



Parliament of Montenegro

NEWSLETTER OPEN PARLIAMENT

Newsletter on the Parliament of Montenegro Performance ♦ No. 48 ♦ April 2015

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OPEN PARLIAMENT



Parliament of Montenegro

Newsletter on the Parliament of Montenegro Performance ♦ Electronic format ♦ Release: monthly ♦ Year V ♦ No. 48 ♦ April 2015

FOREWORD

Dear readers,

We present to you the key information on activities of the Parliament of Montenegro in the period from 1 to 30 April, which is, in the form of monthly newsletter "Open Parliament", prepared by Parliamentary Service.

In April, second sitting, and the third and fourth special sittings of the first ordinary session of the Parliament of Montenegro in 2015 were held.

During April, committees considered 23 proposals for a law, six proposals for a decision and held other activities within their oversight role.

In focus of this month's newsletter is the Tenth meeting of the European Union - Montenegro Stabilisation and Association Parliamentary Committee, held on 8 and 9 April in Budva.

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 Second Sitting of the First Ordinary Session of the Parliament of Montenegro in 2015, the following laws were adopted: Law on Amendments to the Law on Enforcement and Security, Law on Amendments to the Law on Extrajudicial Proceedings, Law on Amendments to the Law on Free Legal Aid, Law on Consensual Financial Restructuring of Debts to Financial Institutions, Law on Amendments to the Law on Regional Development, Law on Amendments to the Law on Employment and Exercising Rights with respect to Unemployment Insurance, Law on Amendments to the Law on Voters' Register, and Law on Amendments to the Law on General Administrative Procedure. In addition, MPs adopted conclusions brought by the Committee on Economy, Finance and Budget with regard to consideration of Implementation of Conclusions of the Parliament of Montenegro of 30 April 2013, relating to SC Aluminium Plant Podgorica.

Within the item *Elections and Appointments*, Borislav Globarević was elected deputy member of the State Electoral Commission. Within the same item, MP Nebojša Medojević was dismissed from the duty of a member of the Constitutional Committee, whereas Novica Stanić was elected member of the same Committee. In addition, MP Emilo Labudović was dismissed from the duty of a member of the Committee on Health, Labour and Social Welfare, whereas MPs Novica Stanić and Maida Bešlić were elected members of the Committee. Maida Bešlić was also elected member of the Legislative Committee. MP Nikola Gegaj

was elected member of the Anti-Corruption Committee, whereas MP Radosav Nišavić was dismissed from the duty of a member of the Gender Equality Committee.

Parliamentary questions

At the Third (Special Sitting) of the First Ordinary Session of the Parliament of Montenegro in 2015, within the agenda item *Parliamentary Questions*, MPs questions were answered by ministers in the Government. Two questions were posed to the ministers.

At the Fourth Special Sitting of the First Ordinary Session of the Parliament of Montenegro in 2015, within the agenda item *Prime Minister's Hour*, MPs questions were answered by Prime Minister of Montenegro Milo Đukanović. Seven questions were posed to the Prime Minister.

Proposals for a law deliberated in committees

- **Proposal for a Law on Amendments to the Law on Marine Fisheries and Mariculture** was considered by the Committee on Tourism, Agriculture, Ecology and Spatial Planning; however, the proposal did not obtain the required majority.
- **Proposal for a Law on Amendments to the Law on Animal Identification and Registration** was considered by the Committee on Tourism, Agriculture, Ecology and Spatial Planning; however, the proposal did not obtain the required majority.
- **Proposal for a Wine Law** was considered and proposed to the Parliament for adoption by the Legislative Committee.
- **Proposal for a Law on Amendments to the Law on Water** was considered and proposed to the Parliament for adoption by the Legislative Committee.
- **Proposal for a Law on Amendments to the Law on Planting Material** was considered and proposed to the Parliament for adoption by the Legislative Committee.
- **Proposal for a Law on Amendments to the Law on Seed Material of Agricultural Plants** was considered and proposed to the Parliament for adoption by the Legislative Committee.
- **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 Cinematography** was considered and proposed to the Parliament for adoption by the Legislative Committee and Committee on Education, Science, Culture and Sports.
- **Proposal for a Law on the Protection of Cyrillic Script** was considered and proposed to the Parliament for adoption by the Legislative Committee. The same proposal was considered by the Committee on Education, Science, Culture and Sports; however, it did not obtain the required majority.
- **Proposal for a Law on Ratification of the Agreement between the Government of Montenegro and the Government of the Republic of Slovakia on Economic Cooperation** was considered and proposed to the Parliament for adoption by the Committee on International Relations and Emigrants.
- **Proposal for a Law on Ratification of the Agreement between the Government of Montenegro and the 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 Committee on International Relations and Emigrants.
- **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 Committee on International Relations and Emigrants.
- **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 for adoption by the Committee on International Relations and Emigrants.
- **Proposal for a Law on Ratification of the Agreement between the Government of Montenegro and the Government of the Republic of Kosovo on Police Cooperation** was considered and proposed to the Parliament for adoption by the Committee on International Relations and Emigrants.
- **Proposal for a Law on Ratification of the Framework Agreement between Montenegro represented by the Government of Montenegro and the European Commission on Implementing Regulation of the EU Financial Assistance to Montenegro under the Instrument for Pre-accession Assistance (IPA II)** was considered and proposed to the Parliament for adoption by the Committee on International Relations and Emigrants and Legislative Committee.
- **Proposal for a Law on Ratification of the Decision on Montenegro's accession to the Agreement on Government Procurement to the World Trade Organisation** was considered and proposed to the Parliament for adoption by the Committee on International Relations and Emigrants and Legislative Committee.
- **Proposal for a Law on Amendments to the Law on Forests** was considered and proposed to the Parliament for adoption by the Legislative Committee.
- **Proposal for a Law on Amendments to the Law on Flammable Liquids and Gases** was considered and proposed to the Parliament for adoption by the Legislative Committee.
- **Proposal for a Law on Amendments to the Law on Volunteer Work** was considered and proposed to the Parliament for adoption by the Legislative Committee.
- **Proposal for a Law on Amendments to the Law on Gender Equality** was considered and proposed to the

Parliament for adoption by the Gender Equality Committee.

- **Proposal for a Patent Law** was considered and proposed to the Parliament for adoption by the Legislative Committee.
- **Proposal for a Law on Amendments to the Law on Game and Hunting** was considered and proposed to the Parliament for adoption by the Legislative Committee.
- **Proposal for a Law on Amendments to the Law on Public Procurements** was considered and proposed to the Parliament for adoption by the Committee on Economy, Finance and Budget.

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

- Legislative Committee considered Proposal for a Law on Amendments to the Law on Expropriation, while the declaration on the proposal was postponed for the next meeting.

Proposals for other acts deliberated in committees

- **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 Legislative 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 Dismissal of one member of the Gender Equality Committee of the Parliament of Montenegro** was determined by the Administrative Committee.
- **Proposal for a Decision on Dismissal of one member and Election of two members 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 granting a long-term lease of Island Lastavica with fortress Mamula – Municipality Herceg Novi** was considered by the Committee on Economy, Finance and Budget; however, it did not obtain the required majority.

Other activities of working bodies

- At the 36th meeting, held on 2 April, **Committee on European Integration** adopted positive opinion on the Second semi-annual report on the overall activities within the integration process of Montenegro to the European Union, for the period July – December 2014, and considered the degree of implementation of

recommendations adopted at the IX meeting of the Stabilisation and Association Parliamentary Committee (SAPC).

- At the 95th meeting, which ended on 7 April, **Committee on Economy, Finance and Budget** considered the degree of implementation of the Conclusions of the Parliament of Montenegro relating to SC Aluminium Plant Podgorica, which the Parliament adopted on four occasions: 9 February and 8 June 2012, and 30 April and 27 December 2013. In addition, the Committee was informed on the official letters by the Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare, and the Ministry of Finance, relating to implementation of the conclusion No. 4 of 30 April 2013.



At the 97th meeting of 14 April, starting from the initiative by MP Aleksandar Damjanović, the Committee decided to propose to the Parliament to adopt conclusions with regard to consideration of Implementation of Conclusions of the Parliament of Montenegro relating to SC Aluminium Plant Podgorica.

At the 98th meeting, held on 29 April, the Committee reached the decision on holding a control hearing on the topic: “Implementation of policy respectively laws in the field of concessions with reference to implementation of conclusions of the Parliament of Montenegro adopted on the occasion of considering the 2013 Performance Report of the Commission for Concessions of Montenegro”.

- At the 48th meeting, held on 1 April, **Committee on Human Rights and Freedoms** considered and supported the 2014 Performance Report of the Committee and the Proposal for the 2015 Activity Plan. In addition, the Committee unanimously supported Report and nine pieces of information on Activities of the Committee on Human Rights and Freedoms in the period from January to March 2015.
- At the 45th meeting of **Gender Equality Committee**, held on 7 April, the Committee considered 2014 Report on Implementation of the Strategy for Improvement of Position of Roma and Egyptians in Montenegro 2012-2016 and 2015 Action Plan for Implementation of the Strategy for Improvement of Position of Roma and Egyptians in Montenegro 2012-2016. The 46th meeting, held the same day, was dedicated to “Domestic violence in the Roma and Egyptian

community in Montenegro”, opened by the Committee Chairwoman Nada Drobnjak. Members of NGO “Centre for Roma Initiative” from Nikšić organised a forum theatre performance entitled “Arranged marriages stronger than law”, implemented in cooperation with the Gender Equality Committee of the Parliament of Montenegro, Ministry for Human and Minority Rights, International Police Association (IPA), and with the financial support of the OAK Foundation. Seven Roma and Egyptian high school and college students participated in the performance, with the aim of indicating to importance of combating domestic violence and application of legal mechanisms in preventing child arranged marriages.

At the 47th meeting of 20 April, the Committee considered, within its competences, 2014 Performance Report of the Protector of Human Rights and Freedoms of Montenegro. Following the discussion, the Committee unanimously supported the Report and proposed to the Committee on Human Rights and Freedoms, as lead committee, to propose to the Parliament to accept the 2014 Performance Report of the Protector of Human Rights and Freedoms of Montenegro.

- At the 54th meeting, held on 30 April, **Committee on Education, Science, Culture and Sports** introduced Democracy Workshops “Barbara Pramer”, a programme of civic education, which is being implemented by the Parliament of Montenegro. At the opening of the meeting, Chair of the Committee Branka Tanasijević and Secretary General of the Parliament of Montenegro Siniša Stanković presented basic information related to the programme mission. Jelena Ulić, Coordinator of the Democracy Workshop programme emphasised that within two and a half years, over 600 workshops were organised in the Parliament of Montenegro, with 14 000 participants, making up 20 % of the overall number of children (aged 8-15). The programme includes over 60 % of primary schools in Montenegro, coming from 22 Montenegrin municipalities. In addition, a video regarding the work with children was shown.
- **Committee on Health, Labor and Social Welfare** dedicated its 85th meeting to marking of the World Autism Awareness Day, 2 April. In addition to members of the Committee, the meeting was attended by Zorica Barac, Neuropsychiatrist at the Clinical Centre of Montenegro; Željko Darmanović, Director of Resource Centre for Education and Vocational Training “June 1” Podgorica; Tanja Selhanović, Association for Helping the Autistic Persons, and Branka Mujović, Association of Youth with Disabilities of Montenegro.

At the 88th meeting, held on 9 April, the Committee considered and supported 2014 Performance Report of the Committee on Health, Labor and Social Welfare of the Parliament of Montenegro and 2015 Work Plan of

the Committee.

The 89th meeting of 21 April was dedicated to the current situation in SC “Ribarstvo”, Rijeka Crnojevića. Following the discussion, the Committee members were unique in the assessment that help must be provided for employees of the SC “Ribarstvo” Rijeka Crnojevića. The Committee members stated that they would propose conclusions which, following the adoption at one of the following meetings of the Committee, would be submitted to bodies responsible for their implementation.

- At the 35th meeting of 20 April, **Anti-Corruption Committee** issued a public notice for election of members of the Council of the Anti-corruption Agency, noted that the authorised proposers, in accordance with the Law on Prevention of Corruption, submitted the representatives to the Commission in a timely manner, and that all requirements of Article 85 of the Law were fulfilled, and formed the Commission composed of Obrad Mišo Stanišić, representative of the Parliament among the parliamentary majority, Predrag Bulatović, representative of the Parliament among the parliamentary opposition, Dobrica Šljivančanin, representative of the Judicial Council, Slavko Lukić, representative of the Prosecutorial Council, Zoran Vujičić, representative of the NGOs.
- At the 20th meeting of 22 April, **Commission for Monitoring and Control of privatization Process** considered privatisation procedure of the TC “PKB Herceg Novi” SC Zelenika. After the discussion, the Commission members have unanimously reached conclusions on the matter. In addition, the Commission members supported 2014 Performance Report of the Commission for Monitoring and Control of privatization Process.
- At the 52nd meeting of 14 April, **Administrative Committee** considered and unanimously adopted 2015 Work Plan of the Committee. In addition, the Committee determined five proposals for a decision, and hence decided to propose to the Parliament the following: to dismiss MP Radosav Nišavić from duty of a member of the Gender Equality Committee of the Parliament of Montenegro, to elect MP Maida Bešlić for a member of the Legislative Committee and Committee on Health, Labour and Social Welfare of the Parliament of Montenegro, to elect Nikola Gegaj for a member of the Anti-corruption Committee, to dismiss MP Nebojša Medojević from duty of a member of the Constitutional Committee, and to elect MP Novica Stanić for a member of the Committee; to dismiss MP Emilo Labudović from duty of a member of the Committee on Health, Labour and Social Welfare of the Parliament of Montenegro and to elect MP Novica Stanić for a member of the Committee on Health, Labour and Social Welfare of the Parliament of Montenegro.

NEWS FROM PARLIAMENT



Spring Session of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe held in Strasbourg

Delegation of the Parliament of Montenegro to the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, composed of Predrag Sekulić, Head of Delegation, Goran Tuptionja and Snežana Jonica, members of Delegation participated in the Spring Session of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, held in the period from 20 to 24 April in Strasbourg.

First day of the Session, Mladen Bosić, member of Delegation of Bosnia and Hercegovina Parliamentary Assembly, and Dimitris Vitsas, member of Delegation of the Hellenic Parliament were elected PACE vice presidents. In addition, political groups held meetings as well as Committee on Migrations, Refugees and Displaced Persons, Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights, Committee on Culture, Science, Education and Media and Monitoring Committee.



Furthermore, the ceremony of initiating the global parliamentary campaign for stopping the detention of children of immigrants was held, wherein President of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe Anne Brasseur participated.

Second day, the PACE supported the Resolution on Mass Surveillance in which, among other things, it calls for strengthening of parliamentary and judicial control of intelligence services, collection and analysis of personal data without consent of the person concerned only on the basis of a previous court order, and provision of credible, effective protection for whistle-blowers exposing unlawful surveillance activities.

Following the end of the discussion on budget and priorities of the Council of Europe and expenditures of the Parliamentary Assembly in the period from 2016 to 2017, the PACE adopted the Resolution and the Opinion in which it was highlighted that the wide reform process implemented by the Council of Europe in order to enable more effective dealing with the current challenges could be realised only with political and financial commitment of the member states.

In addition, discussion was led on the topic of the humanitarian consequences of the actions of the

terrorist group known as "Islamic State".

Third day, discussion was held on the political and security situation in Ukraine and its implications, discrimination against transgender people in Europe, and legislation and practice of the removal of children from their families in Council of Europe member States.

In addition, Minister for Foreign Affairs and European Affairs of Belgium Didier Reynders presented the Communication on activities of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe in the period between two sessions (February-April 2015).

Furthermore, meetings of political groups were held, as well as meetings of the Committee on Culture, Science, Education and Media; the Committee on Social Affairs, Health and Sustainable Development; the Committee on Equality and Non-Discrimination; the Joint Committee, and the hearing of the Committee on Political Affairs and Democracy; and the Committee on Migration, Refugees and Displaced Persons on the topic of Ukraine and humanitarian challenges.

There was also a meeting of heads of permanent delegations of the parliaments in the region, where opinions were shared on the current issues at the Spring Session and cooperation of these delegations within the PACE.

Fourth day, debates were held on migratory flows in the Mediterranean, Proposal for Additional Protocol to the Convention on the Prevention of Terrorism, post-monitoring dialogue with Monaco, the use of drones in the context of human rights and international law, as well as on the call for the International Football Federation (FIFA) to repeat the vote on the host of the 2022 World Cup. Several resolutions were adopted afterwards.

In addition, the Council of Europe Human Rights Commissioner Nils Muiznieks presented his 2014 Annual activity report.

Meetings of the following were held: the Committee on Migration, Refugees and Displaced Persons; the Committee on Equality and Non-Discrimination; the Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights; and the Monitoring Committee.

At the meeting of the Monitoring Committee, Terry Leyden (Ireland, ALDE) and Ionuț-Marian Stroe (Romania, EPP) were appointed co-rapporteurs for Montenegro in post-monitoring dialogue.

Last day of the Session, debates were held on equality and non-discrimination in the access to justice, and the effectiveness of the European Convention on Human Rights: the Brighton Declaration and beyond.

Conference entitled “Making data available for the purpose of creating effective public policies in Montenegro” held

Secretary General of the Parliament of Montenegro Siniša Stanković participated in the Conference entitled “Making data available for the purpose of creating effective public policies in Montenegro”, in the organisation of the DeFacto Consultancy Agency, as a part of the project: “Strengthening capacities of Parliament’s administration to prepare and evaluate public policies based on data analysis” supported by the United Kingdom Embassy to Montenegro.



At the opening of the Conference, Secretary General Stanković reminded that it was just another among many successful support projects that the United Kingdom’s Government provided for the purpose of strengthening parliamentary administrative capacities and another example of cooperation with partners outside of the Parliament. He added that providing the best possible professional support to MPs remains a priority of the Service of the Parliament of Montenegro. Stanković emphasised that strengthening of the Parliament’s work was a process demanding a continuous improvement of capabilities and knowledge of employees, in order to make a support to MPs in adopting informed decision as effective as possible. Thus, in the previous period, professional staff of committees has initiated the preparation of informative overviews for each proposal for law. Additionally, in 2010, a research service was founded with the task of preparing research papers for the needs of MPs and the

service, and its work has been constantly improved, through cooperation with similar services of European and national parliaments, sharing of information among parliaments and through various programme support as well.

The participants were also addressed by Head of the Sector for Research, Documentation and IT Network of the Parliament of Montenegro Nataša Komnenić, Deputy Head of Mission at British Embassy to Montenegro Lyndon Radnedge, representative of DeFacto Agency Olivera Komar, representative of the House of Commons of the British Parliament David Hirst, UNDP representative Maja Novaković and CDT representative Milica Kovačević.

Head of the Sector for Research, Documentation and IT Network of the Parliament of Montenegro Nataša Komnenić stressed that respecting the significance of important democratic principles, the Parliament of Montenegro has implemented a set of measures to bring the work of the Parliament closer to the citizens, thus it has been recognised as one of the most transparent institutions in the state and wider. Presenting the work of this sector, she stressed that research capacities have been significantly strengthened in the short period, but that there was a room for further improvements in line with requests posed today in front of modern parliaments. Komnenić concluded that she was primarily referring to usage of so-called Open data format in accordance with new technologies, aimed at enabling repeated and easier usage and sharing of data, and their integration with other sources of information.

Within the frameworks of the same project, two-day training for the staff of the Parliament was held, with participation of the representative of the House of Commons of the United Kingdom David Hirst. Hirst shared with his counterparts experiences from the work of the parliamentary library of the British Parliament, with special reference to drafting of parliamentary research papers.

PARLIAMENTARY GLOSSARY

Resolution. „An act adopted by a representative body containing a political decision, not a legal norm. Resolution is adopted following a debate on political issues by which the representative body declares its position. Thus, for example, a resolution may determine a position regarding foreign, internal, financial and other political issues. Given the significance of the representative body, state institutions called upon to implement its policy are obliged to take into account a non-legally binding resolution, since, it is politically binding, hence, in case the state institutions don’t abide by the rules of the resolution, the representative body may impose political sanctions on them.“¹

¹ Pravna Enciklopedija, Beograd, Savremena Administracija 1979, p. 1222

XVII Cetinje Parliamentary Forum held

The Parliament of Montenegro, in cooperation with the OSCE Mission to Montenegro, organised the XVII Cetinje Parliamentary Forum titled "Human Rights and Gender Equality in the Security and Defence Sector". The forum was opened by the President of the Parliament of Montenegro and the President Emeritus of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly Ranko Krivokapić, the Chair of the Security and Defence Committee Mevludin Nuhodžić, Ambassador of the United States of America Margaret Uyehara and Director of the OSCE Secretary General Office Ambassador Marcel Pesko.

In his opening speech, Krivokapić said that the Cetinje Parliamentary Forum, bringing together for ten years representatives of this region, was a place for a successful exchange of experiences that contributed to the development of democratic institutions, as well as the reform processes of countries in the region. He pointed out that declarations on human rights and gender equality that our countries have jointly adopted, have been enabling normative assumption for the improvement of the security system.

He also expressed special gratitude to the OSCE Mission for years of attention and support provided to Montenegro, together with DCAF, UN and other international organizations, appreciating the fact that Montenegro should properly justify the attention.

In his welcome speech, the Director of the OSCE Secretary General Office, Ambassador Marcel Pesko, stressed the importance of the Cetinje Parliamentary Forum as a unique initiative for strengthening regional cooperation, expressing satisfaction that the OSCE was one of the organizers of the meeting. Pesko concluded that human rights and gender equality are key aspects on the normative and operational level of the reform processes in all areas of security and defense sector.

Ambassador of the United States of America Margaret Uyehara, in her speech stressed that the support of women's rights was essential for the development of a democratic society. She indicated that the United States have been very committed to its cooperation with Montenegro in terms of gender equality, stating that the percentage of women in the Military of Montenegro was about 8%, and that even highly developed countries had lower percentage, comparing it to the US where it was about 15 percent.

During the forum, several sessions were held on the following topics: "Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms for the Security and Armed Forces Personnel", "Gender and Security Sector Governance and Reform", "Perception of Human Rights and Gender for Security and Armed Forces Personnel in SEE: Legislative and Institutional Framework, Human

Rights and Gender Training in Practice", "The Way Forward: Streamlining Human Rights and Gender for the Security Sector in General Policies, Training Programmes and Education Curricula".



Chair of the Security and Defence Committee Mevludin Nuhodžić moderated the first session titled "Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms for the Security and Armed Forces Personnel". During this session speeches were given by Bauke Snoep from the Centre for European Security Studies (CESS) from the Netherlands and Jan Haukaas, Special Adviser to the OSCE ODIHR Director, the representative in Vienna.

Chair of the Gender Equality Committee of the Parliament of Montenegro Nada Drobnjak moderated the session titled "Gender and Security Sector Governance and Reform". Drobnjak said that Greater representation of women contributes to well-functioning institutions and establishing of greater confidence in the security sector contributes, because it is considered that representation of a certain gender negatively affects the social and economic development, potentially endangering the rule of law.

During the third session titled "Perception of Human Rights and Gender for Security and Armed Forces Personnel in SEE: Legislative and Institutional Framework, Human Rights and Gender Training in Practice", moderated by Aleksandar Saša Zeković, the Chair of the Council for Civilian Control of Police Operations, participants of the meeting jointly discussed the situation in terms of human rights for members of security and armed forces in the region, as well as exceptions or limitations in this regard.

The session "The Way Forward: Streamlining Human Rights and Gender for the Security Sector in General Policies, Training Programmes and Education Curricula", was moderated by Mevludin Nuhodžić, Chair of the Security and Defence Committee of the Parliament of Montenegro.

During this session, the participants were also addressed by Vladimir Ragozin, Security Co-operation Programme Manager in the OSCE Mission to Montenegro and Milan Sekuloski from DCAF.

XVII Cetinje Parliamentary Forum ended with the adoption of the Joint Declaration.

IN FOCUS



Tenth meeting of the European Union - Montenegro Stabilisation and Association Parliamentary Committee held in Budva

Tenth meeting of the European Union - Montenegro Stabilisation and Association Parliamentary Committee (SAPC) was held on 8 and 9 April in Budva.

Opening the meeting, President of the Parliament of Montenegro Ranko Krivokapić emphasised that Montenegro had a stable, leading position in the region when it came to meeting its European obligations, and noted that as a state, Montenegro gives an additional contribution to the movement of the region towards the EU and the overall growth of confidence in the integration process. In addition, he emphasised that the Parliament as an institution maintained a positive role in the EU reports, and that it has been working devotedly to improve capacities by advocating interests of citizens.

Chair of the Delegation of the European Parliament Anneliese Dodds said that the EU noticed the significant progress made by Montenegro in numerous fields and praised the strong commitment of members of the Montenegrin Parliament and citizens regarding the joining process. Dodds added that the progress in chapters 23 and 24 was of key importance, adding that the EU would be focused in the future on meeting of obligations in the field of the legislative framework but also on the fight against corruption, media freedom, human rights, women's and minority groups rights as well as rights of disabled persons.



Speaking on the current state of accession negotiations and relations between the European Union and Montenegro, Deputy Prime Minister of the Government Duško Marković emphasised that the state was devoted to the rule of the law and strengthening the work of courts and police, as well as fight against corruption and organised crime, whereas Ambassador of Latvia to Montenegro H.E. Imants Liegis stated that Latvia remained a major supporter of the European Union enlargement process and fast dynamics of the negotiation process and emphasised that the effective implementation of the legislation, rule of law, fight

against corruption and organised crime and strengthening of administrative capacities remained a task that Montenegro had to work on furtherly.

Head of the EU Delegation to Montenegro Mitja Drobnič praised the pace of Montenegro in opening negotiating chapters, stressing that the EU has carefully monitored its meeting of obligations, noting that 2015 should be a year of actual results for Montenegro. In addition, Drobnič praised a significant legislative activity by the Parliament, adding that the proactive role that the Parliament played in supervising the executive power was a key for negotiation process.

During the meeting, participants were also addressed by Chair of the Committee on European Integration and Deputy Co-Chair of the SAPC Slaven Radunović, Vice President of the Parliament and SAPC member Milutin Simović and Minister of Justice Zoran Pažin.

The second day was dedicated to the position of persons with disabilities in Montenegro and the European Disability Strategy, social policy, employment, and economic developments.

On the topic of the position of persons with disabilities in Montenegro and the European Disability Strategy, MEP Mark Plura emphasised that it was very important to adopt and abide by the principles of the UN Convention on Persons with Disabilities, but that it was more important to implement those principles in practice.

MP Nada Drobnjak emphasised that unfortunately, the Parliament of Montenegro had been prevented by the bureaucratic procedures, so that only in March this year a Public Notice was issued for adapting the access to Montenegrin Parliament for persons of limited mobility. She concluded that changing the cultural context was the most important thing.

MEPs Petra Kammerevert and Terry Reintke emphasised that it was important to cover this topic in the SAPC, and noted that not even in the EU member states everything was completed or perfect with regard to the adaptation process. They stated that the Parliament of Montenegro would play a very important role by promptly resolving this issue.

On the topic of social politics, employment and economic development, the participants were addressed by MEP Jozo Radoš, and MPs of the Montenegrin Parliament Danko Šarančić, Mevludin Nuhodžić and Koča Pavlović. At the end of the Conference, a Joint Declaration was adopted.

FROM THE HISTORY OF MONTENEGRIN PARLIAMENTARISM



Law on Ministerial Responsibility

20 July/ 2 August 1906

**WE
NIKOLA I**
By the grace of God
PRINCE AND SOVEREIGN OF MONTENEGRO
Declare and announce
that
Pursuant to point 3 paragraph II Article 221 of
Constitution
At the proposal of Our Minister of Interior,
After hearing Our State Council,
Decided to order and are ordering this

Law

On

Ministerial

Responsibility

PART I

Actions for which ministers are to be held accountable

Article 1

Ministers shall be held accountable for all their official actions to Prince and Sovereign and Parliamentary

Assembly (Article 108 of Constitution).

PART II

PUNITIVE PROVISIONS

Article 4

A fine determined by the punitive provisions of this law shall be imposed on a minister in all cases in which the minister performs actions punishable by this law.

Article 9

In addition to criminal liability for actions envisaged by this law, the minister shall be civically responsible for the damage caused to the state and individuals.

Cetinje, 20 July 1906

Nikola, handwritten signature

From the Law on Ministerial Responsibility

Pavićević, B, Raspopović, R, ur. Crnogorski zakonici 1796-1916, knj. IV, Podgorica (Montenegrin Codes 1796-1916, Book IV), Istorijski institut Crne Gore, 1998, pp. 325-334

FROM PARLIAMENT'S GALLERY

Montenegro was a Principality from 1852 to 1910. Prince Danilo and Prince Nikola sought to strengthen the international status of Montenegro and gain international recognition of its independence, which resulted in Montenegro gaining higher international reputation.

The Coat of Arms of the Principality of Montenegro is a golden crowned double-headed eagle with its wings lifted high, holding a golden sceptre in its left talon, and a blue cruziger covered in gold in its right. On the chest of the eagle there is a shield with a golden lion passing. The lion is in a green field with a blue background. A red cloak with gold fringe around its edges emerges from the crown.



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1 April

- Head of the Parliament of Montenegro's permanent delegation to the NATO Parliamentary Assembly Mevludin Nuhodžić and member of Delegation Borislav Banović attended the 88th Rose-Roth seminar of the NATO Parliamentary Assembly, which was held from 31 March to 2 April in Belgrade, on the topic: "Serbia, Western Balkans and Euro-Atlantic Community". The seminar covered topics such as: Serbia in Euro-Atlantic community, regional cooperation and Euro-Atlantic integration in the Western Balkans, foreign fighters in the Middle East and North Africa, fight against corruption and organised crime in the Western Balkans, reforms with regard to managing the defence sector and integrity, as well as the future of Brussels' dialogue between Belgrade and Priština.



- Chair of the Committee on European Integration Slaven Radunović met with representatives of the Association of Local Democracy Agencies – ALDA. At the meeting, the Chair of the Committee on European Integration, Slaven Radunović and the Secretary General of the Association of Local Democracy Agencies (ALDA) Antonella Valmorbida, discussed about the activities of the organization and possibilities for cooperation. The meeting was also attended by Stanka Parać Damjanović, ALDA coordinator for the Balkans and Kerim Međedović from the Local Democracy Agency in Nikšić.
- Chair of the Committee on International Relations and Emigrants Miodrag Vuković received Secretary General of the international organization ALDA Antonela Valmorbida, coordinator of the regional programme for the Southeast Europe Stanka Parać-Damjanović and representative of the Agency for Local Democracy from Nikšić Kerim Međedović. Presenting the work, activities and project goals of the Association of Local Democracy Agencies, Secretary General Antonella Valmorbida informed the Chair about the plans regarding the organization of the Annual General Assembly in Podgorica. Appreciating the importance of ALDA as an international organization with a wide scope of

operations and activities, Chair Vuković welcomed the initiative and expressed his satisfaction with the proposal that the Committee on International Relations and Emigrants might be involved in the part of the agenda for which they together decide the Committee could make a contribution.

3 April

- Secretary General of the Parliament of Montenegro Siniša Stanković participated in the Conference entitled "Making data available for the purpose of creating effective public policies in Montenegro", in the organisation of the DeFacto Consultancy Agency, as a part of the project: "Strengthening capacities of Parliament's administration to prepare and evaluate public policies based on data analysis" supported by the United Kingdom Embassy to Montenegro. The participants were also addressed by Head of the Sector for Research, Documentation and IT Network of the Parliament of Montenegro Nataša Komnenić, Deputy Head of Mission at British Embassy to Montenegro Lyndon Radnedge, representative of DeFacto Agency Olivera Komar, representative of the House of Commons of the British Parliament David Hirst, UNDP representative Maja Novaković and CDT representative Milica Kovačević.

7 April

- President Krivokapić met with Petros Eftimiu, Executive Director of the Onassis Foundation and former President of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly.



The interlocutors spoke about the opening of the humanist study programme at the University of Montenegro, which would deal with the Hellenic culture issue. They stated that it was necessary to enrich educational programmes, by making them more comprehensive and diversified, and in that manner enable youth to upgrade their knowledge by rich philosophy of the other countries, such as Hellenic.

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Wishing that the intention of the Executive Director of the Onassis Foundation for founding a study programme, and in cooperation with the University of Montenegro, be concretised soon, President Krivokapić gave his full support to the initiative.

8 April

- Tenth meeting of the European Union - Montenegro Stabilisation and Association Parliamentary Committee (SAPC) was held on 8 and 9 April in Budva, and was opened by President of the Parliament of Montenegro Ranko Krivokapić and Chair of the Delegation of the European Parliament Anneliese Dodds. The keynote speakers were Vice President of the Government of Montenegro Duško Marković, Ambassador of Latvia to Montenegro H.E. Imants Liegis and Head of the EU Delegation to Montenegro Mitja Drobnič.

15 April

- Members of the Committee on International Relations and Emigrants Nikola Gegaj, Jasmin Sutović and Darko Pajović met with members of the Committee on European Affairs of the Portuguese Parliament consisted of Deputy Chairperson Vitalino Canas, Ana Catarina Mendes, Carlos São Martinho, Duarte Marques and Raúl de Almeida. It was jointly concluded that the interparliamentary cooperation represented a further contribution and stimulus for the overall relations between Montenegro and Portugal. The meeting was inter alia marked by the topics of current international issues, global challenges, but also common values based on the European principles and standards.



- Deputy Chair of the Committee on European Integration Marija Maja Čatović, Committee members Genci Nimanbegu and Šefkija Murić, and substitute members MPs Goran Tuponja and Emilo Labudović met with members of the Committee on

European Affairs of the Parliament of Portugal. The meeting was marked by discussion on negotiation dynamics of Montenegro's accession to the EU, which was estimated as satisfactory, and relying on opening of eighteen chapters, which took Montenegro halfway on its path towards the EU membership.



16 April

- Delegation of the Committee on International Relations and Emigrants composed of Miodrag Vuković, Žana Filipović and Milan Knežević attended the Sixth Meeting of chairpersons of foreign affairs committees of South East Europe, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro, Croatia, Macedonia and Serbia, which took place in Belgrade. The topic of the meeting was regional cooperation and cooperation of national delegations to international parliamentary organisations.
- Chair of the Committee on European Integration Slaven Radunović and Committee members Obrad Mišo Stanišić, Nada Drobñjak, Predrag Bulatović, Koča Pavlović and Danko Šarančić paid an official visit to the Netherlands on 16 and 17 April in Hague. The aim of planned meetings was exchanging opinions about the enlargement process in the Union, with special emphasis on the process of Montenegro's accession negotiation to the EU, as well as the role of national parliaments in decision making at the European level.
- Vice President of the Parliament of Montenegro Suljo Mustafić and MP Dritan Abazović participated in the meetings of the Ad-hoc Working Group and the Standing Committee of the South-East European Cooperation Process Parliamentary Assembly, held in Tirana, from 16 to 18 April, within the Albanian presidency of this initiative. Topics covered in the meetings included organisation, headquarters and budget of the Secretariat of the SEECP PA, as well as the adopted documents from the previously held

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meetings of general committees.



17 April

- President of the Parliament of Montenegro Ranko Krivokapić opened the Conference of Ministers of Justice and Home Affairs dedicated to combating terrorism. President Krivokapić said at the gathering that terrorism had always threatened fundamental values and emphasised that it was motivated by money and weapons. He noted that in the past terrorism had had different names, but it always threatened fundamental values, and that it had become stronger as much as possibilities strengthened not to control through law and justice what could cause all preconditions for terrorism, and its basic idea was money, which was essentially its key motivation as well as weapons. In addition to Krivokapić, the speakers at the Conference were Minister of Interior Raško Konjević, Minister of Justice Zoran Pažin, Minister of the Interior of Slovenia Vesna Györkös Žnidar, as well as Minister of Home Affairs of Albania Saimir Tahiri.
- Chair of the Committee on Human Rights and Freedoms Halil Duković and Deputy Chair of the Committee Ljiljana Đurašković, representatives of MP Groups: Aleksandar Damjanović from MP Group of Socialist People's Party, Borislav Banović from MP Group of Social Democratic Party, Goran Tuponja from MP Group of Positive Montenegro, Andrija Popović from MP Group of Albanian parties (FORCA, AA), HGI and LPCG, Branka Tanasijević from MP Group of Democratic Party of Socialists, Mladen Bojanić from MP Group of Independent MPs and Almer Kalač from MP Group of Bosniak Party participated in the panel discussion on the topic "Ethics of MPs: from Standards to Practice".

19 April

- Chair of the Committee on Economy, Finance and Budget Aleksandar Damjanović and member of the

Committee Veljko Zarubica participated in the Meeting of the Chairpersons of the Committees on Economic and Digital Affairs, organised within the parliamentary dimension of Latvia's semi-annual presidency of the Council of the European Union in Riga, on the topics: "Resources for a Digital Economy", "Security and Privacy in Digital Space" and "Education and Employment in a Digital Economy".

20 April

- Delegation of the Parliament of Montenegro to the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, composed of Predrag Sekulić, Head of Delegation, Goran Tuponja and Snežana Jonica, members of Delegation participated in the Spring Session of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, held in the period from 20 to 24 April in Strasbourg.

21 April

- Vice President of the Parliament of Montenegro Branko Radulović paid an official visit to Iceland. The visit was organised in order to exchange opinions regarding the current political, social and economic situation in Iceland, current situation and future of the EU, the issue of survival of the Eurozone, security challenges in Europe and the rest of the world as well as complex situation in Montenegro and the Balkans.



22 April

- President of the Parliament of Montenegro Ranko Krivokapić spoke with Speaker of the Parliament of Georgia David Usupashvili, who paid an official visit to Montenegro. The interlocutors agreed that Montenegro and Georgia had friendly relations, which served as an example, and stated good parliamentary cooperation of the two countries. Usupashvili expressed gratitude over the help that Montenegro has been providing to Georgia as a friend, and in the challenging moments that country had been through,

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stressing that Georgia fully supported Montenegro's aspirations for the NATO, which, as he reminded, was also the aim of his country.

- Vice President of the Parliament of Montenegro Suljo Mustafić participated in the XIII conference of the speakers of the parliaments of the Adriatic-Ionian initiative, which, in the framework of the All Chairmanship of Bosnia and Herzegovina took place in Neum, on 22 and 23 April. The conference covered topics such as: "Connecting the region in order to strengthen sustainable tourism" and "Including parliamentary dimension in reaching the goals of Adriatic-Ionian Initiative".



- Delegation of Georgia headed by President of the Parliament David Usupashvili paid an official visit to Montenegro from 22 to 24 April. During the visit, meetings were held with Chair of the Committee on International Relations and Emigrants Miodrag Vuković and members of the Friendship Group with the Parliament of Georgia Žana Filipović and Milan Knežević. The Delegation of Georgia was also composed of Tedo Japaridze, Chairman of the Foreign Relations Committee, Pridon Sakvarelidze, Chairman of the Friendship Group with Montenegro, and Zaza Kandelaki, Ambassador of Georgia to Montenegro on a residential basis, seated in Budapest.

24 April

- Chair of the Committee on Human Rights and Freedoms Halil Duković and Deputy Chair Ljiljana Đurašković met with representatives of NGO Federation of Associations of Parents of Children and Youth with Developmental Disabilities "Our Initiative", Milisav Korać, Executive Director, Slobodan Vuković, Chairman of the Board of Directors and Nataša Anastasova. The meeting was organised with the aim of continuation of cooperation and implementation of activities

envisaged by 2015 Activity Plan of the Committee on Human Rights and Freedoms, devoted to promotion and protection of children's rights, with special emphasis on the rights of children with developmental disabilities.

27 April

- Delegation of the Committee on International Relations and Emigrants composed of Miodrag Vuković, Žana Filipović and Milan Knežević paid an official visit to the the Parliament of the Czech Republic. The aim of the visit was sharing experience of the Czech parliamentarians with regard to functioning of the Visegrad Group, for the purpose of applying the same model of functioning to the initiative of cooperation of foreign affairs committees from Montenegro, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Republic of Croatia, Macedonia and Republic of Serbia.

28 April

- The Parliament of Montenegro, in cooperation with the OSCE Mission to Montenegro, organised the XVII Cetinje Parliamentary Forum titled "Human Rights and Gender Equality in the Security and Defence Sector". The forum was opened by the President of the Parliament of Montenegro and the President Emeritus of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly Ranko Krivokapić, the Chair of the Security and Defence Committee Mevludin Nuhodžić, Ambassador of the United States of America Margaret Uyehara and Director of the OSCE Secretary General Office Ambassador Marcel Pesko.



During the forum, several sessions were held on the following topics: "Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms for the Security and Armed Forces Personnel", "Gender and Security Sector Governance and Reform", "Perception of Human Rights and Gender for Security and Armed Forces Personnel in

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SEE: Legislative and Institutional Framework, Human Rights and Gender Training in Practice", "The Way Forward: Streamlining Human Rights and Gender for the Security Sector in General Policies, Training Programmes and Education Curricula".

29 April

- Chair of the Committee on Economy, Finance and Budget and Head of MP Group of Socialist People's Party Aleksandar Damjanović met with member of the German Bundestag Joachim Pfeiffer. The topic of the meeting was the process of European and Euro-Atlantic integrations of Montenegro, as well as cooperation between countries in the region with special focus on infrastructural networking.



- Members of the Committee on Economy, Finance and Budget Aleksandar Damjanović, Zoran Jelić, Filip Vuković, Almer Kalač, Strahinja Bulajić, Milutin Đukanović and Goran Tuponja met with members of the State Audit Institution Senate Milan Dabović, Branislav Radulović, Dragiša Pešić and Nikola Kovačević in order to consider all aspects of cooperation between the Parliament of Montenegro, i.e. the Committee and this institution. It was assessed that the previous cooperation had been successful and indicated to the need for further improvement in order to strengthen the oversight role of the Committee over spending public funds in the context of legal commitments of SAI and competences of the Committee defined by the Rules of Procedure of the Parliament of Montenegro.

30 April

- Vice President of the Parliament of Montenegro Suljo Mustafić paid a visit to the Municipality of Plav, where he met with Orhan Šahmanović, President of the Municipality. Vice President Mustafić emphasised the need for improving legislation in

order to attract investments for the purpose of reviving the economic activities in Plav and other underdeveloped areas in Montenegro. He emphasised the role of legislative and executive power in achieving better cooperation with Montenegrin Diaspora, noting that municipalities play an important role as well, considering that numerous communities living abroad come from these municipalities. President of the Municipality Orhan Šahmanović concluded that Plav is an underdeveloped area, despite its natural and geographic resources, and that more importance should be given to these resources, e.i. certain preconditions must be met through construction of quality infrastructural projects, particularly roads which would better connect the municipality with its surroundings.

- President of the Parliament of Montenegro Ranko Krivokapić spoke with a group of American alumni of the Marshall Memorial Programme, as well as with Daliborka Uljarević, Coordinator of the programme in Montenegro and Executive Director of CCE. The alumni were particularly interested in the work of the Parliament and its working bodies, and also the cooperation of the Parliament with students and NGOs. The President informed the alumni with the project "Democracy Workshops", which is organised in the Parliament of Montenegro within the frameworks of the programme "Open Parliament", and also explained that its aim was to strengthen the relationship between the Parliament and youth, especially primary school population. In addition, the President referred to the transparency of work of the Parliament and its working bodies, as well as the good practice of participation of representatives of the civil sector in the work of the committees. The group of American alumni, who met with the President were Cristina Aguilar, Rickey Bevington, Neal Carlson, Sean Mann, Mario Guerrero, Celena Roland-Moreno and Carrie Rosenfelt.

