



Parliament of Montenegro

NEWSLETTER OPEN PARLIAMENT

Newsletter on the Parliament of Montenegro Performance ♦ No. 37 ♦ April 2014

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OPEN PARLIAMENT



Parliament of Montenegro

Newsletter on the Parliament of Montenegro Performance ♦ Electronic format ♦ Release: monthly ♦ Year IV ♦ No. 37 ♦ April 2014

FOREWORD

Dear readers,

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

In April, the Parliament adopted two laws, while committees considered 17 proposals for a law, six proposals for a decision and held other activities within their oversight role.

In focus of this month's newsletter is the Spring Session of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, which took place on 7-11 April 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 Second Sitting of the First Ordinary (Spring) Session of the Parliament of Montenegro in 2014, the following laws were adopted: Law on Budget and Fiscal Responsibility and Law on Amendments to the Law on Ski Resorts.

In addition, Decision on the appointment of the Municipal Election Commission of Gusinje was adopted. In the frameworks of the agenda item *Elections and Appointments*, the candidate for the Supreme State Prosecutor, Goran Rodić, did not obtain the required three-fifths majority of the votes cast.

At the Sixth Sitting of the First Ordinary (Spring) Session of the Parliament of Montenegro in 2014, the following decisions were adopted: Decision on sending members of the Army of Montenegro to the EU peace mission "European Union Training Mission Mali (EUTM)" and Decision on sending members of the Army of Montenegro to the EU forces operation in the Republic of Central Africa (EUFOR RCA).

Within the agenda item *Elections and Appointments*, the Parliament concluded the following: Andrej Nikolaidis was no longer a member of the Jury for awarding the 13th July Award; Demir Bajrović was no longer a member of the Municipal Election Commission of Gusinje, and Dragoslav Ščekić was no longer a member of the Parliament of Montenegro of the 25th Convocation.

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Prime Minister's Hour and Parliamentary Questions

At the Fourth (Special) Sitting of the First Ordinary Session, within the agenda item *Parliamentary Questions*, MPs' questions were answered by ministers in the Government. Thirteen questions were posed to the ministers.

At the Fifth (Special Sitting) of the First Ordinary Session of the Parliament of Montenegro in 2014, within the agenda item *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 Selection, Use and Public Display of National Symbols** was considered and proposed to the Parliament for adoption by the Committee on Human Rights and Freedoms.
- **Proposal for a Law on Electronic Government** was considered and proposed to the Parliament for adoption by the Committee on Human Rights and Freedoms.
- **Proposal for a Law on Amendments to the Law on the Capital City** was considered by the Legislative Committee, which proposed to the Parliament not to adopt it.
- **Proposal for a Law on Amendments to the Law on Territorial Organisation of Montenegro** was considered by the Legislative Committee, which proposed to the Parliament not to adopt it.
- **Proposal for a Law on Amendments to the Law on Local Self-Government** was considered by the Legislative Committee, which proposed to the Parliament not to adopt it.
- **Proposal for a Law on Removal and Transplantation of Human Organs for Therapeutic Purposes** was considered and proposed to the Parliament for adoption by the Committee on Human Rights and Freedoms.
- **Proposal for a Law on Execution of a Suspended Sentence and a Sentence of Community Service** was considered and proposed to the Parliament for adoption by the Committee on Human Rights and Freedoms.
- **Proposal for a Law on Amendments to the Law on Local Self-Government Financing** was considered by the Legislative Committee and the Committee on Economy, Finance and Budget, which proposed to the Parliament not to adopt it.
- **Proposal for a Law on Amendments to the Law on Spatial Planning and Construction** 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 Tourism** was considered and proposed to the Parliament for adoption by the Committee on Tourism, Agriculture, Ecology and Spatial Planning.
- **Proposal for a Law on Protection of Public Interests in Electric Power Sector of Montenegro** was considered by the Committee on Economy, Finance and Budget, which proposed to the Parliament not to adopt it.
- **Proposal for a Law on Ratification of the Agreement**

between the Government of Montenegro and Government of the Republic of Macedonia on Mutual Legal Assistance in Civil and Criminal Matters was considered and proposed to the Parliament for adoption by the Legislative Committee.

- **Proposal for a Law on Ratification of the Agreement between the Government of Montenegro and Government of the Republic of Macedonia on Mutual Execution of Court Decisions in Criminal Matters** was considered and proposed to the Parliament for adoption by the Legislative Committee.
- **Proposal for a Law on Ratification of the Agreement between the Government of Montenegro and the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine on Cooperation and Mutual Assistance in the Field of Prevention of Natural and Other Disasters** was considered and proposed to the Parliament for adoption by the Legislative Committee.
- **Proposal for a Law on Taxation of Hydrocarbons** was considered and proposed to the Parliament for adoption by the Legislative Committee.
- **Proposal for a Law on Amendments to the Law on State Audit Institution** was considered and proposed to the Parliament for adoption by the Committee on Economy, Finance and Budget.
- **Proposal for a Law on Prevention of Money Laundering and Financing Terrorism** was considered and proposed to the Parliament for adoption by the Committee on Economy, Finance and Budget.

Proposals for which committees began deliberation during April are the following:

- **Proposal for a Law on Amendments to the Law on Territorial Organisation of Montenegro** was considered by the Committee on Political System, Judiciary and Administration, which postponed declaring on the proposal until the Government of Montenegro submits its Opinion on the proposal.
- **Proposal for a Law on Amendments to the Law on the Capital City** was considered by the Committee on Political System, Judiciary and Administration, which postponed declaring on the proposal until the Government of Montenegro submits its Opinion on the proposal.
- **Proposal for a Law on Amendments to the Law on Local Self-Government** was considered by the Committee on Political System, Judiciary and Administration, which postponed declaring on the proposal until the Government of Montenegro submits its Opinion on the proposal.

Proposals for other acts deliberated in committees

- **Proposal for a Decision on Appointment of the Municipal Election Commission of Gusinje** was determined by the Administrative Committee, which proposed to the Parliament to adopt it.
- **Proposal for a Decision on Election of one member of the Administrative Board of the Minorities' Fund** was determined by the Administrative Committee, which proposed to the Parliament to adopt it.

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- **Proposal for a Decision on adopting the Annex no. 1 of the Contract on renting the hotel “Kraljičina plaža” – Budva** was considered and proposed to the Parliament for adoption by the Committee on Economy, Finance and Budget.
- **Proposal for a Decision on adopting the Annex no. 1 of the Contract on renting the hotels “Sveti Stefan” and “Miločer” in Budva** was considered and proposed to the Parliament for adoption by the Committee on Economy, Finance and Budget.
- **Proposal for a Decision on sending members of the Army of Montenegro to the EU peace mission “European Union Training Mission Mali (EUTM)” in Mali** was considered and proposed to the Parliament for adoption by the Legislative Committee and the Security and Defence Committee.
- **Proposal for a Decision on sending members of the Army of Montenegro to the EU forces operation in the Republic of Central Africa (EUFOR RCA)** was considered and proposed to the Parliament for adoption by the Legislative Committee and the Security and Defence Committee.

Other activities of working bodies

- At the 51st meeting held on 8 April, the **Committee on Political System, Judiciary and Administration** unanimously adopted the 2014 Work Plan of the Committee.

At the 50th meeting held on 25 April, the Committee held a control hearing of the Chair of the Agency for Electronic Media and Agency Council members, on the topic: “Program standards in the electronic media - the consistent application of the Law on Electronic Media”. The goal of the control hearing was analysis of implementation of the assumed program policy, because it was estimated that the Law on Electronic Media was being more frequently violated, and there were more abuses, especially of certain media.

- At the 21st meeting held on 11 April, the **Security and Defence Committee** held a control hearing of the Supreme State Prosecutor, the Minister of the Interior and the Director of the National Security Agency, regarding frequent attacks on journalists. After the discussion, several conclusions were adopted.

At its sixteenth meeting, held on 14 April, the Committee held a control hearing of the National Security Agency Director on recording and keeping data in terms of application of the Law on National Security Agency. After the discussion, several conclusions were adopted.

- At the 21st meeting, held on 16 April, the **Committee on European Integration** elected MP Zoran Srzentić as Deputy Chair of the Committee on European Integration. In addition, members of the Committee considered the 33rd and 34th Quarterly Report on the overall activities in the

framework of the EU Stabilisation and Association Process. The Ambassador Aleksandar Andrija Pejović, State Secretary and Chief Negotiator for Negotiations on Accession of Montenegro to the EU, presented the information on EU Assistance Programmes, as well as the Strategy on informing the public on the European Union and preparations of Montenegro for membership in the period 2014-2018, which was adopted at the meeting of the Government in March of the current year.

At its 22nd meeting, held on 28 April, the Committee gave a positive opinion on the Draft Negotiating Position of Montenegro for the Intergovernmental Conference on Montenegro’s EU Accession for Chapter 16 – Taxation and the Draft Negotiating Position of Montenegro for the Intergovernmental Conference on Montenegro’s EU Accession for Chapter 29 - Customs union.

At the 23rd meeting of the Committee, held on 29 April, the Committee gave a positive opinion on the Draft Negotiating Position of Montenegro for the Intergovernmental Conference on Montenegro’s EU Accession for Chapter 18- Statistics.

At the 24th meeting, held on 29 April, the Committee considered: Appendix to the 2013 Progress Report on Montenegro by the European Commission for the period 1 September 2013 – 1 April 2014, Quarterly Report on implementation of obligations from the Action Plan for Negotiation Chapter 23 - Judiciary and fundamental rights, as well as Quarterly Report on implementation of obligations from the Action Plan for Negotiation Chapter 24 - Justice, freedom and security.

- At the 51st meeting, held on 4 April, the **Committee on Economy, Finance and Budget** held a control hearing of Minister of Finance Radoje Žugić, Minister of Economy Vladimir Kavarić and Ognjen Jovović, bankruptcy administrator of the Saltworks “Bajo Sekulić” JSC Ulcinj. The purpose for holding the hearing was to obtain information on the bankruptcy procedure in the Saltworks “Bajo Sekulić”, with special focus on protection of rights of workers at the Saltworks.

At the start of the 52nd meeting, held on 14 April, the Committee unanimously determined Proposals for conclusions regarding the conducted control hearing of Minister of Finance Radoje Žugić, Minister of Economy Vladimir Kavarić and Ognjen Jovović, bankruptcy administrator of the Saltworks “Bajo Sekulić” JSC Ulcinj, for the purpose of obtaining information on the bankruptcy procedure in the Saltworks “Bajo Sekulić”, with special focus on protection of rights of workers at the Saltworks.

At its 53rd meeting, held on 16 April, the Committee considered realisation of Conclusion of the Parliament of Montenegro, as of 27 December 2013, pertaining to the Aluminium Plant Podgorica.

The same day, 52nd meeting was convened, during which the Committee continued discussion on activities related to the implementation of the parliamentary oversight over the implementation of the Law on Financing of Political Parties.

- At the 29th meeting, held on 8 April, the **Gender Equality Committee** traditionally marked the International Roma Day by holding the thematic meeting “Roma Women on Arranged Marriages”. In addition to the Committee members, the interested MPs also attended the meeting: Azra Jasavić, Rifat Rastoder, Milorad Vuletić, Dritan Abazović, Emilo Labudović and Veljko Zarubica, as well as representatives of certain ministries and institutions, international organisations and representatives of NGOs dealing with the issues of the position of female Roma population in Montenegro.

At its 30th meeting, held on 16 April, the Committee considered the 2013 Performance Report of the Protector of Human Rights and Freedoms of Montenegro, in part falling within its competencies. After the discussion, the Committee unanimously supported the Report and proposed to the Committee on Human Rights and Freedoms, as lead committee, to propose to the Parliament to adopt it.

- At the 29th meeting, held on 11 April, the **Committee on Education, Science, Culture and Sports** considered the Information on scientific research funding in Montenegro in 2014, adopted by the Government of Montenegro at the meeting on 20 February 2014. Considering the initiative of a group of students, the Committee decided to send a letter to the Ministry of Education, in order to amend the Rulebook on the criteria, terms, conditions and fees for the realisation of the right to food and accommodation in dormitories, student loans, scholarships and transportation.

At the 30th meeting, held on 14 April, the Committee continued the discussion on temporary suspension of payment of student loans, which had started at 29th meeting of the Committee.

- **Committee on Health, Labor and Social Welfare** held its 42nd meeting on 2 April, dedicated to World Autism Awareness Day. In addition to members of the Committee, the following attended the meeting: Mensud Grbović, Assistant Minister of Health, Željko Darmanović, Director of school “1 June”, Marko Minić, psychologist in the Institute for Children’s Diseases and Zorica Barac, neuropsychiatrist.

The Committee held its 43rd meeting on 15 April and dedicated it to discussion on: Proposal for conclusions from the consultative hearing on the topic “Frequent attacks on health workers in Montenegro”, Proposal for conclusions from the 41th meeting, dedicated to disabled workers from the north of Montenegro, held in Bijelo

Polje, Proposal for the conclusions from the 42nd meeting, dedicated to celebration of World Autism Day. The Committee, in addition, acquainted its members with the letter of the Secretary General of the Parliament of Montenegro, regarding the request to build the disabled access ramp into the Parliament of Montenegro.

- At the 14th meeting, on 10 April, the **Anti-corruption Committee** adopted 2013 Performance Report, 2014 Work Plan and reached a Decision on sending an initiative to the Security and Defence Committee to request from the Supreme State Prosecutor the Information on new findings regarding the Telekom affair. In addition, after it obtains the information, the Security and Defence Committee shall ask to hold a joint meeting with the Anti-corruption Committee. The purpose of the meeting is to hold a consultative hearing of the Supreme State Prosecutor and Director of the Administration for Prevention of Money Laundering and Financing Terrorism in respect of the said affair.
- At the 33rd meeting, held on 2 April, the **Administrative Committee**, with regard to the Letter by the Minister of Finance, as of 24 March 2014, relating to the act which the President of the Council of Agency for Personal Data Protection and Free Access to Information submitted to them, for the purpose of providing January 2014 salary for employee Maja Žunjić-Mitrović, the Committee declared itself as non-competent for solving that legal case.

At its 34th meeting, held on 14 April, the Committee got acquainted with the Conclusion of Collegium of the President of the Parliament of Montenegro, as of 14 April 2014, by which the Administrative Committee of the Parliament of Montenegro is recommended to “issue a Decision to former MP Zdenka Popović on exercising the right to compensation following the termination of her term of office, in line with target interpretation of the legal norm”. With regard to that, the Committee has issued the concerned Decision.

- At its 35th meeting, held on 16 April, the Committee hasn’t determined the proposal for candidates for the composition of the State Election Commission, since none of the candidates obtained the necessary majority.



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NEWS FROM PARLIAMENT



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

Delegation of the Parliament of Montenegro participated in the Interparliamentary Conference for the Common Foreign and Security Policy and the Common Security and Defence Policy, which took place on 3-4 April in Athens. The Delegation consisted of: Miodrag Vuković, Obrad Mišo Stanišić, Snežana Jonica and Borislav Banović.



Keynote speakers at the gathering were Konstantinos Tsiaras, Chair of the Standing Committee on National Defence and Foreign Affairs of the Hellenic Parliament and Elmar Brok, Chair of the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the European Parliament.

During his address, Tsiaras referred to the current geopolitical challenges and emphasised that the European Union should undertake a unified approach to solving problems and promoting a set of measures to achieving progress and building trust. In addition, Tsiaras referred to the importance of addressing maritime safety as one of key topics of the EU Foreign Policy and the need for an integrative approach to this issue. In addition, Tsiaras emphasised that when it comes to defence and security, it was necessary to strengthen complementarity and joining capacities as well as strengthening the mechanisms for quick response in times of crisis.

Brok referred to the fact that the European Union doesn't have a unified approach to the recent events in Ukraine, and that the situation in this country as well as in Syria were priority challenges for the time being. During the continuation of the meeting, Brok also emphasised that each country has the right to self-determination. Brok called for the protection of fundamental rights, stating that the Lisbon treaty included numerous mechanisms for meeting current political and other challenges.

Topics considered in the conference were also Security Challenges in the EU's Southern and Eastern Neighbourhoods. Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Evangelos Venizelos spoke on the topic and underlined the readiness of the host country to

support and promote co-operation with neighbour countries. In this regard, Venizelos suggested that these countries should be given help in terms of strengthening their institutions, in order for them to overcome the serious problems they have been facing, in an adequate manner. In his address, Venizelos underlined the importance of the unified approach of the European Union to regional issues, which would ascertain the political identity of this organisation.

During the first day, the following meetings took place: meeting of the Ad Hoc Review Committee, meeting of the Heads of delegations of the Parliaments of EU member states and the meeting of the Political Groups.

Second day, Catherine Ashton, High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy spoke on the current priorities of Common Foreign and Security Policy and the Common Security and Defence Policy, including the situation in Ukraine and also presented the progress made in the following areas: Establishment and operation of European External Action Service, Neighbourhood Policy and also relations with strategic partners. In her address, *inter alia*, Ashton referred to the progress achieved after the signing and implementation of the Brussels Agreement, considering that the progress would set a good example to other countries, especially Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Regarding the situation in Ukraine, Baroness Ashton called for a unified approach aimed at reducing tensions, emphasising that through its actions the Russian Delegation defied international law and breached its international commitments. Emphasising that an agreement on withdrawal of Russian troops from Ukrainian territory should be achieved, Ashton specified that the economic stability of Ukraine should be ensured. Referring to the plans in regards to promotion of EU Security and Defence Policy, Ashton emphasised that peace and security in Europe had always been a precondition for economic welfare and called for unifying capacities and joint action.

Last day, workshops were held, during which the following topics were considered: European Union Maritime Security Strategy, The maritime dimension of the Common Security and Defence Policy, Recent developments in the Middle East, Deploying military forces under CSDP, parliamentary decision making procedures and practices in parliaments. During the continuation, the Progress Report on the works of the AHRC was considered and conclusions from the meeting were adopted.

President of the Parliament of Montenegro Ranko Krivokapić participated in the Conference of Speakers of European Union Parliaments in Vilnius

President of the Parliament of Montenegro Ranko Krivokapić participated in the Conference of Speakers of European Union Parliaments that took place in Vilnius. Topics discussed in the conference referred to the role of parliaments in tackling the consequences of the economic and financial crisis, five years after coming into force of the Treaty of Lisbon, Interparliamentary cooperation with the Eastern Partnership Countries as well as Interparliamentary cooperation in the area of Freedom, Security and Justice.



Speaking on the topic *Interparliamentary co-operation in the area of Justice, Freedom and Security*, the President emphasised that the idea of a unified Europe, as a project, almost without no historical precedent, carries a very important message, i.e. without common, joint and synchronised responses and efforts our continent is not left with many opportunities against a greater and stronger global race.

“Strengthening the cohesion and interdependence among citizens of EU member states will also

strengthen the role of institutions whose source of legitimacy are citizens themselves-these institutions are national parliaments and the European parliament”, stated Krivokapić.

Krivokapić added that the new institutional arrangement of EU, based on the Lisbon treaty, is reflected in the enhancing of the role of the European Parliament and also national parliaments in shaping and defining various EU policies as well as those referring to the rule of law and security.

During the conference, Krivokapić met with President of the Hellenic Parliament Evangelos Meimerakis and President of the Austrian Parliament Barbara Prammer.

During the talks, good parliamentary cooperation between the Parliament of Montenegro, Parliament of Austria and Hellenic Parliament as well as intensive bilateral cooperation between Montenegro and these two countries was noted.

Krivokapić conveyed expectation that these countries would, in the best way possible, use the Presiding over the EU and Council of Europe.



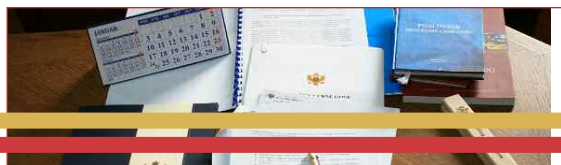
PARLIAMENTARY GLOSSARY

Budget. “The Budget represents the most important financial instrument for collection and allocation of financial resources of a country, which are needed for meeting the needs of the public sector. It is ‘a financial plan based on the annual estimates of revenues and expenditures’⁵ which is passed by the Parliament. All resources provided through collection of duties and other public revenues contained in the budget are allocated to specific users and for specific purposes. The Budget should ensure that the resources are collected in an organised manner. It shall also ensure the legality and expediency of allocation of resources to the users. All this is done for the purpose of implementation of functions of state, i.e public sector, in an adequate and timely manner.”¹

⁵ čl. 3 Zakona o budžetu („Sl. list RCG”, br. 40/01, 71/05, „Sl. list Crne Gore”, br. 12/07, 13/07)

¹ Osnovi budžetskog prava i budžetska kontrola u Crnoj Gori, Priručnik, Vlada Crne Gore, Uprava za kadrove, 2008, p. 3

IN FOCUS



The Spring Session of the PA of the Council of Europe held in Strasbourg

Spring Session of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe took place on 7-11 April 2014 in Strasbourg. The Delegation of Montenegro that participated in the Spring session consisted of: Predrag Sekulić, Head of Delegation and members Draganja Vuksanović, Mladen Bojanić and Snežana Jonica.

First day of the session, Head of Delegation of the Parliament of Montenegro in the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe Predrag Sekulić was elected as Vice-President of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe.



At the opening of the Spring session, President of the Parliamentary Assembly of the CoE Anne Brasseur, emphasised that the Council of Europe and Europe as a whole were currently facing a serious crisis which represents a big challenge to values and principles they defend and also to peace and international co-operation. The annexation of Crimea by the Russian Federation was unacceptable and constituted a serious violation of international law, which should be severely condemned, Brasseur emphasised.

At the plenary session, Progress Report on Activities of the Assembly's Bureau and Standing Committee (31 January – 6 April 2014) was presented.

Members of the Delegation of the Parliament of Montenegro in the PA of CoE participated in a meeting of the Socialist Group. In addition, they participated in the meetings of the following committees: Committee on Equality and Non-Discrimination; Committee on Political Affairs and Democracy, and Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights.

Second day, within the plenary of PACE, discussions were held on: prostitution, trafficking and modern slavery in Europe; Request for Partner for Democracy status with the Parliamentary Assembly submitted by the Parliament of the Kyrgyz Republic, and on the rights of traditional national minorities in Europe.

In the continuation of the session, Nils Muižnieks, the Council of Europe's Commissioner for Human Rights presented the 2013 Activity report.

Members of the Montenegrin Delegation participated in the morning and afternoon meetings of the following PACE

working bodies: Committee on Equality and Non-Discrimination, Committee on Social Affairs, Health and Sustainable Development, Committee on Political Affairs and Democracy, Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights, and also meetings of the Sub-Committee on Human Rights, Sub-Committee on Disability and Inclusion, Sub-Committee on Gender Equality.

Third day, what caught interest of MPs and wide public was the discussion on the recent developments in Ukraine and threats to the functioning of democratic institutions.

In a Resolution, which was adopted after a very interesting discussion, PACE concluded that the “so-called referendum” in Krim was unconstitutional. The Parliamentary Assembly called on Ukrainian authorities to adopt constitutional amendments which needed to be in compliance with CoE standards in order to create a balance between the executive and legislative branch of government.

In addition, during the plenary, discussions were led on access to Internet, user protection and security in cyberspace, access to nationality and the effective implementation of the European Convention on Nationality, where MP Snežana Jonica participated.

Members of Delegation participated in the meeting of the Socialist Group and also in the meeting of the Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights and the Committee, Committee on Social Affairs, Health and Sustainable Development. In addition, they participated in a hearing on the topic “The need to eliminate Statelessness” jointly organised by UNHCR, the Committee on Migration, Refugees and Displaced Persons and the Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights.

Head of Delegation of the Parliament of Montenegro to PACE Predrag Sekulić attended the meeting between the President and the Chairpersons of national delegations.

Fourth day, PACE decided to suspend the voting rights to the delegation of the Russian Federation as well as the right of representation of its members in the Bureau, Presidential and Standing Committee of PACE and participation in Election Observation Missions.

In addition, members of the Montenegrin delegation attended the meeting of: the Committee on Equality and Non-Discrimination, the Committee on Migration, Refugees and Displaced Persons, the Committee on Political Affairs and Democracy, Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights and the Committee on Social Affairs, Health and Sustainable Development.

Last day of the session, there was a discussion on the fight against poverty of children in Europe and on refugees and their right to work.

Same day, the meeting of the Bureau of the Assembly was held, which was attended by the Head of Delegation of the Parliament of Montenegro to PACE Predrag Sekulić.

FROM THE HISTORY OF MONTENEGRIN PARLIAMENTARISM



LAW ON THE GOVERNING OF EDUCATIONAL COUNCIL

20 July/3 August 1905

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

LAW ON THE GOVERNING OF EDUCATIONAL COUNCIL

1.

Within the Ministry of Education and Church Affairs, Educational Council shall be established, and it shall submit to the Ministry its opinions on important issues regarding elementary and middle school education, internal and external school development and literature courses.

3.

The Educational Council consists of Chair, Deputy Chair who is also a Manager and certain number of members who are nominated by His Highness, the Sovereign, at the proposal of the Minister of Education.

5.

Educational Council shall meet regularly every fifteen days or more frequently if needed.

7.

Regular members are elected for three years, at the proposal of the Ministry of Education and are entitled to special decrees. They are composed of regular high school teachers, elementary school teachers, doctors, engineers and civil servants from the Ministry of Education and from other ministries.

Cetinje, 20 July 1905

Nikola, handwritten signature

From the Law on the governing of Educational Council

Pavićević, B, Raspopović, R, eds. Crnogorski zakonici 1796-1916, knj. II (Montenegrin Codes 1796-1916, Book II), Podgorica, Istorijski institut Crne Gore, 1998, pp. 1018-1021

FROM PARLIAMENT'S GALLERY

First forms of coats of arms appear in the early period of heraldry as signs depicted in the shields of warriors. The shield with a skewed bar within the lead seal of King Đorđe, a ruler since 1114-1118 and also since 1125-1131 represents the first known coat of arms of Vojislavljević dynasty and also of Montenegro and its heraldic tradition.



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CALENDAR



1 April

- Chair of the Gender Equality Committee Nada Drobnjak received Honorary Consul General of Montenegro in India Janice Darbari. The interlocutors emphasised that it is a well known fact that nowhere in the world women are found to be in the same position as men; thus, it was necessary to take all the necessary measures to change this situation. In addition, the two suggested that it was necessary to ensure greater participation of women in politics, as well as decision-making positions and engage in further economic strengthening of women, i.e. women's entrepreneurship. Darbari presented the experience of India in terms of economic strengthening of women in rural areas. During the talks, readiness was shown in terms of cooperation between Gender Equality committees of both countries.



- President of the Parliament of Montenegro and the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly Ranko Krivokapić visited two most important addresses for solving the most dominant foreign policy issue at the moment of Ukrainian crisis-Moscow and Kiev. Within the diplomatic mission, aimed at converging positions of both sides, Krivokapić spoke with Head officials of the Russian Federation and Ukraine. During the visit to Moscow, Krivokapić spoke with Presidents of both Houses of Parliaments of the Russian Federation, in separate meetings, whereas during the stay in Kiev, Krivokapić spoke with Oleksandr Valentynovych Turchynov, President of the Parliament of Ukraine, who is also an acting President in the absence of the President of State.

3 April

- Delegation of the Parliament of Montenegro participated in the Interparliamentary Conference for the Common Foreign and Security Policy and the

Common Security and Defence Policy, which took place on 3-4 April in Athens. The Delegation consisted of: Miodrag Vuković, Obrad Mišo Stanišić, Snežana Jonica and Borislav Banović.

6 April

- President of the Parliament of Montenegro Ranko Krivokapić participated in the Conference of Speakers of European Union Parliaments that took place in Vilnius. Topics of the Conference referred to the role of parliaments in tackling the consequences of the economic and financial crisis, five years after coming into force of the Treaty of Lisbon, Interparliamentary cooperation with the Eastern Partnership Countries as well as Interparliamentary cooperation in the area of Freedom, Security and Justice.

7 April

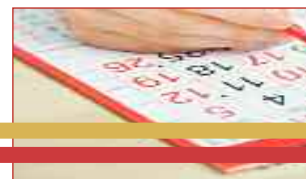
- During the visit to Copenhagen, President of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly Ranko Krivokapić chaired the meeting of the Bureau of the Parliamentary Assembly ahead of the annual session of the OSCE PA. President Krivokapić acquainted the members of of the Bureau with the key activities undertaken since the last meeting of this working body. Krivokapić especially referred to the activities related to intentions of the OSCE PA, to, within its international efforts, assist in establishing a dialogue in order to reach a solution to the crisis in Ukraine.



- Spring Session of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe took place on 7-11 April 2014 in Strasbourg. The Delegation of Montenegro that participated in the April session consisted of Predrag Sekulić, Head of Delegation and members Draginja Vuksanović, Mladen Bojanić and Snežana Jonica.

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8 April

- MP Group of Albanian parties (FORCA, AA), HGI and LPCG received NGO representatives Goran Đurović, a candidate for membership to RTCG Council, Daliborka Uljarević, Executive Director of the Centre for Civic education, Goran Macanović, Executive Director of the Association of the Blind and Sight-Impaired and Vlado Dedović, Head of the Legal Department of the Center for Monitoring and Research. NGO representatives presented to MP Group of Albanian parties (FORCA, AA), HGI and LPCG objections to the procedure of proposing candidates for the RTCG Council membership.



9 April

- Chair of the Committee on Human Rights and Freedoms of the Parliament of Montenegro Halil Duković and Deputy Chair of the Committee Ljiljana Đurašković held a meeting with the expert of the European Commission for institution of protector of human rights and freedoms and Legal Advisor to the Danish Ombudsman Klavs Duus Kinnerup Hede. The purpose of the meeting was to analyse the situation in Montenegro and collecting relevant data, necessary for preparation of the European Commission's Report on the progress of Montenegro, which will be published in October.



- Chair of the Committee on European Integration and its members organised a debate with High school students from Cetinje High school (Gymnasium), during which they acquainted students with the idea of European unity and benefits of EU membership. During the meeting of the members of the Committee with the management of the Old Royal Capital Cetinje, it was emphasised that this Municipality was among the first in Montenegro to form the Department for European Integration, primarily competent for application of projects from pre-accession funds. MPs assessed that Old Royal Capital Cetinje can serve as an example to other municipalities when it comes to efficiency in the use of EU funds.

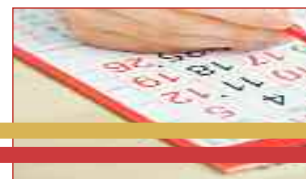
10 April

- Vice-president of the Parliament of Montenegro Suljo Mustafić, MP Borislav Banović and Dragana Radulović, Director-General of the Directorate General for NATO and Security Policy at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, within the study visit intended for experts in the field of security, had several meetings with representatives of German state institutions and Bundestag. While at the German Ministry of Defence, they spoke with Admiral Torsten Koehler and exchanged their views on the current political and security situation in the Balkan region, the role of NATO, as well as possible implications of the Ukraine crisis on relations with Russia.



- Chair of the Committee on Human Rights and Freedoms of the Parliament of Montenegro Halil Duković and Deputy Chair of the Committee Ljiljana Đurašković met with the European Commission expert in the area of human rights and legal adviser in the European Court of Human Rights Susette Pia Schuster. The purpose of the

CALENDAR



meeting was to analyse the situation in Montenegro and collect relevant data needed for preparation of the report of the European Commission on the progress of Montenegro, which will be published in October.

11 April

- Chair of the Anti-corruption Committee Predrag Bulatović and Deputy Chair of the Committee Obrad Mišo Stanišić met with NGO representatives engaged in the fight against corruption and organised crime. The topic of the meeting was “Mutual cooperation of the Anti-corruption Committee and NGOs”, which was realised on the basis of the Committee’s position.
- During the meeting of Russian and Ukrainian parliamentarians which took place in Vienna, at the invitation of the President of the OSCE PA Ranko Krivokapić, an agreement has been reached, stating that in order to reduce the tension, it was necessary to continue and strengthen the dialogue which should be focused on vital issues of citizens, who were affected by the current crisis. Addressing the Russian and Ukrainian parliamentarians, Krivokapić noted that one of the OSCE fundamental goals was strengthening cooperation and dialogue. “The primary goal at the moment is to continue the dialogue, protect fundamental human rights, reduce tensions that could potentially jeopardize the safety and the lives of people”, stated Krivokapić.

14 April

- Chair of the Anti-corruption Committee Predrag Bulatović, Deputy Chair of the Committee Obrad Mišo Stanišić and members Koča Pavlović, Mićo Orlandić, Mladen Bojanić and Nik Gjeljoshaj met with co-rapporteurs of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe.



Representatives of the Committee acquainted the co-rapporteurs of PA with the structure, competences and the role of the Committee.

- The Committee on European Integration organised a public debate on negotiation Chapter 2- Freedom of movement for workers and Chapter 28-Consumer and health protection, which was attended by representatives of state institutions, civil sector, media and the public.



- President of the Parliament of Montenegro and the OSCE PA Ranko Krivokapić received co-rapporteurs of the Monitoring Committee of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe Kimm Sassi and Terry Leyden. Sassi and Leyden emphasised that Montenegro has been making continuous progress towards democratisation of the system, which should be commended, especially for the reforms in the judicial system. Freedom of media, democratic and fair elections are fundamental values which require continuous work from all member states of the Council of Europe. The interlocutors were also interested in the results from the last week’s meeting of the Russian and Ukrainian parliamentary delegation, which the OSCE PA President Krivokapić brought together.
- Co-rapporteurs of the Monitoring Committee of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe visited Montenegro in order to monitor progress in key areas defined by the PACE Resolution 1890 (2012) named “the honouring of obligations and commitments by Montenegro”. During the visit, they had several meetings in the Parliament of Montenegro, during which they assessed that Montenegro was making continuous progress towards democratisation of the system, being a leading country in the region, which should be commended. In addition, they added that Montenegro should continue with its activities in the fight against corruption and organised crime and ensure freedom of media.

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16 April

- President of the Parliament of Montenegro and the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly Ranko Krivokapić paid a two-day visit to the Republic of Azerbaijan at the highest national level. During the visit to Baku, Krivokapić met with President of Azerbaijan Ilham Heydar Oglu Aliyev and Speaker of the National Assembly of Azerbaijan Ogtay Asadov Sabir oglu. In addition, Krivokapić met with Members of Delegation of Azerbaijan to the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly as well as ambassador Alexis Chahtahtinski, OSCE Project Co-ordinator in Baku. Second day of the visit, Krivokapić met with Artur Rasizade, Prime Minister of Azerbaijan and Minister of Economy and Industry Şahin Mustafayev.
- Conference “Parallel Process of European and Euro-Atlantic Integration of Montenegro - Results and Obligations” was held. The following participated in the conference: representatives of the Parliament of Montenegro, the Government, the civil society, Minister of Defence Milica Pejanović Đurišić, US Ambassador to Montenegro Sue K. Brown, Ambassador of the Federal Republic of Germany to Montenegro Pius Fisher, Chief Negotiator for Negotiations on Montenegro’s Accession in the EU Ambassador Aleksandar Andrija Pejović and others.



17 April

- Representatives of Montenegrin Association of Political Science visited the Parliament of Montenegro. The students were acquainted with the history of Montenegrin parliamentarism, organisation and structure of the Parliament, its competences and

functions. In addition, they were informed about the mode of operation of parliamentary working bodies and MP Groups, whereas the most important topic was the current 25th Convocation and the manner of following parliamentary sittings.



21 April

- President of the European Commission José Manuel Barroso sent a letter to the President of the Parliament of Montenegro Ranko Krivokapić, welcoming the European Resolution adopted by our Parliament as well as the overall contribution of the Parliament of Montenegro to the EU integration process. Barroso, *inter alia*, emphasised: “The role of the Parliament of Montenegro in Montenegro’s accession to the EU is crucial. I believe that the Resolution will contribute to further strengthening of capacities and increasing significance of the Parliament of Montenegro aimed at its full effectiveness in this process”.

24 April

- Representatives of the Delegation of the European Union to Montenegro, MPs, representatives of state institutions, NGOs and the media attended a Public debate dedicated to negotiation chapter 29- Customs union, for the purpose of acquainting with the content of the chapter. The moderator of the debate was Chair of the Committee on European Integration Slaven Radunović. In addition to the members of the Committee, the debate was also attended by representatives of lead committees, whose jurisdiction is related to the content of chapter 29, i.e. representatives of the Committee on Economy, Finances and Budget as well as representatives of the Anti-corruption Committee.



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25 April

- President of the Parliament of Montenegro Ranko Krivokapić chaired and spoke at the National Convention on European Integration of Montenegro (2013-2014). The Project “National Convention on European Integration of Montenegro” is dedicated to creation of synergetic effect of all social forces in Montenegro, aimed at strengthening and multiplying of efforts for acceleration of social, political and economic reforms within the European integration process.



27 April

- Vice-president of the Parliament of Montenegro Suljo Mustafić participated in the 12th Conference of Presidents of the Parliaments of the Adriatic-Ionian Initiative which was held in Tirana, within the Albanian presidency over this initiative. Topics discussed in the conference were: the accession process to the EU, promotion of sustainable economy and social progress of Adriatic-Ionian region, as well as promotion of tourist activities and services based on local products.



28 April

- President of the Parliament of Montenegro and the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly Ranko Krivokapić met with Ambassador of Romania to Montenegro H.E. Ferdinand Nagy. Krivokapić stated that Montenegro and Romania were close countries, and expressed gratitude for partnership Romania had been providing to Montenegro in the path to the EU and NATO integration. Ambassador Nagy

emphasised that Montenegro can count on a strong support of Romania on its path towards the EU and NATO.

- Vice-president of the Parliament of Montenegro Branko Radulović received Zhi Zhaolin, Ambassador of the People’s Republic of China to Montenegro for a farewell visit. During the meeting, pleasure was expressed over good cooperation between China and Montenegro in all fields - science, research and education.



- Chair of the Committee on Human Rights and Freedoms Halil Duković and Deputy chair Ljiljana Đurašković met with representatives of NGO Federation of Associations of Parents of Children and Youth with Developmental Disabilities "Our Initiative". The purpose of the meeting was to continue the cooperation between the Committee and NGO in the area of promotion and protection of rights of the child, with special focus on improving the position of children with developmental difficulties.
- President of the Parliament of Montenegro and the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly Ranko Krivokapić received Zhi Zhaolin, Ambassador of the People’s Republic of China to Montenegro for a farewell visit. Interlocutors emphasised that relations between Montenegro and China were intensive, especially in the field of economy. Krivokapić expressed gratitude to the ambassador for cooperation and partnership during his term of office in Montenegro. Krivokapić and Zhi noted that Montenegro and the People’s Republic of China needed to further strengthen intergovernmental relations of mutual interest.
- The Parliament of the Kingdom of Spain, during the plenary sitting, unanimously passed Resolution asking state government to support Montenegro's accession to NATO at the summit in Wales. The Resolution stated that “Montenegro has achieved significant progress, through its active contribution to regional security in the Balkans and participation in The International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) in Afghanistan”.