



Parliament of Montenegro

NEWSLETTER OPEN PARLIAMENT

Newsletter on the Parliament of Montenegro Performance ♦ No. 69 ♦ March 2017

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OPEN PARLIAMENT



Parliament of Montenegro

Newsletter on the Parliament of Montenegro Performance ♦ Electronic format ♦ Release: monthly ♦ Year VII ♦ No. 69 ♦ March 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 March, which is, in the form of monthly newsletter "Open Parliament", prepared by Parliamentary Service.

During March, the first and third sittings of the First Ordinary Session of the Parliament of Montenegro took place, as well as the second and fourth special sittings of the First Ordinary Session of the Parliament of Montenegro. During the first and third sittings, MPs adopted fourteen laws.

In March, Committees considered nine proposals for a law, one proposal for a decision, and performed other activities within their oversight role.

In focus of this month's newsletter is the visit paid to Montenegro by the Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy of the European Union and Vice-President of the European Commission Federica Mogherini, which took place on 1 March. 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.

**Respectfully,
Parliamentary Service**



LEGISLATIVE AND OVERSIGHT ACTIVITY

At the First Sitting of the First Ordinary Session of the Parliament of Montenegro in 2017, MPs adopted the following laws:

Law on the Ratification of the Agreement on the measures undertaken by the State Port in the prevention, combating and elimination of illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing, Law on the Ratification of the Agreement on Establishing the Regional Youth Cooperation Office, Law on the Ratification of the Agreement between the European Atomic Energy Community (Euratom) and non - member States of the European Union on the participation of the latter in the Community arrangements for the early exchange of information in the event of radiological emergency (ECURIE) (2003/C 102/02), Law on No. 152 Convention concerning Occupational Safety and Health (Dock Work), and the Law on the Ratification of the Seafarers' Identity Documents Convention (Revised), 2003, (No.185). In addition, they adopted the Decision on accepting Annex 1 from the Shareholders' Agreement signed between Montenegro and AA S.p.A.

Within the agenda item *Elections and Appointments*, Branislav Prelević was appointed as Chief Executive of the Board of the Energy Regulatory Agency, while Zoran Jelić was appointed as member of the State Audit Institution. Furthermore, Nikola Fabris was appointed as Vice-governor for financial stability and payment in the Central Bank of Montenegro, while Irena Radović was appointed as Vice-governor for the banking system oversight.

At the Third Sitting of the First Ordinary Session of the Parliament of Montenegro in 2017, the following were adopted: Law on quality schemes of agricultural and nutrient products, Law on Amendments to the Law on the Execution and Security, Law on Amendments to the Law on Public Enforcement Officers, Law on Amendments to the Law on the Practice of Law, Law on Amendments to the Law on Obligations, Law on Amendments to the Law on the protection of personal data, Law on Amendments to the Law on wages of employees in the Public Sector, Law on the Amendments to the Law on Contributions for Compulsory Social Insurance, Law on the Amendments to the Law on Health Insurance, Annual Report on the realization of the National Consumer Protection Programme (2015-2018) for the period between July 2015 and June 2016, 2015 Performance Report of the Commission for the Control of Public Procurement Procedures, Report on the awarded StateAid in Montenegro for 2015, 2015 Performance Report of the Deposit Protection Fund, 2015 Performance Report of the Fund for the protection and exercise of minority rights, and 2016 Performance Report of the Security and Defence Committee.

In addition, within the agenda item Elections and Appointments, MPs elected Aleksandar Jovičević as Secretary General of the Parliament of Montenegro, whereas Mersudin Gredić was elected as Deputy Secretary General of the Parliament of Montenegro.

At the Second Special Sitting of the First Ordinary (Spring) Session of the Parliament of Montenegro in 2017, MPs were addressed by Federica Mogherini, The High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy (HR) and Vice - President of the European Commission.

Prime Minister's Questions and MPs' questions

At the Fourth Special Sitting of the First Ordinary Session of the Parliament of Montenegro in 2017, within the item *Prime Minister's Questions and MPs' Questions*, Prime Minister of Montenegro and ministers in the Government answered the questions posed by MPs. The Prime Minister was posed three questions, while the ministers were posed thirty questions and two additional questions.

Proposals for law deliberated in committees

- **Proposal for a Law on quality schemes of agricultural and nutrient products** was considered and proposed to the Parliament of Montenegro 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 the Execution and Security** was considered and

proposed to the Parliament for adoption by the Committee on Political System, Judiciary and Administration.

- **Proposal for a Law on Amendments to the Law on Public Enforcement Officers** was considered and proposed to the Parliament for adoption by the Committee on Political System, Judiciary and Administration.
- **Proposal for a Law on Amendments to the Law on the Practice of Law** was considered and proposed to the Parliament for adoption by the Committee on Political System, Judiciary and Administration.
- **Proposal for a Law on Amendments to the Law on Health Insurance** was considered and proposed to the Parliament for adoption by the Legislative Committee and the Committee on Health, Labour and Social Welfare.
- **Proposal for a Law on Amendments to the Law on Plant protection products** was considered and proposed to the Parliament for adoption by the Committee on Tourism, Agriculture, Ecology and Spatial Planning.
- **Proposal for a Law on Amendments to the Law on wages of employees in the Public Sector** 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 Law on Contributions for Compulsory Social Insurance** 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 Law on the protection of personal data** was considered and proposed to the Parliament for adoption by the Legislative Committee and the Committee on Human Rights and Freedoms.

Proposals for other acts deliberated in committees

- **Proposal for a Decision on accepting Annex 1 from the Shareholders' Agreement signed between Montenegro and A2A S.p.A.** was considered and proposed to the Parliament for adoption by the Committee on Economy, Finance and Budget and the Legislative Committee.

Other activities of working bodies

- At the third meeting of the **Committee on Political System, Judiciary and Administration**, held on 9 March, members of the Committee supported the 2016 Performance Report of the Committee and the 2017 Work Plan of the Committee.
- At the fourth meeting of the **Committee on European Integration**, held on 9 March, members of the Committee supported the 2017 Work Plan of the Committee. In addition, the Committee members also

considered the proposals concerning the future activities of the Committee and the quality in terms of monitoring the EU accession process.

- At the fourth meeting of the **Committee on International Relations and Emigrants** held on 3 March, members of the Committee adopted the 2016 Performance Report of the Committee, the 2017 Work Plan of the Committee, Rulebook on Forming and Activities of Friendship Groups of the Parliament of Montenegro, as well as the Platform on the Cooperation between the Committee on International Relations and Emigrants and Montenegrin Diaspora. In addition, the Committee considered and adopted Proposal for a Rulebook on the implementation of international activities of the Parliament of Montenegro, which will be forwarded to the Collegium of the President of the Parliament for adoption. Furthermore, the Committee reached the Decision on the Election of two members of the Committee on International Relations and Emigrants in the Council for Cooperation with Emigrants. Chair of the Committee Andrija Nikolić and member of the Committee Ervin Ibrahimović were elected as members of the Council.
- At the eighth meeting of the **Committee on Economy, Finance and Budget**, held on 1 March, members of the Committee conducted a consultative hearing of candidates applicants to the Public Call for the Appointment of one member of the State Audit Institution Senate, as follows: Nela Ćuković, Sonja Smolović, Zoran Jelić, Milan Kastratović and Aleksandar Vučinić. After introducing the candidates and examining the submitted documentation, in accordance with Article 33 of the Law on State Audit Institution, the Committee decided to propose to the Parliament to appoint Zoran Jelić as member of the State Audit Institution.



- At the third meeting of the **Committee on Human Rights and Freedoms**, held on 7 March, the Committee supported the 2015 Performance Report of the Fund for the Protection and the Exercise of Minority Rights, and adopted the 2016 Performance Report of the Committee, 2017 Work Plan of the Committee, as well as nine reports and information on activities realized by the Committee within the period June-December 2016. In addition, the Committee discussed the recent events that took place on 15 February, in the premises

of the Parliament during the Sitting of the First Extraordinary Session of the Parliament of Montenegro in 2017. On the occasion, the Committee has reached a unanimous conclusion which was submitted to the Collegium of the President of the Parliament of Montenegro.



At the fourth meeting, held on 28 March, the Committee unanimously adopted five information on the activities of the Committee in the period January-March 2017.

- At the fourth meeting of the **Gender Equality Committee**, held on 28 March, the Committee adopted the 2017 Work Plan of the Committee.

At the end of the fourth meeting on 29 March, the Committee determined the programme of the sixth session of the Women's parliament.

- **At the fifth meeting of the Committee on Health, Labour and Social Welfare**, held on 27 March, members of the Committee considered the 2016 Performance Report of the Committee and the 2017 Work Plan of the Committee.

The fifth meeting resumed on 28 March, during which the Committee adopted the 2016 Performance Report of the Committee and the 2017 Work Plan of the Committee.

- At the first meeting of the **Anti-Corruption Committee**, held on 9 March, members of the Committee adopted the 2016 Performance Report of the Committee and the 2017 Work Plan of the Committee.

At the second meeting of the Committee, held on the same day, the Committee held a consultative hearing of the Director of the Agency for the Prevention of Corruption Sreten Radonjić, on the topic: "Realization of the Oversight and Control Plan for the Election of Municipal Councillors in Nikšić, scheduled for 12 March 2017".

At the third meeting of the Committee, held on 15 March, the Committee considered and supported the Proposal for Guidelines for proper conduct of MPs in the Parliament of Montenegro within the Horizontal programme of the European Union and Council of Europe for the Western Balkans and Turkey.

NEWS FROM PARLIAMENT



Visit of the President of the PACE to the Parliament of Montenegro

President of the Parliament of Montenegro Ivan Brajović met with on 16 March with the President of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe Pedro Agramunt, where he emphasised that the accession to the Council of Europe was one of the first decisions of the independent Montenegro, as an expression of its deep commitment to the principles and core values of the organisation.

PACE President Pedro Agramunt indicated that Montenegro, as the youngest member of the Council of Europe, has made significant progress by fulfilling all the obligations undertaken with the membership in this organisation.

In addition, PACE President met with the Delegation of the Parliament of Montenegro to the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, the Committee on Human Rights and Freedoms, the Committee on International Relations and Emigrants, as well representatives of MP Groups in the Parliament of Montenegro.

MPs expressed satisfaction with the visit of the President of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe to Montenegro, describing it as a continuation of very successful cooperation and good overall relations between the Council of Europe and Montenegro. During the

discussion, inter alia, it was emphasised that Montenegro over the past decade had shown commitment to common values, by building and strengthening democratic institutions, strengthening the rule of law, as well as with the protection and promotion of the core values of the European Convention on Human Rights.

MPs particularly welcomed initiatives of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe aimed at promoting the protection of human rights, namely the one against hatred and intolerance (#NoHateNoFear Initiative), which was launched last year by the PACE President, Pedro Agramunt.



Committee on European integration of the Parliament of Montenegro and the Committee on European Union Policies of the Senate of the Republic of Italy signed the Protocol on the cooperation

Chair of the Committee on European integration of the Parliament of Montenegro Adrijan Vuksanović and Vannino Chiti, Chairperson of the Committee on European Union Policies signed on 27 March the Protocol on the cooperation between both committees. The Protocol, inter alia, guarantees the exchange of information and experience on dossiers of mutual interest regarding the European Union, coordination for the purpose of joint action in the COSAC meetings as well as other European conferences, as well as organising professional education programmes.

After signing the Protocol, Vuksanović and Chiti spoke at the conference organised by the Ministry of European Affairs on the “60th anniversary of the Treaties of Rome: Further path of Europe”. The conference was organised on the 60th anniversary since signing the Treaties of Rome,

when the European Economic Community (EEC) and Euratom were established. Chiti stressed the importance of the Rome Declaration, adopted on 25 March, by which the representatives of the member states and European institutions confirmed their commitment to building a stronger and more united Europe, but also expressed their preference for the idea of “Multi-speed Europe”. The official attitude of Italy was that that all Western Balkan countries should become part of a united Europe.

Senators Stefano Collina and Bartolomeo Amidei, as well as Deputy Director General of the DG for the European Union of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation Carlo Lo Cascio and Ambassador Vincenzo Del Monaco also attended the meeting.

Members of the Delegation to the NATO PA participated in the Spring Session of the Permanent Committee

Members of the Delegation to the NATO PA Obrad Mišo Stanišić and Genci Nimanbegu participated in the Spring Session of the Permanent Committee, which took place from 31 March to 1 April in Germany.

Members of the Standing Committee paid attention to the financial documents: Audit Report on the Financial

Statements of the NATO PA and the NATO PA Provident Fund for the year ending 31 December 2016, which was presented by the Chair of the International Board of Auditors for NATO Lyn Sachs, and was followed by discussion on the topic “Financial Accountability and Transparency at NATO”.

IN FOCUS



President of the Parliament of Montenegro met with the High Representative of the European Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy and Vice-President of the European Commission Federica Mogherini

President of the Parliament of Montenegro Ivan Brajović met on 1 March with the High Representative of the European Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy and Vice-President of the European Commission Federica Mogherini, prior to her address to the Parliament of Montenegro.



President Brajović informed the High Representative that Montenegro, a country of Western Balkans would remain a strong promoter of democratic principles and values fostered by the European Union, and that integration to the EU represents the best framework for

conducting domestic reforms and improving the quality of our citizen lives. The activities of the Parliament of Montenegro are aimed at strengthening the rule of law, as a cornerstone of European integration. Over 60 reforms have been adopted during the previous period. President Brajović stated that a positive assessment of the last elections by all the relevant international actors, a high turnout of citizens of Montenegro, as well as the majority support to the European path were a validation that the country had taken the right direction.

In addition, Brajović emphasised that all the political parties calling themselves pro-European and Euro-Atlantic should be aware that the fight for their political goals must continue within the premises of the Parliament.

The interlocutors concluded that Montenegro continued to participate actively in the regional cooperation, thus contributing to the stability and safety of the Western Balkans. Montenegro's responsible approach consisted in good neighbouring relations, harmonization with the Common Foreign Security Policy, as well as the commitment to European values.

PARLIAMENTARY GLOSSARY

Second Reading. "A Second Reading is one of the stages in the legislative process where the legislature considers the proposed law and renders its decision about it.

According to the Rules of Procedure of the Parliament of Montenegro, the second reading is envisaged as a consideration of the proposal for a law at a sitting of the Parliament, i.e. a general debate on the proposal of a law. At this stage, the Parliament in its debate considers the Constitutional grounds referred to in Article 16 of the Constitution, as well as reasons for the adoption of the law; its compliance with European legislation and ratified international treaties; the substance and effects of the proposed solutions and the estimated funds required from the budget for the enforcement of the law. After the general debate is concluded, the Parliament decides on the proposal of a law in general and may decide to accept or not to accept it in general terms.

If the proposal of a law is not accepted in general is not subject either to detailed debate or to decision making. If the Parliament adopts the proposal of a law in general, before proceeding to a detailed debate, the President of the Parliament invites the responsible committees to additionally consider the proposal of a law and submitted amendments, and to submit a relevant report within two days at latest.

If in the general debate there are no disputes regarding the constitutional grounds or the need for the adoption of the law, and no amendments have been submitted to the proposal of a law or the submitted amendments have been accepted by the entity proposing the law, the detailed debate and decision making with regard to the law as a whole may proceed immediately after the adoption of the proposal of a law in general." 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. 285-286.

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1 March

- President of the Parliament of Montenegro Ivan Brajović met with the High Representative of the European Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy and Vice-President of the European Commission Federica Mogherini, prior to her address to the Parliament of Montenegro.

2 March

- President of the Parliament of Montenegro Ivan Brajović received the President of the Parliament of Hessen Norbert Kartman, who paid an official visit to Montenegro. Presidents of both Parliaments discussed strengthening of parliamentary cooperation between Montenegro and Hessen. President Brajović informed the high-level official about the dynamics of Montenegro's accession to NATO and the EU. Kartman emphasised that the aim of his visit to the Parliament of Montenegro was to show the sincere interest of the Federal Republic of Germany and its federal state Hessen to help strengthening of security and peace in the Balkans and the security in Europe as a whole. President Kartman expressed the full support to Montenegro's membership to NATO, while he emphasised that the European integration process should be accelerated. The two interlocutors exchanged opinions with regard to the domestic political events, as well as issues of regional importance.

3 March

- President of the Parliament of Montenegro Ivan Brajović received the Ambassador of France to Montenegro Christine Toudic. The interlocutors exchanged their views on the overall process of reforms, political and economic situation, and the dynamics of the European and Euro-Atlantic path of our country, of extreme importance for the stability of the Western Balkans. They jointly assessed that Montenegro was a promoter of European and Euro-Atlantic values as well as a stable country, which has shown its democratic capacities in terms of solving complicated issues and overcoming all the previous challenges.
- Members of the Committee on Economy, Finance and Budget Genci Nimanbegu and Petar Smolović participated in the Interparliamentary conference entitled "Trans-European networks policy and connectivity agenda", which took place in Prishtina. The participants discussed the previous results reached within the summits of the Berlin process as well as expectations when it comes to the goals of the six

countries of the Western Balkans, including Montenegro, which were envisaged to be attained during the summit in July 2017 in Italy.

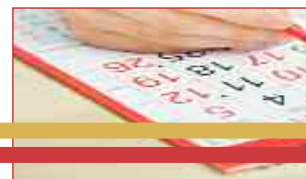
7 March

- Chair of the Committee on International Relations and Emigrants Andrija Nikolić met with the Ambassador of Romania to Montenegro Ferdinand Nagy. Nagy stated that Romania would continue to support Montenegro on its European path as well as the final phase of NATO integration. During the meeting, Nagy emphasised the importance of the Parliament as a legislative institution in which all political issues of state interest are solved, and strongly believed in a soon return of the opposition to the Parliament. The interlocutors emphasised that both countries nurtured friendly relations, with a mutual interest to further promote the relations in the field of economy, as well as strengthening of parliamentary friendship groups, which would promote good relations at all levels.
- President of the Parliament of Montenegro Ivan Brajović met with the non-resident Ambassador of Algeria to Montenegro Abdelhamid Chebchoub. The interlocutors concluded that traditionally good political relations ought to be followed by adequate economic cooperation. They spoke about the plan of bilateral cooperation, whereas the following were identified as priority areas: Energy, Transport, Maritime Transport and Tourism. President Brajović emphasised that Montenegro should take pride in its model of foreign relations, taking into account its neighbourly relations, the success achieved when it comes to the European and Euro-Atlantic integrations, as well as a multinational and inter-religious harmony between citizens in the country. The Ambassador of Algeria emphasised that Montenegro is a respected country, which has made notable progress following its independence.
- Member of the Committee on Education, Science, Culture and Sports participated in a round-table, which was organised within the project "Strengthening integrity and fight against corruption in High Education".

8 March

- President of the Parliament of Montenegro Ivan Brajović received the Ambassador of Japan to Montenegro, with the headquarters in Belgrade Juichi Takahara. President Brajović and Ambassador Takahara emphasised the importance of intensifying higher level political contacts,

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as well as advancing the cooperation between Montenegro and Japan in terms of project activities. They also considered the possibility of improving the cooperation in Tourism, by connecting national touristic organisations, tour operators and airline companies, aimed at increasing the Tourism traffic in both countries. Ambassador Takahara commended President Brajović for the success Montenegro has achieved on its path of European and Euro-Atlantic integration and was convinced that the fulfilling of foreign-policy goals would go hand in hand with the country's envisaged dynamics. The interlocutors concluded that the projects which have been realized so far presented an example of good cooperation between both countries, and further efforts should be invested in the future in strengthening the existing cooperation, both at the state and local level.



- Chair of the Gender Equality Committee Nada Drobnjak and member of the Committee Petar Porobić participated in the Interparliamentary meeting, which took place on 8 and 9 March in Brussels, and was organised by the Committee on Women's Rights and Gender Equality (FEMM) at the European Parliament. The meeting was held on the topic of "Women's Economic Empowerment: Let's Act Together". The Montenegrin Delegation took part in two panels entitled: "Global Perspective: Freedom from Violence and Empowerment" and "Global Perspective: Women's Economic Empowerment and the UN Sustainable Development Goals".
- Chair and members of the Committee on Human Rights and Freedoms as well as Chair and members of the Anti-Corruption Committee participated in a workshop, on the topic: "Ethics and Prevention of Conflict of Interest". The workshop was organised by the Council of Europe, within the Horizontal programme for the Western Balkans and Turkey - a project dedicated to fight against organized economic crime in Montenegro, led by the Council of Europe expert Quentin Reed.

14 March

- Chair of the Committee on International Relations and

Emigrants Andrija Nikolić met with the Ambassador of the Republic of Poland to Montenegro Irena Tatarzyńska. The interlocutors expressed satisfaction over the excellent political relations between both countries, as well as an increase of Polish investors in Montenegro, which have already initiated implementation of very significant projects in our country. Nikolić and Tatarzyńska agreed that there was enough room for the promotion of relations in the area of Economy, Tourism, Agriculture and Culture, while interparliamentary friendship group, which is currently in its last phase of formation, could also contribute to promoting their cooperation.

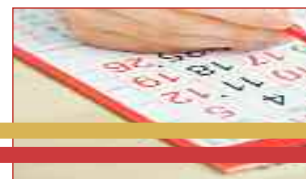
15 March

- Chair of the Committee on Economy, Finance and Budget Vujica Lazović met with the Delegation of the Kosovo's National Audit Office, composed of General auditor Besnik Osmani, and Imri Semetishti and Mirlinda Ahmeti, representatives of the National Audit Office. During the meeting, they discussed the procedures and deadlines for considering of budgets and final budget accounts in parliaments; recommendations and methods of monitoring the implementation of recommendations set by state audit institutions; the status of audit institutions in terms of strengthening the economic autonomy, possibilities of advancing cooperation between parliaments and state audit institutions, as well as the relation between competent working bodies of parliaments and audit institutions.

16 March

- President of the Parliament of Montenegro Ivan Brajović met with the President of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe Pedro Agramunt. President Brajović expressed gratitude for the support of the Council of Europe, particularly of the Venetian Commission and emphasised the importance of the support provided through projects aimed at the rule of law, fight against corruption, economic and organised crime, fight against discrimination and protection of rights of vulnerable groups. President of the PACE referred to the role of the Council of Europe in the time when the European continent is facing various challenges, among which are also migrant and refugee crisis and it's longterm effects on countries hosts, safety issue, respectively the fight against terrorism.
- President of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe Pedro Agramunt met with the

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20 March

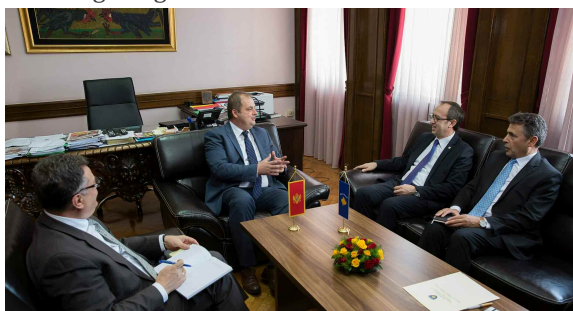
Delegation of the Parliament of Montenegro to the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, the Committee on Human Rights and Freedoms, the Committee on International Relations and Emigrants, as well representatives of MP Groups in the Parliament of Montenegro. In separate meetings, they discussed the cooperation between Montenegro and the PACE within the post-monitoring dialogue, as well as current political challenges and regional cooperation on the occasion of the tenth anniversary of membership in the Council of Europe.

- Vice-President of the Parliament of Montenegro Genci Nimanbegu met with the Ambassador of the Republic of Slovenia Mitja Močnik. The interlocutors exchanged their opinions on the situation in Montenegro after the boycott of the work in the Parliament by the opposition parties. Vice-President Nimanbegu emphasised that their voters also demanded that their representatives in the Parliament spoke up in the Parliament regarding the current situation. The Ambassador Močnik emphasised that in order to overcome the current situation, a good will from both sides was needed. In addition, he added that the boycott of the Parliament was unnecessary, unproductive, lacking of arguments.



17 March

- Vice-President of the Parliament of Montenegro Genci Nimanbegu met with the Minister of Finances of the Republic of Kosovo Abdullah Hoti. During the meeting, the interlocutors expressed mutual satisfaction over the development of relations of both countries, the governments and parliaments, which is so far very good. Possibilities for further improving the situation in this area have been also discussed. In addition, Minister Hoti was acquainted with the longterm requests of Albanians over the final definition of the status of the City Municipality of Tuzi, restoring the property to the owners in Valdanos as well as the current situation with the Solana, proportional representation of Albanians in institutions of the system, as well as steps towards achieving the goal.



21 March

- Member of the Permanent Delegation of the Parliament of Montenegro to the NATO Parliamentary Assembly Obrad Mišo Stanišić participated in the 94th Rose Roth Seminar and the Seminar for Special Groups for the Mediterranean and the Middle East, which took place from 21 and 23 March in Sarajevo, on the topic: "Western Balkans: transitional challenges, European goals and connectivity to the MENA region".
- President of the Parliament of Montenegro Ivan Brajović participated in the XI Conference of presidents of parliaments of small European countries, which took place from 21 to 23 March in San Marino. This year's conference was marked by debates on the geopolitical situation and role of small countries when it comes to the humanitarian crisis, advantages and disadvantages of small countries in terms of international relations as well culture and tourism throughout history.
- Chair of the Committee on European Integration Adrijan Vuksanović and members of the Committee Marija Maja Čatović, Andrija Nikolić, Mihailo Anđušić, as well as MPs Miloš Nikolić and Nikola Rakočević paid a two-day visit to the European Parliament, from 21 to 22 March. During a two-day visit to Brussels, members of the Delegation of the Parliament of Montenegro were given the chance to discuss political culture and political parties in the European Parliament, EU legislative process and its financial support to candidate countries. They also

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discussed political subjects such as the current situation in Montenegro and its progress towards joining the EU.

23 March

- The Delegation of the Parliament of Montenegro composed of Chair of the Gender Equality Committee Nada Drobnjak and Committee member Aleksandra Vuković, on the invitation of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly, participated in the Conference entitled "The OSCE Security Policy from women's perspective", which took place in Vienna, under the organization of the OSCE PA. Within the panel, the following subjects were discussed: "Challenges and Perspectives for a new paneuropean security architecture", "Advantages and Disadvantages of the current OSCE missions", and the "Women's role in the fight against violence-prone extremism and terrorism".



27 March

- Chair of the Committee on European integration of the Parliament of Montenegro Adrijan Vuksanović and Vannino Chiti, Chairperson of the Committee on European Union Policies signed the Protocol on the cooperation between both committees. The Protocol, inter alia, guarantees the exchange of information and experience on dossiers of mutual interest regarding the European Union, coordination for the purpose of joint action in the COSAC meetings as well as other European conferences, as well as organising professional education programmes.



- President Ivan Brajović met with the Chairperson of the Committee on European Union Policies of the Republic of Italy Vannino Chiti, senators Stefano Collina and Bartolomeo Amideo, as well as Deputy Director General/Principal Director for the Countries of Europe Carlo Lo Cascio. The interlocutors jointly concluded that this visit as well as the signing of the Protocol on the cooperation between the Committee on European Integration of the Parliament of Montenegro and the Committee on European Union Policies further contributed to interparliamentary cooperation, which would in the future become more substantial.



30 March

- President met with the Minister of Foreign and European Affairs of the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg Jean Asselborn. The interlocutors exchanged opinions regarding the political situation, bilateral relations between both countries as well as on the dynamics of Montenegro's European and Euro-Atlantic path. The special focus was on the process of ratification of the Montenegro's NATO Accession Protocol.

31 March

- Members of the Permanent Delegation of the Parliament of Montenegro in the NATO PA Obrad Mišo Stanišić and Genci Nimanbegu participated in the Spring Session of the Permanent Committee, which took place from 31 March to 1 April in Germany.

