



Parliament of Montenegro

# NEWSLETTER OPEN PARLIAMENT

Newsletter on the Parliament of Montenegro Performance ♦ No. 58 ♦ March 2016

## CONTENTS

**Legislative and oversight activity**.....2

**News from Parliament**.....6

*President of the Parliament paid a visit to the United States of America*.....6  
*MP Snežana Jonica took part in the international conference titled: "Equal enjoyment of human rights and freedoms by persons with disabilities: Achievements and challenges"*.....6  
*Fifth session of the "Women's Parliament" held*.....6

**Parliamentary glossary**.....7

**In focus**.....7

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

**Calendar**.....9

## IN FOCUS

*President of the Parliament of Montenegro Ranko Krivokapić received His Royal Highness Charles, Prince of Wales*

p. 7



## PARLIAMENTARY GLOSSARY

**Do you know...**  
*what is a Bill of rights?*

p. 7

## FROM THE HISTORY OF MONTENEGRIN PARLIAMENTARISM

*Law on succession to the throne*

p. 8

# OPEN PARLIAMENT



Parliament of Montenegro

Newsletter on the Parliament of Montenegro Performance ♦ Electronic format ♦ Release: monthly ♦ Year VI ♦ No. 58 ♦ March 2016

## FOREWORD

*Dear readers,*

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

In March, the First Sitting of the First Ordinary Session took place, during which MPs adopted six laws. In addition, the Second Special Sitting of the First Ordinary Session took place, where MPs posed three questions to the Prime Minister.

During March, committees considered 30 proposals for a law, and held other activities within their oversight role.

In focus of this month's newsletter is the meeting of the President of the Parliament of Montenegro Ranko Krivokapić with His Royal Highness (HRH) Charles, Prince of Wales.

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 First Sitting of the First Ordinary - Spring Session of the Parliament of Montenegro in 2016**, the following laws were adopted: Law on Ratification of the Amendment to the Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material, Law on Ratification of the Agreement on the Western Balkan Research and Innovation Centre – WISE, Law on Ratification of the Convention on the Conciliation and Arbitration within the CSCE, Law on Ratification of the Agreement on Establishing the Western Balkans Fund, Law on Ratification of the Protocol on Explosive Remnants of War, annexed to the Convention on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Certain Conventional Weapons Which May be Deemed to be Excessively Injurious or to Have Indiscriminate Effects, Law on Ratification of the Protocol on Amendments to the Marrakesh Agreement Establishing the World Trade Organization.

### *Prime Minister's Questions*

**At the Second Special Sitting of the First Ordinary Session of the Parliament of Montenegro in 2016**, within the agenda item Prime Minister's Questions, MPs questions were answered by the Prime Minister of Montenegro Milo Đukanović. MPs posed three questions to the Prime Minister.

### Proposals for a law deliberated in committees

- **Proposal for a Law on Innovation Activity** was considered and proposed to the Parliament for adoption by the Legislative Committee and Committee on Education, Science, Culture and Sports.
- **Proposal for a Law on Cross Border Trade in Electricity and Natural Gas** was considered and proposed to the Parliament for adoption by the Legislative Committee.
- **Proposal for a Law on Amendments to the Law on Postal Services** was considered and proposed to the Parliament for adoption.
- **Proposal for a Law on Amendments to the Law on Montenegrin Citizenship** was considered and proposed to the Parliament for adoption by the Legislative Committee.
- **Law on Ratification of the Protocol on Explosive Remnants of War, annexed to the Convention on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Certain Conventional Weapons Which May be Deemed to be Excessively Injurious or to Have Indiscriminate Effects** 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 Western Balkan Research and Innovation Centre (WISE)** was considered and proposed to the Parliament for adoption by the Committee on Education, Science, Culture and Sports and Committee on International Relations and Emigrants, within their competences.
- **Proposal for a Law on Ratification of the Agreement on Establishing the Western Balkans Fund** was considered and proposed to the Parliament for adoption by the Legislative Committee and Committee on International Relations and Emigrants.
- **Proposal for a Law on Ratification of the Amendment to the Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material** 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 Convention on the Conciliation and Arbitration within the CSCE** was considered and proposed to the Parliament for adoption by the Legislative Committee and Committee on International Relations and Emigrants.
- **Proposal for a Law on Amendments to the Law on Copyright and Related Rights** was considered and proposed to the Parliament for adoption by the Committee on Education, Science, Culture and Sports.
- **Proposal for a Law on Amendments to the Trademark Law** was considered and proposed to the Parliament for adoption by the Legislative Committee.
- **Proposal for a Law on Amendments to the Law on Protection of Topographies of Semiconductor** 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 Legislative Committee.
- **Proposal for a Law on Amendments to the Rafting Law** was considered and proposed to the Parliament for adoption by the Legislative Committee.
- **Proposal for a Law on Biocidal Products** was considered and proposed to the Parliament for adoption by the Legislative Committee.
- **Proposal for a Wine Law** was considered and proposed to the Parliament for adoption by the Legislative Committee.
- **Proposal for a Law on Amendments to the Law on Inspection Control** was considered and proposed to the Parliament for adoption by the Legislative Committee.
- **Proposal for a Law on Amendments to the Law on Funding of Political Parties and Election Campaigns** was considered by the Committee on Economy, Finance and Budget, however, the proposal did not obtain the necessary majority.
- **Proposal for a Law on Removal and Transplantation of Human Organs for Therapeutic Purposes** was considered and proposed to the Parliament for adoption by the Legislative Committee and Committee on Human Rights and Freedoms.
- **Proposal for a Law on Housing and Maintenance of Residential Buildings** 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 Water** was considered and proposed to the Parliament for adoption by the Committee on Tourism, Agriculture, Ecology and Spatial Planning.
- **Proposal for a Nature Protection 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 Takeover of Joint Stock Companies** was considered and proposed to the Parliament for adoption by the Legislative Committee.
- **Proposal for a Law on Amendments to the Law on Insurance** was considered and proposed to the Parliament for adoption by the Committee on Economy, Finance and Budget and Legislative Committee.
- **Proposal for a Law on Amendments to the Law on Administrative Fees** was considered and proposed to the Parliament for adoption by the Legislative Committee.
- **Proposal for a Law on Amendments to the Law on Corporate Profit Tax** was considered and proposed to the Parliament for adoption by the Committee on Economy, Finance and Budget and Legislative Committee.
- **Proposal for a Law on Amendments to the Law on National Vocational Qualifications** was considered and proposed to the Parliament for adoption by the Committee on Education, Science, Culture and Sports and Legislative Committee.



- **Proposal for a Law on Youth** was considered and proposed to the Parliament for adoption by the Committee on Education, Science, Culture and Sports and Legislative Committee. The same proposal was considered by the Gender Equality Committee in part of its competences, which proposed to the Committee on Education, Science, Culture and Sports, as the lead committee, to propose it to the Parliament for adoption.

### *Proposals for other acts deliberated in committees*

- **Proposal for a Decision on adopting the Special Purpose Spatial Plan for the Durmitor Region** was considered and proposed to the Parliament for adoption by the Legislative Committee.
- **Proposal for a Decision on establishing the Committee on monitoring and controlling the implementation of the Bar - Boljare highway construction project** was considered by the Legislative Committee, however, the proposal did not obtain the necessary majority.
- **Proposal for a Decision on the election of two members of the Prosecutorial Council from among respectable lawyers** was determined by the Committee on Political System, Judiciary and Administration.

### *Other activities of working bodies*

- At the 115<sup>th</sup> meeting of the **Committee on Political System, Judiciary and Administration** of 2 March, there was a consultative hearing of candidates who applied to the Public Call for election of two members of the Prosecutorial Council among respectable lawyers. Members of the Committee agreed that the voting on two candidates who will be proposed to the Parliament would be postponed for an upcoming meeting.

At the 116<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Committee, held on 8 March, Proposal for a Decision for election of two members of the Prosecutorial Council was determined. After the voting, Novak Bego Laković i Vesna Ratković obtained the necessary majority. In addition, members of the Committee adopted the Rulebook on amendments to the Rulebook on determining the proposal for the election of four members of the Prosecutorial Council among respectable lawyers and 2015 Performance Report of the Committee.



- At the 45<sup>th</sup> meeting of the **Committee on European Integration** held on 11 March, the Committee unanimously decided to support the 2015 Performance Report of the Committee and 2016 Work Plan of the Committee.



At the 46<sup>th</sup> meeting, held on 16 March, members of the Committee unanimously supported draft negotiation positions for chapters 1 - Free movement of goods and 22 - Regional policy and coordination of structural instruments.

- At the 72<sup>nd</sup> meeting of the **Committee on International Relations and Emigrants**, held on 15 March, members of the Committee, by a majority of votes, provided a positive opinion on the proposal for appointing Hamdi Hasani as an Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary Ambassador of Montenegro to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia on a non-residential basis, based in Podgorica.

At the 73<sup>rd</sup> meeting of the Committee, held on 15 March, the Committee supported the 2015 Performance Report of the Committee and 2016 Work Plan of the Committee.

- At the 135<sup>th</sup> meeting of the **Committee on Economy, Finance and Budget**, held on 28 March, the Committee considered application of the following laws: Proposal for a Law on settling obligations towards the workers of the Aluminium Plant, who due to bankruptcy of the company fulfilled conditions for retirement pension, Law on Conversion of Loans in Swiss Francs CHF into Euros EUR, as well as Law on Investment Funds.
- At the 62<sup>nd</sup> meeting of the **Committee on Human Rights and Freedoms**, held on 21 March, the Committee considered and supported the 2014 Performance Report of the Fund for Protection and Exercising of Minority Rights. In addition, the Committee considered the Second and third periodic report of Montenegro on application of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child, for the period 2010-2015.
- At the 58<sup>th</sup> meeting of the **Gender Equality Committee**, held on 15 March, the Research on perception of domestic violence and violence against women by the representatives of judiciary was presented. The meeting was organised in cooperation with the UNDP Office to Montenegro and Women's Rights Centre.

- At the 55<sup>th</sup> meeting of the **Committee on Tourism, Agriculture, Ecology and Spatial Planning** held on 24 March, members of the Committee supported the 2016 Work Plan of the Committee.



- At the 68<sup>th</sup> meeting of the **Committee on Education, Science, Culture and Sports**, on 14 March, members of the Committee supported the 2015 Performance Report of the Committee on Education, Science, Culture and Sports as well as the 2016 Work Plan of the Committee on Education, Science, Culture and Sports.
- **Committee on Health, Labour and Social Welfare** dedicated the 117<sup>th</sup> meeting of 1 March to marking International Day of Persons with Disabilities. During the meeting, members of the Committee decided to propose to the Parliament of Montenegro to adopt a decision which would determine obligations of the responsible body of the state administration to, once per year, submit to the Parliament of Montenegro the report on position of persons with disabilities in Montenegro.



At the 118<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Committee, held on 15 March, the members of the Committee supported the 2015 Performance Report of the Committee and the 2016 Work Plan of the Committee.

The Committee dedicated the 119<sup>th</sup> meeting, held on 29 March, to current situation in the field of narcotic drugs in Montenegro. Aside from the Committee members, the meeting was also attended by a representative of the NGO 4 Life (NGO for fight against narcotic drugs), which initiated the Committee meeting. In addition, the meeting was attended by representatives of: Ministry of Health, Institution for accommodation, rehabilitation and resocialisation of psychoactive substances' users in Montenegro - Kakaricka gora, Department for fight against narcotic drugs and trafficking in the Police Administration, Secretariat for Social Welfare of the

Capital City of Podgorica, Public Health Institute of Montenegro, NGO "Juventas" and NGO "CAZAS".

- At the 64<sup>th</sup> meeting of 24 March, the **Administrative Committee**, for the purpose of implementation of the Law on Public Sector Salaries, which came into force on 16 March 2016, in the part of its responsibilities and commitment of harmonising the Committee's acts with the Law on Public Sector Salaries in the public sector, adopted the following decisions: Decision on repeal of the Decision on determining value of the coefficient of the fixed and starting part of salary, Decision on repeal of the Decision on the right on supplement to the salary on the basis of exercising the function, Decision on repeal of the Decision on determining salaries and other incomes of the President and Secretary of the State Election Commission, and Decision on special advisors in the Parliament of Montenegro. The Administrative Committee decided to adopt the decisions on salaries of the following elected, appointed, or nominated persons: President of Montenegro, President of the Parliament of Montenegro, Prime Minister of Montenegro, vice presidents of the Parliament of Montenegro, members of the Parliament of Montenegro, special advisors in the Parliament of Montenegro, ministers in the Government of Montenegro, President and members of the Senate of the State Audit Institution, President and Secretary of the State Election Commission, Secretary General of the Parliament of Montenegro, Protector of Human Rights and Freedoms and deputies of the Protector.
- At the 65<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Committee, held on 30 March, the Committee adopted the following decisions: Decision on coefficients of complexity of tasks for employees in the Service of the Parliament of Montenegro, Decision on Amendments to the Decision on determining allowances for work engagement of professional and scientific workers, Decision on repeal of the Decision on the right to a variable part of the wage and special allowances for employees in the Service of the Parliament of Montenegro, Decision on repeal of the Decision on allowances for participating in the work of the Collegium of the President of the Parliament of Montenegro and working bodies of the Parliament, and Decision on repeal of the Decision on determining a special allowances for Members of the Parliament of Montenegro.





## NEWS FROM PARLIAMENT



### *President of the Parliament paid a visit to the United States of America*

President of the Parliament of Montenegro Ranko Krivokapić paid a visit on 17 March to the United States of America, and held meetings in the State Department, Congress, Atlantic Council, as well as unofficial meetings with representatives of the establishment in Washington. The President met with Hoyt Brian Yee, Deputy Assistant Secretary of the State Department; Michael Turner, President of the NATO Parliamentary Assembly and US Congressman, and Damon Wilson, Vice President of the Atlantic Council.

Krivokapić emphasised that organisation of the undisputable elections was a priority for Montenegro in this moment, and free elections are the foundation of the state stability, as a key precondition for its further democratic development and Euro-Atlantic path, and that all political actors must be aware of the fact that any obstruction of free elections would be an act of destabilisation of Montenegro

and its path to the EU and NATO.



Deputy Assistant Secretary of the State Department Hoyt Yee agreed with Krivokapić on the importance of democratic election process for Montenegro, adding that it would be a test of maturity of our state for its further development and fulfilment of Euro-Atlantic obligations.

### *MP Snežana Jonica took part in the international conference titled: "Equal enjoyment of human rights and freedoms by persons with disabilities: Achievements and challenges"*

MP of Montenegro's Delegation to the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe and Chair of the Sub-Committee on Disability and Inclusion Snežana Jonica took part on 22 March in the international conference titled: "Equal enjoyment of human rights and freedoms by persons with disabilities: Achievements and challenges", in Sofia.

The purpose was to exchange experience and best practices on ensuring conditions for equality of people with disabilities and their full participation in social life.

Member of the Delegation to PACE Snežana Jonica informed the participants on the activities of the Sub-Committee on Disability and Inclusion, emphasising its contribution to considering topics such as political

participation of people with disabilities, inclusion and equal participation in social life, and fighting violence against persons with disabilities. Emphasising the importance of this body, as a forum for exchange of opinions and experiences on the position of persons with disabilities at the Parliamentary Assembly level, she announced that in the forthcoming period its work would be devoted to issues of participation in politics, legal protection and legal empowerment of persons with disabilities.

"Enhancing participation and equal opportunities of persons with disabilities" and "Achievements and best practices to ensure support for persons with disabilities for life in the community", were also discussed.

### *Fifth session of the "Women's Parliament" held*

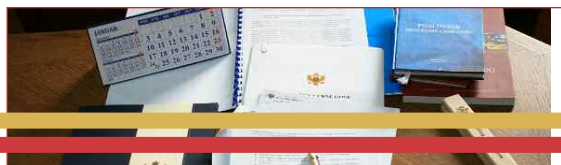
Fifth session of the "Women's Parliament", was held on the occasion of marking 8 March - International Women's Day.

President of the Parliament of Montenegro Ranko Krivokapić opened the meeting, stating that a woman was the foundation of a Montenegrin house, foundation of the state of Montenegro, and that both in peace and war times women were the bravest part of society, which preserved the belief that Montenegro was invincible. He estimated that if Montenegro was the example for other nations in fight against fascism than in that fight women were the strength that in each stage of those four long years contributed immeasurably. He said that single mothers are the most unprotected persons in crisis societies, and that is the challenge before Montenegro - to create enough

material wealth which there would not be enough unless there is justice and only then would there be safe women, families, safe Montenegro, and safe citizens.

Aside from President Krivokapić, Chair of the Gender Equality Committee Nada Drobnjak addressed the participants, emphasising that this was an important year marking 70 years since women in Montenegro obtained full suffrage, and reminded of contribution of women to the renewal of independence of Montenegro 10 years ago. She also invited everyone to work more on exercising women's human rights on all levels, reminding that Montenegro, according to the data of the Interparliamentary Union, was in the 103<sup>rd</sup> place out of 191 countries by the number of women in the parliament.

## IN FOCUS



### *President of the Parliament of Montenegro Ranko Krivokapić received His Royal Highness Charles, Prince of Wales*

President of the Parliament of Montenegro Ranko Krivokapić received His Royal Highness Charles, Prince of Wales. President Krivokapić expressed pleasure over the visit of His Royal Highness (HRH) Charles, Prince of Wales, to Montenegro, pointing out its significance for additional furthering of good bilateral relations between Montenegro and the United Kingdom. President Krivokapić informed Prince Charles on political developments in the country, with special emphasis on the upcoming parliamentary elections.

President Krivokapić informed The Prince on the work of the Parliament, with special reference to the work of parliamentary committees and parliamentary hearings. The interlocutors agreed on the importance of existence of a strong and functional parliament with a view to providing a legal system of checks and balances, which held special significance for young democracies.

Presenting glorious and long history of Montenegro, President of the Parliament pointed out that Montenegro, ever since the period of King Nikola, had been caring for and nurturing multiculturalism and multiethnicity, something by which we are recognised in the region even today. President Krivokapić emphasised that such richness and harmony in Montenegro represented a basis for

stability, as one of the greatest advantages of our country. He also pointed out that that richness made one of the additional values with which Montenegro would contribute to the NATO and the EU after the accession.



His Royal Highness Charles, Prince of Wales, expressed his pleasure over his visit to Montenegro, pointing out that he was re-charmed with natural beauties of Montenegro, and recalled his first visit in 1978, when he had had the opportunity to get to know natural and cultural richness of Kotor. Charles, Prince of Wales, emphasised that Montenegro had a favourable geographic position and that it was necessary to use advantages that presented themselves though that. The Prince showed special interest in Montenegrin history, as well as European and Euro-Atlantic integration of Montenegro.

## PARLIAMENTARY GLOSSARY

**Bill of rights.** “A bill of rights is a constitutional document that specifies the rights and freedoms of the individual and so defines the legal extent of civil liberty. Entrenched bills of rights can be distinguished from statutory ones. An entrenched bill of rights is enshrined in ‘higher’ law and, thus, provides the basis for constitutional judicial review. A statutory bill of rights, or statute of rights, can be amended or replaced through the same processes as other statute laws. Proponents of bills of rights consider them to be the only effective tool, through which citizens may protect themselves against a state, which is why they have an educational value in promoting the ‘culture of human rights’.”<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Endru Hejvud, Politika, Beograd, Clio 2004, p. 554

# FROM THE HISTORY OF MONTENEGRIN PARLIAMENTARISM



## LAW ON SUCCESSION TO THE THRONE

6/19 December 1902

**We  
Nikola I  
By the Grace of God  
PRINCE AND SOVEREIGN OF MONTENEGRO  
Declare and announce**

\*\*\*

**LAW  
ON  
SUCCESSION TO THE THRONE, STATUS OF  
MEMBERS  
OF OUR RULING HOUSE AND THEIR MUTUAL  
RELATIONSHIP**

### Article 1

The eldest son of the ruling prince shall be the only heir to the Montenegrin throne. At the time of his birth, he shall be called:  
“Royal Highness Prince and Heir of Montenegro”.

### Article 2

In the event the heir to the throne dies before ascending the throne, or renounces or is obliged to renounce the throne (Article 12), he shall be immediately succeeded by the eldest among brothers. If there aren't any brothers to succeed the throne, the throne is to be claimed by the member of the Ruling House, in line with the order of succession (Article 3).

### Article 3

In the event the male line of Prince and Sovereign should become extinct or male offspring was never produced, the throne shall be succeeded by his eldest brother, followed by his male offspring.

### Article 4

In case this direct male lineage also becomes extinct, the throne is succeeded by the person whom

the Prince and Sovereign deems most competent, originating from the Petrović brotherhood. This tradition was established during the reign of Prince-bishop Danilo and lasted until the reign of Prince Danilo, which was accepted with reverent submission by the people. And this is to be held in the order of succession, in the manner prescribed in the aforementioned articles.

### Article 5

Prince and Sovereign shall announce his new heir to the people at the moment of his birth, or in the event the post remains vacant due to the heir's death, or in case of voluntary or obligatory renunciation of the throne (Articles 13 and 14).

### Article 6

The vacant throne is to be immediately claimed by an heir, who is to receive the title of the Prince and Sovereign, even if he hasn't reached the age of 18 or would be impeded to perform his royal duties due to permanent illness.

\*\*\*

### Article 9

At the time of birth, sons and daughters of Prince and Sovereign shall be called:  
“His/Her Highness the Prince/Princess”, while the grandchildren produced by the male lineage: “Eminence” and “Duke”-“Dutchess”, up until the seventh generation.

\*\*\*

### Article 11

The sons of the Prince and Sovereign shall, by birth, be granted only the Order of Saint Peter, while the heir to throne is to receive the First degree Order of Danilo I for the independence of Montenegro.

Pavićević, B, Raspopović, R, ur. Crnogorski zakonici 1796-1916, knj. II, Podgorica (Montenegrin Codes 1796-1916, Book II), Istorijski institut Crne gore, 1998, pp 626-629.



# CALENDAR



## 3 March

- Chair of the Gender Equality Committee Nada Drobnjak and member of the Committee Nikola Gegaj and Branka Tanasijević participated in the Interparliamentary meeting, held in Brussels, on the occasion of marking the Women International Day in 2016. The meeting was held on the topic “Women refugees and asylum seekers in the EU”. The following topics were discussed on the topics: “Violence against women refugees and asylum seekers”; “Gender and healthcare: the situation of refugees and asylum seekers”, and “Integration of women refugees”.



- President of the Parliament of Montenegro Ranko Krivokapić met with General Petr Pavel, Chairman of the NATO Military Committee. The interlocutors assessed that hard work in the field of strengthening democracy and rule of law was a base for achieving full-fledged membership in NATO and concluded that the foundation of every stable state was continuous strengthening of the rule of law, democracy and political stability. They stated that one of the ways for meeting these goals was fight against all forms of corruption.
- Deputy Chair of the Committee Marija Maja Čatović and members Obrad Mišo Stanišić, Danko Šarančić and Genci Nimanbegu, as well as MP Darko Pajović met with Delegation of the European Affairs Committee of the French National Assembly, which paid a study visit to Montenegro, from 3 to 5 March 2016. Representatives of the French Delegation were interested in Montenegro’s progress regarding the implementation of obligations from chapters 23 and 24, reforms in the education system, monetary policy and use of euro as well as for the progress in the field of environment protection and energy efficiency. They also spoke on perception of the European integration by citizens, i.e. their expectations when it

comes to benefits from the membership of a state in the European Union.

## 4 March

- President of the Parliament of Montenegro Ranko Krivokapić received the Delegation of the European Affairs Committee of the lower house of the French National Assembly, headed by Chair of the Committee Danielle Auroi. President of the Parliament of Montenegro Ranko Krivokapić estimated that the full-fledged membership in the Euro-Atlantic Alliance was a step that would contribute to stability of Montenegro and the region. Chair of the Committee Danielle Auroi pointed out that Montenegro was important to the European community and therefore it needed to progress on its European path. The interlocutors agreed that the rule of law was a foundation on which the stability of the country rested.



## 7 March

- Delegation of the Parliament of Montenegro to the NATO Parliamentary Assembly composed of Mevludin Nuhodžić and Obrad Mišo Stanišić participated in the visit of the NATO PA Committee on the Civil Dimension of Security to Sarajevo, which took place from 7 to 10 March 2016. The visit was aimed at analysing the level of internal and external political development of Serbia and Bosnia and Herzegovina, as well as ongoing security challenges, with reference to European and Euro-Atlantic integration and development of geopolitical situation in the Western Balkan countries.
- Upon the invitation of Chair of the Committee on International Relations and Emigrants Miodrag Vuković, Chair of the Committee for Foreign Policy of the Chamber of Deputies of the Romanian Parliament László Borbély paid an official visit to Montenegro,

# CALENDAR



from 7 to 9 March. During the visit, Chairperson Borbély met with Vice President of the Parliament of Montenegro Milutin Simović, members of the Friendship Group with the Romanian Parliament, and members of the Committee on International Relations and Emigrants.

## 8 March

- President of the Parliament of Montenegro Ranko Krivokapić opened the Fifth session of the “Women’s Parliament”, organised by the Gender Equality Committee, on the occasion of marking 8 March - International Women’s Day. For participants in the “Women’s Parliament”, an exhibition of handicrafts by the NGO “Association of Women Ostros” was arranged.



## 9 March

- President of the Parliament of Montenegro Ranko Krivokapić received Dirk Lange, Head of Unit D1 for Montenegro at the Directorate of the European Commission for Neighbourhood Policy and Enlargement Negotiations, and Clive Rumbold, Deputy Head of Western Balkans Division at European External Action Service. President Krivokapić communicated to his interlocutors the expectation that maturity and readiness to accept conditions for democratic election process would prevail with the executive power and estimated that presence of representatives of the European Union in the Parliamentary Dialogue would be very precious and would enable discussion between the government and the opposition. Lange and Rumbold expressed hope that the government and the opposition would come to an agreement in order to provide full implementation of electoral legislation, in the interest of adequate administering of the upcoming elections.

## 12 March

- Member of the Parliament of Montenegro’s Permanent Delegation to the South-East European Cooperation Process Parliamentary Assembly (SEEC PA) Dritan Abazović took part in the meeting of the General Committee on Economy, Infrastructure and Energy of the SEEC PA, held in Sofia, on 12 March, within the framework of Bulgarian presidency of this initiative. During the meeting titled: “Improving infrastructure in the South-East Europe - accelerating the priority projects”, the experiences of the SEEC member states in this area were considered, and ideas aimed at improving traffic connection of the regional countries presented.

## 14 March

- Committee on European Integration organised a public debate titled: “Montenegro and EU: negotiations on free movement of goods”. Marija Čatović, Deputy Chair of the Committee on European Integration, was a moderator of the debate, while Nina Vujošević, Advisor to Prime Minister of the Government and Head of the Working Group for preparing the negotiations in chapter 1 - Free movement of goods, spoke on *acquis communautaire* and implementation of obligations in this chapter.



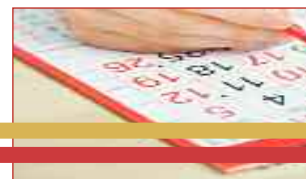
## 17 March

- During his visit to the United States of America, President of the Parliament of Montenegro Ranko Krivokapić had meetings in the State Department, Congress, Atlantic Council, as well as unofficial meetings with representatives of the establishment in Washington.

## 18 March

- President of the Parliament of Montenegro Ranko

# CALENDAR



Krivokapić received His Royal Highness Charles, Prince of Wales.

dimensions of support and cooperation between the two friendly countries.

## 21 March

- Parliament of Montenegro has joined the action "Together for Uran", by donating 500 euros, with the aim of collecting money for training of a guide dog for a visually impaired person. In addition, Trade Union Organisation of the Parliament of Montenegro donated a monthly membership fee of its members in the amount of 500 euros.

## 25 March

- Within the implementation of the programme activities, Chair of the Security and Defence Committee Mevludin Nuhodžić, Deputy Chair Snežana Jonica and members Obrad Mišo Stanišić and Luid Ljubo Škrelja, paid a visit to the Border Police Sector of the Police Administration of the Ministry of Interior. During the meeting, members of the Committee met with Assistant Director of the Police Administration - Head Vesko Damjanović and chiefs of the Regional Centre of Border Police "Jug". They also toured the Joint Border Crossing Sukobin-Murićan, learning about the manner of functioning and regular check procedures enforced by the Department of Border Security Ulcinj.

## 22 March

- Member of the Parliament of Montenegro's Delegation to the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe and Chair of the Sub-Committee on Disability and Inclusion Snežana Jonica took part in the international conference titled: "Equal enjoyment of human rights and freedoms by persons with disabilities: Achievements and challenges", held in Sofia. The purpose of the Conference was exchange of experience and best practices on ensuring conditions for equality of people with disabilities and their full participation in social life.

## 28 March

- Delegation of the Security and Defence Committee composed of: Chair Mevludin Nuhodžić, Deputy Chair Snežana Jonica and members Luid Škrelja and Obrad Mišo Stanišić paid a visit to the Directorate for Emergency Situations of the Ministry of Interior. Within the visit, members of the Committee met with the Director of the Directorate for Emergency Situations. A part of the meeting was dedicated to the visit of the Aviation and Helicopter Unit in Golubovci and the Operational and Communication Centre 112 which follows and registers occurrences and events from the field of security, as needed undertakes and organises emergency and more extensive operative measures and coordinates and directs the work of organisational units of the Police Administration.



## 23 March

- Deputy Chair of the Committee on European Integration Marija Maja Čatović met with H.E. Vincenzo Del Monaco, Ambassador of the Republic of Italy to Montenegro. The meeting was organised ahead of the upcoming visit to Montenegro by the delegation of the Committee on EU Affairs of the Italian Senate, headed by Chairperson of the Committee Vannino Chiti. The interlocutors pointed out the significance of parliamentary relations, and expressed expectation that the upcoming visit of the Italian parliamentarians would contribute to new

## 30 March

- President of the Parliament of Montenegro Ranko Krivokapić received members of the German section of the International Commission of Jurists (ICJ) with Chair Michael Eichberger, a judge to the Federal Constitutional Court of Germany, and other members of the commission, who are representatives of various judicial institutions and experts in legal science. They discussed the legal regulation of the state of Montenegro, particularly focusing on the responsibilities and work of the Parliament of Montenegro and its relation with other branches of power.