



Parliament of Montenegro

# NEWSLETTER OPEN PARLIAMENT

Newsletter on the Parliament of Montenegro Performance ♦ No. 70 ♦ April 2017

## CONTENT

**Legislative and oversight activity.....2**

**News from Parliament.....5**

*The Sixth Session of the Women's Parliament was held.....5*

*President of the Parliament of Montenegro participated in the Conference of Speakers of EU Parliaments .....5*

**In focus.....6**

**Parliamentary glossary.....6**

**From the history of Montenegrin Parliamentarism .....7**

**Calendar.....8**

## IN FOCUS

*Members of the committees of the Parliament of Montenegro met with the SIGMA Delegation, which paid a visit to Montenegro*

p.6



## PARLIAMENTARY GLOSSARY

*Do you know...  
what is a Third Reading?*

p.6

## FROM THE HISTORY OF MONTENEGRIN PARLIAMENTARISM

*Constitution of the People's Republic of Montenegro of  
1946*

p.7

# OPEN PARLIAMENT



Parliament of Montenegro

Newsletter on the Parliament of Montenegro Performance ♦ Electronic format ♦ Release: monthly ♦ Year VII ♦ No. 70 ♦ April 2017

## FOREWORD

*Dear readers,*

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

During April, the Fifth and the Seventh sittings of the First Ordinary Session of the Parliament of Montenegro took place, as well as the Sixth special sitting of the Ordinary Session of the Parliament of Montenegro. During both sittings, MPs adopted 20 laws.

In April, committees considered 21 proposals for a law, three proposals for a decision, and performed other activities within their oversight role.

In focus of this month's newsletter is the visit paid by the SIGMA Delegation to Montenegro, on which occasion several meetings took place with the members of the committees of the Parliament of Montenegro.

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 Fifth Sitting of the First Ordinary Session of the Parliament of Montenegro in 2017**, MPs adopted the following: Law on Amendments to the Law on Plant Nutrition Products; Law on Amendments to the Law on Agriculture and Rural Development; Law on Ratification of the International Agreement on Olive Oil and Table Olives, 2015; Law on Ratification of the Convention for Establishment of European and Mediterranean Plant Protection Organisation; Law on Ratification of the European Convention on Animal Protection in International Transport; Law on Amendments to the Law on Expropriation; Law on Amendments to the Law on Restitution of the Taken Away Property Rights and Compensation; Law on Amendments to the Law on Local Self-Government Financing; Law on Amendments to the Law on Free Access to Information; Law on Illegal Advertising; Law on Health Inspection; Law on Electronic Identification and Electronic Signature; Law on Amendments to the Law on the Capital City; Law on Amendments to the Law on Territorial Organisation of Montenegro; Law on Amendments to the Law on Explosive Substances; Law on Amendments to the Law on Basic Principles of Intelligence and Security Sector of Montenegro; Law on Amendments to the Law on Air Transport; Law on Amendments to the Law on deployment of the Armed Forces of Montenegro units to the international forces and participation of members of civil defence, police and public administration employees in peacekeeping missions and other activities abroad (second vote); Law on Amendments to the Law on Minority Rights and Freedoms (second vote); 2016 Personal Data Protection and Access to Information Status Report; 2016

Parliament of Montenegro

The newsletter is edited by the Education Centre of the Parliamentary Institute.

Annual Performance Report of the Judicial Council and the overall state of the judiciary; 2016 Performance Report of the Agency for Prevention of Corruption; 2016 Performance Report of the Protector of Human Rights and Freedoms; as well as the Opinion with the Proposal of the Reply to the Constitutional Court of Montenegro with regard to the constitutional complaints and supplements to the constitutional complaints submitted by Milan Knežević and Andrija Mandić.

**At the Seventh Sitting of the First Ordinary Session of the Parliament of Montenegro in 2017**, the Parliament adopted the Law on Ratification of the North-Atlantic Treaty and the Protocol to the North-Atlantic Treaty on the Accession of Greece and Turkey.

### *Prime Minister's Questions*

**At the Sixth Special Sitting of the First Ordinary Session of the Parliament of Montenegro in 2017**, within the item *Prime Minister's Questions*, Prime Minister of Montenegro answered the questions posed by MPs. The Prime Minister was posed three questions.

### *Proposals for law deliberated in committees*

- **Proposal for a Law on Amendments to the Law on Plant protection products** was considered and proposed to the Parliament for adoption by the Legislative Committee.
- **Proposal for a Law on Electronic Identification and Electronic Signature** 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 Illegal Advertising** 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 Expropriation** 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 Agriculture and Rural Development** was considered and proposed to the Parliament for adoption by the Legislative Committee and the Committee on Tourism, Agriculture, Ecology and Spatial Planning.
- **Proposal for a Law on Amendments to the Law on Audit of EU Funds** was considered and proposed to the Parliament for adoption by the Legislative Committee and Committee on Economy, Finance and Budget.
- **Proposal for a Law on Ratification of the International Agreement on Olive Oil and Table Olives, 2015** 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 Convention for Establishment of European and Mediterranean**

**Plant Protection Organisation** was considered and proposed to the Parliament for adoption by Legislative Committee and the Committee on International Relations and Emigrants.

- **Proposal for a Law on Ratification of the European Convention on Animal Protection in International Transport** 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 Health Inspection** 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 Free Access to Information** was considered and proposed to the Parliament for adoption by the Legislative Committee and the Committee on Political System, Judiciary and Administration.
- **Proposal for a Law on Territorial Organisation of Montenegro** was considered and proposed to the Parliament for adoption by the Committee on Political System, Judiciary and Administration and the Legislative Committee.
- **Proposal for a Law on Amendments to the Law on Restitution of the Taken Away Property Rights and Compensation** 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 Explosive Substances** was considered and proposed to the Parliament for adoption by the Legislative Committee and the Committee on Tourism, Agriculture, Ecology and Spatial Planning.
- **Proposal for a Law on Amendments to the Law on Basic Principles of Intelligence and Security Sector of Montenegro** was considered and proposed to the Parliament for adoption by the Legislative Committee and the Security and Defence Committee.
- **Proposal for a Law on Amendments to the Law on Local Self-Government Financing** 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 Capital City** was considered and proposed to the Parliament for adoption by the Legislative Committee and the Committee on Political System, Judiciary and Administration.
- **Proposal for a Law on Amendments to the Law on Air Transport** 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 Infrastructure of Spatial Data** was considered and proposed to the Parliament for adoption by the Committee on Tourism, Agriculture, Ecology and Spatial Planning.
- **Proposal for a Law on Ratification of the North-Atlantic Treaty and the Protocol to the North-**



**Atlantic Treaty on the Accession of Greece and Turkey** 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 Amendments to the Law on Territorial Organisation of Montenegro** was considered and proposed to the Parliament for adoption by the Legislative Committee.

#### *Other activities of working bodies*

- At the twelfth meeting of the **Legislative Committee** of 5 April, the Committee members considered allegations contained in the constitutional complaints and amendments to the complaints, submitted to the Constitutional Court by Milan Knežević and Andrija Mandić. Following the discussion, the Committee determined opinions with the proposals for the response to the Constitutional Court of Montenegro.
- At the fifth meeting of the **Security and Defence Committee**, held on 7 April, the Committee considered and unanimously supported the 2016 Performance Report of the National Security Agency, and adopted several conclusions.

At the sixth meeting of 21 April, the Committee considered and unanimously supported the 2016 Performance Report of the Ministry of Defence, the 2016 Status Report on the Army of Montenegro, and the 2016 Report on participation of members of the Army of Montenegro in international forces, peacekeeping missions and other activities abroad, with conclusions.

- At the fifth meeting of the **Committee on Political System, Judiciary and Administration**, held on 20 April, the Committee considered the 2016 Performance Report of the Judicial Council and the overall situation in the judiciary covering the year of 2016, which was submitted by the Judicial Council. On this occasion, the Committee shall submit to the Parliament to adopt the Committee Report with the proposal for conclusions.
- At the sixth meeting of the **Committee on European Integration**, on 13 April, the Committee adopted the Fifth and Sixth Semi-Annual Report on the overall activities within the integration process of Montenegro to the European Union, for the period 2016. At the fifth meeting, held the same day, members of the Committee adopted unanimously the Twelfth Quarterly Report on the Overall activities within the integration process of Montenegro to the European Union, for the period October-December 2016. In addition, the Committee members considered the Third and Fourth Quarterly Report on the Implementation of commitments in the Programme of the Accession of Montenegro to the European Union, for the period 2016-2018, the Programme of the Accession of Montenegro to the European Union, for the period 2017-2018, as well

as the Report on the Implementation of the 2016 Action Plan and the Action Plan covering the year 2017 for the implementation of the Strategy for informing the public about Montenegro's accession to the European Union, for the period 2014-2018.

- At the fifth meeting of the **Committee on Human Rights and Freedoms** of 24 April, the Committee members considered and adopted the 2016 Performance Report of the Protector of Human Rights and Freedoms in Montenegro and 2016 Personal Data Protection and Access to Information Status Report.
- At the fifth meeting of the **Gender Equality Committee**, held on 18 April, the Committee considered the Implementation Report on the Implementation Programme 2015-2016 of the Plan of Action for Gender Equality (PAPRR) for 2016 and learned about the Plan of Action for Gender Equality (PAPRR) for 2017-2021 with the Implementation Programme for the period 2017-2018. At the sixth meeting of 19 April, members of the Committee supported the 2016 Performance Report of the Protector of Human Rights and Freedoms and proposed to the Committee on Human Rights and Freedoms as a lead committee to propose it to the Parliament for adoption.
- At the third meeting of the **Committee on Education, Science, Culture and Sports**, held on 5 April, the Committee supported the 2016 Performance Report of the Committee and the 2017 Work Plan of the Committee.
- At the fourth meeting of the **Anti-Corruption Committee**, held on 12 April, members of the Committee considered and supported the 2016 Performance Report of the Agency for the Prevention of Corruption.
- At the seventh meeting of the **Administrative Committee**, 5 April, the Committee decided to readvertise the Third 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. The Committee also determined three proposals for a decision: Proposal for a Decision on the Dismissal and Election of One member of the Legislative Committee of the Parliament of Montenegro. The Committee proposed to the Parliament the following: to dismiss MP Obrad Mišo Stanišić and elect MP Miloš Nikolić; Proposal for a Decision on the Election and Dismissal of the Chair of the Committee and the election of a member of the Committee on Health, Labour and Social Welfare. The Committee proposed to the Parliament to dismiss Miodrag Radunović as Chair of the Committee, elect Suad Numanović, and elect Miodrag Radunović as member of the Committee; Proposal for a Decision on the Election of one member of the Committee on Political System, Judiciary and Administration. The Committee proposed to the Parliament to elect Radule Novović.

## NEWS FROM PARLIAMENT



### *The Sixth Session of the Women's Parliament was held*

The Sixth Session of the Women's Parliament took place on 7 April, which was dedicated to implementation of activities on the need for greater involvement of women in public and political life, as well as involvement of young members of national minorities and Roma, in order to strengthen their engagement in politics.

At the opening of the Women's Parliament, the speakers were Vice President of the Parliament of Montenegro Genci Nimanbegu, Chair of the Gender Equality Committee Nada Drobnjak, Minister of Human and Minority Rights Mehmed Zenka, Protector of Human Rights and Freedoms Šučko Baković, and Advisor to the President of Montenegro Sonja Tomović Šundić.

Among the rest of the invitees, the sitting of the Women's Parliament was attended by Deputy President of the Supreme Court, members of the Government of Montenegro,

representatives of the diplomatic corps, President of the Municipality of Gusinje and of Local Assembly of Šavnik, coordinators for gender equality at ministries and local self-governments.



### *President of the Parliament of Montenegro participated in the Conference of Speakers of EU Parliaments*

President of the Parliament of Montenegro Ivan Brajović was the Head of the delegation that participated in the Conference of Speakers of EU Parliaments, held on 23 and 24 April in Bratislava.

Within the frameworks of the Conference, Brajović had bilateral meetings with the President of the European Parliament Antonio Tajani, presidents of parliaments of Slovakia, the Netherlands, Estonia and Slovenia, as well as with the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Slovakia Miroslav Lajčák. Among the discussed topics were the following: "Future of the EU as a global player in the context of the current global changes and the role of national parliaments" and "Bringing parliamentary agenda closer to citizens in the modern era".



President of the European Parliament Antonio Tajani emphasised the importance of working together at strengthening positions of Montenegro and its

contribution to peace and stability in the Western Balkans. It was assessed that challenges of Europe were a common topic, so inclusion of the Western Balkans was also a common political interest.



The Slovak Minister of Foreign Affairs Miroslav Lajčák said that Montenegro was a positive example in the Balkans, which was a good thing for the European Union and other neighbouring countries. Lajčák confirmed that Montenegro has repeatedly shown its maturity and willingness to resolve its internal issues by its own forces.

Lajčák added that in European democracies, the opposition has a responsibility and that he would like to see that the Montenegrin opposition becomes aware of this responsibility and assume their share of responsibility, but this can happen only in institutions, and not on the street.

## IN FOCUS



### *Members of the committees of the Parliament of Montenegro met with the SIGMA Delegation, which paid a visit to Montenegro*

The SIGMA Delegation paid a visit to Montenegro on 11 April, on which occasion it held a set of meetings with the members of the committees of the Parliament of Montenegro.

Chair of the Committee on Economy, Finance and Budget Vujica Lazović met with the SIGMA Delegation (Support for Improvement in Governance and Management), where the following topics were discussed: the activities on the implementation of public administration reforms and assessing the progress of public finance management; procedures and time limits for consideration of the Budget and Final Budget Account in the Parliament of Montenegro; analysis of the above documents, the control of execution and the control of the realisation of the capital budget; the cooperation of the Committee on Economy, Finance and Budget with State Audit Institution (SAI); monitoring the implementation of recommendations by the SAI, respectively, the conclusions of the Parliament regarding the consideration of the Final Budget Account and the Annual Report of SAI in the part referring to the individual audits and other.

Chair of the Legislative Committee Marta Šćepanović and member of the Committee Jovanka Laličić met Timo Ligi and Valér Jobbágy, members of SIGMA Delegation, which paid an expert visit. The meeting was focused on the cooperation between the Parliament and Government, and members of SIGMA delegation learned about the ways of achieving thereof.

Member of the Committee on Political System, Judiciary and Administration Miloš Nikolić met with Dawid Sześciło,

SIGMA expert (Support for improvement in Governance and Management), in front of the delegation assessing the functioning of public administration in Montenegro. The aim of the visit was to assess the situation in the areas related to: strategic framework for public administration reform, accountability, service delivery and human resource management.



Chair of the Committee on Human Rights and Freedoms Halil Duković and member of the Committee on Political System, Judiciary and Administration Miloš Nikolić met with a SIGMA expert (Support for Improvement in Governance and Management in Eastern and Central Europe countries) Dawid Sześciło. At the meeting with the SIGMA expert in charge of accountability, they discussed the oversight role of the Parliament over the executive authority bodies and independent institutions, and cooperation between the Committee on Human Rights and Freedoms and the Protector of Human Rights and Freedoms of Montenegro.

## PARLIAMENTARY GLOSSARY

**Third Reading.** "A Third Reading is one of the stages in the process of the adoption of a law.

This issue is defined by the Rules of Procedure of the Parliament of Montenegro. After the completed first reading, which concerns the deliberation of a proposal of a law in committees, and the second reading, i.e. a discussion in general in the sitting of the Parliament and possible additional debate in the committees and the submission of a report on that debate, the Parliament proceeds with the debate of the proposal of a law in detail. The debate in detail includes a debate on the solutions provided in the proposal of a law, as well as submitted but not agreed amendments, positions and proposals of the relevant committees. The completed debate in detail is followed by voting on the amendments which are not a constituent part of the proposal of the law and then voting on the law in general is organized. If the proposal of a law contains provisions that define a retroactive effect, the Parliament will have a special vote on whether there is a public interest in the retroactive effect. The proposer of the law may withdraw the proposal of a law at any point before the completion of the debate in detail on the proposed law." <sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Doc. dr Komar, Olivera, Prof. dr Ivana Jelić, Nataša Komnenić, Irena Mijanović, Jelena Radonjić, Vlatko Šćepanović, *Parlamentarni leksikon*, Podgorica, Skupština Crne Gore 2016, p. 303.



# FROM THE HISTORY OF MONTENEGRIN PARLIAMENTARISM



## CONSTITUTION OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF MONTENEGRO OF 1946

### PART II

#### STATE COMPOSITION

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#### Article 52

National Assembly is a representative of the national sovereignty of the People's Republic of Montenegro.

#### Article 53

National Assembly of the People's Republic of Montenegro is a supreme state authority of the PRM entitled to exercise all the authorities pertaining to the People's Republic of Montenegro as proscribed in the Constitution of the PRM, unless it specifies that these authorities shall be exercised by the Presidium of the National Assembly and the Government of the People's Republic of Montenegro.

#### Article 54

The National Assembly of the PRM is elected by the citizens of the People's

Republic of Montenegro, and the law shall stipulate the number of votes needed to win a mandate.

#### Article 55

National Assembly of the People's Republic of Montenegro is elected for a term of four years.

#### Article 56

The legislative authority shall belong entirely to the National Assembly of the PRM.

#### Article 57

The National Assembly shall perform its work in ordinary and extraordinary sessions, and they shall be summoned by the Ordinance of the Presidium of the National Assembly.

Ordinary sessions shall be summoned twice a year, and shall take place no later than 1 June and 1 December.

(...)

Extraordinary sessions are summoned if assessed as necessary by the Presidium or if required by 1/3 of National representatives.

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<sup>1</sup> *Crnogorski ustavi 1905-2005*, Podgorica, NIU Službeni list Republike Crne Gore 2005, str. 48-49.

# CALENDAR



## 3 April

- President of the Parliament of Montenegro Ivan Brajović received the Prime Minister of the Republic of Albania Edi Rama. When it comes to the final phase of NATO integration, President Brajović announced that the ratification of the Washington Treaty would soon be finalised in the Parliament of Montenegro, thus completing preparations for delivery of the instruments of ratification. Brajović thanked Prime Minister Rama for the support of Albania to Montenegro's membership in NATO from the beginning.

## 4 April

- Members of the Committee on European Integration of the Parliament of Croatia met with the representatives of the Committee on European Integration, members of the Committee on International Relations and Emigrants and members of the Committee on Economy, Finance and Budget of the Parliament of Montenegro. The Croatian Delegation was composed of the Chair of the Committee Domagoj Ivan Milošević and members of the Committee Irena Petrijević Vuksanović and Joško Klisović. On behalf of the Committee on International Relations and Emigrants, the meeting was attended by Chair of the Committee Andrija Nikolić and members of the Committee Ervin Ibrahimović, Miloš Nikolić and Dragutin Papović. On behalf of the Committee on Economy, Finance and Budget, the meeting was attended by Chair of the Committee Vujica Lazović and members of the Committee Filip Vuković and Petar Smolović.

- President of the Parliament of Montenegro Ivan Brajović met with the Chair of the European Affairs Committee of the Croatian Parliament Domagoj Miošević. The interlocutors emphasised that the parliamentary cooperation was meaningful and dynamic, and expressed conviction that the two parliaments will strive to establish new models of cooperation in the following period, which would additionally strengthen mutual relations, particularly in the part relating to concrete projects which can be beneficial for the citizens of both countries. The conversation was an opportunity to exchange opinions on internal political developments in Montenegro and Croatia, as well as on issues of regional and global importance.

- Chair of the Committee on Human Rights and Freedoms

Halil Duković and Chair of the Security and Defence Committee Obrad Mišo Stanišić met with the member of Parliament of the CDU/CSU faction of the German Bundestag Marian Wendt, upon his request. During the meeting, the interlocutors discussed migrant crisis and security situation in Montenegro.

- The Third Session of the Students' Parliament was held within the premises of the Parliament of Montenegro. The participants in the Students' Parliament included 83 students from the University of Montenegro, University "Mediterranean", University of Donja Gorica and the Faculty for State and European Studies. The following responded to the students' question: Minister of Defence Predrag Bošković, Minister of European Affairs Aleksandar Andrija Pejović, Minister of Culture Janko Ljumović, Minister of Sports Nikola Janović, National Coordinator for NATO Dragan Pejanović, State Secretary for Political Affairs at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Ambassador Zoran Janković, Ambassador of Slovakia to Montenegro Roman Hloben and H.E. Ambassador of Hungary to Montenegro Krisztián Pósa.



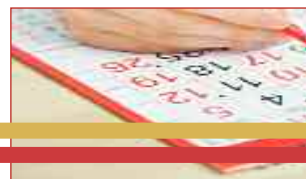
© Photo: Skupština Crne Gore

## 5 April

- President of the Parliament of Montenegro Ivan Brajović met with the Ambassador of Bosnia and Herzegovina to Montenegro Đorđe Latinović. President of the Parliament of Montenegro and the Ambassador of Bosnia and Herzegovina noted the need for continued cooperation in relation to economic, social and other issues of interest to the citizens of both countries.
- President of the Parliament of Montenegro Ivan Brajović met with the representatives of NGO "Young Roma". On this occasion, he congratulated the activists of the non-governmental organisation on the award they received from the European Union, for the best project "Through Education to Integration", which refers to the integration of Roma in the Western Balkans and Turkey. On this occasion, the NGO "Young Roma" signed an Agreement with the Parliament of



# CALENDAR



Montenegro, thus joining the other signatories.

## 6 April

- Chair of the Committee on International Relations and Emigrants Andrija Nikolić met with the Ambassador of the Republic of Italy to Montenegro H.E. Vincenzo Del Monaco. The interlocutors expressed pleasure over excellent political relations of the two countries, but also over the increasingly stronger presence of Italian investors in Montenegro, which were implementing several significant projects in our country. Nikolić and Del Monaco agreed that there was still room for improvement of relations in areas such as energy, tourism, and culture, and an additional momentum to cooperation was expected from the interparliamentary friendship groups, whose forming was at the final stage.
- Chair of the Security and Defence Committee Obrad Mišo Stanišić met with the Chargé d'Affaires of the Embassy of the Czech Republic to Podgorica Petr Šmejkal. The topic of their meeting was organisation of the upcoming visit of the Security and Defence Committee and the Committee on European Affairs of the Chamber of Deputies of the Parliament of the Czech Republic to the Parliament of Montenegro.
- A group of fifth grade students of the Primary School "Maksim Gorki" from Podgorica visited the Parliament of Montenegro, on which occasion they had the opportunity to learn about the work of the Parliament, its responsibilities and functions, history and activities of working bodies and MP groups. In this manner the students got the opportunity to improve and enrich their theoretic knowledge gained at school.
- Chair and members of the Committee on Human Rights and Freedoms met with the European Commission expert in the field of human rights Ivana Roanja. The meeting was also attended by Roxana Merticariu, representative of the European Commission, as well as representatives of the Ministry of Human and Minority Rights and Delegation of the European Union to Montenegro. Expert Ivana Roanja was interested in the supervisory role of the Committee on Human Rights and Freedoms with regard to the work of the Fund for Protection and Exercising of Minority Rights as well as the observations of the Committee when considering the annual performance reports of the Fund and the attitude about its professional capacities.

## 7 April

- Chair of the Committee on European Integration Adrijan

Vuksanović held a meeting with representatives of the Montenegrin Pan-European Union - President Gordana Đurović, Vice - presidents Đorđe Raičević and Rajko Uskoković and Secretary General Vladan Lalović. Chair Vuksanović informed his interlocutors on responsibilities and activities of the Committee in the context of Montenegro's accession to the European Union and that Montenegro was the only country in the region which had a positive practice of participation of civil sector organisations in the accession negotiations.

- President of the Parliament of Montenegro Ivan Brajović took part in the XV Conference of President/Speakers of Parliaments of the Adriatic & Ionian Initiative (AII), held in Ioannina (Greece). On this occasion he delivered speeches on the topics: "Blue Growth in the Adriatic & Ionian Macroregion: needs and opportunities" and "The importance of the parliamentary dimension of the Adriatic & Ionian Initiative".
- The Sixth Session of Women's Parliament was dedicated to implementation of activities on the need for greater involvement of women in public and political life, as well as involvement of young members of national minorities and Roma, in order to strengthen their engagement in politics, as recognised in the Action Plan for Chapter 23, adopted by the Government. At the opening of the Women's Parliament, the speakers were Vice - President of the Parliament of Montenegro Genci Nimanbegu, Chair of the Gender Equality Committee Nada Drobnjak, Minister of Human and Minority Rights Mehmed Zenka, Protector of Human Rights and Freedoms Šučko Baković, and Advisor to the President of Montenegro Sonja Tomović - Šundić.

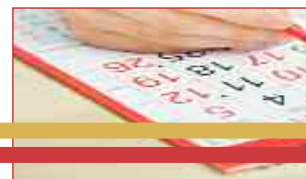
## 11 April

- A group of fifth grade students of the Primary School "Maksim Gorki" from Podgorica visited the Parliament of Montenegro, on which occasion they had the opportunity to learn about the work of the Parliament, its responsibilities and functions, history and activities of working bodies and MP groups.
- Members of the committees of the Parliament of Montenegro had several meetings with the SIGMA Delegation (Support for improvement in Governance and Management), which paid a visit to Montenegro.

## 12 April

- Chair of the Committee on International Relations and Emigrants Andrija Nikolić met with the Ambassador of the Republic of Lithuania to Montenegro Rasa Kairienė.

# CALENDAR



The Ambassador especially emphasised the significance of parliamentary cooperation between Montenegro and Lithuania through parliamentary bodies, as well as through the unique form of bilateral cooperation within friendship groups. Nikolić informed Ambassador Kairienė that the forming of the Friendship Group with the Parliament of Lithuania was ongoing, which represented an additional incentive for establishment of stronger parliamentary relations.



**13 April**

- President of the Parliament of Montenegro Ivan Brajović met with the members of the state parliaments of Hesse and Brandenburg respectively Manfred Penz and Gordon Hoffman, as well as with the Head of the Konrad Adenauer Foundation for Serbia and Montenegro Norbert Beckmann-Dierkes. The interlocutors exchanged their opinions on political topics as well, such as the current situation in Montenegro and the Western Balkans, and they noted clear commitment of our country to integration processes and regional cooperation. It was concluded that, despite its size, Montenegro represented a factor of stability in the region.

**18 April**

- Members of the Committee on European Integration held a forum for discussion with students of the Grammar School "30 September" in Rožaje, on the topic "Montenegro's accession to the EU - needs of the young, their role in the reform process, and the benefits offered to them as future EU citizens". During constructive discussion of students with MPs, there were questions that particularly stood out, namely about Montenegro's readiness to function within the EU, the rights and obligations of students in EU member states, but there were also concrete comments regarding the impact of Brexit not only on the enlargement policy, but also the functioning of the entire Union and raising awareness of citizens about the accession process with the aim of

overall involvement of society in the adoption of European values.

**19 April**

- Chair of the Committee on International Relations and Emigrants Andrija Nikolić met with the Head of the EU Delegation to Montenegro Aivo Orav. During the meeting, Chair Nikolić emphasised that the opposition boycott of the Parliament had no real foundation and that it was not sustainable, assessing further that dialogue between democratically elected representatives is conducted solely in the Parliament. The interlocutors, in addition to the current political situation, exchanged opinions and views on the challenges that lay ahead in the process of joining the European Union.
- President of the Parliament of Montenegro Ivan Brajović met with the US congressman Devin Nunes. The interlocutors exchanged opinions on the process of Euro-Atlantic and European integration of Montenegro, the possibility of intensifying parliamentary cooperation, as well as the current political situation in the country, with emphasis on the work of the Parliament and the opposition's failure to participate in its activities. President of the Parliament expressed his gratitude for the numerous legislative initiatives of the Congress so far, promoting Montenegro's upcoming membership of NATO. Montenegrin caucus, which is promoting Montenegro's interests and improvement of the overall bilateral relations in the Congress, then the Friendship Group for cooperation with the US Congress, as well as the continuous visits of the US officials to Montenegro, these are just some of the examples of strong partnership of the two countries.



**20 April**

- Chair of the Committee on European Integration Adrijan Vuksanović met H.E. Roman Hlobeň, Ambassador of the Republic of Slovakia to Montenegro. The meeting was organised with regard to the Conference of Speakers of

# CALENDAR



the EU Parliaments, which will be held in Bratislava, on 23-24 April, where Chair Vuksanović will participate as a member of the Montenegrin delegation. On this occasion, he will have a series of bilateral meetings with the Slovak officials.



**21 April**

- Chair of the Committee on International Relations and Emigrants Andrija Nikolić met with the Ambassador of the Slovak Republic to Montenegro, H.E. Roman Hloben. The Ambassador Hloben emphasised that Montenegro was the jewel of the policy of joining NATO, because after many years it is the only country at the round of enlargement to become a member of the Alliance. Chair Nikolić stated that the Slovak Republic, with its traditionally good relations with Montenegro, showed it belonged to the group of the most important friends of our country.
- Third group of fifth grade students of the Primary School "Maksim Gorki" from Podgorica visited the Parliament of Montenegro, and were given a tour of the building of the Montenegrin Parliament and learned, as students on previous occasions, about the work of the Parliament, its responsibilities and functions, history and activities of working bodies and MP groups.

**23 April**

- President of the Parliament of Montenegro Ivan Brajović was at the Head of the Delegation that participated in the Conference of Speakers of EU Parliaments, held on 23 and 24 April in Bratislava.

**25 April**

- Member of the Committee on Economy, Finance and Budget Filip Vuković, who is also a representative of the Parliament of Montenegro in the Energy Community Parliamentary Plenum, took part in the Energy Community Parliamentary Plenum meeting held in

Brussels. The Parliamentary Plenum emphasised the need to boost cooperation between Members of National Parliaments of the Energy Community Contracting Parties and Members of the European Parliament in order to achieve the free flow of energy across the EU and Energy Community Contracting Parties. They also stressed the importance of sharing experience and best practice in terms of acquis transposition and implementation. The Energy Community Parliamentary Plenum emphasised the urgency with which it is necessary to address the legal gaps on the interface between Energy Community Contracting Parties and EU Member States.



**28 April**

- Students of "Njegoš" Primary School took part in the 1000th workshop held within the education programme of the Parliament of Montenegro - Democracy Workshops "Barbara Pramer", in Kotor. From the beginning of its realization in October 2012 until today, 22376 participants were attendees of the programme, deriving from 118 Montenegrin schools comprising all the Montenegrin municipalities. Furthermore, the following took part in the workshops: students of an international school from Podgorica, a primary school from the Check Republic, a secondary school from the Great Britain, a secondary religious school from Podgorica as well as attendees of the English Microscholarship Access from Nikšić. In addition to the above stated schools, MPs, domestic and foreign officials as well as other guests participated in the workshops.

