



Parliament of Montenegro

NEWSLETTER OPEN PARLIAMENT

Newsletter on the Parliament of Montenegro Performance ♦ No. 53 ♦ October 2015

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OPEN PARLIAMENT



Parliament of Montenegro

Newsletter on the Parliament of Montenegro Performance ♦ Electronic format ♦ Release: monthly ♦ Year V ♦ No. 53 ♦ October 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 October, which is, in the form of monthly newsletter "Open Parliament", prepared by Parliamentary Service.

In October, the first sitting of the second ordinary session was held, during which two laws and a decision were adopted. The second and fourth sitting of the second ordinary session also took place, during which several reports were discussed. In addition, the third special sitting of the second ordinary session also was held, during which MPs posed seven questions to the Prime Minister.

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

In focus of this month's newsletter is participation of the President of the Parliament of Montenegro in the meeting of the North Atlantic Council (NAC), chaired by NATO Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg.

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

We remain open to your comments and suggestions, as well as criticism, which can help us bring more quality to our work.

*Respectfully,
Parliamentary Service*



LEGISLATIVE AND OVERSIGHT ACTIVITY

At the First Sitting of the Second Ordinary Session of the Parliament of Montenegro in 2015, the Parliament adopted the following: Law on Ratification of the International Convention for the Suppression of Counterfeiting Currency, Law on Ratification of the Agreement between the Government of Montenegro and the Council of Ministers of the Republic of Albania in the context of Economic Cooperation, and the Decision on Amendments to the Decision on Establishment of the Committee on Monitoring Application of Laws and Other Regulations Important for Building Trust in the Election Process.

At the Second Sitting of the Second Ordinary Session of the Parliament of Montenegro in 2015, MPs completed discussion on several reports.

At the Fourth Sitting of the Second Ordinary Session of the Parliament of Montenegro in 2015, MPs discussed the Report on the consideration of the current security situation in Montenegro.

Prime Minister's Questions and Parliamentary Questions

At the Third Special Sitting of the Second Ordinary Session of the Parliament of Montenegro, within the agenda item *Prime Minister's Questions*, MPs questions

were answered by the Prime Minister of the Government Milo Đukanović. MPs posed seven questions to the Prime Minister.

Proposals for a law deliberated in committees

- **Proposal for a Law on Ratification of the Protocol on Amendments to the Marrakesh Agreement Establishing the World Trade Organization** was considered and proposed to the Parliament for adoption by the Committee on International Relations and Emigrants.
- **Proposal for a Law on Energy** was considered and proposed to the Parliament for adoption by the Legislative Committee.
- **Proposal for a Law on Amendments to the Law on Legal Protection of Industrial Design** was considered and proposed to the Parliament for adoption by the Committee on Economy, Finance and Budget.
- **Proposal for a Law on Amendments to the Trademark Law** was considered and proposed to the Parliament for adoption by the Committee on Economy, Finance and Budget.
- **Proposal for a Law on Customs Service** was considered and proposed to the Parliament for adoption by the Legislative Committee and the Committee on Economy, Finance and Budget.
- **Proposal for a Law on Amendments to the Law on Territorial Organisation of Montenegro** was considered and proposed to the Parliament for adoption by the Committee on Political System, Judiciary and Administration.
- **Proposal for a Law on Amendments to the Law on the Capital City** 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 Local Self-Government**, submitted by MPs Halil Duković, Nikola Gegaj, Tarzan Milošević, Miodrag Vuković, Žana Filipović, Zoran Jelić and Almer Kalač was considered and proposed to the Parliament for adoption by the Committee on Political System, Judiciary and Administration.

Proposals for other acts deliberated in committees

- **Proposal for a Decision on election of members of the Committee on Monitoring Application of Laws and Other Regulations Important for Building Trust in the Election Process** was considered and proposed to the Parliament for adoption by the Legislative Committee.

Other activities of working bodies

- At the 102nd meeting, held on 14 October, **Committee**

on Political System, Judiciary and Administration determined a text of the public notice for the election of one member of the Prosecutorial Council from among respectable lawyers, in line with its competences.

- At the 46th meeting, held on 19 October, **Security and Defence Committee**, after considering the current security situation in relation to several days of protests in Podgorica, adopted several conclusions.

At the 47th meeting, held on 21 October, the Committee considered the information on measures and actions undertaken by the competent institutions regarding the existing security situation in Montenegro, after which several conclusions were adopted.

At the 48th meeting, held on 25 October, in the presence of the Minister of Interior and the Director of the Police Administration, the Committee considered the current security situation on the occasion of protests held on 24 October 2015, after which several conclusions were adopted.

- At the 63rd meeting of the **Committee on International Relations and Emigrants**, held on 9 October, the Committee supported by a majority of votes, the proposal for appointing Borislav Banović to the position of the Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary Ambassador of Montenegro to the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, to perform his duty on residential basis, in London.



At the 66th meeting, held on 30 October, the Committee gave positive opinion to the proposal that Milorad Šćepanović be elected as the Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary Ambassador of Montenegro to the Republic of South Africa, Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia and the African Union (AU), on a non-residential basis.

- At the 118th meeting, held on 30 October, **Committee on Economy, Finance and Budget** considered the request on giving the approval for the election of internationally recognised independent external auditor of Financial Statements of the Central Bank of Montenegro, and agreed to elect KPMG Ltd Podgorica and KPMG Ltd Beograd for the independent external

auditor. The Committee considered and unanimously adopted the 2012-2015 Report on the implementation of the Annual Action Plan of the National Consumer Protection Programme (NPZP), for the period July 2014 - June 2015. Additionally, the Committee considered and decided to propose to the Parliament for adoption the 2014 Financial and Performance Report of the Energy Regulatory Agency and 2014 Financial Statement of the Securities Commission with the 2014 Report of the independent auditor on the performed audit of the 2014 financial statements.



- At the 105th meeting of the **Committee on Health, Labour and Social Welfare**, held on 5 October, the Committee members discussed about "Availability, content and analysis of smear test results in hospitals in Montenegro". The members agreed that proposals for conclusions would be submitted to the Committee staff members, which would after their adoption, be forwarded to bodies responsible for their implementation.
- At the fourth meeting of the **Inquiry Committee for collecting information and facts on the events relating to the actions of competent state authorities in the protection of state property and public interest during the sale of assets of the SC Tobacco Plant Podgorica in bankruptcy**, held on 7 October, in accordance with the Law on Parliamentary Investigation, the Committee members took statements from Slavoljub Vukašinović, Executive Director of the SC Tobacco Plant Podgorica in bankruptcy and Ilija Kračković, Chair of the Board of Directors of the SC Tobacco Plant Podgorica in bankruptcy.
- At the fifth meeting, held on 8 October, members of the Inquiry Committee took a statement from Nebojša Stanković, President of the Trade Union Organisation of the SC Tobacco Plant Podgorica at the moment of declaring bankruptcy in the SC Tobacco Plant Podgorica.

At the sixth meeting, held on 13 October, the Committee members took statements from Dragan Rakočević, a judge of the Commercial Court of Montenegro at the moment of declaring bankruptcy in

the SC Tobacco Plant Podgorica and Veselin Raičević, bankruptcy administrator of the SC Tobacco Plant Podgorica in bankruptcy. Miodrag Anđelić, bankruptcy judge of the Commercial Court of Montenegro in the case SC Tobacco Plant Podgorica, failed to respond to the invitation for meeting.

At the seventh meeting, held on 14 October, members of the Inquiry Committee took statements from Ambassador of Montenegro to Slovenia Mimir Mugoša in the capacity of Mayor of the Capital City Podgorica at the moment of declaring bankruptcy in SC Tobacco Plant Podgorica, and from two authorised representatives of the company "Zetogradnja" Ltd Blagota Radović and Ratko Radonjić.

At the eighth meeting of the Inquiry Committee, held on 20 October, members of the Inquiry Committee took statements from Milutin Simović, Minister of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Management at the moment of declaring bankruptcy at the SC Tobacco Plant Podgorica, Branko Vujović, Minister of Economy at the moment of declaring bankruptcy at the SC Tobacco Plant Podgorica and Branimir Gvozdenović, Minister of Spatial Planning and Environmental Protection at the moment of the initiation of bankruptcy at the SC Tobacco Plant Podgorica.

At the ninth meeting, held on 21 October, members of the Inquiry Committee took statements from Vujica Lazović, Deputy Prime Minister for economic policy and financial system, at the moment of the initiation of bankruptcy at the SC Tobacco Plant Podgorica and Igor Lukšić, Minister of Finance at the moment of the initiation of bankruptcy at the SC Tobacco Plant Podgorica.



At the tenth meeting, held on 30 October, having in mind a deadline established by Article 6 of the Decision on opening parliamentary investigation, as well as obligation of submitting the report of the Committee to the Parliament of Montenegro, and in line with Article 9 of the Law on Parliamentary Investigation, members of the Inquiry Committee agreed during the meeting, to deliver possible suggestions by 2 November 2015, after which the Proposal for the Report will be determined.

NEWS FROM PARLIAMENT



Secretary General participated in the Meeting of the Association of Secretary Generals of Parliaments of the UN countries

Secretary General of the Parliament of Montenegro Siniša Stanković participated in the Meeting of the Association of Secretary Generals of Parliaments of the UN countries, which took place from 18 to 21 October in Geneva.



During the meeting of the Association of Secretary Generals of Parliaments, which started on 18 October, through numerous speeches and debates, secretary generals from parliaments of over 80 countries shared experiences and opinions on many current issues and challenges their parliamentary administrations were facing in their daily operations, such as the parliamentary oversight of secondary legislation, the role of parliament in strategic planning at the national level, regulation of financial compensation to MPs, communication of parliaments with the public, access to the parliament for persons with disabilities, etc.

There were three general debates on the agenda, on topics of social composition of parliaments, prevention of conflict of interest in parliaments, and influence of direct election of chairs of parliamentary committees. The secretary generals paid special attention to conflict of interest, while they discussed several segments of this issue, such as the existence of limitation on MPs to perform other duties and tasks, obligation to report income and property, prohibition of receiving gifts, as well as their limited right to speak and vote on a topic in

which they have a private interest. Working in several groups, all secretary generals briefly presented legislative solutions and practices in their respective parliaments. Secretary General of the Parliament of Montenegro Siniša Stanković presented key provisions of the current Law on Prevention of Conflict of Interest and the Law on Prevention of Corruption, whose implementation will begin in the following year, and provisions of the Code of Ethics for MPs.

The debate has shown that nearly all countries have provisions limiting professional engagement of MPs outside the parliament, with certain exceptions, such as provisions in respect of reporting property, while there were differences in the scope of reports, their publishing, and control. Considerable differences between the parliaments were present in respect of limiting the right of MPs to express the position of their MP Group or committee, as well as to participate in voting on issues in which they have a private interest. It was pointed out during the debate that the existence of conflict of interest did not imply the existence of corruption, and that there should be differentiation between the direct financial interest of MPs and the private interest in certain area, because then it could happen that MPs most knowledgeable on a topic could be denied the opportunity to present their views and to vote.

In addition, a joint conference of IPU and Association of Secretary Generals of Parliaments was held, dedicated to strengthening parliaments through building institutional capacities for effective parliamentary oversight. Some examples of good practices were presented, as well as challenges and opportunities for strengthening the oversight role of parliaments, which will be used in preparation of the Second Parliamentary Report on the topic: "Power of the Parliament to seek accountability from the Government: reality and prospects".

Delegation of the Parliament of Montenegro participated in the work of the 61st Annual Session of the NATO Parliamentary Assembly

Delegation of the Parliament of Montenegro composed of Obrad Stanišić and Rifat Rastoder participated in the work of the 61st Annual Session of the NATO Parliamentary Assembly, which took place from 9 to 12 October in Norway.

The first day of the 61st Annual Session of the NATO Parliamentary Assembly has commenced with the

meeting of delegations' secretaries. During the meeting, and for the purpose of successful organisation of the gathering, the participants were provided with detailed information of organisational and technical character as well as instructions for successful holding of the NATO PA Annual Session, while the activities of the Committee for the upcoming period were presented.

The coordination meeting of the NATO Parliamentary Assembly followed these meetings, attended by chairs of bureaus, committees and subcommittee, as well as rapporteurs.

The Plenary Session was held on 12 October, during which delegates of NATO PA adopted the Resolution on Strengthening Security and Stability through NATO's Partnership and Open Door Policies, by General Rapporteur Ojars Eriks Kalnins from Latvia. In this Resolution, inter alia, NATO PA: Underlines the complementarity of NATO's Partnership and Open Door policies, and notes that the prospect of further enlargement and the spirit of co-operative security have advanced stability in Europe (paragraph 6); Stresses that NATO's co-operation with partner countries rests on common values and aims to promote co-operation, confidence and stability, as well as increase members' and partners' capacities to address new security challenges (paragraph 7); Urges member governments

and parliaments of the North Atlantic Alliance: a) to continue delivering the support agreed at the Wales Summit for NATO aspirant countries; b) to extend Montenegro an invitation to join the Alliance (paragraph 10).



This was followed by election of officials of the NATO PA, presentation by the Treasurer Marc Angel, as well as voting on 2016 Draft Budget.

Members of the GRETA delegation met with representatives of the parliamentary committees

Delegation Representatives of the six working bodies of the Parliament of Montenegro met on 15 October with representatives of the GRETA delegation, who paid a visit to Montenegro, within second round of evaluating implementation of the Council of Europe Convention on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings. At two separate meetings, MPs informed GRETA experts on the manner of addressing the issue of trafficking in human beings, primarily through legislative activity. They emphasised the importance of ratification of the Council of Europe Convention on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings, but also the importance of amending the Criminal Code on the basis of

previous recommendations of GRETA, while the special accent was placed on the activities of working bodies aimed at strengthening the position of women and children.



PARLIAMENTARY GLOSSARY

Conclusion. "Most commonly a title of a decision involving individual matters of administrative procedure, and as a rule it defines issues that are subject of the procedure (Article 220 of Law on General Administrative procedure). The difference between these types of conclusions and decisions by which it is decided on the matter in question lies also in the fact that the decision is issued by a state authority competent for conducting a procedure (respectively the head or official authorised by law to make a decision), whereas a conclusion is issued by an authorized official competent for conducting a particular action of the procedure in the course of which that particular issue arises (Article 221 of Law on General Administrative procedure).

The conclusion shall also define issues that arise as side questions related to conduction of the procedure and are not covered in the decision (Article 220, paragraph 2 of the Law on General Administrative Procedure)."¹

¹ Pravna Enciklopedija, Beograd, Savremena Administracija 1979, str. 1647

IN FOCUS



President of the Parliament participated in the meeting of the North Atlantic Council, chaired by NATO Secretary General

President of the Parliament of Montenegro Ranko Krivokapić participated in the meeting of the North Atlantic Council (NAC) held on 15 October, and chaired by NATO Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg. The meeting was also attended by representatives of MP groups of the Parliament of Montenegro.



Prior to the meeting with the NAC, President Ranko Krivokapić had *tete-a-tete* meeting with NATO Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg. The meeting was focused on the topics such as: meeting the conditions for Montenegro's membership in NATO Alliance, reform processes and strengthening the rule of law and democracy. The interlocutors touched upon the political developments in Montenegro.

At the meeting of the North Atlantic Council, chaired by NATO Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg,

attended by 28 Ambassadors of NATO Alliance member states, President Krivokapić, representatives of MP groups of the Montenegrin Parliament: Milutin Simović, Draginja Vuksanović, Goran Tuponja, Danko Šarančić, Mladen Bojanić, Nik Gjeljoshaj and Almer Kalač.

President Krivokapić stated that there was a particular symbolism in the fact that the NAC met parliamentarians in Cetinje, the place where, even in the nineties messages of peace were sent to domestic and international community. The NAC meeting was an opportunity for parliamentarians to have a discussion with this body on the issues related to membership of our country in the Alliance. The Secretary General and Ambassadors of NATO states answered questions posed by MPs and had a discussion about them.



“In those years, the calls for reason were sent from Cetinje and undemocratic and destructive structures were resisted. It is important to remind of the fact that NATO has brought the peace in the Balkans area. NATO is not only the alliance of the states, but the community of system of values nourishing democracy, rule of law, stability and security. It naturally belongs to Montenegro to be a part of that system, and in that manner round up the security issue of the Mediterranean coast, from Portugal to Turkey.

- The invitation that we are expecting in December will be a seal of approval to our 21 May - to our independence. The invitation for NATO membership is a victory of stability and progressive policies of Montenegro”.

President of the Parliament of Montenegro Ranko Krivokapić

FROM THE HISTORY OF MONTENEGRIN PARLIAMENTARISM



DECREE OF PRINCE NIKOLA ON MINTING METAL COINS

11/24 April 1906

**WE
NIKOLA I
BY THE GRACE OF GOD
PRINCE AND SOVEREIGN OF MONTENEGRO**

**At the proposal of Our Minister of Finance and
Construction, after hearing Our Ministerial and
State Council decided to order and we are
ordering the following:**

Pursuant to Article 10 of the Constitution, we
authorise Our Minister of Finance and Construction
to mint and put into circulation coins of bronze and
nickel denominations of 20, 10, 2 and 1 paras,
ranging the amount of 200, 000 kronen.
Minister of Finance and Construction shall prescribe
the size, weight, alloy, quantity of each coin type, the
manner in which state treasuries and individuals
receive the money, and how to replace the similar
currency, which is currently in circulation.

The coin shall carry on one side the state coat of
arms, and on the other side of the coin shall be
written the nominal value in Arabic, surrounded by
the inscription: "Principality of Montenegro 1906".

All the expenditures involving the execution of
minting will be covered by credits envisaged for
extraordinary situations, and the income originating
from minted coins shall be kept in the state treasury
as extraordinary state revenue.

This decree is to be executed by Our Minister of
Finance and Construction.

Cetinje, 11 April 1906

Nikola, handwritten signature

Minister of Finance and Construction
A. Radović s.r.

Pavićević, B, Raspopović, R, ur. Crnogorski zakonici
1796-1916, knj. IV, Podgorica, Istorijski institut Crne
Gore, 1998, str. 160-161

FROM PARLIAMENT'S GALLERY

Symbolic representation of establishment of the modern
Montenegrin state through state-building foundations of
the following dynasties: Vojislavljević, Balšić, Crnojević and
Petrović.



CALENDAR



6 October

- Chair of the Gender Equality Committee Nada Drobnjak and Chair of the Security and Defence Committee Mevludin Nuhodžić gave a speech during the presentation of the OSCE Study on National Action Plans on the Implementation of the United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325. The aforementioned study, which contains the analysis of 27 national action plans on the implementation of the Resolution 1325 in the OSCE countries, was published by General secretariat of the organisation.



- President of the Parliament of Montenegro Ranko Krivokapić received President of the Politiken Foundation Jørgen Ejbøl. The interlocutors discussed the challenges faced by the independent media in the Western Balkans. It was estimated that the society as a whole must find a solution to ever greater and evident abuse of position of the media through its instruments for the purposes of propaganda and compromise. The interlocutors stated that the free public, responsible and professional media were the lifeblood of every democracy, and that the problems in that segment represented problems of the society which should be resolved through institutions. During the meeting they also addressed the increasingly present problem in the ownership structures of certain private media, which usually stem from the grey areas and various interest groups which have a problem with the system of the rule of law.



- Upon the invitation of the Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe, Deputy Chair of the Security and Defence Committee Snežana Jonica participated in the workshop titled: "Code of Conduct on Politico-Military Aspects of Security - review and perspective: establishing reforms, implementation, parliamentary oversight and outreach", which took place in Belgrade, in the period 6-9 October 2015. The gathering has paid special attention to practical aspects of implementation of the parliamentary oversight over the work of security services, army and police in the context of application of the OSCE Code of Conduct, and implementation of international humanitarian right and Resolution 1325 of the United Nations Security Council "Women, Peace and Security".

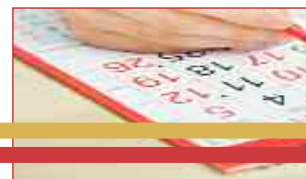
7 October

- Chair of the Committee on Human Rights and Freedoms Halil Duković met with Judith Heumann, Special Advisor for International Disability Rights at the State Department, at the initiative of the US Embassy in Montenegro. The interlocutors discussed the position of persons with disabilities in Montenegro and activities of the Committee on Human Rights and Freedoms in this area. It was concluded at the meeting that it was necessary to focus attention on implementation of laws, which is the way to contribute to exercising of rights and improving of position of persons with disabilities in society, and requires the engagement of state institutions, NGOs, and all citizens.



- Representatives of the Gender Equality Committee and Administrative Committee met with ODIHR experts Karolina Leaković, Nedim Hogić and Lana Ačkar. The goal of the meeting was to draft the Plan for greater consideration of gender aspects through the work of the Parliament. Creation, adoption, and implementation of the Plan should raise awareness on the issues of gender equality and the significance of

CALENDAR



integration of gender equality policies, as well as establish mechanisms for achieving gender equality in the Parliament of Montenegro. The adoption of the Plan presents one of the measures within the Action Plan for Strengthening the Legislative and Oversight Role of the Parliament of Montenegro for 2015. The Gender Equality Committee is the carrier of that activity which was envisaged to be adopted in the third quarter of the current year. Starting from the fact that this obligation stems from the Action Plan, the Committee requested expert support from the OSCE Mission to Montenegro, aimed at receiving professional assistance for drafting this document and overview of comparative experiences.

8 October

- Members of Security and Defence Committee Ljubo Škrelja and Darko Pajović participated in the Regional Workshop “Challenges posed by a preventative criminal justice response to terrorism and foreign terrorist fighters”, which took place in Bucharest, on 8 and 9 October 2015. The gathering, hosted by the Romanian Parliament, was organised within UNODC/TPB-EU initiative, aimed at strengthening the legal regime against foreign terrorist fighters, including violent extremism, incitement to join terrorist groups, recruitment and training of FTFs, stand-alone terrorists and the use of Internet for terrorist purposes.

9 October

- Delegation of the Parliament of Montenegro composed of Obrad Stanišić and Rifat Rastoder participated in the work of the 61st Annual Session of the NATO Parliamentary Assembly, which took place in Norway from 9 to 12 October.

12 October

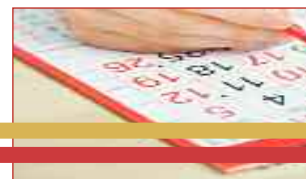
- Vice President of the Parliament of Montenegro Suljo Mustafić took part in the Tenth Conference of Presidents of the Parliaments of Small European States, which was held in Monaco, from 12 to 14 October. The conference addressed the following topics: “Challenges in relations with the EU and accession negotiations”, “How to keep and maintain economic attractiveness in the time of crises” and “Mobility of students in small European countries - obstacles and opportunities”.



15 October

- President of the Parliament of Montenegro Ranko Krivokapić and representatives of MP groups of the Parliament of Montenegro participated in the meeting of the North Atlantic Council (NAC), chaired by NATO Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg.
- Halil Duković, Chair of the Committee on Human Rights and Freedoms, Nada Drobnjak, Chair of the Gender Equality Committee, Nikola Gegaj, member of the Gender Equality Committee, and Srđan Perić, member of the Committee on Health, Labour and Social Welfare met with members of the Group of Experts on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings (GRETA) Rita Theodorou Superman, Mihai Serban and Markus Lehner, that paid a four day visit to Montenegro within second round of evaluation of implementation of the Council of Europe Convention on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings.
- Representatives of six working bodies of the Parliament of Montenegro met with representatives of GRETA delegation, who paid a visit to Montenegro within second round of evaluation of implementation of the Council of Europe Convention on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings. At two separate meetings, MPs informed GRETA experts on the manner of addressing the issue of trafficking in human beings, primarily through legislative activity. They emphasised the importance of ratification of the Council of Europe Convention on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings, but also the importance of amending the Criminal Code on the basis of previous recommendations of GRETA. Special accent was placed on the activities of working bodies aimed at strengthening the position of women and children.
- Members of the Committee on Economy, Finance and Budget composed of MPs Aleksandar Damjanović,

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Chair of the Committee on Economy, Finance and Budget and Filip Vuković, member of the Committee participated in the Interparliamentary Conference, titled: "Economic governance and job creation in the EU and in enlargement countries", which took place from 15 to 16 October in Sarajevo. The conference covered topics such as: structural reforms, related to solving the problem of bad ambience for foreign direct investments and priorities and perspectives in this field; the importance of public sector reforms and professionalisation of public administration; convergence of candidate countries towards the EU standards in fiscal and taxation policies; the experience of EU member states in solving the unemployment problem, as well as the parliaments' role in fostering and supporting harmonisation with the EU standards.



- Vice President of the Parliament of Montenegro Suljo Mustafić took part in the Conference "Intercultural dialogue and cooperation in support of a sustainable Mediterranean", which took place in Paris. The Conference addressed the topic "Together for a common future of the Mediterranean: leaders of civil society and presidents of the parliaments of the member countries of the Union for the Mediterranean". During the visit, Vice President Mustafić met Claude Bartolone, President of the National Assembly of France and Elisabeth Guigou, Chair of the National Assembly Foreign Affairs Committee.

17 October

- President of the Parliament of Montenegro Ranko Krivokapić paid an official visit to Hungary, and had meetings with János Áder, President of Hungary, László Kövér, Speaker of the Hungarian Parliament and Péter Szijjártó, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Hungary. During the Seventh Conference of

Parliament Speakers of the Western Balkan Countries, there was a discussion on the security challenges facing our region, as well as the future of the EU neighbourhood countries.

- Several day long humanitarian action "Solidarity in Community", organised on the occasion of 17 October - International Day for the Eradication of Poverty, with the participation of MPs, employees and members of the parliamentary Trade Union, finished with the handing over of donations. Participants were addressed by the Secretary General of the Parliament of Montenegro Siniša Stanković, stating, inter alia, that this action is the best act of solidarity in difficult times. Within the action "Solidarity in Community", the invitation for participation was sent to mobile operators, banks, as well as to all people of good will, in order to widen the humanitarian action aimed at collecting as much funds for the extremely vulnerable community members.



18 October

- Secretary General of the Parliament of Montenegro Siniša Stanković participated in the Meeting of the Association of Secretary Generals of Parliaments of the UN countries, where Secretary Generals from parliaments of over 80 countries shared experiences and opinions on many current issues and challenges their parliamentary administrations were facing in their daily operations, such as: the parliamentary oversight of secondary legislation, the role of parliament in strategic planning at the national level, regulation of financial compensation to MPs, communication of parliaments with the public, access to the parliament for persons with disabilities, etc.

19 October

- Chair of the Committee on Health, Labour and Social

CALENDAR



Welfare Zoran Jelić and member of the Committee Radosav Nišavić participated in the Meeting of the Chairpersons of the Committees on Social Affairs, which was held in Luxembourg on 19 October 2015. Working part of the Meeting was implemented through three sessions, defined as: Integration of the social dimension in all European Union policies; Further socialisation of the European Semester; Common social values. During the meeting, participants in the debates stressed the need for the citizens with social problems to be at the focus of interest of institutions in the European Union, competent for creation and implementation of the social policies.



- Member of the Committee on European Integration Obrad Mišo Stanišić participated in a two-day Strategic Meeting of the Government of Montenegro and the System of United Nations in Montenegro. During the meeting, representatives of the Government and state institutions and the UN system agencies discussed the development priorities of Montenegro in the forthcoming period and defined key development objectives and results that will be the subject of cooperation between Montenegro and the UN in the period 2017-2021.

20 October

- Chair of the Gender Equality Committee Nada Drobnjak participated in the Conference "Monitoring the implementation of the Istanbul Convention: new synergies", which was held in Sarajevo, within presidency of Bosnia and Herzegovina over the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe. The topic of the Conference was prevention and action against violence against women and domestic violence, while the goal of the Conference was involvement in the process of

considering new synergies at different levels: at the government level, parliamentary level, with participation of parliamentarians in monitoring the implementation of the Istanbul Convention, and at the level of civil society and national institutions for human rights.

26 October

- Chair of the Gender Equality Committee Nada Drobnjak participated in a press conference on the occasion of introducing a single SOS line for victims of domestic violence. The aim of the conference was to present and provide support to the campaign -SOS line for victims of domestic violence, implemented by the Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare in cooperation with the Office of the United Nations Development Program (UNDP). The basic aims of the campaign are: informing citizens, motivating citizens to use helpline and raising confidence on systemic approach of the state bodies regarding the area of provision of protective measures.

27 October

- Members of the Committee on Health, Labour and Social Welfare of the Parliament of Montenegro met with members of the Committee on Health, Labour and Social Welfare of the Assembly of the Republic of Kosovo, which paid a visit to the Parliament of Montenegro. The interlocutors shared their experiences on a set of laws adopted in the field of labour and social welfare, as well as on laws being under parliamentary procedure from the field of health. They stated, at the meeting, that it was important for Montenegro's and Kosovo's governments to sign an agreement on social insurance. Additionally, the meeting of these two parliamentary committees should improve further bilateral cooperation of Montenegro and Republic of Kosovo, parliaments of the two states as well as these two parliamentary committees.
- President of the Parliament of Montenegro Ranko Krivokapić paid an official visit to the United States of America, on which occasion he met with Hoyt Yee, Deputy Assistant Secretary of the U.S. State Department. President Krivokapić had a set of bilateral meetings with influential congressmen and senators such as: Michael Turner, President of the

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NATO Parliamentary Assembly; Senator John McCain, Chairman of the US Senate Committee on Armed Services; Senator Roger Wicker, Co-chairman of the Helsinki Commission, and Congressman Doug Lamborn, Co-Chair of Montenegrin Caucus, and Senator Chris Murphy.



- MPs Genci Nimanbegu and Nikola Gegaj met with members of Delegation of the Assembly of the Republic of Kosovo, where the discussion was about the cooperation of the two parliaments as well as composition of the Montenegrin Parliament and political relations in Montenegro.
- Members of the Committee on International Relations and Emigrants Žana Filipović and Jasmin Sutović met with members of the Committee on Health, Labour and Social Welfare of the Assembly of the Republic of Kosovo. The meeting was focused on cooperation between Montenegro and Kosovo, whereas the special accent was placed on the possibility of improvement of cooperation through parliamentary working bodies responsible for various areas.
- Chair of Committee on Human Rights and Freedoms Halil Duković participated in the Conference "Quality, inclusion and innovations - foundations for the future", which addressed the quality of education in Montenegro, with special focus on early and preschool education, inclusion of children with disabilities and the role of school in the development of emotional and social skills of students.

28 October

- Chair of the Committee on International Relations and Emigrants Miodrag Vuković attended the ceremony organised on the occasion of Day of the National Council of Montenegrins in Serbia by the

National Council of Montenegrins in Serbia, which took place in Vrbas. At the ceremony, one-year work of the National Council, as a lead organisation of national Montenegrins in Serbia, was deemed as successful.

30 October

- As a part of marking the Day of Montenegrin Parliamentarism, an exhibition of archival documents from the period 1905-1914 and since 1946 to date was opened in the Parliament of Montenegro. Opening the exhibition, Secretary of the Legislative Committee Vlatko Šćepanović stated that the collection represented a golden review of Montenegrin parliamentarism, containing copies of seven constitutions, of which two are of the independent Montenegro. The exhibition is organised on the occasion of 110 years of Montenegrin constitutionality under the motto "Making a road to freedom". The exhibition will be permanently displayed in the building of the Parliament of Montenegro.



31 October

- In honour of marking the 31st October - Day of Montenegrin Parliamentarism, the Parliament held the "Parliament of Art", where numerous artists as well as musicians, students and attendees of Democracy Workshops participated. The motto of ceremony, held in honour of 110 years of Montenegrin constitutionality, was "Libertati viam facere", i.e. Making a road to freedom. On the occasion of marking the Day, President of the Parliament of Montenegro Ranko Krivokapić and Head of the European Union Delegation to Montenegro Mitja Drobnič ceremoniously opened the Data centre of the Parliament of Montenegro, a project implemented with the EU support.