



Parliament of Montenegro

NEWSLETTER OPEN PARLIAMENT

Newsletter on the Parliament of Montenegro Performance ♦ No. 71 ♦ May 2017

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OPEN PARLIAMENT



Parliament of Montenegro

Newsletter on the Parliament of Montenegro Performance ♦ Electronic format ♦ Release: monthly ♦ Year VII ♦ No. 71 ♦ May 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 May, which is, in the form of monthly newsletter "Open Parliament", prepared by Parliamentary Service.

During May, the Eighth Special Sitting of the First Ordinary Session of the Parliament of Montenegro took place. During the sitting, MPs posed three questions to the Prime Minister and 26 questions to the ministers in the Government.

In May, Committees considered eight proposals for a law, and performed other activities within their oversight role.

In focus of this month's newsletter is the meeting between the President of the Parliament of Montenegro and the delegation of the OSCE's Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR), which took place on 29 May.

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

Prime Minister's Questions and MPs Questions

At the Eighth Special Sitting of the First Ordinary Session of the Parliament of Montenegro in 2017, within the item *Prime Minister's Questions and MP Questions*, Prime Minister of Montenegro and ministers in the Government of Montenegro answered the questions posed by MPs. The Prime Minister was posed three questions, while the ministers were posed 26 questions.

Proposals for law deliberated in committees

- **Proposal for a Spatial Data Infrastructure Law** was considered and proposed to the Parliament for adoption by the Legislative Committee.
- **Proposal for a Law on Ratification of the Protocol to Eliminate Illicit Trade in Tobacco Products** 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 Fees for the Use of Tobacco Products and Electro-Acoustic and Acoustic Devices in restaurants and cafés** 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 Consensual Financial Restructuring of Debts to Financial Institutions** 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 Supplements to the Law on Games of Chance** 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 the national brand** was considered and proposed to the Parliament for adoption by the Legislative Committee.
- **Proposal for a Law on Amendments to the Law on State Surveying and Cadastre of Immovable Property** was considered and proposed to the Parliament for adoption by the Legislative Committee.
- **Proposal for a Law on Amendments to the Law on Higher Education** was considered and proposed to the Parliament for adoption by the Legislative Committee.

Other activities of working bodies

- At the 19th meeting, held on 31 May, the **Legislative Committee** has considered the Initiative for constitutional review of Article 203b of the Criminal Procedure Code which was submitted to the Constitutional Court of Montenegro by Mr Vladimir Čejović, attorney-at-law from Podgorica.
- At the seventh meeting of the **Security and Defence Committee**, held on 5 May, members of the Committee considered and adopted the 2016 Performance and Status Report on administrative fields by the Ministry of Interior and the 2016 Status Report on the protection and rescue system in Montenegro.
- At the ninth meeting of the **Committee on Political System, Judiciary and Administration**, held on 18 May, the Committee considered the 2016 Performance Report of the Prosecutorial Council and State Prosecution, which has been submitted to the Parliament of Montenegro by the Prosecutorial Council.
- At the fifth meeting of the **Committee on International Relations and Emigrants**, held on 24 May, the Committee members unanimously determined the proposal for establishing 39 friendship groups with other parliaments, which will be submitted to the Collegium of the President of the Parliament of Montenegro.

At the seventh meeting, which took place on 24 May, the Committee reached the decision on holding a control hearing of the Director of the Diaspora Administration Predrag Mitrović, on the topic entitled: "Activities of the Diaspora Administration in the field of realization of Government's policy on cooperation with emigrants".

- At the sixth meeting of the **Committee on Human Rights and Freedoms**, held on 25 May, members of the Committee considered the Report on the Development and Protection of Minority Rights and other national

minorities in 2016, together with Performance Report and the 2016 Report on the financial management of the Council of the Muslim People, Croatian National Council and the National Council of Albanians in Montenegro for 2016, Following the discussion, the Committee unanimously supported the Report on the Development and Protection of Minority Rights and other national minorities in 2016.

- At the seventh meeting, held on 31 May, the **Gender Equality Committee** considered and supported the Action plan for the Implementation of the United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325 – Women, Peace, and Security in Montenegro (2017-2018).
- At the fifteenth meeting of the **Committee on Economy, Finance and Budget**, held on 15 May, the Committee considered and supported the following reports: 2016 Performance Report of the Agency for Protection of Competition, 2016 Financial Operations Report and Performance Report of the Agency for Electronic Media, 2016 Financial Statements with the Performance Report of the Agency for Medicines and Medical Devices, 2016 Financial and Performance Report of the Energy Regulatory Agency and 2016 Financial Statements and the Performance Report of the Agency for Insurance Supervision. In accordance with the decisions of the Parliament of Montenegro, proceeding from 2017 Work Plan of the Committee, the Committee considered the following reports: Report on implemented investments in accordance with the Decision on granting a long-term lease of land on the peninsula Luštica - Municipality Herceg Novi, for the period 31 August 2015 - 1 December 2016, Report on implementation of investments in accordance with the Contract on a long-term lease of military barracks "Orjenski bataljon" Kumbor, Herceg-Novi, for the period January 2015 - August 2016 and Report on implemented investment and other activities on the basis of the Contract on the lease and construction, relating to "Luštica Development" Municipality Tivat - Luštica Bay project, for the period 2015 - August 2016.

At the sixteenth meeting, held on 16 May, the Committee considered and decided to propose to the Parliament for adoption the 2016 Performance Report of the Central Bank of Montenegro and 2016 Performance Report of the Financial Stability Forum of Montenegro.

At the seventeenth meeting, held on 17 May, the Committee held a consultative hearing of the applicants to the Public Notice for the Election of two members of the Council of the Agency for Electronic Communications and Postal Services.

- The seventh meeting of the **Committee on Health, Labour and Social Welfare**, held on 30 May, was dedicated to the World No Smoking Day.

NEWS FROM PARLIAMENT



Spring Session of the NATO PA took place

Members of the Permanent Delegation of the Parliament of Montenegro to the NATO PA Obrad Mišo Stanišić, Genci Nimanbegu and Tarzan Milošević participated in the work of the Spring Session of the NATO PA, held on 26-29 May in Tbilisi.

The first day of the session, the meeting of the Standing Committee took place, as well as a Joint meeting between the Georgia-NATO Inter-Parliamentary Council and the Standing Committee, which were attended by the Head of the Delegation of the Parliament of Montenegro to the NATO PA Obrad Mišo Stanišić.

During the meeting of the Standing Committee, with regard to consideration of proposal for amendments to the Rules of Procedure of the Parliamentary Assembly relating to Montenegro's upcoming membership in NATO, Obrad Mišo Stanišić, Head of Permanent Delegation of the Parliament of Montenegro, expressed sincere gratitude to all NATO members which, in a year, from Iceland to Spain, ratified the NATO Accession Protocol for Montenegro and pointed out that the offered support would significantly influence the future work. On this occasion, Stanišić thanked his colleagues, members of permanent delegations to the NATO Parliamentary Assembly, for their contribution to

President of the Parliament of Montenegro participated in the Summit Meeting of Parliament Speakers from Central and Eastern Europe

President of the Parliament of Montenegro Ivan Brajović participated in the Summit of Presidents of Parliaments of the Central and Eastern Europe, held in Warsaw, where on 18 May he had an address on the topic: "Security Situation in the region".

During the Summit, the President had several bilateral meetings with the Speaker of the Sejm, the lower house of the Polish Parliament Marek Kuchciński, Speaker of the Polish Senate Stanisław Karczewski, President of the Parliament of Hungary László Kövér, and President of the Romanian Senate Călin Popescu-Tăriceanu.

During his conversation with the Speaker of the Sejm Marek Kuchciński and Speaker of the Polish Senate Stanisław Karczewski, they mutually expressed satisfaction over the excellent relations between both countries, in the political level, and in the clear interest for further strengthening the cooperation the area of economy. President Brajović emphasised the importance of parliamentary cooperation, welcomed the establishing of friendship group in the Polish Sejm, and announced that the Montenegrin Parliamentary Friendship Group with Poland will soon have a new composition, which will additionally contribute to its further promotion. He thanked Poland for its continuous support to Montenegro on its Euro-Atlantic path, especially since Poland was among the first countries to have ratified the Montenegro's NATO Accession Protocol.

In his conversation with the President of the Romanian

Senate Călin Popescu-Tăriceanu, and in the context of good parliamentary cooperation, President Brajović reminded that both Parliaments signed a Memorandum of Understanding, and emphasised that in order to strengthen interstate relations, further intensifying of political contacts was needed on all levels. Other current common political and economic issues were also considered.

Second and Third day of the Session were dedicated to work in the committees. Meetings of Defence and Security Committee, Economics and Security Committee, Science and Technology Committee, Committee on Civil Dimension of Security, and Political Committee were held. The delegates considered the Comments of the NATO Secretary General and the Chair of the North Atlantic Council to the Political Recommendation adopted by NATO PA in 2016.

On the margins of the Spring Session of the NATO Parliamentary Assembly, the Permanent Delegation of the Parliament of Montenegro, on their request, met with the Delegation of the European Parliament in the following composition Zdzisław Krasnodebski of European Conservatives and Reformists Group from Poland, Jozo Radoš representative of Liberals from Croatia, and Jonas Fernández of the Socialist Party from Spain, during which they exchanged opinions on the current political situation in Montenegro, the process of Euro-Atlantic integration and Montenegro's membership in NATO, they shared the support of European parliamentarians to their Montenegrin colleagues for what they had done in this regard, and showed interest in activities planned for the upcoming period.

President of the Parliament of Hungary László Kövér and President Brajović assessed that both countries fostered an open and partner cooperation, and expressed satisfaction over the intensity of the political dialogue and the excellent bilateral relations, as well as the great potential for its further promotion. President Brajović emphasised that Hungary provided significant contribution to the European and Euro-Atlantic path of Montenegro, and its support is also reflected through its work in the Visegrad Group. The interlocutors expressed interest for further promoting economic cooperation and deemed important that the Mixed Commission for Economic Cooperation holds its regular meetings.

Brajović also met with the Speaker of the Parliament of Georgia Irakli Kobakhidze, Chair of the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine Andriy Parubiy, Speaker of the House of Peoples of the Parliamentary Assembly of Bosnia and Herzegovina Bariša Čolak, Speaker of the House of Representatives of the Parliamentary Assembly of BiH, and Deputy Speaker of the Parliament of Bulgaria Tsveta Karayancheva.

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President of the Parliament of Montenegro met with the delegation of the OSCE's Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR)

At the meeting with the delegation of the OSCE's Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR) led by Roman Jakič, head of OSCE/ODIHR observation mission which observed the parliamentary elections in Montenegro, President of the Parliament of Montenegro Ivan Brajović emphasised that Montenegrin authorities shared the opinion that the Final Report of the election observation mission was realistic, objective, and positive. The President pointed out that Montenegro had carefully considered recommendations from the Final Report, and emphasised willingness of the responsible bodies to continue with improvement of the electoral legislation.

Willingness of ODIHR to encourage and offer its expert assistance in implementation of recommendations from the Report was emphasised at the meeting. The interlocutors also expressed the expectation of the proactive approach of institutions in charge of implementation of the electoral process, bearing in mind that, as direct actors of the electoral process, they could most efficiently see the shortcomings in practice. They voiced their pleasure over the willingness to adopt the recommendations, both for

those shortcomings that can be removed in a relatively short period and for those from the domain of amending legislation, which require longer periods of time. Speaking of continuity of cooperation, the ODIHR representatives reminded of the fact that out of all states of the former Yugoslavia, during 90s, only in Montenegro they had their office opened for work.



The interlocutors voiced their pleasure over the fact that, during the day in the Parliament of Montenegro, the ODIHR delegation would meet with most of the MP Groups of parliamentary parties, both from the ruling majority and the opposition.

PARLIAMENTARY GLOSSARY

OSCE. "The OSCE is the largest international organisation for regional security and it includes 57 states of Europe, Central Asia and North Africa. It is a specific forum for political negotiations and decision making in the field of conflict prevention, crisis management and rehabilitation after conflict. Integrating the political will of its participating states and its practical implementation resulted in a unique network of field missions.

The OSCE has a comprehensive approach to security that encompasses politic-military, economic, environmental and human aspects. In its work, the OSCE addresses a wide range of security related concerns, including arms control, confidence building and the security of people, human rights, national minorities, democratization, policing strategies, the fight against terrorism as well as economic and environmental activities.

Participating states enjoy equal status. Decisions are made by consensus and have political force, but no legally binding status."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. 250.

FROM THE HISTORY OF MONTENEGRIN PARLIAMENTARISM



CONSTITUTION OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF MONTENEGRO OF 1946

*Presidium of the National Assembly of the
People's Republic of Montenegro*

Article 73

The Presidium of the National Assembly of the People's Republic of Montenegro (PRM) is elected by the National Assembly of the People's Republic of Montenegro. The Presidium of the National Assembly of the People's Republic of Montenegro is composed of one president, two vice-presidents, secretary and eleven members at most.

Article 74

Presidium of the National Assembly is in charge of the following:

- 1) convenes the National Assembly of the PRM;
- 2) calls for the elections of the National Assembly of the PRM
- 3) provides mandatory interpretation of laws of the PRM
- 4) proclaims laws of the PRM; issues

- ordinances;
- 5) grants amnesty in accordance with the law;
- 6) awards medals and honours of the PRM, in accordance with the law;

Article 75

The Presidium of the National Assembly of the PRM shall answer to the National Assembly of the PRM. The National Assembly may dissolve the current Presidium and elect a new one prior to the expiry of the period for which it was elected, as well as dismiss certain members from their duty.

Article 76

The Presidium of the National Assembly shall perform its duties during the time of office of the National Assembly of the PRM. In case of dissolution of the National Assembly of the PRM, the Presidium shall perform its duties until a new Presidium has been elected.

¹ *Crnogorski ustavi 1905-2005*, Podgorica, NIU Službeni list Republike Crne Gore 2005, str. 51-52

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2 May

- Members of the Committee on Economy, Finance and Budget Predrag Sekulić and Petar Smolović participated in the Interparliamentary conference “Public procurement and the role of the parliament”, which took place on 2 and 3 May in Brussels. During the Conference, they discussed the importance of the oversight role of the European Parliament, EU regulation governing the area of public procurement, the fight against improper management of public funds in the process of public procurement, as well as international cooperation in the fight against corruption.

3 May

- Chair of the Committee on Economy, Finance and Budget Vujica Lazović met with the Delegation of the Committee of Experts on the Evaluation of Anti-Money Laundering Measures and the Financing of Terrorism (Moneyval). During the meeting, inter alia, the interlocutors discussed the activities in observing the recommendations and the Moneyval's findings stated in the Report on the fourth round of evaluation of the system of prevention of money laundering and funding terrorism in Montenegro; the procedure and the timeframe for deliberating acts dealing with prevention of money laundering and funding terrorism in working bodies and the plenary; the work of the Administration for Prevention of Money Laundering and Terrorist Financing; as well as activities of ministries in preparing and improving the legislation in the area.

5 May

- Chair of the Security and Defence Committee Obrad Mišo Stanišić and member of the Committee Vujica Lazović received the delegation headed by the General Sir James Everard, NATO's Deputy Supreme Allied Commander for Europe. The topic of discussion was EU and NATO Integration of Montenegro. In this context, the interlocutors expressed mutual satisfaction over the fact that Montenegro would soon become a full-fledged member of NATO.
- President of the Parliament of Montenegro Ivan Brajović received the newly-appointed Ambassador of Qatar Sheikh Mubarak Bin Fahad Al Thani. The interlocutors expressed satisfaction over the existing relations between Qatar and Montenegro and

emphasised the mutual interest for further strengthening the overall relations and broadening cooperation, especially in the area of economy.



6 May

- Substitute member of the Delegation of the Parliament of Montenegro to the OSCE PA MP Aleksandra Vuković took part in a two-day seminar on the topic of renationalization of politics and the fight for geopolitical spheres of influences. This year's seminar, whose focus was on security of the South-East Europe, accentuated the importance of readiness and responsibility of parliamentarians to act jointly in seeking the best answers to the current challenges. It was also emphasised that successful parliamentary diplomacy is mirrored in responsibility of MPs to provide contribution not only to building trust among states, but also to structural dialogues, which will result in concrete activities of member states, directed to mutual connections and strengthening of cooperation.

8 May

- President of the Parliament of Montenegro Ivan Brajović hosted MPs of the Christian Democratic Union (CDU) from the German county Saxony-Anhalt - Markus Kurze, Ralf Geisthardt, Daniel Sturm, Detlef Gürth and Siegfried Borgward, who are also members of the Working group for federal and European affairs and media. The President of the Parliament of Montenegro stressed that Germany has been continuously a promoter of European Union enlargement towards the Western Balkans, and expressed confidence that, regardless of all national turbulences and challenges that the European Union is facing, enlargement policy would remain a priority on the Agenda, which is important for the Union credibility as well as for prosperity of the Western Balkans region.
- President of the Parliament of Montenegro Ivan Brajović hosted Ambassador of the State of Palestine to Montenegro Rabii Alhantouli. The interlocutors spoke

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about the most important economic issues of the two states, as well as the overall reform process in Montenegro. They accentuated the importance of strengthening parliamentary cooperation and political dialogues at the highest level.

- Chair of the Security and Defence Committee Obrad Mišo Stanišić and Chair of the Committee on European Integration Adrijan Vuksanović held a meeting with MPs from the German county Saxony-Anhalt, in the organisation of the Konrad Adenauer Stiftung. They exchanged information on the current political situation in Montenegro, the process of joining the EU and NATO and security challenges along the way, and discussed opportunities for increased cooperation between Montenegro and the province of Saxony-Anhalt.



9 May

- On the occasion of Victory Day over Fascism and Europe Day, a discussion was held in the Parliament of Montenegro titled "What is anti-fascism in Montenegro today", with participation of historian Živko Andrijašević, prorector and full professor of the University of Montenegro, politicologist Ilija Vujačić, lecturer at the Faculty of Political Science in Belgrade and University Donja Gorica in Podgorica, Jadranka Selhanović, Assistant Director of the State Archive of Montenegro, Slavko Burzanović of the Historic Institute of Montenegro, as well as Adnan Prekić of the Faculty of Philosophy in Nikšić. At the gathering they discussed the role of anti-fascism in a civic society, anti-fascism from the perspective of multinational and multi-confessional Montenegro, and challenges it was facing today in Montenegro and in Europe. Special overview of the promotion of anti-fascistic values among the young was given.
- At his meeting with the Ambassador of Palestine to Montenegro Rabii Al-Hantouli, Chair of the Committee on International Relations and Emigrants Andrija Nikolić pointed out that Palestine was among the first countries

which, in 2006, had recognised renewal of Montenegrin independence and thus had supported values of the state policy of Montenegro leading our country in the direction of its full-fledged membership to the European Union and NATO. The interlocutors pointed out the significance of strengthening the parliamentary cooperation between the two countries through forming of friendship groups, which represented additional impetus for establishment and intensifying of parliamentary, economic, and overall state relations between Montenegro and Palestine.

10 May

- Chair of the Committee on Tourism, Agriculture, Ecology and Spatial Planning Petar Ivanović met with MPs of the Christian Democratic Union (CDU) from the German county Saxony-Anhalt. The visit was organised in cooperation with the Konrad Adenauer Stiftung (KAS), which has intensified its activities relating to the organisation of the working visit of German politicians from the federal and provincial levels to Montenegro, in order to contribute to the promotion of Montenegro on its Euro-Atlantic path, and create opportunities to establish closer and more intensive cooperation between the two countries.
- President of the Montenegrin Parliament Ivan Brajović received the Ambassador of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland to Montenegro Ian Robert Whitting in his farewell visit. The President deemed as important the fact that the Great Britain was providing a continuous support to Montenegro's Euro-Atlantic path, and the fact that it was one of the first allies to ratify the NATO Accession Protocol for Montenegro and thus sent a clear signal to other allies. The interlocutors spoke on regional developments and issues of global importance, stating that there were numerous potentials for additional strengthening of our bilateral relations.
- President of the Parliament of Montenegro Ivan Brajović met with the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Turkey Mevlüt Çavuşoğlu, who paid an official visit to Montenegro. During the meeting, the President particularly thanked for the Turkish continuous support to Montenegro's membership of NATO, and accentuated the importance of our membership in NATO for the stability of the overall Balkans, and also, showed willingness for strengthening parliamentary cooperation of the Parliament of Montenegro and the Grand National Assembly of the Republic of Turkey. The interlocutors also shared opinions on other aspects of bilateral relations and issues of regional and global importance that are significant for both countries.

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- Chair of the Committee on European Integration Adrijan Vuksanović and members Daliborka Pejović and Mihailo Anđušić visited the municipality of Tivat, and held a meeting with the President of the Municipality of Tivat Snežana Matijević. During the debate, the students showed interest in the impact of United Kingdom's exit on the future of the EU, the security of the EU due to frequent terrorist threats, the impact of EU membership on Montenegro's tourism industry, as well as what benefits and advantages young people would feel in their further education and professional training when Montenegro joins the EU.
- Chair of the Security and Defence Committee Obrad Mišo Stanišić and members of the Committee Vujica Lazović and Miodrag Vuković met with the delegation headed by Minister of Defence of the Republic of Slovenia Andreja Katič. Chair of the Security and Defence Committee Obrad Mišo Stanišić thanked Slovenia for, as he said, unconditional support it provided as contact point embassy to Montenegro on its path of Euro-Atlantic integration. Stanišić stressed that Montenegro's membership of NATO was a great step forward for the Balkan region. Minister of Defence of the Republic of Slovenia Andreja Katič said that Montenegro's membership would serve as an example and additional incentive to other regional countries. Katič added that Slovenia would continue to give logistic and every other help to Montenegro in the reforms awaiting it after officially becoming a member of NATO.

11 May

- During the meeting between the Chair of the Committee on International Relations and Emigrants Andrija Nikolić and Ambassador of the Republic of Georgia to Montenegro H.E. Zaza Kandelaki, it was jointly assessed that Montenegro and Georgia are friendly states, which share the same European and Euro-Atlantic aims. Nikolić and Kandelaki have agreed that there is additional room for improving political and state relations, namely in the field of economy, culture and tourism, while additional impulse for cooperation is expected from interparliamentary friendship groups, whose establishment is in the final phase.
- Chair of the Security and Defence Committee Obrad Mišo Stanišić and members of the Committee Luid Ljubo Škrelja, Marta Šćepanović, Miodrag Vuković and Vujica Lazović took part in the seventh annual ZBS (To

Be Secure) Forum, held on 11-13 May, hosted by the Atlantic Council under the auspices of the Government of Montenegro, and in cooperation with NATO, the US Embassy in Podgorica, and the Balkan Trust for Democracy.

15 May

- Chair of the Gender Equality Committee Nada Drobnjak met Barbara Rotovnik, Adviser for European integration and the rule of law at the Delegation of the European Union to Montenegro. Readiness for continuing the successful cooperation was expressed during the meeting, particularly with regard to application of the Activity Plan for Gender-Responsive Parliament of Montenegro and monitoring the implementation of the Law on Gender Equality.
- Chair of the Security and Defence Committee Obrad Mišo Stanišić and members of the Committee Luid Ljubo Škrelja and Marta Šćepanović participated in a four-day seminar on the role of armed and security forces in democratic societies, which took place in Budva. The aim of the seminar was to exchange experience and national practices in terms of implementation of OSCE Code of Conduct, with a special emphasis on the oversight function of the parliament in the security and defence sector; respect of human rights of members of armed forces; security sector reform; as well as application of international humanitarian law to current security challenges.

16 May

- President of the Parliament of Montenegro Ivan Brajović received the OSCE PA Vice-President and the Special Representative for South East Europe Roberto Battelli and the Head of the OSCE PA Office in Vienna Andreas Nothelle, who paid a visit to Montenegro. President Brajović emphasised that Montenegrin membership to NATO was a historical success, the most significant one after the renewal of Montenegrin independence. He also added that Montenegro is proud to be able to provide its contribution in terms of security efforts, both as a OSCE member, and a NATO member. During the OSCE PA Winter Session, held in Vienna, the President of the Parliament of Montenegro had a set of bilateral meetings with the highest officials of this organisation, among which were also Roberto Battelli and Andreas Nothelle.
- Chair of the Committee on International Relations and

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Emigrants Andrija Nikolić met with the Ambassador of the Republic of Croatia to Montenegro Veselko Grubišić. Nikolić and Grubišić agreed that if any issues remained unresolved, they are not an obstacle to the further strengthening of neighbourly relations, and that they should be resolved constructively, so that the end result would be the basis for a stable and secure future of both countries.

- Chair of the Committee on Human Rights and Freedoms Halil Duković met with the Ambassador of the State of Palestine to Montenegro Rabii Alhantouli, on his request.

17 May

- Chair of International Relations and Emigrants Andrija Nikolić and the Ambassador of Turkey to Montenegro Serhat Galip mutually assessed that Friendly relations between Montenegro and Turkey will be strengthened through the formal Alliance within NATO. Expressing gratitude on a continuous support the Turkish International Agency for Cooperation and Development (TIKA) had been providing to Montenegro, in terms of realisation of numerous development projects, the Chair of the Committee Nikolić particularly welcomed the plans of this organisation to allocate 6 million euros for the realisation of this year's projects, which is by far the highest amount of funds allocated to a Western Balkan country.
- Chair of the Committee on European Integration Adrijan Vuksanović participated in the Pan-European panel of May, organised by the Montenegrin pan-European Union (CPEU), in cooperation with the Cultural - Information Center "Budo Tomovic", on the occasion of marking its Anniversary of establishment. The topics discussed during the panel were the following: European Union, the Montenegrin EU accession process and preparations for the accession, the activities of the Montenegrin pan-European Union, as well as the history, goals and values of the Pan-European movement.
- Delegation of the Parliament of Montenegro composed of Suad Numanović, member of the Committee on Human Rights and Freedoms and Branka Tanasijević, member of the Gender Equality Committee participated in the International Workshop entitled "Cooperation of European Parliamentarians in the fight

against human trafficking in Western Balkan Countries", which was held on 17-18 May in Belgrade.

18 May

- Montenegrin membership to NATO is considered by the Republic of Slovenia as its own success, was reported by the Ambassador of this country Mitja Mocnik, during the meeting with the Chair of the Committee on International Relations and Emigrants Andrija Nikolić. The interlocutors agreed that the exceptionally good bilateral relations, which were, inter alia, reflected in a continuous cooperation in the exchange of goods, tourism and Slovenian and Montenegrin municipalities, should be additionally strengthened through more comprehensive parliamentary cooperation. On this occasion, they scheduled a visit to the Parliament of the Republic of Slovenia, to be attended by members of the Committee on International Relations and Emigrants.



- President of the Parliament of Montenegro Ivan Brajović participated in the Summit of Presidents of Parliaments of the Central and Eastern Europe, held in Warsaw, Republic of Poland, where he had an address on the topic: "Security Situation in the region". During the Summit, the President had several bilateral meetings with the Speaker of the Sejm, the lower house of the Polish Parliament Marek Kuchciński, Speaker of the Polish Senate Stanisław Karczewski, President of the Parliament of Hungary László Kövér, and President of the Romanian Senate Călin Popescu-Tăriceanu.
- Chair of the Gender Equality Committee Nada Drobnjak participated in the Regional Conference on the role of parliaments in achieving the goals of sustainable development, and in a Global Conference "Building Trust of Citizens through Openness and Engagement", held from 18 to 20 May in Kiev.

24 May

- During the meeting held between the Chair of the

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Committee on International Relations and Emigrants Andrija Nikolić and the Ambassador of the People's Republic of China Cui Zhiwei, it was concluded that traditionally friendly relations between Montenegro and the People's Republic of China are followed by practical measures reflected in a continuous financial aid to Montenegrin economy. Zhiwei confirmed that the relations between both countries were very satisfactory, both in the political and in economic field, assessing highly the achieved progress of Montenegro. The Ambassador announced a greater promotion of investment and touristic potential of Montenegro in China, which would increase the presence of Chinese investors and tourists in our country.

25 May

- President of the Parliament of Montenegro Ivan Brajović received the newly-appointed Ambassador of the Republic of Latvia to Montenegro Vilmārs Henriņš. The interlocutors emphasised that there were various possibilities for the enhancement of cooperation, and that Montenegro and Latvia can relate with each other in their continuous struggle for freedom and preserving state and national identity. Brajović expressed gratitude for the continuous support Latvia has provided to Montenegro in its European and Euro-Atlantic path. The interlocutors exchanged views on many other issues of regional and global importance.
- Chair of the Committee on European Integration Adrijan Vuksanović met with Ellen Boss, independent expert who paid a visit to Montenegro, for the purposes of evaluation of the work of Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung (KAS) in Montenegro. During the meeting, they discussed projects implemented by the Parliament of Montenegro, in cooperation with the Foundation in the previous period.

26 May

- Nedžad Drešević, MP and Vice-President of the Bosniak Party paid a visit to Sarajevo, and on the occasion participated in the International Business Forum, traditionally organised by the Bosna Bank International (BBI), in cooperation with the Islamic Development Bank. Sarajevo Business Forum is one of the greatest economic and political conferences in South-East Europe and is in charge of promotion of projects and economic potential, as well as connecting economists and investors on an individual and institutional level.
- President of the Parliament of Montenegro Ivan Brajović

awarded certificates to representatives of political parties that have participated in the educational programme "Gender Equality in Political Parties", within the frameworks of the programme "Support to Anti-Discriminatory Policies of Gender Equality", and thus earned the title of a trainer for gender equality.

- Secretary General of the Parliament of Montenegro Aleksandar Jovičević received students' representatives of UCG, UDG and FDES, on the occasion of marking the Info Student Day.
- Members of the Permanent Delegation of the Parliament of Montenegro to the NATO PA Obrad Mišo Stanišić, Genci Nimanbegu and Tarzan Milošević participated in the Spring Session of the NATO PA, held on 26-29 May in Tbilisy.

28 May

- Delegation of the Committee on International Relations and Emigrants attended a commemorative Event marking the Independence Day in Germany. On the occasion, participants of the gathering were addressed by the Chair of the Committee on International Relations and Emigrants Andrija Nikolić and member of the Committee Ervin Ibrahimović.

29 May

- Delegation of the Committee on European Integration participated in the 57th COSAC Session, which was held within the parliamentary dimension of the Malta EU Presidency, in Saint Julians. The European parliamentarians discussed the results of Malta Presidency, the role of national parliaments in the future of EU, the outcome of the referendum in the United Kingdom, as well as seafarer's policy.
- President of the Parliament of Montenegro Ivan Brajović received the U.S. Senator Ron Johnson, Chair of the European Sub-Committee. During the meeting, it was concluded that Montenegrin membership to NATO sends a strong message that the open door policy and Trans-Atlantic cooperation remained a priority of the Alliance, which was important in terms of the current security situation in Europe, and especially the Western Balkans region.
- President of the Parliament of Montenegro met with the delegation of the OSCE's Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR).