



Parliament of Montenegro

NEWSLETTER OPEN PARLIAMENT

Newsletter on the Parliament of Montenegro Performance ♦ No. 64 ♦ October 2016

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OPEN PARLIAMENT



Parliament of Montenegro

Newsletter on the Parliament of Montenegro Performance ♦ Electronic format ♦ Release: monthly ♦ Year VI ♦ No. 64 ♦ October 2016

FOREWORD

Dear readers,

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

During October, committees considered two proposals for a law.

In focus of this month's newsletter is the participation of a member of the Permanent Delegation of the Parliament of Montenegro to the NATO Parliamentary Assembly in the 93rd Rose-Roth Seminar, which took place from 22 to 24 October in Priština.

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

The First Sitting of the Second Ordinary Session of the Parliament of Montenegro in 2016 was not held due to lack of a quorum.

Proposals for Law deliberated in committees

- **Proposal for a Law on International and Temporary Protection of Foreigners** was considered and proposed to the Parliament for adoption by the Legislative Committee.
- **Proposal for a Law on Amendments to the Law on Public Sector Salaries** was considered by the Legislative Committee; however, the proposal did not obtain the required majority. The same proposal was considered by the Committee on Economy, Finance and Budget, which decided to propose to the Parliament to adopt it.



NEWS FROM PARLIAMENT



Member of the Parliament of Montenegro Delegation to PACE participated in the Autumn Session of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe

Parliament of Montenegro Delegation to the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe Snežana Jonica participated in the Autumn Session of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, which took place from 10 to 14 October in Strasbourg.



During the session, participants discussed lessons from the "Panama Papers" to ensure fiscal and social justice; children's rights related to surrogacy; activities of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development in the period 2015-2016; sports; cooperation with the International Criminal Court; and political consequences of the Ukraine conflict. Furthermore, they discussed the

situation in Turkey in the light of the attempted coup d'Etat, protection of unaccompanied migrant minors, act of violence against women and children in the form of female genital mutilation, and on the influence of demographic movements in Europe on the migration policy.

The highlight of the session was an address given by President of the Republic of France François Hollande. In his address, Hollande stated that France stood alongside the Council of Europe and was convinced that the Council of Europe stood alongside France in its efforts to promote peace, freedom and democracy. Referring to numerous challenges Europe has been facing, Hollande particularly singled out terrorism, migrant and refugee crisis, as well as the Ukrainian situation. In addition, he mentioned the current situation in Turkey, conflict in Syria, and cooperation with Russia, emphasising the importance of dialogue, responsibility and peace.

At the session, President of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe Pedro Agramunt awarded Václav Havel Prize to Nadia Murad, member of the Yazidi nation who managed to escape ISIS slavery, and draw attention of world public to problems and plight of the Yazidi community.

Delegation of the Committee on Economy, Finance and Budget participated in the Interparliamentary Conference on Stability, Economic Coordination and Governance in the European Union

Chair of the Committee on Economy, Finance and Budget Aleksandar Damjanović and Committee member Veljko Zarubica participated in the Interparliamentary Conference on Stability, Economic Coordination and Governance in the European Union, which took place on 17 and 18 October in Bratislava.

The Conference covered four sessions, during which, the participants, inter alia, discussed strengthening of social dimension of the EMU, fight against tax evasion, macroeconomic stabilisation instruments, as well as EMU fiscal capacity.

During the first session, they emphasised the need for intensifying structural reforms, which should ensure more favourable conditions for economic growth, better functioning of the labour market and job growth, with special focus on youth employment. In addition, they referred to the need to reduce existing barriers when it comes to cross-border labour mobility within the EU and strengthening the role of social dialogue through adequate participation of social partners.

The second session was dedicated to the fight against tax evasion in the EU. They emphasised that the fight

against tax evasion and collection of taxes were not only a European but also a global priority, taking into account that due to lack of information involving taxes and accounting of multinational companies, as well as various tax jurisdictions, significant revenues were being lost.

During the third session, participants stated that in accordance with the rules of the Stability and Growth Pact, member states have national fiscal policies at their disposal. In addition, lack of mechanisms binding to the EU and euro area, have as an effect less efficient national fiscal policies in terms of stabilising domestic economic activity. Concerning the aforementioned, it was emphasised that European fiscal mechanisms could not compensate for the lack of structural reforms of the member states.

Within the fourth session, the participants referred to the need to harmonize policies within the euro area and the European Union, taking into account the lack of shock absorbing mechanisms. In this regard, they emphasised the disadvantages of the single monetary policy, which is irrelevant when the euro area is faced by asymmetric shocks.

IN FOCUS



Member of the Permanent Delegation of the Parliament of Montenegro to the NATO Parliamentary Assembly participated in the 93rd Rose-Roth Seminar

Member of the Permanent Delegation of the Parliament of Montenegro to the NATO Parliamentary Assembly Obrad Mišo Stanišić participated in the 93rd Rose-Roth Seminar, which took place from 22 to 24 October in Priština.

At the first session entitled “European integration and the reform process”, participants discussed issues concerning reforms in Kosovo in the context of European integration, with special focus on current political situation in this area and ratification of the Border Demarcation Agreement between Kosovo and Montenegro, consolidation of democratic institutions and domestic political challenges, rule of law, public administration reform, human rights and protection of minority rights.

During the second session entitled “Progress of the dialogue between Belgrade and Priština”, with special focus on the dialogue between Belgrade and Priština and its implications on the economic situation, address was given by Chamber of Commerce President Safet Gerxhaliu and President of the Serbian Chamber of Commerce and Industry Marko Čadež.

During the third session, participants of the gathering discussed “Future of NATO in the Western Balkans”, while address was given by Kosovo Force commander (KFOR) Major General Giovanni Fungo on the topic “KFOR: support to secure and safe environment and freedom of movement for all”, and General Dietmar Mosmann, NATO Advisory and Liaison Team (NALT) director on the topic “Strengthening security through capacity building”.

The fourth session of the Seminar was dedicated to “Security sector reform in Kosovo”, and on this occasion

Minister for the Kosovo Security Force Haki Demoli gave address on the topic “Management of the security sector in Kosovo with special focus on the role of Kosovo security forces and their oversight”.



Within the fifth session, the participants debated on economic growth in the Western Balkans area, needs and challenges in this regard, and regional economic barriers.

During the sixth session, the delegates were addressed by Vice-President of the Parliament of Kosovo and Head of Kosovo Delegation to the NATO Parliamentary Assembly Xhavit Haliti on the topic “Efforts for resolving migration flows from Kosovo”. In addition, Susin Park, Deputy Regional Representative of the UNHCR Regional representation for South-Eastern Europe addressed the participants on the topic “Regional perspectives of assylum/migration crisis in the Balkans”.

The closing session was dedicated to the topic: “Prevention of radicalization and fight against terrorism”.

PARLIAMENTARY GLOSSARY

Affirmative Action. “Affirmative Action comprises a number of special measures, policies, criteria and practices implemented with a view to favouring individuals on the basis of their affiliation to a minority group; i.e. to creating conditions for achieving equality and protection for people that are in an unequal position on any grounds. The principle of affirmative action is aimed at contributing to the achievement of equal opportunities, proportionate to the genuine needs of minority groups.”¹

¹ Doc. dr Komar, Olivera, Prof. dr Ivana Jelić, Nataša Komnenić, Irena Mijanović, Jelena Radonjić, Vlatko Ščepanović, *Parlamentarni leksikon*, Podgorica, Skupština Crne Gore 2016, p. 173

FROM THE HISTORY OF MONTENEGRIN PARLIAMENTARISM



DECREE OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE STATE COUNCIL AND MINISTER OF INTERIOR AFFAIRS ON THE ELECTION OF PEOPLE'S REPRESENTATIVES

19 October/1 November 1905

DECREE on the Election of People's Representatives

On the basis of the Order issued on 18 October of the current year by His Royal Highness Prince and Sovereign ordering the election of People's Representatives in the Principality, I deem necessary to provide instructions and explanation with regard to the upcoming elections of People's Representatives, as follows:

I

Representatives shall be elected by the people through public voting of their own will, without anyone's interference.

II

Each Montenegrin citizen who has reached the age of 21 shall have the right to vote and elect his representatives.

III

The following shall not be allowed to vote and elect their representatives: persons under custody, persons in the state of bankruptcy, persons imprisoned in the dungeons, sentenced to prison or detention house for having committed crimes or who have been legally deprived of their civil rights in court proceedings.

IV

Each person is forbidden to sell his vote or ask someone to vote on his behalf, thus the said person shall cast his vote personally.

V

Each person who is entitled to elect People's Representatives, has reached the age of 30 and pays

annual taxes in the amount of at least 15 krana, may be elected as a representative in the National Assembly.

VI

Each captaincy shall be entitled to one MP each. The elections shall be held in places where captaincy offices are located or in case of inconvenience, in schools which are adequate for voting.

VII

Towns such as Cetinje, Podgorica, Nikšić and Ulcinj shall each elect an MP, while other towns such as Bar, Kolašin, Rijeka, Danilov grad, Andrijevica and Vir Pazar shall elect People's Representatives together with captaincies under whose authority they are placed.

IX

Elections are to be held on a specific day, precisely on 14 November 1905.

Voting shall begin at 8 a.m. and end at 5 p.m.

X

In order that everything is performed in accordance with the law, each captaincy or electoral town shall keep a register of persons with the right to suffrage. In order that voters' census is conducted properly, tribal captains shall have access to the employment register comprising all the employees with the exception of the elderly and persons with disabilities, who should also be included in the voters' registry. Each person who hasn't reached the age of 21, and the persons envisaged in the item III of the Decree shall be excluded.

Cetinje, 19 October 1905

President of the State Council
Minister of Interior
V. B. Petrović

Pavićević, B, Raspopović, R, ur. crnogorski zakonici 1796-1916, knj. II (Montenegrin Codes 1796-1916, Book II), Podgorica, Istorijiski institut Crne Gore, 1998, pp. 1038-1043.

CALENDAR



3 October

- At the sixth 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 State Electoral Commission Report on realized activities with regard to implementation of provisions of the Law on Voters' Register and the Law on Election of Councillors and MPs.



- President of the Parliament of Montenegro Darko Pajović met with Deputy Assistant Secretary for European and Eurasian Affairs Hoyt Brian Yee, United States Ambassador to Montenegro Margaret Uyehara as well as Head of Political and Economic Section Leslie Freriksen. Pajović emphasised that USA is a reliable partner and friend of Montenegro, whose support is extremely important for political stability and overall development of the Montenegrin society, and is convinced that forces in Montenegro striving to Montenegro's membership in NATO constituted a vast majority. In addition, the President emphasised that support to NATO accession clearly speaks of a developed awareness of citizens that this is a way of preserving lasting peace and stability, as well as definitely ensuring the equal status of Montenegro among developed countries. President Pajović also thanked USA for its support to the initiative for achieving political agreement between the Government and the opposition as well as establishment of the Government of the Electoral Trust, by which Montenegro restored political stability necessary for the preparation of fair and free elections. Pajović added that participation of a large part of the opposition in the legislative and executive branches of power has influenced decreasing of political tensions in Montenegro, what is particularly

obvious during the pre-election campaign.



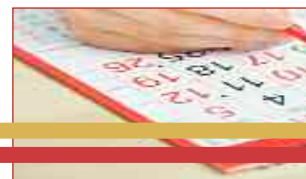
4 October

- President of the Parliament of Montenegro Darko Pajović paid an official visit to Romania on the occasion of ratification of NATO Accession Protocol for Montenegro in the Romanian Senate. During his stay in Romania, President of the Parliament of Montenegro Darko Pajović met with President of the Romanian Senate Călin Popescu Tăriceanu and Speaker of the House of Representatives of the Romanian Parliament Florin Iordache. The Romanian Senate unanimously ratified the NATO Accession Protocol for Montenegro. President Pajović has been received in Romania with the highest official honours, and he has been given a special honour to be the second foreign official in the Senate's history to be invited to address the highest institution of this country.



- At the seventh 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 Report on realization of the Action Plan for implementation of electoral legislation, falling under the jurisdiction of the Ministry of Interior Affairs and State Electoral Commission. In addition, they discussed the mutual cooperation and coordination between the Ministry of Interior Affairs and the State Electoral Commission.

CALENDAR



6 October

- President of the Parliament of Montenegro Darko Pajović paid an official visit to Latvia, on the occasion of ratification of NATO Accession Protocol for Montenegro in the Parliament of Latvia (Saeima). The Latvian Parliament unanimously ratified the NATO Accession Protocol for Montenegro. On this occasion, the President of the Parliament of Montenegro met with Delegation of the Parliament of Latvia, headed by Speaker of the Latvian Parliament Ināra Mūrniece.



10 October

- Chair of the Committee on International Relations and Emigrants and Head of the Permanent Delegation of the Parliament of Montenegro to Parliamentary Dimension of the Central European Initiative (CEI-PD) Miodrag Vuković participated in the meeting of the General Committee on Political and Home Affairs of the CEI-PD, which took place in Ljubljana. During the meeting, the interlocutors discussed the prospects of the European Union following the Brexit and the significance of the Berlin Process for the Western Balkans.
- Member of the Delegation of the Parliament of Montenegro to the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe Snežana Jonica participated in the Autumn Session of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (PACE), which took place from 10 to 14 October in Strasbourg.

12 October

- President of the Parliament of Montenegro Darko Pajović attended the signing of the Protocol and the presenting of the donation of the Embassy of the People's Republic of China to Montenegro, which was provided for the Public Enterprise for National Parks of Montenegro through mediation of the Parliament

of Montenegro. The donation consists of drones and auxiliary equipment worth around 35,000€, and will be used for the needs of protection services of the National Parks and the Ulcinj Solana (Ulcinj saltworks). Considering that prevention of illegal activities is one of the key challenges faced by the protected natural areas, the donation by the Chinese Embassy to Podgorica is extremely significant for National Parks of Montenegro.

14 October

- President of the Parliament of Montenegro Darko Pajović received Delegation of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly in charge of monitoring parliamentary elections in Montenegro, led by Head of Election Observation Mission Azay Guliyev and Special Coordinator Margareta Cederfelt. During the meeting, they discussed the conditions in which parliamentary elections are to be held on 16 October. President Pajović acquainted the OSCE Delegation with the results achieved by the Parliament under the new leadership with regard to preparation of free and fair elections. The President of the Parliament emphasised the establishment and active work of three committees, directly related to democratisation of election conditions, whose members and co-chairs were represented equally from the ranks of the government and the opposition. The OSCE Delegation welcomed this democratic step and expressed interest for various aspects of the upcoming elections to be held in Montenegro.

17 October

- Chair of the Committee on Economy, Finance and Budget Aleksandar Damjanović and Committee member Veljko Zarubica participated in the Interparliamentary Conference on Stability, Economic Coordination and Governance in the European Union, which took place on 17 and 18 October in Bratislava. The Conference covered four sessions, during which, the participants, inter alia, discussed strengthening of social dimension of the EMU, fight against tax evasion, macroeconomic stabilisation instruments, as well EMU fiscal capacity.

22 October

- Member of the Permanent Delegation of the Parliament of Montenegro to the NATO Parliamentary Assembly Obrad Mišo Stanišić participated in the 93rd Rose-Roth

CALENDAR



Seminar which took place from 22 to 24 October in Priština, Kosovo. The Seminar was dedicated to European integration issues and the reform process in Kosovo, progress in the dialogue between Belgrade and Priština, future of NATO in the Western Balkans, reform of the security sector in Kosovo, issues involving economic progress in the Western Balkans, challenges of migration in the South-East Europe, prevention of radicalisation and fight against terrorism.

- Chair of the Committee on International Relations and Emigrants Miodrag Vuković participated in "St Luka's gathering", which took place in Zagreb, under the organisation of the National Community of Montenegrins in Croatia and Association of Montenegrins and friends of Montenegro "Montenegro" Zagreb. In the last ten years, St. Luka's gatherings have been dedicated to the most important events from the rich Montenegrin history. Every year, one Montenegrin town is the guest of the gathering, and this time it was Mojkovac; therefore, the century of the Mojkovac Battle was marked by the 18th St. Luka's gathering.



27 October

- Member of the Permanent Delegation of the Parliament of Montenegro to the NATO Parliamentary Assembly Obrad Mišo Stanišić participated in the work of the Joint Seminar of the Mediterranean and Middle East Special Group and Sub-Committee on NATO Partnerships, which took place from 27 to 29 October in Rome.
- Chair of the Committee on Economy, Finance and Budget Aleksandar Damjanović and Deputy Chair of the Committee Damir Šehović met with International Monetary Fund (IMF) Delegation, composed of Ann Margaret Westin, Deputy Division Chief of the Technical Assistance Division in the Monetary and Capital Markets Department, Keith Hall, former Vice Governor of the Australian Bank, Remco Van der Molen, expert at the Netherlands Central Bank, and Sumiko Ogawa, IMF expert. The meeting participants also discussed the role

of the Parliament of Montenegro, i.e. the role of the Committee on Economy, Finance and Budget in the oversight of institutions dealing with issues related to the financial sector, such as Central Bank of Montenegro, Insurance Supervision Agency, Securities And Exchange Commission, Deposit Protection Fund, etc.

28 October

- Chair of the Committee on International Relations and Emigrants Miodrag Vuković participated in the XII International Conference of the European Centre for Peace and Development, which took place on 28-29 October in Belgrade. This year's conference was dedicated to the following general topic "Future of the world between Globalization and Regionalization", while within four separate panels, the participants also discussed the following topics: "Globalization process-impacts on the World peace and Development", "Re-Arranging the New World - North - West Vis-à-Vis South-East", "Regionalisation Vis-à-Vis Globalization", and "Migration-Threats and Opportunities".

29 October

- On 29 and 30 October, simulation of the MAPSS parliamentary practice, organised by the Montenegrin Association of Political Science Students, was held in the Parliament of Montenegro. "Introduction of the compulsory military service" was the topic of this year's simulation. The fact that this year's simulation was held in the Montenegrin Parliament additionally encouraged and motivated students, providing them with a specific experience.

31 October

- On the occasion of 31 October - Parliamentarism Day, an exhibition of artworks from the art collection of the Parliament of Montenegro has been opened in the Gallery "Art". The exhibition was declared opened by Director of Museums and Galleries Podgorica Sead Gjokaj, who expressed his pleasure over the fact that the Parliament of Montenegro had also confirmed with the exhibition that it had an affirmative relation with the art creators, bringing their works closer to a wider circle of citizens. Secretary General of the Parliament of Montenegro Siniša Stanković expressed conviction that the entire art collection would also be provided for the insight of the public. Tanja Bogdanović, violin player, and Dijana Lompar-Orlandić, flute player, also participated in the ceremonious opening.