



Parliament of Montenegro

NEWSLETTER OPEN PARLIAMENT

Newsletter on the Parliament of Montenegro Performance ♦ No. 76 ♦ November 2017

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OPEN PARLIAMENT



Parliament of Montenegro

Newsletter on the Parliament of Montenegro Performance ♦ Electronic format ♦ Release: monthly ♦ Year VII ♦ No. 76 ♦ November 2017

FOREWORD

Dear readers,

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

During November, the Sixth Sitting of the Second Ordinary Session of the Parliament of Montenegro in 2017 took place, as well as the Seventh Special Sitting of the Second Ordinary Session.

In November, committees considered 18 proposals for a law, and performed other activities within their oversight role.

In focus of this month's newsletter is the Eighth Session of Children's Parliament.

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 Sixth Sitting of the Second Ordinary Session in 2017, MPs of the Parliament of Montenegro adopted the following: Law on the Amendment to the Law on Public Prosecution Office; Law on the 2016 Final Budget Statement of Montenegro, along with the Report on Audit of the Proposal for the Law on Amendments to the Final Budget Statement of Montenegro for 2016 and Annual Report on Performed Audits and Activities of the State Audit Institution for the period October 2016 – October 2017; Law on Amendments to the Law on Customs Service; Law on Amendments to the Law on Investment and Development Fund of Montenegro; Law on the Provision of Water Safe for Human Consumption; 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; Law on Ratification of the Agreement between the Government of Montenegro and Government of Cyprus on Cooperation in Fighting Terrorism, Organized Crime, Illicit Trafficking in Narcotic Drugs, Psychotropic Substances and their Precursors, Illegal Immigration and Other Criminal Offences; Law on Ratification of the Agreement between the Parties to the North Atlantic Treaty for co-operation regarding Atomic Information with the Secret Technical Annex to the Agreement between the Parties to the North Atlantic Treaty for co-operation regarding Atomic Information and the Confidential Security Annex to the Agreement between the Parties to the North Atlantic Treaty for co-operation regarding Atomic Information; Law on Ratification of the Agreement between the Parties to the North Atlantic Treaty for the Security of Information; Law on Ratification of the Protocol Amending the Security Annex to the Agreement between the Parties to the North Atlantic Treaty for co-operation regarding Atomic Information; Law

on Ratification of the Agreement for the mutual safeguarding of secrecy of inventions relating to defence and for which applications for patents have been made; Law on Ratification of the NATO Agreement on the Communication of Technical Information for Defence Purposes; Law on Ratification of the Agreement between the Parties to the North Atlantic Treaty regarding the Status of their Forces; Law on Ratification of the Agreement on the status of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, National Representatives and International Staff; Law on Ratification of the Protocol on the Status of International Military Headquarters set up pursuant to the North Atlantic Treaty; Law on Ratification of the Agreement on the Status of Missions and Representatives of Third States to the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation; Law on Ratification of the Metre Convention; 2015 – 2018 Report on the implementation of the National Consumer Protection Programme for the period July 2016 – June 2017; Seventh semi-annual report on the overall activities within the integration process of Montenegro to the European Union, for the period January – June 2017; Opinion with the proposal for a reply to the Constitutional Court of Montenegro with regard to the proposal for launching the procedure for the constitutional review of provisions of Articles 1, 2, 5, 6, 7, 10, 11, and 12 of the Law on Execution of a Decision of the Constitutional Court of Montenegro U-I No 6/10 of 19 April 2017 (Official Gazette of Montenegro, No 31/17); Initiative for launching the constitutional and legal review of the said Law as a whole and the Initiative for the constitutional review of Articles 2, 4, and 12 of this Law, as well as Proposal for the Decision on Amendment and Supplement to the Decision on Forming the Commission for Monitoring and Control of the Privatisation Procedure.

Prime Minister's Questions

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

Proposals for law deliberated in committees

- **Proposal for a Law on Ratification of the Agreement between the Government of Montenegro and Government of Cyprus on Cooperation in Fighting Terrorism, Organized Crime, Illicit Trafficking in Narcotic Drugs, Psychotropic Substances and their Precursors, Illegal Immigration and Other Criminal Offences** 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 Investment and Development Fund 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 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 Committee on International Relations and Emigrants.
- **Proposal for a Law on Ratification of the Metre Convention** 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 Customs Service** was considered and proposed to the Parliament for adoption by the Committee on Economy, Finance and Budget.
- **Proposal for a Law on Ratification of the Agreement between the Parties to the North Atlantic Treaty regarding the Status of their Forces** 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 Agreement on the Status of Missions and Representatives of Third States to the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation** 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 Agreement on the status of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, National Representatives and International Staff** 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 the Status of International Military Headquarters set up pursuant to the North Atlantic Treaty** 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 Agreement between the Parties to the North Atlantic Treaty for co-operation regarding Atomic Information with the Secret Technical Annex to the Agreement between the Parties to the North Atlantic Treaty for co-operation regarding Atomic Information and the Confidential Security Annex to the Agreement between the Parties to the North Atlantic Treaty for co-operation regarding Atomic Information** 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 Agreement between the Parties to the North Atlantic Treaty for the Security of Information** 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 Amending the Security Annex to the Agreement between the Parties to the North Atlantic Treaty for co-operation regarding Atomic Information** 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 NATO Agreement on the Communication of Technical Information for Defence Purposes** 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 Agreement for the mutual safeguarding of secrecy of inventions relating to defence and for which applications for patents have been made** 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 the Provision of Water Safe for Human Consumption** 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 State Prosecution** 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 2016 Final Budget Account** was considered and proposed to the Parliament for adoption by the Committee on Economy, Finance and Budget.
- **Proposal for a 2018 Budget Law** involving spending units under the competence of the Committee on Health, Labour and Social Welfare, the Committee on Tourism, Agriculture, Ecology and Spatial Planning as well as the Security and Defence Committee, was considered by the aforementioned committees.

Proposals for other acts deliberated in committees

- **Proposal for the Decision on Amendment and Supplement to the Decision on Forming the Commission for Monitoring and Control of the Privatisation Procedure** was considered and proposed to the Parliament for adoption by the Legislative Committee and the Committee on Political System, Judiciary and Administration.

Other activities of working bodies

- At the 21st Meeting of the **Committee on Political System, Judiciary and Administration**, held on 28 November, members of the Committee determined the list of applicants to the Public Vacancy Notice for the election of four members of the Prosecutorial Council from among respectable lawyers. The following applied for the Public Vacancy Notice: Božidar Bobo Vukčević, Vladimir Gilić, Slavica Mirković, Aneta Spaić, Gavriilo Čabarkapa, and Zora Čizmović.
- At the twelfth meeting of the **Committee on**

European Integration, held on 9 November, members of the Committee adopted the Seventh Semi-Annual Report on overall activities within the integration process of Montenegro to the European Union, covering the period January-June 2017 and supported the Fifteenth Quarterly Report on the overall activities within the integration process of Montenegro to the EU, covering the period July-September 2017. Furthermore, the Third Quarterly Report on observing the commitments set in the Programme of Accession of Montenegro to the EU 2017-2018.



At the thirteenth meeting, held on the same day, members considered the Fifth Semi-Annual Report on the implementation of the Action Plan on Chapter 23- Judiciary and Fundamental Rights, January-June 2017, together with the Second Semi-Annual Report on the Implementation of the Operating Document for prevention of corruption in the areas exposed to special risk-Annex to the Action Plan for Chapter 23, and the Fifth Semi-Annual Report on the implementation of the Action Plan for the negotiation Chapter 24-Justice, freedom and security, covering the period January-June 2017.

At the 28th meeting of the **Committee on Economy, Finance and Budget**, held on 9 November, the Committee endorsed 2015 – 2018 Report on the implementation of the National Consumer Protection Programme for the period July 2016 – June 2017, and decided to propose its adoption to the Parliament of Montenegro.



At the 30th meeting that was held on 28 November, the Committee considered and decided to propose to the Parliament the adoption of proposals for 2018 work and financial plans of six independent regulatory bodies: Agency for Electronic

Communications and Postal Services, Agency for Insurance Supervision, Securities Commission, Energy Regulatory Agency, Agency for Medicines and Medical Devices and Agency for Electronic Media. The Committee also considered and decided to propose to the Parliament the adoption of the 2016 Report on Awarded State Aid in Montenegro.

- At the ninth meeting of the **Gender Equality Committee** of 10 November, the Concluding Observations and recommendations of the UN Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW Committee) were presented, on the occasion of supporting the Second Periodic Report on the Implementation of the CEDAW Convention.



- The Committee on Health, Labour and Social Welfare held its fourteenth meeting on 6 November, within the premises of the PI "Komanski most", and dedicated it to children and young persons with moderate, serious and severe mental disability, as well as providing care for adults with serious restrictions in social functioning due to mental difficulties or other combined interferences in development.



- At the Sixth meeting of the **Anti-Corruption Committee**, on 23 November, the Committee reissued the Public Announcement for a member of the Commission for selection of a member of the Council of the Agency for Prevention of Corruption from among the non-governmental organisations.
- At the eighteenth meeting of the **Administrative Committee**, held on 3 November, the Committee determined the list of timely and complete proposals

of candidates for the appointment of one member of the Council of the Agency for Electronic Media, in accordance with the authorised proposal of the Montenegrin P.E.N. Centre. The Committee initiated the procedure for the dismissal of Nikola Vukčević from the position of the member of the RTCG Council. In accordance with the Article 43 of the Law on National Public Broadcaster of Radio and Television of Montenegro, the Committee summoned the relevant person to provide his declaration regarding the circumstances that have arisen, referred to in Article 26, paragraph 1, item 5 of the Law on National Public Broadcaster of Radio and Television of Montenegro, under the allegations that he had personal gain, i.e. while performing the function of a member of the RTCG Council, he gained property benefit on the basis of the Contractual relationship with the company "Galileo Production" DOO Podgorica, the activity of which was the production of films, videos and television programs. In the event these allegations were true, the relevant person, as a public official, was in conflict of interest.

At the nineteenth meeting, held on 15 November, the members of the Committee unanimously determined that Nikola Vukčević, member of the RTCG Council, has breached Article 26, paragraph 1, item 5 of the Law on National Public Broadcaster of Radio and Television of Montenegro, and thus unanimously decided to propose to the Parliament to dismiss Nikola Vukčević from the position of a member of the RTCG Council.

At the twentieth meeting of the Committee, held on 15 November, the Committee determined the Proposal for appointment of a member of the Council of the Agency for Electronic Media, in accordance with the authorised proposal of the Montenegrin P.E.N. Centre, and thus decided to propose to the Parliament to appoint Rajko Todorović, an academy-trained painter, for a member of the Council of the Agency for Electronic Media.

At the 21st meeting, held on 24 November, the Committee initiated the procedure for the appointment of a member of the RTCG Council, by submitting a Public Call to all the authorised proposers- universities in Montenegro.



NEWS FROM PARLIAMENT



President of the Parliament with resident ambassadors on the first year of the 26th Convocation of the Parliament

President of the Parliament of Montenegro Ivan Brajović met with heads of resident diplomatic missions in Podgorica, on 23 November, in order to present activities implemented in the first year of the 26th Convocation. The President of the Parliament presented the current and announced future activities related to raising the efficiency of the parliamentary service, which should respond adequately to the challenges of the modern functioning of the parliament in the 21st century. The Vice President of the Parliament Branimir Gvozdenović, also took part in the talks with heads of diplomatic missions, who were particularly interested in the activities of the Working Group, who with concrete examples pointed to the full transparency and efficiency of the work of this parliamentary body, as well as the indirect participation of the opposition in its work. At the very beginning of the meeting, the doyen Vincenzo Del Monaco, the Ambassador of the Italian Republic to Montenegro, addressed the ones present on behalf of the diplomatic corps in Montenegro, and pointed out that Montenegro was a respected country, a country with the support of the international community and a country worth staying in. Speaking about parliamentary elections, the Italian Ambassador said: The

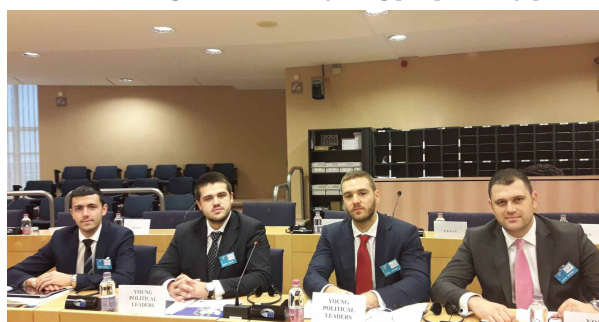
Delegation of the Parliament of Montenegro participated in the seminar for young parliamentarians held in the European Parliament

Delegation of the Parliament of Montenegro in the following composition: Nikola Rakočević, Miloš Nikolić, Danijel Živković, and Mihailo Anđušić participated in the seminar "Bridging the gap between youth policy, youth participation and parliamentarians in the Western Balkans", organised by the European Parliament and the European Commission. The seminar, held on 20-21 November in Brussels, gathered young MPs from Albania, the FYROM, Kosovo, Serbia, and Montenegro, as well as representatives of the civil society organisations dealing with youth issues. The second day, member of the Parliament of Montenegro Nikola Rakočević had a presentation within the panel discussion "Why 'bridging the gap' between Parliamentarians and Youth Organisations is important and how to advance the youth policy agenda?". MP Rakočević spoke of perception of politics by the young and the manners in which the politicians could influence the change of this perception and improve the youth's relation towards politics. During the seminar, via presentations by the panellists, as well as meaningful discussion, they opened numerous significant issues relating to the active participation of youth in political processes. They especially emphasised the role of young MPs in motivating young people to get involved in politics and contribute to the decision-making process. They also referred to the need of

final report of the observation mission, among other things, recommended a set of measures and a change in norms, in order to further improve standards that already in October 2016 were at the level which is more than appropriate. Speaking about the international reputation of Montenegro, the Italian ambassador said that "under the watchful eye of my colleagues present here, I think that I can state that there is general consent and general support to the European perspective of Montenegro", and stressed that the current year had been rich with results and not so small challenges - both internal and external, with the role of the Parliament of Montenegro of crucial importance in this regard.



preserving good cooperation with the civil sector, which had an important role in raising accountability of the authorities, as well as raising awareness of young people. They pointed



out the significance of good quality of education of youth, student exchange, as well as internship programmes in the institutions. Furthermore, they pointed out new technologies and social media enabling easier involvement of youth in politics, but also contributing to greater visibility and promotion of youth policies. Lastly, young MPs had the opportunity to attend a joint meeting of the Foreign Affairs Committee of the European Parliament where views of MPs from the Western Balkans could be heard on the integration process and where they considered prospects of the EU integration and the accession process.

IN FOCUS



Children's Parliament holds its Eighth Session

The Eighth Session of the Children's Parliament was organised by the Parliament of Montenegro, in cooperation with the Center for Children's Rights of Montenegro, with support of the UNICEF Office and the Embassy of the United Arab Emirates (UAE), on the occasion of 20 November, the day of the adoption of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child and recently implemented reporting before the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child in Geneva.

The VIII Session of the Children's Parliament was preceded by the presentation of artworks done by children from India and the Center "1 June" from Podgorica, in the Hall of the Parliament. The exhibition was opened by the Vice President of the Parliament of Montenegro, Mr Genci Nimanbegu. On that occasion, among other things, he said that this exhibition once again confirmed the extent to which the Parliament of Montenegro was opened as an institution. In addition to 50 representatives of local children's parliaments from 21 municipalities, i.e. two representatives coming from each primary and secondary school, including representatives of vulnerable groups of children from all municipalities of Montenegro, the Session was also attended by representatives of MPs groups in the Parliament of Montenegro, the Government of Montenegro, domestic institutions and international

organisations dealing with issues of the rights of the child, as well as members of the diplomatic corps. President of the Parliament of Montenegro, Mr Ivan Brajović, at the Eighth Session of the Children's Parliament that was held today, reminded that the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child laid down the principle that in all decisions concerning the child, the interest of the child always has to be put first. He added that the Convention encompassed in everyday life the obligations of adults, parents, foster parents, educators, social workers and the society as a whole, so that children and young people could get the same chance of growing up to be healthy and stable individuals.



PARLIAMENTARY GLOSSARY

Acclamation. "Acclamation is a particular form of decision making where there is no individual voting about the offered solutions, but a group of expression of opinions out loud. It is most frequently used in situations where there is only one option and where a decision can actually be reduced to either accepting or rejecting it. In modern parliaments and in political life in general, acclamation is rarely used (examples can be found at the national party conventions in the USA in some special situations where a primary election did not take place as the presidential candidate of the party already held the office of president of the state during the previous term of office and is entitled to re-election)."¹

¹ Doc. dr Komar, Olivera, Prof. dr Ivana Jelić, Nataša Komnenić, Irena Mijanović, Jelena Radonjić, Vlatko Šćepanović, *Parlamentarni leksikon*, Podgorica, Skupština Crne Gore 2016, p. 170.

FROM THE HISTORY OF MONTENEGRIN PARLIAMENTARISM



Excerpts from the Constitution of the Principality of Montenegro(1905) -PART I involving the System of State Government

There isn't any reference in the Constitution of the Principality of Montenegro (1905) concerning the system of the organisation of power. Such was the case with most European countries at that time. The Constitution of 1905 provided for the establishing of the following:

Head of State(Prince), national representation(National Assembly), Council of Ministers, Council of the State. It was all regulated in accordance with the principle of separation of power, and with the characteristics of a parliamentary system.

Head of State (Prince) "The Prince Gospodar is head of the State and, as such, possesses all the rights of the supreme power and exercises them according to the provisions of the present Constitution. His person is inviolable and irresponsible. He cannot in any case be impeached(Article 2)".

The competences of the Head of State according to the Constitution: "The Prince Gospodar sanctions and promulgates the laws. No law can come into force unless the Prince Hospodar sanctions and promulgates it" (Article 4), The Prince Gospodar is the supreme head of the army (Article 5), The territory of the Principality of Montenegro cannot be divided or alienated. Its frontiers can be neither diminished nor modified without an agreement between the Prince Gospodar and the Skupshtina(Article 36), The Prince Gospodar is the protector of all the religions recognized in Montenegro (Article 6), The Prince Gospodar represents the country in all its relations

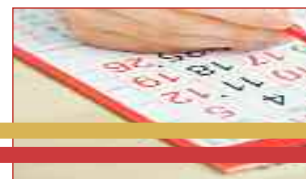
with foreign States. He declares war, concludes treaties of peace and alliance and communicates them to the national representation, and appoints state employees (Article 7), The Prince Gospodar confers the military grades conformably to the provisions of the laws (Article 9), The Prince Gospodar has the right to coin money (Article 10), The Prince Gospodar confers decorations, titles and other distinctions (Article 11), has the right of amnesty (Article 12), The Prince Gospodar convokes the National Skupshtina in ordinary or extraordinary session. He opens and closes the meetings of the National Skupshtina. The Prince Hospodar has the right to adjourn the National Skupshtina and to dissolve it, The members of the Council of State are appointed by the Prince Gospodar, who also names its President (Article 118), All judges are appointed by the Prince Gospodar (Article 145), the proposal to modify, complete, or interpret the Constitution can be made only by the Prince Gospodar or the Skupshtina (Article 219).

The unlimited power of the Prince is restricted in the following manners: he has been stripped of his absolute authority to enact laws, exercise judicial power, to autonomously reach judicial decisions and amend them. He is obliged to exercise his power within the limits proscribed by the Constitution. For the first time in history, the Prince must also be restrained from: hindering the work of other authorities; suspend the Constitution, either partially or as a whole, by the means of orders or decrees (Article 218); influence the work of courts and breach the principle of judicial independence (Article 142), or interrupt ongoing investigations and judicial proceedings.

¹ Izvor: Šuković, Mijat, „Istorija zakonodavstva Crne Gore 1796 – 1916.“ CID, Podgorica, 2007, str. 321 – 328.

² U tadašnjim Evropskim ustavima propisuje se: Norveški čl. 5 – „Ličnost kraljeva je sveta, on se ne može kuditi i suditi“; Grčkom čl. 29 – „Ličnost kraljeva je neodgovorna i nepovrediva“ itd.

CALENDAR



1 November

- Chair of the Committee on Economy, Finance and Budget Predrag Sekulić and member of the Committee Filip Vuković participated in the interparliamentary conference under the topic “Stability, Economic Coordination and Management in the European Union”. The Conference took place in Talin, and was organised within the frameworks of the parliamentary dimension of the Estonian Presidency over the Council of the European Union. The Conference provided for the possibility to exchange opinions on transposition of strict budgetary rules from the Fiscal Stability Treaty into EU regulation, as well as exchange information and best practice for the purpose of strengthening cooperation between parliaments and acquiring democratic responsibility in the EU Budget policy.
- Members of the Friendship Group of the Parliament of Montenegro with the Italian Republic Vice President Nimanbegu, Andrija Nikolić, Marija Maja Čatović, Mirsad Murić and Petar Smolović met with delegation of the Senate of the Italian Republic, composed of the Deputy Chairperson of the Foreign Affairs and Emigration Committee, Senator Paolo Corsini, and the member of the Committee, Senator Vito Rosario Petrochelli. The Ambassador of the Italian Republic to Montenegro, H.E. Mr Vincenzo Del Monaco also attended the meeting. The Delegation was paying an official visit to Montenegro in the period 1-3 November 2017. Head of the Friendship Group and Vice President of the Parliament of Montenegro, Mr Genci Nimanbegu, pointed on this occasion to traditional ties between the two countries, and the special nature of the relations of the countries that have been connected with the sea.

2 November

- President of the Parliament of Montenegro Ivan Brajović received the representatives of the Parliamentary Friendship Group with Montenegro of the Islamic Consultative Assembly of the Islamic Republic of Iran, led by Parvaneh Salahshouri, the Head of the Group. It was concluded at the meeting that there was room for intensifying parliamentary and economic cooperation, especially in the field of tourism and cultural exchange. On the same day, there was a meeting between Friendship groups of the Parliament of Montenegro and the Consultative Assembly of the Islamic Republic of Iran. Vice President of the Parliament of Montenegro and the Head of the Friendship Group with the Consultative Assembly of the Islamic Republic of Iran, Mr Genci

Nimanbegu, expressed his satisfaction with the existence of friendship groups, noting that this form of cooperation, manifested through direct communication of parliaments,



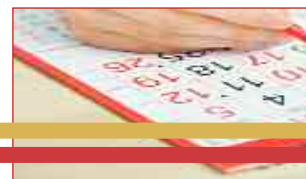
has been very efficient mechanism for improving the existing friendly relations between Montenegro and Iran. The meeting was attended by members of the Friendship Group, MPs Ms Aleksandra Vuković, Mr Miodrag Vuković and Mr Nedžad Drešević.

- President of the Parliament of Montenegro Ivan Brajović received the delegation of the Foreign Affairs and Emigration Committee of the Senate of the Italian Republic, senators Paolo Corsini and Vito Rosario Petrochelli, who paid an official visit to Montenegro. President Brajović expressed gratitude for the support of Italy in achieving the goal of Montenegro to become the 29th member of NATO. The same day, there was a meeting between the Delegation of the Committee on International Relations and Emigrants and the Delegation of the Senate of the Italian Republic. Aside from Chair of the Committee Andrija Nikolić, the following also attended the meeting: Nada Drobnjak, Luid Škrelja, and Miloš Nikolić. The Ambassador of the Italian Republic to Montenegro, H.E. Mr Vincenzo Del Monaco also attended the meeting.
- Chair of the Committee on European Integration Adrijan Vuksanović delivered a speech at a panel debate, on the topic "Perspectives of EU and Western Balkans six decades after the Treaties of Rome", which took place at the Faculty of Political Sciences. The debate was dedicated to the celebration of the 60th anniversary of signing of the Treaties of Rome.

3 November

- The Security and Defence Committee met with the Delegation of the United States of America, headed by Laura Cooper, Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defence of the USA. The meeting was also attended by the U.S. Ambassador Margaret Uyehara, Colonel Michael

CALENDAR



Tarquinto, Defense Attaché, as well as Tiffany Petros, Director in the Office of the Under Secretary of Defense for U.S. Policy, in charge for BIH, Croatia, Macedonia and Montenegro. The meeting was attended by the Chair and members of the Committee: Obrad Mišo Stanišić, Luid Ljubo Škrelja, Marta Ščepanović, Miodrag Vuković, Milorad Vuletić, Branko Čavor and Mićo Orlandić. The focus of the meeting was promotion of cooperation between Montenegro and the U.S., priorities of Montenegro as a NATO member, guidelines of the foreign policy of the state and its relations with the neighbours, as well as the current political situation in the country.

- Delegation of Iranian Parliamentary Friendship Group with Parliament of Montenegro, headed by Ms Parvaneh Salahshouri, held several constructive meetings with chairpersons and members of the Committee on International Relations and Emigrants, Committee on Education, Science, Culture and Sports, Committee on Economy, Finance and Budget and the Committee on Tourism, Agriculture, Ecology and Spatial Planning, on 2 and 3 November 2017. The interlocutors noted that the first official visit of the Iranian Friendship Group with the Parliament of Montenegro turned a new page in relations between two friendly countries and that good foundations for strengthening cooperation have been established in many areas important both for Montenegro and the Islamic Republic of Iran. Meetings were attended by the non-resident ambassador of the Islamic Republic of Iran to Montenegro, with headquarters in Belgrade, H.E. Mr Hussain Molla Abdollahi.

6 November

- Chair of the Committee on Political System, Judiciary and Administration Radule Novović, participated in the Conference on the topic "The Role of the Special State Prosecutor in the fight against corruption and organised crime", which was organised by the Centre for Democratic Transition, in the Hilton Hotel. The Conference gathered representatives of the international community, political parties, judicial authorities, state authorities, NGOs and the media, in order to exchange opinions on the role of Special Prosecutor in the fight against organised crime and corruption.
- Chair of the Committee on Tourism, Agriculture, Ecology and Spatial Planning Petar Ivanović met with Karine Bolton, Director of the International Cooperation and Conferences at the Keren Kayemeth LeIsrael Jewish National Fund – KKL-JNF, Israel. Inter alia, there were talks about the possibilities through which the Committee could support the cooperation of the KKL-JNF and the

Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development with the UNDP. The interlocutors emphasised the importance of opening chapter 27- Environment and climate change.

- Head of the Permanent Delegation of the Parliament of Montenegro to the CEI-PD, Mr Miodrag Vuković, participated in the Meeting of the General Committee on Cultural Affairs of the Parliamentary Dimension of the Central European Initiative, which was held in Pavia, Italy. During the discussion, which was also attended by

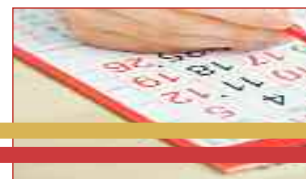


members of the parliaments of Austria, Moldova, Slovenia, Poland, Ukraine and Serbia, the participants agreed that in the time when Europe faced numerous political and economic challenges, culture should be the basis for strengthening the cooperation of the member states of the Central European Initiative.

7 November

- President of the Parliament of Montenegro Ivan Brajović met with the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Romania, Mr Teodor Meleșca. President Brajović stressed Montenegro's commitment to EU membership and expressed the expectation that Montenegro would not lack Romania's full support and assistance to the enlargement process and European integration. Minister of Foreign Affairs of Romania stressed that the future of the Western Balkan countries was in the European Union and that the enlargement policy would be high on the agenda during the presidency of Romania of the Council of Europe in the first half of 2019. The interlocutors noted that there was a significant room for further improvement of cooperation between the two countries in the field of economy, culture and education.
- NATO Parliamentary Assembly in co-operation with the National Assembly of the Republic of Slovenia organised the 96th Rose-Roth Seminar & Sub-committee on Transition and Development on "The Western Balkans: Past Misperceptions, Current Challenges and Future Endeavours", in the period 7-9 November 2017, in Ljubljana, Slovenia. Branimir Gvozdenović and Mr Obrad

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Mišo Stanišić, members of the Permanent Delegation of the Parliament of Montenegro in the NATO Parliamentary Assembly attended the seminar. The seminar was first and foremost dedicated to informing participants and engage them in discussion on the following topics: Security and Stability in the Western Balkans and its Euro-Atlantic perspective; recent events which occurred in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo, and FYR Macedonia, and Serbia; Populism, nationalism, "Fake news", as well as challenges in the fight for democracy. In addition, there were talks about migration issues, their implications on the Western Balkans society, as well as economic opportunities.

- Chair of the Gender Equality Committee Nada Drobnjak met with Marceline Naudi and Helena Leitaó, representatives of the Group of Experts on Action against Violence against Women and Domestic Violence (GREVIO) and their associates. This Group is in charge of oversight over the implementation of the Council of Europe Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence, at the national level. At the initiative of the Gender Equality Committee, under the support of the OSCE mission, an analysis of excerpts from Montenegrin legislation was made, and an evaluation was made regarding their harmonization with the Istanbul Convention.
- Chair of the Committee on Economy, Finance and Budget Predrag Sekulić and member Petar Smolović participated in a regional meeting on the topic "Innovative scrutiny methods and informal platforms for advanced scrutiny and transparency: Presentation of portal for oversight over public finances", which was organized by United Nations Development Programme, in partnership with National Assembly of the Republic of Serbia, and the support of Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC), held on 6-7 November in the National Assembly of the Republic of Serbia.
- Pupils from the Centre for Education and Vocational Training "June 1" visited today the Parliament of Montenegro, as well as the exhibition "Art Collection of the Parliament of Montenegro" in the Gallery "Centar".
- A two-day workshop was held on the topic: "Exchange of parliamentary committees", from 7 to 8 November, in Skopje, and was organized by the Macedonian Sabor and the German Society for International Cooperation. The workshop gathered officials from the Committees on European Integration/Affairs of parliaments of Western Balkans, in order to exchange opinions and experience involving the functioning of committees, organization of

work and human capacities. In addition, they discussed the challenges they dealt with in their work, as well as concrete steps for promoting the role of the committees in the European integration process.

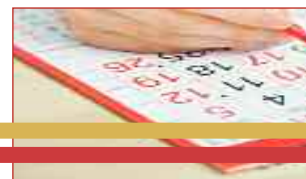
8 November

- Committee on Human Rights and Freedoms of the Parliament of Montenegro organized a visit to the Small Group Home in Bijelo Polje. Chairperson of the Committee, Mr Halil Duković and members of the Committee, Mr Suad Numanović, Mr Mirsad Murić and Mr Nedžad Drešević, member of the Committee on Health, Labor and Social Welfare, Ms Maja Bakrač, Protector of Human Rights and Freedoms of Montenegro, Mr Šučko Baković, UNICEF's Representative to Montenegro, Mr Osama Makkawi Khogali with associates, representative of the Ministry for Human and Minority Rights and representatives of the NGO Federation of Associations of Parents of Children and Youth with Developmental Disabilities "Our Initiative" and "Civic Alliance", held a meeting with the President of the Assembly of the Municipality of Bijelo Polje, the Vice President of the Municipality and their associates, followed by the visit to the Day Center for Children and Youth with Disabilities in Tisa and the Small Group Home.

9 November

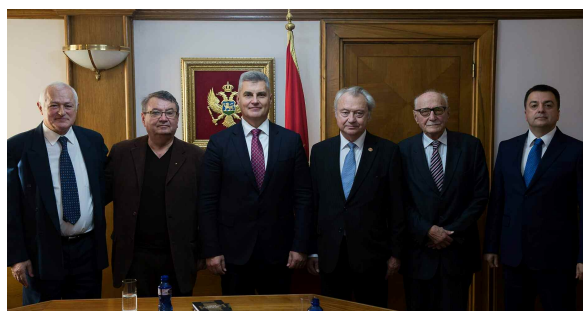
- President of the Parliament of Montenegro, Mr Ivan Brajović, hosted today, for an inaugural visit, the first resident Ambassador of the Czech Republic, H.E. Mr Karel Urban. It has been jointly concluded that traditionally good relations and open cooperation between Montenegro and the Czech Republic have existed, as well as a plenty of room for its further improvement, especially in the fields of energy, tourism and education. In particular, there was discussion on the importance of political dialogue at the highest level, with mutual readiness expressed in strengthening parliamentary cooperation through friendship groups, working bodies and professional services of two legislatures.
- The sixth meeting of the Working Group for observing the recommendations of the OSCE/ODIHR was held. The meeting was marked by consideration of comments, proposals and suggestions submitted to the Working Group in accordance with the public invitation sent to the interested public and subjects dealing with the issues of the electoral process. During the constructive debate, a representative of the NGO Center for Democratic Transition reasoned his proposal. Members of the Working Group asked for the additional explanations of

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the given comments, proposals and suggestions.

- President of the Parliament of Montenegro Ivan Brajović today has received European academicians - honorary members of the Doclean Academy of Science and Arts (DANU), who are staying in Montenegro, as well as the DANU delegation headed by its president Mr Sreten Perović. The meeting with the President of the Parliament



of Montenegro was also attended by a member of the DANU Dr Mihailo Burić as well as honorary consul of Ukraine to Montenegro Mr Predrag Milović, MA. President Brajović voiced his pleasure with the meeting with the friends of Montenegro - honorary members of the DANU - as well as with their hosts, and pointed out the significance of support of cultural creators to the identity and the overall well-being of our country.

- Chair of the Committee on European Integration, Mr Adrijan Vuksanović, held a preliminary meeting today with the Secretary General of the Chamber of Economy of Montenegro, Mr Pavle D. Radovanović, on the occasion of holding a thematic meeting of the Committee on the progress of Montenegro in the negotiations with the EU, with regard to the fulfillment of economic criteria. The discussion on the meeting covered issues of the competences and the role of the Chamber of Economy in representing the interests of the economy, as well as the importance of economic issues for progress in the negotiation process.

13 November

- Chair of the Committee on International Relations and Emigrants Andrija Nikolić received a newly-appointed Ambassador of the Czech Republic in Montenegro Karel Urban. The interlocutors assessed that both countries shared friendly relations and a mutual interest to additionally promote their relations in the economic area, specifically Energy, as well as strengthening parliamentary cooperation, to which should also contribute a visit of the Committee on International Relations and Emigrants to the Czech Republic, which is

to be realized at the beginning of 2018.

- Working Group for implementation of OSCE/ODIHR recommendations held its seventh meeting, in the presence of representatives of the Ministry of the Interior and the Agency for Personal Data Protection and Free Access to Information, analysed proposed decisions with regard to amendments to the Law on Voters' Register, with the aim of implementing OSCE/ODIHR recommendations.
- Chair of the Gender Equality Committee, Ms Nada Drobnjak, met today with the participants of the Project "Strengthening of youth activism in the prevention of gender-based violence", implemented by SOS telephone for women and children victims of violence. The aim of this project is to create a network of young activists ready for voluntary inclusion into the civil sector initiatives in the field of prevention of violence.
- Delegation of the Committee on European Integration, composed of Chair Adrijan Vuksanović and member Mihailo Anđušić held a debate with students of the Gymnasium from Nikšić, involving the European Union and the possibilities of the use of IPA Funds. The MPs considered possibilities of education in the European Union, increasing informations regarding EU exchange programmes, as well as advantages of the European Single Market, respect for the European values such as tolerance and multiculturalism.

14 November

- Working Group for implementation of OSCE/ODIHR recommendations resumed its seventh meeting. During the meeting, the text of the Proposal for the Law on Amendments to the Law on Voter Register was harmonised. Also, during the meeting, the Chairperson of the Working Group informed the members about the initiative to improve electoral legislation, submitted by the Women Political Network and some other associations, following the closing of the Public Invitation.

15 November

- President of the Parliament of Montenegro Mr Ivan Brajović met with Head of the Vienna OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR) Mr Jan Haukaas, Head of ODIHR Election Department Mr Alexander Shlyk and the Head of the OSCE Mission to Montenegro Ms Maryse Daviet. The meeting jointly stated that recommendations from the Report on the 2016 parliamentary elections have been approached in a

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serious and responsible manner, whereby the importance of continuing intensive communication between the Parliament of Montenegro and the ODIHR for the



implementation of the best European electoral practices was highlighted. They also discussed the Action Plan prepared by the Working Group, which is elaborated and enhanced by the constructive suggestions of relevant entities, obtained on the basis of a public invitation for participation in the work of this parliamentary body. Vice presidents of the Parliament Mr Branimir Gvozdenović and Mr Genci Nimanbegu, as well as Chairperson of the Working Group Ms Marta Šćepanović also took part in the conversation with the OSCE/ODIHR representatives.

- Members of the Committee on Economy, Finance and Budget, Mr Petar Smolović and Mr Filip Vuković, participated at the Regional Parliamentary Conference of the Western Balkans countries on "Strengthening Legislative Scrutiny in Western Balkans Countries", which was held in Skopje, the Republic of Macedonia, on 15 and 16 November 2017. The Regional Parliamentary Conference, organised by the Westminster Foundation for Democracy and the World Bank, in cooperation with the NPC (Network of Parliamentary Committees for Economy, Finance and European Integration of the Western Balkans), was opened by the President of the Assembly of the Republic of Macedonia, Mr Talat Xhaferi.

16 November

- At its Eighth Meeting held today, the Working Group for the Implementation of the OSCE/ODIHR Recommendations considered in more detail the proposed solutions for amending the Law on Financing Political Entities and Election Campaigns. In accordance with the given OSCE/ODIHR recommendations, and for increasing transparency of the financing of election campaigns and control of the financing of political entities, the Working Group determined which articles needed amending in order to appropriately incorporate the recommendations into the future Draft Law on

Amendments to the Law on Financing Political Entities and Election Campaigns.

- Group of sixteen students from the Knightsbridge Schools International (KSI) Montenegro from Tivat visited the Parliament of Montenegro. This visit is part of the project "Open Parliament", which aims to bring the Parliament of Montenegro closer to citizens, primarily young people.

17 November

- Chair of the Committee on International Relations and Emigrants Andrija Nikolić met with the Ambassador of the Republic of Greece to Montenegro H.E. Mr Sotirios Athanassiou. The interlocutors agreed that the friendship between the two countries was founded on historical tradition and cultural values, and that the existing cooperation in the area of Economy, Culture and Tourism, could be additionally strengthened through friendship groups, as a special parliamentary mechanism for establishing a productive and intensive cooperation in many areas.
- The ninth meeting of the Working Group was attended by representatives of the Women's Political Network, who presented their conclusions and suggestions, aimed at promotion of gender equality in political decision-making in Montenegro. The meeting was held in the UN Eco House in Podgorica.
- At the Tenth Meeting of the Working Group for the Implementation of the OSCE/ODIHR Recommendations, based on the Public Invitation, the representatives of the Association of Youth with Disabilities of Montenegro, the Association of Pensioners and Disabled Persons of Montenegro, the Party of Pensioners, Disabled Persons and Restitution of Montenegro and the Group of Citizens "Civic Action" also took part in the meeting. It was agreed that those proposals in line with the OSCE/ODIHR recommendations be concretely formulated and submitted to the Working Group for further consideration.

18 November

- Chair of the Committee on European Integration Adrijan Vuksanović participated in the International Conference, in the organisation of the Montenegrin Pan-European Union, on the topic: "For Europe: Discussions about European integrations among EU member states and enlargement countries". The Conference discussed European values and europeanisation of South-East

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Europe, where members of the European Parliament, specifically from Croatia and Slovenia discussed the challenges their countries had faced in the integration process. Among important subjects were also the challenges faced by the enlargement countries, and on that occasion presidents of pan-european unions of countries in the region shared their experiences.

20 November

- Delegation of the Parliament of Montenegro in the following composition: Mr Adrijan Vuksanović, Mr Miodrag Vuković, Ms Branka Tanasijević, and Mr Predrag Sekulić, participated in the High-level Round Table on the European integration of the Western Balkans. The Round Table was organised by the European Parliament, namely the Democracy Support and Election Coordination Group, in cooperation with the Committee on Foreign Affairs, Subcommittee on Human Rights, and delegations of the European Parliament for relations with the Western Balkans countries.



- On the occasion of 20 November, the day of the adoption of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child and recently implemented reporting before the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child in Geneva, the Eighth Session of the Children's Parliament was organised.
- Chair of the Committee on Education, Science, Culture and Sports Sanja Pavićević participated in the International Conference "State and Cultural identity politics in the context of contemporary international relations", which took place on 20-21 November, in Podgorica. The Conference which gathered relevant international and national researchers as well as the representatives of the institutions, was organized by the Ministry of Culture in cooperation with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Konrad Adenauer Foundation, as part of the multiannual Creative Montenegro Programme: Identity, Image and

Promotion 2017-2020.

21 November

- Vice President of the Parliament of Montenegro Mr Branimir Gvozdenović met with the OSCE Head of Mission to Montenegro, Ambassador Ms Maryse Daviet as well as with Political Officer at the OSCE Mission Ms Karen Gainer. The topic of the meeting was the sharing of information with regard to the implementation of the OSCE/ODIHR recommendations in order to improve electoral legislation.

22 November

- The delegation of the Parliament of Montenegro in the following composition: Mr Nikola Rakočević, Mr Miloš Nikolić, Mr Danijel Živković, and Mr Mihailo Anđušić participated in the seminar "Bridging the gap between youth policy, youth participation and parliamentarians in the Western Balkans", held in Brussels.
- The Committee on International Relations and Emigrants met with Director of the Diaspora Administration Predrag Mitrović, on which occasion they considered the implementation of the conclusions from the control hearing of the Director of the Diaspora Administration held in the middle of the current year on the topic: "Activities of the Diaspora Administration regarding the implementation of the government's policy of cooperation with the emigrants".

23 November

- President of the Parliament of Montenegro met with resident ambassadors regarding the first year of the 26th Convocation of the Parliament. The President of the Parliament presented the current and announced future activities related to raising the efficiency of the parliamentary service, which should respond adequately to the challenges of the modern functioning of the parliament in the 21st century.
- Working Group for the Implementation of the OSCE/ODIHR Recommendations held its eleventh meeting. Taking into consideration all proposals, comments, and suggestions addressed to the Working Group, the Working Group defined the Draft Law on Amendments to the Law on Financing of Political Entities and Election Campaigns which would be forwarded to the OSCE experts.

24 November

- At the twelfth meeting of the Working Group for the Implementation of the OSCE/ODIHR Recommendations, Draft Law on Amendments to the Electronic Media Law was discussed in detail. When defining the Draft Law on Amendments to the Law on Electronic Media, the proposals and comments of the competent state institutions were analysed in detail, of entities that have applied to the Public Invitation, as well as a study commissioned by the OSCE Mission in Montenegro in relation to political advertising.

27 November

- Member of the Committee on Human Rights and Freedoms, Mr Mirsad Murić participated in the Western Balkans Regional Conference "Protect and Respect – Safeguarding Human Rights". The Regional Conference was organised by the OSCE Mission to Montenegro, in partnership with the Office for the Protection of Human Rights of Montenegro and the Agency for Electronic Media.
- Chair of the Committee on European Integration Mr Adrijan Vuksanović and member of the Committee Mr Mihailo Anđušić participated in the LVIII Plenary Meeting of the Conference of Parliamentary Committees for Union Affairs of Parliaments of the European Union (COSAC), which took place in Tallinn, within the parliamentary dimension of the Estonian Presidency of the EU. Many European parliamentarians participated in the debates.

28 November

- Working Group for Implementation of OSCE/ODIHR Recommendations holds its Thirteenth Meeting. The Working Group considered a method of implementing recommendations from the OSCE/ODIHR Election Observation Mission Final Report in part relating to the Law on the Election of Councillors and MPs.
- Chair of the Gender Equality Committee Nada Drobnjak participated in the Women Political Leaders (WPL) Annual Summit in Reykjavik, Iceland, on 28-30 November. The Summit organised by the WPL in cooperation with the Council of Women World Leaders (CWWL), and the Parliament and Government of Iceland, has gathered female presidents and prime ministers, ministers, parliamentarians and mayors from all over the world.

29 November

- President of the Parliament of Montenegro Ivan Brajović met with Head of the EU Delegation to Montenegro Mr Aivo Orav. The meeting was attended by UK Ambassador Ms Alison Kemp and Italian Ambassador Vincenzo Del

Monaco. The interlocutors discussed supporting media freedom in the process of EU integration of Montenegro. In the light of Montenegro's progress within the EU integration process, the interlocutors spoke on the need for preserving the freedom of expression and openness of the media, as one of the basic pre-conditions in that process.

- Chair of the Committee on Health, Labour and Social Welfare Suad Numanović met with Head of the UNICEF Office to Montenegro Mr Osama Makkawi Khogali. Satisfaction with cooperation between the UNICEF Office to Montenegro and Committee on Health, Labour and Social Welfare was expressed at the meeting, with the expectation that it would be additionally improved. They emphasised that it was important, in the future, to focus on improving the position of children marginalized in Montenegro - children of the Roma population and children without parental care. The interlocutors also addressed the current problem of vaccination of children.
- Working Group holds its Fourteenth Meeting. The Working Group has agreed on the Draft Law on Amendments to the Law on Election of Councillors and MPs.
- Head of the Permanent Delegation of the Parliament of Montenegro to the Parliamentary Dimension of the Central European Initiative MP Mr Miodrag Vuković took part in the annual Meeting of the CEI Parliamentary Assembly which took place in Minsk, on 27 and 28 November, within the Belarus presidency of the Initiative. This year's Meeting was dedicated to the topic: "Digital technologies in terms of ensuring geopolitical security".

30 November

- Chair of the Committee on International Relations and Emigrants Andrija Nikolić met with the Ambassador of the Republic of France to Montenegro Christine Toudic Gaborit. Toudic noted that the recent establishment of the Association "French-Montenegrin Business Circle" would strengthen the economic cooperation of the two states, while the announced opening of the French preschool institution and a primary school in Montenegro would contribute to attracting a greater number of the French investors. They both mutual interest in the strengthening of parliamentary cooperation, especially at the level of working bodies in charge of foreign affairs.

