



Parliament of Montenegro

NEWSLETTER OPEN PARLIAMENT

Newsletter on the Parliament of Montenegro Performance ♦ No. 49 ♦ May 2015

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OPEN PARLIAMENT



Parliament of Montenegro

Newsletter on the Parliament of Montenegro Performance ♦ Electronic format ♦ Release: monthly ♦ Year V ♦ No. 49 ♦ May 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 May, which is, in the form of monthly newsletter "Open Parliament", prepared by Parliamentary Service.

In May, fifth sitting and sixth special sitting of the first ordinary session of the Parliament of Montenegro were held. At the Fifth Sitting of the First Ordinary Session of the Parliament of Montenegro in 2015, six laws were adopted.

During May, committees considered 45 proposals for a law, four proposals for a decision and held other activities within their oversight role.

In focus of this month's newsletter is the President's participation in the SEECF Plenary session, which took place on 22-23 May in Tirana.

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 Fifth Sitting of the First Ordinary Session of the Parliament of Montenegro in 2015, the following laws were adopted: Law on Ratification of the Framework Agreement between Montenegro represented by the Government of Montenegro and the European Commission on rules for the implementation of the Union's financial assistance to Montenegro under the Instrument for Pre-Accession Assistance (IPAI), Law on Ratification of the Agreement between the Government of Montenegro and the Government of the Republic of Slovakia on Economic Cooperation, Law on Ratification of the Decision on the Accession of Montenegro to the Agreement on Government Procurement under the Auspices of the World Trade Organization and the Law on Amendments to the Law on Public Procurement, Law on Amendments to the Law on the Judicial Council and Judges and Law on Amendments to the Law on Foreigners.

Within the agenda item *Elections and Appointments*, MP Dritan Abazović was unanimously elected as member of the Constitutional Committee and the Committee on Human Rights and Freedoms.

Parliamentary questions

At the Sixth (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 62 questions were posed to the ministers.

Proposals for a law deliberated in committees

- **Proposal for a Law on Amendments to the Media Law**, submitted by MPs Genci Nimanbegu, Rifat Rastoder and Andrija Popović was considered by the Legislative Committee; however, the proposal did not obtain the required majority.
- **Proposal for a Law on Compensation of Victims of Criminal Acts** was considered and proposed to the Parliament for adoption by the Committee on Political System, Judiciary and Administration.
- **Proposal for a Law on Amendments to the Law on Public Broadcasting Services of Montenegro** was considered by the Committee on Political System, Judiciary and Administration; however, the proposal did not obtain the required majority.
- **Proposal for a Law on Amendments to the Law on Seed Material of Agricultural Plants** 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 Planting Material** 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 Flammable Liquids and gases** 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 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 Forests** 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 Information Secrecy** was considered and proposed to the Parliament for adoption by the Security and Defence Committee.
- **Proposal for a Law on Amendments to the Law on Public Peace and Order** was considered by the Committee on Political System, Judiciary and Administration; however, the proposal did not obtain the required majority.
- **Proposal for a Law on Amendments to the Law on Higher Education** submitted by MPs Srđan Milić and Snežana Jonica was considered and proposed to the Parliament for adoption by the Legislative Committee.
- **Proposal for a Law on Amendments to the Criminal Code of Montenegro** submitted by MPs Azra Jasavić, Srđan Perić, Goran Tuponja and Darko Pajović, was considered and proposed to the Parliament for adoption by the Committee on Political System, Judiciary and Administration and Legislative Committee.
- **Proposal for a Law on Amendments to the Law on Valued Added Tax** submitted by MPs Goran Tuponja, Srđan Perić, Azra Jasavić and Darko Pajović was considered and proposed to the Parliament for adoption by the Legislative Committee.
- **Proposal for a Law on Amendments to the Law on Public Prosecution Office** submitted by MPs Azra Jasavić, Srđan Perić, Goran Tuponja and Darko Pajović was considered and proposed to the Parliament for adoption by the Committee on Political System, Judiciary and Administration and Legislative Committee.
- **Proposal for a Law on Amendments to the Law on Prevention of Conflict of Interest** submitted by MPs Andrija Mandić, Nebojša Medojević, Milan Knežević and Janko Vučinić was considered and proposed to the Parliament for adoption by the Legislative Committee and Committee on Political System, Judiciary and Administration.
- **Proposal for a Law on Amendments to the Law on Pension and Disability Insurance**, submitted by MPs Janko Vučinić and Emilo Labudović was considered and proposed to the Parliament for adoption by the Legislative Committee. The same proposal was considered by the Committee on Health, Labour and Social Welfare; however it did not obtain the required majority.
- **Proposal for a Law on Amendments to the Law on Pension and Disability Insurance**, submitted by MPs Janko Vučinić, Neven Gošović and Goran Tuponja was considered and proposed to the Parliament for adoption by the Legislative Committee. The same proposal was considered by the Committee on Health, Labour and Social Welfare; however it did not obtain the required majority.
- **Proposal for a Law on Ratification of the Safety and Health in Construction Convention, No. 167** was considered and proposed to the Parliament for adoption by the Legislative Committee.
- **Proposal for a Law on Ratification of the Promotional Framework for Occupational Safety and Health Convention, No. 187** was considered and proposed to the Parliament for adoption by the Legislative Committee.
- **Proposal for a Law on Ratification of the Paris Memorandum of Understanding on Port State Control** was considered and proposed to the Parliament for adoption by the Legislative Committee.
- **Proposal for a Law on Amendments to the Law on Plant Health Protection** was considered and proposed to the Parliament for adoption by the Legislative Committee.

- **Proposal for a Law on Foreigners** was considered and proposed to the Parliament for adoption by the Committee on Political System, Judiciary and Administration and the Legislative Committee.
 - **Proposal for a Law on Amendments to the Law on National Parks**, submitted by MPs: Predrag Sekulić, Žana Filipović, Filip Vuković, Branko Čavor, Šefkija Murić and Miodrag Vuković was considered and proposed to the Parliament for adoption by the Legislative Committee.
 - **Proposal for a Law on Amendments to the Law on Public Procurement** submitted by MP Aleksandar Damjanović was considered and proposed to the Parliament for adoption by the Legislative Committee.
 - **Proposal for a Law on Amendments to the Law on Social and Child Welfare** submitted by MP Aleksandar Damjanović was considered by the Committee on Economy, Finance and Budget, within its competence and submitted its opinion to Committee on Health, Labour and Social Welfare, as lead committee. The same proposal 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 Amendments to the Family Law** submitted by members Danijela Marković and Aleksandar Damjanović was considered by the Committee on Economy, Finance and Budget, which decided to submit its opinion to lead committee on the fiscal impact of the said act to the state's budget.
 - **Proposal for a Law on Amendments to the Law on Social and Child Welfare**, submitted by members: Azra Jasavić, Srđan Perić, Goran Tuponja and Darko Pajović was considered by the Committee on Economy, Finance and Budget, which decided to submit its opinion to lead committee on the fiscal impact of the said act to the state's budget.
 - **Proposal for a Law on Execution of Sentences of Imprisonment, Fines and Security Measures** was considered by the Committee on Economy, Finance and Budget, which decided to submit its opinion to lead committee on the fiscal impact of the said act to the state's budget.
 - **Proposal for a Law on Amendments to the Pension and Disability Insurance Law**, submitted by MP Janko Vučinić was considered by the Committee on Economy, Finance and Budget, which decided to submit its opinion to lead committee on the fiscal impact of the said act to the state's budget.
 - **Proposal for a Law on Settlement of Obligations to Workers of the SC Aluminium Plant Podgorica Who Retired Early Due to Bankruptcy of the Company**, submitted by MP Janko Vučinić was considered by the Committee on Economy, Finance and Budget, which decided to submit its opinion to lead committee on the fiscal impact of the said act to the state's budget.
 - **Proposal for a Law on Amendments to the Law on**
- Volunteerism** was considered and proposed to the Parliament for adoption by the Committee on Health, Labour and Social Welfare.
 - **Proposal for a Law on Amendments to the Law on Amendments to Law on Game and Hunting** 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 Animal Welfare Law** was considered and proposed to the Parliament for adoption by the Legislative Committee and the Committee on Tourism, Agriculture, Ecology and Spatial Planning.
 - **Proposal for a Law on Amendments to the Law on the Judicial Council and Judges** 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 Pension and Disability Insurance**, submitted by MP Branka Bošnjak 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 Amendments to the Labour Law**, submitted by MPs: Branka Bošnjak, Milutin Đukanović, Vladislav Bojović, Janko Vučinić and Jelisava Kalezić, was considered by the Committee on Health, Labour and Social Welfare; however, the proposal did not obtain the required majority.
 - **Proposal for a Law on Amendments to the Criminal Procedure Code** was considered and proposed to the Parliament for adoption by the Legislative Committee.
 - **Proposal for a Arbitration Law** was considered and proposed to the Parliament for adoption by the Legislative Committee.
 - **Proposal for a Law on Amendments to the Law on Civil Proceedings** was considered by the Committee on Economy, Finance and Budget, which decided to submit its opinion to lead committee on the fiscal impact of the said act to the state's budget. The proposal was also considered by the Legislative Committee, which decided to propose it to the Parliament for adoption.
 - **Proposal for a Law on Amendments to the Law on Livestock Farming** was considered by the Committee on Tourism, Agriculture, Ecology and Spatial Planning; however, it did not obtain the required majority. The same proposal was considered by the Legislative Committee, which decided to propose it to the Parliament for adoption.
 - **Proposal for a Law on Amendments to the Law on Temporary Residence Fee** was considered and proposed to the Parliament for adoption by the Legislative Committee.
 - **Proposal for a Law on Amendments to the Law on Restriction of the Usage of Tobacco Products** was

considered and proposed to the Parliament for adoption by the Legislative Committee.

- **Proposal for a Law on the Protection of Consumers-Users of Financial Services**, submitted by MP Andrija Popović was considered and proposed to the Parliament for adoption.
- **Proposal for a Law on Amendments to the General Law on Education**, submitted by MPs: Branka Bošnjak, Milutin Đukanović, Vladislav Bojović, Janko Vučinić and Jelisava Kalezić was considered and proposed to the Parliament for adoption by the Legislative Committee.
- **Proposal for a Law on Amendments to the Law on Primary Education**, submitted by MPs: Milutin Đukanović, Branka Bošnjak, Janko Vučinić and Vladislav Bojović was considered by the Committee on Economy, Finance and Budget, which decided to submit its opinion to lead committee on the fiscal impact of the said act to the state's budget. The same proposal was considered by the Legislative Committee, which decided to propose it to the Parliament for adoption.

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

- Proposal for a Law on Amendments to the Law on Social and Child Welfare, submitted by members: Azra Jasavić, Srđan Perić, Goran Tuponja and Darko Pajović was considered by the Legislative Committee, which postponed declaration on the proposal for the next meeting.
- Proposal for a Law on Amendments to the Law on Expropriation, submitted by MPs: Azra Jasavić, Srđan perić, Goran Tuponja i Darko Pajović was considered by the Committee on Economy, Finance and Budget, which decided to postpone declaration on the proposal until the Government submits its opinion.
- Proposal for a Law on Amendments to the Labour Law, submitted by MPs: Branka Bošnjak, Milutin Đukanović, Vladislav Bojović, Janko Vučinić and Jelisava Kalezić was considered by the Legislative Committee, which postponed declaration on the proposal for the next meeting.

Proposals for other acts deliberated in committees

- **Proposal for a Decision on Opening Parliamentary Investigation and Establishing the Inquiry Committee for Collecting Information and Facts on actions of Competent State authorities regarding Protection of State Property and Public Interest on the Occasion of Selling the Property of SC aluminium Plant Podgorica (KAP) in Bankruptcy** was considered and proposed to the Parliament for adoption by the Legislative Committee. The same proposal was considered by the Committee on Economy, Finance and Budget; however the proposal did not obtain the required majority.

- **Proposal for a Decision on Election of one member of the Constitutional Committee** was determined by the Administrative Committee.
- **Proposal for a Decision on Election of one member of the Committee on Human Rights and Freedoms** was determined by the Administrative Committee.
- **Proposal for a Decision on Amendments to the Rules of Procedure of the Parliament of Montenegro** submitted by MP Andrija Popović was considered and proposed to the Parliament for adoption by the Committee on Political System, Judiciary and Administration.

Other activities of working bodies

- At the 87th meeting, held on 5 May, **Committee on Political System, Judiciary and Administration** supported by a majority of votes 2015 Work Plan of the Committee on Political System, Judiciary and Administration.
- At the 38th meeting of 8 May, **Security and Defence Committee** held consultative hearing on the topic: "Considering the situation in the field of air traffic safety and airspace security". Following the discussion, several conclusions were adopted by a majority of votes. In addition, the Committee unanimously reached the decision to hold a control hearing of Supreme State Prosecutor, Minister of Interior and Acting Director of the National Security Agency regarding unsolved murders in Montenegro.



At the 39th meeting, held on 29 May, the Committee considered and supported 2014 Report on performance and status in administrative areas under the competences of the Ministry of Defence and 2014 Report on the Status in the Military of Montenegro.

At the 40th meeting of 29 May, the Committee considered and supported Report on the participation of members of the Military of Montenegro in international forces, peacekeeping missions and other activities abroad in 2014.

- At the 54th meeting of 13 May, **Committee on International Relations and Emigrants**, by a majority of votes, gave a positive opinion on the proposal to appoint Ivan Milić as Ambassador

Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Montenegro to the Republic of Austria, on a residential basis, seated in Vienna.

During the 54th meeting, held on the same day, the Committee, by the majority of votes, gave a positive opinion on the proposal to appoint Aleksandar Eraković as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Montenegro to the Republic of Portugal and Kingdom of Spain, on a residential basis, seated in Podgorica.



- At the 99th meeting of 11 May, **Committee on Economy, Finance and Budget** decided to propose to the Parliament to adopt 2014 Performance Report of Financial Stability Council.
- At the 49th meeting of 13 May, **Committee on Human Rights and Freedoms** considered and supported 2014 Status Report on Personal Data Protection and on Access to Information.

The Committee held the 50th meeting on 19 May, on the subject "Importance of investing in preschool education for all children in Montenegro", coorganised with the UNICEF Montenegro office.

- At the 49th meeting of 12 May, **Gender Equality Committee** supported 2015 Work Plan of the Committee.

At the 51st meeting of the Committee, held on 12 May, Miroslava Mima Ivanović, representative of the Association of Youth with Disabilities of Montenegro acquainted Committee members with the commentaries of the Association on the Proposal for a Law on Amendments to the Law on Gender Equality, which was placed under parliamentary procedure.



At the 50th meeting of 25 May, the Committee

considered the 2014 Report on the implementation of the Plan for Action on Gender Equality in Montenegro (PAPRR 2013-2017), with the Program of the implementation of PAPRR for the period 2015-2016.

- At the first Joint meeting of **Committee on European Integration** and **Committee on Economy, Finance and Budget**, a consultative hearing was held on the topic: "Efficient use of IPA funds and work of Audit Authority responsible for audit of EU funds". During the meeting, different opinions and views were presented regarding principles of contracting and implementation of projects within the frameworks of IPA.



- At the 45th meeting of **Committee on Tourism, Agriculture, Ecology and Spatial Planning**, 28 May, the Committee considered the implementation of the Conclusions by the Parliament of Montenegro adopted at the meeting of 27 December 2014, relating to the environmental issues in Pljevlja. The Committee assessed that the adoption of the Conclusions by the Parliament of Montenegro resulted in more active relation of the responsible bodies towards the problems that exist in Pljevlja Municipality for many years.
- At the 55th meeting of 19 May, **Committee on Education, Science, Culture and Sports** decided to hold a joint theme meeting with the Gender Equality Committee which would be dedicated to women in sports and school sports. In addition to the Committee members, the meeting was attended by Arijana Nikolić Vučinić, acting director general of Directorate for Preschool and Primary Education and Education of Persons with Special Educational Needs, and Mubera Kurpejović, director general of Directorate for Higher Education.

At the 56th meeting of 25 May, Committee members supported the initiative that students who enrolled in the University of Montenegro prior to signing of the Bologna Declaration should be provided with the opportunity to prolong their studies under the same conditions until the end of 2015/2016 student year.

- The 90th meeting of **Committee on Health, Labour and Social Welfare** took place on 5 May in the Center for Children and Youth "Ljubović", in order for the Committee members to get acquainted with the situation in the Centre. During the constructive

discussion, the focus was on material conditions, relationship between residents and their parents and methodological training.

During the 91st meeting, 15 May, Committee members supported the initiative by MP Andrija Popović to send a conclusion to the Parliament of Montenegro requesting the payment of elderly benefits, in accordance with the Law on Amendments to the Law on Agriculture and Rural Development, adopted in December 2014.

At the 92nd meeting of 18 May, the Committee did not support the proposal by MP Janko Vučinić to extend the agenda of the meeting with the request to organise a control hearing, on the topic of implementation of a provision of the Law on Pension and Disability Insurance, prescribing special requirements for retirement of employees whose companies had been closed through bankruptcy proceedings.

- At the 37th meeting of the **Anti-corruption Committee** held on 13 May, a Decision was adopted unanimously to have the Chair of the Anti-corruption Committee Predrag Bulatović schedule the first constitutive meeting of the Commission for conducting elections of members of the Council of Anti-corruption Agency. The constitutive meeting of the Commission for conducting elections of members of the Council of Anti-corruption Agency took place on 14 May, wherein the Commission noted that 10 applications were submitted in response to the Public Call for election of members of the Council of the Anti-corruption Agency, which the Commission reviewed preliminarily. It was agreed that, at its next meeting, the Commission will determine its future manner of administration.



- At the second joint meeting of the **Anti-Corruption Committee** and the **Committee on Political System, Judiciary and Administration**, 15 May, a consultative hearing took place on the occasion of introducing a new criminal offence "illicit enrichment of public functionaries", in accordance with Article 20 of the United Nations Convention against Corruption. Aside from members of both committees, the following also attended: Zoran Pažin, Minister of Justice; Raško Konjević, Minister of Interior; Ivica Stanković, Supreme State Prosecutor; Đurđina Ivanović, Special Prosecutor; Mladen Vukčević, Chairperson of the Judicial Council; Slobodan Leković, Chairperson of the Commission for

Prevention of Conflict of Interests; Vanja Čalović, Executive Director of the NGO MANS; Boris Marić, representative of the Centre for Civic Education; and Zoran Vujičić, representative of the Civic Alliance.

- At the 53rd meeting of 14 May, **Administrative Committee** determined two proposals for a decision, i.e. decided to propose to the Parliament of Montenegro to appoint MP Dritan Abazović as member of the Constitutional Committee and Committee on Human Rights and Freedoms of the Parliament of Montenegro. In addition, the Committee has, on the proposal of Vice President of the Parliament of Montenegro, decided to appoint Sead Šahman as an advisor to the Vice President of the Parliament until the return of advisor to the Vice President of Montenegro Seniha Kuč from the maternity leave, i.e. termination of office of the Vice President of the Parliament.



- At the follow up of the 53rd meeting, 20 May, the Committee reached a Decision on Amendments to the Decision on determining the amount, manner and procedure of intended spending of funds allocated to MPs groups for engagement of secretaries and professional consultants in the groups. In addition, with regard to the Draft decision on the manner of engagement of scientific and professional consultants and establishing pays and allowances for their work, submitted by the Secretary General of the Parliament of Montenegro Siniša Stanković, the Committee decided to form a working group composed of Marta Šćepanović, from the parliamentary majority and Milutin Đukanović, from the opposition, and in cooperation with the Secretary General. The Working Group will establish a new Decision on the manner of engagement of scientific and professional consultants and establishing pays and allowances for their work, and it will be considered by the Committee at the next meeting. The Committee noted that term of office for the three members of the Council of the Agency for Electronic Media expires on 9 December 2015, and decided to establish the text of the public notice for the appointment of three member of the Council of the Agency for Electronic Media at the next meeting. Following the discussion on the Initiative by the Coalition of NGOs "Through Cooperation to Goals", and with regard to dismissal of Darko M. Ivanović from the duty of a member of the Agency for Electronic Media, the Committee unanimously confirmed its earlier position and decided to inform the Council of the Agency for Electronic Media about that.

NEWS FROM PARLIAMENT



NATO Parliamentary Assembly Spring Session held in Budapest

MPs Obrad Stanišić and Branka Bošnjak participated in the NATO Parliamentary Assembly Spring Session, which took place from 15 to 18 May in Budapest.

The First day of the Spring Session started with a meeting of secretaries of delegations, during which, in order to have a successful organisation of the gathering, the participants were provided with the detailed organisational and technical information, instructions for successful implementation of the NATO PA Spring Session, and planned activities of the committees in the upcoming period were presented.

First day of the Session, work ended with meeting of the Permanent Committee.



Second day, Defence and Security Committee, Economics and Security Committee and Science and Technology Committee held meetings.

During the meeting of the Defence and Security Committee, the participants discussed on "NATO's Evolving Strategy toward the South" within the panel debate, which was followed by a debate on "NATO's New Strategic Challenge" in the light of current developments. The work of the Committee, inter alia, was marked by a consideration of the draft report of the Sub-Committee on Transatlantic Cooperation on the topic "Strengthening the Transatlantic Link", and then the debate on the Special Report "Afghanistan – Post-ISAF".

The meeting of the Economics and Security Committee was marked by presentations on "Hungary's Future Place in the European and World Economy" and "Current Defense Spending Trends in the Alliance and the Work of NATO's Economics and Security Assessment Unit".

Work of the Science and Technology Committee was marked by presentations on "The Climate Change Agreement in 2015: Its Necessity, Difficulties and Prospects" and "Prospects for the Negotiations on the Iranian Nuclear Programme", and part of the discussion was devoted to draft report: "Russian Military

Modernization". This was followed by a discussion on energy security and with regard to that, delegates had an opportunity to discuss challenges and opportunities in the High North.

Third day, Political Committee and Committee on the Civil Dimension of Security held meetings. The meeting of the Political Committee began with presentations on topics of: "Hungary's Role in the triangle EU-United States-Russia" and "The Ukraine Crisis – A Test for Transatlantic Solidarity", followed by a consideration of the general report on the topic of: "Russia and Euro-Atlantic Security" and the draft report of the Sub-Committee on NATO Partnerships "NATO's Partners across the Globe".

Afterwards, the participants of the meeting were presented with the work on the topic of: "Libya: from Liberation to Lustration", which was followed by a discussion on the draft report of the Sub-Committee on Transatlantic Relations "Instability in the Levant – Challenges to NATO's Security".

Committee on the Civil Dimension of Security began its work with presentations on topics of: "Political and Security Challenges in the Western Balkans", followed by a consideration of the draft special report "Transition in Afghanistan: Implications for Central Asia". Within the panel debate on the topic of "Counter-terrorism Challenges at Home and Abroad", the draft general report "Challenges in Addressing Home-Grown Terrorism" was considered, and participants of the meeting had an opportunity to discuss on the topic of "Why European Young People Engage in Jihadism: An overview of the Radicalisation Watch Project". This was followed by a consideration of the draft report of the Sub-Committee on Democratic Governance "The Battle for the Hearts and Minds: Countering Propaganda Attacks Against the Euro-Atlantic Community", and discussion of the participants during the meeting of the Committee on the Civil Dimension of Security was encouraged by a presentation on the topic of "Current Situation in Crimea".

Upon the invitation by the President of the Parliamentary Assembly, President of the Parliament of Montenegro Ranko Krivokapić delivered a speech dedicated to the NATO enlargement policy, at the Plenary Session of NATO PA, held in Budapest.

Second day of the visit, Krivokapić met Speaker of the National Assembly of Hungary László Kövér, Deputy Prime Minister Zsolt Semjén and Minister of Defence Csaba Hende.

MPs participated in the Meeting of Committee on Industry, Research and Energy of European Parliament

Chair of the Committee on Economy, Finance and Budget of the Parliament of Montenegro Aleksandar Damjanović and Filip Vuković, member of the Committee participated in the meeting of the Committee on Industry, Research and Energy of the European Parliament, which was held in Brussels.



At the agenda of the meeting, among other things,

the following topics were covered: Energy Policy of the European Union, relations between the EU and the Western Balkans countries in the field of energy, as well as the role of the European Energy Community in achieving energy security in Europe.

With participation of the representatives of the European Commission, European parliamentarians, and the members of the parliaments of the European Energy Community member states, the idea to establish the Parliamentary Assembly of the European Energy Community was officially initiated, as the key mechanism of coordination and harmonisation of energy policies of the EU and the members of the energy community, including Montenegro.

In that respect, Chair of the Committee Aleksandar Damjanović delivered a speech at the meeting of the European Parliament.

Regional Conference “Political Activism of Women in Montenegro – Regional Experiences” held

Chair of the Gender Equality Committee Nada Drobnjak participated in the Regional Conference “Political Activism of Women in Montenegro – Regional Experiences”, where the study “Political Activism of Women in Montenegro” was presented. The study contains conclusions and public opinion polls on political participation of women, a comparative overview of various institutional models, and concrete recommendations for improvement of situation with regard to low participation of women in political life of Montenegro. Chair of the Committee spoke within the panel: “Women in Politics: parties and political participation”.

The Conference discussions covered the reasons due to which women cannot deal with the most significant political issues and their participation in the key decision-making processes. Based on their countries’ experiences, the panellists from the countries in the

region (Serbia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, and Croatia) contributed to the quality of discussion and conclusions on the following topics: “Women in Politics: parties and political participation” and “Women and their political influence in the Western Balkans”.



The Conference was organised by the Center for Monitoring and Research in cooperation with the Friedrich Ebert Stiftung.

PARLIAMENTARY GLOSSARY

Expediency. Sufficiency of means for achieving a certain goal, whereas in law, it is sufficiency of an act (legal or material) for achieving a goal. Expediency differs from legality: an act can be expedient, but illegal, as well as legal, but inexpedient. This distinction is very important in terms of the relationship between authorities and oversight of acts.¹

¹ Pravna Enciklopedija, Beograd, Savremena Administracija 1979, p.144

IN FOCUS



President of Parliament Ranko Krivokapić participated in Conference of speakers of SEECP region parliaments

President of the Parliament of Montenegro Ranko Krivokapić participated in the SEECP Plenary session, held on 22 and 23 May, which brought together 12 countries of the Balkans and East Europe.

A special debate was devoted to the topic of: “The role of parliaments in the integration processes and the exchange of experiences and contributions in this framework”.



On the occasion, President Krivokapić addressed the participants of the SEECP PA and said that such organisations were an opportunity for better understanding of challenges shared by the member states and a place where joint responses were created.

“The issue of the Balkans is the issue of the European Union. We are close to each other and closely connected, hence we have to work more and better because our future is in united Europe, in togetherness”, Krivokapić stressed. President Krivokapić emphasised the importance of establishing the SEEPC Secretariat, that he was the initiator of, as a basis which would provide an additional help to the countries of the South-East Europe to achieve common goals in easier way – through dialogue parliamentary diplomacy.

At the margins of the SEECP Plenary session, President Krivokapić met Speaker of the Grand National Assembly of the Republic of Turkey Cemil Çiçek. The interlocutors spoke on further development of the SEECP dimensions and importance of parliamentary diplomacy, placing a special focus on good bilateral relations of the two states.

Speaker Çiçek used the opportunity to express a particular gratitude to President Krivokapić for the overall contribution that he personally gave during his mandate of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly President.

During the Plenary session, President Krivokapić met Speaker of the Slovenian Parliament Milan Brglez.

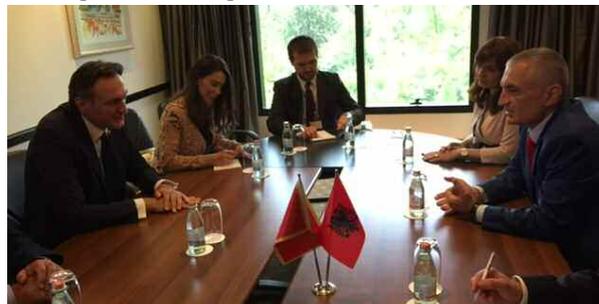
At the meeting, the interlocutors stressed traditionally good and productive bilateral relations of Montenegro and Republic of Slovenia. President Krivokapić voiced gratitude to his Slovenian counterpart over the Slovenian support to Euro-Atlantic integration of Montenegro.

Krivokapić emphasised that countries which shared a common history may best understand each other and therefore a support of Slovenia to Montenegro has a value more. NATO should be our common house and the best answer for old illnesses which have not been cured yet.

President Krivokapić spoke with speakers of parliaments of the Republic of Albania and Republic of Kosovo Ilir Meta and Kadri Veseli. During the talks, they emphasised good cooperation and friendly political relations of Montenegro and its neighbouring countries.

Speaker of the Albanian Parliament Ilir Meta emphasised that Montenegro may count on firm friendly support on its path to NATO, and voiced pleasure over the bilateral cooperation of the two states. Speaker Meta voiced gratitude over the contribution made by President Ranko Krivokapić in connecting and strengthening ties among the SEECP countries, and particularly over his engagement as the OSCE PA President.

In the conversation with Krivokapić, President of the Kosovo Assembly Kadri Veseli underlined that Montenegro and Kosovo had no opened issues, and that their relations were intertwined with mutual understanding and willingness for further development of cooperation.



In numerous talks that Krivokapić had during this gathering, efforts and results of our country at Euro-Atlantic path were welcomed and further steps for obtaining an invitation for the NATO membership were encouraged.

FROM THE HISTORY OF MONTENEGRIN PARLIAMENTARISM



LAW ON LEGAL REPRESENTATIVES(LAWYERS)

Article 2

14/27 December 1909.

Only a legal representative shall be authorized to act as an advocate (Article 152 of the Constitution).

**WE
NIKOLA I**

In case the accused does not hire a legal representative, the court shall assign an advocate from among court clerks, who shall at least be of the rank of secretary of superior court.

By the grace of God

PRINCE AND SOVEREIGN OF MONTENEGRO

Article 3

Declare and announce to each and every person that the National Assembly has decided to order and we are ordering this

Ministry of Justice shall conduct oversight of legal representatives.

LAW

ON

Cetinje, 14 December 1909.

LEGAL REPRESENTATIVES

PART I

Nikola, handwritten signature

Article 1

Only legal representatives shall be authorized to represent a party in court.
Trade proceedings in which one party is a foreigner or a foreign business entity, i.e. its representative, shouldn't be initiated nor conducted without a legal representative.

From the Law on Legal Representatives(Lawyers)

Pavićević, B, Raspopović, R, ur. Crnogorski zakonici 1796-1916, knj. IV, Podgorica (Montenegrin Codes 1796-1916, Book IV), Istorijski institut Crne Gore, 1998, pp. 862-871

FROM PARLIAMENT'S GALLERY

Royal Coat of Arms of King Nikola consists of a double-headed silver eagle, with its wings lifted high, holding a golden sceptre in its right talon, and a blue cruziger covered in gold in its left.

Initials of King Nikola written in golden letters can be found on the chest of the eagle, in the red field of the baroque shield. Underneath the eagle there is a golden lion walking to the right. A red cloak with gold fringe around its edges emerges from the crown.



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4 May

- President of the Parliament Ranko Krivokapić spoke with senators of the Senate of the Republic of Italy Aldo di Biagio and Stefano Collina. The interlocutors expressed satisfaction with the good parliamentary cooperation between Montenegro and Italy, which was, as agreed, contributed by the Friendship Group between the Parliament of Montenegro and the Parliament of Italy, as well as the announcement of the formation of parliamentary friendship group with Montenegro in the Senate of Italy. Krivokapić and his interlocutors also noted the good cooperation between the two countries in the field of agriculture and ecology, but also in the field of police cooperation between Montenegro and Italy. In addition, President Krivokapić and senators discussed the Euro-Atlantic integration as well and the importance of this process to Montenegro.



- Chairwoman and member of the Gender Equality Committee Nada Drobnjak and Jelisava Kalezić participated in the Conference "Women, Peace and Security", held in Podgorica. In the panel discussion, the focus was on the themes of Gender Equality Policies in the EU and NATO integration process - international and domestic legal instruments for the achievement of gender equality in Montenegro; national Plan for Achieving Gender Equality in Montenegro (APAGE) with the Implementation Programme for the period 2015 and 2016, with particular emphasis on the implementation of the Security Council Resolution 1325 through a set of measures under the Program and Implementation of the Action Plan for Gender Equality of the Military of Montenegro.
- Chair of the Committee on International Relations and Emigrants Miodrag Vuković and Committee members Žana Filipović and Koča Pavlović met with representatives of the Senate of the Republic of Italy Aldo Di Biagio and Stefano Collina. During the meeting, both parties presented their vision in regards to the current political and social situation in Montenegro and Italy, common perspectives and barriers these two

historically close countries have been facing. Mutual need to strengthen bilateral parliamentary cooperation through friendship groups and working bodies of both parliaments was particularly emphasised.

- MPs of MP Group of Independent MPs Mladen Bojanić, Dritan Abazović, Miodrag Lekić, Velizar Kaluđerović, Neven Gošović and Novica Stanić met with senators of the Senate of the Republic of Italy Aldo Di Biagio and Stefano Collina. The interlocutors noted the importance of European Integration of Montenegro and importance of reforms that this process brought to the country.

7 May

- Chair of the Committee on Economy, Finance and Budget Aleksandar Damjanović and member of the Committee Filip Vuković participated in the sitting of the Committee on Industry, Research and Energy of the European Parliament, which took place in Brussels. The sitting, inter alia, covered topics such as Energy Policy of the European Union, relations between the EU and Western Balkan countries in the field of energy, as well as the role of European Energy Community in achieving energy security in Europe.
- MP Andrija Popović paid a visit to Democracy Workshops "Barbara Pramer" of the Parliament of Montenegro, where he spoke with sixth and ninth grade students of "Mahmut Adrović" Elementary school from Petnjica. In their talks with the MP, the students learned about the definition of democracy and its values in building a democratic society, as well ways in which children may contribute to the democracy.



8 May

- On the eve of 9 May, the Europe Day, President of the Parliament of Montenegro Ranko Krivokapić met with ambassadors of EU member states and USA on residential basis. Following his meeting with the ambassadors, President Krivokapić emphasised that

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Montenegro was small but important factor in the victory over fascism, and therefore part of the message which was the essence of the existence of the European Union. The Parliament has fulfilled its obligations quickly and efficiently, Krivokapić said, and added that commitment of institutions of the state in creation of results was now crucial, primarily in the area of the rule of law. Head of the EU Delegation Mitja Drobnič thanked for the attention the President paid to the representatives of the EU countries on the eve of the Europe Day, and said that he spoke with Krivokapić about upcoming obligations that awaited Montenegro on its path towards the EU.



- Chair of the Committee on European Integration Slaven Radunović participated in the conference, held on the topic: “Employment of persons with disabilities”, organized by Association of Youth with Disabilities of Montenegro (UMHCG), within the project: “Changing Capacities to Capacitate Changes”, supported by the Delegation of the European Union to Montenegro. Participants of the Conference agreed that European values became more visible in practices involving rights of sensitive social categories, and that these practices should be promoted through improving implementation of relevant laws and other available mechanisms.



- Members of the Committee on European Integration Marija Maja Čatović and Azra Jasavić met with the youth belonging to the Association of Local Democracy Agencies (ALDA). In addition, MPs

Branka Tanasijević, Srđan Perić, Mladen Bojanić, Dritan Abazović and Andrija Popović also participated in the meeting. Topics covered during the meeting were European Integration, with the focus on values which Balkan countries seek to provide, with unique aspirations towards EU membership, with the accent on the role and activism of the youth.



9 May

- Member of the Committee on European Integration Nada Drobñjak participated in the Conference entitled “Capitalisation and relaunch”, organised within the frameworks of General Assembly of the Association of Local Democracy Agencies (ALDA). MP Drobñjak presented the competences and the work of the Committee, with the emphasis on the oversight role and activities aimed at bringing the process of European integration closer to citizens.

11 May

- Members of the Committee on Education, Science, Culture and Sports and Committee on International Relations and Emigrants met with members of the Committee for Education, Culture, Youth, Sports, Public Administration, Local Government and Media of the Assembly of the Republic of Kosovo. MPs have exchanged experiences related to their work and expressed readiness to provide support to intergovernmental and regional initiatives, with a joint aim to promote cooperation in the field of science, technology, education, culture and sports. In addition, mutual interest and need in promoting cooperation in the area of research and innovation was emphasised, as well as promoting activities through Cross-border cooperation Programmes. Importance of cooperation in the field of education and culture was also noted.
- MP Genci Nimanbegu met with students from United

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States Arcadia University, who paid a visit to Montenegro. During the meeting, students have shown great interest in issues relating to national councils and their functions, specifically the Albanian National Council. In addition, they were interested in their participation, representation and role in decision-making.



- Members of the Committee on European Integration Marija Maja Ćatović, Koča Pavlović and Genci Nimanbegu participated in a business dinner with Minister of Foreign Affairs of Latvia Edgars Rinkēvičs. Participants of the meeting agreed that Montenegro should undertake further efforts in the key areas such as the rule of law and fight against corruption and organised crime, and that passing laws was important, but their implementation was crucial.

12 May

- President of the Parliament of Montenegro Ranko Krivokapić received Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Latvia Edgars Rinkevičs. The interlocutors agreed that Parliaments as institutions in contemporary democracies had an important role in the democratic process in society. Krivokapić emphasized that the Parliament of Montenegro has improved its work mechanisms through parliamentary hearings and involving the NGO sector in the work of committees. They concluded by stating that the process of harmonisation of Montenegrin legislation with EU *acquis* was demanding, and noted that achieving the rule of law, combating organized crime and corruption were key to further reform path of Montenegro.
- Vice President of the Parliament of Montenegro participated in a panel discussion regarding NATO integration of Montenegro, which took place in Rožaje. In addition to Vice President Mustafić, the panel was also attended by the ambassador of the Republic of Turkey Mehmet Niyazi Tanılır and the ambassador of the Republic of Hungary Krisztian Posa. During the

panel it was noted that safety and security were priceless.

- Member of the Committee on Health, Labour and Social Welfare Novica Stanić participated in a theme meeting of the Igman Initiative entitled “Free Movement of Labour Force between the Countries Signatories of the Dayton Agreement Using the Experiences of the Nordic Model of Cooperation”, which took place in the Croatian Parliament.

13 May

- Chair of the Security and Defence Committee Mevludin Nuhodžić participated in a roundtable on the topic: “Argument upon Argument”. This is a series of roundtables, which bring together an important number of participants from the public life in order to speak on the current topics related to the NATO membership, and “Argument upon Argument” is the third in the row.

14 May

- Vice President of the Parliament of Montenegro Suljo Mustafić and MP Jasmin Sutović attended an event organised on the occasion of marking the Day of Independence of Montenegro in Kosovo, entitled “Day of Montenegrins of Kosovo”, which took place in Prishtina. This event was held for the first time, and it has gathered a great number of representatives of institutions of Kosovo, emigrants from Montenegro, international community representatives, people from business and cultural life of Kosovo as well as friends of Montenegro.



15 May

- Chair of the Gender Equality Committee Nada Drobnjak participated in the Conference “Power of Women”, within the panel discussion “Status of women’s entrepreneurship in Montenegro from the

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viewpoint of regional women parliamentarians". Participants of the conference discussed on institutions which encourage development of women entrepreneurship in Montenegro and the region, as well as its strengthening and networking, as well as alternatives and connection of market, good practice and examples of entrepreneurship and strengthening of capacities of business organisations dealing with women's entrepreneurship and challenges carries by it.

- MPs Obrad Stanišić and Branka Bošnjak participated in the NATO Parliamentary Assembly Spring Session, which took place from 15 to 18 May in Budapest. During the session, meetings of five committees of the NATO PA were held, wherein current international security issues were discussed: Political Committee; Defence and Security Committee; Science and Technology Committee; Committee on the Civil Dimension of Security, and Economics and Security Committee.
- Chair of the Gender Equality Committee Nada Drobnjak participated in the Regional Conference "Political activism of women in Montenegro-regional experiences", at which the study "Political activism of women in Montenegro" was presented. During the Conference, reasons for which women cannot deal with the most significant political issues were considered, as well as their participation in key decisionmaking processes.
- Members of the Committee on Tourism, Agriculture, Ecology and Spatial Planning Predrag Sekulić and Jelisava Kalezić participated in the second bilateral meeting of parliamentary committees of Montenegro and Albania competent for the environment.



During the meeting, the following was considered: possibility for establishing the cross-border protected area in the Prokletije (Cursed Mountains), equalizing the level of protection of Skadar Lake and

joint promotion of tourism in the border area.

18 May

- Chair of the Committee on European Integration Slaven Radunović participated in the Conference entitled "Importance of Human Resources in the process of joining the EU". The event was organised by the Association of Montenegrin Managers and the Office of the Chief Negotiator for Negotiations on Accession of Montenegro to the European Union. During the Conference, Radunović referred to the importance of strengthening capacities of state administration in the process of joining the EU and readiness of business entities to cope with competitive pressures within the EU.
- Vice President of the Parliament of Montenegro participated in the Third World Forum on Intercultural Dialogue, which took place on 18 and 19 May in Baku. Vice President Mustafić was one of key speakers at the plenary, dedicated to the topic: "Dialogue as a mechanism for building global trust".

19 May

- Press conference was held on the occasion of ending the media campaign "Men's league against violence against women", whose results were presented by Chair of the Gender Equality Committee Nada Drobnjak, U.S. Ambassador to Montenegro Margaret Ann Uyehara, Executive Director of NGO NOVA Feminist Culture Centre Nataša Nelević and one of the promoters of the campaign, film director Danilo Marunović.
- Chair of Committee on European Integration Slaven Radunović and Deputy Chair Marija Maja Čatović met with Deputy Speaker of the Polish Parliament Jerzy Wenderlich. During the meeting, experiences were exchanged with regard to negotiations with the EU, during which the interlocutors agreed that in the process of coming closer to the EU, it was important to continuously promote standards, which would improve quality life for citizens, and thus bring higher support to the Union.
- Chair of Security and Defence Committee Mevludin Nuhodžić, Deputy Chair of Committee Snežana Jonica and members Luidž Škrelja, Velizar Kaluđerović and Darko Pajović met with Deputy Speaker of the Polish

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Parliament Jerzy Wenderlich. During the meeting, the discussion was on NATO integration and security in the region.

20 May

- President of the Parliament of Montenegro Ranko Krivokapić received Vice Marshal of the Polish Sejm Jerzy Wenderlich. The interlocutors spoke on relations of Montenegro and Poland with a focus on cooperation of the two parliaments and agreed that parliaments had an important role for democratic processes in society, particularly in young democracies. Krivokapić stressed the Parliament of Montenegro has strengthened its constitutional mechanisms and that it showed its full capacities through Euro-Atlantic integration process. Vice Marshal Jerzy Wenderlich said that Montenegro may count on the support of Poland, particularly when it comes to sharing of experiences in the integration process.



- Member of the Parliament Aleksandar Damjanović met representatives of the Russian Federation Embassy to Montenegro: Vladimir Gurko, Deputy Ambassador, and Aleksandar Kulešov, Advisor for Economic Affairs at the Embassy. The conversation was focused on the topic of open issues in the field of economic cooperation of Montenegro and Russian Federation, with an accent on the cooperation in the field of energy.
- The Parliament of Montenegro, in cooperation with the Student Parliament of the University of Montenegro (SPUCG) and the Communication Team of the Council for NATO Membership have organised the "Parliament of Students on Euro-Atlantic Integration", hosted by the President of the Parliament of Montenegro. During the session of the "Parliament of Students on Euro-Atlantic Integration", 60 students divided into four MP groups

posed questions to representatives of the state institutions – ministers in the Government of Montenegro, members of the Parliament and ambassadors of NATO member states.



- Secretary General of the Parliament of Montenegro Siniša Stanković met Secretary General of the National Assembly of Serbia Jana Ljubičić. At the meeting, views and experiences relating to the work of parliamentary services were exchanged, primarily with the aim of providing better expert help to MPs. The interlocutors stressed that strengthening of administrative capacities, particularly in the EU integration process, was one of the priorities within the competences of secretary generals, thus both parliaments paid a special attention to continuous development of human resources.
- Vice President of the Parliament of Montenegro Branko Radulović received Vice Marshal of the Polish Sejm Jerzy Wenderlich, in official visit. On the occasion, the interlocutors discussed political, socio-economical and security situation in the European Union, Poland and Montenegro, as well as EU enlargement policy and Montenegro's integration capacities.

21 May

- President of the Parliament of Montenegro Ranko Krivokapić traditionally laid down the wreath at the Mausoleum of Petar II Petrović Njegoš on Lovćen, in the honour of the Independence Day of Montenegro – 21 May. After laying down the wreath, President Krivokapić said that he hoped that many citizens who had been scattered around the world would return to Montenegro. President Krivokapić added that all victories of Montenegro could be seen from the Mausoleum. As he said, three victories may be easily connected, and those are the one of 13 July by which statehood was returned, the one of 21 May

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which has brought us back on the international scene and the one in the wake of the NATO accession. President Krivokapić also hosted a roundtable “Gathering at the Thrashing Floor” on the topic of “Membership to NATO – stamp on Montenegrin independence”. Margaret Ann Uyehara, Ambassador of the USA, and H.E. Krisztian Posa, Ambassador of Hungary (NATO contact point embassy for Montenegro), participated in the Gathering.

22 May

- President of the Parliament of Montenegro Ranko Krivokapić participated in the SEECF Plenary session, held on 22 and 23 May in Tirana, which brought together 12 countries of the Balkans and East Europe. A special debate was devoted to the topic of: “The role of parliaments in the integration processes and the exchange of experiences and contributions in this framework”.

26 May

- President of the Parliament of Montenegro Ranko Krivokapić received President of the Republic of Italy Sergio Mattarella. The interlocutors stressed traditionally good and friendly relations of the two states. They assessed that Montenegro and the Republic of Italy have been strongly connected through history, which would be additionally strengthened by Euro-Atlantic future. President Krivokapić emphasised that he considered the visit as the expression of friendship and support to Montenegro’s path to the NATO and European Union. He noted that Parliament as a centre of democratic life must be strong and it is the institution bearing an important role in integration process of the state, and that it was important that our institutions achieve a continuous cooperation and dialogue and that they advocate peace messages in this region. President Sergio Mattarella noted that his visit was the right moment for supporting Montenegro’s membership to the NATO and assessed that Europe could not be whole without integrated Balkans and that Montenegro’s entrance to the NATO was an important message of stability of the region and the whole Mediterranean.

29 May

- Vice President of the Parliament of Montenegro

Branko Radulović paid an official visit to the Swedish Parliament - Riksdag. During the visit, Vice President Radulović met with first Deputy Speaker of the Riksdag Tobias Billström as well as with chairpersons and members of the Committee on the Constitution, Committee on European Union Affairs, Committee on Finance, Committee on Defence and Committee on Industry and Trade.



- Chair of the Committee on Economy, Finance and Budget of the Parliament of Montenegro Aleksandar Damjanović met with SIGMA representatives Balázs Romhányi, Christian Charpybe and Bianca Brétéché and member of the State Audit Institution Dragiša Pešić. During the conversation, they spoke about different aspects of budgetary politics, implementation of the Law on Budget and Fiscal Responsibility in the part relating to fiscal policy and assessment of application of criteria of fiscal responsibility as well as on experience of implementation of fiscal rules in certain European countries.



- Chair of the Gender Equality Committee Nada Drobnjak participated in the Conference “Women and Heritage – Towards the founding of Women’s Museum of Montenegro”, which was held in Cetinje. Chair of the Gender Equality Committee spoke on the topic “Gender equality politics and inclusion of gender approach in managing cultural heritage in Montenegro”.