specific challenges, hence, a lot was expected from the OSCE, and that the only way to meet these challenges was through dedication and constant strengthening of internal capacities. Krivokapić particularly referred to the specificity of the

organisation, which gathers 57 states. He also emphasised that responsibility for what lies ahead in the 21st century shall be assigned to parliamentarians, as the strongest promoters of values, which would help in overcoming prejudices that still exist, thus strengthen integration mechanisms in the OSCE region.

Krivokapić also met with President of the Parliament of Austria Barbara Prammer and the OSCE Secretary General Lamberto Zannier. During these meetings, there was a talk on activities of the Parliamentary Assembly, following the election of Krivokapić as President of the OSCE PA. It was jointly concluded that the Parliamentary Assembly had intensified its activities on strengthening its role in the OSCE system as well as the overall efforts, aimed at contributing to the reform of the organisation within Helsinki 40+ process.

Second day of the Session, there was a special debate on the topic: "The current situation in Ukraine".

Participants of the debate welcomed the activities of the PA and President Krivokapić following the political situation in Ukraine, and expressed expectation that PA would be committed in keeping up with events in this country and, through its active approach, contribute to the stabilisation of the situation.

In addition, Krivokapić chaired the meeting of the PA's Standing Committee, during which it was talked about the Helsinki 40+ project as well as the topic of this year's session, taking place in June in the Capital city of Azerbaijan.

## PARLIAMENTARY GLOSSARY

**Local self-government.** "In the broadest sense, local self – government represents a basic form of territorial organisation of government and the widest framework within which local citizens living in a particular area exercise self – government. Local government is the primary type of citizens' self-government and fundamental form of community organising through which citizens directly exercise their rights and meet their needs".<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Prof. Marijana Pajvančić, Ph.D.-Ustavno pravo-Ustavne Institucije, Novi Sad: Faculty of Law, 2007, p. 343

# FROM THE HISTORY OF MONTENEGRIN PARLIAMENTARISM



## Law on Organisation of the Borough Municipalities

10/23 August 1903

**WE  
NIKOLA I**  
By the grace of God  
**PRINCE AND SOVEREIGN OF MONTENEGRO**  
At the proposal of Our Minister of Interior  
After hearing Our State Council  
Decided to order and we are ordering this  
**LAW  
ON  
ORGANISATION OF  
THE  
BOROUGH  
MUNICIPALITIES**

10/23 August 1903

\*\*\*

### Article 1

Each borough municipality in Montenegro shall be a Municipality.

Borough municipality shall allow a village to join its community; the village being utterly close to the Municipality, and distant from other villages, therefore unable to form a Municipality with them.

\*\*\*

### Article 3

Borough municipality Officials shall be citizens of Montenegro, with permanent residence, indigenous people or immigrants, as well as state clerks,

priests of both orders, teachers, State and Municipal officers without an employment act. Other Montenegrin citizens, that the municipality received to its community, shall also take part in the Service.

\*\*\*

### Article 8

Every Municipal Official shall possess the right to:

- a) live free and perform deeds in the Municipality
- b) enjoy municipal goods in accordance with the Municipal Decree
- \*c) elect members of the Municipal Committee and to be elected as one
- \*d) have their personality and property protected by the Municipality
- \*e) receive help from the Municipality in the case of poverty or illness, provided they've been a resident for at least three years.

\*\*\*

### Article 19

Municipal administration shall function as the State authority, its acts shall therefore be formal, and its documents, confirmed to private persons, i.e. are legitimate.

Cetinje, 10 August, 1903

Nikola, handwritten signature

## From the Law on organisation of Municipal Boroughs

Pavičević, B, Raspopović, R, eds. Crnogorski zakoni 1796/1916, knj. II, Podgorica, Istorijski institut Crne Gore, 1998, pp. 708-726

## FROM PARLIAMENT'S GALLERY

Second Montenegrin dynasty, the Balšić dynasty is presented in the heraldic tradition as a silver septagram star positioned on a red triangular shield. A golden crown is placed over a silver casque, whereas the silver wolf head is placed over the crown. The decorative cloak is depicted in silver-red.



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# CALENDAR



## 4 February

- Members of the Committee on European Integration met with David Roy Lidington, Minister of State for Europe at the Ministry of Foreign and Commonwealth Office of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, during his official visit to Montenegro. The meeting was marked by the exchange of views on current issues in the field of European Integrations and steps which Montenegro must undertake on its reform path toward the EU membership. The meeting was attended by Chair of the Committee Slaven Radunović and members: Nada Drobnjak, Zoran Srzentić, Srđa Popović, Koča Pavlović, Genci Nimanbegu, Predrag Bulatović, Dritan Abazović, Šefkija Murić and Danko Šarančić.



## 6 February

- President of the Parliament of Montenegro and the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly visited Washington during the National Prayer Breakfast, where he had several meetings with Congressman Michael Turner, Chairman of the U.S. Delegation to the NATO Parliamentary Assembly, members of the Helsinki Committee and former President of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly Congressman Hastings, Senator John McCain, President of the German Marshall Fund of the United States Craig Kennedy.

## 7 February

- Staff members of the Committee on Human Rights and Freedoms attended the promotion of the comic "Troubles with Rocky and other stories for children's rights", which took place in the "Radojica Perović" elementary school, in Podgorica. The promotion was organised by the Institution of the Protector of Human Rights and Freedoms and NGO "Human Rights Action".

## 11 February

- A meeting was held on the occasion of completion of the project on cooperation of the Parliament of Montenegro and organisation Northern Ireland Overseas Cooperation. Secretary General of the Parliament of Montenegro Damir Davidović, British Ambassador to Montenegro Ian Whitting, NICO representative Fiona Coyle and leader of the project, Human Resources expert Paul McCallion as well as employees of the Parliamentary Service actively engaged in the project, shared their thoughts on the results achieved within the project.



- Committee on International Relations and Emigrants organised the fourth meeting of the Committees on Foreign Affairs of the following regional countries: Montenegro, Republic of Croatia, Bosnia and Herzegovina and Republic of Serbia, which took place in Podgorica. The topic of the meeting was on "Environmental protection and sustainable development-Experience of Montenegro and countries in the region-Need for mutual cooperation".



## 12 February

- Committee on European Integration paid a two-day visit to Finland. The Delegation of the Committee on European Integration consisted of Chair Slaven Radunović and members Srđa Popović and Genci Nimanbegu.

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# CALENDAR



- Chair of the Committee on Economy, Finance and Budget Aleksandar Damjanović met with representatives of Directorate General for Competition Isabelle Neale Besson and Tereza Setnickova and with the EU representative of the European Commission Directorate General for Enlargement Maria Fernandez. The meeting was marked by exchange of views regarding implementation of commitments which Montenegro has undertaken by signing the Stabilisation and Association Agreement (SAA) within the EU accession process, specifically referring to Chapter 8-Competition Policy. The representatives of the European Commission Directorate General emphasised that special attention should be given to the Aluminum Plant JSC and its current situation (bankruptcy) with the aim of ensuring the enforcement of rules of the European Union in the area of competition.

## 13 February

- Chair of the Committee on Economy, Finance and Budget Aleksandar Damjanović and member of the Committee Zoran Jelić spoke with SIGMA experts Bianca Breteche and Jan Pieter Lingen. The meeting was about the development of external audit in Montenegro, cooperation between the Committee and State Audit Institution (SAI), novelties expected upon adopting the Law on Budget and Fiscal Responsibility as well as Committee's activities realised in the previous period. SIGMA experts were informed about the aspects of cooperation between the Committee and SAI, activities performed during the year 2013 and activities envisaged for the current year.



- Chair of the Gender Equality Committee Nada Drobnjak was a key note speaker at the round table, held on the occasion of World Radio Day, on the topic: "Future of the Radio-Gender Equality and strengthening of women as radio broadcasters". The

round table took place in Cetinje under the organisation of National Commission for UNESCO in cooperation with the Ministry of Culture, i.e. Directorate for Media and Faculty of Dramatic Arts.

- Thirteenth Winter Session of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly took place on 13-14 February in Vienna. At this year's Winter session, representatives of 57 member states considered political decisions in the field of democracy, human rights as well as security.

## 18 February

- Chair of the Committee on Human Rights and Freedoms Halil Duković and Deputy Chair of the Committee Ljiljana Đurašković met with Great Britain's Minister of State in the Ministry of Justice and Civil Liberties Simon Hughes. Duković informed the guests about the work of the Committee and key activities realised by the Committee in the previous period. Hughes praised the work of the Committee, citing as particularly interesting the organisation of public debates and visits to institutions in order to monitor the current situation of human rights in them.



- The Committee on European Integration held a public debate on the topic: "Montenegro and the European Union: Tax Legislation". The public debate was marked by discussion on Tax policy regulations as well as the effect of taxes on the daily lives of citizens. The debate was attended by Slaven Radunović, Chair of the Committee on European Integration, Nikola Vukićević, Director General in the Budget Directorate in the Ministry of Finance and negotiator for Chapter 16 as well as Dragan Radanović Task Manager in Operations Section in the Delegation of the European Union to Montenegro.
- President of the Parliament of Montenegro and the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly Ranko Krivokapić

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# CALENDAR



received Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Hellenic Republic Evangelos Venizelos.



Krivokapić and Venizelos noted traditionally friendly relations between Montenegro and the Hellenic Republic and referred to the role and results the Parliament of Montenegro has achieved so far through a complex process of legislative reform aimed at strengthening democracy and state institutions of Montenegro. Krivokapić emphasised the importance of Greece to Montenegro in the light of Euro-Atlantic Integration of our country. Part of the meeting was dedicated to the progress of Montenegro on its path toward NATO.

## 19 February

- The Delegation consisting of members of the Committee on Economy, Finance and Budget and the Committee on Health, Labor and Social Welfare of the Parliament of Montenegro attended a two-day seminar on the "Health and Consumer Protection", which took place 19-20 February and was organised by the European Parliament. The topics covered in the seminar included the role and position of the European Parliament regarding legislation in the field of Consumer and Health Protection and its implementation. Among discussed topics were also the food safety, food chain control as well as oversight and prevention of epidemics.

## 20 February

- Chair of the Committee on International Relations and Emmigrants of the Parliament of Montenegro Miodrag Vuković met with President of the European Diaspora Council of Montenegro Ljubo Radović and President of Montenegrin Community in the Istra County Milan Bulajić. Vuković acquainted the guests with competences of the Committee as well as possibilities and modalities of cooperation

between the emigrants and the Committee. Radović, on behalf of the emigrant association, which he represents thanked Vuković for the interest he has shown in cooperating with emigrant associations by adopting the Platform on cooperation of the Committee with Emmigrants from Montenegro. Bulajić expressed gratitude to the Chair of the Committee for organising the meeting and informed him about the work of the Montenegrin community, headed by him and possibilities for cooperation with the Committee.

## 21 February

- Representatives of „Slobodan Škerović“ High School Debate Club from Podgorica visited the Parliament of Montenegro and got acquainted with the Parliament and its history. The visit was realised within the project "Open Parliament" aimed at strengthening the link between the parliament and citizens, particularly the youth.



- Vice-President of the Parliament of Montenegro Željko Šturanović received Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Hungary to Montenegro Krisztian Posa.



Šturanović expressed pleasure over traditionally good cooperation between Montenegro and Hungary and also gratitude for the ongoing support Hungary has been giving to Montenegro throughout the reform process of this country. Posa stated that

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Hungary will continue to support Montenegro on its path toward EU and NATO and showed expectation that Montenegro would be the next member of these organisations.

- Secretary General of the Parliament of Montenegro Damir Davidović met with Secretary General of the Parliament of Kosovo Ismet Krasniqi. Davidović acquainted Krasniqi and his associates with changes related to the structure and methods of operation of the Parliamentary Service, realised in the previous years, in order to provide MPs with better professional support. During the meeting, both secretaries exchanged their experience and opinions on openness and transparency of parliamentary work as well as strengthening links between the legislative power and citizens. Krasniqi and his associates were acquainted with the program "Open Parliament", which envisages organising visits to the Parliament of Montenegro, Children's Parliament, exhibitions and similar events, aimed at informing citizens about the work of the Parliament. Guests from Prishtina were particularly interested in implementation of the project Democracy Workshops, where students from primary schools acquire knowledge on parliamentary democracy, functioning of the Parliament, adoption and implementation of laws.



- Chair of the Anti-corruption Committee Predrag Bulatović and Deputy Chair Obrad Mišo Stanišić met with NGO representatives dealing with fight against corruption and organised crime. The topic of the meeting was on "Mutual cooperation between the Committee and NGOs".

### 23 February

- Delegation of the Security and Defence Committee attended the U.S.- Adriatic Charter Conference on the topic "Regional parliamentary cooperation for strengthening security and fast integration toward Euro-Atlantic institutions" held in Tirana. The conference was also attended by Chair of the Security and Defence Committee Mevludin

Nuhodžić and member of the Committee Darko Pajović.



### 24 February

- President of the Parliament of Montenegro Ranko Krivokapić received the Prince Nikola Petrović and members of Professional Council of the Foundation "Petrović Njegoš" who presented to the president the 2014 Foundation Program and informed him about the activities which have been realised so far. One among many topics discussed at the meeting was greater affirmation of Montenegrin young people that have finished their studies abroad as well as their greater engagement in our country. It was assessed that one of the activities of the foundation would be drafting a wholistic programme on engaging young people in projects significant for Montenegro.



### 25 February

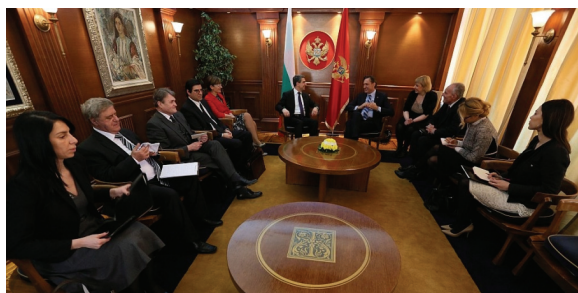
- Chair of the Committee on Tourism, Agriculture, Ecology and Spatial Planning Predrag Sekulić met with Head of Democratisation Department of the OSCE Mission to Montenegro Lia Magnaguagno.



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Participants of the meeting considered possibilities of cooperation between the Committee and the OSCE in Montenegro in the field of environment. Sekulić acquainted his interlocutor with the Committee's competences and activities and emphasised the importance of the European integration process in the fields monitored by the Committee and put forward suggestions regarding future cooperation.

- President of the Parliament of Montenegro and the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly received Ioannis Kassoulides, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Cyprus. Krivokapić and Kassoulides noted friendly relations between Montenegro and Republic of Cyprus, that share an ongoing cooperation and a wide space for further development of political and economic relations. Kassoulides stated that Montenegro has a very important influence on the whole Western Balkans region, in terms of serving as an example of peacefulness and stability.
- President of the Parliament of Montenegro and the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly Ranko Krivokapić received Rosen Plevneliev, President of the Republic of Bulgaria. Interlocutors stated that Montenegro and the Republic of Bulgaria have been nourishing traditionally good relations and partnership in achieving their common goals of integrating their whole region. A message was conveyed at the meeting stating that the Republic of Bulgaria shall remain committed to supporting Montenegro throughout its NATO and EU Integration process.



- President of the Parliament of Montenegro received the founder of the weekly "Monitor" and independent daily "Vijesti" Miodrag Perović, Director Executive of the weekly "Monitor" Milka Tadić-Mijović and Director of the independent daily "Vijesti" Željko Ivanović. The interlocutors agreed that current situation in Montenegro's media scene is worrying, especially referring to assaults on the independent media known for its critical stance toward the Government. President Krivokapić pointed out that the state's primary duty was to create safe atmosphere for media, to continuously

support freedom of press because in that manner democratic processes and stability are encouraged as well.

- Committee on Human Rights and Freedoms of the Parliament of Montenegro organised visits to senior home and prison in Bijelo Polje. Along with members of the Committee, representatives of following institutions joined the visit: Protector of Human Rights and Freedoms of Montenegro, Ministry of Labor and Social Welfare, Ministry of Human and Minority Rights, Ministry of Justice, Institute for Execution of Criminal Sanctions in Spuž, NGO "Civic Alliance" that monitors Committee's work, and OSCE Mission to Montenegro.

### 27 February

- The Parliament of Montenegro has continued the practice of publishing annual performance reports, for the purpose of affirming the principle of transparency and publicity of work as well as informing citizens on parliamentary activities. The 2013 Performance Report contains detailed information on legislative and oversight activities of the Parliament and its working bodies, as well as parliamentary cooperation, cooperation with civil sector, publicity of work, administrative capacities, use of financial funds as well as other activities that marked the past year.

### 28 February

- Upon the initiative of non-governmental organisation "Zdrava - Dona Montenegrina", there was a lecture on prevention and early detection of breast cancer, which took place in the Parliament of Montenegro. Jadranka Lakićević, from Department of Oncology, Clinical Center of Montenegro, Marina Perković and Dijana Laković, activists in the NGO spoke during in the event. This was an occasion to present activities aimed at early detection of the health problem, as well as activities for raising the quality of life of the affected and members of their families.



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