



Parliament of Montenegro

# NEWSLETTER OPEN PARLIAMENT

Newsletter on the Parliament of Montenegro Performance ♦ No. 72 ♦ June 2017

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# OPEN PARLIAMENT



Parliament of Montenegro

Newsletter on the Parliament of Montenegro Performance ♦ Electronic format ♦ Release: monthly ♦ Year VII ♦ No. 72 ♦ June 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 June, which is, in the form of monthly newsletter "Open Parliament", prepared by Parliamentary Service.

During June, the ninth and the tenth sitting of the first ordinary session took place, as well as the eleventh special sitting. During the ninth and tenth sitting, 24 laws were adopted.

In June, Committees considered 20 proposals for a law, and performed other activities within their oversight role.

In focus of this month's newsletter is the 13th European Union-Montenegro Stabilisation and Association Parliamentary Committee (SAPC), which took place on 14 June in Strasbourg.

The newsletter is published monthly through which the Parliament endeavours to bring its work closer to Montenegrin citizens. We consider this publication to be very significant as a reliable source of information regarding the work of the Parliament and we hope that you will find it useful. We remain open to your comments and suggestions, as well as criticism, which can help us bring more quality to our work.

**Respectfully,  
Parliamentary Service**



## LEGISLATIVE AND OVERSIGHT ACTIVITY

**At the Ninth Sitting of the First Ordinary Session of the Parliament of Montenegro in 2017**, MPs adopted the following: Law on Ratification of the Protocol to Eliminate Illicit Trade in Tobacco Products; Law on Amendment to the Law on Audit of EU Funds; Law on Amendments to the Law on Consensual Financial Restructuring of Debts to Financial Institutions; Law on Fees for the Use of Tobacco Products and Electro-Acoustic and Acoustic Devices in restaurants and cafés; Law on Amendments to the Law on State Surveying and Cadastre of Immovable Property; Law on the National Brand; Law on Infrastructure of Spatial Data; 2016 Report on Development and Protection of Rights of Minorities and Other Minority Communities; 2016 Performance Report of the Prosecutorial Council and the Public Prosecution Office; 2016 Financial Operations Report and Performance Report of the Agency for Electronic Media; 2016 Financial Statement and Performance Report of the Agency for Medicines and Medical Devices; 2016 Performance Report of the Agency for Electronic Communications and Postal Services with 2016 Financial Report of the Agency, and Report on Conducted Audit of 2016 Financial Statements of the Agency for Electronic Communications and Postal Services by the independent auditor „MV Konsalt“ d.o.o. Podgorica; 2016 Financial Statement with the Performance Report of the Energy Regulatory Agency; 2016 Financial Statement and Report on Performed Audit of Financial Statements of the Insurance Supervision Agency and 2016 Performance Report of the Insurance Supervision Agency; 2016 Performance Report of the Agency for Protection of Competition; 2016 Annual Performance Report of the Central Bank of Montenegro; 2016 Performance Report of the Financial Stability Forum; Fifth semi-annual report on

the overall activities within the integration process of Montenegro to the European Union, for the period January - June 2016; Sixth semi-annual report on the overall activities within the integration process of Montenegro to the European Union, for the period July – December 2016; Law on Supplement to the Law on Games of Chance, Law on Amendments to the Law on Non-Governmental Organisations, Law on Supplement to the Law on Administrative Fees, and Law on Amendment to the Law on Administrative Procedure.

Under the item of the agenda “elections and appointments”, the Parliament of Montenegro appointed Šefkija Murić and Zoran Sekulić as members of the Council of the Agency for Electronic Communications and Postal Services.

**At the Tenth Sitting of the First Ordinary (Spring) Session of the Parliament of Montenegro in 2017**, MPs adopted the following: Law on Executing a Decision of the Constitutional Court of Montenegro U-I No. 6/16 of 19 April 2017 (Official Gazette of Montenegro No. 31/17); Law on Amendments to the Law on Social and Child Welfare; Law on Amendments to the Law on Public Procurement; Law on Amendments to the Law on Public Sector Salaries; Law on Amendments to the Law on Budget for 2017; Law on Amendments to the Law on International Restrictive Measures; Law on Amendments to the Law on Higher Education; Law on Amendments to the Law on Tourism Organisations; Law on Amendments to the Anti-discrimination Law; Law on Amendments to the Criminal Code of Montenegro; Law on Amendment to the Law on Immovable Property Tax; Law on Amendments to the Law on Protection of Cultural Heritage; Law on Amendments to the Law on Ski Resorts; 2016 Annual Performance Report of the Securities Commission and the State in the Securities Market with the Financial Statement; 2016 Annual Performance Report of the Deposit Protection Fund; Report with proposal on giving approval that criminal proceedings can be initiated and detention ordered against Nebojša Medojević, member of the Parliament of Montenegro; Opinion with proposal for a reply to the Constitutional Court of Montenegro with regard to the initiative for constitutional review of a provision of Article 203b of the Criminal Procedure Code.

### *Prime Minister's Questions*

**At the Eleventh 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 Administrative Procedure** 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 the National Brand** was considered and proposed to the Parliament for adoption by the Committee on Economy, Finance and Budget.
- **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 Committee on Economy, Finance and Budget.
- **Proposal for a Law on Amendments to the Law on Administrative Fees** 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 Non-Governmental Organisations** was considered and proposed to the Parliament for adoption by the Legislative Committee and the Committee on Human Rights and Freedoms.
- **Proposal for a Law on Amendments to the Criminal Code of Montenegro** was considered and proposed to the Parliament of Montenegro for adoption by the Legislative Committee and the Committee on Political System, Judiciary and Administration. The same proposal was considered by the Gender Equality Committee within its competence.
- **Proposal for a Law on Amendments to the Law on Protection of Cultural Heritage** was considered and proposed to the Parliament for adoption by the Legislative Committee.
- **Proposal for a Law on Amendments to the Law on Immovable Property Tax** 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 International Restrictive Measures** was considered and proposed to the Parliament for adoption by the Committee on International Relations and Emigrants and the Legislative Committee.
- **Proposal for a Law on enforcement of the Decision by the Constitutional Court of Montenegro - I No 6/16 from 19 April 2017 (“Official Gazette of MNE”, No 31/17)** was considered and proposed to the Parliament for adoption by the Legislative Committee and the Committee on Health, Labour and Social Welfare. The same proposal was considered by the Gender Equality Committee within its competence.
- **Proposal for a Law on Amendments to the Law on Social and Child Welfare** was considered and proposed to the Parliament for adoption by the Legislative Committee and the Committee on Health, Labour and Social Welfare. The same proposal was considered by the Gender Equality Committee within its competence.
- **Proposal for a Law on Amendments to the 2017 Budget Law of Montenegro** 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 Public Sector Salaries** 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 Anti-discrimination Law** was considered and proposed to the Parliament for adoption by the Legislative Committee and the Committee on Human Rights and Freedoms. The same proposal was considered by the Gender Equality Committee within its competence.
- **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.
- **Proposal for a Law on Amendments to the Law on Public Procurement** 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 Tax Administration** was considered and proposed to the Parliament for adoption by the Legislative Committee.
- **Proposal for a Law on Amendments to the Law on Administrative Disputes** 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 Ski Resorts** 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 Tourism Organisations** was considered and proposed to the Parliament for adoption by the Legislative Committee and the Committee on Tourism, Agriculture, Ecology and Spatial Planning.

#### *Other activities of working bodies*

- At the seventh meeting of the **Committee on European Integration**, held on 1 June, members of the Committee considered the semi-annual reports on Implementation of the Action Plan for Chapter 23 - Judiciary and fundamental rights, along with operative document for prevention of corruption in special risk areas, and the Action Plan for Chapter 24 - Justice, freedom and security for the previous year.



At the eighth meeting, held on 23 June, members of the Committee have unanimously adopted the Draft Negotiating Position for Chapter 17- Economic and Monetary Union.

- At the eighth meeting of the **Committee on International Relations and Emigrants**, held on 22 June, the Committee adopted a decision on forming 39 friendship groups of the 26th Parliament of Montenegro with the parliaments of other countries. Compared to the previous convocation, the Committee formed 13 new groups with the following parliaments: the Kingdom of the Netherlands, the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg, the Republic of Estonia, the Republic of Latvia, the Republic of Lithuania, the Czech Republic, the Republic of Slovakia, the Republic of Bulgaria, Kuwait, the Kingdom of Jordan, the Republic of Belarus, Israel and the Republic of Kosovo.

At the tenth meeting, held on 30 June, the Committee unanimously endorsed the proposal that Sanja Vlahović be elected for the post of the Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Montenegro to the Republic of Italy on a residential basis with headquarters in Rome.

At the eleventh meeting, held on the same day, members of the Committee supported the proposal to appoint Vujica Lazović as Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary Ambassador of Montenegro to the Republic of Slovenia, on a residential basis in Ljubljana.

- At the eighteenth meeting of the **Committee on Economy, Finance and Budget**, in line with the Law on Electronic Communications and public call for the appointment of two members of the Council of the Agency for Electronic Communications and Postal Services, the Committee decided to propose candidates Šefkija Murić and Zoran Sekulić as members of the Council of the Agency.



- At the ninth meeting of the **Administrative Committee**, held on 12 June, upon proposal of the Special Public Prosecutor's Office Kti-S. No.13/17 of 30 May 2017, following the discussion, the Committee has unanimously decided to propose to the Parliament of Montenegro to adopt a Decision to give approval that criminal proceedings can be initiated and detention ordered against Nebojša Medojević, member of the Parliament of Montenegro, because of the criminal offence – Creation of Criminal Organisation from Article 401a paragraph 1 with regard to paragraph 6 of the Criminal Code of Montenegro.

## NEWS FROM PARLIAMENT



### *President of the Parliament holds a reception on the occasion of raising the flag of Montenegro in Brussels*

President of the Parliament of Montenegro, Ivan Brajović, hosted on 7 June a reception on the occasion of membership of Montenegro in NATO, the day Montenegrin flag was raised in Brussels. The guests in Villa "Gorica" were welcomed by the President of the Parliament and the Prime Minister of Montenegro, Mr Duško Marković, followed by the intonation of the Montenegrin anthem and simultaneous raising of Montenegrin and NATO flag. In his speech, the President of the Parliament, among other things, said that the day when the Montenegrin flag has fluttered in Brussels among the flags of the most powerful countries in the world, this generation of politicians did not feel the taste of victory, but of responsibility and satisfaction because Montenegro - after decades of challenges and dilemmas - has returned home.

Montenegro has returned where it had always belonged: to the family of progressive and democratic nations. We are joining the most powerful alliance with our head held high and offering our hand, and not a rifle or a sabre. We are joining in a friendly manner and we call for peace, and not conflict. We are joining aware that we do not have the military potential of the great powers, but we have tradition, wisdom, and determination to keep our freedom for more than a millennium. We have the first printing press of the Southern Slovenes whose letters we had turned into bullets, so today we could say both to the well-intentioned and to the malicious that peace,

tolerance, and progress have no alternative, President Brajović said.

President of the Parliament also stressed that NATO accession represented the beginning of the new stage, with the challenges of joining the European Union to be faced, and with the priority task of ensuring continuous progress and prosperity of Montenegrin society.

- NATO membership is a momentum towards a greater degree of the rule of law, economic progress, and creation of better conditions for a higher quality of life of all citizens of Montenegro, Mr Brajović said.

President of the Montenegrin Parliament expressed pride for the fact that after all the challenges and great dates Montenegro was preserved as a country of differences that build a unique civic identity of co-existence and synergy of nations, faiths, and cultures:

- This is one victory which I feel and of which I am proud today, when in the NATO building Montenegro takes its historic place between Luxembourg and the Netherlands. This is the reach and not the victory of the majority of Montenegro. This is the beginning of modern Montenegro which will now be a guidepost to many showing how to manage to outdo yourself and others. To overcome divisions through possibilities and right choices. And NATO is the right choice, the President of the Parliament of Montenegro, Mr Ivan Brajović, concluded, congratulating Montenegro and the world on our country's membership in NATO.

## PARLIAMENTARY GLOSSARY

**Parliamentary cooperation.** "Parliamentary cooperation is a process of the exchange of information, experience and knowledge at a political or technical level between national parliaments. It may imply participation in inter-parliamentary organisations and parliamentary assemblies, such as the Inter-Parliamentary Union, the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly and so on, participation in regional and subregional initiatives, as well as different forms of bilateral cooperation. Cooperation may be aimed at developing relations between parliaments and states and enabling the exchange of best practices on specific issues of importance for the activities of parliaments."<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. 256-257.

## IN FOCUS



### *13th European Union-Montenegro Stabilisation and Association Parliamentary Committee (SAPC) meeting held in Strasbourg*

At the 13th European Union-Montenegro Stabilisation and Association Parliamentary Committee (SAPC) meeting which was held on 14 June in the seat of the European Parliament, Strasbourg, MEPs and members of the Parliament of Montenegro considered the issues of Montenegro's progress in the field of fundamental rights, social policy and employment, justice, freedom, and security. A significant topic was also the status of accession negotiations and relations between the European Union and Montenegro, and they also discussed the implementation of the previous parliamentary elections and the functioning of the Parliament.

Genoveva Ruiz Calavera of the European Commission pointed out in her opening address that visible progress of Montenegro in many areas should be made stable and that it was important to emphasise that Montenegro was leading the Western Balkans on its path towards the EU and was recognised for its proactive neighbourhood policy. She also emphasised that the EU did not change its criteria, and that it still continued to rank countries in accordance with their individual achievements.

Under the item of the agenda relating to the implementation of parliamentary elections and the functioning of the Parliament, President of the Parliament of Montenegro and co-chair of the SAPC meeting Ivan Brajović reminded that the elections of October 2016 were the first parliamentary elections where the electronic identification of voters was used, with very high voter turnout of 73,3%.

Brajović also reminded that those were the elections observed by the highest number of international and domestic observers, who, in the ODIHR Final Report, assessed that "the parliamentary elections were organised in a peaceful and democratic spirit and in accordance with the reformed legislative framework".

President Brajović said that, even though the opposition did not participate, the work of the Parliament went on regularly both in the domestic and international fields, and that currently there were no proposals for laws waiting to be adopted.

Deputy Prime Minister Zoran Pažin presented concrete indicators in the fight against organised crime and high level corruption, with special emphasis on confiscation of property, prevention of money laundering, and fight against human trafficking.

In his address, Miodrag Radunović presented numerous statistical data on activities in the field of social

protection and employment policy, while Daliborka Pejović dealt with the issue of protection of human rights, with emphasis on the rights of the child and domestic violence.

Obrad Mišo Stanišić referenced the security issues and significance of our country's membership in NATO, and voiced his expectation that Montenegro would be the first next member of the European Union, and Mr Adrijan Vuksanović stated his position that the integration success of Montenegro was to a large extent a consequence of commitment to regional cooperation.



In the Joint Statement, which was adopted at the end of SAPC, and which was signed by co-chairs Mr Peter Kouroumbashev, Deputy Head of the EU Delegation to SAPC, and President of the Parliament of Montenegro Mr Ivan Brajović, they welcomed Montenegro's progress in the EU membership negotiation process, as well as Montenegro's accession to NATO. It was noted that Montenegro was currently a candidate country which had made most progress and should become a member of the Union as soon as possible, as well as that the EU-Montenegro dialogue would have a positive spillover effect on the entire region.

The progress on reforms regarding the rule of law from Chapters 23 and 24 remained essential for the overall pace of the negotiating process, and the importance of accelerating reforms to tackle Montenegro's key challenges in order to improve the living standard of its citizens was also pointed out.

They agreed that media freedom was the cornerstone of any democracy, and it was emphasised that Montenegro should effectively implement international and EU standards on human rights. It was also noted in the Joint Statement that by not participating the opposition missed an opportunity to discuss, with Members of the European Parliament, developments that led to the polarization of the political climate in Montenegro and the boycott of parliament following the October 2016 elections.



# FROM THE HISTORY OF MONTENEGRIN PARLIAMENTARISM



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

### CHAPTER XII

#### RELATION BETWEEN THE STATE AUTHORITIES AND STATE ADMINISTRATION BODIES

##### Article 122

National Assembly of the People's Republic of Montenegro, respectively Presidium of the National Assembly of the People's Republic of Montenegro and people's high committees shall provide general guidelines, assistance and conduct oversight over the work of all lower committees.

##### Article 123

The Government of the PRM and high executive committees provide the directions for the management of administration policy, assistance and conduct oversight over the work of lower executive committees.

##### Article 124

Presidium of the National Assembly of the People's Republic of Montenegro is granted the authority to annul or revoke decrees, directions, orders and decisions of the Government of the People's Republic of Montenegro, which are not in compliance with the Constitution of the Federal People's

Republic of Yugoslavia, Constitution of the People's Republic of Montenegro, as well as laws of FPRY and laws of the PRM. The Government of the PRM is authorised to annul or revoke rulebooks, orders, directions and decisions that were adopted by its members, provided they are not in compliance with the Constitution of FPRY, Constitution of PRM, laws of FPRY, laws of PRM or with decrees, directions, orders and decisions of the Government of FPRY and the Government of PRM.

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##### Article 128

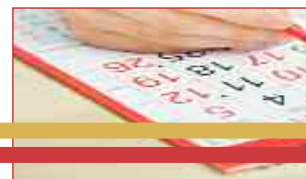
The right to initiate a procedure for annulling, revoking or suspend illegal decisions, orders, directions and decisions is granted to authorities with the competence to annul, revoke or suspend, higher state authorities and citizens of the PRM.

##### Article 129

In the case of conflict of jurisdiction between two people's committees of the same level, such disputes shall be solved by the High people's committee, respectively the Presidium of the National Assembly of the People's Republic of Montenegro. Conflicts of jurisdiction between two executive committees of the same level shall be solved by the High executive committee respective the Government of the People's Republic of Montenegro.

<sup>1</sup> *Crnogorski ustavi 1905-2005*, Podgorica, NIU Službeni list Republike Crne Gore 2005, str. 60-61

# CALENDAR



## 1 June

- MP Luigj Shkreka visited Democracy Workshops “Barbara Pramer” and talked with students of class VIb of the Primary School “Meksiko” from Bar. The students were interested in hearing about the job of the MPs and what it entailed, why the elections were important in a democracy, as well as what he had to say to the children. MP Shkreka said that the job of the MP was responsible and demanding, but also satisfying, because it enabled the person doing that job to adopt important decisions to the benefit of the citizens. He pointed out that he was glad to have participated in the adoption of some of the most significant decisions and acts for our country. During his conversation with the students, MP Shkreka emphasised that as an MP - as a representative of the people - one should be aware of the trust given to that person by the citizens in the elections. In addition, Škrelja conveyed a message to the students - that it was important to choose their own path, persevere in it, and never give up what seemed right to them.

## 5 June

- President of the Parliament of Montenegro Ivan Brajović presented certificates to 3966 students from 72 primary schools, who attended the educational programme Democracy Workshops “Barbara Prammer” in the past nine months. Addressing the young attendees of the workshops, President Brajović expressed his hope that they acquired basic knowledge of what we were all constantly learning and what we had never learned enough, such as democracy, equality, human rights and tolerance. The President thanked the parents, teachers, trainers, and colleagues from the Parliament of Montenegro for their continuous engagement in educating children.



- At the meeting of the President of the Parliament of Montenegro Ivan Brajović with Minister of Defence of the Slovak Republic Peter Gajdoš, who paid an official visit to Montenegro, special attention has been paid to

the accession of our country to NATO and future cooperation between Montenegro and the Slovak Republic within NATO as well as the European Union. At the meeting they also discussed absence of the opposition in the Parliament, and the distinguished guest from Slovakia pointed out that dialogue and cooperation were the path for ensuring progress in a country, and not boycott.

- Member of the Committee on International Relations and Emigrants Dragutin Papović attended the ceremony on the occasion of Day of Montenegrins and Independence Day of Montenegro, held on 5 June 2017 in Pristina. During his speech, the member of the Committee on International Relations and Emigrants, Papović pointed to the fact that the most important aim of the Montenegrin minority in Kosovo's was recognition in the Constitution of Kosovo, which would create for the Montenegrin community conditions for the exercise of the corresponding rights and full participation in state institutions through legitimate political representatives.

## 6 June

- Members of the Committee on European Integration held consultations with representatives of the Montenegrin municipalities on the topic of using IPA funds at the local level. The consultations were attended by representatives of 16 municipalities, the aim of the event was that members of the Committee of the 26th Convocation learned about the experiences in the implementation of IPA projects at the municipal level, especially about the challenges faced by municipalities in terms of opportunities for using EU funds.
- Chair of the Security and Defence Committee Obrad Mišo Stanišić and members of the Committee Ljuid Ljubo Škrelja and Miodrag Vuković participated in a Regional Conference of Representatives of the Security and Defence Committees of the South-East Europe, held in Sarajevo.

## 7 June

- President of the Parliament of Montenegro Ivan Brajović received the delegation of the Senate of the Czech Republic, headed by senator and Chair of the Committee on EU Affairs Vaclav Hampl and Chair of the Committee on Foreign Affairs, Defence and Security František Bublan. They jointly assessed that the visit of the Czech senators to the Parliament of Montenegro contributed



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to strengthening of interparliamentary cooperation, which, in the future, should result in new, stronger models of its improvement.

- Chair of the Committee on European Integration Adrijan Vuksanović and members of the Security and Defence Committee Vujica Lazović and Branko Čavor met with the delegation of the Senate of the Parliament of the Czech Republic. At the meeting they discussed the migrant crisis and the manners in which the EU countries deal with this issue, as well as modern challenges such as cyber terrorism and timely reaction of institutions to this phenomenon.
- President of the Parliament held a reception on the occasion of raising the flag of Montenegro in Brussels.

## 8 June

- Member of the Committee on Economy, Finance and Budget Filip Vuković took part in the Regional Parliamentary Conference on Renewable Energy Sources in the South East Europe, held in Belgrade. During the sessions, the participants had the opportunity to exchange opinions on national experiences of parliamentarians in the field of renewable energy sources, drivers of accelerated switch to renewable energy, status of renewable energy in SEE, as well as support to parliamentarians in promotion of renewable energy through their activities.

## 9 June

- President of the Parliament of Montenegro Ivan Brajović received the European Commissioner for European Neighbourhood Policy and Enlargement Negotiations Johannes Hahn. The interlocutors exchanged opinions on the overall reform process, political and economic situation and the pace of the European and Euro-Atlantic path of our country, which was exceptionally significant for the stability of the Western Balkans. In addition, they noted that the Parliament must be a key position of political dialogue as a central place of democratic decision-making, because it was in everybody's interest to improve the life of the citizens of Montenegro and society as a whole.
- President of the Parliament of Montenegro Ivan Brajović participated at the IV Plenary Session of the Parliamentary Assembly of the South-East European Cooperation Process (SEECP), in Zagreb, on which occasion he had bilateral meetings with President of the Republic of Croatia Kolinda Grabar Kitarović, Prime

Minister Andrej Plenković, and Speaker of the Croatian Parliament Gordana Jandroković.

## 12 June

- Branimir Gvozdenović, Head of the Permanent Delegation to the NATO Parliamentary Assembly, and Obrad Mišo Stanišić, member, took part in the visit of the Economics and Security Committee - Sub-Committee on Transition and Development of the NATO PA to Belgrade. The beginning of the visit of the Economics and Security Committee - Sub-Committee on Transition and Development of the NATO PA to Belgrade, Serbia, was marked by the round table of representatives of NATO member states and ambassadors, and it was followed by a meeting of delegates of the NATO Parliamentary Assembly, in the seat of the National Assembly of the Republic of Serbia, with Veroljub Arsić, Deputy Speaker of the Parliament. The second working day was marked by the meeting with First Deputy Prime Minister of the Republic of Serbia and Minister of Foreign Affairs Ivica Dačić, in the context of the panel on "Relations of Serbia with the European Union, Russia and North America", followed by the meeting with representatives of the International Organisation for Migration, Head of Office in Belgrade Lidija Marković and Subregional Coordinator for the Western Balkans Peter Van der Auweraert.
- A member of the Gender Equality Committee of the Parliament of Montenegro Branka Tanasijević took part in the Second OSCE Gender Equality Review Conference, which took place in Vienna on 12-13 June 2017. The conference was held on the topic of implementation of the 2004 OSCE Action Plan for Promotion of Gender Equality.

## 14 June

- At the 13th European Union-Montenegro Stabilisation and Association Parliamentary Committee (SAPC) meeting which was held in the seat of the European Parliament, Strasbourg, MEPs and members of the Parliament of Montenegro considered the issues of Montenegro's progress in the field of fundamental rights, social policy and employment, justice, freedom, and security. A significant topic was also the status of accession negotiations and relations between the European Union and Montenegro, and they also discussed the implementation of the previous parliamentary elections and the functioning of the Parliament.

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## 16 June

- Committee on European Integration has organised a public debate titled “Montenegro and the EU: negotiations in the field of economic and monetary policy”. The following spoke at the debate: Adrijan Vuksanović, Chair of the Committee on European Integration, H.E. Aivo Orav, Head of the EU Delegation to Montenegro, and Milica Kilibarda, Head of the Working Group for preparing negotiations in Chapter 17 – Economic and monetary union.

## 19 June

- Delegation of the Parliament of Montenegro took part in the multilateral seminar for MPs on the topic “The legislative cycle – from legislative initiative to implementation and monitoring”, which took place in Brussels, from 19 to 20 June 2017. Delegation of the Parliament of Montenegro consisted of Chair of the Legislative Committee Marta Šćepanović, Chair of the Committee on Political System, Judiciary and Administration Željko Aprčević, Chair of the Committee on European Administration Adrijan Vuksanović, and Chair of the Committee on Health, Labour and Social Welfare Suad Numanović.



## 20 June

- Chair of the Security and Defence Committee Obrad Mišo Stanišić and members Miodrag Vuković, Milorad Vuletić, Branko Čavor and Vujica Lazović met with the delegation of the NATO Defense College from Rome, headed by its Dean, Brigadier General František Mičánek. The focus of the conversation between the members of the Security and Defence Committee and the 60 members of the delegation of the NATO Defense College were the future priorities of Montenegro as a member of the Alliance as well as the current political situation in the country.

## 21 June

- At the meeting of the President of the Parliament of

Montenegro Ivan Brajović and newly-appointed Ambassador of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland to Montenegro Alison Kemp, they expressed pleasure with the existing level of bilateral relations, and confidence that there were numerous potentials for their strengthening, particularly in the field of economy. The interlocutors spoke about internal political developments in Montenegro and Great Britain as well as about current developments in the region of the Southeast Europe.

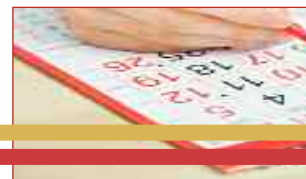
## 22 June

- President of the Parliament Brajović received Head of the UNICEF Office to Montenegro Benjamin Perks in a farewell visit. The interlocutors assessed that by strengthening our partnership we were able to constructively address very sensitive issues and bring about significant changes in the social policy and child protection, including promotion of children rights and raising awareness of the need for their protection, as well as changes in social behaviour and the environment, especially in the fields of health, education and equal rights.
- During the meeting between Chair of the Committee on International Relations and Emigrants Andrija Nikolić and Head of Diplomatic Mission of the Republic of Azerbaijan to Montenegro Anar Ajamov, special attention was paid to the most significant Azerbaijani investment engagement - the Porto Novi project, which represents the biggest foreign investment of Azerbaijan outside of the energy sector. During the meeting, Anar Ajamov announced that the preparations for the official visit of Prime Minister of Montenegro Duško Marković to Azerbaijan were ongoing, which would be followed by the organisation of the Azerbaijan-Montenegro business forum.

## 23 June

- President Brajović met with the French senator Olivier Cadic. The interlocutors noted that Montenegro’s progress to the European Union is a step and contribution to peace policy of Europe. In this context, the President of the Parliament expressed hope that the European Union, as up to now, will appreciate achievements based on the individual merits of each candidate country. During the talks on political issues in Montenegro, the French senator said that he shared the opinion of all international officials on the validity of the electoral process and the validity of the results, praising

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in particular the high turnout at the elections.

## 24 June

- Chair of the Committee on International Relations and Emigrants attended the charity dinner in Munich, organised by the Association of German-Montenegrin Friendship "DeMonte", supported by the Consulate General of Montenegro in Munich and the Diaspora Administration.

## 26 June

- Chair of the Committee on International Relations and Emigrants Andrija Nikolić, on the invitation of the Chairman of the Foreign Affairs Committee of the Italian Senate, Pier Ferdinando Casini, paid an official visit to the Republic of Italy, on 26-27 June. According to Casini, Italy wishes for more stability in the Balkans, and he suggests that instability and non-democracy in the Balkans would create negative implications for Italy and Europe. Casini informed Nikolić that Europe requires a strong and stable Montenegro, and in this sense an indispensable return of the opposition in the Parliament.



- Delegation of the Parliament of Montenegro to the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe composed of the Head of the Delegation Predrag Sekulić and members Marija Čatović, Sanja Vlahović and Ervin Ibrahimović participated in the Summer Session of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, which took place from 26 to 30 June, in Strasbourg.



## 27 June

- President Brajović hosted the President of the National Anti-Corruption Authority of the Republic of Italy, Raffaello Kantone. The interlocutors pointed to the importance of the fight against corruption, which was the focus of all EU member states and assessed that effective implementation of adopted laws was crucial, both in preventing corruption and its repression. It was jointly estimated that today's visit of the President of the National Anti-Corruption Authority of the Republic of Italy, Raffaello Kantone, was a major contribution to further strengthening of cooperation in this area, which would in future result in new models of improvement of anti-corruption policies.
- President of the Parliament of Montenegro Ivan Brajović, hosted co-Presidents of the Igman Initiative for Serbia, Croatia, BiH, and Montenegro, Aleksandar Popov, Zoran Pusić, MR Vehid Šehić and Branko Lukovac. The meeting was held on the occasion of the 27th session of the Igman Initiative, entitled "Relations in the region - from the crisis to stability and cooperation".



## 30 June

- During the meeting of the Chair of the Committee on International Relations and Emigrants Andrija Nikolić with the non-resident Ambassador of the Republic of Ireland to Montenegro, H.E. Pat Kelly, it was concluded that stable and friendly relations between Montenegro and Ireland need to be improved at all levels. The intensification of parliamentary cooperation at the level of working bodies was discussed at the meeting, and the interlocutors considered the possibility of more concrete cooperation of the Committee on International Relations and Emigrants with the Joint Committee on Foreign Affairs, Trade and Defense of the Parliament of Ireland.