



Parliament of Montenegro

NEWSLETTER OPEN PARLIAMENT

Newsletter on the Parliament of Montenegro Performance ♦ No. 54 ♦ November 2015

CONTENTS

Legislative and oversight activity.....2

News from Parliament.....5

President of the Parliament opened the Seventh session of Children's Parliament.....5

Chair of the Gender Equality Committee Nada Drobnjak participated in the International Conference dedicated to implementation of the Council of Europe Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence.....5

Delegation of the Parliament of Montenegro participated in the Conference "Regional parliamentary dialogue on migration management, refugee protection and combating organised crime – responses at the national level and regional cooperation".....6

Delegation of the Committee on Political System, Judiciary and Administration met with Delegation of the Ministry of Justice and Consumer Protection of the Federal Republic of Germany.....6

Parliamentary glossary.....8

In focus.....7

**From the history of Montenegrin
Parliamentarism.....8**

Calendar.....9

IN FOCUS

President of the Parliament met in Brussels with Johannes Khan and Siegfried Bracke

p.7



PARLIAMENTARY GLOSSARY

Do you know...
what is collective security?

p.8

FROM THE HISTORY OF MONTENEGRIN PARLIAMENTARISM

Law on Organisation of the Military of the Principality of Montenegro

p.8

OPEN PARLIAMENT



Parliament of Montenegro

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FOREWORD

Dear readers,

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

In November, the second sitting of the second ordinary session was held, during which several reports and law proposals were discussed. In addition, the third special sitting of the second ordinary session was held, during which MPs posed 34 questions and six additional questions to ministers in the Government, as well as the fifth special sitting of the second ordinary session, during which MPs posed seven questions to the Prime Minister.

During November, committees considered 17 proposals for a law, three proposal for a decision, and held other activities within their oversight role.

In focus of this month's newsletter is the meeting of the President of the Parliament with Johannes Khan and Siegfried Bracke, which took place in Brussels.

The newsletter is published monthly through which the Parliament endeavours to bring its work closer to Montenegrin citizens. We consider this publication to be very significant as a reliable source of information regarding the work of the Parliament and we hope that you will find it useful.

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

*Respectfully,
Parliamentary Service*



LEGISLATIVE AND OVERSIGHT ACTIVITY

At the Second Sitting of the Second Ordinary Session of the Parliament of Montenegro in 2015, MPs discussed several reports and law proposals.

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 *Parliamentary questions*, MPs' questions were answered by ministers in the Government. MPs posed 34 questions and six additional questions to ministers.

At the Fifth Special Sitting of the Second Ordinary Session of the Parliament of Montenegro in 2015, within the agenda item *Prime Minister's Questions*, MPs' questions were answered by the Prime Minister of Montenegro. MPs posed seven questions to the Prime Minister.

Proposals for a law deliberated in committees

- **Proposal for a Wine Law** 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**

Olive Cultivation and Olive Oil was considered and proposed to the Parliament for adoption by the Committee on Tourism, Agriculture, Ecology and Spatial Planning.

- **Proposal for a Law on Biocidal Products** 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 Rafting Law** 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 Postal Service** was considered and proposed to the Parliament for adoption by the Committee on Economy, Finance and Budget.
- **Proposal for a Law on Amendments to the Law on Local Self-Government Financing**, submitted by MP Damir Šehović, was considered and proposed to the Parliament for adoption by the Committee on Economy, Finance and Budget.
- **Proposal for a Law on Amendments to the Law on Geological Research** was considered by the Committee on Economy, Finance and Budget; however, the proposal did not obtain the required majority.
- **Proposal for a Law on Settlement of Obligations to Workers of the SC Bauxite Mine Nikšić Who Acquired the Right to Pension Due to Bankruptcy of the Company** was considered by the Committee on Economy, Finance and Budget, within its area of competence, which submitted its opinion to the lead committee, i.e. Committee on Health, Labour and Social Welfare.
- **Proposal for a Law on Ratification of the Agreement on the State Border between Montenegro and Bosnia and Herzegovina** was considered and proposed to the Parliament for adoption by the Committee on International Relations and Emigrants.
- **Proposal for a Law on Ratification of the Agreement on the State Border between Montenegro and the Republic of Kosovo** was considered and proposed to the Parliament for adoption by the Committee on International Relations and Emigrants.
- **Proposal for a Law on Administrative Inspection** 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 Information Security** 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 Protection and Rescue** was considered and proposed to the Parliament for adoption by the Security and Defence Committee.

- **Proposal for a Law on 2014 Final Budget Account together with the Report of the State Audit Institution on audit of the Proposal for the Law** was considered and proposed to the Parliament for adoption by the Committee on Economy, Finance and Budget.
- **Proposal for a Law on Amendments to the Excise Law** was considered and proposed to the Parliament for adoption by the Committee on Economy, Finance and Budget and the Legislative Committee.
- **Proposal for an Environment Law** was considered and proposed to the Parliament for adoption by the Legislative Committee.
- **Proposal for a Law on Amendments to the Law on the Recognition of Foreign Educational Credentials and Qualifications Equivalence** was considered and proposed to the Parliament for adoption by the Legislative Committee.

Proposals for other acts deliberated in committees

- **Proposal for a Decision on establishing the Committee on monitoring and controlling the implementation of the Bar-Boljare highway project** was considered by the Committee on Economy, Finance and Budget; however, the proposal did not obtain the required majority.
- **Proposal for a Decision on providing approval for the Contract on using coastal property for implementation and development of infrastructure, with the Contract on using coastal property for implementation and development of infrastructure between the Public Enterprise for Coastal Zone Management of Montenegro and TERNA Crna Gora LLC** was considered and proposed to the Parliament for adoption by the Committee on Economy, Finance and Budget.
- **Proposal for a Decision on the election of Banking Ombudsman, proposing to the Parliament to appoint Halil Kalač** was determined by the Committee on Economy, Finance and Budget.

Other activities of working bodies

- At the 104th meeting, held on 10 November, the **Committee on Political System, Judiciary and Administration** determined the list of applicants to the Public Call for election of one member of the Prosecutorial Council from among respectable lawyers.

At the 105th meeting, held on 19 November, the Committee considered and supported the 2014 Performance Report of the Commission for Prevention of Conflict of Interests.

At the 106th meeting, held on 25 November, there was a consultative hearing of applicants to the Public Call

for election of one member of the Prosecutorial Council.

- At the 49th meeting, which took place on 23 November, the **Security and Defence Committee** considered and supported the 2014 Annual Report on Foreign Trade of Controlled Goods of the Ministry of Economy.
- At the 41st meeting of the **Committee on European Integration**, held on 11 November, Head of the Montenegro Unit at the European Commission's DG Enlargement Dirk Lange and Head of the EU Delegation to Montenegro Mitja Drobnič presented the 2015 Annual Progress Report on Montenegro. During the meeting, Montenegro was commended as a state which has contributed significantly to regional cooperation and neighbourly relations, and has achieved certain progress in the fight against corruption and organised crime. In addition, it was stated that Montenegro was moderately prepared in the area of judiciary and public administration reform. Lange emphasised that this year's report was a good indicator of the current situation in terms of fulfilling the political and economic criteria, as well as the criteria of accepting EU membership responsibilities.
- At the 120th meeting, held on 13 November, members of the **Committee on Economy, Finance and Budget** supported the Financial Report together with the 2014 Performance Report of the Agency for Electronic Communications and Postal Services of Montenegro and suggested that the issue of financing the universal postal service is solved as soon as possible.

At the 121st meeting, held on 23 November, the Committee considered the Annual Report on Performed Audits and Activities of the State Audit Institution of Montenegro for the period October 2014 - October 2015, in part relating to: 2014 Report on Assessment of Implementation of Fiscal Responsibility Criteria, reports on individual audits performed for the said period, as well as other activities of the State Audit Institution.

At the 122nd meeting, held on 30 November, the Committee considered Report on the realisation of investments on the basis of the agreement on long-term lease of land in Lustica Peninsula - municipality of Herceg Novi, Report on the realisation of investments and other activities on the basis of the agreement on long-term lease of land in Lustica Peninsula - municipality of Tivat and Report on realisation of investments and other activities on the basis of the agreement on long-term lease of the "Orijen battalion" barracks in Kumbor, municipality of Herceg Novi. On the occasion of considering the aforementioned reports on the realisation of investments and other activities on the basis of a long-

term lease agreement, submission of conclusions was announced.

- At the 55th meeting, held on 10 November, the **Gender Equality Committee** supported the 2nd Report on Implementation of Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW), which was adopted by the Government of Montenegro and submitted to the UN CEDAW Committee.
- At the 62nd meeting, held on 13 November, the **Committee on Education, Science, Culture and Sports** considered Information on awarding grants for sub-projects of research and development - Realisation of project "Higher Education and Research for Innovation and Competitiveness", Information on the realisation of the project involving the establishing of the first centre of excellence in Montenegro "Centre of Excellence in Bioinformatics (BIO-ICT)- Realisation of the project "Higher Education and Research for Innovation and Competitiveness", Information on establishing a scientific and technological park in Podgorica, and the Initiative for organising a control hearing of Minister of Education Predrag Bošković, submitted by MP Srđan Perić.
- At the 57th meeting of the **Administrative Committee**, held on 4 November, the Committee determined three proposals for a decision and decided to propose to the Parliament that MP Vuk Roćen be elected as member of Committee on European Integration, Committee on Education, Science, Culture and Sports, and the Committee on Human Rights and Freedoms.

At the 58th meeting, which took place on 9 November, the Committee unanimously decided to propose to the Parliament to reach a decision on granting approval for the initiation of the criminal procedure against MPs Slaven Radunović and Andrija Mandić, for the criminal offence of *calling for forced change of the constitutional order, referred to in Article 362, paragraph 1 of the Criminal Code of Montenegro*, and decision on granting approval for the initiation of the criminal procedure against MP Milan Knežević, for the criminal offence of *assault against a public official while performing his/her duties referred to in Article 376, paragraph 3 with regard to paragraph 1 of the Criminal Code of Montenegro*.

- At the 59th meeting of 17 November, the Committee by the majority of votes decided to propose to the Parliament to reach a decision on granting approval for the initiation of the criminal procedure against MP Milutin Đukanović, for the criminal offence of *assault against a public official while performing his/her duties referred to in Article 376, paragraph 3 with regard to paragraph 1 of the Criminal Code of Montenegro*.

NEWS FROM PARLIAMENT



President of the Parliament opened the Seventh session of Children's Parliament

Parliament of Montenegro, in cooperation with the Center for Children's Rights of Montenegro, organised on 27 November the Seventh Children's Parliament, on the occasion of 20 November - Universal Children's Day.



During the session, President of the Parliament Ranko Krivokapić emphasised that the Children's Parliament, which has already become traditional, is the greatest Montenegrin parliament, bringing joy of a special kind. In addition, he stated that so far, over 15 thousand of children passed through the Montenegrin Parliament, stressing that democracy was truth, love and passion, and that the Parliament has felt that passion mostly by working with children. In his address, he emphasised that each Children's parliament so far has brought something

new, expressing hope that participants of the Seventh Children's Parliament would traditionally continue their good path.

The children, as during the previous sessions, were interested in the actions of the authorities in the previous six years with regard to their requests, sent from parliamentary benches.

Participants of the Children's Parliament stressed that school should be a place where logical and critical opinion was demanded, potentials recognised and skills strengthened, thus preparing children to be responsible citizens of the 21st century. Specific problems were indicated: number of classes, manner of assessing, quality of textbooks and peer violence. The children reminded of the initiative from the earlier session of the Children's Parliament on establishing "The day of open door for children", and addressed MPs with a hope that children's session would have an influence on them.

The session was attended by 47 representatives of local children's parliaments from 23 Montenegrin municipalities, representatives of the Government of Montenegro, representatives of MP groups of the Parliament of Montenegro, representatives of domestic institutions and international organisations dealing with rights of the child as well as members of diplomatic corps.

Chair of the Gender Equality Committee Nada Drobnjak participated in the International Conference dedicated to implementation of the Council of Europe Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence

Chair of the Gender Equality Committee Nada Drobnjak participated in the International Conference dedicated to implementation of the Council of Europe Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence, on the topic: "General and specialised services of assistance - guarantees of quality of service".

In addition, the Conference was attended by parliamentarians, representatives of competent state institutions, and organisations dealing with protection and promotion of rights of women victims of violence from Montenegro, Serbia, Croatia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Slovenia, Austria, Macedonia, Turkey, Albania, and Kosovo.

There were panel discussions on the topics "General and specialised services of assistance - guarantees of quality of service" and "Specialised services of assistance - challenges in availability and potential providers".



In her address, Chair Drobnjak, *inter alia*, emphasised that violence against women seriously violates and impairs, and very often nullifies the enjoyment by women of their human rights, particularly their fundamental rights to life, security, liberty, dignity, physical and economic integrity. In addition, Drobnjak emphasised that Montenegro has and will undertake measures to establish a legislative, investment and organisation framework for the

prevention and elimination of violence against women and domestic violence, in order to provide a multidisciplinary approach to the protection of victims of violence and effective punishment of perpetrators and their socialisation.

Second day of the Conference, organised by the Gender Equality Committee of the Parliament of Montenegro and the NGO Women's Safe House, participants had a panel discussion on the topic: "Cooperation between public sector and NGOs - current situation and suggested measures to promote

cooperation".

The panelists introduced the legal framework which regulates the activities of NGOs in preventing and eliminating violence against women and domestic violence, cooperation with state authorities, involvement in creating strategic policies and effects of cooperation with the aforementioned in the process of making laws, policies and protocols.

The Conference concluded with the adoption of the Podgorica Declaration on the elimination of violence against women and domestic violence.

Delegation of the Parliament of Montenegro participated in the Conference "Regional parliamentary dialogue on migration management, refugee protection and combating organised crime – responses at the national level and regional cooperation"

The Conference "Regional parliamentary dialogue on migration management, refugee protection and combating organised crime – responses at the national level and regional cooperation" was held in Belgrade, on 26 and 27 November.

A two-day gathering was organised by the National Assembly of the Republic of Serbia and the Geneva Centre for the Democratic Control of Armed Forces (DCAF).

Given that changes regarding migration and asylum are causing problems that countries cannot fight individually, the organisers of the conference have provided for parliamentarians a platform for discussing national and regional approaches to refugee crisis, in search for a cooperative approach of the best manner to solve problems, applying current processes and initiatives.

At the end of two-day work, conclusions of the conference were adopted.

The participants of the Regional parliamentary

dialogue were members of the committees responsible for defence, security and foreign affairs from nine parliaments of the South-East Europe: Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Greece, Kosovo, Macedonia, Montenegro, Slovenia and Serbia.



Delegation of the Parliament of Montenegro consisted of Deputy Chair of the Security and Defence Committee Snežana Jonica and member of the Committee Obrad Mišo Stanišić.

Members of the Committee on Political System, Judiciary and Administration met with Delegation of the Ministry of Justice and Consumer Protection of the Federal Republic of Germany

Members of the Committee on Political System, Judiciary and Administration met on 27 November with Delegation of the Ministry of Justice and Consumer Protection of the Federal Republic of Germany, headed by the State Secretary Stefanie Hubig.

During the meeting, the participants discussed the activities of the Committee on Political System, Judiciary and Administration, and exchanged experiences on current issues involving the media, judiciary, fight against corruption, as well as administration. Delegation of the Federal Republic of Germany stated that when it comes to Bundestag, several committees are competent for considering the issues which in the Parliament of Montenegro fall solely under the competence of the Committee on Political System, Judiciary and Administration, and therefore they consider the Committee's work to be very demanding and responsible. In addition to Hubig, the meeting was attended by

Gudrun Elisabeth Steinacker, Ambassador of Germany in Montenegro, Alexandra Albrecht, Head of Department for International Legal Cooperation, and Stefan Pürner, Project Leader for Montenegro at the German Foundation for International Legal Cooperation.

Aside from the Chair of the Committee Rifat Rastoder, the meeting was also attended by members Marta Šćepanović and Milorad Vuletić.



IN FOCUS



President of the Parliament met in Brussels with Johannes Khan and Siegfried Bracke

During the visit to Brussels, President of the Parliament of Montenegro Ranko Krivokapić met with Commissioner for European Neighbourhood Policy and Enlargement Negotiations Johannes Khan and Siegfried Bracke, Speaker of the Belgian House of Representatives.



President Krivokapić spoke with the Commissioner Johannes Khan regarding the current political situation in Montenegro. The focus of the meeting was on the start of the parliamentary dialogue scheduled for tomorrow, which was initiated by President Krivokapić. During their talks, President and the Commissioner agreed that Mitja Drobnic, Head of the EU Delegation to Montenegro should also attend the meeting of leaders of the parliamentary political entities whose representatives are MPs in the Parliament. During the meeting, the interlocutors estimated that the Parliament is the main source of democracy and that the main goals, i.e. free, fair and undisputed parliamentary elections should be achieved through dialogue between political entities. It was emphasised that the period before the elections is very important and it should be used in order to remove all doubts and disputes regarding the electoral process, through serious dialogue and joint work. They welcomed the electoral legislation and emphasised the importance of its full implementation by relevant entities, particularly in terms of electronic voter identification.

President Krivokapić emphasised that Montenegro has been thoroughly analysing the latest Progress Report on Montenegro, as an objective overview and guideline for further efforts that need to be

undertaken on its path towards democratisation and strengthening of institutions, which ultimately means fulfilling the commitments on the path to EU integration. The Rule of Law and continuing reforms would result in higher level of maturity of state and society.

During the meeting with Siegfried Bracke, Speaker of the Belgian House of Representatives, good relations between Montenegro and Belgium were emphasised, as well as the increasingly productive cooperation between the two parliaments. It was also stated that the founding of Special Public Prosecutor's Office and all the efforts undertaken in this area are encouraging in terms of strengthening the fight against corruption and organised crime.

Krivokapić and Bracke concluded that our country has been achieving continuous progress on its path to EU membership, however, from now on, Montenegro should start implementing the adopted laws and achieve measurable results. It was also referred to the new approach of the European Commission towards candidate countries in terms of comparative progress reports, as well as obligation of Montenegro and its institutions to achieve measurable and credible results in the upcoming period. In addition, they emphasised that there was still enough room for further developing cooperation between the two countries, and that the upcoming period will be specifically dedicated to enhancing cooperation. Bracke noted that Montenegro may count on Belgium's friendly and partnering support in the EU accession process and increasingly certain NATO membership.



FROM THE HISTORY OF MONTENEGRIN PARLIAMENTARISM



LAW ON ORGANISATION OF THE MILITARY OF THE PRINCIPALITY OF MONTENEGRO

29 April/ 12 May 1910

**WE
NIKOLA I
BY THE GRACE OF GOD
PRINCE AND SOVEREIGN OF MONTENEGRO
declare and announce to each and every person
that the National Assembly has decided to order
and we are ordering this**

LAW ON ORGANISATION OF MILITARY OF PRINCIPALITY OF MONTENEGRO

I GENERAL PROVISIONS

Article 3

Armed forces of Montenegro are composed of the

militia. The major part of the militia consists of all citizens of Montenegro (in accordance with Articles 4 and 5 of the Law) which is occasionally called up for exercises, while its minor part is composed of military administration authorities responsible for the implementation of Article 2 of this Law, and is therefore constantly on duty.

Article 4

Each citizen of Montenegro who has reached 18 years of age shall serve in the armed forces starting from 1 January until 31 December of the year when he has reached 62 years of age, in accordance with the rules prescribed by the Law.

Cetinje, 29 April 1910

Nikola, handwritten signature

Pavićević, B, Raspopović, R, ur. Crnogorski zakonicni 1796-1916, knj. IV, Podgorica (Montenegrin Codes 1796-1916, Book IV), Istorijski institut Crne Gore, 1998, pp. 1052-1100

PARLIAMENTARY GLOSSARY

Collective security. "Simply put, the idea of collective security means that joint action of a large number of countries is the best response to aggression. The theory of collective security is based on the assumption that war and international conflicts result from insecurities brought by the power politics. According to the theory, as long as countries are committed to mutual defense, they will be able to either resist the aggression, or to punish the aggressor, in case of violation of international order. The success of collective security depends on three factors. Primarily, all countries must have approximately the same level of strength or there must be a dominant power. Secondly, all the countries should be capable of covering all costs and assume responsibility for mutual defense. Third, it is necessary that there is an international body that carries moral authority and military power to undertake effective action."¹

¹ Endru Hejvud, *Politika(Politics)*, Beograd, Clio 2004, p. 296

CALENDAR



2 November

- Chair of the Committee on International Relations and Emigrants and Head of the Delegation of the Parliament of Montenegro to the Parliamentary Dimension of the Central European Initiative Miodrag Vuković participated in the Meeting of the CEI Parliamentary Assembly General Committee on Cultural Affairs, which took place in Rome. The following topics were covered at the meeting: "Cooperation among CEI member states in education - universities within European integration", "Mobility of students and teaching staff" and "Recognition of academic qualifications within the protection of linguistic minorities".

3 November

- Chair of the Gender Equality Committee Nada Drobnjak met with Kalyani Menon Son, United Nations Development Programme gender expert, Bharati Sadasivam, United Nations Development Programme regional advisor and Natalli Navarro, independent consultant. The meeting was focused on cooperation in terms of participation of women in political and public life, prevention and addressing of violence against women and domestic violence as well as economic empowerment of women.



4 November

- President of the Parliament of Montenegro Ranko Krivokapić received Mitja Močnik, newly appointed Ambassador of the Republic of Slovenia. President Krivokapić noted that in these important and great historic steps of Montenegro, it was especially important to have partners who not only support you, but understand you, know you, and do everything with good will and intentions. In addition, he stated that the closeness of our two countries, the historic ties, and stepping towards the joint EU destiny gave us great

political and social capital. Močnik expressed enormous satisfaction that his new mandate was beginning precisely in Montenegro, the country at NATO's door, and the country holding a lead position in the EU integration in the region.



- Vice-President of the Parliament of Montenegro Suljo Mustafić met with Director of the Konrad Adenauer Foundation (KAS) for Serbia and Montenegro Norbert Beckmann-Dierkes. During the meeting, Vice-President Mustafić referred to the current political situation in Montenegro and emphasised that priority of the Montenegrin state policy in the upcoming months was to receive the invitation to join the NATO Alliance. In addition, he emphasised that by joining the NATO Alliance, Montenegro would get the opportunity to build a more secure legal order, promote human and minority rights, and especially build a more stable ambience needed for strengthening the economy. Norbert Beckmann-Dierkes emphasised that the Konrad Adenauer Foundation via its office in Podgorica had been successfully implementing project activities in Montenegro, for 15 years.
- Mevludin Nuhodžić, Chair of the Security and Defence Committee and Obrad Mišo Stanišić, member of the Committee participated in the Fifth Conference titled "Current state of security in Bosnia and Herzegovina", held in Bosnia and Herzegovina. The aim of the Conference was to review the achievements, security challenges, coordination in work, problems and proposals and measures for strengthening the role of institutions engaged in creating a favourable security environment, and therefore greater safety in BiH and its citizens, through dialogue with representatives of institutions from the security and defence sector.
- MP Žana Filipović participated in the Regional workshop for members of parliaments, media and interested parties on adaptation to climate change in Mediterranean coastal area, which took place in

CALENDAR



Athens, from 4 to 6 November. The purpose of the Regional workshop was to inform MPs about current and future international and Mediterranean initiatives as well as processes on climate variability and changes with focus on coastal areas in the Mediterranean. In addition, the aim was to acquaint the participants with regional programmes and activities on climate variability, changes and programmes related to water, coastal areas, and environment, with a purpose to identify manners for a more active engagement of MPs in the aforementioned areas.



5 November

- Chair of the Committee on International Relations and Emigrants Miodrag Vuković received Chairperson of the Foreign Affairs Committee of the National Assembly of Hungary Zsolz Németh. Chair Vuković acquainted his interlocutor with the results achieved in implementing the reforms aimed at receiving invitation for NATO membership, which would contribute to establishing permanent stability and strengthening preconditions for further economic development and progress of Montenegro, improvement of rule of law and democracy, human and minority rights and quality of living of every citizen and overall society. Zsolz Németh emphasised that Montenegro has Hungary's full support in the process of achieving its major strategic and political goal - joining the European Union and NATO Alliance. In addition, he praised the results achieved in integration processes and referred to the importance of maintaining the positive trend in implementing reforms, noting that NATO was a guarantee of the territorial integrity and sovereignty of Montenegro.
- President of the Parliament of Montenegro Ranko Krivokapić received Zsolz Németh, Chairperson of the Foreign Affairs Committee of the National Assembly of Hungary, and Krisztián Pósa, Ambassador of Hungary to Montenegro. Krivokapić expressed

satisfaction over the continuous and selfless support and assistance Hungary has been providing to Montenegro in achieving its strategic goal, i.e. integration to the North Atlantic Organisation. During the meeting, the interlocutors also discussed the strategic steps that would stimulate the development of Montenegro in the areas of tourism, industry, and investment.

- Deputy member of the Permanent Delegation of the Parliament of Montenegro to the Parliamentary Assembly of the South-East European Cooperation Process (SEEC) Snežana Jonica participated in the meeting of the Standing Committee of SEEC PA and the International Conference titled "Regional Synergy, Strategic Cooperation and Parliamentary Diplomacy", held in Sophia, in the period 5-7 November 2015, within the Bulgarian Presidency of the SEEC Parliamentary Assembly.

9 November

- Chair of the Committee on Economy, Finance and Budget Aleksandar Damjanović participated in the Interparliamentary Conference on Stability, Economic Coordination and Governance in the European Union, held within the frameworks of the Luxembourg Presidency of the EU, in Luxembourg, on 9 and 10 November. The conference covered several topics, such as: Social Dimension of Economic Governance, Parliamentary Scrutiny of the European Economic Governance, Fair Tax Competition and Growth and the Economic and Monetary Union.



10 November

- Head of the EU Delegation to Montenegro Mitja Drobnič, together with the Head of the Montenegro Unit at the European Commission's DG Enlargement Dirk Lange presented the 2015 Annual Progress Report on Montenegro to the President of the

CALENDAR



Parliament of Montenegro Ranko Krivokapić. A ceremony was organised in the Parliament, attended by representatives of the legislative, executive and judicial authorities, prosecution office, academic community, civil society, media and diplomatic corps. Ahead of the presentation of the Report, President Ranko Krivokapić organised a meeting directly before this ceremonious event with editors-in-chief of Montenegrin media. The meeting was an opportunity to discuss topics concerning the media and freedom of expression, and finding solutions on numerous challenges in the area.



11 November

- Head of the Permanent Delegation of the Parliament of Montenegro to the NATO Parliamentary Assembly Mevludin Nuhodžić participated in the 90th Rose - Roth seminar, held on the topic "Moldova's European Future: The Regional Context and Internal Challenges" in Kishinev. Several sessions took place during the meeting, on the following topics: "Moldova's relation with NATO", "Building Integrity and Democratic Control", "Moldova's relation with Russia", "Transnistria: Finding a Solution", "Eastern Neighbourhood and Relations Moldova-European Union after the Riga Summit", "Informational war in Eastern Europe", "Political and economic developments in Moldova".

17 November

- President of the Parliament of Montenegro Ranko Krivokapić received Juichi Takahara, newly appointed Ambassador of Japan, and Henk van den Dool, newly appointed Ambassador of the Netherlands to Montenegro. During the meeting between the President and the Ambassador of Japan, the interlocutors estimated that the two countries should continue building good relations, as well as that Japan supported Montenegro and its path

towards progress. The Ambassador noted that Montenegro had Japan's full support and that the foundation for developing bilateral relations was cooperation which followed in the area of economy, culture, education, and health. During the meeting between Krivokapić and Dool, the interlocutors noted constructive cooperation of the two countries aspiring to intensively deepen the relations in order to achieve a common diplomatic and political success in the future, as well as that the only path that Montenegro should take was the path of honouring the rule of law. It was concluded that the next step for achieving this would be precisely the holding of the upcoming fair elections.

18 November

- Chair of the Committee on International Relations and Emigrants Miodrag Vuković received Ambassador of the Republic of Cuba to Montenegro Adela Mayra Ruiz Garcia. Chair Vuković emphasised that the relations between Montenegro and the Republic of Cuba were very good and friendly, improved continuously and upgraded through substantial cooperation in many areas through active political dialogue. Adela Mayra Ruiz Garcia agreed with the proposal of Chair Vuković on establishing a friendship group between the two parliaments, noting that developing and strengthening of parliamentary cooperation may influence on intensifying current and establishing new relations between the two countries.



- Chair of the Committee on Human Rights and Freedoms Halil Duković and members of the Committee Husnija Šabović, Izet Bralić and Rešad Sijarić participated in the Inter-parliamentary seminar on the topic: "Ombudsman's Role in a Modern Parliamentary Democracy: A Regional Perspective", which took place in Brussels, on 18-19 November. The aim of the seminar was to exchange

CALENDAR



opinions and experiences on the role of European and national Ombudsmen and their efficiency in protecting human rights of citizens, as well as determining a strategy for further activities, and also the role of the European Commission.

19 November

- President of the Parliament of Montenegro Ranko Krivokapić received Terry Leyden and Ionut Marian Stroe - co-rapporteurs of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (PACE) for Montenegro. During the meeting, it was estimated that the dialogue in the Parliament was the path towards overcoming the current situation. The focus of the meeting was also on the electronic identification of voters, which would be implemented in the following parliamentary elections. Electronic identification of voters was estimated as a further step towards democratisation of the election process in the service of free and fair elections.
- Members of Delegation of the Parliament of Montenegro to the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe and representatives of MP Groups of both parliamentary majority and opposition met with PACE co-rapporteurs for the post-monitoring dialogue with Montenegro Terry Leyden and Ionut Marian Stroe. The interlocutors discussed activities that Montenegro implemented with regard to fulfilling recommendations and commitments defined in PACE's Resolution 2030 (2015) "The honouring of obligations and commitments by Montenegro", especially the ones concerning the independence of judiciary, election process, fight against corruption, and situation in the media.



20 November

- Vice-President of the Parliament of Montenegro

Suljo Mustafić received Remzija Dacić, WAKO PRO European champion in Low kick, winner of the world championship bronze medal as well as captain of Montenegrin kickboxing team. Mustafić emphasised the importance of promoting sports and healthy lifestyles nowadays when deviant occurrences have become more prominent, which mostly effect the younger population.

23 November

- Chair of the Committee on Human Rights and Freedoms Halil Duković and Rešad Sijarić, member of the Committee participated in the Third Regional Conference of parliamentary bodies responsible for human and minority rights and gender equality, which took place in Sarajevo, on 23-24 November. Several sessions took place during the Conference, on the topics: "Parliamentary Oversight of Institutions Dealing with Human Rights", and "Role of Commissions in the Parliamentary Oversight-Engines of Change".

24 November

- Chair of the Gender Equality Committee Nada Drobnjak participated in the International Conference dedicated to implementation of the Council of Europe Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence, on the topic: "General and specialised services of assistance - guarantees of quality of service".

26 November

- Luidž Ljubo Škrelja, member of the Security and Defence Committee participated in the Joint Seminar of the Mediterranean and Middle East Special Group and Sub-Committee on Transatlantic Economic Relations, which was held in Florence, on 26 and 27 November. Several sessions took place during the seminar, on the following topics: "Ideological, theological and socio-economic origins of jihadist terrorism", "Confronting the Refugee Crisis", "Terrorist Financing", "MENA Energy Outlook: Economic And Security Dimensions", "Challenges Faced By Women In The Mena Region", "Iran And The Emerging Regional Order", "Libya: Between Statehood And Civil Strife", and "Europe's Evolving Relations With The Middle East: Managing Threats

CALENDAR



and Opportunities”.

- Chair of the Committee on Economy, Finance and Budget Aleksandar Damjanović, and Committee member Almer Kalač as well as members of the Committee on European Integration Šefkija Murić and Danko Šarančić participated in the regional parliamentary conference, held on the topic: “Working to strengthen regional cooperation in the Western Balkans: achievements and prospects” in Jahorina. Several debates took place during the Conference, on the following topics: “2015 progress report of the EU and IPA II funds: where are we and what are the options?”, “Towards open budgetary process and stronger financial oversight”, “Possible ways of cooperation between the parliaments and the executive authorities in implementing the Vienna conclusions and the Berlin agenda”, “NPC: from 2012 until today - what has been achieved, and what can still be achieved in the future”.
- Snežana Jonica, Deputy Chair of the Security and Defence Committee and Obrad Mišo Stanišić, member of the Committee participated in the Conference “Regional parliamentary dialogue on migration management, refugee protection and combating organised crime – responses at the national level and regional cooperation”, which took place in Belgrade, on 26-27 November.

27 November

- Parliament of Montenegro, in cooperation with Center for Children’s Rights of Montenegro, organised the Seventh Children’s Parliament on the occasion of 20 November - Universal Children’s Day. The session was attended by 47 representatives of local children’s parliaments from 23 Montenegrin municipalities, representatives of the Government of Montenegro, representatives of MP groups in the Parliament of Montenegro, representatives of domestic institutions and international organisations dealing with rights of the child as well as members of diplomatic corps.
- Chair and members of the Committee on Political System, Judiciary and Administration met with Delegation of the Ministry of Justice and Consumer Protection of the Federal Republic of Germany, headed by the State Secretary Stefanie Hubig.

30 November

- During the visit to Brussels, President of the Parliament of Montenegro met with Commissioner for European Neighbourhood Policy and Enlargement Negotiations Johannes Khan and Siegfried Bracke, Speaker of the Belgian House of Representatives.
- Azra Jasavić, member of the Committee on European Integration participated in the 54th Plenary Meeting of the Conference of Community and European Affairs Committees of Parliaments of the European Union (COSAC), which took place in Luxembourg. There were debates on the following topics: European Agenda on Migration, A Digital Single Market Strategy for Europe, and the EU Enlargement policy.



- Chair of the Security and Defence Committee Mevludin Nuhodžić gave a speech at the roundtable, held in relation to the Draft Strategy for development of Police Administration for the period 2016-2020 and the Action Plan for its implementation for the period 2016-2017. During the meeting, Nuhodžić emphasised that professionalism, responsibility and legality of the work of police officers are imperatives and an important step ahead in the democratisation of society, and the adoption and implementation of the strategy will additionally contribute to that.

