



Parliament of Montenegro

NEWSLETTER OPEN PARLIAMENT

Newsletter on the Parliament of Montenegro Performance ♦ No. 61 ♦ June 2016

CONTENT

Legislative and oversight activity.....2

News from Parliament.....8

Delegation of the Committee on European Integration participated in the plenary meeting of COSAC.....8

MPs of the Parliament met with the President of the Republic of Malta.....8

Delegation of the Parliament of Montenegro participated in the Summer Session of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe8

Parliamentary glossary.....9

In focus.....9

**From history of Montenegrin
Parliamentarism**10

Calendar.....11

IN FOCUS

Parliament of Montenegro hosts a meeting of secretaries general of parliaments in the region

p.9



PARLIAMENTARY GLOSSARY

*Do you know...
what is SIGMA?*

p.9

FROM THE HISTORY OF MONTENEGRIN PARLIAMENTARISM

Rulebook (Statute) of the Royal theatre in Cetinje

p.10

OPEN PARLIAMENT



Parliament of Montenegro

Newsletter on the Parliament of Montenegro Performance ♦ Electronic format ♦ Release: monthly ♦ Year VI ♦ No. 61 ♦ June 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 June, which is, in the form of monthly newsletter "Open Parliament", prepared by Parliamentary Service.

In June, the sixth, eighth and tenth sitting of the first ordinary session took place, during which MPs adopted 25 laws. Fifth, seventh and ninth special sitting of the first ordinary session also took place. During June, committees considered 36 proposals for a law, nine proposals for a decision, and held other activities within their oversight role.

In focus of this month's newsletter is the meeting of secretaries general of parliaments in the region, which took place in the Parliament of Montenegro. 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 Sixth Sitting of the First Ordinary (Spring) Session of the Parliament of Montenegro in 2016, Darko Pajović was elected President of the Parliament of Montenegro. Within the item *Elections and Appointments*, MPs appointed the jury for awarding the 13th July Award: President Gojko Kastratović, and members Igor Lakić, Miomir Vojinović, and Asim Dizdarević. In addition, the following were adopted: Law on Amendments to the Law on Liability of Legal Persons for Criminal Offences, Law on Amendments to the Law on Information Security, Law on Foreign Trade in Arms and Military Equipment, Law on Amendments to the Trademark Law, Law on Amendments to the Law on Protection of Topographies of Semiconductor Products, Law on Amendments to the Law on Free Zones, Law on Amendments to the Waste Management Law, Law on Amendments to the Law on Olive Cultivation and Olive Oil, Law on Amendments to the Law on National Vocational Qualifications, Law on Amendments to the Law on National Parks of Montenegro, Law on Amendments to the Law on Preschool Education, Law on Amendments to the Law on Health Care, Law on Amendments to the Law on Higher Education, Decision on deployment of members of the Army of Montenegro to the "United Nations Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara - MINURSO", Decision on Granting Approval to the Agreement on the Use of Coastal Property for the Implementation and Building of Infrastructure, 2014 Performance Report of the Fund for

Protection and Exercising of Minority Rights and 2015 Performance Report of the Commission for Concessions, Law on Administrative Inspection, Law on Amendments to the Law on Legal Protection of Industrial Design, Law on Cross-border Exchange of Electricity and Natural Gas, Law on Maintenance of Residential Buildings, Wine Law, Law on Amendments to the Pension and Disability Insurance Law, Law on Amendments to the Law on State Medals and Awards, Law on Youth, Law on Amendments to the Law on Recognition of Foreign Educational Certificates and Qualifications Equalization, Law on Innovation Activity, Law on Removal and Transplantation of Human Tissues and Cells for Therapeutic Purposes, Decision on Granting Hydrocarbons Production Concession Contract in Montenegro undersea, Decision on establishing a temporary parliamentary committee for oversight of investigation of cases of threatening of safety of journalists and media outlets, Third semi-annual report on the overall activities within the integration process of Montenegro to the European Union, for the period January - June 2015, 2013 Annual Report of the National Preventive Mechanism against Torture, 2015 Performance Report of the Central Bank of Montenegro, 2015 Performance Report of the Financial Stability Forum, 2015 Financial Operations Report and Performance Report of the Agency for Electronic Media, 2015 Financial Statement and Performance Report of the Agency for Medicines and Medical Devices, Report on implemented investment and other activities on the basis of the Contract on the lease and construction, relating to "Luštica Development" Municipality Tivat - Luštica Bay project, Report on implemented investments in accordance with the Decision on granting a long-term lease of land on the peninsula Luštica - Municipality Herceg Novi, Report on implemented investment and other activities on the basis of the Contract on the long-term lease of military barracks "Orjenski bataljon" in Kumbor, and Proposal for conclusions with regard to the held control hearing of Minister of Tourism and Sustainable Development Branimir Gvozdenović and acting Secretary of the Secretariat for Development Projects Biserka Dragicevic in order to determine the facts and circumstances relating to the validity of the issued guarantee, pursuant to the annex to the contract for the completion of the hotel "AS" in Perazića do.

Furthermore, new members of the 40th Government of Montenegro were elected by a majority of votes: as Deputy Prime Minister Azra Jasavić and as Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development Budimir Mugoša. Within the agenda item *Elections and Appointments*, the following were elected: Novak Bego Laković and Vesna Ratković as members of the Prosecutorial Council from among reputable lawyers, Snežana Mijušković as Deputy Protector of Human Rights and Freedoms of Montenegro, Edin Koljenović and Ranko Vujović as members of the Council of the Agency for Electronic Media, whereas Refadija Abdić, Ivan Dragičević, Ardijan Mavriq, Ruzhdi Lluca, Remzija Ramusović, Milivoje Krgović, Mirsat Cikotić and Dženana

Kraina were elected as members of the Administrative Board of the Fund for Protection and Exercising of Minority Rights. Branko Vujović was elected the President of the Council of the Insurance Supervision Agency.

At the Eighth Sitting of the First Ordinary Session of the Parliament of Montenegro in 2016, MPs have adopted the Resolution on Support to Montenegro's Membership in NATO.

At the Tenth Sitting of the First Ordinary Session of the Parliament of Montenegro in 2016, MPs adopted the Law on Amendments to the Law on Administrative Procedure. In addition, the Parliament noted the resignation of Azra Jasavić from the position of member of the Parliament of Montenegro as well as the resignation of Pavle Pasković from the position of member of the State Election Commission. Furthermore, Zorica Martinović from the electoral list "Positive Montenegro - Darko Pajović" has started her MP office.

Prime Minister's Questions and MPs' questions

At the Fifth Special Sitting of the First Ordinary Session of the Parliament of Montenegro in 2016, within the item *Parliamentary questions*, MPs' questions were answered by ministers in the Government of Montenegro. MPs posed 50 questions and five additional questions to the ministers in the Government.

Seventh Special Sitting of the First Ordinary Session of the Parliament of Montenegro in 2016 was devoted to the tenth anniversary of declaration of independence. In addition to the President of the Parliament of Montenegro Darko Pajović, the former Ambassador of Slovakia to Montenegro František Lipka also addressed the present.

At the Ninth 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 nine questions to the Prime Minister.

Proposals for Law deliberated in committees

- **Proposal for a Law on Court Experts** was considered and proposed to the Parliament for adoption by the Committee on Political System, Judiciary and Administration.
- **Proposal for a Law on Interpreters** was considered and proposed to the Parliament for adoption by the Committee on Political System, Judiciary and Administration.
- **Proposal for a Law on Trainees in Courts and Public Prosecution Office and Bar Exam** was considered and proposed to the Parliament for adoption by the

Legislative Committee and the Committee on Political System, Judiciary and Administration.

- **Proposal for a Law on Amendments to the Law on Liability of Legal Persons for Criminal Offences** was considered and proposed to the Parliament for adoption by the Committee on Political System, Judiciary and Administration and the Legislative Committee.
- **Proposal for a Law on Foreign Trade in Arms and Military Equipment** was considered and proposed to the Parliament for adoption by the Legislative Committee.
- **Proposal for a Law on Maintenance of Residential Buildings** was considered and proposed to the Parliament for adoption by the Legislative Committee.
- **Proposal for a Law on Supplements to the Pension and Disability Insurance Law** was considered and proposed to the Parliament for adoption by the Legislative Committee.
- **Proposal for a Law on Amendments to the Pension and Disability Insurance Law** was considered and proposed to the Parliament for adoption by the Legislative Committee.
- **Proposal for a Law on Amendments to the Bankruptcy Law** was considered and proposed to the Parliament for adoption by the Legislative Committee.
- **Proposal for a Law on Amendments to the Law on Preschool Education** was considered and proposed to the Parliament for adoption by the Legislative Committee.
- **Proposal for a Law on Amendments to the Law on Health Care** was considered and proposed to the Parliament for adoption by the Committee on Health, Labour and Social Welfare and the Legislative Committee.
- **Proposal for a Law on Amendments to the Law on Higher Education** was considered and proposed to the Parliament for adoption by the Legislative Committee and the Committee on Education, Science, Culture and Sports.
- **Proposal for a Nature Protection Law** was considered and proposed to the Parliament for adoption by the Legislative Committee.
- **Proposal for a Law on Amendments to the Waste Management Law** was considered and proposed to the Parliament for adoption by the Legislative Committee.
- **Proposal for a Law on Amendments to the Family Law** was considered and proposed to the Parliament for adoption by the Committee on Health, Labour and Social Welfare and the Legislative Committee. The same proposal was considered by the Gender Equality Committee in part of its competence, which decided to propose to the Committee on Health, Labour and Social Welfare, as the lead committee to propose it to the Parliament for adoption.
- **Proposal for a Law on Amendments to the Law on State Medals and Awards** was considered and proposed to the Parliament for adoption by the

Legislative Committee and Committee on Political System, Judiciary and Administration.

- **Proposal for a Law on Amendments to the Law on designations of origin, geographical indications and indications of traditional specialities guaranteed for agricultural and food 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 Administrative Disputes** 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 Notaries** 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 Inspection Control** 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 Veterinary Law** was considered and proposed to the Parliament for adoption by the Committee on Tourism, Agriculture, Ecology and Spatial Planning and the Legislative Committee.
- **Proposal for a Law on Ratification of the Agreement of Montenegro and Republic of Bulgaria on Social Welfare** was considered and proposed to the Parliament for adoption by the Legislative Committee.
- **Proposal for a Law on Ratification of the ILO Night Work Convention No 171** was considered and proposed to the Parliament for adoption by the Legislative Committee.
- **Proposal for a Law on Amendments to the Law on Public Administration** was considered and proposed to the Parliament for adoption by the Legislative Committee.
- **Proposal for a Law on Amendments to the Law on Administrative Procedure** was considered and proposed to the Parliament for adoption by the Committee on Political System, Judiciary and Administration and the Legislative Committee.
- **Proposal for a Law on Amendments to the Law on Personal Name** was considered and proposed to the Parliament for adoption by the Legislative Committee.
- **Proposal for a Law on Amendments to the Law on Travel Documents** was considered and proposed to the Parliament for adoption by the Legislative Committee.
- **Proposal for the Law on Amendments to the Law on Civil Registries** was considered and proposed to the Parliament for adoption by the Legislative Committee.
- **Proposal for a Law on Public Assembly and Public Events** was considered and proposed to the Parliament for adoption by the Legislative Committee.
- **Proposal for a Law on Amendments to the Media Law** 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 Central Register of Citizens** was considered and proposed to the Parliament for adoption by the Legislative Committee and the Committee on Political System, Judiciary and Administration.
- **Proposal for a Law on the State Seal and the Seals of State Bodies** 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 Montenegrin Citizenship** 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 Hydrocarbons Tax** was considered by the Legislative Committee, however, it did not obtain the required majority. The same proposal was considered by the Committee on Economy, Finance and Budget, which proposed to the Parliament to adopt it.
- **Proposal for a Law on Amendments to the Law on Conversion of Loans in Swiss Francs CHF into Euros EUR** was considered and proposed to the Parliament of Montenegro for adoption by the Committee on Economy, Finance and Budget.
- **Proposal for a Law on Amendments to the Law on Salaries of Public Sector Employees** was considered and proposed to the Parliament for adoption by the Committee on Economy, Finance and Budget.

Proposal for Law considered by a committee during June:

- Proposal for a Law on Amendments to the Law on Travel Documents was considered by the Committee on Political System, Judiciary and Administration, while the declaring on the proposal was postponed for the upcoming meetings.

Proposals for other acts deliberated in committees

- **Proposal for a Decision on sending members of the Army of Montenegro to the United Nations Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara – MINURSO** was considered and proposed to the Parliament for adoption by the Legislative Committee.
- **Proposal for a Decision on adopting the Special Purpose Spatial Plan for the Durmitor Region, with Special Purpose Spatial Plan for the Durmitor Region and Detailed Elaboration for the sites “Savin kuk” and “Military Resort”** was considered and proposed to the Parliament for adoption by the Committee on Tourism, Agriculture, Ecology and Spatial Planning.
- **Proposal for a Decision on Awarding the Hydrocarbons Production Concession Contract in Montenegro undersea** was considered and proposed to the Parliament for adoption by the Legislative

Committee.

- **Proposal for a Decision on establishing a temporary parliamentary committee on monitoring the investigation of cases of endangering security of journalists and media outlets** was considered and proposed to the Parliament for adoption by the Legislative Committee and the Committee on Political System, Judiciary and Administration.
- **Proposal for a Decision on sending members of the Army of Montenegro to the European Union peacekeeping operation EU NAVFOR ATALANTA** was considered and proposed to the Parliament for adoption by the Security and Defence Committee and the Legislative Committee.
- **Proposal for a Decision on the appointment of the President and three members of the jury for awarding the 13th July Award** was determined by the Administrative Committee.
- **Proposal for a Decision on the Election of two members of the Council of the Agency for Electronic Media** was determined by the Administrative Committee.
- **Proposal for a Decision on the Appointment of President of the Council of the Insurance Supervision Agency** was determined by the Administrative Committee.
- **Proposal for a Decision on the Election of eight members of the Administrative Board of the Fund for Protection and Exercising of Minority Rights** was determined by the Administrative Committee.

Other activities of working bodies

- At the 163rd meeting of the **Legislative Committee**, held on 16 June, members of the Committee supported Proposal for a Resolution on Support to Montenegro's Membership in NATO.



- At the 118th meeting of the **Committee on Political System, Judiciary and Administration** resumed on 13 June, the Committee considered and supported the 2016 Work Plan of the Committee on Political System, Judiciary and Administration.
- At the 52nd meeting of the **Security and Defence Committee**, held on 27 June, members of the committee considered and supported the 2015 Report on performance and status in administrative areas

under the competences of the Ministry of Defence and 2015 Status Report on the Army of Montenegro. In addition, the Committee adopted the 2015 Performance Report of the Committee, as well as the 2016 Plan of Parliamentary Oversight.

- At the 74th meeting of the **Committee on International Relations and Emigrants**, held on 2 June, members of the Committee provided a positive opinion on the proposal for appointing Boro Vučinić as an Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary Ambassador of Montenegro to the Republic of Croatia, based in Zagreb.



At the 76th meeting, held on 15 June, committee members supported by a majority of votes the Proposal for a Resolution on Support to Montenegro's Membership in NATO.

At the 75th meeting of 21 June, the Committee provided a positive opinion on the proposal for appointing Ljiljana Tošković as an Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary Ambassador of Montenegro to the Republic of Poland, based on Warsaw.

At the 79th meeting of 24 June, the Committee unanimously provided a positive opinion on appointing Igor Jovović as an Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary Ambassador of Montenegro to the Russian Federation, based in Moscow.

- At the 49th meeting of the **Committee on European Integration**, held on 24 June, members of the Committee considered 2015 semiannual reports on the realisation of action plans for chapters 23 - Judiciary and fundamental rights and 24- Justice, freedom and security.



- At the 145th meeting of the **Committee on Economy, Finance and Budget** held on 2 June, the Committee conducted a control hearing of Budimir Šegrt, Minister

of Health regarding the current situation in the Montenegrin health system and the amount of funds allocated for medical devices.



At the 146th meeting, held on 6 June, the Committee considered the 2015 Performance Report of the Agency for Electronic Communications and Postal Services with Financial Report of the Agency, and Report on Conducted Audit of 2015 Financial Statements of the Agency for Electronic Communications and Postal Services.

At the ending of the 146th meeting of 13 June, the Committee supported the 2015 Performance Report of the Agency for Electronic Communications and Postal Services with Financial Report of the Agency, and Report on Conducted Audit of 2015 Financial Statements of the Agency for Electronic Communications and Postal Services. In addition, the Committee supported the 2015 Annual Performance Report of the Securities Commission and the Status of the Securities Market.

At the 148th meeting of the 13 June, the Committee did not support the initiative on holding control hearing of Ivan Brajović, Minister of Transport and Maritime Affairs and Nebojša Obradović, Director of Railway Directorate regarding the reasonable suspicion of abuse of state resources for political party purposes.

At the 147th meeting of 20 June, the Committee conducted a control hearing of Minister of Finance Raško Konjević and Director of the Tax Administration Miomir Mugoša with regard to the opinion of the State Audit Institution on audit of success of the "Efficacy of Tax Administration in Implementing Measures For Tax Debt Collection".

At the 149th meeting of 24 June, the Committee considered implementation of the Law on Conversion of Loans in Swiss Francs CHF into Euros EUR and got acquainted with the Information of the Central Bank of Montenegro on the oversight of implementation of this law. In addition, the Committee considered and supported the 2015 Performance Report of the Agency for Protection of Competition.

- At the 65th meeting of the **Committee on Human Rights and Freedoms**, held on 2 June, the Committee considered and supported the 2015 Performance Report of the Protector of Human Rights and Freedoms of

Montenegro. In addition, the Committee considered the 2015 Report on Development and Protection of Rights of Minorities and Other Minority Communities.



- At the 63rd meeting of the **Gender Equality Committee** of 20 June, Head of Department for Gender Equality Affairs in the Ministry of Human and Minority Rights Biljana Pejović informed the members of the Committee with information on participation of women in legislative, executive, and judicial powers in Montenegro and presented the Guidelines for creation of favourable environment for women's entrepreneurship in local communities.

At the 64th meeting of 27 June, the Committee considered Strategy on protection from violence in family 2016-2020 along with the Action Plan and the Information on implementation of the 2014 Strategy on protection from violence in family.



- At the 125th meeting of the **Committee on Health, Labour and Social Welfare** of 14 June, aside from the Committee members, the meeting was attended by representatives of the negotiation team of workers of the Aluminium Plant Podgorica. They presented problems in the implementation of the Law on settling obligations towards the workers of Aluminium Plant who retired early due to bankruptcy of the company, adopted by the Parliament of Montenegro on 16 July 2015.
- At the 66th meeting of the **Administrative Committee** of 16 June, members of the Committee decided by a majority of votes to propose to the Parliament to appoint Gojko Kastratović as President of the Jury for awarding the 13th July Award, and Igor Lakić, Miomir Vojinović and Asim Dizdarević as members of the Jury. In addition, the Committee determined Proposal for a Decision on the Election of two members of the Council of the Agency for Electronic Media. In this regard, the Committee decided to propose to the Parliament to appoint Edin

Koljenović and Ranko Vujović as members of the Electronic Media Agency Council. Furthermore, the Committee decided by a majority of votes to propose to the Parliament of Montenegro to appoint Branko Vujović as President of the Insurance Supervision Agency Council. The Committee also decided by a majority of votes to appoint Refadija Abdić, Ivan Dragičević, Ardijan Mavrić, Ruždija Luka, Remzija Ramusović, Milivoje Krgović, Mirsat Cikotić and Dženana Kraina as members of the Fund for the protection and realisation of minorities rights.



At the 67th meeting of the Committee of 30 June, the Committee determined Proposal of candidates for two members of the Commission for ranking candidates for the Chair of the Committee on Energy Regulatory Agency and decided to propose to the Parliament to appoint Filip Vuković and Ranko Krsmanović as members of the Commission for ranking candidates for the Chair of the Committee on Energy Regulatory Agency. In addition, the Committee adopted the Decision on payment of difference in salary which an MP would have if he/she were holding the office professionally and the Decision on exercising the rights to compensation for using the private vehicle for business purposes.

- At the 44th meeting of 22 June, the **Anti-Corruption Committee** reached a unanimous decision that the Supreme Public Prosecutor's Office and the Special Public Prosecutor's Office should submit to the Anti-corruption Committee a special report for the period from 1 January 2016 to 1 June 2016, relating to responsibilities referred to in Article 3 of the Law on Special Public Prosecutor's Office and actions of the prosecutor's office regarding conclusion of the agreement on admission of guilt referred to in Article 300 of the Criminal Code of Montenegro, and delayed prosecution referred to in Article 272 of the Criminal Code of Montenegro.



NEWS FROM PARLIAMENT



Delegation of the Committee on European Integration participated in the plenary meeting of COSAC

Deputy Chair of the Committee on European Integration Marija Maja Ćatović and Committee member Azra Jasavić participated in the Plenary Meeting of the Conference of Parliamentary Committees for Union Affairs of Parliaments of the European Union (COSAC), held on 13 and 14 June in the Hague.

The agenda included debates on strengthening of parliamentary oversight and role of national parliaments at the level of the EU, as well as debates on the role of parliaments in protection of the rule of law and their activities within parliamentary diplomacy. They referred to the significance of parliaments of the EU states as a bridge between Brussels and national governments, as well as the significance of promoting stability and democratic legitimacy of the EU through their cooperation in joint bodies such as the COSAC.

Within the session dedicated to parliamentary oversight, various parliamentary practices were considered with regard to using the co-called rapporteurs on specific issues and policies of the EU and the need for

their mutual cooperation was emphasised. One of key discussions was related to the role that the parliaments should have in protection of the rule of law, their previous practice and results, as well as the manners to make their control stronger in the future. It was emphasised that the parliaments have double responsibility, both for adoption of laws which foster the values of the rules of law and for control of the executive power regarding their implementation.

The second day, the parliamentarians discussed the work of the European Court of Auditors, special reports published by the Court, and manners of their possible use in work of national parliaments. The significance of equal implementation of rules in all EU states was referred to, due to which the Court is very strict in control of the EU budget on the national level. In the session dedicated to the current migrant crisis, they presented results achieved by implementation of the EU-Turkey Agreement with regard to joint resolution of crisis, with special reference to the situation in Greece, Italy, and Turkey.

MPs of the Parliament met with President of the Republic of Malta

MPs of the Montenegrin Parliament Nada Drobnjak, Branka Tanasijević, Marija Maja Ćatović, Draginja Vuksanović, Azra Jasavić and Mubera Kurpejović met on 10 June with President of the Parliament of the Republic of Malta Marie - Loius Coleiro Preca, who paid a two-day visit to Montenegro.

MPs discussed the representation of women in politics and informed the President of the Republic of Malta about the activities being implemented for the purpose of political and economic strengthening of women and efficient fight against all forms of violence against women.

Implementation of the Council of Europe Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence (Istanbul Convention) was also discussed, with special emphasis on the Podgorica Declaration on combating violence against women and

domestic violence, on the basis of which leaders of Brdo – Brijuni process made a commitment to strengthen gender equality, especially when it comes to leadership positions and eradicate violence against women and domestic violence in Southeastern Europe.

In addition, the significance of adopting the Action Plan for the Implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 1325 was emphasised.

President of Malta emphasised that these affirmative measures in Malta resulted in a greater representation of women in politics and contributed to the increase of women in the public sector holding decision-making positions, up to 40 %. Emphasising the significance of sharing good example with other institutions, the President of Malta said that their Parliament paid special attention to coordination of work and family activities.

Delegation of the Parliament of Montenegro participated in the Summer Session of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe

Summer Session of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (PACE) was held from 20 to 24 June, in Strasbourg. The Delegation of the Parliament of Montenegro participated in the session in the following composition: Predrag Sekulić, Head of Delegation, Goran Tuponja, member of Delegation and Snežana Jonica, deputy member. The Session was marked by discussion on the position of refugees in Greece, violence against

migrants, functioning of democratic institutions in Turkey, transparency and openness in European institutions, and position of women in the armed forces. The agenda of the Session also included discussion on culture and democracy, educational and cultural networks of emigrants, mandate and immunity of members of the Parliamentary Assembly, the role of the Assembly as a pan-European forum for inter-parliamentary dialogue and co-operation.

IN FOCUS



Parliament of Montenegro hosts a meeting of secretaries general of parliaments in the region

The Parliament of Montenegro and its Secretary General Siniša Stanković hosted a two-day meeting of secretaries general of parliaments in the region “Strategic and annual planning in parliaments - challenges and results”.

Vice President of the Parliament of Montenegro Suljo Mustafić opened the meeting, expressing satisfaction over continuous support by the OSCE Mission to Montenegro. Mustafić said that the civil society demanded increasingly greater effectiveness, accountability, and transparency of the state authorities, which imposed the need for constant development of the parliament and adjustment to requirements of the society. He added that it is important for the parliament to have a plan of development of the institution, because the convocations change, but the need for strengthening and modernisation of a legislative body is constant, and that drafting of planning documents represents a very challenging and complex process for the parliament but its benefits could be manifold.

The OSCE Deputy Head of Mission to Montenegro Dan Redford thanked Secretary General of the Parliament of Montenegro and his associates for their dedication and efforts to organise this regional event, as well as for continuous contribution to joint activities. He expressed belief that as secretaries general parliaments all shared this key responsibility, ensuring provision of unbiased, nonpartisan, and professional expert support to parliaments, i.e. parliamentarians.

Secretary General of the Parliament of Montenegro Siniša Stanković stated that citizens expected a lot from the parliament and demanded much more compared to the traditional understanding of the representative democracy. Stanković added that the parliamentary democracy is also changing and developing, new mechanisms of interaction

and communication and their participation in the legislative process are being introduced, simultaneously with strengthening of accountability of both the parliament and its members. He also stated that the Action Plan for Strengthening the Legislative and Oversight Role had proved to be an effective tool for introduction of novelties in the work of the Parliamentary Service, as well as the Parliament as a whole, and that such practice was continued, so the Action Plan was being adopted every year, and published on the website of the Parliament. Stanković said that Drafting of the Action Plan for a Gender-sensitive Parliament of Montenegro is also ongoing.



The first day, the panel covered topics such as “Challenges and opportunities in parliaments” and “Importance of communication in the strategic approach to parliamentary development”. Second day, the participants exchanged opinions on and experiences in human resources development and ICT planning.

Participants in the meeting “Strategic and annual planning in parliaments - challenges and results” included secretaries general and representatives of parliamentary services of the parliaments of Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo, Macedonia, Serbia, and Montenegro.

PARLIAMENTARY GLOSSARY

SIGMA (Support for Improvement in Governance and Management) is a joint initiative of the EU and the OECD which has existed for twenty years and which helps transition countries to strengthen their system of state governance and public administration capacities. Its seat is in Paris. Sigma has around 20 experts who provide assistance in five key areas: the organisation and functioning of state administration and public administration, public finances and auditing, public procurement, creating policies and strategies and reforms. The assistance includes giving recommendations on the improvement of the legislative and administrative system, giving advice on developing and implementing reforms, providing the exchange of good practices from a wide range of states, developing strategic documents and strategies and so on.¹

¹ Doc. dr Komar, Olivera, Prof. dr Ivana Jelić, Nataša Komnenić, Irena Mijanović, Jelena Radonjić, Vlatko Šćepanović, *Parlamentarni leksikon*, Podgorica, Skupština Crne Gore 2016, p. 290

FROM THE HISTORY OF MONTENEGRIN PARLIAMENTARISM



RULEBOOK (STATUTE) OF THE ROYAL THEATRE IN CETINJE

15/28 April 1910.

STATUTE OF THE ROYAL MONTENEGRIN NATIONAL THEATER IN CETINJE

I

Theater and its purpose

§ 1.

Royal Montenegrin National theatre will be founded by this Statute, and shall enjoy the financial support of the state.

§ 3.

All the activities of the Royal National Montenegrin theatre shall be overseen by the Ministry of Education.

§ 4.

The theatre, as a state institution, shall be entitled to use the state coat of arms and other state insignia used in the state institutions.

§ 5.

The theater, as well as a "theatre fund" are to be founded simultaneously, whereas the theatre fund whose activities shall also be overseen by the state authorities is aimed at improving the financial state of the institution itself.

§ 6.

The theatre shall commence its activities starting the day this Statute is approved.

III

Theatre income and property

§ 9.

The following falls under the theatre property:

- 1) theatre funds,
- 2) contributions made by the founders and voluntarism,
- 3) theatre inventory,
- 4) 5 % of pure gainings originating from plays.

VI

Management

§ 13.

The management is the supreme authority in charge of deciding on all the interior and foreign theatre affairs.

§ 14.

The management consists of the Library Committee, which is headed by the Chair, who is at the same time the manager of the theater.

No. 1061

15 April 1910

Cetinje

Pavićević, B, Raspopović, R, ur. Crnogorski zakonic 1796-1916, knj. IV (Montenegrin Codes 1796-1916, Book IV), Podgorica, Istorijski institut Crne Gore, 1998, pp. 1046-1051.

CALENDAR



2 June

- Secretary General of the Parliament of Montenegro Siniša Stanković hosted a two-day meeting of secretaries general of parliaments in the region “Strategic and annual planning in parliaments - challenges and results”. Participants in the meeting included secretaries general and representatives of parliamentary services of the parliaments of Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo, Macedonia, Serbia, and Montenegro. Vice-President of the Parliament of Montenegro Suljo Mustafić and OSCE Deputy Head of Mission to Montenegro Dan Redford also attended the meeting.
- Members of the Parliament of Montenegro’s permanent delegation to the NATO PA Obrad Mišo Stanišić and Ranko Krivokapić met with Head of the NATO PA Delegation from the Parliament of the Kingdom of Sweden Björn von Sydow, Member of the Parliament Göran Petterson and Deputy Head of Mission of the Kingdom of Sweden Embassy in Belgrade Liselott Martynenko Agerlid. Stanišić and Krivokapić informed the members of the Swedish Delegation about the results achieved in the field of Euro-Atlantic integration of Montenegro, with a special reference to challenges and tasks in this regard, considering that the signing of the Accession Protocol represented a confirmation of the great progress that Montenegro had made in the defence sector, but also in other fields relevant for assessing the level of preparedness for membership in the Alliance.



3 June

- President of the Parliament of Montenegro Darko Pajović received Ambassador of Hungary to Montenegro Krisztian Posa. The interlocutors shared views on the overall political situation in Montenegro, including signing of the Agreement on

Creating Conditions for Free and Fair Elections. In addition, they discussed the process of ratification of the Protocol on Montenegro’s Accession to NATO.

6 June

- Chair of the Committee on Education, Science, Culture and Sports Branka Tanasijević and members of the Committee Vuk Roćen and Andrija Popović met with representatives of the Women’s Football Club “Breznica”. The initiative for holding this meeting has arisen from the need to request advice and support from the Committee on Education, Science, Culture and Sports in order to resolve the existing problems in funding of the club, which threaten to extinguish great enthusiasm of the leadership and of members upon which this sports organisation is based on.

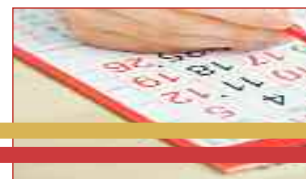


- President of the Parliament of Montenegro Darko Pajović met with Ambassador of the Republic of Romania to Montenegro Ferdinand Nagy. Ambassador Nagy informed President Pajović on the impending ratification of the NATO Protocol Accession for Montenegro in the Romanian Parliament and stated that Romania supported Montenegro’s full membership to Euro-Atlantic Alliance and at the same time it was a partner for its European path. President Pajović informed Ambassador Nagy that the government of electoral trust has begun its work in line with the agreement of 27 January, whose aim was to achieve Euro-Atlantic integration, political stability and democratisation of the society for the purpose of better control of the forthcoming election process.

7 June

- President of the Parliament of Montenegro Darko Pajović received US Ambassador to Montenegro Margaret Ann Uyehara. During the meeting, the interlocutors discussed the current political situation

CALENDAR



in Montenegro. Ambassador Uyehara has shown interest in effectiveness of work of Montenegrin Parliament. President Pajović stated that in the upcoming period the Parliament of Montenegro would work at an accelerated pace based on the principles of effectiveness and transparency, considering that a large number of laws and other acts was currently in parliamentary procedure. In addition, he noted that the Government of Electoral Trust had great responsibility in order to achieve, together with the Parliament of Montenegro, a single goal, that being fair and free elections in October.



8 June

- Fifth-grade students of primary school “Trpezi” from Petnjica visited the Parliament of Montenegro, on which occasion they were acquainted with the manner of functioning of the Parliament of Montenegro, its competences, while they were particularly impressed with the collection of Montenegrin dynastic coats of arms; thus acquainting themselves completely with the Parliament of Montenegro, democracy, children's rights and state symbols.
- President of the Parliament of Montenegro Darko Pajović and Chair of the Committee on International Relations and Emigrants Miodrag Vuković, on the occasion of their official visit to Slovenia, they attended a Ceremonious Session of the National Assembly of the Republic of Slovenia, the first member of the European Union to ratify the Protocol to the North Atlantic Treaty on the Accession of Montenegro.

9 June

- President of the Parliament of Montenegro Darko

Pajović received President of the Republic of Malta Marie-Louise Coleiro Preca. Since Montenegro and Malta were similar particularly with regard to rich history, natural and cultural resources, President Pajović deems that the two countries may have useful exchange of experiences, particularly in the field of environment protection and that cooperation in tourism should be improved. When it comes to EU accession process, Pajović expressed belief that the experience of Malta's administration would be significantly useful to Montenegro. President of the Republic of Malta Marie-Louise Coleiro Preca agreed that cooperation at the level of exchange of experiences with Montenegro should be improved, and supported the proposal of President Pajović that the cooperation of the two countries should be intensified as soon as possible.

- President of the Parliament of Montenegro Darko Pajović met with Head of EU Delegation to Montenegro Mitja Drobnič. Pajović stated that the Parliament would intensify the work dynamics in the upcoming period, in order to adopt a large number of laws and other acts, currently under parliamentary procedure. Pajović emphasised that the Parliament of Montenegro would implement the obligations belonging to the Parliament, making an integral part of the Agreement signed between the government and the opposition, and which is aimed at jointly achieving the same goal - fair and free elections. Drobnič welcomed the announced work dynamics of the Parliament, which will be very important to Montenegro on its path to EU membership, and emphasised that importance of full implementation of electoral legislation, which would provide for credible elections in October.

10 June

- MPs Nada Drobnjak, Branka Tanasijević, Marija Maja Čatović, Draginja Vuksanović, Azra Jasavić and Mubera Kurpejović met with the President of the Republic of Malta Marie-Louise Coleiro Preca, who paid a two-day visit to Montenegro. MPs discussed the representation of women in politics and informed the President of the Republic of Malta about the activities being implemented for the purpose of political and economic strengthening of women and efficient fight against all forms of

CALENDAR



violence against women.



- MP Branko Čavor met with Ambassador of Rumania to Montenegro Ferdinand Nagy, in order to discuss the submission of candidacy of Victor Paul Dobre for the Vice President of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly. The meeting was an opportunity to emphasise the friendly relations between the two countries, as well as the constructive cooperation, which, inter alia, was reflected in an intensive parliamentary dialogue. Given that elections in both countries were being held in 2016, the interlocutors exchanged opinions on the manner of election of MPs, and jointly emphasised the importance of providing free and fair elections.
- President of the Parliament of Montenegro Darko Pajović received Ambassador of Austria to Montenegro Johann Fröhlich. Fröhlich emphasised that Austria had been following Montenegro's progress on its path of Euro-Atlantic integration with great interest. The Austrian Ambassador was particularly interested in the work plan of the Montenegrin Parliament in the upcoming period. President Pajović stated that Parliament planned on maximally speeding up the work dynamics, especially taking into account that a large number of laws and other acts were still under parliamentary procedure. Pajović expressed belief that the more efficient work process of parliamentary working bodies would contribute to such dynamics, and that most of the laws would be adopted by the end of July this year.



- Member of Permanent Delegation of Parliament of Montenegro to the South-East European Cooperation Process Žana Filipović and Deputy member Snežana Jonica participated in the meetings of general committees - Standing Committee and Plenary Session of the SEECP PA, which took place in Sophia, on 10-11 June. This year's session presided over by Speaker of Parliamentary Assembly of the Republic of Bulgaria Tsetska Tsacheva, was dedicated to the topic "SEECP – 20 Years Key to Regional Cooperation".

13 June

- Chair of the Committee on International Relations and Emigrants Miodrag Vuković, at the invitation of the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the Parliament of Hungary Zsolt Nemeth, attended the ceremonious sitting of the Parliament, during which the Protocol to the North Atlantic Treaty on the Accession of Montenegro was ratified. During his visit to Budapest, Chair of the Committee on International Relations and Emigrants Miodrag Vuković had a official meeting with President of the Parliament of Hungary László Kövér.



- President of the Parliament of Montenegro Darko Pajović met with Ambassador of the Republic of Slovakia to Montenegro Roman Hloben. President Pajović informed his interlocutor about the work plan which had already been initiated by the Parliament, aimed at recovering the proper work dynamics in the Parliament. Ambassador Hloben informed the President of the Parliament of Montenegro about the intention of the Parliament of Slovakia to ratify the Protocol to the North Atlantic Treaty on the Accession of Montenegro, at the sitting to be held on 14 June. The Slovakian Ambassador emphasised that Montenegro was still a leader in the region when it comes to the process of European and Euro-Atlantic Integration, and over the past ten years since independence was restored, this country had

CALENDAR



achieved plenty of success and earned international credibility, showing that issues may and can be solved within the institutions of the system.

- President of the Parliament of Montenegro Darko Pajović met with Ambassador of the Republic of Italy to Montenegro Vincenzo Del Monaco. President Pajović informed the Italian Ambassador about the work plan of the Parliament of Montenegro for the upcoming period and emphasised that the adoption of laws on the agenda of the sittings of the Parliament of Montenegro, as well as their implementation, was significant for the process of Montenegro's accession to the EU. Pajović reminded that the Proposal for a Resolution on Support to Montenegro's Membership in NATO was also on the agenda, and that he expected it to be adopted by the end of this week. The Ambassador of Italy stated that the adoption of the Resolution on Support to Montenegro's Membership in NATO was especially significant for member states and announced that the Italian Parliament as well would soon ratify the NATO Accession Protocol for Montenegro. Del Monaco welcomed the announced work dynamics of the Parliament of Montenegro, and especially emphasised readiness of Montenegrin Parliament to work effectively, but not at the expense of quality, as President Pajović already mentioned.
- Deputy Chair of the Committee on European Integration Marija Maja Čatović and Committee member Azra Jasavić participated in the Plenary Meeting of the Conference of Parliamentary Committees for Union Affairs of Parliaments of the European Union – COSAC, which took place in the Hague. During the meeting, opinions were exchanged on good practices in parliamentary scrutiny, role of parliaments in protection of the rule of law, and parliamentary diplomacy. In addition, MPs discussed the work of the European Court of Auditors and considered progress achieved in tackling migrant crisis.
- Chair of the Committee on International Relations and Emigrants Miodrag Vuković participated in a ceremonious sitting, during which the Parliament of Hungary ratified the Protocol to the North Atlantic Treaty on the Accession of Montenegro.

14 June

- Member of Permanent Delegation of the Parliament of Montenegro to NATO Parliamentary Assembly Obrad Mišo Stanišić participated in the Joint seminar which

included the 92nd Rose-Roth seminar; a meeting of the Ukraine-NATO Interparliamentary Council (UNIC) and of NATO PA Sub-Committees on NATO Partnerships and on Transition and Development, on the topic "Ukraine's Transformation In a Troubled Regional Context".

- Chair of the Committee on Political System, Judiciary and Administration Rifat Rastoder and members of the Committee Marta Šćepanović and Šefkija Murić met with with experts of the EC Andrejs Dombrovskis and Tanja Kerševan with regard to Chapter 10 - Information society and media. At the meeting, opinions and positions were exchanged relating to legal regulations from the field of audio-visual services as well as functioning of independent regulatory bodies. In that part, the participants agreed that it was necessary to monitor implementation of the current legal regulations, adding that certain legal solutions should be improved and specified in order to achieve harmonisation with the European standards. Furthermore, they emphasised the significance of providing contribution to achieving greater independence of regulatory bodies, especially with regard to funding, governance bodies, and inspection control.



15 June

- President of the Parliament of Montenegro Darko Pajović met with the Head of the Montenegro Unit at the Directorate-General for European Neighbourhood and Enlargement Negotiations Dirk Lange and Head of the EU Delegation to Montenegro Mitja Drobnič. Current political situation was the topic of the meeting. On this occasion, President Pajović emphasised that the activities envisaged by the Agreement on Creating Conditions for Free and Fair Elections, and which fell under responsibilities of the Parliament, would be completely implemented, and that this is primarily related to the temporary committee that would monitor the application of laws and other regulations important for building trust in the election process, and which is

CALENDAR



to be established. President of the Parliament of Montenegro informed his interlocutors that the Parliament had intensified its work, i.e. a comprehensive agenda, laws and other acts that are in parliamentary procedure.

- President of the Parliament of Montenegro Darko Pajović met with the Ambassador of the Great Britain Ian Whitting. They emphasised at the meeting that Memorandum of Understanding between the Parliament of Montenegro and Westminster Foundation envisaged the cooperation aimed at setting up Parliamentary Budget Office in Montenegrin Parliament through the programme “Strengthening financial oversight in the Parliament of Montenegro”, which will last until 31 March 2018. Additionally, the objectives of the program, which will contribute to strengthening of good governance in Montenegro, have been agreed by this document, in particular with regard to improving the capacities of the Parliament of Montenegro for the effective performance of the role of parliamentary oversight.
- Chair of the Gender Equality Committee Nada Drobnjak participated in the work of the Final Conference “Strengthening of Regional Cooperation on Gender Mainstreaming in Security Sector Reform in the Western Balkans”, which took place in Belgrade. The work of the Conference was organised in panels: “Importance of raising awareness on gender equality in the military”, “Role of Gender Equality Mechanisms in Ministries of Defence and Armed Forces”, and “Key aspects of gender sensitive policies for the management of resources”.



16 June

- Chair of the Commission for Monitoring and Control of the Privatisation Procedure Janko Vučinić received Dijana Vujović, President of the Strike Committee of the

former workers of the fashion footwear industry “Košuta” Cetinje, as well as Savo Vujović, Nikola Pavićević, Dragiša Mrdak and Branko Jovićević, members of the Strike Committee. At the meeting, representatives of the former workers highlighted problems they were facing since the bankruptcy has been introduced in this factory, relating to unpaid salaries, disconnected length of service and unpaid severance payments.

- MP Genci Nimanbegu met with Roman Hloben, Ambassador of Slovakia to Montenegro. The topic of Montenegro’s integration to NATO and EU was discussed at the meeting. The interlocutors agreed that NATO membership guaranteed stability and security, and that it was important for accelerating and exercising minority rights, particularly with regard to preserving identity and integrity of minorities, economic development and rule of law.
- Chair of the Security and Defence Committee Snežana Jonica and member of the Committee Luid Ljubo Škrelja met with members of the German Bundestag MPs Alexander Neu and Inge Höger.



The topic covered by the meeting involved Montenegro in the process of Euro-Atlantic integration. In this context, Jonica informed her interlocutors that the party she represented was against Montenegro's membership in NATO, and also referred to significant inconsistencies when it comes to the ratio between the citizens and MPs which are in favour of Montenegro's membership in NATO. The interlocutors agreed that constructive dialogue was the best manner to explain to the citizens the pros and cons of joining the Alliance.

17 June

- President of the Parliament of Montenegro Darko Pajović met with President of the State Electoral

CALENDAR



Commission Budimir Šaranović with whom he discussed the strengthening of cooperation between the Parliament of Montenegro and State Electoral Commission. On the occasion, President of the State Electoral Commission informed the President of the Parliament about the work and the activities of the State Electoral Commission. President Pajović emphasised that the Parliament of Montenegro would establish the Committee on monitoring the application of laws and other regulations important for building trust in the election process, and thus provide higher quality and more effectiveness of coordination among institutions in charge of implementation of electoral legislation. In addition, President Pajović emphasised that the Parliament of Montenegro with its resources and capacity would support fully the State Electoral Commission, in its endeavours to have the election process be carried out under fair and democratic conditions.

20 June

- Delegation of the Parliament of Montenegro composed of Head of the Delegation Predrag Sekulić and members of the Delegation Goran Tuponja and Snežana Jonica participated in the Summer Session of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, which took place from 20 to 24 June in Strasbourg.
- President of the Parliament of Montenegro Darko Pajović met with NATO member-states' ambassadors accredited to Montenegro. The meeting was co-chaired by President of the Parliament Darko Pajović and Ambassador of Hungary in Montenegro Krisztián Pósa. President Pajović expressed gratitude to the NATO countries which have already ratified Protocol on Montenegro's Accession to NATO, expressing hope that the remaining countries would follow their example. In addition, he informed his interlocutors about the activities he managed to undertake within eighteen days, respectively, upon taking office as the President of the Parliament of Montenegro.

21 June

- President of the Parliament of Montenegro Darko Pajović received for a farewell visit Gudrun Elisabeth Steinacker, Ambassador of the Republic of Germany. The President thanked the Ambassador Steinacker for the support of Germany in the course of her mandate, especially engagement in projects involving environmental protection.



The interlocutors discussed the future purpose of Solana and a sustainable solution to this issue. President Pajović added that Germany was of crucial importance to the Berlin process, providing a great opportunity to Western Balkan countries to promote relations in the field of economy, and foremost infrastructure and energy. He also informed the Ambassador about the announced work dynamics of the Parliament of Montenegro, emphasising its significant role in the process of European and Euro-Atlantic integrations, as well as implementation of the Agreement on Creating Conditions for Free and Fair Elections.

- President of the Parliament of Montenegro Darko Pajović met with media representatives in charge of monitoring the work of Parliament and informed them about the activities undertaken by the Parliament in the past nineteen days since he took office.

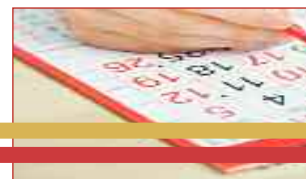
22 June

- Member of the Security and Defence Committee Luid Ljubo Škrelja participated in a workshop and Annual discussion on the OSCE Code of Conduct on Politico-Military Aspects of Security, which took place on 21-22 June in Vienna, in accordance with the decision of the Forum for Security Co-operation.



Topics covered in the workshop included normative and functional elements of the OSCE Code of Conduct (CoC) with special reference to its implementation, principles of cooperation among the states, and

CALENDAR



implementation of democratic oversight over the security and defence sector, as key part of the document whose implementation is significant for facing current challenges in this field.

23 June

- President of Parliament of Montenegro Darko Pajović paid an official visit to the Republic of Albania where he met Prime Minister Edi Rama, President of Albania Bujar Nishani and President of the Parliament Ilir Meta. The Delegation of the Montenegrin Parliament was also composed of Miodrag Vuković, Chair of the Committee on International Relations and Emigrants. During the visit, President also met with representatives of Association of Montenegrin Diaspora in Albania - Doclea and Alba Montenegro.



- Delegation of the Committee on Human Rights and Liberties composed of Vuk Roćen, Head of Delegation and Rešad Sijarić, Zoran Miljanić i Dritan Abazović, members of the Delegation participated in the Inter-parliamentary conference "The EU Immigration and Asylum Policy: Implications for the Parliaments of the Enlargement Countries", organised by the Committee on Foreign Affairs and Committee on Civil Liberties, Justice, and Home Affairs.
- Vice-President of the Parliament of Montenegro Milutin Simović met with members of the Council Working Group on Enlargement (COELA) that paid an official visit to Montenegro. During the meeting, Vice-President Simović informed the members of the Working Group on the role of the Parliament of Montenegro in the process of European Integration. Emphasising that broad participation of the Montenegrin society is one of the main characteristics of European Integration of Montenegro, the President referred to the significant role of the Parliament, as well as the civic sector and academia in the process. It is this broad participation which provides new energy and strength, thus becoming an important factor of success in the process of integration to the EU.

- Chair of the Gender Equality Committee Nada Drobnjak participated in a round table on the topic "Exercising the right to compensation by victims of violent crimes in Montenegro", organised by the NGO "Women's Rights Centre", within the project "Balkans ACT (Against Crime of Trafficking) Now", supported by the European Union within the Partnership Programme for Civil Society Organisations. The gathering was organised in order to present the Draft Law on Amendments to the Law on Compensation of Victims of Violent Crimes.

24 June

- President of the Parliament of Montenegro Darko Pajović received Constantinos Eliades, newly appointed Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary Ambassador of the Republic of Cyprus. The interlocutors spoke about the significance of further promotion of political and economic relations between smaller European countries, aimed at protecting national interests, where good practice exists and also through the summit of presidents of Parliaments of small European countries (for more than ten years now).

26 June

- Vice-President of the Parliament of Montenegro Suljo Mustafić spoke with Deputy of the Grand National Assembly of the Republic of Turkey Hüsnüye Erdoğan. Mustafić and Erdoğan are chairs of parliamentary friendship groups of Montenegro and Turkey in the Parliament of Montenegro respectively the Grand National Assembly of the Republic of Turkey.



The interlocutors emphasised that both countries were friendly, and that they have been increasingly improving in political, economical, culture and educational fields. In addition, they stated that partnership of the two countries existed in all fields of cooperation, as well as through common achievements in the field of Euro-Atlantic integration.

CALENDAR



29 June

- Chair of the Gender Equality Committee Nada Drobnjak received a representative of the European Commission Gordon Purvis, in charge of monitoring the regional project Joint efforts towards new European standards in protection of women from gender based violence. During the meeting, they presented work results in the field of gender equality and violence against women as well as cooperation of state institutions with the civil sector.
- President of the Parliament of Montenegro Darko Pajović received representatives of non-governmental organisations at first consultative meeting. The aim of the meeting was improving cooperation between the Parliament and NGO sector. President Pajović emphasised that non-governmental organisations are an important corrective element of every democratic society and that the Parliament appreciated the cooperation with them. Pajović offered signing of a new agreement of understanding of the civil sector and the Parliament, given that the previous Memorandum, signed with the Network of Civil Society Organizations for Democracy and Human Rights, had been inactive. NGO representatives also agreed on the matter.
- Chair of the Committee on International Relations and Emigrants Miodrag Vuković met Roman Hloben, Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary Ambassador of the Republic of Slovakia to Montenegro. The interlocutors expressed satisfaction over the intensity of political dialogue between the two friendly countries, previous quality of bilateral relations, parliamentary and overall cooperation between Montenegro and the Republic of Slovakia. They jointly assessed that it is important to hold a high level of cooperation between the two countries on all levels and especially increase parliamentary cooperation by establishing friendship groups between the two parliaments, which will be an occasion for members of the Committee on International Relations and Emigrants to visit their Slovak counterparts and vice versa.

30 June

- President Pajović welcomed the news on initiation of the ratification process of the NATO Accession Protocol for Montenegro, emphasising that, by this act, the United States of America, for the umpteenth time, confirmed the continuous support to Montenegro in implementing foreign policy aims, which, inter alia,

should ensure security of citizens and the state of Montenegro. President Pajović said that the USA proved to be a sincere friend and reliable partner to Montenegro, and that by initiating the internal ratification procedures, which, as he believed, would be completed soon, it expressed willingness for earliest possible membership of Montenegro in the Alliance. In addition, by this act, the USA will send an additional incentive to other members of the Alliance, to initiate and complete internal procedures of ratification of the NATO Accession Protocol for Montenegro as soon as possible.

- President of the Parliament of Montenegro Darko Pajović paid a visit to Sofia, where he attended the sitting of the National Assembly of the Republic of Bulgaria, at which the Protocol on Montenegro's accession to the North-Atlantic Council was ratified. During the visit to Sofia, President Pajović spoke with leadership of the National Assembly of the Republic of Bulgaria as well as with Bulgarian Minister of Foreign Affairs Daniel Mitov who, also, attended the sitting of the Bulgarian Parliament.
- Vice-President of the Parliament of Montenegro and Head of the Parliamentary friendship group of the Parliament of Montenegro with Azerbaijan Suljo Mustafić received for a farewell visit Deputy Head of the Diplomatic Mission of the Republic of Azerbaijan in Montenegro Seyran Mirzazadeh. They jointly noted that the relations between Montenegro and the Republic of Azerbaijan have been significantly improved in numerous social and political spheres and that diplomatic mission in Podgorica had an important role in that.
- President Pajović received Ambassador of the Republic of France Véronique Brumeaux. Ambassador Brumeaux expressed her conviction that France was expected to begin the process of ratification of the NATO Accession Protocol for Montenegro. It was also said at the meeting that the Parliament will implement all obligations stemming from the Agreement between the government and the opposition on fair and free elections, and they will be implemented in a responsible manner by the Parliament. The President informed the Ambassador on international activities of the Parliament, ratifications of the NATO Accession Protocol for Montenegro, dynamic of work of parliamentary working bodies, as well as the activities in the field of cooperation of the Parliament with the NGO sector and local self-governments.