



Parliament of Montenegro

NEWSLETTER OPEN PARLIAMENT

Newsletter on the Parliament of Montenegro Performance ♦ No. 40 ♦ July 2014

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OPEN PARLIAMENT



Parliament of Montenegro

Newsletter on the Parliament of Montenegro Performance ♦ Electronic format ♦ Release: monthly ♦ Year IV ♦ No. 40 ♦ July 2014

FOREWORD

Dear readers,

We present to you the key information on activities of the Parliament of Montenegro in the period from 1 to 31 July, which is, in the form of monthly newsletter "OpenParliament", prepared by Parliamentary Service.

The Eighth and Tenth Sitting of the First Ordinary Session of the Parliament of Montenegro in 2014, and the Eleventh Special Sitting of the First Ordinary Session of the Parliament of Montenegro in 2014 were held in July. At the Eighth Sitting, 12 laws were adopted, whereas at the Tenth Sitting, 14 laws were adopted. During July, committees considered 17 proposals for a law, one proposal for a decision and held other activities within their oversight role.

The focus of this month's newsletter is Presentation of the 13th of July awards to this year's Laureates by the President of the Parliament of Montenegro. 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 Eighth Sitting of the First Ordinary Session of the Parliament of Montenegro in 2014, the following laws were adopted: Law on the execution of suspended sentence and sentence of community service, Law on Amendments to the Law on Military of Montenegro, Law on Taxation of Hydrocarbons, Law on Electronic Government, Law on Amendments to the Law on Witness Protection, Law on Amendments to the Law on Misdemeanours, Law on Amendments to the Law on Explosive Substances, Law on Amendments to the Law on Tourism, Law on Amendments to the Law on the Protector of Human Rights and Freedoms of Montenegro, Law on Amendments to the Labour Law, Law on Ratifying the Further Additional Protocol to the Agreement among the States Parties to the North Atlantic Treaty and the other States participating in the Partnership for Peace regarding the Status of their Forces, Law on Amendments to the Law on State Audit Institution. In addition, the following were adopted: 2013 Performance Report of the Central Bank of Montenegro, Conclusions of the Committee on Economy, Finance and Budget regarding the Consideration of the 2013 Performance Report of the Commission for Concessions, 2013 Report on the state in the field of access to information in Montenegro, 2013 Report on the state of data protection in Montenegro, 2013 Performance Report of the Security and Defence Committee, 2013 Annual Performance Report of the Commission for Monitoring and Control of the

Newsletter is a part of the programme "Open Parliament", aimed at increasing transparency of work of the Parliament of Montenegro and citizen participation in the parliamentary activities. The newsletter is edited by the Service of the Parliament.

Privatisation Procedure and Conclusions of the Committee on Economy, Finance and Budget relating to the SC Saltworks "Bajo Sekulić" Ulcinj.

At the Tenth Sitting of the First Ordinary Session of the Parliament of Montenegro in 2014, the following laws were adopted: Law on Transport of Hazardous Substances, Law on Prevention of Money Laundering and Financing Terrorism, Law on Amendments to the Law on Tax on Turnover of Used Passenger Motor Vehicles, Vessels, Airplanes and Aircrafts, Law on Amendments to the Law on Public Internal Financial Control, Law on Supervision of Products on the Market, Law on Amendments to the Law on Agriculture and Rural Development, Law on Amendments to the Law on Spatial Planning and Construction, Law on Ratification of the Treaty between Montenegro and the Republic of Macedonia on Legal Assistance in Civil and Criminal Matters, Law on Ratification of the Treaty between Montenegro and the Republic of Macedonia on Mutual Execution of Court Decisions in Criminal Matters, Law on Ratification of the Agreement between the Government of Montenegro and the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine on Cooperation in the Field of Prevention of Natural and Other Disasters, Law on Ratification of the Agreement between the Government of Montenegro and the Government of the Republic of Croatia on Cooperation in the Field of tourism, Law on Ratification of the Agreement on Arms Trade, Law on Amendments to the Law on Civil Servants and State Employees and the Law on Safety and Health at Work. In addition, the following were adopted: 2013 Performance Report of the Protector of Human Rights and Freedoms of Montenegro, 2013 Performance Report of the Financial Stability Forum, 2013 Status Report of Insurance Market in Montenegro, 2013 Annual Performance Report of the Securities Commission and the state of the securities market, Decision on Adoption of Special Purpose Spatial Plan for the National Park "Lovćen".

Proposal for a Law on Amendments to the Law on Obligatory Relations did not obtain the required majority.

Within the item Elections and Appointments, the candidate for the Supreme State Prosecutor Ivica Stanković did not obtain the required majority.

Prime Minister's Hour and Parliamentary questions

At the Eleventh Special Sitting of the First Ordinary 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, whereas 71 questions and 13 additional questions were posed to the ministers.

Proposals for a law deliberated in committees

- **Proposal for a Law on Prevention of Money**

Laundering and Terrorism Financing was considered and proposed to the Parliament for adoption by the Legislative Committee.

- **Proposal for a Law on Transport of Hazardous Substances** was considered and proposed to the Parliament for adoption by the Legislative Committee.
- **Proposal for a Law on Olive Growing** was considered and proposed to the Parliament for adoption by the Legislative Committee.
- **Proposal for a Law on Selection, Use and Public Display of National Symbols** was considered and proposed to the Parliament for adoption by the Legislative Committee.
- **Proposal for a Law on Supervision of products on the market** was considered and proposed to the Parliament for adoption by the Legislative Committee.
- **Proposal for a Law on Amendments to the Pension and Disability Insurance Law**, submitted by member Srđan Perić, was considered and proposed to the Parliament for adoption by the Legislative Committee.
- **Proposal for a Law on Amendments to the Law on Civil Servants and State Employees** was considered and proposed to the Parliament for adoption by the Committee on Political System, Judiciary and Administration.
- **Proposal for a Law on Safety and Health at Work** was considered by the Legislative Committee; however, it did not obtain the required majority.
- **Proposal for a Law on Amendments to the Pension and Disability Insurance Law**, submitted by MPs Zoran Jelić, Halil Duković, Zorica Kovačević and Marta Šćepanović was considered and proposed to the Parliament for adoption by the Committee on Health, Labor and Social Welfare. The proposal was considered by the Legislative Committee; however, it did not obtain the required majority.
- **Proposal for a Law on Amendments to the Law on Excise Tax** was considered and proposed to the Parliament for adoption by the Committee on Economy, Finance and Budget.
- **Proposal for a Law on Amendments to the Law on Administrative Fees** was considered and proposed to the Parliament for adoption by the Committee on Economy, Finance and Budget.
- **Proposal for a Law on Amendments to the Law on Budget and Fiscal Responsibility** was considered by the Committee on Economy, Finance and Budget; however the proposal did not obtain the required majority.
- **Proposal for a Law on Amendments to the Law on Obligatory Relations** was considered by the Committee on Economy, Finance and Budget; however, the proposal did not obtain the required majority. The proposal was considered by the Legislative Committee, which decided to propose to the Parliament to adopt the proposal.
- **Proposal for a Law on Amendments to the Law on Games of Chance** was considered and proposed to the

- Parliament for adoption by the Legislative Committee.
- **Proposal for a Law on Old Royal Capital** was considered by the Legislative Committee; however, it did not obtain the required majority.
 - **Proposal for a Law on Amendments to the Law on Value Added Tax** was considered by the Legislative Committee; however, it did not obtain the required majority.
 - **Proposal for a Law on Ratification of the Agreement on Arms Trade** was considered and proposed to the Parliament for adoption by the Committee on International Relations and Emigrants.

Proposals for other acts deliberated in committees

- **Proposal for the Decision on Adoption of Special Purpose Spatial Plan for the National Park "Lovćen"** was considered and proposed to the Parliament for adoption by the Legislative Committee. The proposal was considered by the Committee on Tourism, Agriculture, Ecology and Spatial Planning; however, it did not obtain the required majority.

Other activities of working bodies

- At the 55th meeting of the **Committee on Political System, Judiciary and Administration**, held on 11 July, the Committee considered and supported the 2013 Performance Report of the Commission for Prevention of Conflict of Interests.

At the 56th meeting, 16 July, the Committee held a consultative hearing with the members of the Working Group, who participated in the drafting of laws in the field of judiciary: Draft Law on the Judicial Council, Draft Law on rights and duties of judges and Draft Law on Public Prosecution Office. On behalf of the Working Group that participated in drafting the Draft Law on the Judicial Council and the Draft Law on rights and duties of judges, the committee meeting was attended by Branka Lakočević, Tatjana Radović, Nataša Radonjić, Radule Kojović, Julka Badnjar and Stanka Vučinić. In addition, the meeting was attended by members of the Working Group for drafting the Draft Law on Public Prosecution Office: Stojanka Radović, Miljana Radović and Merima Baković, Branka Lakočević and Nataša Radonjić, who at the same time are members of the previous Working Group.

At the 58th meeting, 25 July, the Committee held consultative hearing of Ivica Stanković, the candidate for the Supreme State Prosecutor, proposed by the Prosecutorial Council.

- At the 26th meeting of the **Security and Defence Committee**, held on 22 July, the Committee ended discussion on the 2013 Performance Report of the Ministry of Interior.

- At the 31st meeting of the **Committee on International Relations and Emigrants**, held on 4 July, the Committee gave a positive opinion on the proposal to appoint Darko Uskoković to the position of Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary Ambassador of Montenegro to the United Arab Emirates on a residential basis seated in Abu Dhabi and the Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Montenegro in Australia and New Zealand on non-residential basis seated in Podgorica.



At the 33rd meeting, held on 25 July, the Committee gave a positive opinion on the proposal to appoint Vladimir Radulović to the position of Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary Ambassador of Montenegro to the Republic of India and Kingdom of Thailand on non-residential basis, with the seat in Podgorica.

- At the 26th meeting of the **Committee on European Integration**, held on 10 July, the Committee gave a positive opinion on Draft of the Negotiation Position of Montenegro for the Intergovernmental Conference on Accession of Montenegro to the European Union for Chapter 9 - Financial Services, Draft of the Negotiation Position of Montenegro for the Intergovernmental Conference on Accession of Montenegro to the European Union for Chapter 21 - Trans-European networks and Draft of the Negotiation Position of Montenegro for the Intergovernmental Conference on Accession of Montenegro to the European Union for Chapter 30 - External relations.
- At the third joint meeting held on 21 July, the **Committee on International Relations and Emigrants** and the **Committee on European Integration** supported the 2013 Performance Report of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and European Integration.
- At the 63rd meeting, the **Committee on Economy, Finance and Budget** supported the 2013 Status Report of insurance market in Montenegro and got acquainted with the 2013 Performance Report of the Financial Stability Forum, and the level of implementation of six conclusions of the Parliament of Montenegro published in the "Official Gazette of Montenegro", No. 56/13, on 6 December 2013. While considering the Report of the

Forum, the Committee decided to submit the report to the Parliament, and announced the possibility of filing new conclusions. The Committee did not support the Initiative for the control hearing of the following; Slavoljub Stijepović, Minister of Education; Duško Rajković, Director of the PI Center for Vocational Education; Zoja Bojanić Lalović, Director of the PI Institute for textbook publishing and teaching aids; and Nenad Šoškić, director of the PI Center for Contemporary Art, on the grounds of the negative opinion of the State Audit Institution on the audit of annual financial reports of mentioned institutions.



At the continuation of the 63rd meeting, held on 16 July, the Committee determined five proposals for conclusion regarding consideration of 2013 Performance Report of the Commission for Concessions and decided to propose them to the Parliament for adoption.

At the 64th meeting, held on 18 July, the Committee decided to propose to the Parliament to adopt the 2013 Status Report of energy sector of Montenegro. In addition, the Committee got acquainted with 2013 Annual Report of the Deposit Protection Fund with focus on realisation of five conclusions of the Parliament of Montenegro, which the Parliament adopted on the occasion of consideration of 2012 Annual Report of the Deposit Protection Fund. The Committee also reached the decision to hold a control hearing of the following; Slavoljub Stijepović, Minister of Education; Duško Rajković, Director of the PI Center for Vocational Education; Zoja Bojanić Lalović, Director of the PI Institute for textbook publishing and teaching aids; and Nenad Šoškić, director of the PI Center for Contemporary Art, on the grounds of the negative opinion of the State Audit Institution on the audit of annual financial reports of mentioned institutions.

At the 67th meeting, held on 24 July, the Committee considered and supported the Report of the Secretary General on the use of the funds of the Parliament for the period 1 January – 30 June 2014, with the Report on Public Procurement.

- At the 35th meeting, held on 10 July, the **Committee on Human Rights and Freedoms** as the responsible Committee, considered the 2012 Performance Report

of the Fund for Protection and Exercising of Minority Rights and 2013 Performance Report of the Fund for Protection and Exercising of Minority Rights. However, none of the proposals obtained the required majority.

At its 36th meeting held on 23 July, the Committee summarised results of work for the period January-July 2014. Presenting the statistical data on the work of the Committee for January-July 2014, the Chair stated that during the aforementioned period, the Committee has held 12 meetings and as a lead committee, has considered six proposals for a law.

- At the 32nd meeting of the **Gender Equality Committee**, held on 16 July, the Committee considered Information on the implementation of the 2013 Strategy for Protection against Domestic Violence. The information provides an overview of measures and activities envisaged by the 2013 Action Plan for the implementation of the Strategy.



- The **Committee on Education, Science, Culture and Sports** held its 33rd meeting on 4 July. The agenda item was: deciding upon the Initiative of Srđan Perić from 14 April 2014, regarding the Committee taking a standpoint that in the Law on financing of political parties there were no obstacles for students to be regularly paid for student loans.

At the 34th meeting of the Committee, held on 17 July, the Committee considered: International Agreement between the European Union and Montenegro on the participation of Montenegro in EU - Horizon 2020 - Framework Program for Research and Innovation (2014-2020), Information on the allocation of the status of the first Center of excellence in Montenegro – Realisation of the project "Higher Education, Research and Innovation for Competitiveness of Montenegro (INGO)", and Framework Cooperation Program of Montenegro with the International Atomic Energy Agency - IAEA (2014-2020).

- At the 50th meeting of the **Committee on Health, Labor and Social Welfare**, held on 8 July, Ilija Čvorović, Chair of the Disabled Workers Union of Montenegro informed the members of the Committee with the requests of disabled workers union. Following the detailed discussion on these requirements, the Committee

members reached a conclusion that the Disabled Workers Union of Montenegro submit to the Committee specific proposals to resolve their status. Upon receiving the proposals, the Committee shall forward them to the competent institutions and take other actions in order to assist disabled workers of Montenegro.

At the 51st meeting, held on 16 July, the Committee members were acquainted with letters of NGO "Disabled Veterans Association", as well as with documents that the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe adopted during the 2014 Summer Session.

At the 52nd meeting of the Committee, held on 18 July, drug consumption in Montenegro was analysed. Aside from the members of the Committee, the meeting was also attended by Minister of Health Miodrag Radunović, Chief of Staff of the Minister of Health Dražen Ljumović, Spokesman at the Ministry of Health Tijana Boljević, Director of the Health Fund Kenan Hrapović, Assistant to the Director of the Health Fund Ružica Milutinović-Đurišić, Director of pharmaceutical institutes "Montefarm" Budo Stanišić, Director of the Medical Centre Podgorica Nebojša Kavarić and Director of the Agency for Medicine Milorad Drljević. In addition, an information system that was introduced in the health care system was given support. The system contributes to reduction of irrational consumption of drugs, because, as it was stressed at the meeting, every prescribed drug was in fact citizens' money and someone had to take responsibility for the issuance of drugs contrary to the established mode of issuance.

- At the 16th meeting of the **Anti-corruption Committee**, held on 9 July, consultative hearing of the Minister of Finance, the Director of the Public Procurement Administration, the Chair of the Commission for the Control of Public Procurement Procedures of Montenegro, the President of the Commission for Concessions and the Director of the Administration for Inspection Affairs was held, on the subject of "Risks-corruption in public procurement".

At the 18th meeting, held on 18 July, the Committee considered the Draft Law on Prevention of Corruption and the Draft Law on Prevention of Conflict of Interest.

At the 19th meeting, held on 24 July, views were exchanged regarding the implementation of 2013 - 2014 Action Plan on the implementation of 2010 - 2014 Strategy for the Fight against Corruption and Organised Crime and a review was given on the Action plans for the chapter 23 and 24 in the field of fight against corruption, organised crime and rule of law. In addition, the Committee adopted the Decision on holding control hearing of Vladimir Kavarić, Minister of Economy, Radoje Žugić, Minister of Finance and Mersad Mujević,

Director of the Public Procurement Administration, on the topic "Multi-Million contracts for legal and consulting services paid by the EPCG".

At the 20th meeting, held on 25 July, the Committee unanimously adopted the Report from the control hearing of the Minister of Economy Vladimir Kavarić and the Director of the Intellectual Property Office Novak Adžić, regarding the application of the Association of composers of Montenegro.

- At the 15th meeting, held on 16 July, the **Commission for Monitoring and Control of Privatization Process** discussed the Proposal for Conclusions regarding the consideration of the 2013 Annual Performance Report of the Commission for Monitoring and Control of Privatisation Process. Following the discussion, the Proposal for Conclusions did not obtain the required majority.
- At the 38th meeting, 24 July, the **Administrative Committee** continued the process of appointing members of the State Election Commission from among the representatives of civil society, NGOs and universities, according to the open vacancy notice as of 28 March 2014. As none of the candidates received the required majority of votes of present members of the Committee, the Committee decided to readvertise the open vacancy notice. The Committee also decided to inform the Collegium of the President of Parliament that the mandate of the President and members of the Commission for the Prevention of Conflicts of Interest expires on 29 July 2014. Due to the absence of specific requirements in the law for these functions, the Committee did not open vacancy notice. It assessed that previously it was necessary to adopt amendments to the Law on Prevention of Conflict of Interest. The Committee initiated the process of appointment of the Council of the Agency for Electronic Media and decided, in accordance with Article 24 of the Law on Electronic Media of Montenegro, to issue a public notice to the authorised proposers for the election of two members of the Council for Electronic Media from among the representatives of non-governmental organisations in the field of media and representatives of PEN Center, mandate of its representatives expires on 9 December 2014.



NEWS FROM PARLIAMENT



Chair of the Committee on European Integration participated in the public debate on "The second year of negotiations: Where are we now and what next?"

To mark the second anniversary of the opening of accession negotiations, the Chief Negotiator's office for negotiations on Montenegro's accession to the European Union, the British Embassy and the British Council in Montenegro, organised the public debate on the topic "The second year of negotiations: Where are we now and what next?"



As one of the panelists, Chair of the Committee on European Integration Slaven Radunović delivered keynote speech at the debate. He pointed out that the success of the negotiations was not determined by the dynamics, i.e. their speed, but the quality of negotiations, which depended on the depth of reforms being carried out in the process of adopting European standards. Radunović expressed his hopes that the focus of public and media would be brought back to the policy concerning European integration, for which there was a much higher degree of citizen support and that required thorough changes as opposed to other types of integrations, which were the center of attention in the past. Pointing out that amendments to the Rules of Procedure of the Parliament of Montenegro from May 2012 and recent adoption of the Resolution on the way, the quality and the dynamic of the integration process of Montenegro to the European Union, substantially

contributed to a better positioning of the Parliament in negotiations, Radunović referred to specific aspects of the work of the Committee on European integration, reflected in the review of the draft negotiating position, organising public debates and strengthening transparency of the negotiation process.

State Secretary for European Integration and Chief Negotiator Aleksandar Andrija Pejović presented the activities leading up to the decision on opening of negotiations with Montenegro, and the results that had been achieved in the last two years, which were reflected in the temporary closure of two negotiating chapters, and the trend of opening new ones. Pejović pointed to the fact that the most demanding standards for opening negotiations were reflected in chapters 11- Agriculture and Rural Development, 12-Food safety, veterinary and phytosanitary policy and 27 - Environment. Appreciating the past cooperation, Pejović stated that the Committee on European Integration was the key address for political support in the negotiation process, adding that this parliamentary body has grown into the pivot of reflection and evaluation of the negotiating team.

Participants of the discussion were also addressed by the British Ambassador to Montenegro Ian E. Whitting, who encouraged further reform process in Montenegro, pointing to the fact that a new approach to negotiations was further developing, because as much as it represented the novelty to Montenegro, it was challenging for EU member states, and the European Commission as well. Ambassador Whitting agreed with previous speakers that the involvement and role of the Parliament in the negotiation process was the key element of democratic negotiation process, given the fact that members of the Parliament represented the voice of the citizens.

Regional Working Meeting on the subject of "Ensuring financial autonomy of parliaments with a view to adequately fulfill the rights and obligations of members of parliaments"

Delegation of the Administrative Committee of the Parliament of Montenegro, consisting of MPs Radovan Obradović i Emilo Labudović attended the Regional Working Meeting, on the subject of "Ensuring financial autonomy of parliaments with a view to adequately fulfill the rights and obligations of members of parliaments", held on 3-4 July in Sarajevo.

The First day of the meeting, after the welcoming speech, moderator Dragutin Rodić, Chair of the Joint Committee on Administrative Affairs of the Parliamentary

Assembly of Bosnia and Herzegovina, has opened the Regional Working Meeting and chaired the first session, titled "Financial autonomy of parliament".

The second session, titled "Rights of members of parliaments", was chaired by the moderator Zvonko Jurišić, the First Deputy Chair of the Joint Committee on Administrative Affairs of the Parliamentary Assembly of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

The Regional Working Meeting was attended by representatives of: the Parliament of Montenegro,

National Assembly of the Republic of Serbia, Assembly of AP Vojvodina, Assembly of the Republic of Macedonia, Parliament of Albania, Parliament of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina–House of Representatives, Parliament of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina – House of Peoples, Assembly of the Brčko District, National Assembly of the Republic of Srpska and Parliamentary Assembly of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

At the Regional Working Meeting representatives of all parliaments took part, presenting the procedure for adoption of the national parliament budget, legal solutions on current issues and specifying the rights MPs exercise in accordance with national positive regulations.

On the second working day of the Regional Meeting, held on the subject of "Obligations of members of parliaments", the moderator was Dragutin Rodić, Chair of the Joint Committee on Administrative Affairs of the Parliamentary Assembly of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

The session covered issues related to the importance of financial independence of parliaments for the smooth functioning of the institution; achieving greater degree of financial autonomy of parliaments, and at the same time

not disturbing the stability of the budget; achieving understanding of the executive power and the public for financial independence of parliaments; what are the rights of MPs in relation to the rights of officials of the executive and judicial power; whether MPs should be socially vulnerable in times of economic crisis; who and in what way MPs represent and what is the most effective way to work with the public.



Special insight was given to the discussion involving the financing of political parties. At the end of the working day, participants of the Regional Working Meeting reached several conclusions.

Conference of Parliamentary Committees for Union Affairs - COSAC held in Rome

The delegation of the Parliament of Montenegro, composed of Chair of the Committee on European Integration Slaven Radunović and Deputy Chair Zoran Srzentić, attended the meeting of chairs of parliamentary committees for Union Affairs of parliaments of EU, within the parliamentary dimension of the Italian Presidency of the European Union in Rome.

The meeting was opened by the President of the Senate of Italy Pietro Grasso, who stated that the presidency began at the moment of constituting of new European five-year administration, expected to face serious challenges in terms of restoring public confidence in the institutions and management systems in a responsible and sustainable manner. In his opening remarks, the Chair of the Committee for European Affairs of the Senate of the Italian Parliament Vannini Chiti stated that the fiscal discipline must be balanced through sustainable economic development and creating new job positions. With joint and more responsible politics, we would respond to crises in the region in a proper manner, as to strengthen the EU's role in the world, stated Chiti. He added that the Lisbon Treaty strengthened the parliamentary dimension, and thus the national parliaments must change, in order to timely and effectively respond to their obligations. A similar message was sent to the participants by the Chair of the Committee for European Affairs of the House of Commons of the Parliament of Italy Michele Bordo, who pointed out that European policy must be redefined, through the strengthening of cooperation of parliaments with governments, through more honest inter-party communication, in order for EU to adequately respond to

global challenges.

The 2014-2020 EU Structural and Investment Funds were also discussed. Within the talks on regional and foreign policy, and on the security situation, the taking down of the Malaysian civil aircraft in Ukraine was harshly condemned and it was stated that in the future the focus of COSAC would be on the Eastern Partnership.

Delegation of the Parliament of Montenegro participated in the meeting of chairs of committees for European Affairs of parliaments of Southern Europe, which was organised on the sidelines of the COSAC for the second time. All participants of the meeting positively assessed Creating of new informal forum of cooperation with regional determination, which brings together countries that share similar history and culture. In the final Statement that was adopted, the policy of enlargement was welcomed, pointed out to unacceptably high unemployment rate in the member states and to the need for concrete results in implementing the 2020 Strategy.



IN FOCUS



President of the Parliament of Montenegro presented the 13th of July awards to this year's Laureates

President of the Parliament of Montenegro Ranko Krivokapić presented the highest national recognition – the 13th of July awards. On behalf of the academic painter Vojislav Vojo Stanić, the 13th of July Lifetime Achievement Award was received by his son, Tomo. Krivokapić presented the highest national recognition to the art Historian Aleksandar Čilikov, director Gojko Kastratović and history professor Niko Martinović as well.



President of the Parliament, speaking about this year's laureates, said that they were immortals of Montenegrin existence and creation, with first among them, Vojo Stanić. "I asked him whether it suited him to come here today, and he said that he was at the end of his first century of life, and to just let him paint", Krivokapić stated.

Speaking about the piece and the work of the history professor Niko Martinović, President Krivokapić stated that he wrote about the part of history that we had been taught to forget. "Montenegro has been taught not to know its own history, not to have its own history. We have learnt that there was a hidden side of Montenegrin history", Krivokapić stated.

"We have existed since the love for Montenegro had sparked. And there was one Montenegro and it has existed without interruption with the same spark of love, life of devotion and constancy. And that is the 13th of July, which gathers Montenegro as it had gathered it on the 13th of July 1941", Krivokapić said. "And it is the fact that the Montenegrins created and defended Yugoslavia that Njegoš has dreamt about. Our laureates have such Yugoslavia in their own writing and piece", the President of the Parliament stated.

Krivokapić congratulated the winners with the message, "With people like you, there will be eternal Montenegro". Thanking on behalf of the winners, Kastratović said that "it was hard to live in Montenegro, and easy to die". "But, on the other hand here the freedom was more valuable than the life itself. Montenegro never had a monument to the Unknown Soldier. All its soldiers were well known and famous heroes and today they serve as an example for their offspring. That is the reason why this award is of such importance to us and brings so much joy", Kastratović stated.

The president of the jury for the presentation of the 13th of July Award was Dragan K. Vukčević, and members Predrag Ivanović, Dragan Koprivica, Ilija Vujošević and Milenko Popović.

On behalf of the jury, Koprivica stated that this was the biggest Montenegrin date, the symbol of anti-fascism and libertarian aspirations of our people. "In the process of making a decision, the jury recognised both permanent and true commitment to traditional values of Montenegro, as an axiom during nomination for this high award", Koprivica stated.

FROM PARLIAMENT'S GALLERY

Coat of Arms of Đurađ Crnojević is represented as a crowned double-headed eagle on a red shield, where his initials are imprinted.

Above the eagle's head, there's a golden letter B (Blagovjerni), and in between the right head and the right wing of the eagle, there's a golden Gn (Gospodin). In between the left head and the left wing are the initials Go(Đurađ), whereas in the chest of the eagle, letters Cr (Crnojević).



Newsletter is a part of the programme "Open Parliament", aimed at increasing transparency of work of the Parliament of Montenegro and citizen participation in the parliamentary activities. The newsletter is edited by the Service of the Parliament.

FROM THE HISTORY OF MONTENEGRIN PARLIAMENTARISM



LAW ON ORGANISATION OF THE GENERAL STATE AUDIT INSTITUTION

Ascension Day 1901

WE
NIKOLA I

By the grace of God
PRINCE AND SOVEREIGN OF MONTENEGRO
Adopting the proposal of Our State Council,
decided to order and we are ordering this
LAW
ON
ORGANISATION OF THE GENERAL STATE
AUDIT INSTITUTION

CHAPTER VIII

RIGHTS AND OBLIGATIONS OF BODIES OF THE GENERAL AUDIT INSTITUTION

Article 42

The President shall be the Head of the General Audit Institution.

The main duties and rights of the President shall be to:

1. report the Prince and Sovereign on the work of the General Audit Institution,
2. oversee and manage the work of the General Audit Institution,
3. monitor amendments to the laws and rules of the work of the General Audit Institution,
4. ensure that office duties are properly and timely executed, and in accordance with the rules in force,
5. deal with administrative affairs, such as complaints and all other written applications, introduce new auditor reporting duties,
6. impose disciplinary fines to auditors, secretaries and other servants, i.e. reprimands or forfeiture of pay up to 15 days,
7. grant civil servants of the General Audit Institution the right to absence,
8. maintain the building and movables of the General

Audit Institution, and,
9. hire and dismiss trainees and servants.

Article 43

In case of the inability of the President, the powers shall be devolved on the oldest member.

Article 44

Members shall manage and oversee all the duties as determined by the President, collect the material needed to properly perform their duties and submit it for adoption.

Article 45

Secretary of the General Audit Institution shall be the Head of the Office. He shall perform all the office duties as determined by the President, receive and open all the letters, submitted to the General Audit Institution, and upon writing on each letter the date of reception, submit them to the Protocol for filing.

Article 46

Pay accounts of the Service and expenditures of General Audit Institution are submitted to an auditor; which shall be held accountable for them, whereas the authorisation for their execution is given by the President. In this case, the control shall be performed by the State Council, in accordance with the law.

Cetinje, on the Ascension Day, 1901

Nikola, handwritten signature

From the Law on Organisation of the General State Audit Institution, Cetinje 1901.

Pavićević, B, Raspopović, R, eds. Crnogorski zakonic 1796-1916, knj. II (Montenegrin Codes 1796-1916, Book II), Podgorica, Istorijski institut Crne Gore, 1998, pp. 539-548

PARLIAMENTARY GLOSSARY

Ombudsman. "A state's civil servant, appointed to protect citizen rights in a specific area and investigate complaints about mal-administration: abuse of power, failure to observe procedures and unprofessional conduct. Ombudsman's role is to complement the usual methods for filing complaints, i.e. administrative courts and elected representatives, not to replace them."¹

¹ Endru Hejvud, *Politika (Politics)*, Beograd, Clio 2004, p. 687

CALENDAR



1 July

- OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media Dunja Mijatović met with Chair of the Committee on Political System, Judiciary and Administration Rifat Rastoder and Deputy Chair of the Committee Snežana Jonica. At the meeting, the interlocutors exchanged views on current issues related to media freedom in Montenegro.



2 July

- Chair of the Committee on Political System, Judiciary and Administration Rifat Rastoder and Deputy Chair of the Committee Snežana Jonica met with members of the Working group who prepared a draft law in the field of judiciary. The opinions were exchanged with members of the Working Group, and members of the Parliament suggested that within the public debate on draft laws, the Draft Law on Public Prosecution Office, the Draft Law on Courts and the Draft Law on the Judicial Council, and the rights and duties of judges, the meeting of the Committee on Political System, Judiciary and Administration be held. Proposal of the Chair of the Committee and the Deputy Chair was accepted and welcomed by the Working Group as a good practice for further work and cooperation in drafting new legislation.
- To mark the second anniversary of the opening of accession negotiations, Chief Negotiator's office for negotiations on Montenegro's accession to the European Union, the British Embassy and the British Council in Montenegro, organised the public debate on the topic "The second year of negotiations: Where are we now and what next? Chair of the Committee on European Integration of the Parliament of Montenegro Slaven Radunović, State Secretary for European Integration and Chief Negotiator Aleksandar Andrija Pejović, the British Ambassador

to Montenegro Ian E. Whitting addressed participants of the meeting.

3 July

- Parliamentary delegation of the Committee on Economy, Finance and Budget consisting of MPs Aleksandar Damjanović, Filip Vuković and Milutin Đukanović, attended the Second meeting of parliamentarians from Energy Community countries, held in Vienna, and organised by the Energy Community Secretariat and the Regional Cooperation Council. Participants of the meeting were acquainted with the work of the Energy Community in the past year and its future activities. In addition, the Third energy package was presented as well as its implementation, which was reflected through: promoting separation, availability to third parties, strengthening of independent regulatory bodies, protection of "vulnerable" categories of consumers and open markets.



- Delegation of the Administrative Committee of the Parliament of Montenegro, consisting of MPs Radovan Obradović and Emilo Labudović attended the Regional Working Meeting, titled "Ensuring financial autonomy of parliaments with a view to adequately fulfill the rights and obligations of members of parliaments", which was held on 3-4 July in Sarajevo.

4 July

- Committee on Tourism, Agriculture, Ecology and Spatial Planning held a meeting where Vladimir Vlahović presented specificities of the Construction Law of the Republic of Austria, with special emphasis on the institute of "neighbour, i.e active protection of neighbourly property and non-property rights within the procedure of issuing building permit. The

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meeting was attended by the Deputy Head of the OSCE Mission to Montenegro Waldemar Figaj and advisors to the Ministry of Sustainable Development and Tourism Tatjana Vujošević and Dubravka Pešić.



5 July

- At the invitation of the President of the National Community of Montenegrins from Croatia Radomir Pavičević, Chair of the Committee on International Relations and Emigrants Miodrag Vuković participated in a working meeting, held in Zagreb, on the topic “Montenegro and emigrants – emigrants and Montenegro”. The meeting was an opportunity to make specific analysis of what has been done so far in relations between the state of Montenegro and emigrants, as well as to consider new initiatives and proposals aimed at improving the current situation. New activities and cooperation were agreed and initiated between the National Community of Montenegrins from Croatia and the Committee on International Relations and Emigrants of the Parliament of Montenegro as one of the major holders of cooperation with diaspora.



8 July

- President of the Parliament of Montenegro Ranko Krivokapić met with Owen Jenkins, Director of the Western Balkans and Enlargement Directorate in the

Foreign and Commonwealth Office. The interlocutors emphasised the good bilateral relations between Montenegro and the United Kingdom, and assessed the need to use room for further improvement of cooperation that existed. Krivokapić expressed his gratitude for the support of the Great Britain, given to our country in the process of Euro-Atlantic integration. Jenkins stressed that Montenegro still held a leading position in the Euro-Atlantic integration of the region. The interlocutors concluded that further actions to strengthen the rule of law were priority, both in the spirit of the integration process and stability.



9 July

- Committee on European Integration organised the public debate on “Legislation of Montenegro and the EU in Chapter 9 – Financial services and Chapter 30 – External relations”. The moderator of the public debate was Slaven Radunović, Chair of the Committee on European Integration and the panellists were Nikola Fabris, Vice-Governor for Financial Stability and Payment Systems of the Central Bank of Montenegro and negotiator for Chapter 9 and Goran Šćepanović, Director-General for Multilateral and Regional Trade Cooperation and Economic Foreign Relations in the Ministry of Economy and the Head of the Working Group for preparation of negotiations for chapter 30.



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- Chair of the Committee on Human Rights and Freedoms Halil Duković and Deputy Chair Ljiljana Đurašković met with TAIEX expert Franco Liccione, engaged in the TAIEX expert mission to provide support in developing procedures for acting upon petitions. Chair of the Committee acquainted the expert with the legal system of Montenegro, its institutions and manner of acting upon petitions filed by citizens and legal entities.



10 July

- Committee on Human Rights and Freedoms of the Parliament of Montenegro, in accordance with the 2014 Activities Plan, visited Detention unit in the Security Center Podgorica. Representatives of the Police Administration - Assistant Director Nikola Janjušević and Head of the Operational Communication Centre Vojislav Dragovic informed the members of the Committee and other visitors about the manner of work and treatment of persons deprived of their liberty. Members of the Committee expressed their satisfaction with the state of the premises for the detention of persons deprived of their liberty, which fully comply with the prescribed standards, as well as with the fact that there were no detained persons in the detention unit.
- Chair of the Gender Equality Committee Nada Drobnjak participated in the work of the OSCE Gender Equality Review Conference on the implementation of gender equality commitments, which was held in Vienna on 10 and 11 July. The following topics were considered at the conference: Gender Perspective in Crisis Management, Gender Perspective of Economic Empowerment, Women's Participation in Political and Public Life, Combatting Violence against Women and Strengthening Institutional Mechanisms for Gender

Mainstreaming.

11 July

- President of the Parliament of Montenegro Ranko Krivokapić received Dean Spielmann, President of the European Court of Human Rights. The interlocutors pointed out that the rule of law and protection of human rights are the basis of every state and maturity of society.



Krivokapić expressed gratitude to the European Court of Human Rights for the cooperation in the field of provided expertise and exchange of experience. "Montenegro has a close cooperation with the Venice Commission, through which it actively worked on constitutional reforms which should enable basic independence and responsibility of judicial power", stated Krivokapić. Spielmann praised steps of our country aimed at fostering protection of human rights and freedoms, and particularly emphasised the positive role of the Parliament of Montenegro which has good cooperation with the European institutions through Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe.

- President of the Parliament of Montenegro Ranko Krivokapić presented the highest national recognition – the 13th of July awards to this year's Laureates. On behalf of the academic painter, Vojislav Vojo Stanić, the 13th of July Lifetime Achievement Award was received by his son, Tomo. Krivokapić presented the highest national recognition in Villa "Gorica" to art Historian Aleksandar Čilikov, director Gojko Kastratović and history professor Niko Martinović as well.

17 July

- The delegation of the Parliament of Montenegro,

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composed of the Chair of the Committee on European Integration Slaven Radunović and Deputy Chair Zoran Srzentić, attended the meeting of chairpersons of parliamentary committees for Union Affairs of parliaments of EU, within the parliamentary dimension of the Italian Presidency of the European Union.



18 July

- Chair of the Committee on Human Rights and Freedoms Halil Duković and Deputy Chair Ljiljana Đurašković met with the UNICEF Representative to Montenegro Benjamin Perks. In accordance with the 2014 Activities Plan, the meeting was held for the purpose of considering continuation of cooperation between the Committee and the UNICEF Representative in the field of promotion and protection of children rights. The interlocutors expressed satisfaction with the meeting, the current cooperation between the Committee on Human Rights and Freedoms and the UNICEF Representative to Montenegro, hoping that this cooperation would continue in the future through the implementation of specific activities and projects.
- Chair of the Gender Equality Committee Nada Drobnjak met with the Director General of UNESCO Irina Bokova, who paid an official visit to Montenegro.

24 July

- Chair of the Committee on Health, Labour and Social Welfare Zoran Jelić met with representatives of NGO "Disabled Veterans Association", at the request of the NGO. The Representatives of NGO "Disabled Veterans Association", Zoran Kićović and Dragan Milić, pointed out that the veterans had disability between twenty and thirty years of age, resulting in a reduction in their

working ability. Kićović and Milić believe that the state has an obligation under this category of population, expressing the belief that they will find enough understanding and sensitivity for adoption of amendments to the Pension and Disability Insurance Law, thus enabling the retirement of the hardest disabled veterans under special conditions. Furthermore, they believe that, this way, the rest of life of this sensitive population would be better facilitated. The interlocutors emphasised their satisfaction with today's meeting with the hope that their request submitted to the Committee would be solved in a quality manner.



28 July

- Members of the Security and Defence Committee met with the Delegation of Armenian Parliamentary Committee on Defence, National Security and Internal Affairs. The emphasis of the meeting was placed on the drafting and effects of implementation of the Law on Parliamentary Oversight of Security and Defence Sector; cooperation with state authorities and institutions in the sector, as well as cooperation with civil society organisations and experience of the Committee in the field.



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- President of the Parliament of Montenegro Ranko Krivokapić met with H.E. Federica Mogherini, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Italy. The interlocutors assessed that the relations between Montenegro and the Republic of Italy were traditionally good, both culturally and politically. Krivokapić expressed gratitude to the support of the Italian Republic, provided to our country in the Euro-Atlantic integration. Mogherini stated that our country could rely on Italy as a country partner in Montenegro's EU and NATO integration process, particularly during the Italian presidency of the EU Council.



29 July

- Chair of the Gender Equality Committee Nada Drobnjak met with the Head of the OSCE Mission to Montenegro Janina Hrebickova. Hrebickova presented an outline work plan of the OSCE Mission to Montenegro for the next period, in part related to gender equality.



The Willingness to continue successful cooperation was expressed during the conversation, especially when it came to cooperation with local communities, economic empowerment of women and the implementation of Resolution 1325 of the UN Security Council on "Women, Peace and

Security".

30 July

- Chair of the Gender Equality Committee and a member of the Committee on European Integration Nada Drobnjak, participated at the public debate "The process of negotiation and people with disabilities". The event was organised to exchange views on the current state and future activities in the negotiation process in improving the situation of persons with disabilities. The following spoke at the event: Aleksandar Andrija Pejović, State Secretary and Chief Negotiator for Negotiations on Accession of Montenegro to the EU, Suad Numanović, Minister of Human and Minority Rights, Nikola Dedeić, Secretary of the Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare and Marina Vujačić, the Director of the Association of Youth with Disabilities.

31 July

- Chair of the Commission for Monitoring and Control of Privatisation Process Janko Vučinić met with the Advisor for the European Integration and Human Rights at the EU Delegation to Montenegro Barbara Rotovnik. The meeting was dedicated to labour rights considering the delicate socio-economic situation in Montenegro. Mostly discussed topics were: social position of workers following the transition and failed privatisation processes, as well as the legal solutions relating to labour and social rights.



- President Ranko Krivokapić scheduled the first meeting of the newly appointed RTCG Council, with a proposal for the agenda - "Election of the President and Vice-President of the Council of Radio Television of Montenegro".

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