



Parliament of Montenegro

NEWSLETTER OPEN PARLIAMENT

Newsletter on the Parliament of Montenegro Performance ♦ No. 38 ♦ May 2014

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OPEN PARLIAMENT



Parliament of Montenegro

Newsletter on the Parliament of Montenegro Performance ♦ Electronic format ♦ Release: monthly ♦ Year IV ♦ No. 38 ♦ May 2014

FOREWORD

Dear readers,

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

In May, seventh Special Sitting of the First Ordinary (Spring) Session of the Parliament of Montenegro in 2014 was held. Committees considered eight proposals for a law and held other activities within their oversight role.

In focus of this month's newsletter is the Spring Session of NATO Parliamentary Assembly held from 30 May to 1 June in Vilnius.

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

Prime Minister's Hour and Parliamentary Questions

At the Seventh Special Sitting of the First Ordinary (Spring) Session of the Parliament of Montenegro in 2014, within the agenda item *Prime Minister's Hour and Parliamentary Questions*, MPs questions were answered by Prime Minister of Montenegro Milo Đukanović and ministers in the Government. Six questions were posed to the Prime Minister, while 39 questions and seven additional questions were posed to the ministers.

Proposals for laws deliberated in committees

- **Proposal for a Law on Electronic Government** was considered and proposed to the Parliament for adoption by the Legislative Committee.
- **Proposal for a Law on Amendments to the Law on Misdemeanours** was considered and proposed to the Parliament for adoption by the Legislative Committee.
- **Proposal for a Law on Amendments to the Law on Witness Protection** was considered and proposed to the Parliament for adoption by the Legislative Committee.
- **Proposal for a Law on Amendments to the Law on Tourism** was considered and proposed to the Parliament for adoption by the Legislative Committee.
- **Proposal for a Law on Amendments to the**

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Criminal Procedure Code was considered by the Legislative Committee, which decided to propose to the Parliament not to adopt it.

- **Proposal for a Law on Amendments to the Criminal Code** was 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 Military of Montenegro** was considered and proposed to the Parliament for adoption by the Security and Defence Committee.
- **Proposal for a Law on the execution of suspended sentence and sentence of community service** was considered and proposed to the Parliament for adoption by the Legislative Committee.

Other activities of working bodies

- At the 23rd meeting, held on 7 May, **Security and Defence Committee** unanimously adopted 2013 Performance Report of the Committee.



- At the 56th meeting, held on 7 May, the **Committee on Economy, Finance and Budget** continued with its activities regarding exercise of parliamentary oversight of the Law on Financing of Political Parties. The Committee assessed that public announcement for employment and conclusion of employment contract for an indefinite period was permissible, both in private and public sectors, in accordance with provisions of the Labour Law and the Law on Civil Servants and State Employees. In addition, there weren't any obstacles for the Electric Power Plant of Montenegro to continue "giving subsidies" to consumers who regularly pay their bills for electricity. The Committee was also acquainted with the Opinion of the Agency for Personal Data Protection and Free Access to Information concerning the posting of data containing lists of debts arising from the electricity, water and other public services. In addition, the Committee sent memos to the Ministry of Finance and Ministry of Economy once again, regarding expiration of deadlines for submission of documents and sanctions prescribed by the Law for failure to fulfill obligations. Informing members of the 2013 Performance Report of the Commission for

Concessions, was postponed for the next meeting, due to the absence of representatives of the proposer.



At its 57th meeting, 24 May, the Committee considered Information on exercise of parliamentary oversight of the Law on Financing of Political Parties. It was concluded that the Committee should, through mechanisms of Article 68 of the Rules of Procedure of the Parliament of Montenegro and Article 19c of the Law on Financing of Political Parties, ask for certain information, necessary for making decisions on subject initiatives. In addition, according to the submitted information, it shall initiate holding of the control hearing of the Chair of the Board of Directors of Montenegro Airlines JSC.

- At the fourteenth meeting, held on 7 May, the **Commission for Monitoring and Control of privatisation Process** considered the privatisation process of the Wool plant "Vunko", SC Bijelo Polje. In addition to members of the Commission, the meeting of the Commission was attended by representative of the Ministry of Economy Goran Nikolić, Bankruptcy Administrator in the Wool plant Radojica Grba, Chair of the Committee for protection of rights of former workers in the Wool plant „Vunko“ SC Bijelo Polje Dragan Šćepanović and the President of NGO Democratic Civic Centre Zdravko Janjušević. The Commission also adopted: Conclusions regarding the control of the privatisation procedure of the Saltworks "Bajo Sekulić", SC Ulcinj, and 2013 Report on the Performance of the Commission and the Work Plan for the current year.



NEWS FROM PARLIAMENT



The Inaugural session of the Parliamentary Assembly of the South-East European Cooperation Process

President of the Parliament of Montenegro and the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly Ranko Krivokapić visited Romania, on the occasion of holding of the constituent session of the Parliamentary Assembly of the South-East European Cooperation Process in Bucharest. In addition to President Krivokapić, Delegation of the Parliament of Montenegro consisted of MPs: Žana Filipović, Nebojša Medojević, Dritan Abazović and Genci Nimanbegu.



The process that began during the Montenegrin presidency over the initiative was completed with the ceremonial session, when the working group was established, whose task was to work on the establishment of the Parliamentary dimension.

President Krivokapić spoke on the topic "Future Role of the Parliamentary Assembly of the South-East European Cooperation Process in the European Framework". "It is our duty as MPs to ensure that the world becomes a safe place in all the regions and give our best so that our differences never become an obstacle for the realisation of our common goals. Recent events on the borders of our region have shown that we must always be prepared for unexpected challenges. Being a President of the largest parliamentary Assembly in the world, every day I have the opportunity to witness the strength of

parliamentary diplomacy. We, as parliamentarians, should always be aware of the fact that the crisis is not an excuse for a slow reaction but rather the reason for a better organisation", emphasised Krivokapić.

During the visit to Bucharest, Krivokapić had bilateral meetings with the host, President of the Chamber of Deputies of Romania Valerio Zgonea, President of the Grand National Assembly of Turkey Cemil Çiçek and Chairman of the Parliament of Albania Ilir Meta.

During the meeting with Zgonea, Krivokapić emphasised that the frequency of mutual visits at the highest level was an indicator of exceptional friendly relations between Montenegro and Romania. In addition, it was an indicator of a fruitful cooperation, which has, *inter alia*, resulted in successfully working together on the Initiative of establishing the Parliamentary Dimension of the South-East European Cooperation Process.

During the talks with Çiçek, Krivokapić referred to the upward path of the friendly relations of Montenegro and Turkey. Krivokapić and Çiçek spoke about the current political moment in the region and joining efforts to solve them. Krivokapić emphasised that standards cannot be made to measure past and the parliamentary diplomacy must use timelines to ensure prevention and solving of conflicts.

Krivokapić and Meta spoke about the current political moment where both countries stood in the process of the European integration, as well as ways in which Montenegro, as a leader in the process, could help Albania. The Interlocutors also exchanged views on the economic situation and the presence of foreign direct investments in the region as indicators of democratic progress in our countries, since only safe societies governed by the Rule of Law, can become attractive to large investors.

International Conference on the Gender Equality held in Belgrade

Chair of the Gender Equality Committee Nada Drobnyak participated in the work of International Conference on the Gender Equality within NATO project, on the topic, *Introduction of gender perspective: indicators for implementing the UN Security Council Resolution 1325 "Women, peace and security"*. The purpose of the meeting was to exchange experience on turning goals of Resolution 1325 into practical measures of the state, determining of challenges and good practices on implementing the principles of Resolution 1325.



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The following issues were discussed: how women contribute to peacebuilding, the good practices of involving women and gender perspectives in planning and performing military operations, and what countries have the best models of integrating gender perspective in leading the armies.

The gathering was organised within the project, aimed at creating instruments for measuring the progress of integrating the gender issues in leading the armies that

are members of NATO and Partnership for Peace, whose member is Montenegro as well. The Conference represents the most important event this year, within the programme Science for Peace and Security, under the patronage of NATO.

The Conference was opened by Mari Skare, NATO Special Representative for implementation of the UN Security Council resolutions dealing with the issue of women, peace and security.

The Independence Day of Montenegro-21 May, traditionally celebrated on Lovćen Mountain

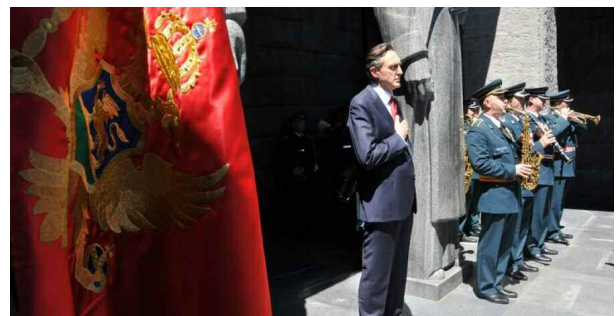
President of the Parliament of Montenegro Ranko Krivokapić traditionally laid down the laurel wreath on the Mausoleum of Petar II Petrović Njegoš in Lovćen, on the occasion of 21 May, the Independence Day of Montenegro.

“On this sacred day of the new Montenegrin history, we always return to the altar of freedom of Montenegro. One should recall that red Montenegro and red Yugoslavia built this monument, to one of the greatest South Slavic poets.

This idea is one of the biggest ideas that South Slavic nations brought to life. We have been feeling it well these days, and Montenegro had stood as one and helped the brotherly republics of Serbia, Bosnia-Herzegovina and Croatia. This is the place that the whole Yugoslavia had built, this altar of freedom, togetherness, and also the need to be one in Montenegro, not only in tough times, but in good times as well.

May Montenegro be centered round one good, may this day symbolise the reunification of Montenegro with its history and its future. At this place, everything we all need to know is that we are just a grain of sand in time, that eternity belongs to Peter II, to Montenegro and that the duty of all, especially public figures, is to unite

Montenegro, that Montenegro be one, like the verse of our national anthem says - while our unity gives wings to our Lovćen cause. Let this be the day of unity in Montenegro.”



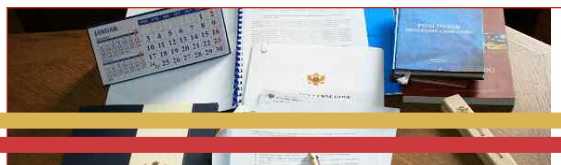
Krivokapić was the host of the round table “Sitting at the Thrashing Floor”, under the topic “Montenegro and EU – eight years since the restoration of independence”, which was attended by Gordana Đurović, full professor at the Faculty of Economics of the University of Montenegro, former Vice-President of the Government of Montenegro and Minister of European Integration. Additionally, the meeting was attended by students of the University of Montenegro, Mediterranean University and the University of Donja Gorica.

PARLIAMENTARY GLOSSARY

Sovereignty. “In the narrowest sense of the word, sovereignty represents the principle of the absolute and unlimited power. However, very often, difference between legal and political sovereignty is made, as well as between notions of internal and external sovereignty. Legal sovereignty refers to the supreme legitimate authority, i.e. the inviolable right to demand consent based on law. On the other hand, political sovereignty refers to the unlimited political power, respectively, the competence to demand obedience, which is usually ensured by the monopoly of force. Internal sovereignty refers to the supreme authority within a state, held by the body which is entitled to make decisions binding on citizens, groups or institutions. External sovereignty refers to the place of a country in the International order and its capacity to act as an independent and autonomous entity.”¹

¹ Endru Hejvud, *Politika*(Politics), Beograd, Clio 2004, p. 250

IN FOCUS



The Spring Session of NATO Parliamentary Assembly held in Vilnius

Spring Session of NATO Parliamentary Assembly took place in Vilnius from 30 May to 1 June 2014, which gathered around 360 parliamentarians from North Atlantic Council and partnership countries. Members of the Permanent Delegation of the Parliament of Montenegro to the NATO PA Borislav Banović and Obrad Mišo Stanišić took part in the work of the meeting.



The first day, plenary sitting and meeting of delegation secretaries were held.

President of NATO PA Hugh Bayley, Speaker of the Parliament of the Republic of Lithuania Loreta Graužinienė, Prime Minister of the Republic of Lithuania Algirdas Butkevičius and Secretary of the National Security and Defence Council of Ukraine Andriy Parubiy spoke at the plenary sitting.

In addition, Secretary General of NATO Anders Fogh Rasmussen, addressed the participants, who particularly referred to the strengthening of capacities within the Alliance, need for greater budgetary allocations for the defence sector in member states as well as the importance of promoting transatlantic connections.

During the meeting, discussion was focused on the current situation and implications of the recent developments in Ukraine on international security, the consequences of civil war in Syria, the need to strengthen transatlantic partnership and the open-door policy.

In addition to the Declaration on the enlargement of NATO, the Parliamentary Assembly adopted the Declaration on the support of Ukraine and the Declaration on transatlantic relations.

Second day of the session, meetings of Political Committee, Science and Technology Committee and Economics and Security Committee were held.

During the meeting of Political Committee, *inter alia*, discussion was on directions of NATO operations

after 2014, security ongoings at the southeast borders of Alliance and their impact on transatlantic cooperation. In addition to the abovementioned, special attention was paid to NATO partnerships and Alliance open door policy.

At the Economics and Security Committee, the discussion was on security and economic ongoings in the Sahel area, economic dimension of change of access to Asia by the USA and the EU, as well as negotiations in terms of trade and investment partnerships.

At the meeting of the Science and Technology Committee, the issue of European energetic security, ballistic missile defence and cyber space and Euro-Atlantic security were considered.

Third day, meetings of the Defence and Security Committee, Committee on the Civil Dimension of Security as well as the meeting of the Permanent Committee were held.

At the meeting of the Defence and Security Committee, the discussion was on the current situation in Afghanistan and actions of the International Community after 2014, consequences of the civil war in Syria and steps that should be undertaken by NATO in order to stabilise situation in this country, as well as growing militarisation in Asia-Pacific region. In addition to the aforementioned, the discussion was on the ways of improving the concept of smart defence and the need to create a platform to meet the development of new technologies.



Current political developments in Afghanistan, the situation in Ukraine and its impact on global security, the fight against terrorism, and internal and external challenges in the process of Euro-Atlantic integration of Georgia were discussed at the meeting of the Committee on the Civil Dimension of Security.

Further, the meeting of the Standing Committee was held, thus ending the work of the gathering.

FROM THE HISTORY OF MONTENEGRIN PARLIAMENTARISM



LAW ON THE GYMNASIUMS OF THE PRINCIPALITY OF MONTENEGRO

18/30 September 1883

§ 1. High school (Gymnasium) students shall be obliged to conduct (themselves) in a proper manner and practice all virtues which they will find useful in life.

§ 4. Students shall complete their school duties conscientiously. They shall be obliged to complete and submit their homework in timely manner, and always be prepared for oral examination.

§ 6. Students must treat one another with mutual brotherly love. Therefore, it shall be strictly prohibited to: tease, argue with, embarrass, cheat and insult someone in any way.

§ 8. When there are no classes, students are not allowed to organise gatherings at school without the permission of the headmaster. (...)

§ 16. During enrollment at school, each student shall be obliged to inform the headmaster where he/she lives. This shall also apply for any changes made in

residency status. If the headmaster deems it necessary, the student shall move out of an apartment in question.

§ 18. Students are not allowed to establish any associations in or out of school, without the permission of the gymnasium Council.

§ 27. Reviews of school demeanor are given by the headmaster in cooperation with the principal teacher. In contested cases, the gymnasium Council shall be the one that makes the final decision.

§ 28. In case the student has been expelled from the gymnasium, this shall be noted in the reviews of demeanor.

This law, which contains only 28 paragraphs, has entered into force on 18 September 1883. It includes the signature of the Minister of Education and Church Affairs, Metropolitan Visarion.

From the Law on the Gymnasiums of the Principality of Montenegro

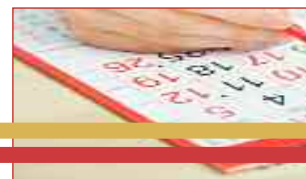
Pavićević, B, Raspopović, R, ur. Crnogorski zakonici 1796-1916, knj. II (Montenegrin Codes 1796-1916, Book II), Podgorica, Istorijски institut Crne Gore, 1998, pp. 80-81

FROM PARLIAMENT'S GALLERY

This is a parchment, which gives an approximate portrayal of the territory of Duklja, in the second half of the 11th Century, in the time of King Mihajlo Vojislavljević. Territorial vastness of our first Kingdom varied, depending on the amount of power of neighbour countries, primarily the Byzantium. In the bottom left corner, there is the imprint of the lead seal of Arhont Petar, the ruler of Duklja in the 9th Century, which certifies that Duklja had already been a principality, owned an office, administration and archives, i.e. the State insignia. This shows that the roots of organisation of state in this region have existed for over 1100 years now.



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8 May

- President of the Parliament of Montenegro and the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly Ranko Krivokapić received John Todoroki, founder of the Prague Freedom Foundation and Pavel Fischer, Head of the Steering Committee of the organisation.

9 May

- Economic and Catering High school graduates from Bar paid a visit to the Parliament of Montenegro. The graduates expressed desire to mark Europe day precisely by paying a visit to the highest legislative body in Montenegro. During the visit, they got acquainted with competences and functions of the Parliament of Montenegro and, in an interactive way got familiarised with Montenegrin parliamentarism as well as other historical facts.



- Chair of the Committee on International Relations and Emmigrants of the Parliament of Montenegro Miodrag Vuković received Zhi Zhaolin, Ambassador of the People's Republic of China to Montenegro for a farewell visit. Interlocutors assessed that relations between Montenegro and the People's Republic of China were traditionally good and friendly, and are continuously upgraded, through a rich and meaningful cooperation, in all levels. Zhaolin emphasised that both countries have established good political relations and parliamentary cooperation at a high level. Additionally, Zhaolin stated that the People's Republic of China fully supports Montenegro in its European and Euro-Atlantic path.
- On the occasion of celebrating 9 May, Europe day, MP of the Parliament of Montenegro Slaven Radunović paid a visit to the "Democracy Workshops" of the Parliament of Montenegro. On this occasion, Radunović spoke with students from class V-3 of "Milija Nikčević" High school-Nikšić on the topic "European Union". Radunović

answered the following questions asked by children: why is 9 May important and what is the Unity from an MP's point of view; why is the European Union important and what is its goal. In addition, they asked what were the advantages and disadvantages of Montenegro's membership to the EU.



- President of the Parliament of Montenegro Ranko Krivokapić was the Head of Delegation of the Parliament of Montenegro to the Inaugural session of the Parliamentary Assembly of the South-East European Cooperation Process, which took place in Bucharest. In addition to President Krivokapić as the Head of the Delegation, the session was attended by MPs: Žana Filipović, Nebojša Medojević, Dritan Abazović and Genci Nimanbegu.

13 May

- Chair of the Commission for Monitoring and Control of privatisation Process Janko Vučinić and Deputy Chair of the Commission Branko Čavor met with President of the Municipality of Ulcinj Trade Union Trusteeship Šefkija Keko Ljamović, President of the Hotel "Otrant" SC Ulcinj Trade Union Muzafer Suljović and members of the Hotel "Otrant" Trade Union Executive Board Ivo Lukić, Duško Popović and Amir Resulbegović. Workers of the Hotel "Otrant" from Ulcinj informed the Chair and Deputy Chair of the Commission about the difficulties they have been facing since the start of hotel's privatisation procedure.
- On the initiative of Chairs of committees on international relations of: Parliament of Montenegro, Parliament of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Parliament of Republic of Croatia and Parliament of the Republic of Serbia, within the conference titled: "Perspectives on foreign policy in regional and cross-border cooperation", a work meeting of members of delegation of the four parliaments took place in Sarajevo. Second day, the conference on the topic

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“Perspectives on foreign policy in regional and cross-border cooperation” was held, during which Miodrag Vuković, Chair of the Committee on International Relations and Emmigrants held a speech.

14 May

- Vice-President of the Parliament of Montenegro and member of the "Balkan Peace Club" management Suljo Mustafić, met with Malik Obama, Founder of the "Barack Obama Hussein Senior" Foundation and Osmo Vates, President of international organisation "Balkan Peace Club". Mustafić stated that the City of Bar was an example of inter-ethnic co-existence of people and a model in which Montenegro during difficult times managed to preserve its stability.



19 May

- In order to prepare the study on the topic “Regional parliamentary cooperation”, Chair of the Committee on International Relations and Emigrants Miodrag Vuković and MP Žana Filipović had separate meetings with Franklin De Vrieze, engaged by the European Commission to work on the preparation of the study. Additionally, Secretary General of the Parliament of Montenegro Damir Davidović, and representatives of some organisational units of the Parliamentary Service met with the expert De Vrieze. Interlocutors also discussed the functioning and the future support to the new Parliamentary Assembly of the South East Europe Cooperation Process (SEECPP), the role of the Regional Cooperation Council (RCC) in Sarajevo and the Regional Secretariat for Parliamentary Cooperation in South East Europe (RSPC) in Sofia.
- President of the Parliament of Montenegro and the OSCE PA Ranko Krivokapić and President of the Croatian Parliament Josip Leko organised the meeting of delegations of national parliaments of Group of

Countries of Southeast Europe of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly in Zagreb. The Memorandum of Understanding and Cooperation between delegation missions of national parliaments of the Group of Countries of Southeast Europe of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly was signed at the meeting. The Joint Resolution on cooperation in South East Europe was supported basically as well, and it is to be discussed at the following OSCE PA Annual Session in Baku.

21 May

- President of the Parliament of Montenegro and the OSCE PA Ranko Krivokapić met with President of Austria Heinz Fischer. Montenegro and the Republic of Austria have good bilateral relations, which should be directed towards promoting economic cooperation, emphasised Krivokapić and Fischer during the meeting. Fischer expressed pleasure over the success achieved by Montenegro on its European path, and also added that Austria was a friendly country, willing to help throughout the integration process. Interlocutors emphasised that the cooperation between both parliaments was intensive and very fruitful. One of very successful projects realised between the Parliament of Montenegro and the Austrian Erste Foundation is also the project titled “Democratic Workshops”.



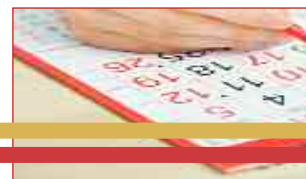
- President of the Parliament of Montenegro Ranko Krivokapić traditionally laid down the laurel wreath on the Mausoleum of Petar II Petrović Njegoš in Lovćen, in honor of 21 May, the Independence Day of Montenegro. Krivokapić was the host of the round table “Sitting at the Threshing Floor”, under the topic “Montenegro and EU – eight years since the restoration of independence”.

22 May

- President of the Parliament of Montenegro and the OSCE PA Ranko Krivokapić received NATO Secretary General Anders Fogh Rasmussen. Rasmussen

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congratulated Montenegro for restoration of its independence. Krivokapić emphasised that from the very beginning, the fight for the full recovery of independence was the foundation of its Euro-Atlantic path. Rasmussen stated that the Alliance welcomed the results Montenegro has achieved in the reform of key areas. Krivokapić highlighted that the possible invitation to our country to join NATO, at the Summit in Wales, was of strategic and security importance, not only for Montenegro, but for the entire region and the Alliance as well. Krivokapić added that more work needed to be done in completing key tasks such as unquestionable commitment to strengthening rule of law, and full completion of reform of civil service security. Krivokapić concluded by stating that Montenegro remained fully dedicated and would persevere in fulfilling its obligations before the summit.



26 May

- Chair of the Gender Equality Committee Nada Drobnjak participated in the work of International Conference on the Gender Equality within NATO project, on the topic, *Introduction of gender perspective: indicators for implementing the UN Security Council Resolution 1325 „Women, peace and security“*.

27 May

- President of the Parliament of Montenegro and the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly Ranko Krivokapić received members of the Working Group for Enlargement in the Council of the EU (COELA). During the meeting it was assessed that the Parliament strongly participated in implementation of reforms and adoption of standards arising from the accession negotiation process of Montenegro to the EU. Members of the working group, as representatives of

EU member states that directly monitor the negotiation process of Montenegro, assessed that our country had been making progress in the EU integrations and that the role of the Parliament was crucial. President Krivokapić emphasised that our Parliament is the legislative institution which is directly involved in the negotiation process as opposed to other candidate countries.

28 May

- Members of the Committee on European Integration met with Chair of the Committee on European Affairs in the French Senate Simon Sutour. This meeting was the opportunity to exchange opinions on Montenegro's progress towards the EU membership, political changes in Europe in light of the election results for the European Parliament. Additionally, possibilities on further intensifying cooperation between Montenegro and France were discussed. Sutour expressed France's clear support to Montenegro's European path, emphasising that each candidate country shall make progress towards membership in accordance with the results achieved and reforms implemented. In addition to Senator Sutour, the meeting was attended by the Ambassador of the Republic of France to Montenegro Veronique Brumeaux and the Associate to the Senator Sebastien Richard.



- Chair of the Committee on International Relations and Emigrants of the Parliament of Montenegro Miodrag Vuković and members of the Committee Nikola Gegaj and Danko Šarančić received Chair of the Committee on European Affairs in the French Senate Simon Sutour. Sutour stated that relations between Montenegro and France were good and that cooperation was established in almost every area. Sutour emphasised that relations would be intensified

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after the accession of Montenegro to the European Union. Sutour emphasised that Montenegro has achieved much on its path towards the European Union and that its future in the European Union was certain. Vuković emphasised that he wished Europe continued to see Montenegro as a serious candidate for accession to the EU and as an entity which had never been a problem in the region.



- Deputy Chair of the Gender Equality Committee of the Parliament of Montenegro Goran Tuponja participated in the Regional Conference "Women in the Sector of Public Security", which took place on 28-30 May 2014 in Budva. The Conference was organised by the OSCE Mission from Kosovo at the proposal of the Women Police Association from Kosovo, aimed at strengthening the regional cooperation, connecting, defining possibilities for future cooperation as well as exchanging positive practices of women working in the sector of security.

29 May

- President of the Parliament of Montenegro and the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly Ranko Krivokapić received Miroslav Lajčák, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign and European Affairs of the Slovak Republic. At the very beginning, interlocutors have emphasised that Montenegro and the Slovak Republic were friendly and partnership states, with room for cooperation constantly expanding for mutual benefit. Krivokapić emphasised that economic relations of both countries were intensifying, thus he welcomed the recently signed Memorandum on cooperation in the field of energetics and the Agreement on economic cooperation. During the talks with Krivokapić, Lajčák underlined that the Slovak Republic has always been a strong partner and a promoter of our country when it comes to integration of Montenegro to the EU and NATO.

- President of the Parliament of Montenegro and the OSCE PA Ranko Krivokapić opened the 60th Summit of Heads of Atlantic Council within the "2BS NATO Forum", an annual forum at high level dealing with issues of global, transatlantic security and security in the Southeast Europe. At the same day, the President opened Regional Business Conference "Business Plus".

30 May

- Members of the Gender Equality Committee Branka Tanasijević, Ljiljana Đurašković and Jelisava Kalezić attended the gathering on "Open Day of Women Entrepreneurship", which took place in Podgorica. The gathering was organised for the purpose of enabling representatives of: business and banking sector, international business associations, international organisations and general public to gain direct access to women's entrepreneurial potential and to enable interested investors and potential business partners to enter into cooperative arrangements with women from the following four municipalities: Cetinje, Kolašin, Mojkovac and Pljevlja.
- Chair of the Committee on Education, Science, Culture and Sports of the Parliament of Montenegro Branka Tanasijević spoke with Head of the UNICEF Office to Montenegro Benjamin Perks about the participation of the Committee at the forthcoming conference on "Quality Education for better schools, better student achievement and the future", to be held in Podgorica in the period 8-10 July 2014.



- Spring Session of NATO Parliamentary Assembly took place from 30 May to 1 June 2014, and it gathered around 360 parliamentarians from North Atlantic Council and partnership countries. Members of the Permanent Delegation of the Parliament of Montenegro to the NATO PA Borislav Banović and Obrad Mišo Stanišić took part in the work of the gathering.

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