



Parliament of Montenegro

NEWSLETTER OPEN PARLIAMENT

Newsletter on the Parliament of Montenegro Performance ♦ No. 42 ♦ October 2014

CONTENT

Legislative and oversight activity.....2

News from Parliament.....7

President of the Parliament of Montenegro Ranko Krivokapić received the Delegation of U.S. Congressmen.....7
Chair of the Committee on European Integration, representatives of MP Groups and Secretary General of the Parliament of Montenegro hosted an MP of the Christian Democratic Union of German Bundestag.....7
Round-table held on the topic "Do we need a Law on Parliament?".....8

From the parliament's gallery.....8

In focus.....9

Parliamentary glossary.....9

**From the history of Montenegrin
Parliamentarism.....10**

Calendar.....11

IN FOCUS

Autumn Session of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly held in Geneva

p.9



PARLIAMENTARY GLOSSARY

*Do you know...
what are excises?*

p.9

FROM THE HISTORY OF MONTENEGRIN PARLIAMENTARISM

Law on the organisation of courts in the Principality of Montenegro

p.10

FROM THE PARLIAMENT'S GALLERY

Coat of Arms of Prince-bishops Danilo and Vasilije

p.8

OPEN PARLIAMENT



Parliament of Montenegro

Newsletter on the Parliament of Montenegro Performance ♦ Electronic format ♦ Release: monthly ♦ Year IV ♦ No. 42 ♦ October 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 October, which is, in the form of monthly newsletter "Open Parliament", prepared by Parliamentary Service.

In October, the Parliament of Montenegro held its First and Second Sitting of the Second Ordinary Session in 2014, and Third Special Sitting of the Second Ordinary Session in 2014. At the first sitting, Ivica Stanković was elected as Supreme State Prosecutor of Montenegro. In addition, the Parliament of Montenegro appointed the President of the State Electoral Commission, a member of the State Electoral Commission from among the representatives of civil society, NGOs and universities and nine members of the State Electoral Commission. At the second sitting, ten laws were adopted, while the committees considered 25 proposals for a law, three proposals for a decision and held other activities within their oversight role.

In focus of this month's newsletter is the Autumn Session of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly, held in Geneva.

The newsletter is published monthly through 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,
Parliamentary Service*



LEGISLATIVE AND OVERSIGHT ACTIVITY

At the First Sitting of the Second Ordinary Session of the Parliament of Montenegro in 2014, Ivica Stanković was elected as Supreme State Prosecutor of Montenegro. In addition, the Parliament of Montenegro appointed the President of the State Electoral Commission, a member of the State Electoral Commission from among the representatives of civil society, NGOs and universities and nine members of the State Election Commission.

At the Second Sitting of the Second Ordinary Session of the Parliament of Montenegro in 2014, the following laws were adopted: Law on Higher Education, Law on Amendments to the Law on Administrative Fees, Law on Amendments to the Excise Law, Law on General Products Safety, Law on Amendments to the Law on Tourist Organisations, Law on Amendments to the Law on Obligations and Basic Legal Property Relations in Air Transport, Law on Ratification of the Protocol of the Stabilisation and Association Agreement between the European Communities and their Member States, on one hand, and the Republic of Montenegro, on the other hand, which takes into account the Croatian accession to the European Union; Law on Ratification of the Agreement on Cooperation in the Field of Tourism between the Governments of Georgia and Montenegro, Law on Olive Growing as well as Law on Amendments to the Law on Foreign Investments. In addition, 2013 Performance Report of the Deposit Protection Fund was considered.

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.

Prime Minister's Hour and Parliamentary Questions

At the Third Special Sitting of the Second Ordinary Session of the Parliament of Montenegro in 2014, under 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. Seven questions were posed to the Prime Minister, while 58 questions and nine additional questions were posed to the ministers.

Proposals for a law deliberated in committees

- **Proposal for a Law on Amendments to the Law on National Security Agency** was considered and proposed to the Parliament for adoption by the Security and Defence Committee.
- **Proposal for a Law on Efficient Energy Use** was considered and proposed to the Parliament for adoption by the Committee on Economy, Finance and Budget.
- **Proposal for a Law on Health Care** was considered by the Gender Equality Committee in part under its competence, which proposed to the Committee on Health, Labour and Social Welfare, as the lead committee, to propose it to the Parliament for adoption.
- **Proposal for a Law on Reconstruction of the Chapel of Petar II Petrović Njegoš** was considered by the Committee on Economy, Finance and Budget in part under its competence, which submitted its opinion to the Committee on Education, Science, Culture and Sports, the lead committee to propose to the Parliament not to adopt it.
- **Proposal for a Law on Amendments to the Law on Value Added 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 Games of Chance** 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 Personal Income Tax** was considered and proposed to the Parliament for adoption by the Committee on Economy, Finance and Budget.
- **Proposal for a Law on Communal Police** was considered and proposed to the Parliament for adoption by the Committee on Political System, Judiciary and Administration.
- **Proposal for a Law on Administrative Procedure** was considered and proposed to the Parliament for adoption by the Committee on Political System, Judiciary and Administration.
- **Proposal for a Law on Amendments to the Law on National Awards** was considered by the Legislative Committee; however, it did not obtain the required majority.
- **Proposal for a Law on Higher Education** was considered and proposed to the Parliament for adoption by the Committee on Education, Science, Culture and Sports and the Legislative Committee.
- **Proposal for a Law on Amendments to the Law on Enforcement and Security** was considered and proposed to the Parliament for adoption by the Committee on Political System, Judiciary and Administration and the Legislative Committee.
- **Proposal for a Law on Amendments to the Law on Employment and Exercising Rights with respect to Unemployment Insurance** was considered by the Committee on Health, Labour and Social Welfare; however, the proposal did not obtain the necessary majority.
- **Proposal for a Law on Amendments to the Criminal Code of Montenegro, submitted by MP Janko Vučinić**, was considered by the Committee on Political System, Judiciary and Administration; however, it did not obtain the required majority.
- **Proposal for a Law on Ratifying the Convention on Nuclear Safety** was considered and proposed to the Parliament for adoption by the Legislative Committee.
- **Proposal for a Law on Ratifying the Agreement between the Government of Montenegro and Government of the Republic of Austria on Double Taxation Avoidance and Prevention with respect to Income and Property Tax** was considered and proposed to the Parliament for adoption by the Legislative Committee.
- **Proposal for a Law on Ratifying the Agreement between the Government of Montenegro and Government of Slovakia on Economic Cooperation** was considered and proposed to the Parliament for adoption by the Legislative Committee.
- **Proposal for a Law on Foreigners** was considered and proposed to the Parliament for adoption by the Committee on Political System, Judiciary and Administration and the Legislative Committee.
- **Proposal for a Law on Consensual Financial Restructuring of Debts to Financial Institutions** was considered and proposed to the Parliament for adoption by the Legislative Committee.
- **Proposal for a Law on Amendments to the Law on the Prevention of Drug Abuse** was considered by the Legislative Committee; however, it did not obtain the required majority.
- **Proposal for a Law on Amendments to the Law on Free Legal Aid** was considered and proposed to the Parliament for adoption by the Committee on Political System, Judiciary and Administration.
- **Proposal for a Law on Amendments to the Law on Non-contentious Procedure** was considered and proposed to the Parliament for adoption by the Committee on Political System, Judiciary and Administration.
- **Proposal for a Law on Amendments to the Law on Scientific and Research Activity** was considered and proposed to the Parliament for adoption by the

Committee on Education, Science, Culture and Sports.

- **Proposal for a Law on Amendments to the Law on DNA Register** was considered by the Committee on Political System, Judiciary and Administration; however, the proposal did not obtain the required majority.
- **Proposal for a Law on Amendments to the Criminal Code of Montenegro** submitted by MP Zoran Miljanić, was considered and proposed to the Parliament for adoption by the Legislative Committee. The law proposal was also considered by the Committee on Political System, Judiciary and Administration; however, it did not obtain the required majority.

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

- Legislative Committee considered Proposal for a Law on Cooperation, but the voting on the proposal was postponed.
- Committee on Economy, Finance and Budget considered Proposal for a Law on Consensual Financial Restructuring of Debts to Financial Institutions; however, the position on the proposal will be stated in the follow-up meeting.
- Committee on Economy, Finance and Budget considered Proposal for a Law on Financing Veterans, and the position on the proposal will be stated in the continuation of the meeting.

Proposals for other acts deliberated in committees

- **Proposal for a Decision on Dismissal and Election of one member of the Committee on Tourism, Agriculture, Ecology and Spatial Planning** was determined by the Administrative Committee.
- **Proposal for a Decision on the Election of the President and six members of the Commission for Prevention of Conflict of Interest** was determined by the Administrative Committee.
- **Proposal for a Decision on Amendments to the Rules of Procedure of the Parliament of Montenegro** was considered by Legislative Committee; however, it did not obtain the required majority.

Other activities of working bodies

- At the 64th meeting of the **Committee on Political System, Judiciary and Administration**, on 20 October, the Committee supported the Report of the Committee together with Proposal for conclusions made after considering the Report of the Supreme Public Prosecutor's Office of Montenegro on Performance Report of the Prosecutorial Council for 2013, submitted by the Supreme Public Prosecutor's Office, and Performance Report of the Prosecutorial Council for 2013, submitted by the Prosecutorial Council.
- At the 25th meeting of the **Security and Defence Committee**, which took place on 13 October, the

Committee considered and supported 2013 Performance and Status Report on administrative domains within the jurisdiction of the Ministry of Defence and 2013 Status Report of the Military of Montenegro, with conclusions. In addition, the Committee supported the 2013 Report on the participation of members of the Military of Montenegro in the international forces, peacekeeping missions and other activities abroad, with conclusions.

- At the 29th meeting of the **Committee on European Integration**, held on 9 October, Mitja Drobnič, the Ambassador and Head of the EU Delegation to Montenegro presented the 2014 Progress Report on Montenegro. Drobnič referred to the progress achieved by Montenegro in certain areas over the past year, but also to the fact that a number of obligations still remained unfulfilled.



- At the 72nd meeting, convened by the **Committee on Economy, Finance and Budget** on 3 October, the Committee considered 2013 Annual Report on Awarded State Aid in Montenegro and decided that it shall declare its position on this act at the follow-up meeting. In addition, the Committee made a Decision on holding a control hearing of Deputy Prime Minister for economic policy and financial system Vujica Lazović, Minister of Economy Vladimir Kavarić, Head of EPCG's Board of Directors SC Nikšić Srđan Kovačević and Executive Director of EPCG SC Nikšić Stefan Pastori, regarding the agreement made between the Government of Montenegro and Company A2A.

At the 72nd meeting reconvened by the Committee on 8 October, the Committee decided to propose to the Parliament to adopt the 2013 Annual Report on Awarded State Aid in Montenegro.



At the 73rd meeting of the Committee, held on the same day, the Committee considered 2013 Report on the

implementation of the Regional Development Strategy of Montenegro for the period 2010 – 2014 and decided to propose it to the Parliament for adoption.

At the 69th meeting reconvened by the Committee on 16 October, the Committee held control hearing of Nenad Šoškić, Director of the Public Institution Center for Contemporary Art, in relation to the negative opinion of the State Audit Institution on the audit of 2012 Financial report of this institution.

At the 74th meeting of the Committee, held on 16 October, the Committee held control hearing of Deputy Prime Minister for economic policy and financial system Vujica Lazović, Minister of Economy Vladimir Kavarić, Head of EPCG's Board of Directors SC Nikšić Srđan Kovačević and Executive Director of EPCG SC Nikšić Stefan Pastori, in relation to the agreement made between the Government of Montenegro and Company A2A. The purpose of the control hearing was to obtain detailed information and data regarding the agreement made between the Government of Montenegro and Company A2A on 3 September 2009, in terms of protecting Montenegro's interests.

At the 76th meeting, held on 24 October, the Committee elected MP Damir Šehović as Deputy Chair of the Committee on Economy, Finance and Budget.

At its 77th meeting held on 30 October, the Committee on Economy, Finance and Budget considered the 2013 Financial Statement with Performance Report of the Energy Regulatory Agency and proposed it to the Parliament of Montenegro for adoption. In addition, the Committee considered the 2013 Financial Statement with the Report of the Independent Auditor on Audit of Financial Statements of Securities Commission; however, the Report did not obtain the necessary majority of the Committee.

At the second continuation of the 75th meeting, held on the same day, the Committee decided not to hold consultative hearing of candidates for a member of the State Audit Institution Senate. It was agreed that the Committee would vote on the said candidates in the following meeting.

- At the 35th meeting of the **Gender Equality Committee**, held on 31 October, representatives of the Ministry of Defence, Military of Montenegro, Ministry of Interior, Ministry of Education, Police Administration, Human Resources Management Authority and Department for Gender Equality of the Ministry of Human and Minority Rights informed members of the Committee about activities which they have been conducting regarding the application of the UN Security Council Resolution 1325 "Women, Peace and Security", within their competences. It was stated, during the discussion, that

there has been an obvious progress in implementation of the Resolution 1325 and follow-up resolutions, and that there was still room for improvement.

- At the 36th meeting of the **Committee on Education, Science, Culture and Sports**, held on 6 October, Cooperation Protocol was signed between the Committee on Education, Science, Culture and Sports, Montenegrin Olympic Committee and the Montenegrin National Theater.
- At the second joint meeting of **Committee on Education, Science, Culture and Sports and Gender Equality Committee**, held on 17 October, Tempus project "HEART" was promoted, which seeks to support development and upgrading of courses and programmes at Western Balkan universities.
- At the 59th meeting of the **Committee on Health, Labour and Social Welfare**, held on 2 October, the members considered Support for the rehabilitation of children with disabilities within the practice of Spiritual Centre Sukuruć in Tuzi.



At the 60th meeting of the Committee, held on 17 October, the Committee considered Initiative of the NGO "Euromost" and representatives of the staff from the north asking for Pension and Disability Law to be amended. Amendments would allow gaining right to pension to all workers from the north who lost their jobs due to privatisation, who have more than 30 years of service. The Committee members decided to send a letter to the Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare, Ministry of Economy, Ministry of Finance and Labour Fund in order to obtain data on paying of taxes and contributions for the workers and the number of workers who may be eligible to retire. After receiving the information, the Committee would schedule a meeting. Members of the Committee supported the Initiative of MP Janko Vučinić on scheduling a meeting in order to assess problems of workers of "Ribarstvo" SC Rijeka Crnojevića.

- At the 21st meeting held on 6 October, the **Anti-corruption Committee** decided to request, once again, from the Director of the Public Procurement Administration Mersad Mujević information about the control hearing of the Minister of Economy Vladimir Kavarić, Minister of Finance Radoje Žugić,

and Director of the Public Procurement Administration Mersad Mujević, on the subject of “Multi million contracts for legal and consulting services paid by the EPCG”. In addition, the Committee considered petitions submitted by workers of “Montavar-Metalac” from Nikšić, the Network for Affirmation of Non-Governmental Sector, and a few individual applications submitted by citizens.

At the 22nd meeting, held on 30 October, the Committee conducted a control hearing of the Minister of Economy Vladimir Kavarić, Minister of Finance Radoje Žugić, and Director of the Public Procurement Administration Mersad Mujević, on the subject of “Multi million contracts for legal and consulting services paid by EPCG”.

- At the 40th meeting of the **Administrative Committee**, held on 2 October, the Committee initiated a procedure for determination of the Proposal of candidates for two members of the Commission for Concessions of Montenegro, from among respectable jurists.

At the 40th meeting reconvened by the Committee on 8 October, the Committee determined Proposal for a Decision on the Election of the President and six members of the Commission for Prevention of Conflict of Interest. The Committee decided to propose to the Parliament to elect Slobodan Leković as President of the Commission for Prevention of Conflict of Interest, and also to elect Goranka Vučinić, Ana Raičević, Borka Smolović, Vahedin Feratović, Ristan Stijepović and Ivo Đoković as members of the Commission for Prevention of Conflict of Interest.

At the 41st meeting of the Committee, held on 8 October, the Committee determined Proposal for a Decision on Dismissal and Election of a member of the Committee on Tourism, Agriculture, Ecology and Spatial Planning. As to the aforementioned, the Committee has decided to propose to the Parliament to dismiss MP Novica Stanić from the duty of the member of the Committee on Tourism, Agriculture, Ecology and Spatial Planning and to elect MP Ljiljana Đurašković as member of the Committee on Tourism, Agriculture, Ecology and Spatial Planning. Members of the committee came to an agreement concerning determination of Proposal for a Decision on Appointment of two members of the Council of Agency for Electronic Media, upon the Public Call of 25 August. The agreement was to establish a Working Group charged with reviewing all the submitted application with documentation in order to determine the complete and timely submitted proposals of candidates for the appointment of two members of the Agency Council. The Working Group

shall consist of: MP Marta Šćepanović from parliamentary majority and Azra Jasavić from opposition.

At the 42nd meeting held on 21 October, the Committee discontinued the procedure for Determining the List of timely and complete proposals of candidates for members of the Agency for Electronic Media Council. After getting acquainted with the Report of the Working Group, the Committee decided to request additional information from RTCG about the status of one of the applicants for membership in the Agency for Electronic Media Council, and decided to establish the List at the next meeting, after receiving the information. Having reviewed the submitted documentation, the Committee stated that authorised proposers, NGO “Informativni centar Pljevlja” and NGO “Montenegro Media Institute”, did not submit complete documentation, as requested by the Public Call, and that other authorised proposers did submit complete documentation in due time. The Committee has decided that the procedure for determining the proposal of candidates for the appointment of two members of the Commission for Concessions of Montenegro from amongst renowned expert, upon the Public Call of 2 October 2014, will be continued after criminal record statements about applicants are obtained by the Ministry of Justice. Committee members got acquainted with a Request of MP Radosav Nišavić for exercising the right to claim the duty pay in the event of the death of a member of the immediate family and decided to make an adequate decision. The Committee got acquainted with a request of the Basic Prosecutorial Office in Podgorica, of 16 October 2014 for approving the criminal procedure, and with regard to that, by a majority of votes, decided to vote on the matter at the following meeting, scheduled for 29 October 2014. The Committee has also opened a debate on suggestion of the Parliament of Montenegro to re-examine the Proposal for Decision on the appointment of President and six members of the Commission for Prevention of Conflict of Interests as of 8 October 2014, submitted to the Parliament by the Administrative Committee following the Public Call of as 25 August 2014.

At the 43th meeting of the Committee, on 29 October, the Committee considered the Request of the Basic Public Prosecutor’s Office in Podgorica, as of 15 October, for gaining the approval for criminal prosecution of Janko Vučinić, MP of the Parliament of Montenegro. Following the debate, the Committee decided to propose to the Parliament of Montenegro not to give the approval for initiation of criminal proceedings against MP Janko Vučinić.

NEWS FROM PARLIAMENT



President of the Parliament of Montenegro Ranko Krivokapić received the Delegation of U.S. Congressmen

President of the Parliament of Montenegro Ranko Krivokapić received the Delegation of U.S. Congressmen headed by Congressman Michael Turner. The Delegation also consisted of Congresswoman Loretta Sanchez and Congressman Paul Cook, as well as H.E. Sue K. Brown, U.S. Ambassador to Montenegro.



Krivokapić and Turner assessed that relations between Montenegro and United States of America were constantly developing, which makes USA one of the most important foreign policy partners of our country.

Krivokapić emphasised that the visit occurred at a very

important moment for Montenegro, on the day of handover of Montenegro Progress Report in the Parliament of Montenegro, as well as at the time of intensified activities of fulfilling the obligations towards NATO integration.

Congressman Michael Turner is the Head of the U.S. Delegation to the NATO Parliamentary Assembly, who gave a significant contribution to the establishment of the Montenegrin caucus in the American Congress, which was formed in November last year during an official visit of Krivokapić to the USA.

The talks between Krivokapić and Turner were mostly focused on Euro-Atlantic integration, and intensifying cooperation between the Montenegrin Parliament and the American Congress.

The interlocutors assessed that the friendly relations between the Parliament and the Congress, and also USA's strong support to Montenegro on its Euro-Atlantic path, were of great importance and represented additional security in the process of strengthening the rule of law and Montenegrin institutions.

Chair of the Committee on European Integration, representatives of MP Groups and Secretary General of the Parliament of Montenegro hosted an MP of the Christian Democratic Union of German Bundestag

Chair of the Committee on European Integration of the Parliament of Montenegro Slaven Radunović and representatives of MP SDP Group Borislav Banović, DF Group Goran Danilović, SNP Group Aleksandar Damjanović, Positive Montenegro Group Azra Jasavić, and Secretary General of the Parliament of Montenegro Damir Davidović hosted Peter Beyer, MP of the Christian Democratic Union of German Bundestag and Gudrun Elisabeth Steinacker, H.E. Ambassador of Germany to Montenegro.

The occasion for the meeting was a recently published Progress Report on Montenegro in the process of EU accession. Peter Beyer, MP of Bundestag emphasised that Montenegro's progress is significant and that he was particularly pleased by the composition of today's delegation of the Parliament of Montenegro, composed of both - representatives of the ruling coalition and opposition.

MPs Radunović and Danilović stated that MPs have better working conditions now than five years ago, which is reflected in a greater number of parliamentary staff and their better qualifications, which is a merit of Secretary General of the Parliament of Montenegro

Damir Davidović.

Chair of the MP SNP Group and Chair of the Committee on Economy, Finance and Budget Aleksandar Damjanović also spoke on the progress of Montenegrin Parliament in the integration process, headed by Secretary General; where, as he stated, the progress was visible in almost a doubled number of staff and their professionalism, but also in achieving the financial independence of the Parliament of Montenegro.



MP Azra Jasavić is of the opinion that NATO integration is equally important for Montenegro because it would make the neighbouring region safe and stable, and is also a pre-condition of economic progress.

MP Borislav Banović referred to the problem of a number of MPs in the Parliament of Montenegro who are not, as it is the case in parliaments of the region, closely tied to just one area through the work of a working body, but on the contrary, MPs are engaged in several areas.

Secretary General of the Parliament Damir Davidović confirmed that the parliamentary service has advanced in the last five years, which is the result mostly of the principle of planning. Secretary General emphasised that

Montenegrin Parliament was included in the process of European integration more than any other parliament of applicant countries, and that the Parliament of Montenegro is the only institution which has Strategy for development of human resources, Training strategy for staff and financial independence. In addition, he stated that the Service of the Parliament of Montenegro was the only service who had been participating in the screening process.

Round-table held on the topic: "Do we need a Law on Parliament?"

NGO Institute Alternative in cooperation with the Montenegrin Parliament, organised a Round-table on the topic: "Do we need a Law on Parliament?"

Representatives of MP Groups: DPS, DF, SNP, SDP, PCG, BS and Albanian parties HGI and LPCG, within the first panel, shared views on the topic: "Law on Parliament as a legal basis for functioning of Montenegrin Parliament". The participants have noted that most countries do not have a separate law on parliament but instead they have the Law on MPs. Law on Parliament wouldn't be enough unless followed by amendments to the Rules of Procedure. Participants debated on necessity of financial independence of the Parliament as well as on rights and responsibilities of MPs and parliamentary staff. The Parliament may be additionally improved by strengthening its control role, and holding greater number of control hearings and sittings devoted to the Prime Minister's Hour. Representatives of MP Groups mainly pointed out to the necessity of resolving the problem of insufficient space in the Parliament of Montenegro, stressing that working conditions were much better now than several years ago, but they should be additionally improved.

Secretary General of the Parliament of Montenegro Damir Davidović, Vice President of the National Assembly of the Republic of Serbia Gordana Čomić, Assistant Secretary General of the National Assembly of the Republic of Srpska and Head of the Legislative Sector Mirjana Radaković as well as expert associate in the Assembly of the Republic of Macedonia Nikola Atanasovski, spoke on the topic "Organising the work of

parliament – regional experiences".



It was emphasised that the Montenegrin Parliament was transparent and publicly available in the greatest extent possible, and when it comes to organisation of the Parliamentary Service, a lot of effort has been and would be put into training employees of the Parliament. The importance of planning has been underlined, which means introducing action plans in order to make the Service more professional and hence more efficient. In their remarks, participants noted that instead of adopting new it would be enough to respect and apply the current laws. Experiences of others are welcome but they cannot be always applicable, since various countries do not share epochs, standards, time and course of institutional memories.

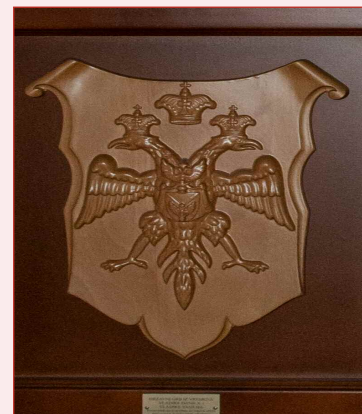
Representatives of NGO sector emphasised traditionally good cooperation with the Parliament of Montenegro and the Secretary General who, as they noted, has shown once more good will and agreed to organise the roundtable in Montenegrin Parliament.

FROM PARLIAMENT'S GALLERY

Upon Prince-Bishop Danilo's succession to the Metropolitan throne, Montenegrin heraldic tradition was renewed with the assuming of the double-headed eagle originating from the Crnojević Coat of Arms. From this moment on, the genesis of Montenegrin coat of arms could be followed.

Montenegrin Metropolitan Vasilije also used the coat of arms originating in the reign of Prince-Bishop Danilo. The crowned double-headed eagle dominates the entire Russian baroque shield, and there's also a crown positioned above them.

The great coat of arms of dynasty Petrović is positioned on the chest of the double-headed eagle.



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.

IN FOCUS



Autumn Session of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly held in Geneva

President of the Parliament of Montenegro and President Emeritus of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly Ranko Krivokapić participated in the Autumn Session of the OSCE PA, which took place from 3 to 5 October in Geneva, on the topic: “New Security Challenges: The Role of Parliaments”.

Krivokapić participated at the OSCE PA Autumn Session in the capacity of the Honorary President of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly and the Head of the Montenegrin Delegation. Members of the Parliament of Montenegro, Milutin Simović and Goran Danilović, also participated at the Autumn Meeting, as members of the delegation.



President Krivokapić met in Geneva with the Speaker of the State Duma Sergey Naryshkin, on the occasion of the Ukrainian crisis and continuation of activities of the OSCE PA Vienna Group, which started its work in April 2014, chaired by Krivokapić. The interlocutors agreed that it was necessary, immediately after the parliamentary elections in Ukraine, to continue the work of the Vienna Group consisting of parliamentary delegations of Ukraine and the Russian

Federation, in order for the parliamentary diplomacy to give its tangible contribution to the resolution of the Ukrainian crisis.

In the meeting, it was referred to the important role of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly in establishing a dialogue, necessary for de-escalation of the crisis in Ukraine, as well as the necessity for the Vienna Group to deal with many issues of vital importance for the daily lives of citizens in a torn territory of Ukraine.

Vice-President of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly Doris Barnett (Germany) and the OSCE PA Ambassador Andreas Nothelle also participated in the meeting. Speaker Naryshkin used this occasion to open up the topic of bilateral relations between the Russian Federation and Montenegro, in light of sanctions imposed by the European Union against the Russian Federation, joined by Montenegro.

Krivokapić met with the President of the Swiss Confederation and OSCE Chairperson-in-Office, Didier Burkhalter, where it was mutually agreed that the Swiss Chairmanship-in-Office strongly reinforced the reputation of the OSCE and has shown that in confrontation with such a major crisis such as the Ukrainian, quick and effective responses of the organisation could be obtained.

Krivokapić met in Geneva with the OSCE Secretary General, Lamberto Zannier, about the continuation of coordinated work in resolving the Ukrainian crisis, particularly through the work of the Vienna Group. They exchanged views on the activities of other segments of the OSCE in light of the Helsinki + 40 Process as the opportunity for further improvement of the organisation.

PARLIAMENTARY GLOSSARY

Excises. “Excises are taxes imposed on specific goods and services, according to both, OECD and GSF. Excises therefore are selective consumption taxes. Historically, excises were the oldest form of consumption tax and since their introduction, the idea of taxing consumption has come to life. Excises are imposed on consumption or use of certain goods. The main purpose of introducing excise was fiscality, and it remains so even today.”¹

¹ Dr Božidar Raičević, Dr Marko Radičić, *Javne finansije-Teorija i praksa*, Beograd 2008, p.161

FROM THE HISTORY OF MONTENEGRIN PARLIAMENTARISM



LAW ON THE ORGANISATION OF COURTS IN THE PRINCIPALITY OF MONTENEGRO

6/19 December 1902

We
NIKOLA I
By the grace of God
PRINCE AND SOVEREIGN OF MONTENEGRO
At the proposal of the Acting Minister of Justice,
After hearing our State Council
Decided to order and we are ordering this

LAW ON THE ORGANISATION OF COURTS IN THE PRINCIPALITY OF MONTENEGRO

Article 1

The right to exercise judicial office in the Principality of Montenegro is given to: village kmets acting as justices of the peace, captain courts, five superior courts and the High Court of Justice.

Municipal courts in Cetinje, Rijeka, Podgorica, Danilovgrad, Nikšić, Kolašin, Andrijevica, Vir, Bar and Ulcinj shall exercise judicial power as the court of first instance in place of captains, in accordance with the regulation of municipal boroughs of 23 April 1899.

The number of captain courts shall be governed by another law.

Article 2

Captain courts are the courts of first instance, superior courts are courts of first and second instance, whereas the High Court of Justice is the last and highest instance in the country.

The civil and criminal competence of courts is to be governed by another law.

Article 3

Captain courts shall have executive power. Each captain judge shall have at its disposal a scribe, acting as a scrivener charged with safeguarding documents.

A kmet, whose place of residence is at the place where the captain court is located, shall perform the judicial power instead of a captain judge, if necessary.

Article 4

Superior courts are multi-member courts, consisting of the President and two judges.

Article 5

Superior courts will each have a secretary, who shall participate at the court sittings as a deputy judge, two scribes, and a required number of junior staff.

Article 6

The High Court of Justice consists of the president and four members.

It shall have at its disposal two secretaries, three scribes and an adequate number of staff. The High Court of Justice shall draft the court Rules of Procedure which will be submitted to Ministry of Justice for approval.

Article 7

The rank of the judicial staff is specified in the annex of the Law on civil servants.

The classification of courts in the Principality of Montenegro is presented in the appendix, which makes an integral part of this law. Wages of judicial staff shall be governed by another law, while the current wages shall apply until 1 January 1906.

Cetinje, St Nicholas's Day, in 1902

Nikola, handwritten signature

Pavićević, B, Raspopović, R, ur. Crnogorski zakonici 1796-1916, knj.II (Montenegrin Codes 1796-1916, Book II), Podgorica, Istorijski institut Crne Gore, 1998, pp. 610-612

CALENDAR



1 October

- Collegium of the President of the Parliament of Montenegro, at the 88th meeting held on 1 October, on the grounds of a request made by three MP groups to consider the situation of workers of “Montavar-Metalac” from Nikšić, adopted several conclusions.
- Chair of the Gender Equality Committee Nada Drobnjak participated at a regional workshop dedicated to eliminating and combatting domestic violence and all forms of violence against women and young girls, which took place from 30 September to 1 October in Skopje.
- At the continuation of the fifth meeting of the Working Group formed in order to prepare Proposal for a Law on Financing of Political Parties and Proposal for a Decision on Establishment of the Interim Committee, charged with overseeing the work of State Authorities, State Administration bodies and local government bodies in regards to consistent implementation of law for the purpose of building trust in the election process, the Working group considered the submitted amendments to the Proposal for Decision on Establishment of the Interim Committee. In addition, discussion was led regarding the work methodology.
- Chair and members of the Committee on Human Rights and Freedoms of the Parliament of Montenegro held a meeting with a delegation of representatives of ombudsman institutions and prison officials from the Republic of Serbia and the Republic of Albania, who paid an official visit to Montenegro in the framework of the regional Project “Building free of torture and impunity societies in Western Balkans”. During the discussion, all the participants emphasised the importance of improving accommodation facilities and introducing alternative sanctions, as key measures for enhancing the situation in the field.
- The first meeting of the Working group that deals with solving the status of weekly newspaper “Koha Javore” resulted in agreement on upcoming tasks and activities that were necessary to undertake in order to solve the future status of weekly newspaper “Koha Javore”, which is published in Albanian. In addition, participants suggested that it was necessary to take into consideration regional experiences, as well as conduct required interviews with responsible representatives.
- MP Branka Tanasijević participated in the conference

“European Health Forum 2014”, which took place from 1 to 3 October in Bad Hofgastein, Austria.

- Chair of the Committee on Health, Labour and Social Welfare Zoran Jelić and members of the Committee Emilo Labudović, Janko Vučinić and Goran Tuponja met with representatives of the Ministry for Economy, Veselin Perišić, bankruptcy administrator in the Aluminium Plant, and representatives of the Aluminium Plant Dušan Laketić and Zlatko Dujović. During the meeting, it was referred to the Government Social programme offered to the Aluminium Plant workers and the possibility to include both workers of Željezara and workers of the Aluminium Plant in the amendments of the Law on Pension and Disability Insurance.

2 October

- At the sixth meeting of the Working Group formed in order to prepare Proposal for a Law on Financing of Political Parties and Proposal for a Decision on Establishment of the Interim Committee, charged with overseeing the work of State Authorities, State Administration bodies and local government bodies in regards to consistent implementation of law for the purpose of building trust in the election process, the draft version of the Law on Financing Political Parties and Election Campaigns was considered.
- Vice President of the Parliament of Montenegro Suljo Mustafić participated in the Second Conference of Danube Parliamentarians, which took place from 2 to 3 October in Budapest. The conference dealt with the role of parliaments within the EU strategy for the Danube Region, mechanisms for cooperation between governments and parliaments as part of the strategy, as well as future activities of the Conference of Danube region Parliamentarians.

3 October

- President of the Parliament of Montenegro and President Emeritus of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly Ranko Krivokapić participated in the Autumn Session of the OSCE PA, which took place from 3 to 5 October in Geneva, on the topic: “New Security Challenges: The Role of Parliaments”.
- Members of the Committee on Economy, Finance and Budget met with Janez Kopač, Director 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.

CALENDAR



Secretariat of Energy Community, who presented to the Committee the Annual Report on the Implementation of the Energy Community Strategy for the period September 2013 – August 2014.

6 October

- President of the Parliament of Montenegro Ranko Krivokapić received H.E. Eldar Humbat Oglu Hasanov, Ambassador of the Republic of Azerbaijan. The talk between Krivokapić and Hasanov was mainly focused on investment projects being implemented in Montenegro by the Republic of Azerbaijan. In this context, Krivokapić emphasised that he was looking forward to investments in tourism industry of Montenegro, because the common goal in such projects was improvement of the quality of life of citizens and reduction of unemployment rate. Hasanov stated that Republic of Azerbaijan was willing to support development projects in Montenegro.

8 October

- President of the Parliament of Montenegro Ranko Krivokapić received the Delegation of U.S. Congressmen headed by Congressman Michael Turner. The Delegation also consisted of Congresswoman Loretta Sanchez and Congressman Paul Cook, as well as H.E. Sue K. Brown, U.S. Ambassador to Montenegro.
- Vice President of the Parliament of Montenegro and Chair of the Friendship Group with the National People's Congress Branko Radulović met with H.E. Cui Zhiwei, Ambassador of the People's Republic of China to Montenegro and his associates. The Ambassador emphasised the immense contribution Radulović had made in promoting the relations between People's Republic of China and Montenegro.
- Members of the Working Group charged with solving the status of weekly newspaper "Koha Javore" met with Ali Salaj, Editor-in-Chief of weekly newspaper "Koha Javore", published in Albanian. The meeting took place in the premises of the daily newspaper "Pobjeda", in order to get acquainted with the current situation of the weekly newspaper "Koha Javore", due to the bankruptcy of the daily newspaper "Pobjeda", the conditions in which it operated, as well as activities that were necessary to undertake in order to solve its future status.

- The Working Group formed in order to prepare Proposal for a Law on Financing of Political Parties and Proposal for a Decision on Establishment of the ad hoc committee, to be charged with overseeing the work of State Authorities, State Administration bodies and local government bodies in regards to consistent implementation of law for the purpose of building trust in the election process, continued to consider the draft version of the Law on Financing Political Parties and Election Campaigns.
- President of the Parliament of Montenegro Ranko Krivokapić received Dirk Lange, Head of Unit for Montenegro within the European Commission's Enlargement Directorate and Mitja Drobnič, Ambassador and Head of the EU Delegation to Montenegro. On this occasion, ceremonial presenting of the Progress Report on Montenegro towards the European Union was organised. The ceremony was attended by MPs of the Parliament of Montenegro, representatives of judicial power, media and civil society.



- Chair of the Security and Defence Committee Mevludin Nuhodžić and members of the Committee: Milutin Simović, Luid Ljubo Škrelja, Borislav Banović, Suljo Mustafić i Snežana Jonica met with the Delegation of American Congressmen, headed by Congressman Michael Turner. The Delegation consisted of Congresswoman Loretta Sanchez and Congressman Paul Cook. The U.S. Ambassador to Montenegro Sue K. Brown also attended the meeting. The following issues were discussed at the meeting: progress of Montenegro on its path toward Euro-Atlantic integration, role of the Security and Defence Committee in the process, implemented reforms in the security and defence sector, with special focus on cooperation among political parties, and monitoring of performance of security services, as a priority in the Euro-Atlantic Integrations.

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.

CALENDAR



9 October

- At the eighth meeting of the Working Group formed in order to prepare Proposal for a Law on Financing of Political Parties and Proposal for a Decision on Establishment of the ad hoc committee, charged with overseeing the work of State Authorities, State Administration bodies and local government bodies in regards to consistent implementation of law for the purpose of building trust in the election process; the draft version of the Law on Financing Political Parties and Election Campaigns was considered.
- At the third meeting of the Working Group charged with solving the status of weekly newspaper "Koha Javore", a meeting was held with the bankruptcy administrator Mladen Marković in the premises of daily newspaper "Pobjeda". The discussion was about analysing more closely the current situation of the daily newspaper "Pobjeda", and at the same time of the weekly newspaper "Koha Javore".
- Member of the Permanent Delegation of the Parliament of Montenegro to the Parliamentary Dimension of the Central European Initiative MP Danko Šarančić participated in the meeting of the General Committee on Economic Affairs "CEI - PD", which took place in Bucharest. At the meeting, the discussion was on the topic: "New jobs for the highly qualified youth through a regional CEI hub – a challenge for cultural and creative industries".

10 October

- Members of the Humanistic studies student organisation of the University of Donja Gorica visited the Parliament of Montenegro, and got acquainted with the history of Montenegrin parliamentarism, parliamentary organisation and structure, as well as its competences and duties.
- At the second meeting of the Working Group for drafting a Code of Ethics for MPs, there was a constructive discussion regarding the drafting of the Code. During thorough discussion, general provisions, ethical principles and rules were considered individually. It was agreed that the prepared Draft is to be considered article by article, and that comparative experience and best practices from the region and beyond should be used in order to prepare a better Code of Ethics with higher level of quality.

- Vice President of the Parliament of Montenegro Suljo Mustafić spoke with Serge Brammertz, Chief Prosecutor of the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia located in The Hague. Vice President Mustafić stated that Montenegro was committed to fulfilling its international obligations, and that in this context, full cooperation between its institutions and institutions of International Criminal Tribunal was established, as well as cooperation with institutions of neighbouring countries regarding war crime cases. Brammertz expressed pleasure over the cooperation of the International Criminal Tribunal with responsible institutions in Montenegro, as well as its readiness to promote it in the areas that were significant for the successful processing of war crimes committed in former Yugoslavia.
- President of the Parliament of Montenegro and President Emeritus of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly Ranko Krivokapić addressed attendees at the opening of the 100th Ceremonial Session of the Venice Commission. Speaking of democracy and law as inseparable phenomena which have inevitably been a subject of inspiration to many philosophers throughout history, Krivokapić emphasised that without democracy there could be no rule of law, justice and economic progress.



When it comes to cooperation between the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly and the Venice Commission, Krivokapić expressed hope that their cooperation would be enhanced, especially in the part where parliamentarians and experts of the Venice Commission could work together in improving the legislative framework of countries in the OSCE region where help was needed. Krivokapić especially referred to the situation in Ukraine, suggesting that special forms of cooperation between the two institutions needed to be established. President of the Venice Commission emphasised that Montenegro was working on implementation of initiated reforms with which the Venice Commission helped, and in this

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.

CALENDAR



context he thanked Krivokapić and representatives of other institutions for the full cooperation with the representatives of the Venice Commission.

- Chair of the Committee on Economy, Finance and Budget of the Parliament of Montenegro Aleksandar Damjanović, participated at the Inter-Parliamentary Meeting on Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency, which took place on 10 and 11 October in Lisbon.

13 October

- Children from the private Pre-school institution (kindergarten) “Maša” and its international part paid a visit to the Parliament of Montenegro, on the occasion of marking the week dedicated to Montenegro. Children, in a manner appropriate to their age, were acquainted with the work of the Parliament and MPs, as well as passing of laws which are binding on all citizens in our country. Children were also greeted by the President of the Parliament of Montenegro.



- Vice President of the Parliament of Montenegro Suljo Mustafić received Russ Hiebert, MP of the House of Commons of Canada. Mustafić assessed as positive the intensification of political contacts, as well as Canada's contribution to Euro-Atlantic integration of Montenegro. It was emphasised that Canada was among the countries which supported Montenegro, not only through words, but also through actions. Hiebert also added that it was his first visit to Montenegro, however, he stated that prior to his visit, he had identified many areas of possible cooperation between the two countries, specifically referring to electricity generation, oil and gas exploration, tourism, as well as cooperation in the security and defence sector. The interlocutors expressed their expectation that the relations between Montenegro and Canada would be additionally intensified in many areas in the period to come, especially with regard to parliamentary cooperation.



- Chair of the Committee on Economy, Finance and Budget Aleksandar Damjanović met with Chair of the Committee on Economy, Regional Development, Trade, Tourism and Energy of the National Assembly of the Republic of Serbia Aleksandra Tomić and Vice President of the National Assembly of the Republic of Serbia Vladimir Marinković. The topic of discussion was cooperation of both committees in the framework of the Network of Parliamentary Committees for Economy, Finance and European Integration of the Western Balkans and a joint meeting of both committees, scheduled for November, where it would be discussed about the common interest in the field of energy, regional development and trade.
- Working Group of the Administrative Committee of the Parliament of Montenegro reviewed applications, submitted upon the Public Call to authorised proposers for submission of proposals for candidates for the appointment of members of the Council of the Agency for Electronic Media, as of 25 August.
- Chair of the Committee on Human Rights and Freedoms of the Parliament of Montenegro Halil Duković participated in the Meeting of Chairpersons of the Committees Specialised in Fundamental Rights, which took place on 13 and 14 October in Rome. The meeting was held in the framework of the Italian Presidency of the Council of the European Union. Four sessions were held during the meeting, on the following topics: Enforcing fundamental rights to combat exclusion, Data protection and new rights in the digital era, Towards a true European common migration and asylum policy and New tools to combat discrimination.

14 October

- Representative of the Delegation of the Parliament of Montenegro to the NATO Parliamentary Assembly Branka Bošnjak participated in the work of the 87th Rose-Roth seminar on the topic: “Eastern Europe:

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.

CALENDAR



New Political and Security Challenges”, which took place on 14 and 15 October in Warsaw. During the two-day seminar, dedicated to new political and security challenges in the South-Eastern Europe countries, special focus was on the current political and military situation in Ukraine, support for independence of Ukraine and its new European path.

15 October

- At the ninth meeting of the Working Group formed in order to prepare Proposal for a Law on Financing of Political Parties and Proposal for a Decision on Establishment of the ad hoc committee, charged with overseeing the work of State Authorities, State Administration bodies and local government bodies in regards to consistent implementation of law for the purpose of building trust in the election process, the focus was on the draft version of the Law on Financing Political Parties and Election Campaigns. During the meeting, consideration of the proposed solutions was continued, in line with previously determined methodology.
- Assistant to the Secretary General of the Parliament of Montenegro and member of the Association of Secretary Generals of Parliaments of the UN member states in Geneva Nataša Komnenić attended the Meeting of the Association of Secretary Generals of Parliaments of the UN member states in Geneva, where she had a presentation on the topic: "Strategic and annual planning in parliaments - challenges and outcomes in the Parliament of Montenegro". Komnenić shortly presented the plans which have been adopted by the Parliament of Montenegro: Action Plan for Strengthening Legislative and Control Role of the Parliament, Plan of legislative work of the Parliament, Human resources development strategy of the Parliament of Montenegro, as well as other documents which largely stemmed from strategic planning approach.



16 October

- President Krivokapić opened the South-Eastern European Defence Ministerial SEDM. Defence Ministerial of 14 states of SEE was largely focused on current world security issues. President Krivokapić stated that today's Europe was in the time of unrest, as well as in the time of looking for new solutions for security and reminded that NATO was a peacekeeping organisation.
- At the tenth meeting, the Working Group formed in order to prepare Proposal for a Law on Financing of Political Parties and Proposal for a Decision on Establishment of the ad hoc committee, charged with overseeing the work of State Authorities, State Administration bodies and local government bodies in regards to consistent implementation of law for the purpose of building trust in the election process, fully considered the draft version of the Law on Financing Political Parties and Election Campaigns. In addition, methodology regarding the further work on the law was determined.

17 October

- At the third meeting of the Working Group for drafting a Code of Ethics for MPs, discussion was led regarding provisions in two sections of the draft Code of Ethics of MPs. During the constructive discussion, provisions regarding rules of conduct for MPs in performing their duties, as well as provisions regarding public relations were considered.
- Chair of the Security and Defence Committee Mevludin Nuhodžić and members of the Committee Snežana Jonica and Obrad Stanišić attended a Symposium on Foreign Fighters Legislation. The purpose of the symposium was to become more acquainted with obligations arising from the recently adopted United Nations Security Council Resolution 2178 on the flow of foreign fighters, which, Montenegro as a member of United Nations is required to meet.
- Members of the Committee on European Integration met with attendees of the XIII generation of School of Democratic Leadership, and on this occasion acquainted them with the work of the Committee, its role as a pivot of parliamentary dimension of the European process, and also discussed about 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.

CALENDAR



current challenges on Montenegro's path towards EU membership.



- President of the Parliament of Montenegro Ranko Krivokapić met with Chris Murphy, Senator in the United States Senate. During the meeting, Krivokapić assessed that the next year is extremely important for Montenegro in its Euro-Atlantic path and that strengthening the rule of law was of key importance. He emphasised that Montenegro was the only part of the Mediterranean coast, from Portugal to Turkey, which wasn't under the protection of NATO and that full country's commitment to democracy and rule of law were the guarantee of Montenegrin membership to the Alliance. Murphy confirmed that the USA remained Montenegro's partner and would continue to support Montenegro's membership to NATO, stating that the rule of law was a main goal for the state and society.

20 October

- President of the Parliament of Montenegro Ranko Krivokapić hosted the visit of President of the National Assembly of the Republic of Serbia Maja Gojković. During the meeting with the President of the National Assembly of the Republic of Serbia Maja Gojković, President Krivokapić emphasised that there was always room for improving cooperation, and it is especially important to enhance mutual relations and show the whole region that even the most difficult issues could be resolved. Gojković assessed that Montenegro had made steps ahead of Republic of Serbia in the EU integration process and emphasised that the National Assembly of Serbia had a lot to learn. Noting their long-term parliamentary experience and cooperation, the interlocutors concluded that in the upcoming period it was necessary to intensify the cooperation between both parliaments, particularly in the field of sharing experiences in EU integration, both through Friendship Group and parliamentary working bodies.
- Committee on Health, Labour and Social Welfare held a

meeting dedicated to fight against breast cancer. In addition to the Committee members, the meeting was also attended by Nebojša Crnogorac, Director of the Clinic for Oncology and Radiotherapy at the Clinical Centre of Montenegro and Sanja Simović, Assistant Minister of Health for control and improving the quality of health care.



- Chair of the Security and Defence Committee Mevludin Nuhodžić and members: Obrad Mišo Stanišić, Luid Škrelja, Predrag Bulatović, Snežana Jonica, Velizar Kaluđerović and Darko Pajović paid a visit to the Kingdom of Norway. The visit was a part of the process of professional training of members and service of the Security and Defence Committee, with the purpose of upgrading the established legal framework in defence and security sector.

21 October

- Chair of the Committee on European Integration of the Parliament of Montenegro Slaven Radunović and representatives of MP SDP Group Borislav Banović, DF Group Goran Danilović, SNP Group Aleksandar Damjanović, Positive Montenegro Group Azra Jasavić, and Secretary General of the Parliament of Montenegro Damir Davidović hosted Peter Beyer, MP of the Christian Democratic Union of German Bundestag and Gudrun Elisabeth Steinacker, H.E. Ambassador of Germany to Montenegro.
- Vice President of the Parliament of Montenegro Branko Radulović paid a visit to the Kingdom of Denmark from 21 to 24 October. The aim of the visit was to promote the cooperation between Montenegrin and Danish Parliament and exchange views on European and Euro-Atlantic integration process of Montenegro, the progress Montenegro had made so far and further activities that were needed in order to meet the requirements for EU membership. In addition, views were exchanged regarding internal challenges the EU was facing and its future steps in this context.

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.

CALENDAR



23 October

- At the fourth meeting of the Working Group charged with solving the status of weekly newspaper “Koha Javore”, members of the group met with Željko Rutović, Director of the Directorate for Media of the Ministry of Culture and Miloš Lalević, Advisor for European integration in media. The discussion was led in order to enable representatives of Ministry of Culture and members of the working group to share their views and opinions, aimed at analysing more closely the current situation and a future model of operation of the weekly newspaper.
- At the fifth meeting of the Working Group charged with solving the status of weekly newspaper “Koha Javore”, members of the group met with Director of the Directorate for Budget of the Ministry of Finance Nikola Vukićević. The meeting was marked by discussion on possible ways of financing the future model of the Weekly newspaper, which is being published in Albanian language.
- At the fourth meeting of the Working Group for drafting a Code of Ethics for MPs, discussion was led regarding a provision in the fifth chapter of the draft Code of Ethics of MPs. In addition, one of the key provisions in the draft Code concerning the oversight of Code enforcement, was considered.
- NGO Institute Alternative in cooperation with the Montenegrin Parliament, organised a Round-table on the topic: “Do we need a Law on Parliament”. It was emphasised that the Montenegrin Parliament was transparent and publicly available in the greatest extent possible, and when it comes to organisation of the Parliamentary Service, a lot of effort has been and would be put into training employees of the Parliament.
- President of the Parliament of Montenegro Ranko Krivokapić received US Deputy Assistant Secretary of State Hoyt Yee. During the meeting, Krivokapić emphasised that Montenegro had clearly defined strategic priorities, and among the main priorities was full-fledged membership in NATO. Yee stated that USA would continue strongly to advocate and support Montenegrin path towards the Alliance. In addition, he assessed that Montenegro’s course would depend mostly on its efficiency in meeting standards for full-fledged membership. Krivokapić acquainted Yee with the ongoing activities and the laws which were and will be placed under parliamentary procedure, and which

represented specific steps towards meeting the requirements for NATO membership.

24 October

- President of the Parliament Ranko Krivokapić hosted the official visit to Montenegro of Speaker of the Hellenic Parliament Evangelos Meimerakis. On behalf of their parliaments, the two officials signed Memorandum on cooperation between the Parliament of Montenegro and Hellenic Parliament. President Krivokapić thanked his colleague for his contribution while he was still performing his duty of Hellenic Minister of Defence. The Speaker of the Hellenic Parliament stated that everybody knows how Montenegro and Greece appreciate one another. The two presidents paid a visit to “Democracy Workshops” and spent their time with children who were attending a workshop on the topic: “Democracy and Parliament”.



27 October

- President of the Parliament of Montenegro Ranko Krivokapić received representatives of the Venice Commission Guido Neppi Modona (Italy), Jan Velaers (Belgium) and James Hamilton (Ireland). President Krivokapić and representatives of the Venice Commission spoke about a set of laws in the field of judiciary which are to be placed under parliamentary procedure. Representatives of the VC emphasised the personal contribution President Krivokapić has made in the procedure of amending the Constitution and adopting constitutional amendments, whose aim is to strengthen independence and responsibility of judiciary and prosecution. Krivokapić emphasised that concerned laws were elaboration of the constitutional amendments and should aim at strengthening independence and responsibility of judiciary and prosecution. The interlocutors jointly assessed that engagement of the Venice Commission in the process would be of extreme importance, and that they expect opinions of the VC which would improve the legislative regulations.

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.

CALENDAR



- Vice President of the Parliament of Montenegro Suljo Mustafić paid a working visit to the Municipality of Pljevlja. While congratulating Mirko Đačić on his election as the President of the Municipality, Mustafić stated that the local government was expected to achieve progress, which would bring more efficiency in the work of the local government and economic recovery of Pljevlja. Mustafić emphasised the importance of legality of work of local government, and its efficiency, which would lead to a citizen-oriented government. Đačić emphasised as important strengthening of communication and relations which leads to a more efficient cooperation between state and local authorities.
- Members of the Committee on Political System, Judiciary and Administration met with representatives of the Venice Commission. The meeting was held in order to exchange opinions on new draft laws in the field of organisation of judiciary, Law on Courts, Law on Judicial Council and Rights and Obligations of Judges, Law on Public Prosecutor's Office, as well as Law on Special Public Prosecutor's Office.



- President of the Parliament of Montenegro Ranko Krivokapić received Jean-Daniel Ruch, Ambassador of the Swiss Confederation to Montenegro in Belgrade. The interlocutors assessed that the Swiss Presidency over the OSCE was very important to Montenegro, because Switzerland intensively supported the path of our country towards the EU and NATO. Krivokapić and Ambassador Ruch underlined that the freedom of media was vitally important for democracy and further development of society. Additionally, the freedom needed to be followed by professionalism and objectivity.
- At the fifth meeting of the Working Group for drafting a Code of Ethics for MPs, discussion on a provision of fifth chapter of the Draft Code of Ethics for MPs has been continued, where MPs held a unique position that this is one of the key provisions of the Draft relating to the Oversight of code application.
- Chair of the Legislative Committee Džavid Šabović,

Deputy Chair Velizar Kaluđerović and Vladislav Bojović, member of the Committee spoke with representatives of the Venice Commission on set of laws from the field of judiciary. Representatives of the Legislative Committee showed particular interest in Draft Law on Public Prosecution Office and Draft Law on Special Public Prosecution Office. With regard to that, representatives of the Legislative Committee stated specific objectives to solutions proposed in concerned draft laws.

- Chair of the Committee on Economy, Finance and Budget Aleksandar Damjanović and Chair of the Committee on Tourism, Agriculture, Ecology and Spatial Planning Predrag Sekulić participated in the Meeting of Chairpersons of Committees Specialised in Agriculture, Industrial development and SMEs, which took place in Rome. The meeting included three sessions dedicated to European way to quality food: land protection, eco-friendly organic farming and protection of traditional products; internationalisation of SMEs; and reaching the objective industrial renaissance of 20% of GDP by 2020.
- Chair of the Gender Equality Committee Nada Drobnjak and members of the Committee: Branka Tanasijević, Žana Filipović, Ljerka Dragičević, Jelisava Kalezić i Ljiljana Đurašković participated in the work of the workshop "Strengthening Capacities of the Gender Equality Mechanisms". The Chair of the Committee spoke on topics "Institutional mechanisms: Mandate and Responsibility" and "Gender Orientation and Inter-institutional Cooperation".

28 October

- Vice President of the Parliament of Montenegro Suljo Mustafić received representatives of the Youth Initiative for Human Rights: Edin Koljenović from Civic Alliance of Montenegro, Anita Mitić and Jasmin Lazović, representatives of the Youth Initiative from Belgrade. Representatives of the Initiative presented to Mustafić the idea on possibilities for founding the Regional Youth Exchange Programme in the Western Balkans. Mustafić stated that this idea and future models should also be discussed at thematic conferences and panels, where all holders of the process would be included, with full support of parliamentary bodies.
- Annual coordination meeting of representatives of the European Parliament and national correspondents of the parliaments of the Western Balkans and Turkey was held in Bar. The meeting was marked by evaluation of Pre-accession Assistance Programme of the European

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.

CALENDAR



Parliament to the parliaments of the Western Balkans and Turkey for 2014, but also by exchange of opinions on the priority tasks and topics for the following year. In addition to representatives of the European Parliament, participants in the meeting were correspondents of national parliaments of Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo, Macedonia, Serbia and Montenegro, as well as a representative of Regional Secretariat for Parliamentary Cooperation in South East Europe (RSPC SEE).



29 October

- At the eleventh meeting of the Working Group formed in order to prepare Proposal for a Law on Financing of Political Parties and Proposal for a Decision on Establishment of the ad hoc committee, charged with overseeing the work of State Authorities, State Administration bodies and local government bodies in regards to consistent implementation of law for the purpose of building trust in the election process; the work on the draft version of Law on Financing of Political Parties and Election Campaigns, was continued. The meeting was marked by discussion on submitted amendments to the wording of the Working Version of the Law on Financing of Political Parties and Election Campaigns.
- Chair of the Committee on Economy, Finance and Budget Aleksandar Damjanović and Deputy Chair Damir Šehović met with members of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) mission, headed by Alasdair Scott, Head of Mission for Montenegro. At the meeting there was discussion on key economic challenges of Montenegro in the following period. They considered issues relating to the current macroeconomic developments, state of the economy, public finance, with focus on public debt and borrowing policy, as well as implementation of structural reforms, primarily in the field of labour market and pension system.
- Collegium of the President of the Parliament of Montenegro has reaffirmed its conclusions from 79th

meeting of 20 June 2014, when it indicated in due time to unconstitutional activities of foreign newspapers in Montenegro "Informer". The Collegium stated that in the meantime there has been escalation and continuous violation of fundamental constitutional values with new abuses and hate speech directed towards political subjects, NGO and Albanian people in Montenegro, and competent bodies have not undertaken prompt and efficient activities. The Collegium called upon State Authorities, in accordance with current laws, to prevent continuous violations of constitutional norms, stating that the Parliament of Montenegro will - in accelerated procedure - consider proposals for improving legislative regulations which would prevent serious abuses of media freedoms more efficiently.

30 October

- At the twelfth meeting of the Working Group formed in order to prepare Proposal for a Law on Financing of Political Parties and Proposal for a Decision on Establishment of the Interim Committee, charged with overseeing the work of State Authorities, State Administration bodies and local government bodies in regards to consistent implementation of law for the purpose of building trust in the election process, discussion was led on submitted amendments to the wording of the Working Version of the Law on Financing of Political Parties and Election Campaigns.

31 October

- Vice President of the Parliament of Montenegro Suljo Mustafić spoke with Ambassador of the Republic of Belarus to Montenegro Vladimir Chushev. Mustafić pointed out the importance of intensifying political contacts, and strengthening of the economic, industrial and cultural cooperation in relations between Montenegro and the Republic of Belarus. Chushev stated that Montenegro could count on Belarus as a partner country, especially in the process of strengthening political, economic, and cultural forms of cooperation.
- President of the Parliament of Montenegro made a speech on the occasion of celebrating Parliamentarism Day. There was a ceremonious reception of the highest representatives of branches of powers in Montenegro, former presidents of the Parliament of Montenegro, academic community, diplomatic corps, civil sector, media representatives and other invitees, held in state villa "Gorica".

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.