



Parliament of Montenegro

# NEWSLETTER OPEN PARLIAMENT

Newsletter on the Parliament of Montenegro Performance ♦ No. 73 ♦ July 2017

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# OPEN PARLIAMENT



Parliament of Montenegro

Newsletter on the Parliament of Montenegro Performance ♦ Electronic format ♦ Release: monthly ♦ Year VII ♦ No. 73 ♦ July 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 July, which is, in the form of monthly newsletter "Open Parliament", prepared by Parliamentary Service.

During July, the twelfth and the fourteenth sitting of the first ordinary session of the Parliament of Montenegro in 2017 took place, as well as the thirteenth Special Sitting. During the twelfth and fourteenth sitting, nine laws were adopted.

In July, Committees considered 27 proposals for a law, 14 proposals for a decision and performed other activities within their oversight role.

In focus of this month's newsletter is the meeting of the President of the Parliament of Montenegro with the President of the European Parliament Antonio Tajani, who paid a visit to the Parliament on 18 July.

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 12th Sitting of the First Ordinary Session of the Parliament of Montenegro in 2017**, members of the Parliament adopted: Law on Amendments to the Law on Tax Administration; Law on Amendments to the Law on Primary Education, Law on Amendments to the General Law on Education, Law on Amendments to the Law on Vocational Education, Law on Amendments to the Law on Adult Education, Law on Amendments to the Law on Education of Children with Special Educational Needs, Law on Amendments to the Law on Gymnasium; Law on Amendments to the Law on Preschool Education and the Law on Amendments to the Law on the regularisation of informal structures.

**At the Fourteenth Sitting of the First Ordinary - Spring Session of the Parliament of Montenegro in 2017**, the MPs adopted 2016 Performance Report of the State Commission for the Control of Public Procurement Procedures; 2016 Status Report on the Insurance Market in Montenegro; 2016 Annual Report of the National Mechanism for Prevention of Torture; Opinion with the proposal for a reply to the Constitutional Court of Montenegro with regard to the Initiative for launching the procedure of the constitutional review of a provision of Article 78a of the Law on Amendments to the Law on Public Enforcement Officers (Official Gazette of Montenegro, No 22/17); Opinion with the proposal for a reply to the Constitutional Court of Montenegro with regard to the Proposal for the constitutional review of a provision of Article 1 paragraph 2 point 2 of the Law on Amendments to the Law on Free Access to Information (Official Gazette of Montenegro, No 30/17); Opinion with the proposal for a reply to the Constitutional Court of Montenegro with regard to the Proposal for launching the procedure of the constitutional review of the Law on Ratification of the

Parliament of Montenegro

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

North-Atlantic Treaty and the Protocol to the North-Atlantic Treaty on the Accession of Greece and Turkey (Official Gazette of Montenegro – International treaties, No 4/17); and Opinion with the proposal for a reply to the Constitutional Court of Montenegro with regard to the Initiative for launching the procedure of the constitutional review of a provision of Article 78 paragraph 2, for the following part: "years of service" of the Labour Law (Official Gazette of Montenegro, No 49/08, 59/11, 66/12 and 31/14) and of a provision of the Article 15 paragraph 1 point 4 of the Law on Public Sector Salaries (Official Gazette of Montenegro, No 16/16, 83/16 and 21/17).

### *Prime Minister's Questions and MPs' Questions*

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

### *Proposals for law deliberated in committees*

- **Proposal for a Law on Amendments to the Law on the regularisation of informal structures** 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 the Law on Amendments to the Law on Tax Administration** 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 Primary Education** was considered and proposed to the Parliament for adoption by Legislative Committee and the Committee on Education, Science, Culture and Sports.
- **Proposal for a Law on Amendments to the General Law on Education** was considered and proposed to the Parliament for adoption by the Legislative Committee and the Committee on Education, Science, Culture and Sports.
- **Proposal for a Law on Amendments to the Law on Vocational Education** was considered and proposed to the Parliament for adoption by the Legislative Committee and the Committee on Education, Science, Culture and Sports.
- **Proposal for a Law on Amendments to the Law on Adult Education** was considered and proposed to the Parliament for adoption by the Legislative Committee and the Committee on Education, Science, Culture and Sports.
- **Proposal for a Law on Amendments to the Law on Education of Children with Special Educational Needs** was considered and proposed to the Parliament for adoption by the Legislative Committee and the Committee on Education, Science, Culture and Sports.
- **Proposal for a Law on Amendments to the Law on Gymnasium** was considered and proposed to the Parliament for adoption by the Legislative Committee and the Committee on Education, Science, Culture and Sports.
- **Proposal for a Law on Amendments to the Law on Preschool Education** was considered and proposed to the Parliament for adoption by the Legislative Committee and the Committee on Education, Science, Culture and Sports.
- **Proposal for a Law on the Market of Agricultural Products** 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 Ratification of the Additional Protocol to the Council of Europe Convention on the prevention of terrorism** 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 Protocol on Pollutant Release and Transfer Registers** 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 Civil 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 Army 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 Energy** 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 Services** was considered and proposed to the Parliament for adoption by the Legislative Committee.
- **Proposal for a Law on Amendments to the Law on Misdemeanours** 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 the Prevention of Violence and Misbehavior at Sports Events** was considered and proposed to the Parliament for adoption by the Committee on Education, Science, Culture and Sports and the Legislative Committee.
- **Proposal for a Law on Chemicals** was considered and proposed to the Parliament for adoption by the Committee on Tourism, Agriculture, Ecology and Spatial Planning and the Legislative Committee.
- **Proposal for a Law on Amendments to the Law on Construction Products** was considered and proposed to the Parliament for adoption by the Committee on Tourism, Agriculture, Ecology and Spatial Planning and the Legislative Committee.
- **Proposal for a Law on Amendments to the Excise Law** 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 Value Added 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 Ratification of the Agreement between the Government of Montenegro and Government of the Republic of Portugal on Double Taxation Avoidance and Prevention of Income Tax Evasion** was considered and proposed to the Parliament for adoption by the Legislative Committee.
- **Proposal for a Law on Amendments to the Law on Travel Benefits for Persons** was considered and proposed to the Parliament for adoption by the Committee on Health, Labour and Social Welfare and the Legislative Committee.
- **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 Committee on Health, Labour and Social Welfare and the Legislative Committee.
- **Proposal for a Law on Supplement to the Bankruptcy Law** was considered and proposed to the Parliament for adoption by the Legislative Committee.
- **Proposal for a Law on Old Royal Capital** was considered and proposed to the Parliament for adoption by the Legislative Committee and the Committee on Political System, Judiciary and Administration. The same proposal was considered by the Committee on Economy, Finance and Budget, partly under its area of competence, which has submitted its opinion to the Committee on Political System, Judiciary and Administration.

#### *Proposals for other acts deliberated in committees*

- **Proposal for a Decision on Dismissal and Election of one member of the Constitutional Committee of the Parliament of Montenegro** was determined by the Administrative Committee.
- **Proposal for a Decision on Dismissal and Election of one member of the Legislative Committee of the Parliament of Montenegro** was determined by the Administrative Committee.
- **Proposal for a Decision on Dismissal of one member and Election of two members of the Committee on Education, Science, Culture and Sports of the Parliament of Montenegro** was determined by the Administrative Committee.
- **Proposal for a Decision on Dismissal and Election of one member of the Committee on European Integration of the Parliament of Montenegro** was determined by the Administrative Committee.
- **Proposal for a Decision on Dismissal and Election of one member of the Committee on Political System, Judiciary and Administration of the Parliament of Montenegro** was determined by the Administrative Committee.
- **Proposal for a Decision on Dismissal and Election of one member of the Committee on Tourism, Agriculture, Ecology and Spatial Planning of the Parliament of Montenegro** was determined by the

Administrative Committee.

- **Proposal for a Decision on the Appointment of one representative of the Parliament of Montenegro to the Senate of the Old Royal Capital** was determined by the Administrative Committee.
- **Proposal for a Decision on nominating one member of the Commission for ranking the candidate for the member of the Committee of the Energy Regulatory Agency** was determined by the Administrative Committee.
- **Proposal for a Decision on the Amendments to the Rules of Procedure of the Parliament 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 Decision on the election of a member of the Council of the Insurance Supervision Agency** was determined by the Administrative Committee.
- **Proposal for a Decision on appointment of a member of the State Audit Institution** was determined by the Committee on Economy, Finance and Budget.
- **Proposal for a Decision on the Election of one member of the Security and Defence Committee of the Parliament of Montenegro** was determined by the Administrative Committee.
- **Proposal for a Decision on Dismissal of one member and Election of Chair and one member of the Committee on Economy, Finance and Budget of the Parliament of Montenegro** was determined by the Administrative Committee.
- **Proposal for a Decision on the Election of one member of the Committee on Health, Labour and Social Welfare of the Parliament of Montenegro** was determined by the Administrative Committee.

#### *Other activities of working bodies*

- At the ninth meeting of the **Security and Defence Committee**, held on 17 July, the Committee was acquainted with the contents of the Final Report on the audit of "Management and disposal of state property used by the Ministry of Defence".
- At the twelfth meeting of the **Committee on International Relations and Emigrants**, of 21 July, the Committee held a control hearing of Director of the Diaspora Administration Predrag Mitrović on the topic "Activities of the Diaspora Administration in the field of implementation of the government's policy of cooperation with emigrants".



- At the 21st meeting of the **Committee on Economy, Finance and Budget**, held on 10 July, members of the Committee considered the 2016 Performance Report of the Investment and Development Fund.

At the 22nd meeting of 25 July, the Committee considered and decided to propose to the Parliament to adopt the Proposal for 2017-2020 Fiscal Strategy of Montenegro, as well as the 2016 Status Report on the insurance market in Montenegro and the 2016 Performance Report of the Commission for the Control of Public Procurement Procedures.

At the 23rd meeting, held on 26 July, members of the Committee determined the Proposal for a Decision on appointment of a member of the State Audit Institution and decided to propose to the Parliament of Montenegro to nominate applicant Radule Žurić as a member of the State Audit Institution.



- At the ninth meeting of the **Committee on Human Rights and Freedoms**, 11 July, the Committee considered: Strategy for the Social Inclusion of Roma and Egyptians in Montenegro 2016-2020 with the 2017 Action Plan for the Implementation of the Strategy and 2016 Report on the Implementation of the Action Plan, Strategy for the Integration of Persons with Disabilities in Montenegro 2016-2020 with 2016/2017 Action Plan for the Implementation of the Strategy and the Strategy for the Protection of Persons with Disabilities from Discrimination and the Promotion of Equality 2017-2021 with 2017 and 2018 Action Plan with the Memorandum from NGO of Persons with disabilities, of 23 June 2017.

At the tenth meeting, 24 July, the Committee considered and supported the 2016 Annual Report of the National Mechanism for Prevention of Torture with the Report on work conditions and treatment of security officers at the Institution for Enforcement of Criminal Sanctions.

- At the tenth meeting of the **Administrative Committee**, on 5 July, the Committee determined six proposals for a decision, and decided to propose to the Parliament that MP Branka Tanasijević be dismissed as the member of the Constitutional Committee of the Parliament of Montenegro, and MP Danijel Živković be elected as the member of the Constitutional Committee of the Parliament of Montenegro; that MP Predrag Sekulić be dismissed as the member of the Legislative Committee of the Parliament of Montenegro, and MP Danijel Živković be elected as the member of the Legislative Committee of the Parliament of

Montenegro; that MP Sanja Vlahović be dismissed as the member of the Committee on Education, Science, Culture and Sports of the Parliament of Montenegro, MP Radule Novović be elected as the Chair of the Committee on Education, Science, Culture and Sports of the Parliament of Montenegro, and MP Branka Tanasijević as the member of the Committee; that MPs Sanja Vlahović and Andrija Nikolić be dismissed as the members of the Committee on European Integration of the Parliament of Montenegro, and MPs Petar Ivanović and Nikola Rakočević be elected as the members of the Committee on European Integration of the Parliament of Montenegro; that MP Bogdan Fatić be dismissed as the member of the Committee on Political System, Judiciary and Administration of the Parliament of Montenegro, and MP Danijel Živković be elected as the member of the Committee on Political System, Judiciary and Administration of the Parliament of Montenegro; that MPs Sanja Vlahović be dismissed as the member of the Committee on Tourism, Agriculture, Ecology and Spatial Planning of the Parliament of Montenegro, and MP Bogdan Fatić be elected as the member of the Committee on Tourism, Agriculture, Ecology and Spatial Planning of the Parliament of Montenegro.

At the eighth meeting, held on 17 July, the Committee decided to propose to the Parliament of Montenegro to appoint MP Daliborka Pejović as a representative of the Parliament of Montenegro to the Senate of the Old Royal Capital, as well as to nominate Bojan Đakonović as a member of the Commission for ranking the candidate for the member of the Committee of the Energy Regulatory Agency Committee.

At the twelfth meeting of 25 July, the Committee decided to propose to the Parliament of Montenegro to give approval that criminal proceedings could be initiated against Milan Knežević, Milutin Đukanović, Marina Jočić and Branko Radulović, members of the Parliament of Montenegro, following the Request of the Basic Public Prosecutor's Office in Podgorica, No 230/17 of 21 July 2017, for the criminal offense - Violent Conduct under Article 399 of the Criminal Code of Montenegro.

At the eleventh meeting, the Committee determined the Proposal for the decision on the election of a member of the Council of the Insurance Supervision Agency and decided to propose to the Parliament of Montenegro to appoint Hamid Kujević as member of the Council of the Insurance Supervision Agency.

At the thirteenth meeting held on 27 July, the Committee decided to propose to the Parliament of Montenegro to dismiss MP Predrag Sekulić from his duty of a member and elect him as a chair of the Committee on Economy, Finance and Budget of the Parliament of Montenegro, and also to elect MP Mićo Orlandić as a member of this Committee; to elect MP Mićo Orlandić as a member of the Committee on Health, Labour and Social Welfare of the Parliament of Montenegro; and to elect MP Mićo Orlandić as a member of the Security and Defence Committee of the Parliament of Montenegro.

## NEWS FROM PARLIAMENT



### *Meeting of Secretaries General of Parliaments of Western Balkan Countries in Warsaw*

Secretary General of the Parliament of Montenegro Aleksandar Jovičević participated on 12- 13 July at the Forum of Secretaries General of Parliaments of Western Balkan Countries that was held in Warsaw. The meeting was organised by the National Democratic Institute (NDI), within the Initiative for strengthening legislation of the Western Balkan countries, in cooperation with the Parliament of Poland.

The key topics of the meeting were related to the capacity building of parliamentary legislative and research services, the work of specialised parliamentary groups established for dealing with particular issues and assistance to MPs, and the application of new technologies for more efficient management of parliamentary information and improvement of the transparency of parliament's work.

In the opening part of the meeting, Secretaries General of the parliaments of the countries of the region briefly presented political developments, as well as legislative initiatives and events that marked the work of their parliaments during the past year. The participants had the opportunity to get more acquainted with the structure and work of the Legislative Service of the Lower House of the Polish Parliament, including the preparation of expert opinions and provision of legal and technical support at the meetings of working bodies. In addition, the novelties, results, challenges and the best practices in the field of parliamentary research were presented, especially the budget analysis. Secretaries General provided concrete examples and exchanged views on further directions for the development of this important segment of support to MPs in the exercise of their legislative and supervision role.

Representatives of services of regional parliaments also discussed various issues of the application of information technologies and developing an efficient and sustainable concept of electronic parliament, as well as the transparency of parliamentary work, which has been constantly improving in the parliaments of the countries in the region.



The meeting in Warsaw was an opportunity for the Secretaries General and representatives of services of parliaments of Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo, Macedonia, Serbia, Montenegro and Poland to exchange views and experiences on various administrative and financial challenges that have been constantly arising in the work of parliamentary administrations.

Regional Forum of Secretaries General is part of the NDI Initiative for Strengthening the Legislation of the Western Balkan Countries, which aims to support parliaments in strengthening legislative, oversight and representative capacities. The Warsaw Forum was the eighth meeting of the Secretaries General under the auspices of this Initiative, funded by the National Endowment for Democracy.

## PARLIAMENTARY GLOSSARY

**Association of Secretaries General of Parliaments.** "The ASGP was constituted as a consultative body of the Inter-Parliamentary Union aimed at facilitating personal contacts between the offices of the secretaries general of all parliaments regardless of whether the parliament is a member of the Inter-Parliamentary Union or not.

The task of the ASGP is to study the law, procedures, practices and working methods of various parliaments and to propose measures for improving these methods and for ensuring cooperation between the services of various parliaments. The ASGP also supports the Inter-Parliamentary Union upon its request regarding the issues that fall within the scope of competences of the ASGP.

The Secretary General of the Parliament of Montenegro is a member of this association."<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. 176-177.

## NEWS FROM PARLIAMENT



### *President of the Parliament presents the 13th July awards*

President of the Parliament of Montenegro Ivan Brajović presented on 12 July the 13th July awards for 2017.

Jury for awarding the 13th July awards composed of: President Gojko Kastratović, and members Ilija Vujošević, Igor Lakić, Miomir Vojinović and Asim Dizdarević reached the Decision about the winners for 2017, as follows:

- Miodrag Šćepanović, sculptor, for two solo exhibitions in the previous two years;
- Phd David Kalaj, for special results for the previous two years;
- Phd Svetozar Savić, for the monograph "Montenegrin ampelography".

Speech by President of the Parliament of Montenegro Ivan Brajović on the occasion of ceremonious presentation of the 13th July awards.

"If there is a moment, a day and a fateful hour which gathers Montenegrins, with all their primal differences in national, religious and culture sense - it is the 13th July. If there is a date which gathers all generations from the youngest to the oldest, with all their differences in the existential, class and ideological sense - that is, certainly, the 13th July. If there is a date that all citizens of the north and south, the east and west, are proud of, that is, without doubt, the 13th July.

13. The 13th July is not only a date but paradigm of the Montenegrin free nation and the Montenegrin free citizen. That is a thread woven through traditional and modern Montenegro.

The vision that unites a war-time and a peaceful Montenegro. The altar to whom belong all those who value more their homeland than their small interests. Agora where the knights of the round table do not sit, but the far-sighted people who believe in work, progress and the future.

13. The 13th July is a legend and a myth that we have lived since 1878 when we gained a confirmation of our independence at the Berlin Congress, and that was not even contested! Who gave us that confirmation and who is contesting it - Prince Nikola Petrović and Montenegro of that time, wounded in another exhausting war, wondered? We had it, and great powers verified it. And who was able to ask and say that except the one who was free. And Montenegro was free back then and today also. But also on the 13th July when it said NO to outstretched hand of fascism and became a beacon of national-liberation resistance and rebellion among the Slovenian, European and world nations.

Far from the fact that Montenegrin historical decisions were always correct, but they were, at the most important

moments, fundamental and advanced. Primarily in the First and the Second World War. However, it is not any less historically correct decision of Montenegro to stay aside during the delirious break-up of the SFRY, and even existentially shaken and unstable, it became a refuge and a home to tens of thousands of refugees from the war-torn Yugoslav territory. It is true that we were not burning in the heat of the Balkan hell, but we were choking in the smoke. Or, I can proudly emphasise the important decision of 1999, when Montenegro was again saved between two fires - retrogressive closeness and galloping globalisation. And again, Montenegro provided a shelter and a home to thousands of refugees and proved to be a benevolent partner to the world powers. Back then and also now I have been saying that in every occasion and challenge we have to be awakened, and not passionate. From that sown seed, nowadays, we are harvesting the fruit in Euro-Atlantic integrations.

On all Montenegrin paths, the clear ones and the vague ones, there were people who knew how. Who said where to go. Who, sooner or later, suffered or were rewarded for their views and visions. Who were restrained or motivated in their actions and deeds. It depends on the person and the deed. But then there were those who were, who are, and who will be a mirror and a guidepost of the progressive Montenegro. Scions of old olive and oak trees on whose roots burgeon the sprouts of the modern Montenegro. The intellectual and the workers' Montenegro. The modern and the timeless Montenegro. Today they have been rewarded. Yesterday others were. Tomorrow the third ones will be... But all of them know well that to take the 13th July Award means to carry the mark of Montenegro. To carry the burden of challenges and decisions... And I am glad that precisely these people: Miodrag Šćepanović, David Kalaj, and Svetozar Savić became the remarkable of the remarkable Montenegro.

I dare say that the work on enlightenment is the greatest task of a society. Culture, science and art make a country recognisable, they leave a permanent testimony of the spirit of one time, talents of one region. Nations with science and art highly ranked in their societies proudly maintain their identities, but at the same time have visionary orientation towards the future development of their societies. A more enlightened Montenegro would be an even more desirable home for all its citizens.

In that name, I thank the winners of the 13th July Award for creating among us, I congratulate them and wish them a long artistic and scientific work and contribution to the long and prosperous progress of Montenegro in the 21st century".

## IN FOCUS



### *President of the Parliament of Montenegro met with the President of the European Parliament Antonio Tajani*

President of the Parliament of Montenegro Ivan Brajović hosted on 18 July the President of the European Parliament Antonio Tajani.

The interlocutors exchanged views on the reform process, political and economic situation, and dynamics of the European path of our country, which was of great importance for the stability of the Western Balkans.

The first visit of the President of the European Parliament to Montenegro is a confirmation of the extraordinary relations of the Parliament of Montenegro with the European Parliament and a clear sign that the country has been achieving significant results on the internal and international plan, the President of the Parliament of Montenegro, Mr Ivan Brajović, stressed.



The interlocutors agreed that NATO membership was a prerequisite for smooth economic development, stronger inflow of foreign investments and strong impetus to our integration process into the European Union.

Stressing the good progress that our country has continuously realised in terms of European integration, the President of the European Parliament said that Montenegro was important for the stability of the Balkans, and that as a state of multiethnic harmony, it has been recognised for its good neighborly politics.



He particularly emphasised the importance of economic cooperation between Montenegro and the

Member States of the European Union, which would be paid special attention to in the upcoming period.



Referring to the non-participation of the opposition in the work of the Parliament and its working bodies, President Tajani stressed that it was important for the European Union that elections were held in a regular manner and in a democratic atmosphere, as confirmed by all international observers. He pointed out that it was not up to the European Union to interfere in internal affairs in Montenegro, and that the opposition should make its own choice in its next steps.

President Brajović stressed that the Parliament has worked very intensively, that the committees have been meeting constantly and discussed important laws regarding overall reforms, which would further strengthen Montenegro's position on the path to the European Union. We will continue with democratic and reform path, by improving the legislative framework and strengthening the work of institutions, through the acceptance of the best international standards, Mr Brajović pointed out.

The meeting was attended by the Vice-President of the Parliament of Montenegro, Mr Genci Nimanbegu, MP Mr Adrijan Vuksanović, Chairperson of the Committee on European Integration, as well as the Head of the European Union Delegation to Montenegro, Mr Aivo Orav.



# FROM THE HISTORY OF MONTENEGRIN PARLIAMENTARISM



## CONSTITUTION OF THE SOCIALIST REPUBLIC OF MONTENEGRO OF 1963

### Constitution Of The Socialist Republic Of Montenegro of 1963

#### Article 132

The Assembly shall comprise the Republic Chamber as a chamber of delegates of the citizens in the communes; and the Economic Chamber, the Chamber of Education and Culture, the Chamber of Social Welfare and Health, and the Organizational-Political Chamber as chambers of delegates of the working people in the working communities.

#### Article 133

The Republic chamber shall have 70 deputies, while working community chambers shall have 46 MPs each. MPs shall be elected in the ratio of one deputy to an equal number of inhabitants, as delegates of one or several communes.

#### Article 134

The deputies of the Republic Chamber

shall be elected by the communal assemblies and citizens directly. The deputies to the chambers of the Assembly which represent working communities shall be elected by the communal assemblies. The candidates for membership to the Republic Chamber shall be nominated by the citizens at their meetings of the electorate or by groups of citizens, and the candidates for membership to the various chambers representing the working communities shall be nominated by the working people in the working communities depending on their field of work.

#### Article 135

Every citizen with the right to suffrage is entitled to be elected as a member of the Republic chamber.

Every working man or member of an organ of management of a working organization or working community in the corresponding field of work, every member of an organ of management of an association of working organizations, and every trade-union officer in the corresponding field of work shall be eligible to election to the Economic Chamber, the Chamber of Education and Culture, and the Chamber of Social Welfare and Health. (...)

<sup>1</sup> *Crnogorski ustavi 1905-2005*, Podgorica, NIU Službeni list Republike Crne Gore 2005, str. 180-181

# CALENDAR



## 3 July

- President of the Parliament of Montenegro Ivan Brajović hosted the Speaker of the Assembly of the Republic of Macedonia Talat Xhaferi. Visit to Montenegro is the first international official parliamentary visit of the Speaker of the Assembly after taking office. The interlocutors emphasised that Montenegro and Macedonia have a meaningful cooperation in various fields and have encouraged further development and increasing of cooperation, primarily in the area of economy, where there was still plenty of opportunity. It was agreed that today's visit, at the very beginning of the term of office of the Speaker Xhaferi, was great contribution to further strengthening of inter-parliamentary cooperation, which developed excellently, both within the Friendship Group, and between Committees, with the belief that in the forthcoming period would develop new, practical models that would further improve at all levels.
- Members of the Security and Defence Committee Luid Ljubo Škrelja, Marta Šćepanović, Miodrag Vuković, Milorad Vuletić and Branko Čavor met with the delegation of the Assembly of the Republic of Macedonia, headed by the Speaker of the Assembly Talat Xhaferi. Euro-Atlantic integrations of Montenegro and Macedonia were in the focus of today's meeting of two delegations and exchange of experiences in the context of reforms necessary for EU and NATO membership.
- Chair of the Committee on International Relations and Emigrants Andrija Nikolić wished success in the work of the newly appointed Ambassador of the United Kingdom to Montenegro Alison Kemp, and thanked for the continued support of the official London, at all stages of the recent political history of Montenegro. Although in the process of leaving the European Union, the United Kingdom, according to Ambassador Kemp, will continue to be a strong partner to the Union, but also to the countries of the region on the European path. Supporting this fact, the organisation of the Summit of the Western Balkans countries in London in 2018 has also been announced, strengthening political support for the European future of this region.
- Member of the Permanent Delegation in the NATO Parliamentary Assembly Obrad Mišo Stanišić participated in the work of the 95th NATO PA Rose-Roth Seminar, on the topic: "Towards a Secure and Stable

Ukraine and Black Sea Region", which took place from 3 to 5 July in Kyiev. Several sessions took place on the following topics: "Russia, NATO and the Black Sea Region", "The Humanitarian and Military Situation in the Donbas", "The Political and Human Rights Situation in Crimea", "Ukraine's Reform Agenda and Internal Challenges", "Ukraine, NATO and Integrity Building", "Supporting Growth in the Black Sea Region", and "Political and Economic Situation in the Republic of Moldova".



- Chair of the Friendship Group with the Assembly of the Republic of Macedonia, Vice-President of the Parliament of Montenegro, Genci Nimanbegu met with the Speaker of the Assembly of the Republic of Macedonia Talat Xhaferi. Interlocutors agreed that in the upcoming period it was important to further work on the establishment of even better economic and commercial relations between the two countries, especially with regard to cooperation in the field of tourism, as well as the improvement of the transport infrastructure between the two countries. The meeting was also attended by members of the Friendship Group with the Assembly of Macedonia, MPs Mirsad Murić, Branka Tanasijević and Maja Bakrač, while the Macedonian delegation, beside the Speaker Xhaferi, was composed of Members of the Sobranie, Dzevad Ademi and Maksim Dimitrievski.

## 5 July

- President of the Parliament of Montenegro Ivan Brajović participated in the XXVI Annual Session of the OSCE (PA) Parliamentary Assembly. The OSCE PA Annual Session, being held in Minsk, as a central theme has the strengthening of mutual trust and cooperation for peace and development in the OSCE region. During numerous bilateral meetings of the President of the Parliament Ivan Brajović, at the OSCE PA Annual Session in Minsk, an undivided opinion was expressed that Montenegro was continuously leading a

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constructive policy on the internal and external plan, that it responsibly approached its obligations with regards to its membership in the international organisations, and that the political system was functioning smoothly, despite the opposition not participating in the work of the Parliament.

## 7 July

- Delegation of the Administrative Committee of the Parliament of Montenegro, headed by the Chair of the Committee Luid Škrelja met in the Croatian Parliament with Ante Sanader, Chairperson of the Elections, Appointments and Administration Committee of the Croatian Parliament and Žarko Tušek, Chairman of the Credentials and Privileges Commission of the Croatian Parliament. The meeting was dedicated to the exchange of experiences and examples of good practice in the part of the rights and obligations of MPs during their mandate and other issues within the competence of the Administrative Committee, with a special emphasis on the presence of MPs at the meetings of committees and sittings of the Parliament.
- Friendship Group of the Parliament of Montenegro with the Grand National Assembly of the Republic of Turkey, held a meeting with the Ambassador of the Republic of Turkey to Montenegro, H.E. Serhat Galip. In addition to traditionally good relations at the political level, intensified economic cooperation between Montenegro and the Republic of Turkey has been welcomed at the meeting, which regarding the trade in goods has in the last five months of the current year already reached the last year's level of about EUR 72 million.



## 11 July

- President of the Parliament of Montenegro Ivan Brajović hosted non-residential Ambassador of the Czech Republic Ivana Hlavsová, on a farewell visit. President Brajović stressed the importance of improving parliamentary cooperation at all levels, both

in the committees and in the friendship group, as well as exchanging experiences regarding the process of Euro-Atlantic and European integration, and reminded of the recent visit of the delegation of the Senate of the Czech Republic, which made a significant contribution to its further strengthening.



- President of the Parliament of Montenegro Ivan Brajović hosted the President of the Republic of Bulgaria Rumen Radev. It is jointly noted that between Montenegro and Bulgaria there were possibilities for improvement of bilateral cooperation in a number of areas of mutual interest, with a special focus on the economic sector.

## 12 July

- President of the Parliament of Montenegro Ivan Brajović presented the 13th July awards for 2017. Jury for awarding the 13th July awards composed of: President Gojko Kastratović, and members Ilija Vujošević, Igor Lakić, Miomir Vojinović and Asim Dizdarević reached the Decision about the winners for 2017, as follows: Miodrag Šćepanović, sculptor, for two solo exhibitions in the previous two years; David Kalaj, for special results for the previous two years; Svetozar Savić, for the monograph "Montenegrin ampelography".
- The Friendship Group of the Parliament of Montenegro with the Parliament of Israel met with the non-resident Ambassador of Israel to Montenegro, based in Israel, H.E. Alona Fisher Kamm. At the meeting, willingness was expressed to intensify cooperation in the following areas: economy, tourism, healthcare, defence, science, education and sports, and a plan of concrete joint activities would be coordinated in the upcoming period.
- Secretary General of the Parliament of Montenegro Aleksandar Jovičević participated at the Forum of Secretaries General of Parliaments of Western Balkan Countries that was held in Warsaw. The key topics of the meeting were related to the capacity building of parliamentary legislative and research services, the

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work of specialised parliamentary groups established for dealing with particular issues and assistance to MPs, and the application of new technologies for more efficient management of parliamentary information and improvement of the transparency of parliament's work.

## 17 July

- Chair of the Security and Defence Committee Obrad Mišo Stanišić met with the Ambassador of the Republic of Croatia to Montenegro, H.E. Veselko Grubišić. The readiness to continue the successful cooperation between the two countries, both in the field of European integration and in all other fields, was jointly stated, with the assessment that all potential open issues should be addressed in the spirit of well-founded good neighborly relations.

## 18 July

- President of the Parliament of Montenegro Ivan Brajović hosted the President of the European Parliament Antonio Tajani. The interlocutors exchanged views on the reform process, political and economic situation, and dynamics of the European path of our country, which was of great importance for the stability of the Western Balkans.
- Chair of the Committee on Health, Labour and Social Welfare Suad Numanović and members of the Committee Maja Bakrač, Halil Duković, and Nedžad Drešević paid a working visit to the PI Senior Home "Grabovac" in Risan. The goal of the visit was to inform the Committee members on the organisation and functioning of the Home and the living conditions of its users.



## 20 July

- President of the Parliament of Montenegro Ivan Brajović paid an official visit to Bosnia and Herzegovina, where

he had meetings with chairmen of the House of Representatives and the House of Peoples of the Parliamentary Assembly of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Šefik Džaferović and Bariš Čolak, as well as with members of the collegiums of the two houses of the Parliamentary Assembly of Bosnia and Herzegovina - Chairman of the Council of Ministers of Bosnia and Herzegovina Denis Zvizdić, and with the member of the Presidency of Bosnia and Herzegovina Bakir Izetbegović. During the meetings, it was concluded that Montenegro and Bosnia and Herzegovina are an example of neighbours with extraordinary political relations and with no open issues, which is the best basis for further economic development and consideration of all other topics of interest to citizens of the two countries.

## 21 July

- Chair of the Gender Equality Committee Nada Drobnjak took part in the conference "Women in Management in Montenegro - Support to leadership and professional development of women in Montenegro", organised by the Union of Employers of Montenegro (UPCG) and the International Labour Organisation (ILO), in cooperation with the Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare, Ministry of Human and Minority Rights, Directorate for Development of Small and Medium Enterprises - Ministry of Economy, and Association of Businesswomen of Montenegro.



## 22 July

- President of the Parliament of Montenegro Ivan Brajović participated in Cetinje at the regional meeting on "Regional Cooperation and Security" that has brought together chairmen of the security and defense committees and heads of foreign delegations to the NATO Parliamentary Assembly from Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Macedonia, Slovenia and Serbia.