



Parliament of Montenegro

NEWSLETTER OPEN PARLIAMENT

Newsletter on the Parliament of Montenegro Performance ♦ No. 46 ♦ February 2015

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OPEN PARLIAMENT



Parliament of Montenegro

Newsletter on the Parliament of Montenegro Performance ♦ Electronic format ♦ Release: monthly ♦ Year V ♦ No. 46 ♦ February 2015

FOREWORD

Dear readers,

We present to you the key information on activities of the Parliament of Montenegro in the period from 1 to 28 February, which is, in the form of monthly newsletter "Open Parliament", prepared by Parliamentary Service.

In February, sittings of the first, second and third extraordinary session of the Parliament of Montenegro in 2015 were held, during which 19 laws were adopted.

During February, committees considered 22 proposals for a law, eleven proposals for a decision and held other activities within their oversight role.

In focus of this month's newsletter is the Winter Session of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly held from 18 to 21 February in Vienna.

The newsletter is published monthly through which the Parliament endeavours to bring its work closer to Montenegrin citizens.

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 Sitting of the First Extraordinary Session of the Parliament of Montenegro in 2015, the following laws were adopted: Law on Amendments to the Law on Value Added Tax, Law on Amendments to the Law on Tax Administration, Law on Amendments to the Law on Mandatory Social Security Contributions, Law on Amendments to the Law on Fees for access to Certain Services of general Interest and for the Use of Tobacco Products and Electro-acoustic and acoustic Devices, Law on Coffee Tax, Law on Amendments to the Law on Real Estate Tax, Law on Amendments to the Law on National Security Agency, Law on the Constitutional Court of Montenegro, Law on Public Prosecution Office, Law on Special Public Prosecutor's Office, Law on Courts, Law on the Judicial Council and the rights and duties of judges, Law on Arms, Law on Ratification of the agreement on Operational and Strategic Cooperation between Montenegro and the European Police Office, Law on amendments to the Law on Travel Benefits of Persons with Disabilities, Law on Strike, Law on Amendments to the Law on Energy and Law on Amendments to the Law on Inspection Control. Proposal for a Law on Amendments to the Criminal Code of Montenegro and Proposal for the Law on Amendments to the Customs Law did not obtain the required majority.

At the Sitting of the Second Extraordinary Session of the Parliament of Montenegro in 2015, the Law on Amendments to the Law on Pension and Disability insurance was adopted.

Within the Sitting of the Third Extraordinary

Session of the Parliament of Montenegro in 2015, the Agenda was not adopted.

Proposals for a law deliberated in committees

- **Proposal for a Law on Amendments to the Law on Tax Administration** 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 Real Estate 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 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 Customs Law** was considered and proposed to the Parliament for adoption by the Committee on Economy, Finance and Budget.
- **Proposal for a Law on Arms** was considered and proposed to the Parliament for adoption by the Security and Defence Committee.
- **Proposal for a Law on Courts** was considered and proposed to the Parliament for adoption by the Committee on Political System, Judiciary and Administration.
- **Proposal for a Law on the Judicial Council and the rights and duties of judges** was considered and proposed to the Parliament for adoption by the Committee on Political System, Judiciary and Administration.
- **Proposal for a Law on the Constitutional Court of Montenegro** was considered and proposed to the Parliament for adoption by the Committee on Political System, Judiciary and Administration.
- **Proposal for a Law on Public Prosecution Office** 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 Pension and Disability Insurance Law**, submitted by MPs: Miodrag Lekić, Ljiljana Đurašković, Branka Bošnjak, Milan Knežević, Izet Bralić, Janko Vučinić, Andrija Mandić, Nebojša Medojević, Goran Danilović, Branko Radulović, Slaven Radunović, Strahinja Bulajić, Koča Pavlović, Emilo Labudović, Vladislav Bojović, Veljko Vasiljević, Milutin Đukanović, Jelisava Kalezić, Zoran Miljanić, Srđan Milić, Neven Gošović, Velizar Kaluđerović, Aleksandar Damjanović, Snežana Jonica, Obrad Gojković, Radosav Nišavić, Danko Šarančić, Danijela Danka Marković, Srđan Perić, Mladen Bojanić, Dritan Abazović, Džavid Šabović, Radovan Asanović and Predrag Bulatović, was considered and proposed to the Parliament for adoption by the Legislative Committee and the Committee on Health, Labour and Social Welfare.
- **Proposal for a Law on Special Public Prosecutor's Office** 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 Inspection Control** 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 Montenegrin Citizenship** was considered and proposed to the Parliament for adoption by the Legislative Committee.
- **Proposal for a Law on Amendments to the Law on Obligatory Relations** was considered and proposed to the Parliament for adoption by the Legislative Committee and the Committee on Economy, Finance and Budget.
- **Proposal for a Law on Amendments to the Labour Law** was considered and proposed to the Parliament for adoption by the Legislative Committee and the Committee on Health, Labour and Social Welfare.
- **Proposal for a Minimum Wage Law** was considered and proposed to the Parliament for adoption by the Legislative Committee. The same proposal was considered by the Committee on Health, Labour and Social Welfare; however, it did not obtain the required majority.
- **Proposal for a Law on Amendments to the Law on Integrated Prevention and Control of Environmental Pollution** was considered and proposed to the Parliament for adoption by the Committee on Tourism, Agriculture, Ecology and Spatial Planning.
- **Proposal for a Law on Amendments to the Law on Yachts** was considered and proposed to the Parliament for adoption by the Committee on Tourism, Agriculture, Ecology and Spatial Planning.
- **Proposal for a Law on Amendments to the Criminal Code of Montenegro** was considered and proposed to the Parliament for adoption by the Legislative Committee.
- **Proposal for a Law on Amendments to the Law on Enforcement and Security** was considered and proposed to the Parliament for adoption by the Legislative Committee.
- **Proposal for a Law on Conversion of Loans in Swiss Francs CHF into Euros EUR** was considered and proposed to the Parliament for adoption by the Legislative Committee. The same proposal was considered by the Committee on Economy, Finance and Budget; however, the it did not obtain the required majority.
- **Proposal for a Law on Bankruptcy and Liquidation of the Insurance Companies** was considered and proposed to the Parliament for adoption by the Committee on Economy, Finance and Budget.

Proposals for other acts deliberated in committees

- **Proposal for a Decision on Opening Parliamentary**

Investigation and Establishing the Inquiry Committee for Collecting Information and Facts on Actions of Competent State Authorities regarding Protection of State Property and Public Interest on the Occasion of Selling the Property of SC Aluminium Plant Podgorica (KAP) in Bankruptcy with Affiliated Companies and SC Tobacco Plant Podgorica in Bankruptcy was considered by the Committee on Economy, Finance and Budget and the Legislative Committee; however, it did not obtain the required majority.

- **Proposal for a Decision on Dismissal and Election of one member of the Committee on Tourism, Agriculture, Ecology and Spatial Planning of the Parliament of Montenegro** was determined by the Administrative Committee.
- **Proposal for a Decision on Dismissal and Election of one member of the Committee on Political System, Judiciary and Administration of the Parliament of Montenegro** was determined by the Administrative Committee.
- **Proposal for Decision on Election of one member of the Administrative Committee of the Parliament of Montenegro** was determined by the Administrative Committee.
- **Proposal for Decision on Election of one member of the Committee on Human Rights and Freedoms of the Parliament of Montenegro** was determined by the Administrative Committee.
- **Proposal for a Decision on Dismissal and Election of one member of the Committee on Health, Labour and Social Welfare of the Parliament of Montenegro** was determined by the Administrative Committee.
- **Proposal for a Decision on Dismissal and Election of one member of the Constitutional Committee of the Parliament of Montenegro** was determined by the Administrative Committee.
- **Proposal for a Decision on Election of one member of the Anti-Corruption Committee of the Parliament of Montenegro** was determined by the Administrative Committee.
- **Proposal for a Decision on Election of one member of the Commission for Monitoring and Control of the Privatisation Procedure of the Parliament of Montenegro** was determined by the Administrative Committee.

Other activities of working bodies

- At the 35th meeting, 27 February, the **Security and Defence Committee**, in the presence of representatives of the Ministry of Interior, Supreme Public Prosecutor's Office, Supreme Court and National Security Agency, considered information related to organised crime, usury and other security issues, upon which it reached several conclusions.
- At the 43rd meeting of the **Committee on International Relations and Emigrants**, 13 February, 2014

Performance Report and 2015 Work Plan of the Committee were supported.

At the 44th meeting, 16 February, the Committee supported by a majority of votes the proposal for appointing Nebojša Kaluđerović as Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary Ambassador, Head of Montenegro's Permanent Mission to UN and other international organisations, on a residential basis, seated in Geneva.

At the 45th meeting, held on the same day, the Committee supported by a majority of votes the proposal for appointing Dragana Radulović as Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary Ambassador – Head of the Montenegro's Permanent Mission to NATO, on a residential basis, seated in Brussels.

At the 47th meeting, 20 February, the Committee unanimously supported the proposal for appointing Božidarka Krunić as Permanent Representative-Ambassador of Montenegro to the Council of Europe on a residential basis, seated in Strasbourg.

At the 48th meeting, 23 February, the Committee supported by a majority of votes the proposal for appointing Miomir Mugoša as Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary Ambassador of Montenegro to Slovenia on a residential basis, seated in Ljubljana.

- At the 33rd meeting of the **Committee on European Integration**, 16 February, the Committee gave positive opinion on reports on negotiation chapters 16 – Taxation and 29 – Customs union.
- At the 42nd meeting, 10 February, the **Gender Equality Committee** considered marking of the beginning of the campaign “Men's League Against Violence Against Women” and organisation of the Fourth Session of the Women's Parliament.

At the 41st meeting, 18 February, a Study on investment in early education of the children in Montenegro, published by the Ministry of Education of Montenegro and UNICEF Montenegro, was presented. Benjamin Perks, Head of UNICEF Office to Montenegro, presented the study, whose compiling was initiated by the Ministry of Education of Montenegro and UNICEF Montenegro. The goal of this study is to develop a scenario for broadening of the scope of preschool education to all children aged 3 until they are of school age, especially children from disadvantaged and marginalised groups.

The topic of the 43rd meeting, 23 February, was implementation of the Protocol on actions, prevention of and protection against family violence, with special focus on sexual violence. Stana Šćepanović, member of NGO Women Alliance for Development presented the Results on the monitoring of institutions' work in

case of sexual offences for the period 2010 – 2014.

- At the 40th meeting of the **Committee on Tourism, Agriculture, Ecology and Spatial Planning**, 19 February, the Committee supported 2014 Performance Report and determined 2015 Work Plan of the Committee.
- At the 50th meeting, 4 February, the **Committee on Education, Science, Culture and Sports** considered Report on Implementation of Action Plan for Implementation of National Programme for Development of Culture 2011-2015 for 2014 with Action Plan for 2015, considered by the Government at its meeting of 15 January 2015 and Report on realisation of capital projects from the field of culture in 2014, considered by the Government at its meeting of 15 January 2015.

At the 51st meeting, 17 February, the Committee supported 2014 Performance Report of the Committee and 2015 Work Plan of the Committee.

- At the 75th meeting of the **Committee on Health, Labour and Social Welfare**, held on 9 February, the Committee members got acquainted with a letter submitted by the “Association of Parents”, after which it was decided that the Committee shall schedule a theme meeting regarding the submitted letter.
- At the 31st meeting, 11 February, the **Anti-corruption Committee** supported 2014 Performance Report of the Anti-corruption Committee and 2015 Work Plan of the Committee.

At the 32nd meeting of 23 February, control hearing of Ivica Stanković, Supreme State Prosecutor; Raško Konjević, Minister of Internal Affairs, and Mersad Mujević, Director of the Directorate of Public Procurement was held. The topic of the hearing was “Building the premises of the Police security center in Podgorica”, after which the Committee reached several conclusions.



- At the 19th meeting of 2 and 10 February, the **Commission for Monitoring and Control of the Privatisation Procedure** initiated the discussion on Determining the 2015 Work Plan of the Commission.

At the 19th meeting, ended on 16 February, the

Commission supported 2015 Work Plan and reached several conclusions in regards to control of privatisation process of the company MMK “Standard” SC Nikšić.



- At the 49th meeting of the **Administrative Committee**, held on 19 February, the Committee provided a positive opinion on the Rulebook on internal organisation and systematisation of the service of Protector of Human Rights and Freedoms of 31 December 2014 and provided consent to the Rulebook on amendments to the Rulebook on internal organisation and systematisation of the Parliamentary Service. In addition, the Committee unanimously adopted the Annual 2014 Performance Report of the Administrative Committee of the Parliament of Montenegro. Upon request by the MP Group of Democratic Party of Socialists and MP Group of Albanian parties (FORCA, AA), HGI and LPCG, the Committee decided to propose to the Parliament of Montenegro: to dismiss MP Šefkija Murić from the duty of a member of the Committee on Tourism, Agriculture, Ecology and Spatial Planning, and appoint MP Genci Nimanbegu; to dismiss MP Genci Nimanbegu from the duty of a member of the Committee on Political System, Judiciary and Administration, and appoint MP Šefkija Murić as member of the Committee. Additionally, upon proposal by the MP Group of Bosniak Party, the Committee decided to propose to the Parliament to to appoint MP Rešad Sijarić as member of the Administrative Committee and the Committee on Human Rights and Freedoms of the Parliament of Montenegro.

At the 50th meeting, held on the same day, the Committee determined six proposals for a decision. According to the proposal of MP Group of Socialist People’s Party and MP Group of Independent MPs, the Committee decided to propose to the Parliament to: dismiss MP Neven Gošović from the duty of a member of the Committee on Health, Labour and Social Welfare and appoint Radosav Nišavić; dismiss MP Obrad Gojković from the duty of a member of the Committee on Political System, Judiciary and Administration and appoint MP Danijela Danka Marković; dismiss MP Obrad Gojković from the duty of a member of the Committee on Tourism, Agriculture, Ecology and Spatial Planning and appoint MP Danko Šarančić; dismiss Velizar Kaluđerović from the duty of a member of the Constitutional Committee and appoint Neven Gošović; appoint MP Obrad Gojković as member of the Anti-Corruption Committee and Commission for Monitoring and Control of the Privatisation Procedure.

NEWS FROM PARLIAMENT



President Krivokapić paid a visit to the United States of America

President of the Parliament of Montenegro and President Emeritus of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly Ranko Krivokapić paid a visit to the United States of America from 3 to 6 February, and took part in the traditional Prayer Breakfast, whose special guest was President of the USA Barack Obama. The visit was devoted to NATO integration of Montenegro in this key year, during which President Krivokapić had numerous bilateral meetings with American officials, senators and congressmen.



During the visit, President Krivokapić met with Celeste Wallander, a Special Assistant to President Barack Obama and Senior Director for Russia and Eurasia in the National Security Council of the United States of America. The interlocutors exchanged opinions regarding the intensified and focused dialogue by which Montenegro has been meeting conditions for receiving an invitation for full-fledged membership to the NATO until the end of 2015. They jointly noted the progress, but also pointed out to the fields that additional effort should be put into.

In addition, the President met with Senator Roger Wicker, who is also a Chairperson of the First Committee in the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly. Senator Wickers showed intention to continue supporting Euro-Atlantic aspirations of Montenegro, considering Montenegro to be an important factor in stabilisation and cooperation in the Western Balkan region.

During the meeting with Deputy Assistant Secretary for European and Eurasian Affairs Hoyt Brian Yee, the interlocutors jointly assessed that there has been progress

Delegation of the Parliament of Montenegro participated in the Conference in Brussels

Members of the Committee on Economy, Finance and Budget Rešid Adrović and Goran Tuponja participated in the Interparliamentary Conference in Brussels, held on 4 February, within the framework of the Latvian Presidency of the Council of the European Union. The Conference was attended by representatives of 27 member states' parliaments, Members of the European Parliament and Norway.

since the last NATO Summit in Wales, but when it comes to the rule of law additional measurable and continuous results must be achieved, with an emphasis to final verdicts and fight against corruption at all levels. The President also met with Congressman and President of the NATO Parliamentary Assembly Michael Turner. During the meeting with Congressman Turner, President Krivokapić thanked President Turner for extraordinary and continuous effort that he has been making with regard to Euro-Atlantic path of Montenegro. Krivokapić emphasised that the unanimous adoption of Resolution on Montenegro in the U.S. Congress and new efforts he has been making as the President of NATO Parliamentary Assembly are the unique example of friendship and support that a respected congressman may provide for a small country.

During the meeting with Congressman Doug Lamborn, who is a Co-Chair of Montenegrin Caucus, the interlocutors jointly stated that formation of Caucus during Krivokapić's visit in November 2013 was a significant undertaking, enabling the adoption of the unanimous resolution on Montenegrin invitation to NATO.

On the occasion of President Krivokapić's visit to Washington, German Marshall Fund organised a lecture for officials from U.S. administration and diplomatic corps, on the topic: "Euro-Atlantic ambitions of Montenegro – step forward". On the occasion, Krivokapić emphasised historical vertical of Montenegro in building multi-ethnic society and belonging to the right side of history in all major conflicts. "On that tradition, ennobled by Euro-Atlantic integration, Montenegro brings new values to the NATO, measured not only by strength of arms and numbers of soldiers but reliability and perseverance in fight for freedom and justice. Montenegro is even now a part of joint Euro-Atlantic efforts for establishing peace from Afghanistan to Ukraine. The entrance to NATO will create a necessary precondition, as in all East European countries so far, for acceleration of European integration because the two ways are inseparable", President Krivokapić concluded.

The Conference covered topics such as: A European New Deal: stimulating public and private investment for growth and jobs in Europe, Fiscal consolidation and structural reforms: state of play and best practices in implementing the fiscal compact and Strengthening the Social dimension of the EMU.

The keynote speakers for the said topics, among others, were: Martin Schulz, President of the European

Parliament, Ināra Mūrniece, Speaker of the Saeima of the Republic of Latvia, Pierre Moscovici, European Commissioner for Economic and Financial Affairs, Taxation and Customs Commission, Olli Rehn, Vice President of the European Parliament, Jean Arthuis, Chair of the Committee on Budgets, Valdis Dombrovskis, European Commission Vice-President for the Euro and Social Dialogue and Marita Ulvskog, Acting Chair of the Committee on Employment and Social Affairs.

Following the discussion and sharing views on the

Men's League against Violence against Women

Gender Equality Committee of the Parliament of Montenegro and NGO NOVA Centre for Feminist Culture, with partners from the media, has been implementing campaign "MEN'S LEAGUE AGAINST VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN".

According to the United Nations data, one in three women gets beaten, raped or psychologically abused in her lifetime. These statistics lead to a devastating knowledge that over a billion women in the world are exposed to daily psychological or physical violence. According to the World Bank data, women aged 15 to 44 are more at risk from rape and domestic violence than from cancer, traffic accidents or war.

In order to change this situation, changes are needed in the approach to this problem, there needs to be raising of awareness, and more decisive and creative action that could ensure decrease or end of violence against women.

Men, as leaders, decision makers, fathers, and friends, have a significant role in fighting violence against women and with their engagement they show that this problem affects not only women, but society as a whole. They are positive role models to other men and boys.

Montenegrin campaign "16 days of activism against violence against women" in 2008 was supported by sports workers Petar Porobić and Igor Kolaković, as well as Water Polo Swimming Association of Montenegro, Basketball Association of Montenegro, and Football Association of Montenegro. This campaign invited all men to get involved in the solving of this problem by teaching the future generations that violence is not the right path, with a message "Being strong does not mean being a bully".

Within the 2012 campaign, organised by the UN system in Montenegro, European Union Delegation, Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe Mission to Montenegro, Ministry of Justice and Human Rights and Gender Equality Committee of the Parliament of Montenegro, establishment of the League of Extraordinary Gentlemen was initiated as an aid mechanism for supporting the efforts on reducing domestic violence, while 19 students from the Grammar School "Petar I Petrović Njegoš" from Danilovgrad during the campaign "16 days of activism against violence against women" in 2014, recorded a video message: "I am a real man because I will never hit a

said topics, the participants referred to the necessity of encouraging the economic growth of the Union, need for consolidating public finance, decreasing budgetary deficit and the level of public debt. Additionally, they emphasised the need for intensifying structural reforms along with strengthening the role of social dimension of European Union which should enable favourable conditions for recovery and growth, improved functioning of the labour market and increasing of employment.

woman" and posted it on Facebook.

"Men's League against Violence against Women" is a campaign with a basic goal of greater and more engaged involvement of men in the fight against violence against women. This campaign wants to send a message to men in Montenegro that violence against women is not "a women's matter", that men have an important role in suppressing violence against women; that male role models that imply violence cannot be tolerated and that public advocating for end of violence and using the available instruments for that by influential men is an important element of this fight.



Basic elements of the campaign are production and broadcasting of five video messages in which men from various spheres of public life: Nikola Janović, Vladimir Dobričanin, Vladimir Maraš, Danilo Marunović, and Petar Komnenić address the public and primarily other men, with clear messages on necessity of greater and more committed involvement of men in fighting violence against women.

For a certain while, at the global level, the awareness is being raised that gender equality is not possible if this political goal is being treated as exclusively "women's issue". Involvement of men fosters the hope in the successful outcome of fighting both violence against women and domestic violence.

Founding the "Network of Men Leaders" to combat Violence against Women, UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon said: "These men will add their voices to the growing global chorus for action. I call on men and boys everywhere to join us. Break the silence. When you witness violence against women and girls, do not sit back. Act. Advocate. Unite to change the practices and attitudes that condone this violence. Violence against women and girls will not be eradicated until all of us – men and boys – refuse to tolerate it."

IN FOCUS



Winter Meeting of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly held in Vienna

President of the Parliament of Montenegro and President Emeritus of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly Ranko Krivokapić, Vice President of the Parliament of Montenegro Milutin Simović and MP Goran Danilović participated in the Fourteenth Meeting of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly, which took place from 18 to 21 February in Vienna.

Before the start of the Winter Meeting of the OSCE PA, President Krivokapić participated in the extraordinary meeting of the Bureau, gathering the top leadership of the Parliamentary Assembly. At the meeting, the discussed topics included issues requiring dialogue within PA, as well as other topics falling under the competence of the top leadership of the biggest parliamentary assembly in the world. Furthermore, other topics included arrangement of the Spring Meeting of the Vienna Process, chaired by President Krivokapić, and aimed at solving the Ukrainian crisis through parliamentary dialogue.



President Krivokapić met with President of the Republic of Austria Heinz Fischer, President of the National Council Doris Bures and with Dunja Mijatović, OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media.

In addition, Krivokapić visited “Democracy Workshops” in the Parliament of Austria, upon which model and with support of the late Barbara Prammer (President of the Parliament of Austria) the Parliament of Montenegro has started and is successfully implementing this project of educating primary school students on democracy and parliamentarism, in our state.

OSCE PA Mediterranean Forum, which focuses on issues of mutual interest to Mediterranean Sea states, also took place. This year’s Forum was chaired by Isabel Pozuelo (Spain), Vice President of the OSCE PA, and the topic was on security and co-operation in the Mediterranean. The participants agreed that it was necessary to jointly promote values of fight against corruption and combatting human trafficking, as well as the values of energy security and gender equality.

In addition, meetings of the OSCE PA Standing

Committee and a joint meeting of the PA’s three committees were held, which were attended by President Krivokapić. The emphasis during the joint meeting of three committees was placed on the Ukrainian crisis, finding a solution to the crisis and calming the tensions.



The final day of the OSCE PA Winter Meeting started with a meeting of the Standing Committee during which, in addition to presenting the Parliamentary Assembly activities by the end of 2015, there was a reference to financial statements, and reports by observers’ missions from this year’s elections in Ukraine, United States of America, Moldova, and Bosnia and Herzegovina. Furthermore, at the Standing Committee meeting, the amendment to the Rules of Procedure was initiated, in part relating to amendments in the sense that they could only be considered if there were no objections made by any member of the Committee. The majority of votes was needed for the adoption of this amendment; however, the proposal was rejected due to the lack of the needed consensus.

The meeting of the Standing Committee was also marked by the discussion of developments in Ukraine, and efforts of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly regarding ceasefire.

During the debate on the Ukrainian crisis, the attendees were also addressed by Krivokapić, who said that he empathised with the situation in Ukraine, and that discussions on this topic reminded him on discussions led before the signing of the Dayton Agreement. At the Standing Committee meeting, it was referred to the contribution that the OSCE PA provided through the format of the Vienna Process, which gathered two parliamentary delegations, the Russian and the Ukrainian, and which was established during the term of office of the President Krivokapić. In addition, its further activities were specified.

Another session of all three committees was held, which was marked by discussion on the issue of gender equality, with emphasis on participation of women in politics and prevention of violence against women.

FROM THE HISTORY OF MONTENEGRIN PARLIAMENTARISM



LAW ON THE ORGANIZATION OF MINISTRY OF INTERIOR AND ADMINISTRATIVE DIVISION OF STATE

8/21 April 1903.

**WE
NIKOLA I
By the grace of God
PRINCE AND SOVEREIGN OF MONTENEGRO**
Pursuant to Article 15 of Law on Government of the
Principality of Montenegro from 6 December 1902,
At the proposal of Our Minister of Interior,
After hearing Our State Council,
Decided to order and we are ordering this
LAW
ON THE
ORGANIZATION OF MINISTRY OF INTERIOR AND
ADMINISTRATIVE DIVISION OF STATE

Article 1

In addition to the competences enumerated in Article 9 of the Law on Government of the Principality of Montenegro from 6 December 1902, the Administrative section of the Ministry of Interior shall also perform the following activities:

- a) collection of estimates of certain sections and drafting the budget proposal for the Ministry of Interior, and
- b) reviewing, giving consent to, and settling accounts of all Ministry sections, excluding settlement of

accounts of Postal and Telegraph Section.

Article 3

Head of the Administrative Section of the Ministry of Interior shall bear the title of the Chief of Ministry of Interior. He shall assist the Minister in the performance of all his duties and replace him in case of absence or inability to perform the duties, in accordance with Article 7 of the Law on Government of the Principality of Montenegro from 6 December 1902.

Article 7

The Ministry shall have its Rulebook, drafted by the Minister, in accordance with needs and scope of competences of sections of the Ministry.

Nikola, handwritten signature

**From the Law on the organisation of the Ministry of
Interior and administrative division of State, Cetinje,
8 April 1903.**

Pavićević, B, Raspopović, R, ur. Crnogorski zakonici 1796-1916, knj. II, Podgorica (Montenegrin Codes 1796-1916, Book II), Istorijski institut Crne Gore, 1998, pp. 669-671

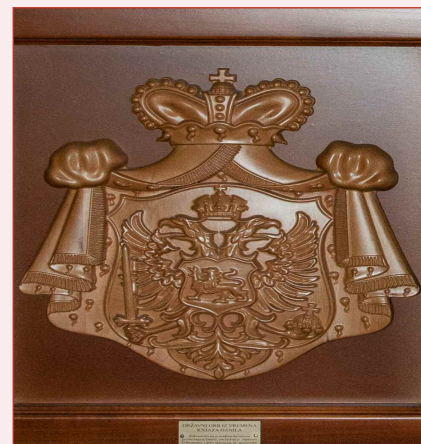
FROM PARLIAMENT'S GALLERY

During the reign of Prince Danilo, the coat of arms was slightly changed. Prince Danilo made an alteration, where in addition to the sceptre, the only insignia initially placed in the eagle's talons, he also added a sword. This coat of arms is interesting because of the unusual combination of the two traditionally unblendable symbols.

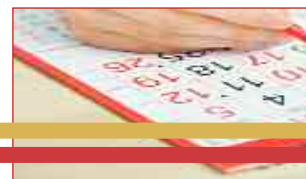
This coat of arms is more commonly known as the war coat of arms.

Almost the entire lambrequin is covered by the baroque shield with a red field containing a double-headed eagle with widely spread wings. In its right talon, the eagle is holding a sceptre and a sword, whereas in its left talon a globus cruziger. Just above the eagle's heads there is a royal crown.

A baroque shield can also be found on the chest of the eagle. In the blue background, there is a lion passant on the green ground, with its front paw lifted up.



CALENDAR



1 February

- Chair of the Committee on European Integration Slaven Radunović and Deputy Chair Marija Maja Čatović participated in the Meeting of the Chairpersons of the Conference of Parliamentary Committees for Union Affairs of Parliaments of the European Union (COSAC), which took place in Riga. The meeting was focused on migration issues within the Union and challenges it carries itself, then economy management in terms of increasing economic growth and improving the policy of employment, and challenges that the member states are facing in the security field.

3 February

- President of the Parliament of Montenegro and President Emeritus of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly Ranko Krivokapić paid a visit to the United States of America and took part in the traditional Prayer Breakfast, whose special guest was President of the USA Barack Obama. During the visit, President Krivokapić met with Celeste Wallander, a Special Assistant to President Barack Obama and Senior Director for Russia and Eurasia in the National Security Council of the United States of America; Senator Roger Wicker, who is also a Chairperson of the First Committee in the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly; Deputy Assistant Secretary for European and Eurasian Affairs Hoyt Brian Yee; Congressman and President of the NATO Parliamentary Assembly Michael Turner; Congressman and Co-Chair of Montenegrin Caucus Doug Lamborn.
- Attendees of the 19th generation of the School of Human Rights, implemented by the Centre for Civic Education (CCE) with support of the US Embassy, visited the Committee on Human Rights and Freedoms of the Parliament of Montenegro. The Chair and members of

the Committee informed attendees of the School of Human Rights on competencies and numerous activities of the Committee, implemented within the legislative and control role of the Parliament. At the very end, there was a ceremonious presentation of certificates to attendees of the 19th generation of the School of Human Rights.

4 February

- Chair of the Committee on International Relations and Emigrants Miodrag Vuković met Director of the Diaspora Administration Predrag Mitrović. As part of a continuous cooperation between the Committee on International Relations and Emigrants and Diaspora Administration of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the interlocutors emphasised the importance of good communication aimed at synchronisation of activities in the process of resolving obstacles that emigrants from Montenegro have been facing. Chair Vuković said that Diaspora Administration had great importance regarding records, connectivity and comprehensive cooperation with emigrants from Montenegro living abroad, and with regard to that he underlined the importance of joint actions of the Committee and Administration, within their competences. Mitrović informed Vuković on experiences and cooperation that Diaspora Administration achieved with associations of emigrants from abroad, as a part of which the cooperation with the Committee could be intensified and improved.
- On the occasion of the Chinese New Year, Ambassador of the People's Republic of China to Montenegro Cui Zhiwei hosted a reception for members of the Friendship Group of the Parliament of Montenegro for cooperation with the National People's Congress (NPC) of the People's Republic of China. The interlocutors agreed that relations between Montenegro and the

PARLIAMENTARY GLOSSARY

Value-added tax. „Value-added tax (VAT) is a net all phase tax which eliminates taxation cumulation, in which only the end consumer is taxed. Essentially, the tax is to be paid in each stage of business cycle, respectively the added value amount, accumulated at a certain stage of the business cycle. Nonetheless, the tax, i.e pre-tax paid by the taxpayer during the supply of goods and services needed for the performance of his business activities, supplied either by domestic or foreign producers, is returned to the taxpayer.“¹

¹Predrag Goranović, Javne finansije, Podgorica, Uprava za kadrove, p.22

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People's Republic of China were traditionally good and friendly, and were being constantly upgraded through constant cooperation, rich and substantive bilateral relations, and continuous political dialogue at all levels.

- Members of the Committee on Economy, Finance and Budget Rešid Adrović and Goran Tuponja participated in the Interparliamentary Conference in Brussels, held within the framework of the Latvian Presidency of the Council of the European Union.

5 February

- Members of the MP Group of Albanian parties (FORCA, AA), HGI and LPCG and Bosniak Party (BS) met with representatives of the EU Delegation to Montenegro. EU Delegation was composed of: H.E. Ambassador Mitja Drobnič, Head of the Delegation; newly appointed Head of Division for the Western Balkans in the European External Action Service Eduard Auer; his associate Herbert Pribitzer; Advisor for European Integration and Human Rights in the EU Delegation to Podgorica Barbara Rotovnik; and Alberto Cammarata, Deputy Head of the EU Delegation in Podgorica. The purpose of this meeting was getting an impression of the political situation in Montenegro and expressing views on accession to NATO and the EU.
- Chair of the Security and Defence Committee Mevludin Nuhodžić and Deputy Chair of the Committee Snežana Jonica met with Head of the Western Balkans Division of the European External Action Service Eduard Auer.



The topics covered at the meeting included, among other things, the implemented reform activities in light of the process of European and Euro-Atlantic integration, with special reference to the role of the Parliament and the Security and Defence Committee in implementing the established strategic priorities.

10 February

- President of the Parliament of Montenegro Ranko

Krivokapić received Jean Eric Paquet, Director for the Western Balkans at the Directorate General of the European Neighbourhood Policy and Negotiations for Enlargement of the European Commission. The interlocutors emphasised that Montenegro is still the leader in the EU integration in the Western Balkans, and that it has entered the negotiation process very intensively as well as the overall harmonisation of domestic laws with European legislation. Krivokapić stated that a lot of work awaited us this year when it comes to important legislative solutions, some of which are already under the procedure, but also regarding a strong institutional action for the full implementation of laws, control and the most important – rule of the law. Paquet assessed that Montenegro has been achieving constant progress in European integration, leading that surge in the Western Balkans and stated that the Parliament of Montenegro will have a strong support of the EC in its further strengthening, because this part of the process of joining the EU is mostly dependable on the work of the Parliament.

- Vice President of the Parliament of Montenegro and member of Permanent Delegation to the Parliamentary Assembly of South-East European Cooperation Process Suljo Mustafić participated in the meeting of the SEECP Parliamentary Assembly General Committee on Justice, Home Affairs and Security Cooperation, which took place in Istanbul. The following topics were discussed in the meeting: “Regional cooperation: Opportunities for cooperation in the field of justice”, “Legal status of refugees: Syrian refugees in Turkey” and “International judicial cooperation in preventing cross-border organised crime”.
- At the ceremony held in Diaspora Administration, Community of Montenegrins in the Republic of Macedonia presented a certificate of thanks to Chair of the Committee on International Relations and Emigrants Miodrag Vuković, members and staff of the Committee for a special contribution in improving the cooperation with emigrants from Montenegro. President of the Community of Montenegrins in the Republic of Macedonia Mirosljub Orlandić thanked the present for continuous support and activities overtaken so far with the aim of improving position and status of emigrants from Montenegro in the Republic of Macedonia and wider, and voiced hope that efforts would be continued for the purpose of improving the cooperation and making it more comprehensive.

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11 February

- President Krivokapić received Paul Gaskell, acting Head of Western Balkans and Enlargement Department in Foreign and Commonwealth Office. President Krivokapić stressed that Montenegrin Parliament has been working devotedly to building and strengthening its full capacities, especially in the part of the oversight and control. Gaskell assessed that Montenegro's efforts and progress on its Euro-Atlantic path are visible and that Montenegro can count on British capacities in terms of advisory and expert help in the process of strengthening the rule of law, the basic commitment on the EU and NATO path.



- Members of the Committee on European Integration met with Paul Gaskell, acting Head of Western Balkans and Enlargement Department in Foreign and Commonwealth Office in order to have a discussion on the topic European and Euro-Atlantic Integrations of Montenegro. The main focus of the meeting was on perspectives of Montenegro's membership to EU and NATO, and the Committee members presented the key aspects of the integration process, from their political point of view.
- President Krivokapić received in a farewell visit Grażyna Sikorska, Ambassador of the Republic of Poland. President Krivokapić emphasised that the state diplomacy represents an important state lever for bringing the states closer and sharing good experiences and thanked Grażyna Sikorska for professional and personal contribution she gave to good relations of the two states and peoples. Ambassador Sikorska stated that her mandate in Montenegro has been a pleasure both on professional and personal plan and emphasised that the Republic of Poland supports Montenegro's path to Euro-Atlantic structures and that our country has been considered as an important factor of peace, stability and understanding in the Western Balkans area.
- Members of the Anti-Corruption Committee met with Paul Gaskell, acting Head of Western Balkans and

Enlargement Department in Foreign and Commonwealth Office.



Chair of the Committee Predrag Bulatović informed the guests with competences and activities of the Anti-Corruption Committee. The main focus of the meeting was on perspectives of Montenegro's membership to EU and NATO, and the Committee members presented the key aspects of the integration process, from their political point of view. In addition to Paul Gaskell, the British Ambassador Ian Robert Whitting also attended the meeting.

14 February

- Gender Equality Committee of the Parliament of Montenegro and NGO NOVA Centre for Feminist Culture, with partners from the media, has been implementing campaign "MEN'S LEAGUE AGAINST VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN".

16 February

- President of the Parliament of Montenegro Ranko Krivokapić received Didier Reynders, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of Belgium. President Krivokapić stated that for Montenegro, the Kingdom of Belgium was an important partner both in bilateral sense and as the state-political centre of the European Union. In addition, President Krivokapić informed Reynders on the intensive work of the Montenegrin Parliament regarding harmonisation of our legislation with the EU acquis. Krivokapić emphasised that the Parliament was working hard on building a better system of the election legislation, in order to regain and strengthen trust in the election process. Reynders said that assessments of the EU institutions in their regular reports on Montenegro were positive, but he also referred to the need for results in implementation of the laws, because the rule of law was the key priority in Montenegro's path toward the EU and NATO integration.
- Chair of the Committee on European Integration

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Slaven Radunović met with Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of Belgium Didier Reynders. During the meeting, the discussion was about Montenegro's integration to the EU and NATO as well as Montenegro's progress in implementing the key reforms. Reynders and Radunović agreed that the reforms should be focused more on implementation than adoption of laws, since in that manner the accession process to the European Union - based on cooperation of all shareholders - would be completed to the satisfaction of Montenegro and its European partners.

17 February

- President of the Parliament of Montenegro Ranko Krivokapić received H.E. Ivica Dačić, OSCE Chairperson and Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Serbia. President Krivokapić stated that for Montenegro OSCE is an important international institution with its value goals following our foreign policy strategic priorities, and supporting our fundamental state policies – of a civic, democratic state, based on the rule of law and freedom. Krivokapić estimated that relations between Montenegro and the Republic of Serbia are good and that there is visible mutual will and willingness to promote them. He also emphasised that his first address to the Parliament from the position of the OSCE PA President was the address to the Parliament of Serbia – that was a certain message that we were gathered together around values and goals promoted by the OSCE, as well as the EU. Dačić estimated that Montenegro was successfully and actively cooperating with the OSCE, and that this cooperation sets an example for everyone in the region.

18 February

- President of the Parliament of Montenegro and President Emeritus of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly Ranko Krivokapić participated in the Fourteenth Winter Meeting of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly, which took place from 18 to 21 February in Vienna.

20 February

- Members of the Committee on Economy, Finance and Budget Aleksandar Damjanović, Chair of the Committee and member of the Board of the Network of Parliamentary Committees on Economy, Finance

and European Integration of the Western Balkan countries; Veljko Zarubica, Almer Kalač; and Genci Nimanbegu, member of the Committee on European Integration; participated in Regional Parliamentary Conference in Tirana, held on the topic: "Parliaments and budgetary and financial oversight in the Western Balkan countries". After the fourth panel ended, several conclusions and recommendations were adopted.

- Chair of the Security and Defence Committee Mevludin Nuhodžić and Deputy Chair of the Committee Snežana Jonica met with Chris Socha, Legislative Director at the US Senate. Topics covered during the meeting included progress of Montenegro on its path toward Euro-Atlantic integration, the role of the Security and Defence Committee of the Parliament of Montenegro in the process, with special focus on the effects of implementing the Law on Parliamentary Oversight of Security and Defence Sector. Cooperation with the authorities and institutions in this sector was also among the topics considered at the meeting.



21 February

- Chair of the Committee on International Relations and Emigrants Miodrag Vuković and member of the Committee Nikola Gegaj attended a ceremonial sitting, held on the occasion of establishment of association titled "Montenegrin Intellectual Circle", in Kosovo. Participation of Delegation of the Committee was especially emphasised as very significant, because it directly reflected the relation of the parliament recognising the importance of emigrants from Montenegro, their potential and the need for closer cooperation with all its institutions. Emphasising that Montenegrins in Kosovo were facing a historic task, i.e. their constitutional recognition, Vuković referred to the necessity that it should be a foundation on which there was a common agreement and the first step toward unity of all people having Montenegro as their country of origin and living in Kosovo.

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22 February

- Members of the Committee on Health, Labour and Social Welfare Srđan Perić and Andrija Popović participated in the Meeting of the Chairpersons of the Committees on Employment and Social Affairs, which took place in Riga. Within the first session, the topic was about promoting inclusion of the most vulnerable groups into the labour market, whereas the second session was about social entrepreneurship, as a tool for achieving social objectives. The third session caused the most controversy, during which the Youth Guarantee Initiative was discussed.

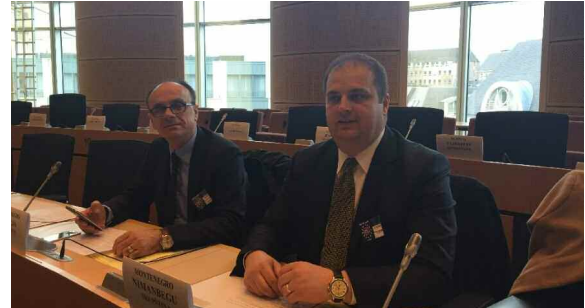
23 February

- President Krivokapić received H.E. Margaret Ann Uyebara, newly-appointed Ambassador of the United States of America. President Krivokapić emphasised that the United States are an important political partner to Montenegro, as confirmed by the meaningful and strong relations between the two countries, adding that this is the year in which in the Mediterranean Montenegro should be the final piece of the puzzle in the map of NATO coastal protection from Portugal to Istanbul. In addition, he stated that our commitment was clear – the rule of law – as a pillar of the country. Uyebara expressed pleasure over coming to Montenegro, especially in the important year regarding the NATO integration, and was grateful for Montenegrin hospitality. Ambassador Uyebara stated that in her term of office she would provide new energy for further development of relations between the two countries.



- Member of the Committee on Political System, Judiciary and Administration Genci Nimanbegu and member of the Security and Defence Committee Luid Ljubo Škrelja participated in the Interparliamentary meeting of the European Parliament and national parliaments, held on Brussels, on the topic: “Smart Borders Package: European challenges, national

experiences, the way ahead”. Participants of the meeting agreed that “smart borders” were needed, with a joint opinion that they would facilitate freedom of movement and contribute to easier mobility of persons who want to cross the outside borders of the EU.



25 February

- Chair of the Committee on Economy, Finance and Budget of the Parliament of Montenegro Aleksandar Damjanović met with SIGMA representatives Bianca Breteche and Klas Klaas, with regard to collecting data required for drafting the report on implementation of principles of public administration in Montenegro, which will be drafted using unique methods for the EU pre-accession countries. The topics covered in the meeting included key novelties of the Law on Budget and Fiscal Responsibility and the existing limitations in establishing new procedures, the role of the Parliament in considering budget framework, improved procedures of considering the proposal for the state budget law and proposal for the state budget final account, implementation of the Parliament’s conclusions and recommendations of the State Audit Institution, promotion of cooperation with the State Audit Institution, and the manner of increasing transparency of spending public funds.
- President Krivokapić received Speaker of the Parliament of the Kingdom of Sweden Urban Ahlin, who paid an official visit to Montenegro, upon invitation by President Krivokapić. Krivokapić emphasised that Sweden, with its tradition as the state of social justice and security, in that sense represented a role model for Montenegro. He also stated that Montenegrin Parliament was continuously strengthening and had more and more knowledge and skills in achieving control and oversight over the executive power, and that is the success of the Parliament as a whole. Krivokapić said that our country was in the intensive stage of the Euro-Atlantic

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integration, and that in that path anyone who was a partner, which Sweden was, meant a lot. Speaker Urban Ahlin estimated that Montenegro was very successful in leading the EU integration in the region of the Western Balkans. Ahlin stated that Sweden would strongly support Montenegro on its European path, and would be our partner every step of the way. He also added that clear criteria and requirements were before us, and expressed certainty that we would meet them successfully, which will bring us even closer to the EU membership.

27 February

- President of the Parliament of Montenegro Ranko Krivokapić opened the conference, titled: “How to enhance the control role of the Parliament”, organised by the NGO “Institute Alternative”. Opening the Conference, President Krivokapić emphasised that the NGO sector was indispensable, especially for small countries, and that the civil society in Montenegro provided more value to the society democratisation process. He stated that parliamentarism was a pillar of democracy, that the Parliament originated as the place for dialogue, but also for conflict resolution, therefore we should go from there when we consider the achievements of Montenegrin Parliament. Krivokapić also estimated that Montenegrin Parliament was the most open and the most transparent institution in the country, and that it was certainly the strongest parliament compared to the executive power in the region.



Chair of the Committee on European Integration Slaven Radunović addressed the participants during the second panel, devoted to the issue of fighting corruption, with the focus on the negotiation process within the chapter 23. Radunović emphasised the lack of measurable results in the said field as the greatest challenge, what was also indicated by representatives of the European institutions. Referring to the

statement by Dirk Lange regarding the additional efforts in fight against corruption and organised crime, Radunović added that the balance clause mentioned in the Progress Report should not be neglected, and emphasised the necessity for more effective actions in the said field.

- President of the Parliament of Montenegro Ranko Krivokapić received Jean-Daniel Ruch, Ambassador of the Swiss Confederation. President Krivokapić noted that Switzerland may serve as an example of wise developmental policy: “Our state priority and our most important mission is strengthening the rule of law. That means safe and stable ambience for investors, which will, I am certain, result in increase of investments from Switzerland as well”, he added. During the conversation, the interlocutors emphasised that Montenegro had a great tourist and in investment potential, particularly in the north of Montenegro, which deserved valorisation and development, what would make a possibility for creating better living standards for citizens.
- Chairs and members of the Committee on Human Rights and Freedoms and the Committee on Health, Labour and Social Welfare Halil Duković, Zoran Jelić, Ljiljana Đurašković, and Srđan Perić, as well as Secretary General of the Parliament of Montenegro Siniša Stanković, met with Head of Unit for Montenegro at the Directorate General of the European Commission for Neighbourhood Policy and Enlargement Negotiations Dirk Lange, and representatives of the European Commission Angela Longo and of the EU Delegation to Montenegro Alberto Cammarata and Mladenka Tešić. Topics covered at the meeting included providing adequate access to the building of the Parliament for persons of limited mobility, as well as implementing the plan of adjusting the buildings in public use for access, movement and use of persons of limited mobility by installing the adequate platform.

