



Parliament of Montenegro

# NEWSLETTER OPEN PARLIAMENT

Newsletter on the Parliament of Montenegro Performance ♦ No. 75 ♦ October 2017

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# OPEN PARLIAMENT



Parliament of Montenegro

Newsletter on the Parliament of Montenegro Performance ♦ Electronic format ♦ Release: monthly ♦ Year VII ♦ No. 75 ♦ October 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 October, which is, in the form of monthly newsletter "Open Parliament", prepared by Parliamentary Service.

During October, the First, Second and Fifth Sitting of the Second Ordinary Session of the Parliament of Montenegro in 2017 took place, as well as the Third and Fourth Special Sitzings of the Second Ordinary Session.

In October, committees considered 14 proposals for a law, and performed other activities within their oversight role.

In focus of this month's newsletter is holding of the Fourth Special Sitting on the occasion of Tenth Anniversary of Promulgation of the Constitution of Montenegro.

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

**Respectfully,  
Parliamentary Service**



## LEGISLATIVE AND OVERSIGHT ACTIVITY

**At the First Sitting of the Second Ordinary (Autumn) Session in 2017**, MPs adopted the following: Law on Ratification of the Agreement between Montenegro and the Republic of Portugal on Double Taxation Avoidance and Prevention of Income Tax Evasion, Law on Ratification of the Paris Agreement and Law on Ratification of the Amendments to the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants, adopted at the sixth and seventh meeting of the signatories to the Convention.

**At the Second Sitting of the Second Ordinary (Autumn) Session in 2017**, MPs adopted the following: Law on Amendment to the Law on Restitution of the Taken Away Property Rights and Compensation, Law on Amendments to the Customs Law, Law on Amendment to the Law on Audit of EU Funds, Law on Amendment to the Law on Tax on Turnover of used passenger motor vehicles, vessels, airplanes and aircrafts, Law on Amendments to the Law on Central Bank of Montenegro, Law on Amendments to the Law on Foreign Current and Capital Operations, Law on Amendment and Supplements to the Law on Budget and Fiscal Responsibility, Law on Foreign Affairs, Law on Services, Law on Supplement to the Law on Consumer Protection, Law on Amendments to the Law on Safety of Maritime Navigation, Law on Contracts for Transportation in Road Traffic, Report on implementation of the Action Plan for 2014-2020 Regional Development Strategy in 2016, 2016 Status Report on the Energy Sector of Montenegro and the Proposal for the Decision on amendments and supplement to the Decision on establishing the Fund for Protection and Exercising of Minority Rights.

**At the Fifth Sitting of the Second Ordinary Session in 2017**, MPs adopted the Law on Financial Leasing, Factoring,

Debt Repurchase, Micro-crediting, and Credit and Guarantee Operations and the Law on Amendments and Supplement to the Law on Higher Education. Within the agenda item Elections and Appointments, the Parliament appointed the Deputy Secretary General Ms Marija Mirjačić.

**Fourth Special Sitting of the Second Ordinary Session in 2017** was held in the Government House, Cetinje, on the occasion of Tenth Anniversary of Promulgation of the Constitution of Montenegro.

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

At the Third Special Sitting of the Second Ordinary Session of the Parliament of Montenegro in 2017, within the item *Prime Minister's Questions and MPs' Questions*, Prime Minister of Montenegro and ministers in the Government answered the questions posed by MPs. The Prime Minister was posed four questions, while the ministers were posed 48 questions.

#### *Proposals for law deliberated in committees*

- **Proposal for a Law on Amendments to the Customs Law** was considered and proposed to the Parliament for adoption by the Committee on Economy, Finance and Budget.
- **Proposal for a Law on Contracts for Transportation in Road Traffic** 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 Consumer Protection** 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 Amendment to the Law on Tax on Turnover of used passenger motor vehicles, vessels, airplanes and aircrafts** 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 Foreign Affairs** was considered and proposed to the Parliament for adoption by the Committee on International Relations and Emigrants.
- **Proposal for a Law on Amendments to the Law on Central Bank of Montenegro** 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 Foreign Current and Capital Operations** 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 Amendment and Supplements to the Law on Budget and Fiscal Responsibility** 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 the 2016 Final Budget Statement of Montenegro** was considered and proposed to the Parliament for adoption by the Legislative Committee. The same proposal was considered by the Security and Defence Committee, within its capacity as an interested committee, and thus submitted its opinion to the Committee on Economy, Finance and Budget.
- **Proposal for a Law on Financial Leasing, Factoring, Debt Repurchase, Micro-crediting, and Credit and Guarantee Operations** 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 Customs Service** was considered and proposed to the Parliament for adoption by the Legislative Committee.
- **Proposal for a Law on Ratification of the Agreement between the Government of Montenegro and Government of the Republic of Azerbaijan on readmission (return and admission) of persons residing without authorisation** 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 and the Committee on Education, Science, Culture and Sports.
- **Proposal for a Law on Ratification of the Metre Convention** was considered and proposed to the Parliament for adoption by the Legislative Committee.

#### *Other activities of working bodies*

- At the 34th meeting of the **Legislative Committee**, on 16 October, the Committee supported the Decision on amendments and supplement to the Decision on establishing the Fund for Protection and Exercising of Minority Rights.
- At the 11th meeting held on 12 October, the **Security and Defence Committee** conducted consultative hearing of military and diplomatic representative of Montenegro – defence envoy, Colonel Ivan Mašulović, prior to his assumption of office in the Republic of Croatia.
- At the eighteenth meeting of the **Committee on International Relations and Emigrants**, held on 26 October, members of the Committee agreed on providing unanimous positive opinion for the candidate for a position of Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary Ambassador of Montenegro to the Russian Federation, on a residential basis in Moscow, Mr Ramiz Bašić.

At the nineteenth meeting of the Committee, held on 26 October, members of the Committee agreed on providing unanimous positive opinion on the proposal for the candidate for the position of the Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Montenegro to the Republic of Austria, on a residential basis, in Vienna, Mr

Željko Perović.



At the twentieth meeting, held on the same day, members of the Committee on International Relations and Emigrants unanimously gave a positive opinion of the proposal that Ms Snežana Radović be the Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Montenegro to the Republic of Bulgaria, on a residential basis, in Sofia.

- At the eleventh meeting of the **Committee on European Integration**, held on 12 October, the Committee members agreed on the activity plan of the Committee for the Fourth Quarter of 2017. They jointly assessed that the Committee was performing an important role in the parliamentary oversight of Montenegro's accession to the EU, as well as in informing the Montenegrin public on the negotiation process and promoting it.



- At the eleventh meeting of the **Committee on Human Rights and Freedoms**, held on 16 October, the Committee unanimously endorsed the Proposal for the Decision on Amendments and Supplement to the Decision on Establishing the Fund for Protection and Exercising of Minority Rights, and proposed its adoption to the Parliament.



- At the 25th meeting of the **Committee on Economy, Finance and Budget**, held on 2 October, the Committee

decided to propose to the Parliament the adoption of the 2016 Status Report on the Energy Sector of Montenegro. At the 26th meeting of 12 October, the Committee decided to propose to the Parliament to accept the Report on the implementation of the Regional Development Strategy of Montenegro 2014-2020, in 2016.

- The **Committee on Health, Labour and Social Welfare** held its twelfth meeting on 17 October dedicated to the month of breast cancer awareness.



- At the sixth meeting of the **Anti - Corruption Committee**, on 16 October, the Committee unanimously adopted the Decision on initiating the procedure for the election of members of the Commission for the conducting of election of one member of the Council of the Agency for Prevention of Corruption.
- At the sixteenth meeting of the **Administrative Committee**, held on 6 October, members of the Committee gave consent to the Decision on amending the Statute of the Agency for Personal Data Protection and Free Access to Information. In addition, the Committee adopted the Decision on amending the Decision on task complexity coefficient in the Service of the Parliament of Montenegro as well as the Decision on amending the Decision on determining reimbursements for the work of science and expert consultants.

At the 17th meeting of 23 October, the Committee initiated procedure for the appointment of one member of the Council of the Radio and Television of Montenegro, by sending the Public Invitation to an authorised proposer - the Chamber of Economy of Montenegro and the Association of Employers which was represented in the Social Council. In addition, the Committee established three proposals for decisions, namely: Proposal for the decision on dismissal and election of one member of the Committee on European Integration of the Parliament of Montenegro. It was proposed to dismiss MP Petar Ivanović from the position of a member of the Committee for European Integration of the Parliament of Montenegro, and to elect MP Momcilo Martinović; Proposal for the decision on election of one member of the Committee on Education, Science, Culture and Sports. It was proposed to elect MP Sanja Pavićević; Proposal for the decision on election of one member of the Gender Equality Committee of the Parliament of Montenegro. It was proposed to elect MP Sanja Pavićević.

## NEWS FROM PARLIAMENT



### *Delegation of the Parliament of Montenegro paid a two-day visit to the Republic of Serbia*

**D**elegation of the Parliament of Montenegro paid a two-day bilateral official visit to the Republic of Serbia, on 12-13 October, where they met with the highest officials of Serbia. The visit began with a meeting between the President of the National Assembly Maja Gojković and the President of the Parliament of Montenegro Ivan Brajović. In the Serbian parliament, the delegation, which, in addition to President Brajović, consisted of MP Radule Novović and Secretary General Aleksandar Jovičević, also held meetings with the Parliamentary Friendship Group and the Foreign Affairs Committee of the National Assembly of the Republic of Serbia. At the meetings with the Prime Minister Ana Brnabić and the First Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Mr Ivica Dačić, the interlocutors noted that the communication between Montenegro and Serbia was regular, meaningful and of good quality, as well as that regional stability was a precondition for accelerated economic development. The first day of the visit ended with conversation with non-resident ambassadors who cover Montenegro from Belgrade. The meeting was held in the representative building of Montenegrin House, and key topics of discussion were referring to the current political developments in Montenegro, as well as relations with the Western Balkans countries. President of the Parliament of

Montenegro Mr Ivan Brajović met the following day with President of the Republic of Serbia Mr Aleksandar Vučić, discussing with him numerous aspects of bilateral relations, including the issues of European integration and economic cooperation, especially in the area of infrastructure connectivity. The visit continued with a visit to Montenegro's General Consulate in Sremski Karlovci, and meetings with President of the Assembly of the Autonomous Province of Vojvodina István Pásztor and President of the Provincial Government Igor Mirović. Meeting with members of the Montenegrin Diaspora was held in Petrovaradin Fortress, while exhibiting "Collection of Paintings of the Parliament of Montenegro".



### *President of the Parliament of Montenegro received the Speaker of the National Council of Slovakia Andrej Danko*

**W**hile meeting with the Speaker of the National Council of the Slovak Republic, Mr Andrej Danko, on 2 October, President Brajović emphasised that Slovakia holds a special place in the recent history of Montenegro, bearing in mind the role this country and its officials have had in restoring the independence of Montenegro, as well as during the years that followed. Brajović added that all the more important was the first visit of the Speaker of the National Council of Slovakia to Montenegro since restoration of independence in 2006. Bearing in mind that Montenegro and Slovakia share NATO membership, and that our country strives to become a member of the union of European people where Slovakia already belongs, the interlocutors have concluded that common values make plenty of room for improving cooperation in many areas. It was concluded that the National Council was in many ways compatible with the Parliament of Montenegro, and that parliamentary cooperation should be strengthened at the level of parliamentary bodies and friendship groups, as well as through projects of strengthening administrative

capacities. Cooperation initiated in many areas, such as education, defence, tourism, should be intensified, when it came to the relation between the two countries, and both sides should also work to increase the volume of trade in goods - the two presidents of parliaments agreed.

In addition, there was a great interest in Slovakia for this first parliamentary visit to our country, and there were representatives of several Slovak media present in Montenegro.



# FROM THE HISTORY OF MONTENEGRIN PARLIAMENTARISM



## Rules of procedure from 1975

### Article 463

Parliamentary Service shall perform professional tasks and other tasks for the needs of the Parliament, Committees of the Parliament, and MPs in the Parliament. The Parliamentary Service shall perform the following duties: take part in preparing and organising sittings of the Parliament, its Committees, provide professional opinions related to the work and tasks of the working bodies, preparing work programmes and plans involving the Parliament and its working bodies, monitoring the implementation of the same; provide for unity in the legislative process when it comes to its professionalism and methodology, provide for and prepare documentation and other materials and data needed for the carrying out the duties of the Parliament and its working bodies, monitor and implement all the conclusions adopted by the working bodies, prepare proposal acts and other materials as required by the working bodies and MPs, as well as perform other professional, administrative and technical tasks as required by the Parliament, its working bodies, and MPs.

### Article 464

The Parliamentary service shall be unison in organising and performing the tasks within their area of competence, and it shall be composed of independent professional services, council services, commission services of the Parliament, as well as other services, in accordance with their tasks required by the Parliament and its working bodies.

### Article 465

The general management over the service of the Parliament shall be provided for by the Secretary General. The Secretary shall organise and harmonize the work of specific organisational units of the Parliament when it comes to performing their duties required by the Parliament, its working bodies, and MPs, as well as ensure unison functioning of the services. The Secretary shall issue the following working instructions ensuring: efficient performance of the Parliamentary duties and the duties of its working bodies, as well as work harmonization. He may also issue instructions involving the implementation of the Rulebook, issued by the President of the Parliament. The Secretary shall close of temporary service contracts and manage other legal affairs of the Parliament. The Secretary General shall be held responsible to the Parliament for its work and the work of the professional service.

<sup>1</sup> Poslovnik Skupštine SR Crne Gore, *Novinska ustanova Službeni list Socijalističke Republike Crne Gore, Titograd, 1975, str.148-149.*

## Rules of Procedure from 2013

### Article 218

Parliamentary Service shall perform professional tasks and other tasks for the needs of the Parliament, Committees of the Parliament, MPs in the Parliament and specific tasks for MP Groups.

### Article 219

In performing tasks referred to in Article 218 of these Rules of Procedure, the Parliamentary Service shall particularly: take part in preparing and organising sittings of the Parliament, its Committees and Collegium of the President of the Parliament; perform professional and other tasks for the needs of the President, Vice-President and Secretary General of the Parliament; draft wording of adopted laws and prepare them for submission to the President of Montenegro for promulgation and publication; produce the texts of adopted acts and prepare them for publication in the Official Gazette of Montenegro; produce reports of Committees; perform professional and other tasks related to referring of proposal acts and other materials that the President of the Parliament forwards to relevant Committees of the Parliament and state authorities; prepare proposal acts and other materials as required by the President, Vice-President, Committees and MPs; provide professional opinions as required by MPs, Committees and MP Groups for the need of carrying out their duties; perform professional and other tasks related to carrying out of international parliamentary cooperation; collect, process, keep, give for use and exchange information-documentary materials required for work of MPs, Committees and the Parliament; organise cooperation with reporters and provide them materials for exercise of their rights and duties in respect of reporting on the work of the Parliament; edit and issue relevant informative publications and audio records of the sittings of the Parliament; prepare, sort and keep original laws, other regulations and general acts adopted by the Parliament; perform tasks related to exercise of employment rights of officials in the Parliament, and civil servants and employees in the Parliamentary Service; perform tasks related to office administration, accounting and material-financial tasks, typing and other administrative-technical tasks for the Parliament, Committees, MPs, MP Groups and Parliamentary Service; perform other professional, administrative and technical tasks as required by the Parliament, President and Vice-Presidents of the Parliament and Secretary General of the Parliament.

## IN FOCUS



### *Fourth Special Sitting was held on the occasion of Tenth Anniversary of Promulgation of the Constitution of Montenegro*

**F**ourth - Special Sitting of the Second Ordinary (Autumn) Session in 2017 was held on 20 October in the Government House, Cetinje, on the occasion of Tenth Anniversary of Promulgation of the Constitution of Montenegro. President of the Parliament of Montenegro Ivan Brajović addressed the guests, stressing the role and importance of the first Montenegrin Constitution, which at the beginning of the 20th century was of major importance for the modernisation and development of the Montenegrin state that back then was opening the door of the European family. A century later it has become once again the dominant course for Montenegrin citizens to demand from their politicians in order to build an independent and autonomous path towards Euro-Atlantic and European integration, which is emphasised by the Preamble of the current Constitution.

"Today we are celebrating 10 years of our latest Constitution in independent Montenegro, which has finally become a modern state that shares one fate with the most powerful countries of the NATO Alliance. It should be noted that Montenegro's Constitution of 1946, which returned a sense of national identity to Montenegrins, has also a crucial importance for modern Montenegro. This Constitution has enabled universal suffrage to all adult citizens, and guaranteed for the first time a full equality to women when it comes to work and salary, as well as a special protection in employment. Much more developed democracy could envy us on this achievement", President

Brajović said.

MP Miodrag Vuković, Chairperson of the Constitutional Committee of the Parliament of Montenegro, who was a member of the Constitutional Committee of the Constitutional Assembly of Montenegro in 2006, said in his address that the tenth anniversary of new constitutionality of Montenegro was being marked today, in conditions when Montenegro is already recognisable as democratic, mature, political, valued and partnering country, accepted throughout the international democratic community, encouraged on its road of uninterrupted efforts towards the full emancipation.

"Today we are not witnessing to the 10th anniversary only as a historical fact, we are also observing this date, and it is necessary and justifiable to do so, as something that is at the very least a fundamental legal and political determinant of our present and our unified Montenegrin future. Today we are able to witness the new historical rise of our country to the satisfaction of the citizens of Montenegro, and with clear gratitude and support of our friends around the world. This date reminds that ten years ago a strong constitutional legal basis for the new successes of democratic Montenegro was made", Vuković said.

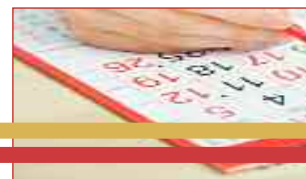
All the attendees had the opportunity to see copies of several Montenegrin constitutions, from the first one adopted in independent Montenegro of 1905 up to the current one of 2007.

## PARLIAMENTARY GLOSSARY

**Reply** "A Reply is a short oral answer which serves as a reaction to the speech of another participant in the debate. In the Parliament of Montenegro, a reply refers to the right of an MP to answer, or to ask for and be given the floor, during a parliamentary debate, if another MP mentioned him/her in his/her speech in the work of the sitting in a negative context, mentioning his/her name or function (the right to a reply). The President of the Parliament of Montenegro gives floor to the MP immediately after the speech of the previous MP. If the negative expressions refer to a parliamentary group or a political group, the President or an authorised representative of the group has the right to a reply. The right to a reply also belongs to the proposer or representative of the proposer of the act that is the topic of the debate, as well as any other participant in the work of the sitting. The right to a reply may be used once, within a three minute period. A reply to a reply is not allowed, except if the President of the Parliament decides that the statements made within the reply are insulting, so he/she can allow a further reply."<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. 280

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## 2 October

- President of the Parliament of Montenegro Ivan Brajović received the Speaker of the National Council of Slovakia Andrej Danko.
- Head of the Friendship Group of the Parliament of Montenegro and Parliament of the Federal Republic of Germany and Vice President of the Parliament of Montenegro Genci Nimanbegu met with Kerstin Radomski, Member of German Bundestag. The meeting was also attended by German Ambassador to Montenegro Hans Günther Mattern, Head of Human Resources Department in the Bundestag Daniela Rosenthal, as well as members of the Friendship Group of the Parliament of Montenegro and Parliament of the Federal Republic of Germany Miodrag Bobo Radunović and Ervin Ibrahimović. The same day, President Brajović met with Bundestag MP Kerstin Radomski, where the interlocutors stressed the importance of holding frequent political dialogue of Montenegro and the FR of Germany, both at the level of parliamentary cooperation and overall relations.



## 3 October

- President of the Parliament of Montenegro Ivan Brajović met with Co-rapporteurs of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (PACE) for the post-monitoring dialogue with Montenegro Ionut-Marian Stroe and Andrea Rigoni. Head of Montenegro's Standing Delegation to PACE Predrag Sekulić also attended the meeting. The aim of the visit by co-rapporteurs was to learn about activities that our country has undertaken with regard to fulfilling recommendations and commitments defined in PACE's Resolution 2030 (2015) "The honouring of obligations and commitments by Montenegro", which was adopted by PACE in January of this year. Also Delegation had separate meetings with MPs of the Parliament of Montenegro Predrag Sekulić, Ervin Ibrahimović, Raško Konjević and Momo Koprivica.

## 4 October

- President Brajović received President of the Republic of Hungary János Áder. The meeting with Hungarian President was attended by Vice Presidents of the Parliament of Montenegro Branimir Gvozdenović and Genci Nimanbegu. Brajović stressed the importance of further strengthening of parliamentary cooperation, both through activities of parliamentary committees and friendship groups, assessing that there was a potential for improving bilateral cooperation between Montenegro and Hungary in a range of fields of mutual interest, with a special focus on the field of economy. President Áder emphasised that Hungary strongly advocated for further enlargement of the European Union both bilaterally as well as through its participation in the Višegrad Group, being the current chair of it.

## 6 October

- Permanent Delegation of the Parliament of Montenegro to NATO Parliamentary Assembly, composed of Mišo Stanišić and Genci Nimanbegu, participated in the 63rd NATO Parliamentary Assembly Annual Session, which took place in Bucharest, on 6-9 October. The host of the event was the NATO Parliamentary Assembly Permanent Delegation of the Parliament of Romania. The Session gathered parliamentarians from 29 NATO member states, as well as delegates from partner countries and observer countries, with a goal to consider current security issues and draft reports of the Parliamentary Assembly's committees in that respect. On this occasion, the attention of the participants was also drawn to informing about the undertaken activities in the preparation of the Spring and Annual Sessions of the NATO Parliamentary Assembly in 2018 and the meeting of the Standing Committee planned for March next year. Members of the Montenegrin Delegation voted for the first time at the meetings of all committees on resolutions and other documents on the agenda of the Parliamentary Session, since this was the first parliamentary session of NATO since Montenegro became a full member of the Alliance.
- President Brajović held speech on the topic "Western Balkans - between Numerous Internal Problems and European Integration" within the Petrovac discourses. The Petrovac discourses are held in the organisation of the Centre for Foreign Policy and Hanns Seidel Foundation in Montenegro and Serbia. The participants discussed the real prospects of full membership of the Western Balkan countries in the European Union, but also about the many challenges they faced on this path.



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## 10 October

- Chair of the Committee on Education, Science, Culture and Sports Radule Novović met with members of the team conducting the evaluation of functioning of the child rights monitoring system in Montenegro. The evaluation was initiated by UNICEF. On behalf of the organiser, the meeting was attended by members of the team conducting the second phase of the independent evaluation of the existing child rights monitoring system - Awaz Rauf and Jorun Arndt, from the consultant house Coram International, Great Britain, and Aleksandra Gligorović, national researcher in the said field. The meeting addressed the involvement of the Committee on Education, Science, Culture and Sports in the activities of monitoring the child rights in Montenegro as of 2014 until today, and recommendations on how to additionally support the development and strengthening of the child rights monitoring system in Montenegro.
- Chair of the Gender Equality Committee Nada Drobnjak met with representatives of relevant institutions from Serbia, CARE International Balkans from Bosnia and Herzegovina, Roma Women's Center "Bibija" from Belgrade and Centre for Roma Initiative from Nikšić. The interlocutors exchanged experiences on the prevention of child, arranged marriages in the communities of Roma and Egyptians.
- Chair of the Committee on Human Rights and Freedoms Halil Duković met with Head of the Programme Office of the Council of Europe in Podgorica Angela Longo, and project manager at the Office of the Council of Europe Ana Selić. The topic of discussion at the meeting was the future cooperation of the Committee on Human Rights and Freedoms with the Office of the Council of Europe in Podgorica.

## 11 October

- Chair of the Gender Equality Committee Nada Drobnjak met Jorun Arndt, from the consultant house Coram International UK, a member of the team conducting the second phase of the independent evaluation of the child rights monitoring system in Montenegro. The Chair of the Committee informed Jorun Arndt about the activities of the Committee on considering gender aspects of the child rights, especially emphasising the Committee's activities regarding early arranged child marriages in the Roma and Egyptian community.
- President of the Parliament Ivan Brajović received Ambassador of Bosnia and Herzegovina Đorđe Latinović in a farewell visit. President thanked Ambassador

Latinović for his contribution to strengthening relations between the two friendly countries in the previous period. The interlocutors also exchanged views on implementation of infrastructure projects important for better cohesion and strengthening of economic cooperation, as well as on current developments in the Western Balkans.



- Two groups of students of the "Vladika Danilo" primary school visited the Parliament of Montenegro. The students had the opportunity to learn about the responsibilities and functions of the Parliament, as well as about its organisation and structure. The students were also interested in the details from the history of Montenegrin parliamentarism and activities of the members of the 26th Parliament. The visit was organised within the programme "Open Parliament", aimed at increasing the degree of transparency and openness of work of the Parliament of Montenegro and at creating closer ties with the citizens, especially the young.

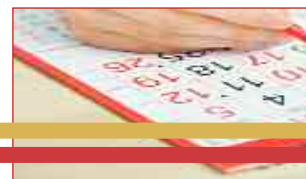
## 12 October

- Delegation of the Parliament of Montenegro paid a two-day bilateral official visit to the Republic of Serbia, where they met with the highest officials of Serbia.

## 13 October

- Chair of the Gender Equality Committee Nada Drobnjak took part in the Seventh Belgrade Security Forum "Building a common future in the age of uncertainty", held in Belgrade, 11-13 October. The Belgrade Security Forum was launched in 2011 as a result of initiative of three organisations of civil society: Belgrade Fund for Political Excellence, European Movement in Serbia and Belgrade Centre for Security Policy. During the three-day work, the participants exchanged opinions on the current security issues among decision-makers, representatives of security institutions, academic community, and civil society from the Balkans, but also other parts of Europe and the world. The gathering was attended by 700

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participants, including more than 120 speakers.

## 14 October

- Chair of the Committee on International Relations and Emigrants, Andrija Nikolić together with the Friendship Group with the Parliament of the Islamic Republic of Iran met with the Ambassador of Iran Hossein Molla Abdollahi. Members of the Friendship Group had a separate meeting with representatives of the Iranian Trade Center for the Balkans. The meetings were attended by members of the Friendship Group, MPs Aleksandra Vuković, Ludi Škrelja and Nedžad Drešević. Ambassador Abdollahi agreed that the strengthening of parliamentary cooperation was one of the pillars of bilateral relations, adding that the meeting of members of the two friendship groups, planned for early November in Podgorica, as well as the upcoming official visits between the two countries at the highest level, would greatly contribute to strengthening the ties of two friendly nations.



## 16 October

- President of the Parliament of Montenegro Ivan Brajović met Chairperson of the Committee on European Union Policies of the Italian Senate Vannino Chiti and Senator Pietro Liuzzi. The meeting was also attended by Chair of the Committee on European Integration Adrian Vuksanović. They jointly expressed pleasure with overall bilateral relations of Montenegro and Italy, stressing that our two friendly countries had comprehensive cooperation in almost all fields.

## 17 October

- President of the Parliament of Montenegro Ivan Brajović met Head of the OSCE Mission to Montenegro Maryse Daviet. The interlocutors talked about the modalities of participation of the OSCE/ODIHR representatives in providing expert assistance to the Working Group set up by the Collegium of the President of the Parliament of

Montenegro. The meeting was also attended by Marta Šćepanović, Chair of the said Working Group. Head of the OSCE Mission expressed satisfaction over the willingness of the Parliament to observe the recommendations set out in the Report, and expressed hope that a more intensified communication between the Working Group and OSCE/ODIHR experts would be established.

- President of the Parliament of Montenegro Ivan Brajović spoke with non-residential Ambassador of the Kingdom of Sweden to Montenegro Jan Lundin. They stressed the importance of parliamentary cooperation, as well as the commitment of the Parliament of Montenegro to concretising cooperation with the Swedish Parliament, both through cooperation of parliamentary bodies and establishment of the friendship groups. The President of the Parliament thanked for the support which Montenegro gained from Sweden with regard to the reform processes within the European integration.

## 18 October

- The Friendship Group with the Parliament of Estonia, headed by Vice President of the Parliament of Montenegro Branimir Gvozdenović, held a meeting with the non-resident Ambassador of the Republic of Estonia to Montenegro, based in Tallinn, Daniel Erik Schaer. Members of the Friendship Group with the Parliament of Estonia exchanged opinions on the areas of common interest, especially showing interest in improvement of parliamentary cooperation of working bodies, but also of formed friendship groups, as a special form which has particular responsibility for advancing bilateral relations, bringing cultures and people closer together, and mutual promotion of the countries. The meeting was also attended by members of the Friendship Group of the Parliament of Montenegro with the Parliament of Estonia Andrija Nikolić, Maja Bakrač, Marta Šćepanović, and Andrija Popović, who exchanged opinions with Ambassador Schaer on possibilities for improvement and development of relations between Montenegro and Estonia, proposing initiatives of deeper cooperation in



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numerous areas of common interest.

## 19 October

- Chair and members of the Committee on Human Rights and Freedoms, along with the Chair and members of the Anti-corruption Committee, and members of the Administrative Committee and the Gender Equality Committee participated in the training "Ethical standards, good conduct, and prevention of the conflict of interest", held in Podgorica. The training was organised by the Council of Europe within the framework of the Horizontal Facility for the Western Balkans and Turkey - Action against Economic Crime in Montenegro, and led by the Council of Europe expert Quentin Reed. This activity aimed to train MPs to implement Guidelines on Good Conduct in order to contribute to fulfilling GRECO recommendations from the fourth evaluation round Report, and to improve the implementation of the Code of Ethics for MPs and the Rules of Procedure of the Parliament of Montenegro.



## 20 October

- President of the Parliament of Montenegro Ivan Brajović met with the French senator Helene Conway-Mouret, whom he informed about the current political and economic situation in the country, as well as about the progress achieved in the field of European integration. President Brajović especially referred to the upcoming



work of the working group which would consider the implementation of recommendations from the Final Report of the OSCE/ODIHR Observation Mission. The same day, the French senator also met with Vice President of the Parliament of Montenegro Genci Nimanbegu. The two discussed the cooperation of the parliamentary friendship group with the French Senate and National Assembly.

## 23 October

- Chair of the Committee on European Integration, Adrijan Vuksanović, participated in the round table called "Will Berlin Plus change the EU enlargement policy?". The event was organised by NGO Center for Civic Education, in cooperation with Friedrich Ebert Foundation. At the round-table also spoke, besides Chair Vuksanović, Hans Ginter Matern, Ambassador of the Federal Republic of Germany to Montenegro, Ivan Leković, Director General for Bilateral Affairs at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Alison Kemp, Ambassador of the United Kingdom to Montenegro. Members of the Committee on European Integration, Marija Čatović and Mihailo Anđušić, as well as numerous representatives of political parties, non-governmental organisations and the academic community, participated in the discussion.

## 24 October

- President Ivan Brajović hosted the Ambassador of Israel Alona Fisher-Kamm, who has been staying in Montenegro on the occasion of holding of the Conference "Gateway to the Balkans - Montenegro 2017". The interlocutors jointly noted that the membership of Montenegro in NATO and the reforms that our country has implemented on its path to the EU membership, made a significant contribution to the creation of a favorable investment environment. The Ambassador of Israel emphasised that Montenegro, regardless of its geographic and population size, could represent the gateway for access to the markets of the countries of the Western Balkans. Renewable energy sources and tourism have been identified as areas of mutual interest for cooperation.
- Chair of the Committee on International Relations and Emigrants Andrija Nikolić paid a visit to the Parliament of the Kingdom of Belgium, where he met with Chairperson of the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the Chamber of Representatives of the Parliament of the Kingdom of Belgium Dirk Van der Maelen. At the meeting, they discussed the necessity of keeping focus of the European Union on the Western Balkans region, but also the significance of implementing the Union's enlargement

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principle, based on individual performance and track record. During his stay in Brussels, Nikolić also met with Chair of the Belgian parliamentary Friendship Group with the Parliament of Montenegro David Geerts. The meetings in Brussels were also attended by Ambassador of Montenegro to the Kingdom of Belgium Vladimir Radulović.

## 25 October

- Chair of the Committee on Education, Science, Culture and Sports Radule Novović met President of Montenegro's National Bureau for Education and Vice President of the Montenegrin Academy of Sciences and Arts academician Đorđije Borozan. They discussed the possibilities for institutional cooperation through the initiation of joint actions and projects, holding of joint meetings and organising thematic sessions, through which the existing resources in the field of education will be directed on something that will give a result which will be both advantageous and beneficial for the community that we live in.



## 26 October

- Vice-President of the Parliament of Montenegro Branimir Gvozdenović met with Palestinian Ambassador to Montenegro, Rabii Alhantouli. Vice-President Gvozdenović and Ambassador Alhantouli talked about the opportunities for strengthening political, economic and cultural relations between Montenegro and Palestine,



bearing in mind the potential of interstate cooperation. It was agreed to upgrade the existing relations with the Parliament of Montenegro, through the establishment of a friendship group as parliamentary mechanism that provided for the possibility for additional value of bilateral cooperation.

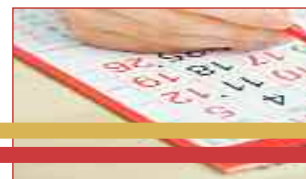
## 27 October

- President Brajović was a keynote speaker at thematic session of the conference "Security Dimension of the Western Balkan Contributing to European Stability", held in Budapest. During his stay in Hungary, President Brajović had separate bilateral meetings with László Kövér, Speaker of the National Assembly of Hungary, Péter Szijjártó, Hungarian Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade as well as with speakers of Parliament of Albania Gramoz Ruci, Macedonia Talat Xhaferi, both houses of the BiH Parliamentary Assembly Ognjen Tadić and Ms Borjana Krišto, as well as with Speaker with the Kosovo Parliament Kadri Veseli. Ahead of the conference, in Montenegro's Embassy in Budapest, the President of the Parliament held a meeting with heads of diplomatic missions covering Montenegro on a non-residential basis from Hungary.
- Member of the Committee on Health, Labour, and Social Welfare Nedžad Drešević took part in the seminar on the topic "Employment, training and equal opportunities: how to ensure fair treatment and inclusion for all", which was organised by the Sub-Committee on the European Social Charter of the Committee on Social Affairs, Health and Sustainable Development of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (PACE), and was held in Paris.

## 28 October

- Member of the Committee on International Relations and Emigrants Miloš Nikolić took part in the manifestation "St. Luka's gathering", traditionally held in Zagreb, organised by the National Community of Montenegrins in Croatia and the Association of Montenegrins and friends of Montenegro "Montenegro" Zagreb. This year's St. Luka's gathering marked 170<sup>th</sup> anniversary of printing the "Mountain Wreath", while the Municipality of Šavnik was a guest of the event, headed by the President of the Municipality Miomir Vujačić, who presented developmental potentials and particularities of this municipality to the participants. Aside from the

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mentioned guests and hosts, the following were also present: Ambassador of Montenegro to the Republic of Croatia Boro Vučinić, Ambassador of Montenegro to the Republic of Slovenia Vujica Lazović, and numerous prominent Montenegrins from Croatia and friends of Montenegro.

## 29 October

- Chair of the Constitutional Committee Miodrag Vuković participated in the international conference “Peace and Democratic Multilateralism” organised by the European Centre for Peace and Development (ECPD) in Belgrade. Within the third panel debate of the conference titled “UN priorities in the new era”, Chair Vuković had a presentation on the topic: “Multilateralism - Montenegro’s experience”. The speakers in the conference included the following: Federico Mayor, President of the ECPD Council; Erhard Busek, Former Vice-Chancellor of Austria and Special Coordinator of the Stability Pact for South Eastern Europe; Wided Bouchamaoui, 2015 Nobel Peace Prize winner, and numerous distinguished scientists, politicians, representatives of the international organisations and diplomatic missions from Europe, USA, Canada, Japan, China, India, and Australia.



- President Ivan Brajović participated at the opening of Judiciary Days in Budva.

## 31 October

- Gender Equality Committee, in cooperation with the OSCE Mission to Montenegro, and under the support of the OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights, organised a two-day workshop, on the topic: “Introduction of the gender aspect into legislation-Parliament of Montenegro”, aimed at implementing one

of the measures envisaged by the Action Plan for gender-responsive Parliament of Montenegro, September 2016 - September 2018. Such measure consists in capacity building and procedures for realising impact assessments of the gender aspect on the legislation process, adoption of policies and other acts. The workshop took place on 30-31 October in “Podgorica” Hotel. The following spoke: Chair of the Gender Equality Committee Nada Drobnjak, Head of Democratisation Department of the OSCE Mission to Montenegro Lia Magnaguagno, and OSCE/ODIHR Gender Equality Advisor Lana Ackar. Following the discussion, several conclusions were adopted. The workshop was also attended by MPs Branka Tanasijević, Nikola Rakočević, Maja Bakrač, Sanja Pavićević, Adrijan Vuksanović, Marija Čatović, Miloš Nikolić, Jovanka Laličić and Danijel Živković.

- President Ivan Brajović held a lecture to students of bachelor and specialist studies at the University of Donja Gorica, on the occasion of Parliamentarism Day that is marked on 31 October. President Brajović stated that parliamentarism that had lasted more than a century, showed that Montenegro have had continuity in exchanging opinions and conducting dialogue, regardless of its form, which changed over time and adapted to the surrounding conditions. Meeting with students was organised upon the invitation of the Dean of the Faculty of Legal Sciences of the University of Donja Gorica Zoran Stojanović, with additional participation of Nikola Zecević, from the Humanistic Studies and Boris Bastijančić, from the Faculty of Legal Sciences of the UDG.
- On the occasion of 111 years since introduction of parliamentarism in Montenegro, an exhibition “Art Collection of the Parliament of Montenegro” was opened in the Gallery “Centar”, consisting of 19 representative works of Montenegrin and regional painters. The exhibition was opened by MP Miloš Nikolić. The audience was also addressed by the art historian Ljiljana Zeković. Art collection of the Parliament of Montenegro contains 46 works by 35 authors, mostly from Montenegro, while a smaller number of them originate from the former Yugoslavia. In addition to the works of professional artists, the collection includes works by autodidact who have gained international recognition with their work. The works are mainly purchased and donated, of various aesthetic and artistic qualities, and the emphasis is placed on individual artistic achievements, thus achieving openness for various aesthetic and artistic-language forms of expression.