



Parliament of Montenegro

# NEWSLETTER OPEN PARLIAMENT

Newsletter on the Parliament of Montenegro Performance ♦ No. 63 ♦ August and September 2016

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# OPEN PARLIAMENT



Parliament of Montenegro

Newsletter on the Parliament of Montenegro Performance ♦ Electronic format ♦ Release: monthly ♦ Year VI ♦ No. 63 ♦ August and September 2016

## FOREWORD

*Dear readers,*

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

In August and September, sittings of the third, fourth, fifth, sixth, eighth, ninth, tenth, eleventh and twelfth extraordinary sessions took place, during which MPs adopted two laws and elected the Governor of the Central Bank of Montenegro.

During August and September, committees considered seven proposals for a law, and held other activities within their oversight role.

In focus of this month's newsletter is participation of the President of the Parliament of Montenegro in the European Conference of Presidents of Parliament of the Council of Europe member states, which took place on 14 and 15 September in Strasbourg.

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 Sitting of the Third Extraordinary Session of the Parliament of Montenegro in 2016**, resignation of MP Ljiljana Đurašković was noted.

**At the Sitting of the Fourth Extraordinary Session of the Parliament of Montenegro in 2016**, the Parliament noted the beginning of the parliamentary term of office of Nataša Jevrić. In addition, MPs adopted the Law on Amendments to the Law on Conversion of Loans in Swiss Francs CHS into Euros EUR.

**At the sittings of the fifth, sixth, eighth, ninth and eleventh extraordinary sessions of the Parliament of Montenegro in 2016**, the Parliament did not adopt the agenda for any of the said sittings, whereas during the sitting of the tenth extraordinary session, the proposer of the law withdrew the proposal, after which the sitting was concluded.

**At the Sitting of the Seventh Extraordinary Session of the Parliament of Montenegro in 2016**, the Parliament adopted the Law on Amendments to the Law on Social and Child Welfare.

**At the Sitting of the Twelfth Extraordinary Session of the Parliament of Montenegro in 2016**, MPs elected Radoje Žugić as Governor of the Central Bank of Montenegro.

### *Proposals for Law deliberated in committees*

- **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 for adoption by the Legislative Committee and the Committee on Economy, Finance and Budget.
- **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. The same proposal was considered by the Committee on Health, Labour and Social Welfare; however, the proposal did not obtain the required majority.
- **Proposal for a Law on Amendments to the Law on Social and Child Welfare** was considered and proposed to the Parliament for adoption by the Legislative Committee. The same proposal was considered by the Committee on Health, Labour and Social Welfare; however, the proposal did not obtain the required majority.
- **Proposal for a Law on Amendments to the Law on Games of Chance** was considered and proposed to the Parliament for adoption by the Legislative Committee. The same proposal was considered by the Committee on Economy, Finance and Budget; however, the proposal did not obtain the required majority.
- **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. The same proposal was considered by the Committee on Health, Labour and Social Welfare; however, the proposal did not obtain the required majority.
- **Proposal for a Law on Amendments to the Law on Public Sector Salaries** was considered by the Committee on Economy, Finance and Budget, nevertheless, the proposal did not obtain the required majority. The same proposal was considered by the Legislative Committee, which decided to propose to the Parliament to adopt it.
- **Proposal for a Law on Amendments to the Law on Public Sector Salaries** was considered and proposed to the Parliament for adoption by the Legislative Committee.

### *Other activities of working bodies*

- At the 20<sup>th</sup> meeting of the **Constitutional Committee**, held on 8 September, members of the Committee considered the Proposal for initiating the procedure for determining whether the President of Montenegro violated the Constitution; nevertheless, the proposal did not obtain the required majority.
- At the 86<sup>th</sup> meeting of the **Committee on International Relations and Emigrants** held on 15 September, members of the Committee provided a positive opinion regarding the proposal for appointing Nebojša Kaluđerović as Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary

Ambassador of Montenegro to the United States of America, based in Washington.



At the 87<sup>th</sup> meeting of 16 September, members of the Committee provided a positive opinion regarding the proposal for appointing Aleksandar Moštrokol as Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary Ambassador of Montenegro to Hungary, based in Budapest.

At the 88<sup>th</sup> meeting held on 16 September, members of the Committee provided a positive opinion regarding the proposal for appointing Ferhat Dinoša as Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary Ambassador of Montenegro in the Republic of Kosovo, based in Priština.

- At the 51<sup>st</sup> meeting of the **Committee on European Integration** held on 16 September, members of the Committee provided a positive opinion on the Ninth quarterly report on overall activities within the process of Montenegro's integration in the European Union, for the period January - March 2016, and they were informed on the content of the First and the Second quarterly report on fulfilment of commitments arising from Montenegro's Programme of Accession to the European Union 2016 - 2018, for the period January - March and April - June 2016, as well as with appendixes to the European Commission's 2016 Progress Report on Montenegro, for the period 1 September 2015 - 20 May 2016 and 20 May 2016 - 01 September 2016.



- At the 158<sup>th</sup> meeting of the **Committee on Economy, Finance and Budget**, held on 5 September, members of the Committee determined the Draft Budget of the State Audit Institution for 2017.

At the 159<sup>th</sup> meeting of 15 September, the Committee provided consent to election of internationally recognised independent external auditor of financial reports of the Central Bank of Montenegro for 2016.

## NEWS FROM PARLIAMENT



### *President of the Parliament of Montenegro and Chair of the Committee on International Relations and Emigrants participated in the Inter-Parliamentary Conference on Common Foreign and Security Policy and on Common Security and Defence Policy (CFSP/CSDP)*

President of the Parliament of Montenegro Darko Pajović and Chair of the Committee on International Relations and Emigrants Miodrag Vuković participated in the Inter-Parliamentary Conference on Common Foreign and Security Policy and on Common Security and Defence Policy (CFSP/CSDP), which took place in Bratislava on 3 and 4 September.

During the Conference, participants debated on the following topics: "The EU as a global player: Looking for an effective multilateral diplomacy model", "Eastern Partnership of the European Union: Priorities, Perspectives and Challenges", "Sustainable Development and Migration: Towards a Comprehensive Approach", "European Defence Union - A White Book as a first step", and "Cooperation and Integration of Western Balkans in the EU".

Within the frameworks of the Conference, President Pajović met with Chair of the European Parliament

Committee on Foreign Affairs Elmar Brok and Minister for Foreign and European Affairs of the Republic of Slovakia Miroslav Lajčák. In addition, within the frameworks of the Interparliamentary Conference, President Pajović addressed the participants on the topic "The EU as a global player: Looking for an effective multilateral diplomacy model".



### *President of the Parliament of Montenegro presented certificates to attendees of "Democracy Workshops - Barbara Prammer"*

During the ceremony held in Vila Gorica, President of the Parliament of Montenegro Darko Pajović awarded 2593 certificates to students from 54 Montenegrin elementary schools and 17 Municipalities, who had been attending the educational program Democracy workshops "Barbara Prammer".

Speaking to attendees of Democracy Workshops on significance of democracy as a special knowledge that must be developed and learned, President Pajović emphasised that it includes terms such as civic society, tolerance, political unity, professionalism and responsibility, strong institutions, and the rule of law.

Addressing the participants, the President emphasised

that he is convinced that during the workshops, they have learned that democracy means professionalism and responsibility, and that democratic countries are economically developed countries, and you cannot be economically developed if people do not know their jobs which they should do for the benefit of all. He added that Democracy can be developed only if we have strong institutions and the rule of law, and that the latter, the rule of law, is the word they have often heard, which is something that they will equally have to strengthen. "That word, seemingly complex, means that everyone must observe the laws of their own countries, but also that the law must be equal for everyone", emphasised Pajović.

### *Members of the Delegation of the Committee on Health, Labour and Social Welfare paid a visit to the Kingdom of Sweden*

Members of the Committee on Health, Labour and Social Welfare Izet Bralić, Novica Stanić and Radosav Nišavić paid a visit to the Kingdom of Sweden, which took place on 27-29 September.

During their stay, members of the Delegation visited the Parliament of the Kingdom of Sweden (Riksdag), on which occasion members of Montenegrin Delegation met with Head of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly Delegation Margareta Cederfelt and member of the Delegation of Sweden to the OSCE Göran Pettersson.

In addition, the Montenegrin Delegation met with members of the following committees: Committee on

Health and Welfare, Committee on Social Insurance, Committee on the Labour Market and the Committee on Foreign Affairs. Furthermore, the Delegation visited democracy workshops of the Parliament of Sweden, and met with Anders Norin, Deputy Clerk and Head of the Unit of the Department for Parliamentary Records and Björn von Sydow, Deputy Chairperson of the Constitutional Committee.

Third day of the visit, MPs visited the Ministry of Health and Social Affairs as well as Ministry of Employment of the Kingdom of Sweden, and on that occasion had a series of meetings with representatives of those ministries.

## IN FOCUS



### *President of the Parliament participated in the European Conference of Presidents of Parliament of the Council of Europe member states*

President of the Parliament of Montenegro Darko Pajović participated on 14 and 15 September in the European Conference of Presidents of Parliament of the Council of Europe member states, which took place in Strasbourg. Pajović held several meetings with highest officials of the Council of Europe.

During the meeting with Speaker of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe Pedro Agramunt, Pajović thanked for the support provided to Montenegro in the development of democracy, as well as Election Observation Mission in the upcoming parliamentary elections and informed his interlocutor that Montenegro strongly supported the pro-European course, which would become a higher priority following the parliamentary elections.

During the meeting of the President of the Parliament of Montenegro with Thorbjørn Jagland, Secretary General of the Council of Europe, Pajović acquainted his interlocutor with the preparation of elections, as well as obligations the Parliament had undertaken after the agreement between the Government and the opposition was signed.

In Strasbourg Agora, Pajović was hosted by President of the Venice Commission Gianni Buquicchio. They spoke about previous cooperation and plans for adopting necessary legal acts which would contribute to intensifying integration processes and development of democracy in Montenegro.

In addition, Darko Pajović met Deputy Speaker of the

British House of Commons Eleanor Laing and President of the Senate of the Republic of Italy Pietro Grasso.

The Deputy Speaker of the British House of Commons announced good news from her country with regard to the ratification of NATO Accession Protocol for Montenegro. The interlocutor also showed great interest for political model of the Agreement on Fair and Free Elections and the Government of Electoral Trust.



During the meeting with President of the Senate of the Republic of Italy Pietro Grasso, they spoke about permanently good relations of the two states and possibilities for further enlargement of parliamentary cooperation.

Furthermore, during the Conference, the President of Montenegrin Parliament took part in the session titled: "National Parliaments and the Council of Europe: Together promoting democracy, human rights and the rule of law".

## PARLIAMENTARY GLOSSARY

**Temporary Committee.** "A Temporary Committee is a type of parliamentary working body of temporary character which is formed in order to perform a specific task and whose work ends when the entrusted task is completed and when it submits a report to the Parliament. According to the Rules of Procedure of the Parliament of Montenegro, a temporary committee is established by a special decision of the Parliament. The decision on establishing a temporary committee defines the task and the composition of that committee and the deadline for completion of the task. The temporary committee terminates its work upon completion of the task for which it was established or upon expiry of the defined deadline."<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Doc. dr Komar, Olivera, Prof. dr Ivana Jelić, Nataša Komnenić, Irena Mijanović, Jelena Radonjić, Vlatko Šćepanović, *Parlamentarni leksikon*, Podgorica, Skupština Crne Gore 2016, p. 301

# FROM THE HISTORY OF MONTENEGRIN PARLIAMENTARISM



## RULES ON THE FUNCTIONING OF ZETA SAVINGS BANK

24 April/7 May 1904

## RULES ON THE FUNCTIONING OF THE FIRST ZETA SAVINGS BANK

### PART I

#### HEADQUARTERS AND THE MAIN GOAL OF THE SAVINGS BANK

##### Article 1

The First Zeta Savings Bank shall have terminated its work once it has completed 20 years of its existence, and it shall have an initial capital of 200 000 kruna in 2000 shares worth 100 kruna.

\*\*\*

##### Article 3

It is the Savings Bank goal to develop and support saving and enhance trade and industry in the country by providing favourable credit conditions. Therefore, it will accept and pay interest on saved money from anyone and generate income by providing loans.

\*\*\*

##### Article 5

The seal shall contain the text "The first Zeta Savings Bank" in Podgorica.

\*\*\*

### PART II

#### FUNDING OF THE SAVINGS BANK

##### Article 6

Funds of the Savings Bank shall originate from:

- a) Shareholders' capital
- b) Reserve fund
- c) Investments and loans

\*\*\*

### PART III

#### MEMBERS

##### Article 8

Every honourable man or woman who has reached the age of eighteen, and freely disposes of his/her property, as well as a person who has not reached the age of eighteen, but has been given consent by his/her guardian, may become a member of the Savings Bank.

This shall also apply to associations, trading companies, zadrugas and etc.

The Management shall be in charge of registering members.

Responsibilities of the members

##### Article 9

Every member shall be obliged to:

- a) Fully observe these rules,
- b) Perform their weekly payments in advance and in a timely manner,
- c) Guarantee for every financial obligation of the Savings Bank, and twice as much, depending on how many shares he/she owns.

Rights of members

##### Article 10

Every member who has reached the age of eighteen shall be entitled to:

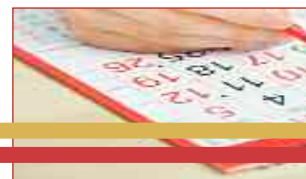
- a) Participate in the meetings of the General Assembly, elect members of the Board of Directors, management and Audit Committee, and be elected, as well as decide on related matters,
  - b) a credit from the Savings Bank depending on his/her financial ability as well as the ability of the Savings Bank,
  - c) a share of income received by the Savings Bank, in accordance with these provisions of the Rules.
- A person which has not reached the age of eighteen or his/her guardian may also participate in the meetings of the Assembly, whereas his/her guardian shall be entitled to elect someone as well as vote, without the right of being elected.

\*\*\*

Cetinje, 24 April 1904

Pavićević, B, Raspopović, R, ur. crnogorski zakonici 1796-1916, knj. II (Montenegrin Codes 1796-1916, Book II), Podgorica, Istorijiski institut Crne Gore, 1998, pp. 909-923.

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## 1 August

- President of the Parliament of Montenegro Darko Pajović met with President of Urban Municipality of Golubovci Dušan Radonjić and President of Municipal Assembly of the Urban Municipality of Golubovci Milenko Marš. The purpose of the visit was getting acquainted with the previous activities of the Urban Municipality of Golubovci, as well as implementation of the Cooperation Agreement between the Parliament of Montenegro and the Union of Municipalities of Montenegro.

## 2 August

- President of the Parliament of Montenegro Darko Pajović held a press conference, during which he acquainted representatives of the media with the activities of the Parliament realized in the last two months, from the moment he entered office.
- President of the Parliament of Montenegro Darko Pajović received Cui Zhiwei, Ambassador of the People's Republic of China to Montenegro. Ambassador Zhiwei congratulated President Pajović on successfully taking over one of the most important state duties, in a very important period for Montenegro. The interlocutors agreed that there was room for further strengthening of cooperation in the fields of common interest, in accordance with the needs of the state development of the two states. Bearing in mind the strong commitment of President Pajović to achieving progress in the field of environment, the Ambassador proposed stronger cooperation in that field through specific projects.

## 3 August

- President Pajović visited the humanitarian facility Narodna kuhinja.
- President of the Parliament of Montenegro Darko Pajović received Hans Günther Mattern, new Ambassador of the Federal Republic of Germany to Montenegro. President Pajović congratulated the Ambassador on assuming office and expected good cooperation to be continued, and also improved, particularly in the area of economy. Pajović thanked the Federal Republic of Germany on a continuous support it has been providing to Montenegro in terms of European and Euro-Atlantic Integrations. According to Ambassador Mattern, ratification of the NATO Protocol Accession for Montenegro in the German Bundestag

will take place very soon since Germany wants to see Montenegro join NATO and the EU. The interlocutors agreed that regardless of the challenges, people are interested in solutions, and they can be sought only through compromise, and the best place possible for that is the Parliament.



## 5 August

- President of the Parliament of Montenegro visited NGO "Valuable Hands" (*Vrijedne ruke*), on which occasion he met with Sabaheta Novalić, President of NGO "Valuable Hands" (*Vrijedne ruke*), who informed the President of the Parliament with the manner of their functioning, products and their ranking in the market.
- President Pajović paid an official visit to Šavnik and Žabljak. The President emphasised that the visit to Šavnik and Žabljak was a further confirmation of correctness and necessity of adopting laws in the Parliament establishing a system of protection of natural values of Montenegro, such as National Parks, as well as the functioning of the local self-government. President of the Municipality of Šavnik Mijomir Vujačić and President of the Municipal Assembly Nadežda Kotlica acquainted Pajović with the current economic situation in Šavnik. President of the Municipality of Žabljak Veselin Vukićević and President of the Municipal Assembly Vidoje Tomčić thanked President Pajović for his commitment with regard to adoption of a set of laws concerning the work of the Municipality of Žabljak, such as the Law on National Parks, Law on Legalization of Informal Structures, which do not involve structures located in the National Parks, as well as adopting the Special Purpose Spatial Plan for the Durmitor Region in the Parliament of Montenegro.

## 6 August

- Vice-President of the Parliament Suljo Mustafić participated in a round – table with the diaspora in Rožaje. In his remarks, Mustafić emphasised that more

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organized and intensive cooperation with diaspora was needed, as well as implementation of legal solutions and strengthening of institutional cooperation at both national and local levels. In addition, he stated that strategic goals of state policy, European integration and membership in NATO were a guarantee of strengthening of the rule of law, fight against organised crime and corruption, as well as long-term stability. Mustafić added that these were the requirements to be met in order to create a favorable investment climate.



## 11 August

- President of the Parliament of Montenegro Darko Pajović met with President of the Municipality of Ulcinj Nazif Cungu and President of Municipal Assembly of Ulcinj Ljoro Nrekić. President Pajović emphasised that Solana “Bajo Sekulic” salt pans should be protected at international level and deems that further cooperation between Solana and National parks were a step in the right direction. In addition, he added that Solana is a classic example showing the necessity of the Parliament to adopt a set of legislation involving environmental protection, and also laws concerning efficient work of local self-government. The hosts of the meeting, President of the Municipality of Ulcinj and President of the Municipal Assembly expressed satisfaction over the visit of the President of the Parliament of Montenegro, as well as a productive meeting, during which the interlocutors considered the possibility of a better cooperation between national and local institutions.

## 15 August

- At the first meeting of the Committee on monitoring the application of laws and other regulations important for building trust in the election process, they adopted the co-chairmanship model, as the most adequate model of functioning of this temporary working body of the Parliament of Montenegro, and in the follow-up, they discussed the manner of functioning and the work plan of the Committee.

- At the first meeting of the Committee on monitoring the application of the Law on Election of Councillors and MPs in the part relating to the media, they adopted the proposal to require from public broadcasters the Rules on reporting the content of election campaign for the parliamentary elections to be held on 16 October 2016. In addition, they discussed the need to organise joint meetings between the Committee and CEOs of both public and private media.

## 16 August

- President of the Parliament of Montenegro Darko Pajović paid a visit to Pljevlja, and met with President of the Municipality Mirko Đačić, President of the Municipal Assembly Tarik Gadžović and Vice-President of the Municipality Ljubiša Ćurčić. During the meeting, the interlocutors agreed on a more intensive cooperation in all areas aimed at improving the quality of citizen lives, within the jurisdiction of the Parliament of Montenegro.



## 18 August

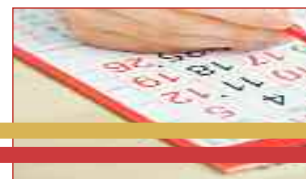
- President of the Parliament of Montenegro Darko Pajović paid a visit to Plužine, where he spoke with President of the Municipality of Plužine Mijuško Bajagić, President of the Municipal Assembly Milutin Cicmil and Main Administrator Vladimir Knežević. Models of improvement of cooperation were discussed, within the frameworks of the Cooperation Agreement between the Parliament of Montenegro and the Union of Municipalities of Montenegro, as well as the recently adopted set of laws involving local self-government.

## 22 August

- At the first meeting of the Committee on monitoring the investigation of cases of endangering security of journalists and media outlets, Milorad Vuletić and Koča Pavlović were elected as co-chairs of the Committee. In the follow-up, they discussed the manner of functioning



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of the Committee and the work plan of the Committee.

## 23 August

- At the second meeting of the Committee on monitoring the application of laws and other regulations important for building trust in the election process, they considered monitoring implementation of provisions of the Law on Voters' Register, falling under the jurisdiction of the Ministry of Interior.
- At the third meeting of the Committee on monitoring the application of laws and other regulations important for building trust in the election process, members discussed monitoring of application of the Law on Voters' Register and the Law on Election of Councillors and MPs, falling under the jurisdiction of State Electoral Commission.

## 24 August

- President of the Parliament of Montenegro Darko Pajović received Goran Radenović, executive and program director of TV Pink M. The occasion for this meeting was an open letter of Radenović addressed to the President of Montenegro, President of the Parliament, and Minister of Culture in the Government of Montenegro. The letter expressed serious concerns over the pressures and sense of threat that Pink M and its editorial staff are exposed to by certain interest groups and media groups. During the meeting, they also discussed the fact that professional and ethical standards obliged the media to be responsible in their editorial policy, and the Parliament of Montenegro undoubtedly provided institutional support to their free work.

## 30 August

- President of the Parliament of Montenegro Darko Pajović received representatives of the retired KAP workers that requested their severance pay in front of the building of the Parliament. As well as during the previous meeting, President Pajović advocated for application of the law and exercising the rights of workers. He asked the former KAP workers to calm down, called for patience and non-violent methods of action for exercising their rights, in order to give the responsible institutions the opportunity to resolve this issue.
- At the second meeting of the Committee on monitoring

the investigation of cases of endangering security of journalists and media outlets, members of the Committee reached the Decision on holding a control hearing of Supreme State Prosecutor Ivica Stanković and Chief Special Prosecutor Milivoje Katnić with regard to the investigation of cases of endangering security of journalists and media outlets, with special reference to murder of Duško Jovanović, part-owner and editor-in-chief of daily "Dan".

## 31 August

- President of the Parliament of Montenegro Darko Pajović participated in the Parliamentary meeting of the Central and Eastern European countries, under the title "Solidarity and Sovereignty", which took place in Warsaw. During the visit, President Pajović met with Speaker of the Grand National Assembly of Turkey Ismail Kahraman, Speaker of the Parliament of Macedonia Trajko Veljanoski, Speaker of the Parliament of Bosnia and Herzegovina Mladen Bosić, Speaker of the Parliament of Serbia Maja Gojković, and Speaker of the Polish Senate Stanisław Karczewski. Within the meeting, President Pajović spoke on the topic "Revival of the European Union, regional cooperation in Central and Eastern Europe".
- At the fourth meeting of the Committee on monitoring the application of laws and other regulations important for building trust in the election process, members of the Committee considered monitoring provisions of the Law on Funding of Political Parties and Election Campaigns within the jurisdiction of the Agency for Prevention of Corruption.



## 2 September

- Member of MP Group of HGI of the Parliament of Montenegro and Head of MP Group of Albanian party FORCA, HGI and LPCG Ljerka Dragičević met with representatives of Office for Criminal Sanction Execution, President of the union organization of ZIKS

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Nenad Rakočević and member of the Executive Board of the union organisation of ZIKS Predrag Spasojević. They brought forward the issue concerning the Law on salaries in the public sector, specifically its failure to recognize employees of ZIKS.

## 3 September

- President of the Parliament of Montenegro Darko Pajović and Chair of the Committee on International Relations and Emigrants Miodrag Vuković participated in the Inter-Parliamentary Conference on Common Foreign and Security Policy and on Common Security and Defence Policy (CFSP/CSDP), which took place in Bratislava, on 3 and 4 September, within the frameworks of Slovak Presidency of the Council of the European Union.



## 5 September

- Chair of the Committee on International Relations and Emigrants Miodrag Vuković participated in the Eleventh Bled Strategic Forum, held on the topic "Safeguarding the Future". During the Forum, they discussed global economy, migration, terrorism, energy, and particularly European Union as a community which offers stability and progress.

## 7 September

- President of the Parliament of Montenegro Darko Pajović received for a farewell visit Ambassador of the Republic of France to Montenegro Véronique Brumeaux. President Pajović expressed gratitude for the support France has provided to Montenegro in the process of European and Euro-Atlantic Integrations, emphasising that Montenegro's membership to NATO was important for strengthening stability in Montenegro and beyond. The President informed the outgoing Ambassador that the Parliament of Montenegro has fulfilled its part of obligations under the Agreement on fair and democratic elections. Inter-

alia, three committees for monitoring the election process have been established. He emphasised as very important the active participation of all political parties in the work of the Parliament during this period, with no boycott by any side, which resulted in making up for a great backlog in adopting the laws.



## 9 September

- Chair of the Committee on Economy, Finance and Budget and member of the Regional Network of Parliamentary Committees on Economy, Finance and European Integration of the Western Balkans Aleksandar Damjanović, and members of the Committee Veljko Zarubica, Filip Vuković and Nik Gjeloshaj participated in the Regional Conference, on the topic "Strengthening regional cooperation in Western Balkan countries' parliaments aimed at improving management of public finances", which took place in Belgrade.
- At the third meeting of the Committee on monitoring the investigation of cases of endangering security of journalists and media outlets, members of the Committee held a control hearing of Supreme State Prosecutor Ivica Stanković and Chief Special Prosecutor Milivoje Katnić with regard to the investigation of cases of endangering security of journalists and media outlets, with special reference to murder of Duško Jovanović, part-owner and editor-in-chief of daily "Dan".

## 12 September

- Vice-President of the Parliament of Montenegro Milutin Simović received Plamena Halacheva, newly-appointed Head of Political, European Integration and Trade Section of the Delegation of the European Union to Montenegro. Vice-President Simović agreed that the Parliament of Montenegro was one of the key places for creating and monitoring implementation of

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electoral legislation, and thus emphasised that the ongoing electoral process should be the main topic of discussion with our international partners. Head of Political, European Integration and Trade Section Plamena Halacheva emphasized that Delegation of the European Union in Montenegro dedicates special attention to monitoring the electoral process, and that she would contribute to this process, especially because of the fact that elections are closely connected to the Accession Negotiation Process.



**13 September**

- During the ceremony held in Vila Gorica, President of the Parliament of Montenegro Darko Pajović awarded 2593 certificates to students from 54 Montenegrin elementary schools and 17 Municipalities, who had been attending the educational program Democracy workshops "Barbara Pramer".



**14 September**

- President of the Parliament of Montenegro Darko Pajović participated in the European Conference of Presidents of Parliament of the Council of Europe member states, which took place on 14 and 15 September in Strasbourg. Within the Conference, the President met with President of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe Pedro Agramunt, Secretary General of the Council of Europe Thorbjørn Jagland, Deputy Speaker of the British House of

Commons Eleanor Laing and President of the Senate of the Republic of Italy Pietro Grasso.

- At the fifth meeting of the Committee on monitoring the application of laws and other regulations important for building trust in the election process, members of the Committee considered the information of the Ministry of Interior with regard to conclusions adopted at the second meeting of the Committee of 23 August and the Action Plan for implementation and monitoring of electoral legislation of the Ministry of Interior falling under jurisdiction of Directorate for Administrative Interior Affairs.

**16 September**

- At the second meeting of the Committee on monitoring the application of the Law on Election of Councillors and MPs in the part relating to the media, members of the Committee exchanged opinions with editors-in-chief of electronic media in Montenegro with regard to reporting during the election campaign.



**19 September**

- Chair of the Security and Defence Committee Mevludin Nuhodžić met with NATO's Supreme Allied Commander Transformation (SACT) General Denis Mercier. During the meeting, inter alia, they discussed the current security challenges in the Western Balkans area, and Euro-Atlantic Community as a whole, NATO's missions and tasks, priorities in the said period, as well as the regional perspective of Montenegro's membership to the Alliance.
- President of the Parliament of Montenegro Darko Pajović received delegation of NATO's Supreme Allied Commander Transformation (SACT), led by General Denis Mercier. President Pajović emphasised the significance of the help that Montenegro has been

obtaining in the accession process as well as the significance of the accelerated ratification by a large number of states. In addition, he added that full-fledged membership to NATO provides numerous benefits for our country, of which long-term peace and stability are the most important, that there was no alternative path for progress of the state and the region, and the recent history of the region reminds us of the value of the permanent peace, provided by full-fledged membership. The meeting was attended by Chief of the General Staff of the Armed Forces of Montenegro, Admiral Dragan Samardžić.

- Chair of the Security and Defence Committee Mevludin Nuhodžić participated in a regional workshop of the OSCE, which took place from 19 to 21 September in Podgorica. Within the presentation titled “Opportunities and Challenges in Security Sector Governance and Reform in South East Europe”, Chair Nuhodžić presented experiences of Montenegro in the aforementioned area, highlighting the key steps undertaken in building a functional and responsible security and defence system, with emphasis on observation of rights and freedoms of every citizen and on conduct of competent bodies and institutions in accordance with professional and democratic standards. Furthermore, the workshop covered topics such as carrying out of democratic and civil oversight of the performance of bodies and institutions from the security and defence sector, approach to transnational security challenges, implementation of multidimensional approach for supporting security sector governance and reform, and prospects of regional cooperation in that context.



*20 September*

- Chair of the Committee on Tourism, Agriculture, Ecology and Spatial Planning Predrag Sekulić met with Head of Democratisation Department of the OSCE Mission to Montenegro Lia Magnaguagno on the occasion of the 25th anniversary since Montenegro’s proclamation of ecological state. During the meeting, they considered the Draft Analysis on practice and mechanisms of cooperation between the civic society and the Committee via consultative and control hearings in the field of protection of the environment, whose drafting was supported by the OSCE Mission to

Montenegro. They discussed the analysis showing the manner of functioning of the Committee on Tourism, Agriculture, Ecology and Spatial Planning from the aspect of cooperation and participation of citizens or organisations of civil society in the field of the environment, indicating the level and results of achieved cooperation, and identifying obstacles for establishing a stronger dialogue.



*21 September*

- President of the Parliament of Montenegro Darko Pajović received OSCE/ODIHR Election Observation Mission in Montenegro, led by Roman Jakič, Head of the Mission. During the meeting, they discussed the election process, conditions for carrying out the election campaign as well as the role of the Mission in Montenegro. The President of the Montenegrin Parliament informed members of the Delegation about facts which have made institutional conditions for holding the elections significantly better when compared to previous election cycle.
- Chair of the Committee on International Relations and Emigrants Miodrag Vuković received President of the Frankish-Montenegrin Society (FRAMOG) from Nuremberg - Federal Republic of Germany Ljubo Dabović and members of the Presidium of the association. The Frankish-Montenegrin Society (FRAMOG) is recognised as an association which intensively deals with humanitarian and charity work, fostering relations between the FR of Germany and Montenegro on the economic, cultural, social, and sports field. The association gathers emigrants from Montenegro and from the region of the former Yugoslavia as well as distinguished members from the entire Federal Republic of Germany.



## 22 September

- President of the Parliament of Montenegro Darko Pajović met Aivo Orav, new Head of the European Union Delegation to Montenegro and Plamena Halacheva, Head of Political, European Integration and Trade Section in the European Union Delegation to Montenegro. During the discussion on the topic of the upcoming parliamentary elections, the President of the Parliament informed members of the Delegation about the results of parliamentary work since June of this year and feasible contribution to creating environment for significant improvement of the election process. That contribution, inter alia, is mirrored in the adoption of 117 legal acts and active work of the three committees directly connected with the election process. These are: Committee on monitoring the application of laws and other regulations important for building trust in the election process, Committee on monitoring the application of the Law on Election of Councillors and MPs in the part relating to the media and Committee on monitoring the investigation of cases of endangering security of journalists and media outlets.



- At the third meeting of the Committee on monitoring the application of the Law on Election of Councillors and MPs in the part relating to the media, members of the Committee considered the role of Electronic Media Agency in the Election process, as well as two objections to the conduct of the media, submitted by President of the Parliament and MP Koča Pavlović.

## 27 September

- President of the Parliament of Montenegro Darko Pajović paid an official visit to Brussels, on which occasion he met with President of Brussels in the House of Representatives of the Parliament of the Kingdom of Belgium Siegfried Bracke, Secretary General of the NATO Parliamentary Assembly David Hobbs and Commissioner for European Neighbourhood Policy and Enlargement Negotiations Johannes Hahn. The interlocutors expressed satisfaction over bilateral relations between two countries on the political level, by mutually agreeing that there was enough room for improving cooperation in the field of economy, particularly with regard to sustainable development and agriculture. During the meeting with Secretary General of the NATO Parliamentary Assembly David

Hobbs, President Pajović reiterated confidence that Montenegro's full membership to NATO would guarantee peace and stability of the state and, that path had no alternative, adding that it would also have a significant influence on other Western Balkans countries. Speaking about political agreement between the government and the opposition, Johannes Hahn congratulated on brave and in part of the public unpopular decision, which has ensured stability of the state and expressed admiration that Montenegro succeeded to resolve the political crisis without mediation of the international community.



- Members of the Committee on Health, Labour and Social Welfare paid a visit to the Kingdom of Sweden. During their stay, members of the Delegation visited the Parliament of the Kingdom of Sweden (Riksdag), Ministry of Health and Social Affairs, as well as Ministry of Employment.

## 28 September

- Vice-President of the Parliament of Montenegro Suljo Mustafić met with newly-appointed Head of Delegation of the European Union to Montenegro Aivo Orav. Mustafić emphasised that Montenegro has made significant progress in the field of Euro-Atlantic Integrations, and undertaken important legislative steps, as well as achieved continuous progress in terms of building institutions, particularly in the field of rule of law. They jointly concluded that all the previous realized activities obliged Montenegro to continue with principled policy of fulfilling criteria for full-fledged membership in the European Union.

## 29 September

- President Pajović met with newly-appointed and plenipotentiary ambassador of France in Montenegro Christine Toudic. The President welcomed the Ambassador and wished her success in carrying out the diplomatic mission in Montenegro, and expressed satisfaction over the high level of relations between the two countries, as well as the need to intensify cooperation between Montenegro and France. The President of the Montenegrin Parliament thanked the Ambassador for the previous support of France to the integration processes of Montenegro.