



Parliament of Montenegro

NEWSLETTER OPEN PARLIAMENT

Newsletter on the Parliament of Montenegro Performance ♦ No. 47 ♦ March 2015

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OPEN PARLIAMENT



Parliament of Montenegro

Newsletter on the Parliament of Montenegro Performance ♦ Electronic format ♦ Release: monthly ♦ Year V ♦ No. 47 ♦ March 2015

FOREWORD

Dear readers,

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

In March, first and second sitting and third special sitting of the first ordinary session of the Parliament of Montenegro in 2015 were held. At the First Sitting of the First Ordinary Session of the Parliament of Montenegro in 2015, five laws were adopted.

During March, committees considered 37 proposals for a law, one proposal for a decision and held other activities within their oversight role.

In focus of this month's newsletter is President's official visit to Brussels.

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 First Sitting of the First Ordinary (Spring) Session of the Parliament of Montenegro in 2015, the following laws were adopted: Law on Ratification of the Agreement between the Government of Montenegro and Government of the Republic of Austria for the Avoidance of Double Taxation and the Prevention of Fiscal Evasion with respect to Taxes on Income and on Property, Law on Ratification of the Convention on Nuclear Safety, Law on Ratification of the Agreement between Montenegro and the European Union on the participation of Montenegro in the Union Civil Protection Mechanism, Law on Ratification of the Agreement between the Government of Montenegro and International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL) on recognising Interpol Travel Documents, and Law on Amendments to the Criminal Code of Montenegro.

Within the item *Elections and appointments*, new ministers in the Government of Montenegro have been elected, namely: Zoran Pažin as Minister of Justice, Budimir Šegrt as Minister of Health, Zorica Kovačević as Minister of Labor and Social Welfare and Predrag Bošković as Minister of Education. Previously, Predrag Bošković was dismissed from the duty of Minister of Labor and Zorica Kovačević from the duty of Member of the Parliament of Montenegro.

At the Second Sitting of the First Ordinary Session of the Parliament of Montenegro in 2015, the Parliament considered six proposals for a law.

Parliament of Montenegro

The newsletter is edited by the Education Centre of the Parliamentary Institute.

Prime Minister's Hour and Parliamentary questions

At the Third (Special Sitting) of the First Ordinary Session of the Parliament of Montenegro in 2015, within the agenda item *Prime Minister's Hour and Parliamentary Questions*, MPs questions were answered by Prime Minister of Montenegro Milo Đukanović and ministers in the Government. Seven questions were posed to the Prime Minister, while 63 questions and 14 additional questions were posed to the ministers.

Proposals for a law deliberated in committees

- **Proposal for a Law on Ratification of the Athens Convention relating to the Carriage of Passengers and their Luggage by Sea adopted in 1974 and the Protocol of 2002 to the Athens Convention relating to the Carriage of Passengers and their Luggage by Sea adopted in 1974** was considered and proposed to the Parliament for adoption by the Legislative Committee.
- **Proposal for a Law on Amendments to the Law on Air Protection** was considered and proposed to the Parliament for adoption by the Legislative Committee.
- **Proposal for a Law on Amendments to the Agency for Amicable Settlement of Labour Disputes** was considered and proposed to the Parliament for adoption by the Legislative Committee.
- **Proposal for a Law on Amendments to the Law on Accreditation** was considered and proposed to the Parliament for adoption by the Legislative Committee.
- **Proposal for a Law on Amendments to the Law on Consumer Protection** was considered and proposed to the Parliament for adoption by the Legislative Committee.
- **Proposal for a Law on Ratification of the Energy Charter Treaty** was considered and proposed to the Parliament for adoption by the Legislative Committee.
- **Proposal for a Patent Law** 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 Water** was considered and proposed to the Parliament for adoption by the Committee on Tourism, Agriculture, Ecology and Spatial Planning.
- **Proposal for a Law on Regional Water Supply of Montenegrin Coast Region** 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 National Parks** was considered and proposed to the Parliament for adoption by the Committee on Tourism, Agriculture, Ecology and Spatial Planning.
- **Proposal for a Law on Ratification of the Agreement between the Government of Montenegro and Government of the Republic of Kosovo on police cooperation** was considered and proposed to the Parliament of Montenegro for adoption by the Legislative Committee.
- **Proposal for a Law on Ratification of the Memorandum of Understanding on the Institutional Framework of the Disaster Preparedness and Prevention Initiative for South Eastern Europe** was considered and proposed to the Parliament of Montenegro for adoption by the Legislative Committee.
- **Proposal for a Law on Ratification of the Protocol on Privileges and Immunities of the Southeast European Law Enforcement Center** was considered and proposed to the Parliament for adoption by the Legislative Committee.
- **Proposal for a Law on Ratification of the Agreement between the Government of Montenegro and Government of the Republic of Turkey on Cooperation and Mutual Assistance in Customs Matters** was considered and proposed to the Parliament for adoption by the Legislative Committee.
- **Law on Registers of Temporary and Permanent Residence** was considered and proposed to the Parliament for adoption by the Committee on Political System, Judiciary and Administration.
- **Proposal for a Law on Compensation of Victims of Criminal Acts** was considered and proposed to the Parliament for adoption by the Legislative Committee.
- **Proposal for a Law on Amendments to the Law on Public Broadcasting Services of Montenegro** was considered and proposed to the Parliament for adoption by the Legislative Committee.
- **Proposal for a Law on Cooperation of Montenegro with Diaspora** was considered and proposed to the Parliament for adoption by the Legislative Committee.
- **Proposal for a Law on Bankruptcy and Liquidation of Insurance Companies** was considered and proposed to the Parliament for adoption by the Legislative Committee.
- **Proposal for a Law on Amendments to the Law on Yachts** was considered and proposed to the Parliament for adoption by the Legislative Committee.
- **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 Legislative Committee.
- **Proposal for a Law on Ratification of the Agreement between the Government of Montenegro and International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL) on recognising Interpol Travel Documents** was considered and proposed to the Parliament for adoption by the Legislative Committee and the Committee on International Relations and Emigrants.
- **Proposal for a Law on Ratification of the Agreement between Montenegro and the European Union on the participation of Montenegro in the Union Civil Protection Mechanism** was considered and proposed to the Parliament for adoption by the Legislative Committee and the Committee on International

Relations and Emigrants.

- **Proposal for a Law on Amendments to the Law on Voters' Register** was considered and proposed to the Parliament for adoption by the Legislative Committee and the Committee on Political System, Judiciary and Administration.
- **Proposal for a Law on Amendments to the Law on Election of Councillors and MPs** was considered and proposed to the Parliament of Montenegro for adoption by the Legislative Committee and the Committee on Political System, Judiciary and Administration.
- **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 and the Committee on Political System, Judiciary and Administration.
- **Proposal for a Law on Ratification of the Protocol between Montenegro and Republic of Slovakia together with the Agreement between the Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia and the Socialist Republic of Czechoslovakia on Regulation of Legal Relations in Civil, Family and Criminal Matters of 20 January 1964** was considered and proposed to the Parliament for adoption by the Legislative Committee.
- **Proposal for a Law on Cooperatives** was considered and proposed to the Parliament for adoption by the Legislative Committee.
- **Proposal for a Law on Amendments to the Law on Marine Fisheries and Mariculture** was considered and proposed to the Parliament for adoption by the Legislative Committee.
- **Proposal for a Law on Amendments to the Law on Tobacco** was considered and proposed to the Parliament for adoption by the Committee on Tourism, Agriculture, Ecology and Spatial Planning and the Legislative Committee.
- **Proposal for a Law on Amendments to the Law on Animal Identification and Registration** was considered and proposed to the Parliament for adoption by the Legislative Committee.
- **Proposal for a Law on Amendments to the Law on General Administrative Procedure** 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 the Protection of Consumers-Users of Financial Services** 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 Social and Child Welfare** 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 Gender Equality** was considered and proposed to the Parliament for adoption by the Legislative Committee.
- **Proposal for a Law on expropriation** 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 State Surveying and Cadastre of Immovable Property** was considered and proposed to the Parliament for adoption by the Legislative Committee and the Committee on Economy, Finance and Budget.

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

- **Proposal for a Law on Cooperation of Montenegro with Diaspora** was considered by the Committee on International Relations and Emigrants.

Proposals for other acts deliberated in committees

- **Proposal for a Decision on appointing one deputy member of the State Election Commission** was determined by the Administrative Committee.

Other activities of working bodies

- At the 82nd meeting of 4 March, **Committee on Political system, Judiciary and Administration** considered and reviewed secondary legislation of the Commission for Prevention of Conflict of Interest as follows: Rules of Procedure of the Commission for Prevention of Conflict of Interest; Rules on procedure before the Commission for Prevention of Conflict of Interest; Report on income and property of a public official; Record of reports on income and property of a public official; Extract from the Record of Gifts, as well as Public Catalogue of Gifts. In that respect, and following the expressed opinions and suggestions by certain Committee members, the Committee provided a positive opinion, thus enabling the said secondary legislation to proceed with legislative procedure. In addition, the Committee also considered an initiative submitted by the NGO Civic Alliance on the occasion of marking 800 years since the adoption of "Magna Charta Libertatum", and two initiatives submitted by the MP Azra Jasavić for holding of two control hearings.



At the 85th meeting, 31 March, the Committee unanimously supported 2014 Performance Report of the Committee on Political System, Judiciary and Administration.

- At the 37th meeting, 23 March, **Security and Defence Committee** held a consultative hearing of Minister of Foreign Affairs and European Integration in relation to

the Progress Report on Montenegro with regard to implementation of Membership Action Plan (2013-2014). Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of European Integration Igor Lukšić informed the Committee on activities taken by Montenegro with regard to implementation of the Membership Action Plan (2013-2014), with a special reference to assessment of the manner in which Montenegro implemented the Fourth National Programme. On the basis of conducted discussion, the Committee assessed as positive the fact the European integration has remained, in the observed period, the strategic priority of Montenegro's foreign policy, particularly having in mind the importance of continuation of strengthening the normative legal framework in line with European standards as well as importance of continuously providing contributions to citizens' security, the need for permanent preservation of sovereignty and territorial integrity and additional incentive to economic development of Montenegro.

- At the 49th meeting of the **Committee on International Relations and Emigrants**, 9 March, the Committee members supported by a majority of votes the proposal for appointing Željko Perović as Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary Ambassador - permanent representative of Montenegro to the United Nations on residential basis in New York.
- At the 34th meeting of the **Committee on European Integration**, 13 March, the Committee adopted a positive opinion on the Fourth Quarter Report on overall activities within Montenegro's integration process to the European Union, for the period October-December 2014, and a positive opinion on the Fourth Quarter Report on implementation of obligations stemming from Montenegro's Accession Programme to the EU, for the period 2014-2018, with certain suggestions. The Report on implementation of the 2014 Action Plan for implementation of the Communication Strategy on informing the public on Montenegro's accession to the European Union, for the period 2014-2018 as well as 2015 Action Plan for implementation of the Strategy were also presented. Additionally, the members positively voted on the Initiative for organising a consultative hearing at the joint meeting with the Committee on Economy, Finance and Budget on the topic: "The efficiency of control and use of IPA funds and work of the Auditing body in respect of the EU funds".



At the 35th meeting, 27 March, the Committee considered Action plans for chapters 23 – Judiciary and fundamental rights and 24 – Justice, freedom and security.

- At the 93rd meeting, 9 March, **Committee on Economy, Finance and Budget** considered and unanimously supported 2014 Performance Report of the Committee and determined 2015 Work Plan of the Committee.

At the 94th meeting, 23 March, the Committee supported the Report on the usage of the funds of the Parliament of Montenegro for the period 1 January - 31 December 2014, together with the Report on Public Procurements.

- At the 47th meeting, 5 March, **Committee on Human Rights and Freedoms** considered and supported 2013 Annual Report of the National Preventive Mechanisms Against Torture. In addition, the Committee considered Information on representation of minorities and other minority national communities in state bodies and public administration bodies.



- At the 79th meeting of the **Committee on Health, Labour and Social Welfare**, 2 March, the Committee held the control hearing of Predrag Bošković, Minister of Labour and Social Welfare, Angelina Međedović, Chief Labour Inspector and Zlatko Popović, Chief Inspector for Safety at Work at the Tax Administration of Montenegro, on the topic: "Current situation in the Steelworks *Tošćelik*". After detailed discussion, it was agreed that members of the Committee send proposals for conclusions to the professional service that will be part of the agenda of some of the next meetings of the Committee.

The 82nd meeting of 18 March was held on the topic: *Current situation and positioning of the Committee in respect of the newly arisen situation in Bijelo Polje, with regard to radical hunger strike of families of babies infected in hospital of Bijelo Polje.*

The 80th meeting of 20 March was dedicated to the safety and quality of hospital care for mothers and new-born babies in Montenegro. Following the discussion on the current state in Montenegrin maternity wards and a detailed reference to the quality of care being given to mothers and new-born babies

in maternity wards, it was decided at the meeting that the Ministry of Health of Montenegro, the Association “Parents” and the UNICEF Office in Montenegro should propose guidelines and conclusions that they would address to the professional service of the Committee. Based on that, the public would be informed on the activities undertaken in order to improve the quality of health care in Montenegrin maternity wards.



- A joint meeting between the **Committee on Education, Science and Sports** and the **Committee on Health, Labour and Social Welfare** was held on 3 March, on the topic: “Significance of Investing in Early Childhood Education”. The purpose of the meeting was to draw the attention to the significance of early childhood education for achieving positive social and economic effects for the society as a whole, such as better social adjustment, lower unemployment rate, lower crime rate and other dysfunctional behaviour. The significance of preschool education and the need to expand it to include a greater number of children was especially emphasised, particularly the children of disadvantaged and marginalised groups. Benjamin Perks, Head of UNICEF Office to Montenegro presented a Study on Investing in Early Childhood Education in Montenegro, published by the UNICEF Montenegro in cooperation with the Ministry of Education. In addition, Assistant Secretary General Nataša Komnenić presented the mission of the parliamentary programme Democracy Workshops “Barbara Prammer” and experiences in the work with children in obtaining civic education, where children learn about functioning of democracy through interactive content adjusted to their age.



- At the 33rd meeting, 18 March, **Anti-Corruption Committee** unanimously reached the decision on holding a control hearing of Branimir Gvozdenović,

Minister of Sustainable Development and Tourism and Rajko Barović, Director of “Coastal Zone”, regarding the illegal charging of fees on weekend cottages in Ada Bojana area.

At its 34th meeting, 27 March, the Committee adopted a decision on holding of a joint meeting with the Committee on Political System, Judiciary and Administration on the topic of consultative hearing regarding the implementation of Article 20 of the UN Convention against Corruption on establishing a new criminal offence – illicit enrichment of public officials. In addition, the Committee adopted a Decision on issuing a Public Notice for appointing a member of the Council of the Anti-corruption Agency from among the NGOs.



- At the 51st meeting, 14 March, **Administrative Committee** gave consent to the Rulebook on Internal Organisation and Systematisation of the State Electoral Commission Service. In addition, the Committee determined a Proposal for the Decision on appointing one deputy member of the State Electoral Commission, upon which it decided to propose to the Parliament of Montenegro to appoint Borislav Globarević for a deputy member of the State Electoral Commission. Upon the proposal of Vice President of the Parliament Milutin Simović, the Committee decided to appoint Miodrag Kankaraš, specialist of the production for education and informing of the public, for advisor to the Vice President of the Parliament of Montenegro. The Committee members were informed about the response by the Basic Public Prosecutor’s Office in Podgorica of 27 February 2015 regarding the dismissal of one member of the Council of the Agency for Electronic Media, and with regard to that, by a majority of votes, decided to consider the initiative following the completion of the judicial proceeding.



NEWS FROM PARLIAMENT



Fourth Session of “Women’s Parliament” held

At the opening of the Fourth Session of “Women’s Parliament”, 6 March, President Krivokapić emphasised that even in the historic plane, the woman in Montenegro stood behind all great heroic deed, including those of war, and that from those times of being a worker in silence the woman had received full affirmation, by joining the time of workers of equality and justice, to which the Parliament of Montenegro contributed by launching the Women’s Parliament.



Krivokapić estimated that the Women’s Parliament represented affirmation of women in Montenegro, and a model enabling them to express their views and their achievements on this platform, and that this technique should be a part of our lives, and not a part of

obligations, to become a part of culture in which the mythical, the traditional, and the cultural were linked together.

He also noted that there was a great room for work, effort, and affirmation of women’s achievements, such as the programmes implemented by the Gender Equality Committee, for which Montenegro could be additionally recognised.

Chairwoman of the Gender Equality Committee Nada Drobnjak emphasised that in the year marking two decades since the adoption of the Beijing Platform and Action Programme at the IV Women’s World Conference and in which the Millennium goals were supposed to be achieved, it was significant that on 8 March we should remember all women who fought for achieving economic, political, and social rights of women.

She stated that it was important that each one of us should make the changes happen, in order to achieve the vision, and become a society of gender equality and equal opportunity.

Before the beginning of the session, Chairwoman of the Gender Equality Committee Nada Drobnjak opened the exhibition of art works of the young Montenegrin artist Katarina Zlajić.

Tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parliamentary Committees on European Integration/Affairs of the States Participating in the Stabilisation and Association Process in South East Europe (COSAP) held in Serbia

Chair of the Committee on European Integration Slaven Radunović and members Šefkija Murić and Predrag Sekulić participated in the Tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parliamentary Committees on European Integration/Affairs of the States Participating in the Stabilisation and Association Process in South East Europe (COSAP), held on 11 and 12 March in Serbia.

The emphasis of the meeting was on the exchange of views on Enlargement Strategy and Main Challenges 2014-15, economic reforms and social dimension within the process of joining the European Union. On the occasion, participants emphasised that the progress of neighbouring countries, with regard to European integration, was visible, and stressed the need for joint actions with the aim of solving the open issues through a constructive dialogue, mutual communication and cooperation. The overall integration process is based on the principles of economic development and competition, i.e. building of democratic institutions and respect of human rights. In all those processes, parliaments’ role was emphasised in terms of adopting the relevant provisions, reaching a consensus on vital

questions, control of the executive power and finally through the oversight over the adequate application of the reforms.



Chair of the Committee on European Integration Slaven Radunović stated that developmental path of the Committee was maturing in its activities from the body competent for the formal monitoring of Government’s positions in respect of harmonisation of new legislation with the EU acquis to the Committee which represented the umbrella body in a parliamentary dimension of negotiation process.

Within the topic devoted to economic reforms,

parliamentarians, each from the perspective of their own country, spoke on problems of overcoming the economic crisis, and consolidation in economic terms, but also making efforts with the aim of resolving social issues in the joining process.

Second day of the Conference was marked by the exchange of opinions on the topics relating to practice and challenges in the energy field and cooperation of

Meeting of the Secretary Generals of the European Union Parliaments held in Italy

Secretary General of the Parliament of Montenegro Siniša Stanković participated in the Meeting of the Secretary Generals of the European Union Parliaments, this year held on 13 March in Italy, the country which presided over the EU in the second part of 2014. During the meeting, several issues had been reviewed important for the work of national parliaments, especially from the point of adopting higher quality legislation at the EU level and the role of parliaments in controlling the principle of subsidiarity, in accordance with the Treaty of Lisbon.

Meeting of the Secretary Generals was also a preparation for the Conference of the Speakers of European Union Parliaments, scheduled for 20 and 21 April, also in Rome.

During the first session, the Secretary Generals also discussed matters pertaining to IPEX (Inter-parliamentary exchange of information), as the basic platform for the exchange of information relating to the European Union. The Annual Report of the Inter-Parliamentary exchange of information was adopted at the meeting and the commitment of the Secretary Generals was reiterated regarding further development of IPEX, as a reliable means of exchange of information and documents related to the EU. New IPEX Guidelines have been adopted as well, which introduced taking over a one-year presidency by the country holding the Presidency of the Conference of the Speakers of EU Parliaments or the country holding the Presidency of the Council of the EU in the second half of the year.

The topic of the second session of the meeting of the Secretary General was the support of parliamentary administrations for the preliminary scrutiny and the

states through IPA programme.

The Joint Statement was adopted at the meeting, wherein the participants, inter alia, expressed confidence that existence of the consensus on the continuation of the EU enlargement opened a path towards strengthening of democracy, respect of human rights and sustainable development of the regional countries.

quality of EU legislation, during which views and ideas of the European Parliament and national parliaments were exchanged for the improvement of mechanisms and roles of national parliaments and other institutions and citizens at every stage of the legislative process, in order to make quality of regulations and their application for the benefit of citizens of the Union.



During the third session, the developments in political dialogue were discussed, during which the secretary generals exchanged views on the possibilities of strengthening political dialogue at all levels, both between parliamentarians, and national parliaments, the European Commission and the European Parliament.

The Secretary General of the Parliament of Montenegro, Siniša Stanković had a series of bilateral talks with his colleagues from the parliaments of the EU and the region, during which he informed his interlocutors about the progress that the Parliament of Montenegro had made in the past, and they exchanged views on possibilities for improving bilateral cooperation in order to exchange best practices.

PARLIAMENTARY GLOSSARY

Rule of Law. „The Rule of Law is a principle which holds that law should ‘govern’, as it creates a framework to which overall conduct must conform. It applies equally to all members of society, both regular citizens and government officials. The Rule of Law is, therefore, a basic liberal and democratic principle containing the ideas of constitutionalism and limited government.“¹

¹Endru Hejvud, *Politics*, Beograd, Clio 2004, p. 563

IN FOCUS



President Krivokapić paid an official visit to Brussels

President of the Parliament of Montenegro Ranko Krivokapić paid an official visit to Brussels on 24 March, where he met with President of the European Parliament Martin Schulz and heads of MP Groups in the European Parliament, among whom was Gianni Pittella, Chair of the Group of the Progressive Alliance of Socialists and Democrats in the European Parliament.

During the meeting, President Krivokapić expressed pleasure over the fact that in one of the crucial years of the European integration and a decisive year for NATO integration of Montenegro, the leader of European parliamentarianism President Martin Schulz had provided strong support to key advocates of struggle for implementation of European ideas in Montenegrin society and highlighted the leadership position of Montenegro in European integration in the Western Balkans region.

It was assessed at the meeting that it was especially significant that, immediately after the adoption of conclusions of the European Parliament on Montenegro, the emphasis had been put on measurable and sustainable results in the area of the rule of law – which was the heart of the overall movement of Montenegro towards the European Union.



During the meeting between Krivokapić and Schulz, Montenegrin Parliament received praise, and it was assessed as an example to the region. The interlocutors concluded that the positive assessments received by the Parliament of Montenegro represented a kind of an obligation to create cohesion through dialogue in Montenegrin society which would make the efforts more fruitful in the interest of better life for the citizens and exiting the crisis.

During the visit, Krivokapić addressed the EP Committee on Foreign Affairs, which, in addition to the Chairperson of this body Elmar Brok, was also attended by parliamentarians from the Western Balkans countries and Turkey.

In his address to the EP Committee on Foreign Affairs within the Conference “Development of Political Culture and Strengthening of Political Dialogue towards

Sustainable Democracy”, President Krivokapić stated that the measure of the strength of democracy was precisely the strength of the Parliament, especially in young democracies.

“Inequality is the easiest path to demagogy, and inequality and crisis are the easiest path to populism. We, in the Balkans, have had the experience of strong leaders after whom weak countries remained. The institutions are providers of stability, and the Parliament safeguards that stability and the dignity of the citizens”, stated Krivokapić.

“We must take responsibility for the painful changes. It is important to stabilise our countries in the Balkans and make them stronger. The ruling parties and the opposition should seek the answers to common challenges through dialogue.”

President of the Parliament of Montenegro Ranko Krivokapić

During his stay in Brussels, the President of the Parliament of Montenegro has also had numerous meetings with heads of MP groups in the EP, and among others, he met with Gianni Pittella, Leader of the Progressive Alliance of Socialists and Democrats in the EP. On that occasion the interlocutors stated that the goals such as the rule of law, social justice, freedom of media, and creation of prosperous conditions for the young were something that we should all fight for together. During the meeting they said that Montenegrin Parliament had full support of their counterparts from the EP on its path towards reaching and implementing EU standards.



As soon as the following month, the joint committee of the EP and Montenegrin Parliament will convene in Montenegro, and the Parliament of Montenegro, together with the European Parliament, will host the gathering of regional parliaments on the topic “Independence and Reform of Judicial System in Western Balkans Countries and Turkey”.

FROM THE HISTORY OF MONTENEGRIN PARLIAMENTARISM



CRIMINAL CODE OF THE PRINCIPALITY OF MONTENEGRO

23 February/8 March 1906.

Article II

The Criminal Code of the Principality of Montenegro shall enter into force on 23 April 1906.

Article III

Once the Criminal Code enters into force, certain laws, orders and regulations governing certain criminal offences shall not apply, provided that the said offences are regulated by this law.

Article IV

Criminal offences that are being investigated or tried in certain courts, but the verdict hasn't been reached yet, shall be tried in accordance with this Code, provided that it does not impose stricter punishment in certain cases than the previously written rules and common law would have.

Article V

If this Code has entered into force, and it is found that

certain criminal offences, which according to the Code may only be investigated or tried on request of a private party, have been investigated or tried ex officio, then the courts shall cancel such procedures, provided that the verdict hasn't been reached. i.e. the accused hasn't been convicted. The exception shall be made if the person affected by the criminal offence, within the period specified by the law, demands continuation and completion of procedure.

Article VI

We urge Our Minister of Justice and representative of Our Minister of Education and Church Affairs and Our Minister of Interior to execute this Ordinance and publish this Code, and urge Our ministers to take charge of its execution. On the other hand, we urge the authorities to perform their activities in accordance with the Code, and each and everyone to obey it.

Cetinje, 23 February 1906

Nikola, handwritten signature

From the Criminal Code of the Principality of Montenegro

Pavićević, B, Raspopović, R, ur. Crnogorski zakonici 1796-1916, knj. IV, Podgorica (Montenegrin Codes 1796-1916, Book IV), Istorijski institut Crne Gore, 1998, pp. 52-53

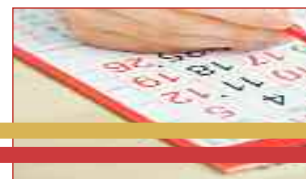
FROM PARLIAMENT'S GALLERY

Personal coat of arms of Prince Danilo is a semi-circular shield diagonally divided into four areas. The upper and lower red areas each contain a silver eagle head facing left, with a golden beak and a red tongue. The right and left blue area each contain a silver eagle wing closed and lowered.

In the heart of the shield there is a semi-circular shield. The red area contains a double-headed silver eagle with its wings spread high, holding in its talons the state insignia, scepter and cruziger. The eagle is crowned with a royal crown.



CALENDAR



2 March

- President of the Parliament of Montenegro Ranko Krivokapić received Krisztian Posa, Ambassador of Hungary. During the meeting, President Krivokapić stated that exam tasks of Montenegro were clear - the rule of law, independent and professional media and the security and defence system according to the NATO standards. Those were not only exams for NATO membership, but also were the key tasks of maturity of state, democracy and society, and therefore the seriousness of the system and institutions. The interlocutors emphasised that this is the year when eyes of the partners are particularly focused on our state, but there is also support for the key steps and reform processes.



3 March

- President of the Parliament of Montenegro Ranko Krivokapić received President of the management board of the Foundation "Sveti Petar Cetinjski" Dragoljub Rašović and Branislav Radulović. Foundation "Sveti Petar Cetinjski" is about to initiate the project of drafting the publication "The 100 most eminent persons from Montenegrin history". The Council, whose president will be Ranko Krivokapić, will be in charge of monitoring the project implementation and reaching final decisions, while members of the Council will be representatives of important cultural institutions in Montenegro. Publication "The 100 most eminent persons from Montenegrin history" will cover the period from the birth of Montenegrin history until 1945.
- Members of the Gender Equality Committee Žana Filipović, Jelisava Kalezić and Branka Bošnjak participated in the Conference of parliamentarian women of South-East Europe, titled: "Equal and empowered-stronger together". Topics covered during the Conference were building power of women in parliamentary political parties, impact of cross party cooperation of women MPs on processes and policies

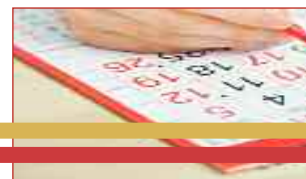
promoting empowerment of women, strengthening the influence of women in parliamentary political parties and implementation of the Istanbul Convention.

- Committee on Human Rights and Freedoms of the Parliament of Montenegro, in cooperation with the UNICEF Office to Montenegro, held a public debate on the topic: "The Rights of the Child – Foster Care" in Herceg Novi. In his address, Chair of the Committee Halil Duković stated that foster care is a very delicate and important subject, and by organising this debate, the Committee wishes to endorse the Campaign "Every child needs a family", implemented as part of a multiannual project titled: "Social welfare and child care system reform: Enhancing social inclusion. On this occasion, the Committee visited Children's home "Mladost" in Bijela and Special Psychiatric Hospital "Dobrota" in Kotor.
- Member of Security and Defence Committee Luid Ljubo Škrelja participated in the roundtable on the topic: "Assessment of Corruption Risk in the Defence Sector", and delivered a speech during the panel entitled "Corruption Risk in Financial Management and Public Procurement". The roundtable was organised for the purpose of presentation of the practical policy study within the final phase of the project "Raising Integrity, Transparency and Accountability in the Defense Sector in Montenegro", supported by Embassy of Canada to Serbia, which is a part of Canada Fund Program.



- Vice President of the Parliament Branko Radulović paid an official visit to the Chamber of Deputies of the Parliament of the Czech Republic. During the visit, Vice President Radulović met with chairpersons and members of the Committee on the Budget: Václav Votava, Jaroslav Klačka, Jiří Dolejš, František Laudat, and Josef Uhlík; the Committee on European Affairs: Josef Šenfeld, Marek Černoch, and Josef Kott; the Electoral Committee: Martin Komárek, Nina Nováková, Pavla Golasowská, and Jaroslav Holík; with Vice Chair

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of the Committee on Constitutional and Legal Affairs and former Public Prosecutor and Minister of Justice Marie Benešová, as well as with members of the parliamentary Friendship Group of the Czech Republic and Montenegro Jiri Stetina and Vaclav Zemek.

5 March

- Delegation of the Parliament of Montenegro composed of Chair of the Committee on International Relations and Emigrants Miodrag Vuković and Chair of Security and Defence Committee Mevludin Nuhodžić participated in the Interparliamentary Conference for the Common Foreign and Security Policy and the Common Security and Defence Policy. Topics discussed during the Conference were the following; “European Neighbourhood Policy”, and “European Common Foreign and Security Policy and NATO – Closer Cooperation in the Context of New Security Challenges”. In addition, four workshops were held on the following topics: “Towards the Riga Summit – Redefining the Eastern Partnership”, “European Response to the Instability and Threats in the Southern Mediterranean and the Middle East”, “The Hybrid War – a New Security Challenge for Europe”, “Challenges and Solutions for EU Battlegroup Deployment within the Existing Legal Framework”.
- Chair of the Anti-Corruption Committee Predrag Bulatović, Deputy Chair of the Committee Obrad Mišo Stanišić, and Committee members: Milorad Vuletić, Koča Pavlović, and Darko Pajović paid a visit to European Commission and European Parliament. The first day, Delegation of the Anti-corruption Committee met with representatives of Directorate General for Neighbourhood Policy and Enlargement Negotiations (DG NEAR), Directorate General for Migration and Home Affairs (DG HOME), and European Anti-Fraud Office (OLAF). The second day, Delegation of the Anti-corruption Committee met with Charles Tannock, Rapporteur for Montenegro, Ulrike Lunacek, Vice President of the European Parliament, Anneliese Dodds, Co-Chairperson of the EU-Montenegro Stabilisation and Association Parliamentary Committee, and Ingeborg Grassle, Chairperson of the Committee on Budgetary Control.
- Chair of the Committee on Economy, Finance and Budget Aleksandar Damjanović, Deputy Chair of the Committee Damir Šehović and member of the Committee Filip Vuković met with representatives of the Expert Mission for a Sector Budget Support within the European Commission Directorate

General for Enlargement Jérôme Dendura, independent expert and Donka Prodanova, project manager for internal market and financial control. The purpose of the meeting was the exchange of information in order to determine the first estimates of managing the public finance and macroeconomic stability. Topics covered in the meeting referred to the current situation and opportunities for improvement of managing the public finance, transparency and budget oversight, as well as to macroeconomic conditions of Montenegrin economy, with special focus on cooperation between the Parliament of Montenegro, through the Committee on Economy, Finance and Budget, and the Government of Montenegro, Ministry of Finance and State Audit Institution.

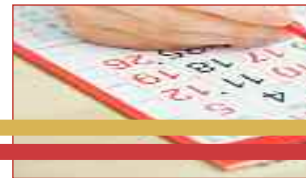


- Vice President of the Parliament of Montenegro Suljo Mustafić met with Deputy Speaker of Kazakh Majilis and special envoy of the President of the Republic of Kazakhstan Sergey Dyachenko. Mustafić stated that there was a possibility for a broad cooperation in the field of trade, tourism, traffic and culture, but that it is necessary to work on signing certain agreements. Dyachenko emphasised that as of 2006 relations between Montenegro and the Republic of Kazakhstan were directed towards development in all fields, hence it is of particular importance to continue good relations in the field of trade and economy, because Kazakhstan is the country which is currently going through economic development. In addition, it is important that our contacts are more frequent and more numerous.

6 March

- Chair of the Committee on European Integration Slaven Radunović met with Aleksandar Saša Zeković, President of the Council for the civil control of the work of police. The meeting was focused on sharing views on accountability and capacity of the police in the European integration context of Montenegro,

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and in particular the negotiation Chapters 23 - Judiciary and fundamental rights and 24 - Justice, freedom and security.



- Fourth session of the “Women’s Parliament” was held, where representatives of the Government of Montenegro answered the questions posed by participants, representatives of women’s associations of parliamentary parties and representatives of civil society. The session was also attended by representatives of diplomatic corps, international organisations, and local administration, MPs and Heads of MP Groups.

7 March

- Chair of the Committee on European Integration Slaven Radunović participated as a lecturer at the training for editors and journalists of daily “Vijesti”, related to techniques and mechanisms for development and reporting about the European Union and the negotiation process of Montenegro with the EU. The topic of the training was the role of the Committee in the negotiation process of Montenegro with the EU.

10 March

- President of the Parliament of Montenegro Ranko Krivokapić delivered an introductory speech at the conference entitled: “Montenegro towards NATO membership”, which was attended by ambassadors of NATO member states and representatives of political parties in Montenegro. Speaking on the conference, Krivokapić assessed that NATO did its historic role, attracting by its strength of value, and by strength the power and arms it deterred, and kept the peace. He noted that there was no time when we should not fight for the peace. And the best way to keep the peace was by bringing difficult decisions now in order to keep the peace in the future”. He also emphasised that by postponing those decisions that guarantee peace - and

NATO is the decision that guarantees peace in Montenegro - we may, unconsciously and in the best intentions by those who do not see that in that manner now, jeopardise the peace in future.

- Chair of the Committee on European Integration of the Parliament of Montenegro Slaven Radunović and members Šefkija Murić and Predrag Sekulić participated in the Tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parliamentary Committees on European Integration/Affairs of the States Participating in the Stabilisation and Association Process in South East Europe (COSAP), held in Serbia. The emphasis of the meeting was on the exchange of views on Enlargement Strategy and Main Challenges 2014-15, economic reforms and social dimension within the process of joining the European Union.

11 March

- Secretary General of the Parliament of Montenegro Siniša Stanković met with Alberto Cammarata, Head of Political, European Integration and Trade Section in EU Delegation in Montenegro and Barbara Rotovnik, Advisor for European Integration and Human Rights in the EU Delegation to Montenegro.



During the meeting, Secretary General presented the activities which the Parliament has been implementing in order to create the conditions for adequate access to the building of the Parliament for persons of limited mobility and persons with disabilities. Furthermore, the plans of the Parliament for enabling greater accessibility of a certain part of parliamentary information for visually impaired and hearing impaired persons by adjusting the website of the Parliament were presented. In addition, the interlocutors shared opinions on the Code of Ethics for MPs, adopted in December 2014, as well as on establishing procedures for handling complaints of citizens and legal persons by Anti-corruption Committee and Committee on Human Rights and Freedoms, within

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the scope of their competences.

12 March

- Representatives of student organisation “School of Business Skills” to the Faculty of Political Science of the University of Montenegro visited the Parliament of Montenegro, and got acquainted with the history of the Parliament of Montenegro, its competences and manner of functioning from the beginning of parliamentarism - back in 1906 to the present.
- Documentary play Seven was performed at the Main Stage of the Montenegrin National Theatre. The documentary play is based on interviews with seven activists for women's rights from: Nigeria, Afghanistan, Guatemala, Russia, Pakistan, Northern Ireland and Cambodia. The stories were read by persons from the public life of Montenegro: Nada Drobnjak, Chair of the Gender Equality Committee, Jelisava Kalezić, member of the Gender Equality Committee of the Parliament of Montenegro, Maja Raičević, Director of the Women's Rights Centre, Tea Gorjanc-Prelević, Director of the Human Rights Action, Fatima Naza, activist of the Centre for Roma Initiative, Marija Vujović-Vukčević, supermodel and Miroslav Minić, teacher of Montenegrin language and literature in Grammar School “Petar I Petrović Njegoš” in Danilovgrad. All of them, by their participation in the project gave support to a basic idea - that violence against women is unacceptable and that it should be considered a political issue.
- Vice President of the Parliament of Montenegro Suljo Mustafić attended the Conference of Chairpersons of Foreign Policy Committees of the Western Balkan countries, which took place in Tirana. During the Conference, opinions and experiences of representatives of committees dealing with foreign policy and regional countries officials were shared, thus contributing to a higher quality of future coordination of joint actions with regard to the European integration of the Western Balkans.



- MPs Miodrag Vuković, Chair of the Committee on International Relations, and Srđan Milić participated in the Crans Montana Forum, held in the Kingdom of Monaco, Dakhla. The Crans Montana Forum, organised under the auspices of King Mohamed VI, brought together a great number of heads of states, prime ministers, ministers and MPs from 112 world's states as well as representatives of numerous organisations and people from business world. During the Forum, attended by more than 700 participants, particularly discussed topics were in relation to the perspective of cooperation with South countries, gender equality and women as key actors in Africa, as well as the panel on the topic of necessity for improving the dialogue among Africa, Maghreb and Europe.

13 March

- Secretary General of the Parliament of Montenegro Siniša Stanković participated in the Meeting of the Secretaries General of the European Union Parliaments, this year held in Italy. During the meeting, several issues had been reviewed important for the work of national parliaments, especially from the point of adopting higher quality legislation at the EU level and the role of parliaments in controlling the principle of subsidiarity, in accordance with the Treaty of Lisbon.

16 March

- Chair of the Committee on Health, Labour and Social Welfare Zoran Jelić met with President of the Council for Civilian Control of Police Operations Aleksandar Saša Zeković. During the talks, Zeković suggested addressing issues of employment of certain categories of persons in police, systematised in three segments: employment of persons with disability in police; employment of members of minorities and other minority national communities in police and employment of LGBT members in police.
- Chair of the Gender Equality Committee Nada Drobnjak met with President of the Council for Civilian Control of Police Operations Aleksandar Saša Zeković. During the meeting, they expressed willingness for cooperation between the Committee and Council. They also talked about the implementation of the Law on Gender Equality, Law on Domestic Violence Protection and the work of the Women Police Officers Network. Additionally, it was emphasised that interest for gender equality issues in police should be increased, as well as importance of education and human rights.

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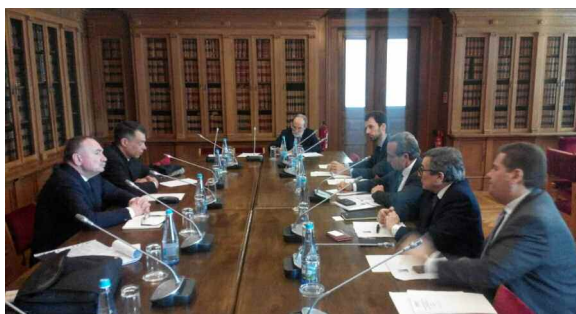


18 March

- President of the Parliament of Montenegro Ranko Krivokapić met with Minister of Internal Affairs of the Republic of Serbia Nebojša Stefanović. President Krivokapić assessed that the structures operating outside the law were especially linked and coordinated in this area of the Western Balkans. He stated that these were common challenges and common threats, as much as our countries were strong that much our citizens would be secure and safe, and standards stemming from chapters 23 and 24 will be met. Stefanović assessed that the police services of the two countries had good cooperation, which was very significant from the point of sharing information, thus resulting in more effective preventive measures. The meeting was also attended by Zoran Bingulac, Ambassador of the Republic of Serbia to Montenegro.
- President of the Parliament of Montenegro Ranko Krivokapić received students of the MIMUN Conference (Montenegro international Model United Nations), held for the third time in Montenegro, and it brought together 70 participants/students, out of which 30 were from abroad.

17 March

- Vice President of the Parliament of Montenegro Branko Radulović paid an official visit to the Parliament of Portugal. During the visit, Vice President Radulović met with Vice President of the Parliament of Portugal Julio Miranda Calha, chairs and members of the European Affairs Committee, Committee on Economics and Public Works, Committee on Budget, Finance and Public Administration and Committee on Constitutional Affairs, Rights, Freedoms and Guarantees. Vice President Radulović and Portugal parliamentarians discussed the current socio-economic state of Portugal after the fulfilment of economic programme of the EU and IMF, political and economic situation in the EU, enlargement policy of the EU towards Western Balkans countries with special reference to Montenegro as well as political and economic situation in Montenegro.



- Secretary General of the Parliament of Montenegro Siniša Stanković met with Director of the Konrad Adenauer Foundation for Serbia and Montenegro Norbert Beckmann-Dierkes.

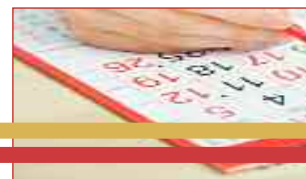


Secretary General of the Parliament acquainted his interlocutor with the manner of work and organisation of Parliament, as well as with competences of working bodies. In this sense, Stanković particularly referred to the activities realised, and are aimed at continuous strengthening of legislative and oversight role of the Parliament. In addition, the role of the Parliament of Montenegro in monitoring the course of EU accession negotiations was also discussed. The interlocutors expressed readiness for continuation of cooperation and considered opportunities for further joint action of the Parliament of Montenegro and the Konrad Adenauer Foundation. In that respect, they also discussed the opportunities for implementing activities related to regional cooperation, as well as in the segment of parliamentary research and education of, primarily, the children and the youth.

19 March

- President of the Parliament of Montenegro Ranko Krivokapić met with H.E. Miroslav Lajčák, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign and European Affairs of the Slovak Republic. Krivokapić and Lajčák agreed that the integration process had no alternative, and that it brings Montenegro closer to the community of free and democratic states. Krivokapić expressed gratitude to the Slovak Republic on the support it has provided to Montenegro from the moment of its independence, especially in relation to the integration process. While stating that the EU negotiation process was the best manner for state transformation and adoption of better standards, he also added that Montenegro was the leader of integrations in the Western Balkans, confirming that the enlargement process still exists, lives and continues. The interlocutors also noted that NATO

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membership was of crucial importance to Montenegro, and that enlargement of Euro-Atlantic family could not be completed without the Western Balkan countries.



- Chair of the Committee on Human Rights and Freedoms Halil Duković met with Head of Democratisation Department of the OSCE Mission to Montenegro Lia Magnaguagno. The emphasis during the meeting was on the recently adopted Code of Ethics for MPs and obligations of the Committee on Human Rights and Freedoms with regard to oversight and monitoring of compliance with the Code. Magnaguagno assessed that adopting the Code of Ethic for MPs is of great importance in order to promote intergrity and accountability of the Parliament of Montenegro and all MPs, and, offered her assistance in establishing procedures for acting in compliance with the Code of Ethics. Chair of the Committee expressed gratitude for the offered assistance, emphasising that it would be very useful and important for all the committee members, since exchanging experience on this topic which was new to Montenegro, was very important.
- Chair of the Committee on Human Rights and Freedoms Halil Duković met with President of the Council for Civilian Control of Police Operations Aleksandar Saša Zeković. Zeković emphasised that the police should be made available to all citizens, emphasising that persons with disabilities must be provided with an adequate architectural access to police departments. He also stated that the possibility for employing a greater number of persons with disabilities and national minority members in police needed to be considered. At the meeting, the interlocutors shared views on implementation of authorisation of police officials in cases of family violence as well as their relation to members of LGBT population.

20 March

- President of the Parliament of Montenegro Ranko Krivokapić met with members of Montenegrin and Belgian Parliamentary Friendship Group David Geerts, Meryame Kitir and Olivier Destrebecq, as well as Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary Ambassador of the

Kingdom of Belgium to Montenegro Leo D'Aes. MPs of the Belgium Parliament emphasised the importance of the reforms being implemented by Montenegro on its path to the EU, adding that it had full support of Belgium in the process of Euro-Atlantic integration. President Krivokapić also discussed with the MPs the challenges that Montenegro was facing in the field of combating corruption and organised crime, as well as the rule of law, as the essential element of fully rounded democracy. Additionally, Krivokapić stated that the rule of law, strengthening of institutions, and sustainable economy were top priorities, and achieving them meant certain steps toward the full-fledged membership in the EU.

- President Krivokapić spoke with Newly-appointed, Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary Ambassador of Canada to Montenegro H.E. Philip Pinnington. The interlocutors agreed that for Montenegro investments coming from Canada were of great importance, and that the work on improving the economic cooperation should be continued. Krivokapić and Pinnington also spoke about Montenegro's strategic priorities on its path to the EU and NATO, with a mutual conclusion that the rule of law was crucial in achieving both goals.
- Chair and members of Security and Defence Committee: Mevludin Nuhodžić, Obrad Mišo Stanišić, Luid Ljubo Škrelja, Snežana Jonica, Velizar Kaluđerović and MP Goran Tuponja met with members of Montenegrin and Belgian Parliamentary Friendship Group David Geerts, Meryame Kitir and Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary Ambassador of the Kingdom of Belgium to Montenegro Leo D'Aes. The meeting was concentrated on Euro-Atlantic integration, with reference to reform of Montenegrin defence and security system and support of public with regard to Montenegro's membership to the NATO.
- Deputy Chair of the Committee on European Integration Marija Maja Čatović and member of the Committee Koča Pavlović met with members of Montenegrin and Belgian Parliamentary Friendship Group David Geerts, Meryame Kitir and Ambassador of the Kingdom of Belgium to Montenegro Leo D'Aes. The meeting was marked by discussion on dynamics of European integration of Montenegro, with special accent to the role of the Committee on European Integration, as an umbrella body within parliamentary dimension of the process.

- Head of Montenegrin and Belgian Parliamentary Friendship Group, Vice President of the Parliament of Montenegro Suljo Mustafić met with members of Montenegrin and Belgian Parliamentary Friendship Group, where he noted that Belgian support in the

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23 March

process of European and Euro-Atlantic integration was very important to Montenegro. Head of Belgian and Montenegrin Parliamentary Friendship Group David Geerts assessed that Montenegro had made great progress in the process of European and Euro-Atlantic integration and that it had strong support of Belgium in the process. Members of Montenegrin and Belgian Parliamentary Friendship Group concluded that the role of the friendship group was significant for deepening and promoting interparliamentary cooperation between the two countries.

- Member of Permanent Delegation of the Parliament of Montenegro to the Parliamentary Assembly of the South-East European Cooperation Process (SEECP) Dritan Abazović participated in the meeting of the General Committee on Economy, Infrastructure and Energy “PA SEECP”, which took place in Sofia. The meeting was held on the topic of “Improving energy efficiency in South-eastern Europe”, wherein the best practices and experiences in this field of “SEECP” member states were presented. The importance of harmonising and sharing the best practices was emphasised, which should result in establishing the system providing the energy security of the Southeast Europe.
- Head of Political and Economic Section of the US Embassy in Podgorica Erik Holmgren visited Democracy Workshops “Barbara Prammer” of the Parliament of Montenegro and talked to the students of the QSI International School of Montenegro on the topic “Democracy and the Parliament”. The International School students had the opportunity to talk to Holmgren and learn from him why participation in democracy was important, how they could contribute, how the elections in America looked like, why voting was important, what were the differences between Montenegrin and US election systems and why division of powers was important. In the workshop, the students also had the opportunity to visit the Parliament of Montenegro, where they were greeted by the President of the Parliament of Montenegro who replied to their questions.



- President of the Parliament of Montenegro Ranko Krivokapić received Bujar Nishani, President of the Republic of Albania. President Krivokapić assessed that Montenegro and Albania were on the same European path, which meant that they are facing similar challenges. He stated that both countries remained with the challenge of strengthening the rule of law, because it was the most significant foundation of the country, and expressed hope that both of our countries would soon be together in the common European home. President Nishani assessed that the political relations of the two countries were friendly and substantial, emphasising that there was a great room for economic cooperation when it comes to underutilised potentials. In addition, he expressed his support to our country in gaining full membership to NATO and EU.

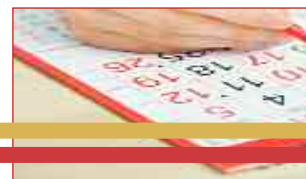


- Group of students of the Montenegrin Association of Political Science Students (MAPSS) paid a visit to the Parliament of Montenegro, and got acquainted with the history, competences and manner of functioning of the Parliament of Montenegro.
- Chair of the Committee on European Integration Slaven Radunović participated in a public debate dedicated to Chapter 15-Energy, organised by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and European Integration in cooperation with the EU Delegation and the British Council. The public debate was marked by discussion on harmonising national legislation with the European Standards in the field of energy, through defining adequate legal framework and its practical implementation.

24 March

- President of the Parliament of Montenegro Ranko Krivokapić paid an official visit to Brussels, where he met with President of the European Parliament Martin Schulz and heads of MP Groups in the European Parliament. During the visit to Brussels, Krivokapić addressed the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the European Parliament where in addition to the Chair of this body

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Elmar Brok, parliamentarians from Western Balkan countries and Turkey attended.

26 March

- Attendees of the XX 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. Following the presentation of the work of the Committee on Human Rights and Freedoms, the Chair of the Committee answered the questions posed by the attendees of the School relating to the state of human rights in Montenegro, successes of this working body, cooperation of the Committee with the organisations dealing with protection of human rights, providing access to the building of the Parliament for persons with disabilities, as well as the proposal for awarding life-time monthly compensation for working women who give birth to three or more children.

28 March

- President Krivokapić led the Vienna Process, that took place in the German city Leinsweiler gathering the Russian and Ukrainian Parliamentary Delegations, in light of the efforts to deescalate the Russian-Ukrainian crisis. In addition, the gathering was attended by OSCE Vice President Doris Barnet and Michael Georg Link, Director of the Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights, dealing with monitoring and control of conducting elections in the OSCE countries.

29 March

- Chair of the Committee on International Relations and Emigrants Miodrag Vuković and member of the Committee Žana Filipović attended the Fifth Annual and at the same time electoral Assembly of the Montenegrin Community in the Republic of Macedonia, held in Skopje. In his address to the Assembly, Vuković emphasised that the Montenegrin Community in the Republic of Macedonia, as well as all associations of emigrants from Montenegro even now have, and always will have, support in the lead committee of the Montenegrin Parliament, and expressed certainty that versatile connection, partner relations, solidarity and cooperation of mainstream and our emigrants in Macedonia in achieving common goals represent the best manner for overcoming

problems, misunderstandings, disagreements, and even division, and that instead we should take the path of building a relationship of mutual respect and trust.

30 March

- Secretary General of the Parliament of Montenegro Siniša Stanković participated in the work of Democracy Workshops “Barbara Prammer” on the topic “Democracy and the Parliament”, where he talked to students of the class VII-2 of the Primary School “Milan Vukotić” from Podgorica. Answering the children’s questions, the Secretary General informed the participants of the workshop on his work and the work of the Parliament of Montenegro, and brought the democratic values, the significance of participating in a democratic society, and the significance of the division of power in a democracy closer to the children. Stanković said to the children to commit themselves to education and pointed out, based on their acquired knowledge, to form their own position and their opinion, to mutually respect each other, to honour and understand each other, because that was the only way to preserve the democratic values.
- Committee on European Integration held four debates with students of grammar schools, namely: “Niko Rolović” – Bar, “Petar I Petrović Njegoš” – Danilovgrad, “Slobodan Škerović” – Podgorica, and “Bratstvo i jedinstvo” – Ulcinj; which were focused on the importance of youth’s role regarding the European integration process and dynamics of implementation of reforms in society. On behalf of the Committee on European Integration, Committee Chair Slaven Radunović and members of the Committee Genci Nimanbegu and Srđa Popović took part in activities in Ulcinj and Bar, while Deputy Chair Marija Maja Čatović and members of the Committee Koča Pavlović and Azra Jasavić participated in activities in Danilovgrad and Podgorica.

