



Parliament of Montenegro

NEWSLETTER OPEN PARLIAMENT

Newsletter on the Parliament of Montenegro Performance ♦ No. 67 ♦ January 2017

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OPEN PARLIAMENT



Parliament of Montenegro

Newsletter on the Parliament of Montenegro Performance ♦ Electronic format ♦ Release: monthly ♦ Year VII ♦ No. 67 ♦ January 2017

FOREWORD

Dear readers,

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

We regret to inform you that Secretary General of the Parliament of Montenegro Siniša Stanković passed away. On this occasion, on 10 January, the Parliament of Montenegro organised a Commemorative Sitting on the death of the Secretary General of the Parliament.

In January, Committees considered four reports and performed other activities within their oversight role.

In focus of this month's newsletter is the participation of the Montenegrin delegation in the Winter session of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, which took place from 23 to 27 January 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

Other activities of working bodies

- At the third meeting of the **Security and Defence Committee**, held on 23 January, the Committee conducted a consultative hearing of military and diplomatic representative of Montenegro Admiral Dragan Samardžić, prior to his assuming the office of defence envoy to the Republic of Austria, and at the same time the military representative to the OSCE Mission in Vienna, and the defence envoy of the Republic of Slovakia and the Czech Republic on a non-residential basis. In addition, the Committee conducted a consultative hearing of military and diplomatic representative of Montenegro Brigadier Rajko Pešić prior to his assuming the office of military representative of Montenegro to NATO and EU, in Brussels, the Kingdom of Belgium.

At the fourth meeting, held on 23 January, the Committee supported the 2016 Performance Report of the Committee.

- At the second meeting of the **Committee on European Integration**, held on 16 January, the Committee members supported the 2016 Performance Report of the Committee.

At the third meeting of the Committee, held on 18 January, members of the Committee supported the Tenth and Eleventh Quarterly report on the overall activities within Montenegro's integration process to the European Union, for the period April-June 2016, respectively for the period July-September 2016. In addition, members of the Committee were acquainted with the Draft Programme for the accession of Montenegro to the European Union 2017-2018.

- At the fifth meeting of the **Committee on Economy, Finance and Budget**, held on 18 January, the Committee considered Draft Programme of Economic Reforms for the period 2017-2019.

NEWS FROM PARLIAMENT



President of the Parliament of Montenegro paid an official visit to Italy

President of the Parliament of Montenegro Ivan Brajović paid an official visit to Italy on 10-11 January, on the occasion of ratification of Montenegro's NATO accession protocol in the Italian Parliament. During the visit, President Brajović met with the President of the Chamber of Deputies Laura Boldrini, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of Italy Vincenzo Amendola, and senators Pier Ferdinando Casini, Chairperson of the Senate's Committee on Foreign Policy and Emigration, Vannino Chiti, Chairperson of the Committee on European Union Policies, and Aldo Di Biagio and Stefano Collina, members of the Friendship group with Montenegro in the Italian Senate.



During the meeting with President Boldrini, President Brajović thanked Italy for the strong support it has been providing to Montenegro on its path of European and Euro-Atlantic Integrations and expressed satisfaction over the adoption of Montenegro's NATO accession protocol in the Italian Parliament, which is an incentive to Montenegro and a confirmation of its clear orientation towards the values of developed countries.

Brajović emphasised that both countries promote good neighbourly relations and foster regional stability. President Brajović added that each day Montenegro receives more recognition by the international community, which is a great achievement for our country.

President Boldrini assessed positively the dynamics and the quality of observing the European commitments, and emphasised that the delicate negotiation process and adoption of fundamental EU values will give Montenegro the opportunity to additionally strengthen its capacities.

In his talks with the Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of Italy Vincenzo Amendola, while previously thanking Italy for a continuous support it has been providing to Montenegro on its European and Euro-Atlantic path, President Brajović expressed satisfaction over the fact that the Italian Parliament has adopted Montenegro's NATO accession Protocol. Brajović added that joining the Alliance was the main foreign policy goal, whose realization was

crucially important for the safety of the state and its citizens, and a precondition for economic development. They emphasised that it was important that Montenegro and other countries of the region successfully continue the European path, and they suggested that in addition to EU member states, candidate countries should also be invited to participate on the commemoration of the 60th anniversary of the signing of the Treaties of Rome. President Brajović assessed as very important the fact that Italy will be the host of the Western Balkans Conference within the Berlin process, to be held on July 2017 in Trieste, as well as the appointing of the Special Envoy of the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Italy for the Conference Michelle Giacomelli, who will visit Montenegro very soon.



During the meeting with the Italian senators, they discussed topics concerning parliamentary cooperation and models which may promote and additionally develop interparliamentary relations, particularly important in the country's integration process to the EU and NATO. The interlocutors agreed that the overall relations between Montenegro and Italy were at a very high level, and emphasised that there were very few areas in which meaningful cooperation wasn't established, and several signed agreements and implemented initiatives were a proof of the aforementioned. They particularly discussed the cooperation in the Economy, and expressed readiness to further promote traditionally good interstate relations.

Senator Pier Ferdinando Casini, Chairperson of the Senate's Committee on Foreign Policy and Emigration emphasised the following: "Strengthening the relations between Montenegro and Italy is highly important. The existing relations are already at a satisfactory level, and we highly appreciate the achieved level of cooperation between both parliaments. The Parliament of Montenegro and the Italian Parliament will continue with their cooperation. We share mutual goals such as membership to the EU, joining the NATO Alliance, as well as maintaining good relations between the two countries, which would help stability in the Mediterranean."

IN FOCUS



Members of the Delegation of the Parliament of Montenegro to the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe participated in the Winter session of PACE in Strasbourg



Head of the Delegation of the Parliament of Montenegro to the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe Predrag Sekulić and members of the Delegation Sanja Vlahović and Ervin Ibrahimović participated in the Winter session of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, which took place from 23 to 27 January in Strasbourg.

During a five-day session, MPs discussed the functioning of democratic institutions in Ukraine, humanitarian crisis in Gaza, the current situation in Lebanon and challenges concerning regional stability and European security, as well as the progress of the PACE monitoring procedures. In addition, the following issues were also discussed: attacks on journalists and the freedom of the media in Europe, challenges and responsibilities of the internet media and journalism, as well as prevention of discrimination and hate speech on the internet.

Pedro Agramunt, Head of Delegation of the Parliament of Spain was re-elected as President of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, who also performed this duty last year. Seventeen Vice-Presidents were elected among the PACE members, while the seats envisaged for Vice-Presidents coming from Moldova and Romania remained vacant.

Aside from the plenary session, members of Delegation of the Parliament of Montenegro participated in the meetings of political parties and attended the meetings of the following Committees: Committee on Political Affairs and Democracy, Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights, Committee on Culture, Science, Education and Media.

FROM THE HISTORY OF MONTENEGRIN PARLIAMENTARISM



LAW ON LEGAL REPRESENTATIVES (LAWYERS)

14/27 December 1909

Article 4

In order for a person to become a legal representative, he/she must meet the following criteria:

- 1) has Montenegrin citizenship,
- 2) has reached the age of twenty-five,
- 3) upon passing the matriculation exam in the gymnasium, has managed to pass all the exams in the Faculty of Law,
- 4) has completed a year of practice
 - a) either with a domestic law firm or has completed his/her traineeship somewhere abroad or
 - b) in the Ministry of Justice or in the High Court or superior court as a civil servant, provided that he/she meets the criteria proscribed by item 3 of this Article,
- 5) is not under the care of a guardian nor declared bankrupt,
- 6) is not convicted or under investigation for having committed a crime, or a dishonorable act which may pose a threat to public order.

Article 5

No legal representative is allowed to perform any activities which may hinder him/her from regularly

performing legal activities.

Part II

Appointment of a legal representative

Article 7

There aren't any proscribed limits in terms of the number of legal representatives which may be appointed.

Article 8

Legal representatives are appointed by the Minister of Justice, and each legal representative shall specify the district he/she wishes to perform his/her duties in. The headquarters of his/her office shall be in the district area for which he/she was appointed.

Cetinje, 14 December 1909

Nikola, handwritten signature

Pavićević, B, Raspopović, R, eds. Crnogorski zakonici 1796 -1916, knj. IV (Montenegrin Codes 1796 -1916, Book IV), Podgorica, Istorijski institut Crne Gore, 1998, pp. 862-863

PARLIAMENTARY GLOSSARY

Action Plan. "An Action Plan is a document that defines the list of activities and measures aimed at ensuring a planned and coordinated action of all participants in the process that should lead to certain results in a certain field. The plan identifies the people, bodies or organizational units responsible for the implementation of individual activities and the deadlines envisaged for their implementation. Indicators are particularly important parts of any action plan, since they are used as the basis for the evaluation of performance.

The Action Plan for the Strengthening of the Legislative and Control Role of the Parliament of Montenegro has been adopted with a view to contributing to the efficient discharge of the duties granted to the Parliament of Montenegro in the Constitution in accordance with the Recommendations and Findings of the European Commission. This Action Plan comprises a number of measures aimed at strengthening the legislative and control function of the Parliament, its administrative and expert capacities and continuous improvements in the openness and transparency of the work with respect to both citizens and civil society organizations." 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. 171

CALENDAR



10 January

- President of the Parliament of Montenegro Ivan Brajović paid a working visit to Italy on the occasion of ratification of Montenegro's NATO accession protocol in the Italian Parliament.

18 January

- President of the Parliament of Montenegro Ivan Brajović received Željko Stamatović before assuming the office of Consul General in New York. During the meeting, the interlocutors discussed the protection of interests of Montenegrin citizens living in the relevant consular area, as well as cooperation with various associations in diaspora.

19 January

- President Brajović received Irena Tatazinska, Ambassador of Poland to Montenegro. President Brajović expressed satisfaction over excellent relations between Montenegro and Poland at the political level, and an obvious interest of this country for investing in Montenegro, as well as dynamic cooperation in Culture, Science and Education. They discussed further cooperation regarding Enlargement Academy projects, through which Poland shares its experience in integration processes with Montenegro. During the meeting, the interlocutors spoke about future activities aimed at strengthening parliamentary cooperation.
- Chair of the Committee on International Relations and Emigrants Andrija Nikolić received the Ambassador of the Republic of Kosovo to Montenegro Skender Durmishi. During the meeting, Chair Nikolić particularly emphasised the importance of constitutional recognition of Montenegrin national minority in Kosovo, and received promising news that Montenegrin minority would be constitutionally recognised in the Parliament of Kosovo very soon. Chair of the Committee acquainted Ambassador Durmishi with an increased interest of internally displaced persons to return to Kosovo, noting that Montenegro has invested a lot of efforts in providing local integration and housing, through international donations and assistance, as well as through its own resources. Ambassador of the Republic of Kosovo Skender Durmishi announced during the conversation that the Kosovo Prime Minister is leading an intensive dialogue with the opposition regarding the placement of the demarcation issue under parliamentary procedure. The same day, Nikolić met with the Ambassador of the

Republic of Albania Ernal Filo. Ambassador Filo envisaged a soon resolution of the demarcation issue between Montenegro and Albania, as well as the issue of authentic representation of the Montenegrin minority in the State Committee for Minorities of the Council of Ministers of the Republic of Albania. Noting that parliamentary cooperation was the cornerstone for the overall relations between both countries, the interlocutors agreed that a continuous exchange of information and experience between both countries was needed, particularly through official communication, as a prerequisite for strengthening bilateral relations.

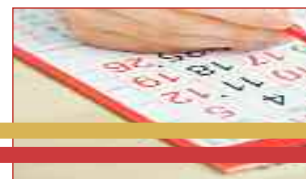
23 January

- Chair of the Committee on European Integration Adrijan Vuksanović and Committee member Marija Maja Čatović participated in the meeting of the Chairpersons of the Conference of Parliamentary Committees for Union Affairs of the Parliaments of the European Union (COSAC), which took place in Malta. During the meeting, there was discussion about the priorities of the Malta's Presidency over the Council of the European Union, such as creation of new jobs through innovation, tackling security challenges, strengthening of social dimension of the EU and creating an ambitious Energy Union. In addition, the European Commission Work Programme for 2017 was presented.
- Head of the Delegation of the Parliament of Montenegro to the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe Predrag Sekulić and members of the Delegation Sanja Vlahović and Ervin Ibrahimović participated in the Winter session of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, held in Strasbourg.

24 January

- President of the Parliament of Montenegro Ivan Brajović met with the Ambassador of Albania to Montenegro Ernal Filo. The interlocutors assessed that both countries have continuously developed friendly relations, based on the principle of mutual trust and respect, and the fact that there weren't any unaddressed issues between both countries was highly significant for the progress of the overall cooperation and strengthening of regional stability.
- President of the Parliament of Montenegro Ivan Brajović spoke with the National Coordinator for the Alliance Dragan Pejanović and representatives of the Council for NATO Membership's Communication Team. During the

CALENDAR



meeting, the interlocutors emphasised that the citizens should be accurately and timely acquainted with all the details regarding the termination of ratification of Montenegro's NATO accession protocol by all member states. In addition, the Parliament agreed to establish a stronger coordination with the Council and the Communication Team, which would additionally emphasise the importance of this political issue for the longterm stability of our state.

25 January

- Chair of the Committee on Economy, Finance and Budget Vujica Lazović and members of the Committee Jovanka Laličić, Branko Čavor, Filip Vuković and Petar Smolović met with the Delegation of the Energy Community Secretariat composed of Janez Kopač, Director of the Energy Community Secretariat, and Peter Vajda, Environmental Protection expert. During the meeting, they were, inter alia, acquainted with the Opinion of Energy Community on the current situation in Montenegro, when it comes to electric energy, gas, renewable energy sources, energy efficiency, environmental protection and oil reserves. In addition, they discussed further harmonization of national legislation concerning Energy with the EU regulations, the status of an independent regulator in the area and the need to further strengthen the independence. Furthermore, they discussed investments in the Energy field, the need for adopting the Law on Reserves of Petroleum Products, energy efficient construction and investment in the infrastructure, as well as renewable energy resources.
- President of the Parliament of Montenegro Ivan Brajović received the Permanent Coordinator of the System of the United Nations and Permanent Representative of the United Nations Development Programme in Montenegro Fiona McCluney. During the meeting, the interlocutors discussed the cooperation of the Parliament of Montenegro with the international organisations, the need for an objective examination of the achieved results, aimed at finding the best models for the development of the society as a whole.

26 January

- President of the Parliament of Montenegro Ivan Brajović received the Ambassador of Croatia to Montenegro Veselko Grubišić. President Brajović thanked Croatia for the support it has been providing to Montenegro in terms of membership to the EU and

NATO, both in the political context and through provision of professional assistance, sharing knowledge and experience. The fact that our country was at an advanced stage of European integration was emphasised as important for both Montenegro and the region, placing the emphasis on the vitality of open door policy.

30 January

- Chair of the Committee on Political System, Judiciary and Administration Miloš Nikolić and Chair of the Committee on European Integration Adrijan Vuksanović participated in the Interparliamentary Conference on the topic: "Local and Regional authorities in the EU enlargement region and the EU regional policy", which took place from 30 to 31 January in Brussels.



31 January

- President of the Parliament of Montenegro Ivan Brajović received Harry Richard James Kandou, non-residential Ambassador of Indonesia to Montenegro. The interlocutors concluded that bilateral relations between Montenegro and Indonesia are constantly developing, particularly emphasising the importance of economic cooperation. In addition, they emphasised that the high level contacts significantly contributed to promoting the cooperation between both countries in different fields of mutual interest. President Brajović has endorsed the initiative of Indonesia to appoint an honorary consul to Montenegro, which would strengthen economic and cultural relations between both countries.
- National Coordinator for the Alliance Dragan Pejanović met with the representatives of minority MP Groups, i.e. the Bosniak party, the Coalition *Albanians Decisively* and Croatian Civic Initiative. The interlocutors particularly emphasised the need to acknowledge the indisputability of the fact that the Alliance was a guarantee of high level of respect for human rights and freedoms, and continuous strengthening of the rule of law.

IN MEMORIAM

SINIŠA STANKOVIĆ, SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE PARLIAMENT OF MONTENEGRO

Commemorative Sitting on the death of Secretary General of the Parliament of Montenegro Siniša Stanković was held in the Parliament of Montenegro on 10 January. Addressing the present, President of the Parliament of Montenegro Ivan Brajović said, inter alia, that Stanković was exceptionally humane, building his authority solely on his deeds.

President Brajović added that the Secretary General was professional, competent and hard working person, addressing the issues in the work of the Parliament as a recognized expert and serious host. He stressed that Stanković was discreet person, precise like an engineer and ready to listen to other people, particularly employees for whom his door was always wide open, giving his best to resolve their problems permanently.

“Our Secretary General’s mission was to create environment where people will work thoroughly and seriously, in good conditions and good atmosphere. That is why yesterday’s, despite everything sudden, departure of Siniša Stanković, has caused genuine, heartfelt sorrow of MPs and staff in the Parliament, Brajović said. “The last two years he spent in the Parliament were sufficient for permanent respect of MPs and staff of the Montenegrin Parliament”, President of the Parliament of Montenegro Ivan Brajović concluded.



Siniša Stanković was born on 20 December 1957 in Podgorica, and died on 9 January 2017. He obtained a diploma of an engineer in the field of mechanics, construction mechanics, project engineer at the Faculty of Mechanical Engineering, Podgorica in 1986.

He started his working career in the Factory “19 Decembar”, and afterwards he performed the function of a Secretary in the Secretariat of Labour, Health and Social Welfare. He was Vice President of the Capital City Podgorica, as well as Vice President of the Social Democratic Party of Montenegro. As of June 2004, within various mandates, he performed the function of Assistant Minister in the following ministries: Ministry for Spatial Planning and Environment, Ministry for Tourism and Environment, Ministry of Spatial Planning and Environment and Ministry of Sustainable Development and Tourism.

He performed the function of the Secretary General of the Parliament of Montenegro since November 2014.