



Parliament of Montenegro

NEWSLETTER OPEN PARLIAMENT

Newsletter on the Parliament of Montenegro Performance ♦ No. 68 ♦ February 2017

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OPEN PARLIAMENT



Parliament of Montenegro

Newsletter on the Parliament of Montenegro Performance ♦ Electronic format ♦ Release: monthly ♦ Year VII ♦ No. 68 ♦ February 2017

FOREWORD

Dear readers,

We present to you the key information on activities of the Parliament of Montenegro in the period from 1 to 28 February, which is, in the form of monthly newsletter "Open Parliament", prepared by Parliamentary Service.

During February, the sittings of the first and second extraordinary sessions took place, during which MPs adopted one law and two decisions.

In February, committees considered five proposals for a law and performed other activities within their oversight role.

In focus of this month's newsletter is the participation of the Members of the Permanent Delegation of the Parliament of Montenegro to the OSCE PA, headed by the President of the Parliament of Montenegro, in the Winter session of the OSCE PA, which took place on 23-24 February in Vienna. 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 First Extraordinary Session of the Parliament of Montenegro in 2017, the Parliament provided consent to the initiation of the criminal procedure and ordering of imprisonment of MPs Andrija Mandić and Milan Knežević.

At the Sitting of the Second Extraordinary Session of the Parliament of Montenegro in 2017, the Parliament adopted the Law on Amendments to the Law on Regularisation of Informal Objects.

Proposals for Law deliberated in committees

- **Proposal for a Law on Amendments to the Law on Obligations** was considered and proposed to the Parliament for adoption by the Committee on Economy, Finance and Budget and the Legislative Committee.
- **Proposal for a Law on Amendments to the Law on Regularization of Informal Objects** was considered and proposed to the Parliament for adoption by the Committee on Tourism, Agriculture, Ecology and Spatial Planning and the Legislative Committee.
- **Proposal for a Law on Amendments to the Law on Practice of Law** was considered and proposed to the Parliament for adoption by the Legislative Committee.
- **Proposal for a Law on Ratification of the Agreement on Establishing the Regional Youth Cooperation Office** was considered and proposed to

the Parliament for adoption by the Legislative Committee and the Committee on International Relations and Emigrants.

- **Proposal for a Law on Ratification of the ILO Seafarers' Identity Documents Convention (Revised), 2003, (No.185)** was considered and proposed to the Parliament for adoption by the Legislative Committee and the Committee on International Relations and Emigrants.

Other activities of working bodies

- At the sixth meeting of the **Legislative Committee** held on 27 February, members of the Committee considered and supported the 2016 Performance Report of the Legislative Committee and 2017 Work Plan of the Legislative Committee.



- At the seventh meeting of the **Committee on Economy, Finance and Budget**, held on 20 February, the Committee members supported the 2016 Performance Report of the Committee and determined the 2017 Work Plan of the Committee.
- At the second meeting of the **Gender Equality Committee**, held on 6 February, the Committee members supported the 2016 Performance Report of the Committee and provided guidelines for the drafting of the 2017 Work Plan of the Committee.



- At the third meeting of the **Committee on Tourism, Agriculture, Ecology and Spatial Planning**, held on 23 February, the Committee members considered and

supported the 2016 Performance Report of the Committee and the 2017 Work Plan of the Committee.



- At the fifth meeting of the **Administrative Committee**, held on 13 February, following the discussion, the Committee has unanimously decided to propose to the Parliament to provide support to initiation of criminal procedure and ordering of imprisonment against Andrija Mandić and Milan Knežević, MPs in the Parliament of Montenegro, upon request of the Special State Prosecutor's Office of Montenegro.



At the sixth meeting, held on 27 February, members of the Committee decided to readvertise anew the Second open vacancy notice for the election of one member of the State Electoral Commission from among representatives of the civil society, NGO and the University. Vladimir Bošković, the previous candidate did not receive the required majority from among the present committee members. In addition, members of the Committee supported the 2016 Performance Report of the Committee and the 2017 Work Plan of the Committee.



NEWS FROM PARLIAMENT



Members of the Committee on Economy, Finance and Budget paid a visit to the Parliament of Scotland

Chair of the Committee on Economy, Finance and Budget Vujica Lazović and Committee members Genci Nimanbegu, Predrag Sekulić, Filip Vuković and Petar Smolović paid a visit to the Parliament of Scotland, which took place on 23 and 24 February.



Within the visit, members of the Delegation of the

Committee on Economy, Finance and Budget were given the opportunity to get acquainted with the work of the Scottish Parliament Information Centre (SPICe), within which 45 researchers perform their activities. Special emphasis was placed on the manner the Financial Oversight Unit performs its activities, as well as the importance of research and the data involving parliamentary oversight. Members of the Delegation also had the opportunity to get acquainted with the manner in which MPs use the services of the Information Centre.

The experience gained through work in the Information Centre, respectively the Financial Oversight Unit were assessed as very useful, particularly when it comes to the project of creating the Parliamentary Budget Office which provides expert and technical support to parliamentary committees and helps realization of financial oversight.

MPs Nikolić and Škrelja participated in the Summit of Foreign Affairs Committees of Europe and the Balkans

Chair of the Committee on International Relations and Emigrants of the Parliament of Montenegro Andrija Nikolić and member of the Committee Luid Škrelja, on the invitation of the Chair of the Foreign Affairs Committee of the Parliament of Kosovo Elmi Recica, participated in the Summit of Foreign Affairs Committees of Europe and the Balkans, which took place from 19 to 21 February in Prishtina. The gathering was dedicated to perspectives on future EU enlargement, regional cooperation, migrant and refugee crisis, as well as fight against terrorism and radicalism in the region.

The panelists at the Summit jointly agreed that the integration of Western Balkan countries was the best guarantee of peace, stability and progress in the region.

Chair of the Committee on International Relations and Emigrants Andrija Nikolić had a separate meeting with the Chair of the Foreign Affairs Committee of the Parliament of Kosovo Elmi Recica. On this occasion, Nikolić expressed his convictions that the demarcation issue between Montenegro and Kosovo would soon be placed under parliamentary procedure, and assessed that Montenegro's constructive position, premeditated action and evasion of direct involvement in the public debate has reduced the political tensions. According to Recica, there aren't any dilemmas concerning the demarcation with Montenegro as well as that there was an intensive dialogue regarding the placement of this

issue under parliamentary procedure.

Members of the Delegation of the Committee on International Relations and Emigrants also met with the representatives of the Association of Emigrants from Montenegro. Chair Nikolić informed the participants that there was a need to form a Coordination Committee, as a single contact for all Montenegrin Emigrant associations in Kosovo. Nikolić and Škrelja notified the emigrant representatives that forming such body, along with the logistics of the Council for Cooperation with Emigrants, Montenegrin Embassy and Government of Kosovo, would accelerate the process of official constitutional recognition of Montenegrin national minority in Kosovo, and through elected Montenegrin representatives would provide for the conditions of their participation in the political social processes in Kosovo.



IN FOCUS



Members of the Permanent Delegation of the Parliament of Montenegro to the OSCE PA, headed by the President of the Parliament of Montenegro, participated in the Winter session of the OSCE PA

President of the Parliament of Montenegro Ivan Brajović, Vice-President of the Parliament Branimir Gvozdenović, as well as MPs Aleksandra Vuković and Nikola Rakočević participated in the Winter session of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly, held on 23-24 February in Vienna.

First day of the session, the joint meeting of the three general committees, which was opened by OSCE PA President



Christine Muttonen together with President of the National Council of Austria Doris Bures, was preceded by the meeting of the Standing Committee where, among other things, the rapporteurs presented their findings during their time in observation missions. They presented comments to the parliamentary elections in Montenegro, as well as the events relating to the attempt of the terrorist act, which were the subject of the activities of the state authorities of Montenegro.

The key findings from the OSCE observation report certify that “the Montenegrin elections were held in a peaceful environment and in accordance with the proscribed procedures, under a reformed legal framework. The elections took place in a competitive environment characterised by common respect for fundamental freedoms”. The report contains recommendations for removing the deficiencies in implementing the electoral law.

In the meeting of the Permanent Committee of the OSCE PA, the participants emphasised that the citizens of Montenegro have reached important decisions regarding the strategic geopolitical positioning of the country. They emphasised that it was necessary that all the parties invest their joint efforts in continuing the reforms in Montenegro, as well as contribute to the further European integration.

In separate meetings of the three committees, in accordance with their responsibilities, they considered the security challenges from the aspect of growing populism, spread of terrorism, and climate change.

Second day of the OSCE PA Winter Meeting in Vienna was marked by a discussion on current challenges in the OSCE field, with special emphasis on the respect of human rights and efforts for resolving burning conflicts via mediation. During the joint meeting of the committees, it was noted that the comprehensiveness of ideas and common guidelines, provided by the OSCE, help achieve multilateral objectives. With the emphasis on improving cooperation with the executive structures of the OSCE, it was concluded that the respect of human rights contributed to the security of society and ensured stability.

A joint session of three committees was preceded by a session of the Committee on Political Affairs and Security, during which the rapporteurs presented key aspects of the report which will be subject to approval at the Annual Session in July. Discussion that followed covered topics such as: prevention of cyber terrorism, the role of women in peace-building in terms of improving dialogue and the fight against transnational threats, and efforts to de-escalation ongoing Ukrainian conflict.

Among the senior OSCE officials on a two-day meeting, the participants were addressed by Secretary General Lamberto Zannier, Director of the ODIHR Michael Link and the President of the OSCE PA.

Within the session, the President of the Parliament of Montenegro Ivan Brajović met with OSCE PA's Special Representative on South East Europe Roberto Battelli, Special Representative on Mediation Ilkka Kanerva, OSCE PA Secretary General-Elect Roberto Montella, Special Representative and Head of the OSCE PA's Vienna Liaison Office Andreas Nothelle, Vice-President of the OSCE PA Kent Harstedt, Head of the Election Observation Mission to Montenegro for the elections held in October, President of the OSCE PA Christine Muttonen, OSCE Secretary General Lamberto Zannier, as well as Head of the German Delegation to the OSCE PA and Treasurer of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly Doris Barnett.

Statements by participants in the meetings are available on the Parliament's web page:

<http://www.skupstina.me/index.php/me/predsjednik/item/424-zvanicno-predstavljeno-i-pozitivno-ocijenjen-izvjestaj-posmatracke-misije-o-izborima-u-crnoj-gori>

<http://www.skupstina.me/index.php/me/predsjednik/item/430-delegacija-skupstine-na-ps-oeps-drugi-dan>

FROM THE HISTORY OF MONTENEGRIN PARLIAMENTARISM



LAW ON THE JUDICIAL RESPONSIBILITY IN CRIMINAL PROCEEDINGS

6/19 December 1902

**WE
NIKOLA I
PRINCE AND SOVEREIGN OF MONTENEGRO
On the proposal of the Acting Minister of Justice,
Upon hearing Our State Council
We decided to order and are ordering this
LAW
ON
THE JUDICIAL RESPONSIBILITY IN CRIMINAL
PROCEEDINGS**

Article 1

The state judicial authority is exercised by captain courts and the superior courts as well as the High Court of Justice, as set forth in the following articles.

Article 2

Captain Courts shall be in charge of conducting the criminal proceedings for the following criminal offences:

1. All criminal offences involving damage to the property which may not exceed the amount of 50 kuna,
2. Verbal insults, curses and physical harm inflicted on the person who has submitted the application. An insult is partly considered a simple offence provided that it left a certain mark on the victim; however, without any

serious consequences to qualify it as an offence of serious physical injury,

3. Offences against public peace and order which do not exceed the amount of 40 kuna, and involve an imprisonment sentence of up to a week.

Article 3

Upon the request of the superior court, captain courts are obliged, within the area of competence entrusted to them, to conduct an investigation on every criminal offence committed within the area of that court, and shall immediately notify the competent superior court on the results of the conducted investigation.

Article 4

Judgements of the captain courts referred to in Article 2 of this law may be appealed by addressing a superior court, five days after the judgment was announced, as proscribed by Article 9 of the Law on the Civil Court Jurisdiction.

No appeals shall be allowed against the judgements reached by the Superior court.

Cetinje, St Nicholas' Day, 1902

Nikola, handwritten signature

Pavićević, B, Raspopović, R, eds. Crnogorski zakoni 1796 -1916, knj. II (Montenegrin Codes 1796 -1916, Book II), Podgorica, Istorijski institut Crne Gore, 1998, pp. 620-623

PARLIAMENTARY GLOSSARY

First Reading. "The First Reading of a law is a stage of the legislative procedure going on in the parliament.

In the Parliament of Montenegro, the first reading is the stage that precedes the review of the proposal of a law in the Parliament by the responsible committees (the Legislative Committee and the lead Committee). If the proposal of a law covers specific issues that fall under the competencies of other committees, those committees may also discuss these issues of the proposal of the law. If the adoption of the proposal of a law may influence state budget expenditures, the proposal of the law is also deliberated by the committee competent for the budget. Apart from the lead committee, the committees which review the proposal of the law as interested committees submit their opinion to the lead committee, taking into account the deadline so that the lead committee has time to consider their opinion. The responsible committee may propose that the Parliament adopt the proposal of the law as a whole, to adopt it as a text amended in relation to the text submitted by the proposer or not to adopt the proposal of the law. The lead committee considers the opinions submitted to it by other committees that have reviewed the proposal of the law and it gives its position on the opinion of these committees in a report which they submit to the parliament."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. 215

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2 February

- Head of the Permanent Delegation to the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe Predrag Sekulić and members of the Security and Defence Committee Marta Šćepanović and Milorad Vuletić met with the Council of Europe expert team, on the occasion of implementation of the project entitled "Promotion of the protection of Human rights, especially the treatment of detainees and persons serving a prison sentence in Montenegro". This project shall provide support to Montenegrin authorities in their efforts invested in implementing the standards set forth in the European Convention for the Prevention of Torture and Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, as well as observing of recommendations set by the European Committee for the Prevention of Torture and Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (CPT).



- Chair of the Committee on European Integration Adrijan Vuksanović met with Aivo Orav, Head of the EU Delegation to Montenegro. The interlocutors discussed the key aspects of European integration, with the focus on the Committee's plans envisaged for the upcoming period. They also exchanged their views with regard to the progress achieved so far in the EU accession process, as well as the challenges lying ahead. During the meeting, they jointly agreed to maintain a good cooperation in the future relations between the EU Delegation and the Committee, as a first contact point when it comes to Montenegro's integration process to the EU.

3 February

- Chair of the Gender Equality Committee Nada Drobnjak met with the Head of Democratisation Department of the OSCE Mission to Montenegro Lia Magnaguagno. The interlocutors expressed readiness to further advance their cooperation, particularly when it comes to the implementation of the Action Plan for a Gender - sensitive Parliament of Montenegro and monitoring of implementation of the Law on Gender Equality, in the

context of parliamentary oversight function, as well as participation of women both in the political and public life.



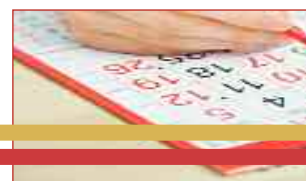
6 February

- Vice-President of the Parliament of Montenegro Branimir Gvozdenović met with the Ambassador of Hungary Krisztián Pósa. During the meeting, the interlocutors emphasised that there was a high level of cooperation between Montenegro and Hungary, primarily owing to good economic relations, as well as the strong support Hungary has been providing to Montenegro on its path of Euro-Atlantic and European integration. Ambassador Pósa particularly emphasised the role of the Vice-President Gvozdenović in the development of Montenegrin tourism, and added that an excellent basis and ambience has been established for the entry of Hungarian capital goods into Montenegro when it comes to tourism, as well as an increase in the number of tourists in Montenegro.

7 February

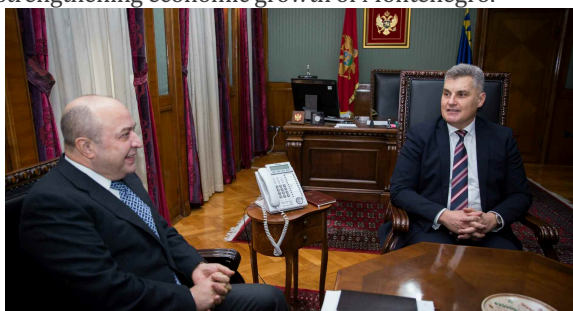
- Chair of the Committee on International Relations and Emigrants Andrija Nikolić met with the Ambassador of Hungary to Montenegro Krisztián Pósa. During the meeting, Nikolić placed the emphasis on the support Hungary has been providing to Montenegro in the process of European and Euro-Atlantic integration, expressing satisfaction over the fact that Hungary will remain alongside Montenegro until the termination of the process of accession in the Alliance. Considering that the cooperation between both countries was excellent, Ambassador Pósa expected that Montenegro's NATO accession Protocol would be ratified by the middle of 2017.
- Chair of the Committee on European Integration Adrijan Vuksanović and member of the Committee Sanja Vlahović met with the Ambassador of the Republic of Italy in Montenegro Vincenzo Del Monaco. The topic of

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discussion was further promotion of parliamentary cooperation between Italy and Montenegro. The interlocutors agreed on the importance of exchanging views and experience between both committees dealing with European affairs, particularly when it comes to responsibilities the Committee on European Integration of the Parliament of Montenegro is to undertake upon joining the European Union.

- President of the Parliament of Montenegro Ivan Brajović met with the Ambassador of Azerbaijan to Montenegro Eldar Hasanov. The interlocutors assessed that further parliamentary cooperation, particularly the visits of the President and delegations of the Parliament of Montenegro, as well as continuous work of Friendship groups would contribute to the strengthening of the overall relations between Montenegro and Azerbaijan. They especially emphasised the importance of cooperation in the following areas: Building and Infrastructure, Energy and Tourism, all aimed at strengthening economic growth of Montenegro.



- President of the Parliament of Montenegro Ivan Brajović received the newly-appointed Ambassador of Morocco to Montenegro Mohamed Amine Belhaj. In his talks with President Brajović, Ambassador Belhaj congratulated Montenegro for its achievements on its path towards EU and NATO, considering that Morocco had an Advanced Status with the European Union, while there was a successful cooperation between Morocco and Montenegro within the Mediterranean dialogue. It was jointly assessed that the friendly relations between Montenegro and Morocco posed an obligation of further intensifying the dialogue and promoting the cooperation in various levels, while they particularly placed emphasis on the need for strengthening parliamentary cooperation.
- Member of the Committee on Human Rights and Freedoms Mihailo Anđušić participated in the Seminar on the implementation of conclusions from the second cycle of monitoring of implementation of the Council of Europe Framework Convention for the Protection of

National Minorities in the case of Montenegro, which took place in Podgorica. The interlocutors agreed that inter-ethnic relations, mutual tolerance and understanding in Montenegro are predominately good. They expected that published information would help preparation of the Third Report on the implementation of the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities of the Council of Europe, which must be submitted until 6 June 2017.

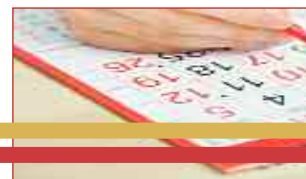
8 February

- Delegation of the Foreign Policy Committee of the Parliament of Albania, headed by Arta Dade, paid a visit to Montenegro. Delegation of the Committee had separate meetings with the President of the Parliament of Montenegro Ivan Brajović, Vice-President Genci Nimanbegu, as well as with the Committee on International Relations and Emigrants, headed by Andrija Nikolić. The interlocutors assessed that the European Union remained the best framework for further successful implementation of reforms, achieving the Standards and improvement of quality of citizens life in all Western Balkan countries, which is why it is necessary to increase the efforts on the European integration path. Members of the Delegation of Albania were acquainted with the requirements made by Albanians in Montenegro for many years now, related to resolving the status of the Municipality of Tuzi, restitution of property to the owners in Valdanos, the current state of Solana Ulcinj, as well as the proportional representation of Albanians in the institutions of the system. The possibility for a better cooperation, primarily in the area of Education and Culture was mentioned, which would enable the representatives of the Albanian nationality as bilinguals gain a very important role.



- Chair of the Committee on European Integration Adrijan Vuksanović met with the Ambassador of the Republic of Croatia in Montenegro Veselko Grubišić. The interlocutors discussed parliamentary cooperation between Croatia and Montenegro, when it comes to the

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accession of Montenegro to the European Union. The interlocutors expressed readiness for intensifying the communication and joint activities at the level of parliamentary committees on European integration/Affairs, all with the aim of preparation for the challenges awaiting Montenegro on its path to the European Union.

13 February

- Chair of the Committee on Tourism, Agriculture, Ecology and Spatial Planning Petar Ivanović met with the Head of the Democratization Programme at the OSCE Mission Lia Magnaguagno. During the meeting, the interlocutors considered a set of activities implemented by the OSCE Mission within the previous period covering the 25th convocation, as well as activities planned for the current convocation and possibilities for joint cooperation. In addition, they discussed the possibility of cooperation with the OSCE, as well as the activity plans of the Committee for 2017, which will be explained more precisely in the 2017 Work Plan of the Committee.
- President of the Parliament of Montenegro Ivan Brajović received newly-appointed Head of the OSCE Mission to Montenegro, Ambassador Maryse Daviet. President Brajović wished his interlocutor successful work in Montenegro and emphasised the significance of maintaining good cooperation with the OSCE. Ambassador Daviet referred once more to the conclusions in the final report of the OSCE/ODIHR election observation mission regarding the elections held in October, noting that the report contained very few recommendations, and she hopes these recommendations would be taken into account. President Brajović expressed satisfaction over the final report of the OSCE/ODIHR election observation mission and expressed his readiness to observe the recommendations in the report. Head of the OSCE mission emphasised that unwillingness of the opposition to participate in the work of the Parliament was not a good message, since the said elections were assessed as fair and free by very relevant international addresses. On the eve of the Winter session of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly, to be held in Vienna, President Brajović acquainted the Head of the Mission with the meetings he had planned with the OSCE Secretary General, as well as meetings with other high officials.

14 February

- President of the Parliament of Montenegro Ivan Brajović

met with the Chairman of the Council of Ministers of Bosnia and Herzegovina Denis Zvizdić. During the meeting, the interlocutors exchanged opinions regarding the process of European and Euro-Atlantic Integration, the current situation in the region, as well as further improvement and cooperation. In addition, the following also attended the meeting: Vice-Presidents Branimir Gvozdenović and Genci Nimanbegu, Chair of the Committee on International Relations and Emigrants Andrija Nikolić, and Chair of the Committee on European Integration Adrijan Vuksanović.



16 February

- Committee on International Relations and Emigrants met with diplomatic representatives of NATO member states, attended by the President of the Parliament of Montenegro Ivan Brajović, as well as National Coordinator for NATO Dragan Pejanović. President of the Parliament expressed gratitude to members of the Committee on International Relations and Emigrants as well as the Council for NATO Membership's Communication Team, which organised this event in cooperation with the Embassy of Hungary. Chair of the Committee on International Relations and Emigrants Andrija Nikolić thanked the NATO member states ambassadors for recognising the importance to hold a joint meeting, with the assessment that the clear majority of the Parliament supported Montenegro's membership to NATO, both from the ruling party and the opposition.

17 February

- Chair of the Committee on European Integration Adrijan Vuksanović met with the Charge d'Affaires of the Embassy of the Czech Republic in Podgorica Petr Šmejkal. Šmejkal emphasised that the Czech Republic supports Montenegro fully, as well as its European aspirations. The interlocutors agreed that the Czech Delegation would soon pay an official visit to

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Montenegro. They jointly concluded that the visit would provide an excellent opportunity for exchanging views and strengthening parliamentary cooperation.



18 February

- Members of the Permanent Delegation to the NATO Parliamentary Assembly Obrad Mišo Stanišić and Genci Nimanbegu participated in the work of the Joint meeting held between the Defence and Security Committee, Economics and Security Committee and Political Committee of the NATO Parliamentary Assembly, which took place from 18 to 20 February in Brussels.

19 February

- Chair of the Committee on International Relations and Emigrants of the Parliament of Montenegro Andrija Nikolić and member of the Committee Luid Škrelja, on the invitation of the Chair of the Foreign Affairs Committee of the Parliament of Kosovo Elmi Recica, participated in the Summit of Foreign Affairs Committees of Europe and the Balkans, which took place from 19 to 21 February in Prishtina. The gathering was dedicated to perspectives on future EU enlargement, regional cooperation, migrant and refugee crisis, as well as fight against terrorism and radicalism in the region.

20 February

- President of the Parliament of Montenegro Ivan Brajović received the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Estonia Sven Mikser, who paid an official visit to Montenegro. President Brajović thanked Estonia for the political and expert assistance it has been providing to Montenegro in the process of joining NATO and the EU, emphasising that new member states would significantly contribute to the vitality of the European Union. The Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Estonia, inter alia, highly commended the full

harmonisation of Montenegrin foreign policy with the Common Foreign Security Policy of the European Union, and also added that this country will continue to support Montenegro on its integrative processes, throughout the period of Estonia's presiding over the Council of the European Union and henceforth.

21 February

- President of the Parliament of Montenegro received non-residential Ambassador of Switzerland to Montenegro Philippe Guex. President Brajović emphasised that the presence of Swiss investors in Montenegro, such as the world renowned company ORASCOM was highly important, and emphasised the importance of further development of economic relations. The interlocutors emphasised that bringing Montenegro closer to the European Union would create a more favourable environment for foreign investors.



- President of the Parliament Ivan Brajović spoke with non-residential Ambassador of Cyprus to Montenegro Constantinos Eliades. President Brajović emphasised that traditionally good relations reflected the true aspirations of Cyprus to share its integrative experience with Montenegro. A more intensive parliamentary cooperation was agreed, both through establishing Montenegrin and Cypriot parliamentary friendship groups and organising visits of the highest level.

- Chair of the Gender Equality Committee and member of the Committee on Human Rights and Freedoms Nada Drobnjak participated in the Webex meeting held within the frameworks of the project "OSCE survey on the wellbeing and the safety of women", organised by the OSCE mission to Montenegro. Gender Equality Unit of the OSCE Secretariat has initiated a three-year project entitled "OSCE survey on the wellbeing and the safety of women". The goal of the project is to conduct a public opinion representative survey on violence towards women in ten OSCE countries. This survey shall cover countries from South-East Europe and East Europe, as

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well as South Caucasus.

- MPs of the Parliament of Montenegro Mihailo Anđušić and Miloš Nikolić participated in a World Trade Organisation seminar, on the topic of regional trade for parliamentarians, which took place from 21 to 23 February in Vienna. During the meeting, the participants discussed the multilateral trade system and WTO as the key institution in the area, as well as the importance of the current Institutional and legal framework of the international trade system in the area of customs and trade in goods, services and intellectual property.



22 February

- Chair of the Gender Equality Committee Nada Drobnjak participated in a gathering entitled "Gastro souvenirs and women's entrepreneurship", on which occasion she gave address on the topic "Gender Equality policy-possibilities and prospects". Montenegro's chamber of Commerce, within the IPA project entitled "Inovations in entrepreneurship in the area of tourism through production of gastro souvenirs based on local inputs - GAS2GO", in cooperation with the Mediterranean University and "Frutiera" company has carried out activities aimed at promoting women's entrepreneurship. The goal of the project is the strengthening of companies through innovative approaches, as well as cooperation with the Scientific and Educational sector.

23 February

- Members of the Permanent Delegation of the Parliament of Montenegro to the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly composed of President of the Parliament of Montenegro Ivan Brajović, Vice-President of the Parliament Branimir Gvozdenović, as well as MPs Aleksandra Vuković and Nikola Rakočević participated in the Winter session of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly, which took place on 23-24 February in Vienna.
- Chair of the Committee on Economy, Finance and

Budget Vujica Lazović and members of the Committee Genci Nimanbegu, Predrag Sekulić, Filip Vuković and Petar Smolović paid a visit to the Parliament of Scotland on 23 and 24 February. The visit took place within the frameworks of the project realised by the Westminster Foundation for Democracy, in cooperation with the Parliament of Montenegro and the British Embassy in Podgorica, for the purpose of establishing the Parliamentary Budget Office.

27 February

- Chair of the Committee on Economy, Finance and Budget Vujica Lazović and Committee member Petar Smolović met with the Delegation of International Monetary Fund Mission. During the meeting, the interlocutors discussed the role of the Committee in the oversight of the public finances, challenges in the further functioning of fiscal consolidation, as well as planned and expected measures of consolidation, the need to strengthen fiscal discipline and measures for improving the business environment, etc.
- Chair of the Committee on Human Rights and Freedoms Halil Duković participated in the Conference entitled "Let's Stop Violence Against Children", organised by the Government of Montenegro and UNICEF Representative to Montenegro, under the cooperation of the Delegation of the European Union to Montenegro. The following took part in the Conference: experts, actors involved in the decision-making process, representatives of the international organisations and NGO's, representatives from countries in the region as well as renowned international experts such as pediatrician Nadine Burke Harris, Frances Gardner of University of Oxford, Director of Global Partnership to End Violence Against Children Susan Bissell, as well as Minister of Social Protection of Estonia Kaia Iva. In addition to the aforementioned, the President of Montenegro Filip Vujanović also attended the Conference.

28 February

- Chair of the Committee on Health, Labour and Social Welfare Miodrag Radunović, Chair of the Committee on Human Rights and Freedoms Halil Duković, Chair of the Gender Equality Committee Nada Drobnjak, and Chair of the Committee on Education, Science, Culture and Sports Pavle Goranović met with Nadine Burk Harris, a pediatrician known accross the world for her inovative approach in solving issues related to negative experiences in childhood.