



Parliament of Montenegro

NEWSLETTER OPEN PARLIAMENT

Newsletter on the Parliament of Montenegro Performance ♦ No. 59 ♦ April 2016

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OPEN PARLIAMENT



Parliament of Montenegro

Newsletter on the Parliament of Montenegro Performance ♦ Electronic format ♦ Release: monthly ♦ Year VI ♦ No. 59 ♦ April 2016

FOREWORD

Dear readers,

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

In April, Second Special Sitting of the First Ordinary Session of the Parliament of Montenegro in 2016 took place, during which MPs posed 21 questions to the ministers and one additional. The Parliament also held the Third Special Sitting of the First Ordinary Session of the Parliament of Montenegro in 2016, during which MPs posed two questions to the Prime Minister.

During April, committees considered 18 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 the participation of the Montenegrin Delegation in the Spring Session of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, which was held in Strasbourg, from 18 to 22 April.

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

Prime Minister's Questions and Parliamentary Questions

At the Second Special Sitting of the First Ordinary Session of the Parliament of Montenegro in 2016, within the agenda item *Parliamentary Questions*, MPs questions were answered by ministers in the Government. MPs posed 21 questions and one additional to the ministers.

At the Third 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 Prime Minister of Montenegro Milo Đukanović. MPs posed two questions to the Prime Minister.

Proposals for a law deliberated in committees

- **Proposal for a Law on Foreign Trade in Arms and Military Equipment** was considered and proposed to the Parliament for adoption by the Committee on Economy, Finance and Budget.
- **Proposal for a Law on Ratification of the Agreement on Scientific and Technological Cooperation between the Government of Montenegro and the**

Government of the Republic of Italy was considered and proposed to the Parliament for adoption by the Legislative Committee.

- **Proposal for a Law on Amendments to the Pension and Disability Law** was considered and proposed to the Parliament for adoption by the Committee on Health, Labour and Social Welfare.
- **Proposal for a Law on Amendments to the Law on Professional Rehabilitation and Employment of Persons with Disabilities** was considered and proposed to the Parliament for adoption by the Committee on Health, Labour and Social Welfare.
- **Proposal for a Law on Amendments to the Law on Employment and Exercising Rights with respect to Unemployment Insurance** was considered and proposed to the Parliament for adoption by the Committee on Health, Labour and Social Welfare.
- **Proposal for a Law on Ratification of the ILO Night Work Convention No 171** was considered by the Gender Equality Committee in part within its competence and proposed to the Committee on International Relations and Emigrants, as the lead committee, to propose to the Parliament to adopt it.
- **Proposal for a Law on Amendments to the Law on Value Added Tax** was considered and proposed to the Parliament for adoption by the Committee on Economy, Finance and Budget and Legislative Committee.
- **Proposal for a Law on Interpreters** was considered and proposed to the Parliament for adoption by the Legislative Committee.
- **Proposal for a Law on Amendments to the Law on Notaries** was considered and proposed to the Parliament for adoption by the Legislative Committee.
- **Proposal for a Law on Administrative Disputes** was considered and proposed to the Parliament for adoption by the Legislative Committee.
- **Proposal for a Law on Court Experts** was considered and proposed to the Parliament for adoption by the Legislative Committee.
- **Proposal for a Law on the State Seal and the Seals of State Bodies** was considered and proposed to the Parliament for adoption by the Legislative Committee.
- **Proposal for a Law on Legalization of Informal Structures** 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 Environmental Impact Assessment** was considered and proposed to the Parliament for adoption by the Legislative Committee and Committee on Tourism, Agriculture, Ecology and Spatial Planning.
- **Proposal for a Law on Amendments to the Law on Strategic Environmental Impact Assessment** was considered and proposed to the Parliament for adoption by the Legislative Committee and Committee on Tourism, Agriculture, Ecology and Spatial Planning.
- **Proposal for a Law on Amendments to the Law on Integrated Prevention and Control of Pollution of the**

Environment was considered and proposed to the Parliament for adoption by the Legislative Committee and Committee on Tourism, Agriculture, Ecology and Spatial Planning.

- **Proposal for a Law on Amendments to the Law on Protection from Ionising Radiation and Radiation Safety** was considered and proposed to the Parliament for adoption by the Legislative Committee and Committee on Tourism, Agriculture, Ecology and Spatial Planning.
- **Proposal for a Law on Amendments to the Law on Accountability for Environmental Damage** was considered and proposed to the Parliament for adoption by the Legislative Committee and Committee on Tourism, Agriculture, Ecology and Spatial Planning.

Proposals for other acts deliberated in committees

- **Proposal for a Decision on awarding the Hydrocarbons Production Concession Contract in Montenegro undersea along with the Proposal for the Hydrocarbons Production Concession Contract in Montenegro undersea, the Proposal for the Joint Operating Agreement and the Proposal for the Accounting Services Contract** was considered and proposed to the Parliament for adoption by the Committee on Economy, Finance and Budget.

Other activities of working bodies

- At the 155th meeting of the **Legislative Committee**, held on 11 April, the 2015 Performance Report of the Committee and 2016 Work Plan of the Committee were adopted.
- At the 47th meeting of the **Committee on European Integration**, held on 15 April, the Committee considered and unanimously supported the Fourth semi-annual report on the overall activities within Montenegro's integration process to the EU for the period July - December 2015, and the Eighth Quarterly Report on the overall activities within Montenegro's integration process to the EU for the period October - December 2015. In addition, the Committee was acquainted with the Fourth Quarterly Report on implementation of obligations from Montenegro's Programme of Accession to the European Union for the period 2015 - 2018; then Montenegro's Programme of Accession to the European Union for the period 2016 - 2018; Report on implementation of 2015 Action Plan for implementation of the 2014-2018 Strategy for informing the public on the EU accession process, and finally, 2016 Action Plan for implementation of the 2014-2018 Strategy for informing the public on the EU accession process.
- At the 136th meeting of the **Committee on Economy, Finance and Budget**, held on 7 April, members of the Committee considered the 2015 Report on Use of

Financial Resources of the Parliament and Parliamentary Service, with Report on Public Procurement.

At the 138th meeting of 18 April, the Committee conducted a control hearing of Minister of Sustainable Development and Tourism Branimir Gvozdenović and Biserka Dragičević, Acting Secretary of the Secretariat for Development Projects, for the purpose of determining facts and circumstances with regard to validity of the issued guarantee, in line with Annex to the Contract, on completing construction works on the hotel “As” in Perazića Do.



At the 136th meeting, held on 21 April, the Committee considered amendments to the 2015 Report on Use of Financial Resources of the Parliament and Parliamentary Service, with Report on Public Procurement.

At the 137th meeting, held on 14 April, the Committee inspected the 2015 Performance Report of the Commission for Concessions of Montenegro with the Register of agreements on concessions.

At the 140th meeting, held on 21 April, the Committee considered and supported the initiative for control hearing of Minister of Health Budimir Šegrt with regard to the situation in the healthcare system of Montenegro and the amount of funds allocated for medical devices.

At the 139th meeting, held on 27 April, the Committee conducted control hearing of Pavle Goranović, Minister of Culture and Žarko Mirković, Director of the PI Musical Centre of Montenegro with regard to the negative opinion on the financial audit and conditional opinion on auditing the regularity of the 2014 Financial Report of the PI Musical Centre of Montenegro by the State Audit Institution.

- At the 63rd meeting of the **Committee on Human Rights and Freedoms** of 13 April, the Committee considered the Performance Report of the Committee on Human Rights and Freedoms for 2015 and the first quarter of 2016 and Proposal for Activity Plan for 2016. Following the discussion, the Committee unanimously adopted the Activity Plan of the Committee on Human Rights and Freedoms for 2016.

- At the 61st of the **Gender Equality Committee**, held on 25 April, the Committee unanimously supported the 2015 Performance Report of the Protector of Human Rights and Freedoms and proposed to the Committee on Human Rights and Freedoms to accept the Report.

- **Committee on Education, Science, Culture and Sports** held its 69th thematic meeting on 9 April within the working visit to the Institute of Marine Biology, Maritime Faculty and closed swimming-pool “Nikša Bućin” in Kotor. The visit was organised in cooperation with the Ministry of Science of Montenegro. The working visit was carried out with the aim of analysing the state and development of the certain fields from the responsibility of the Committee on Education, Science, Culture and Sports.

- At the 120th meeting of the **Committee on Health, Labour and Social Welfare**, held on 5 April, the Committee supported the 2016 Work Plan.

At the 122nd meeting, held on 20 April, the Committee conducted a control hearing of Zoran Pažin, Minister of Justice, Milica Pejanović–Đurišić, Minister of Defence, Raško Konjević, former Minister of Interior, Branislav Radulović, Head of the Collegium of the State Audit Institution and Dragana Đuranović, Protector of Property and Legal interests of Montenegro. The hearing was held with regard to the Report on auditing success of the State Audit Institution “Expenditures from the budget of Montenegro for litigations arising from labour relations”.

- At its 42nd meeting, held on 18 April, the **Anti-corruption Committee** decided to hold the consultative hearing of the Director of the Agency for Prevention of Corruption, on the topic: “Exercise of jurisdiction of the Agency for Prevention of Corruption”.



- At the 43rd meeting, on 27 April, the Committee held a consultative hearing of the Director of the Agency for Prevention of Corruption, on the topic: “Exercise of jurisdiction of the Agency for Prevention of Corruption”. The Committee assessed that the Agency for Prevention of Corruption had successfully implemented obligations stemming from the Law on Prevention of Corruption in its previous work.

NEWS FROM PARLIAMENT



President of the Parliament of Montenegro Ranko Krivokapić took part in the XIV Conference of Speakers of Parliaments of the Adriatic-Ionian Initiative

President of the Parliament of Montenegro Ranko Krivokapić took part in the XIV Conference of Speakers of Parliaments of the Adriatic-Ionian Initiative, which was hosted by Speaker of the Croatian Parliament Željko Reiner in Split.

The conference was focused on challenges of migrations, particularly with regard to resolving numerous challenges by the states of the Adriatic-Ionian Initiative. They assessed that even though migrations were not caused by the states of the Adriatic-Ionian Initiative, this region must find a common answer and provide help to all in need, in line with European and international standards. Participants underlined that processes were humanitarian as well as a security problem of Europe.

During the conference, President of the Parliament of Montenegro Ranko Krivokapić had meetings with his

Croatian, Italian and Slovenian counterparts. President Krivokapić spoke with his Croatian counterpart Željko Reiner, Speaker of the Croatian Parliament, Italian counterpart Laura Boldrini, and President of the Slovenian Parliament Milan Brglez.



Chair of the Committee on Economy, Finance and Budget Aleksandar Damjanović attended the Interparliamentary Conference in the Hague

In the framework of Dutch Presidency of the Council of the European Union, Chair of the Committee on Economy, Finance and Budget Aleksandar Damjanović attended the Interparliamentary Conference on “Energy and Innovation with a special focus on Circular Economy”, held in The Hague.

Introductory remarks were focused on how to speed up the cost-effective transition towards a clean, competitive and secure energy future. They stated that environment was of key importance for economy, and that states should have sustainable production of energy. Also, renewable sources of energy will have an important role in the production of electricity and heat with reduced CO2 emissions. Participants stressed the importance of circular

economy, which, with the support of the EU funds, would lead to significant innovations in the field of environment protection, and transition from so-called “fossil” to “green energy”.

In the second part of the conference, four parallel sessions were organised, addressing topics of: energy infrastructure and security of supply, energy savings, renewable energy and circular economy.

Upon the completion of the parallel sessions, the final session was held, where the participants exchanged experiences on the application of good practice of parallel sessions; the final session was chaired by Roos Vermeij, Chairperson of the Economic Affairs Committee of Dutch Parliament.

Members of the Committee on European Integration held a debate with grammar school students

In accordance with activity organised by the Committee on European Integration with the aim of bringing the European process closer to citizens, a debate on the topic of European integration was held in Grammar School “Tanasije Pejatović” in Pljevlja.

On the occasion, members of the delegation spoke with participants on the EU idea, but also on the current phase of Montenegro’s integration to the EU. During the debate, they stressed the obligation of respecting membership criteria, and the need for adopting European standards and values. At one of the most visited debates

so far, the participants were mostly interested in the education system of Europe, particularly if secondary education would be compulsory if Montenegro joined the EU, but also the relation of the EU to the youth and sports. They also gave concrete comments on finding a solution for overcoming challenges in the field of environment, and the importance of establishing new institutions in the field such as food safety.

Delegation of the Committee on European Integration was composed of MPs Nada Drobnjak, Vuko Roćen, Danko Šarančić and Maida Bešlić.

IN FOCUS



Montenegrin Delegation participated in the Spring Session of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe in Strasbourg

Head of Montenegrin Delegation to the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe Predrag Sekulić, and members Marija Maja Čatović and Snežana Jonica participated in the Spring Session of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, held in Strasbourg in the period from 18 to 22 April.

During the session, there were debates on preventing the radicalisation of children, importance of education for democratic citizenship, and implementation of the commitments undertaken by the Palestinian Parliament by acquiring the status of partner for democracy, refugee and migrant crisis, fight against antisemitism in Europe, and intellectual property rights in the digital era. In addition, debates were held on the impact of measures to improve women's political representation, the humanitarian concerns with regard to people captured during the war in Ukraine, and the need for strengthening cooperation in fighting terrorism after the Brussels attacks.

A resolution adopted by PACE with regard to preventing the radicalisation of children expressed confidence that the prevention was key to stopping the radicalisation of children and that de-radicalisation and rehabilitation strategies must be based on respect of human rights and fundamental freedoms, target the individual in his or her specific context, and be comprehensive and based on multi-agency local partnerships. Resolution 2106 (2016), adopted by the PACE with regard to fight against antisemitism in Europe, calls on member states, observers and

partners for democracy to devote greater attention to the fight against antisemitism, and to implement a set of activities at the prevention of antisemitism in educational establishments, the media and online and encourages them to report and persecute anti-Semitic and other hate crimes.



Speaking on the topic of protection of intellectual property rights, parliamentarians of the Parliamentary Assembly expressed concern about the erosion of intellectual property rights, reminding that it was protected by the first Protocol to the European Convention on Human Rights. Intellectual property is an important European cultural value and economic asset and an erosion of intellectual property rights would have a significant negative impact on all people in Europe. The resolution on this topic, emphasises that, among other things, in accordance with the Convention on Cybercrime, member States must adopt legislative and other measures to establish the infringement of intellectual property rights as criminal offences under domestic law.

PARLIAMENTARY GLOSSARY

Strategy. "A Strategy is usually an act of a wider scope which, in the form of a plan, defines policies and the manners of their implementation through specific activities. The strategy contains an analysis of the current situation and a plan of activities and measures for achieving specific goals. According to the time framework concerning the set goals, there are short-term, medium-term and long-term strategies."¹

¹ Doc. dr Komar, Olivera, Prof. dr Ivana Jelić, Nataša Komnenić, Irena Mijanović, Jelena Radonjić, Vlatko Šćepanović, *Parliamentary lexicon*, Podgorica, Parliament of Montenegro 2016, p. 298

FROM THE HISTORY OF MONTENEGRIN PARLIAMENTARISM



LAW ON GOVERNMENT AND THE STATE COUNCIL OF THE PRINCIPALITY OF MONTENEGRO

6/19 December 1902

**WE
NIKOLA I
BY THE GRACE OF GOD
PRINCE AND SOVEREIGN OF MONTENEGRO
AT THE PROPOSAL OF OUR STATE COUNCIL,
DECIDED TO ORDER AND ARE ORDERING THIS
BASIC STATE LAW
ON
GOVERNMENT AND THE STATE COUNCIL OF THE
PRINCIPALITY**

PART I

GOVERNMENT OF THE PRINCIPALITY

Article 1

The Principality Government performs all its state duties in accordance with the legal provisions, recognized by Prince and Sovereign.
The Principality Government shall, through its work and legal and determinate management of subordinate authorities, preserve and elevate the honour and reputation of the Ruler, and maintain the order, welfare and general progress of the country.

Article 2

In order to perform the duties more effectively, the state administration is divided into many ministries headed by ministers.
Ministers are appointed and replaced by and at the discretion of Prince and Sovereign.
They perform the duties entrusted to them by the Prince and Sovereign, and answer to him as well in the event of failure to abide by the law.

Article 3

Principality Government is divided into:
a) Ministry of Interior Affairs,

b) Ministry of Foreign Affairs
c) Ministry of Justice
č) Ministry of Finance
ć) Ministry of Defence
d) Ministry of Education and Church Affairs

Article 4

Each Ministry shall perform their tasks autonomously, in accordance with their area of competence, and independently of each other.

Article 5

The main duties and rights of ministers shall be to:

Perform tasks entrusted to them, in accordance with their area of competence, and are in charge of promoting them,
ensure the execution of laws and decrees,

Prepare necessary legal basis and orders as well as all the necessary measures within their competence,

Propose to the Prince and Sovereign the appointment and promotion at work, dismissal and retirement of civil servants, in accordance with the law on civil servants,

conduct oversight and control of subordinate authorities and civil servants,
prepare at the end of each year, in accordance with their profession, the estimates for the following year and propose them to the State Council in accordance with the budgetary legal provisions (Article 6 and 7) and manage the spending of credits.

Cetinje, St Nicholas' Day, 1902

Nikola, handwritten signature

From the Law on Government and the State Council of the Principality of Montenegro
Pavićević, B, Raspopović, R, ur. Crnogorski zakonici 1796-1916, knj. II, Podgorica (Montenegrin Codes 1796-1916, Book II), Istorijски institut Crne gore, 1998, pp 582-592

CALENDAR



1 April

- President of the Parliament of Montenegro Ranko Krivokapić received students - participants of MIMUN conference (Montenegro international Model United Nations) in the organisation of SAMS. During the meeting, President Krivokapić emphasised that their national roots should not be political but cultural, that they needed knowledge and then courage to implement lessons learnt, and also expressed hope that they would remain devoted to the public interest. In addition, the President stated that outflow of young people was bad for any country, and that the state should provide better future to inspire the young people to stay to live there.



4 April

- Chair of the Committee on Economy, Finance and Budget Aleksandar Damjanović attended the Interparliamentary Conference, on “Energy and Innovation with a special focus on Circular Economy”, which took place in the Hague, within the Dutch Presidency of the Council of the European Union. Among the crucial topics discussed during the Conference was How to speed up the cost-effective transition towards a clean, competitive and secure Energy Future? Within the conference, the Committee Chair attended the session titled: “Sustainable energy sources”.
- Chair of the Gender Equality Committee Nada Drobnjak received Deputy Chair of the Institute for Inclusive Security Miki Jačević. They discussed the need for making the Action Plan for the implementation of UN SC Resolutions 1325, as well as the results of work of the Institute for Inclusive Security.
- Members of the Security and Defence Committee Obrad Mišo Stanišić and Luidž Ljubo Škrelja participated in the roundtable titled: “Perspective of

Armed Forces of Montenegro within NATO Structure”, organised by the Atlantic Council of Montenegro as a part of the project “NATO days”. Special focus was placed upon achievements in the reform of the Montenegro Armed Forces, future steps in the given plan, and experiences of armed forces of other countries in NATO missions/operations. Furthermore, the research of the Atlantic Council was presented on the citizens’ attitude about military service in Montenegro.

- Representatives of the MP Group of Albanian party FORCA, HGI and LPCG Ljerka Dragičević, Genci Nimanbegu, and Andrija Popović discussed the current political situation in Montenegro with Member of the European Parliament Ivo Vajgl. The interlocutors estimated that Montenegro was making good progress towards the European Union and that it was well on its European way. Along with all the praise for progress, they also pointed out certain problems that Montenegro was facing in its election year, especially the awaited Agreement on conditions for fair and free elections between the government and a part of the opposition.



6 April

- Chair of the Committee on international Relations and Emigrants Miodrag Vuković and member of the Security and Defence Committee Luidž Ljubo Škrelja participated in the Inter-parliamentary conference on the common foreign and security policy and the common security and defence policy, which took place from 6 to 8 April in the Hague. The Inter-parliamentary conference was aimed at providing a framework for the exchange of information and best practice in the field of the Common Foreign and Security Policy (CFSP) and the Common Security and Defence Policy (CSDP), with a special focus on strengthening parliamentary cooperation and providing information to the national parliaments and the European Parliament on issues from the subject fields.

CALENDAR



8 April

- President of the Parliament of Montenegro Ranko Krivokapić received Ambassador Marcel Pesko, Director of the OSCE Conflict Prevention Centre. For the most part, the meeting was dedicated to current political developments, Parliamentary Dialogue, i.e. creation of conditions for fair and free elections. During the meeting, it was estimated that Montenegro was achieving progress in various areas. They also discussed the possibility that the OSCE would support and participate in professional/advisory capacity with regard to monitoring and evaluation of work of the Public Service.



- The Gender Equality Committee of the Parliament of Montenegro, in cooperation with the Centre for Roma Initiative - Nikšić and the IPA Section Montenegro, organised a Regional Conference on the topic "Prevention of Child, Forced, Arranged Marriages in the Communities of Roma and Egyptians". The following spoke during the Conference: Nada Drobnjak, Chair of the Gender Equality Committee, Fana Delija, Executive Coordinator of the Centre for Roma Initiative - Nikšić, Vojislav Dragović, President of the International Police Association - IPA Section Montenegro, Margaret Ann Uyehara, US Ambassador in Podgorica, Suad Numanović, Minister of Human and Minority Rights, Zorica Kovačević, Minister of Labour and Social Welfare, Jadranka Miličević, representative of the CARE International-BiH, and Sead Frljučkić, Advisor to the Director of the Police Administration.
- Members of the Committee on European Integration spoke with representatives of the Parliamentary Group for Cooperation with South East Europe from the German Bundestag. The meeting was marked by a debate on the previous course of negotiations between Montenegro and European Union, and key obligations to be fulfilled on the path towards EU membership. The interlocutors agreed that the European integration was

not only technical process, but that European idea, aside from achieving administrative results, implied respect and adoption of key values of the EU.



- President of the Parliament of Montenegro Ranko Krivokapić received delegation of the Parliamentary Group for Cooperation with South East Europe from the German Bundestag headed by Peter Weiss. The interlocutors discussed current political developments in Montenegro, as well as further process that was awaiting it on its European and Euro-Atlantic path. It was estimated during the meeting that development of democracy and growth of the economy were crucial for Montenegro's progress, and that by serious and dedicated work results could be achieved which would be constructive and prosperous for citizens of Montenegro.
- Vice President Simović received a delegation of the Parliamentary Group for Cooperation with South East Europe from the German Bundestag. With regard to signing the Agreement, Vice President Simović said that Prime Minister Milo Đukanović laid the foundation for the Agreement at the sitting of 27 January when the Government gained confidence. He made a wide offer to opposition parties for entering the Government, and taking a part of responsibility for organising the forthcoming elections in Montenegro. On the occasion, he emphasised that responsible political entities should responsibly approach the final phase of reaching the Agreement, and creating the ambience where the next election cycle would be completely undisputable. German parliamentarians expressed unequivocal willingness to support further reform and integration steps of Montenegro.
- Members of the Committee on European Integration Azra Jasavić and Predrag Sekulić participated in the XII meeting of the Conference of the Parliamentary Committees on European Integration/Affairs of the States Participating in the Stabilization and Association

CALENDAR



Process in South East Europe. The participants discussed joint approach of the regional countries to economic development and progress, as well as refugee crisis and its impact on the region. In addition, the COSAP dealt with the response of the region to the problem of global terrorism.

emphasis on undertaken decisions and steps which have led to the current social and political state in the country. During the reception, they discussed strategic European and Euro - Atlantic goals, noting that postulates of the rule of law must be respected in order to meet each of them.

9 April

- Substitute member of the Permanent Delegation of the Parliament of Montenegro to the Parliamentary Assembly of the South-East European Cooperation Process SEECP Genci Nimanbegu participated in the meeting of the General Committee on Social Development, Education, Research and Science of the SEECP PA, held in Tirana. The meeting under the topic "Protection of child rights in migration flows - call for protection of underage children in the South East European region - current issues regarding migration flows in the region" covered the issue preoccupying the region of the South East Europe, especially the SEECP member states, and those on the "Western Balkans route".

20 April

- Vice-President of the Parliament of Montenegro Milutin Simović received the delegation of the Republic of Malta, headed by Jose A. Herrera, Parliamentary Secretary for Competitiveness and Economic Development of the Ministry for the Economy, Investment and Small Business. During the meeting between Vice President Simović and Herrera, it was agreed on the need for further intensifying political cooperation and cooperation in the field of our country's accession to the European Union. The interlocutors concluded that relations of the two countries so far represented a good foundation for further promotion of cooperation on all levels.
- Chair of the Committee on Human Rights and Freedoms Halil Duković took part in the conference "Law, Policy, Society, and Discrimination", organised by the institution of the Protector of Human Rights and Freedoms of Montenegro, with support by the Konrad Adenauer Stiftung, the OSCE, and the Council of Europe. The goal of the Conference was to open a wide social campaign in fighting all forms of discrimination.

16 April

- President of the Parliament of Montenegro Ranko Krivokapić took part in the XIV Conference of Speakers of Parliaments of the Adriatic-Ionian Initiative, which was hosted by Speaker of the Croatian Parliament Željko Reiner in Split. The conference was focused on challenges of migrations, particularly with regard to resolving numerous challenges by the states of the Adriatic-Ionian Initiative. During the conference, President of the Parliament of Montenegro Ranko Krivokapić had meetings with his Croatian, Italian and Slovenian counterparts.

18 April

- Head of Delegation to the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe Predrag Sekulić, and members Marija Maja Čatović and Snežana Jonica participated in the Spring Session of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, held in Strasbourg in the period from 18 to 22 April.
- President of the Parliament of Montenegro Ranko Krivokapić received attendees of the prestigious leadership development program of the German Marshall Fund. Krivokapić informed the attendees about the current political developments with an



- Member of the Parliament of Montenegro's Permanent Delegation to the NATO PA Obrad Mišo Stanišić participated in the Joint 91st Rose-Roth Seminar and Seminar of the Mediterranean and Middle East Special Group (GSM) and the Sub-Committee on Transatlantic Economic Relations of the NATO Parliamentary Assembly, which was held in Morocco, from 20 to 22 April.

CALENDAR



22 April

- Committee on European Integration held a debate on the topic of European integration in the Gymnasium “Tanasije Pejatović” in Pljevlja. Members of the delegation spoke with participants on the EU idea, but also on the current phase of Montenegro’s integration to the EU. Delegation of the Committee on European Integration was composed of MPs Nada Drobnjak, Vuko Roćen and Danko Šarančić.

26 April

- Deputy Chair of the Committee on European Integration Marija Maja Čatović and members of the Committee Azra Jasavić i Obrad Mišo Stanišić the Municipality of Kotor, where they held a debate with students of grammar school “Kotor” and a meeting with representatives of the Municipality. European perspective of Montenegro and cross-border projects implemented by the Municipality of Kotor were discussed.
- Chair and member of the Gender Equality Committee Nada Drobnjak and Nikola Gegaj participated in the Annual Regional Conference of Women Parliamentarians, held in Tirana, from 26 to 28 April. The conference was held within panels: “Strengthening the role of Women in Politics, Parliament and Local Governance”, “Strengthening the role of Women in Central Governance”, “The role of Women in the democratisation of society” and “Strengthening the role of Women in the Economy”.

27 April

- President of the Parliament of Montenegro Ranko Krivokapić received representatives of the negotiating team of former workers of Aluminium Plant Podgorica. Krivokapić reminded that the Parliament adopted the Law on settling obligations towards the workers of Aluminium Plant who retired early due to bankruptcy of the company. This Law prescribes that workers of KAP, who had not been given adequate severance pay prior to retirement, shall be entitled to severance pay. Furthermore, it was prescribed that the amount of the severance pay would be defined in accordance with the current social programme made for workers of KAP. President Krivokapić advised the negotiating team of former workers of KAP to address the Public Prosecution Office, and to point out the intention of

non-compliance with the law of the state of Montenegro by those who are obliged to honour and enforce the law.



28 April

- President of the Parliament of Montenegro Ranko Krivokapić received the delegation of the Committee on European Union Policies of the Italian Senate headed by Senator Vannino Chiti. Senator Vannino Chiti emphasised the importance of this visit particularly with regard to the contribution of President Krivokapić in finding constructive solutions to organising free and fair elections. As the crown of these efforts came the signing of the Agreement on Creating Conditions for Free and Fair Elections, after five months of extensive work in building preconditions which would result in the free will of citizens in the election process. The interlocutors discussed forms of cooperation that needed to be developed, particularly the area of Energy, Science and Culture.
- Deputy Chair of the Committee on European Integration Marija Maja Čatović and members Obrad Mišo Stanišić, Predrag Sekulić, Vuk Roćen and Genci Nimanbegu met with delegation of the Committee on European Union Policies of the Italian Senate. They discussed the possibility of further development of interparliamentary cooperation, the actual Proposal for a law on the implementation of the Agreement on Creating Conditions for Free and Fair Elections, as well as other political issues in Montenegro.

