



Parliament of Montenegro

NEWSLETTER OPEN PARLIAMENT

Newsletter on the Parliament of Montenegro Performance ♦ No. 77 ♦ December 2017

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OPEN PARLIAMENT



Parliament of Montenegro

Newsletter on the Parliament of Montenegro Performance ♦ Electronic format ♦ Release: monthly ♦ Year VII ♦ No. 77 ♦ December 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 December, which is, in the form of monthly newsletter "Open Parliament", prepared by Parliamentary Service.

During December, the Ninth and Tenth Sitting of the Second Ordinary Session of the Parliament of Montenegro in 2017 took place, as well as the Eighth Special Sitting of the Second Ordinary Session.

In December, committees considered 19 proposals for a law, and performed other activities within their oversight role.

In focus of this month's newsletter is the Fourteenth meeting of the European Union - Montenegro Stabilisation and Association Parliamentary Committee (SAPC).

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

**Respectfully,
Parliamentary Service**



LEGISLATIVE AND OVERSIGHT ACTIVITY

At the Ninth Sitting of the Second Ordinary (Autumn) Session in 2017, the MPs adopted: Law on Amendments to the Law on Treatment of Juveniles in Criminal Proceedings, Law on Amendments to the 2017 Budget Law of Montenegro, the 2018 Budget Law of Montenegro, Law on the Capital Market, Law on foreign trade of goods and services which could be used for capital punishment, torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment, Law on Ratification of the Additional Protocol 4 to the Agreement on Amendment of and Accession to the Central European Free Trade Agreement and the Additional Protocol 5 to the Agreement on Amendment of and Accession to the Central European Free Trade Agreement, Law on Amendments to the Law on Executing a Decision of the Constitutional Court of Montenegro U-I No 6/16 of 19 April 2017 (Official Gazette of MNE No 31/17), Law on the Chamber of Economy of Montenegro, 2016 Annual Report on Awarded State Aid in Montenegro along with the Performance Report, 2014 Performance Report of the Fund for Protection and Exercising of Minority Rights, Opinion with the proposal for a reply to the Constitutional Court of Montenegro with regard to the request to initiate the procedure of the constitutional review of a provision of Article 48a of the Law on Amendments to the Law on Public Sector Salaries (Official Gazette of Montenegro, No 16/16, 83/16, 21/17, and 42/17), Opinion with the proposal for a reply to the Constitutional Court of Montenegro with regard to the request to initiate the procedure for the review of the constitutionality and legality of a provision of Article 152b of the Law on Civil Procedure (Official Gazette of the Republic of Montenegro No 22/04 and 76/06 and Official Gazette of Montenegro No 48/15 and 51/17).

Parliament of Montenegro

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

At the Tenth Sitting of the Second Ordinary (Autumn) Session in 2017, the MPs adopted: Law on Supplements to the Law on Electronic Media, Law on Amendments to the Law on Voter Register, Law on Amendments to the Law on Financing of Political Entities and Election Campaigns, Law on Amendments to the Law on Roads, Law on Tourism and Hospitality Industry, Law on Civil Servants and State Employees, Law on Local Self-Government, Law on Amendment and Supplement to the Law on Local Self-Government Financing and Proposal for the Decision on accepting Annex II of the Long-Term Lease Agreement between the Government of Montenegro and the consortium consisting of "Northstar" DOO Podgorica and Equest Capital Limited, Jersey, UK, No: 01-8193/1, of 14 September 2009.

Under the item of the agenda Elections and Appointments, the Parliament elected Mr Aleksandar Bogdanović as Minister of Culture.

Prime Minister's Questions and MPs Questions

At the Eighth 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 49 questions.

Proposals for law deliberated in committees

- **Proposal for a 2018 Budget Law** was considered and proposed to the Parliament for adoption by the Committee on Economy, Finance and Budget and the Legislative Committee. The same proposal was considered by the following committees within their area of competence, which submitted their opinion to the lead committee-the Committee on Economy, Finance and Budget: Committee on European Integration, Committee on Human Rights and Freedoms, Committee on Political System, Judiciary and Administration, Gender Equality Committee, Committee on International Relations and Emigrants, Committee on Education, Science, Culture and Sports.
- **Proposal for a Law on Ratification of the Additional Protocol 4 to the Agreement on Amendment of and Accession to the Central European Free Trade Agreement and the Additional Protocol 5 to the Agreement on Amendment of and Accession to the Central European Free Trade Agreement** was considered and proposed to the Parliament for adoption by the Committee on International Relations and Emigrants and the Legislative Committee.
- **Proposal for a Law on the Capital Market** was considered and proposed to the Parliament for adoption by the Committee on Economy, Finance and Budget and the Legislative Committee.
- **Proposal for a Law on the Chamber of Economy of Montenegro** was considered and proposed to the Parliament for adoption by the Committee on Economy, Finance and Budget and the Legislative Committee.
- **Proposal for a Law on foreign trade of goods and services which could be used for capital punishment, torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment** was considered and proposed to the Parliament for adoption by the Committee on Economy, Finance and Budget and the Legislative Committee.
- **Proposal a Law on Executing a Decision of the Constitutional Court of Montenegro U-I No 6/16 of 19 April 2017 (Official Gazette of MNE No 31/17)** was considered and proposed to the Parliament for adoption by the Committee on Health, Labour and Social Welfare and the Legislative Committee.
- **Proposal a Law on Amendments to the 2017 Budget Law of Montenegro** was considered and proposed to the Parliament for adoption by the Committee on Economy, Finance and Budget and the Legislative Committee.
- **Proposal for a Law on Amendment and Supplement to the Law on Local Self-Government Financing** 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 Treatment of Juveniles in Criminal Proceedings** was considered and proposed to the Parliament for adoption by the Legislative Committee and the Committee on Political System, Judiciary and Administration.
- **Proposal for a Law on Tourism and Hospitality Industry** was considered and proposed to the Parliament for adoption by the Legislative Committee and the Committee on Tourism, Agriculture, Ecology and Spatial Planning.
- **Proposal for a Law on Amendments to the Law on Roads** 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 Financing of Political Entities and Election Campaigns** 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 State Administration** 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 Civil Servants and State Employees** 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 Local Self-Government** was considered and proposed to the Parliament for adoption by the Committee on Political System, Judiciary and Administration and the Legislative Committee.
- **Proposal for a Law on Amendments to the Law on Councillors and Representatives** was considered and

proposed to the Parliament for adoption by the Committee on Political System, Judiciary and Administration and the Legislative Committee.

- **Proposal for a Law on Amendments to the Law on Voter Register** 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 Supplements to the Law on Electronic Media** 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 Protection of Population against Communicable Diseases** was considered and proposed to the Parliament for adoption by the Committee on Health, Labour and Social Welfare.

Proposals for other acts deliberated in committees

- **Proposal for a Decision on Dismissal of one member of the Council of Electronic Media Agency** was determined by the Administrative Committee.
- **Proposal for the Decision on accepting Annex II of the Long-Term Lease Agreement between the Government of Montenegro and the consortium consisting of "Northstar" DOO Podgorica and Equest Capital Limited, Jersey, UK**, was considered and proposed to the Parliament for adoption by the Legislative Committee and the Committee on Economy, Finance and Budget.

Other activities of working bodies

- At the fourteenth meeting of the **Security and Defence Committee**, held on 20 December, the Committee adopted the 2018 Plan of Parliamentary Oversight.
- At the 25th meeting of the **Committee on Political System, Judiciary and Administration**, held on 20 December, members of the Committee were not able to agree on the Proposal for a decision on election of four members of the Prosecutorial Council from among respectable lawyers, therefore it will issue a new public vacancy notice.
- At the fifteenth meeting of the **Committee on European Integration**, held on 14 December, a consultative hearing of the Minister of European Affairs Aleksandar Andrija Pejović was held, as well as of representatives of the Ministry of Human and Minority Rights and the Agency for the Prevention of Corruption.

At the sixteenth meeting, held on 21 December, members of the Committee provided a positive opinion on the Information note on the current state of affairs in fulfilling benchmarks within the negotiation process.

- At its twelfth meeting, held on 4 December, the **Committee on Human Rights and Freedoms**

considered the Strategy for the Prevention and Protection of Children against Violence with 2017-2021 Action Plan, and the Alternative Report of the Protector of Human Rights and Freedoms of Montenegro Concerning the Second and Third Periodic Report of Montenegro on Implementation of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child and the Report by Golden Advisors to the Protector on Implementation of Recommendations of the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child.

At the fourteenth meeting, held on 19 December, in accordance with Article 162 of the Rules of Procedure of the Parliament of Montenegro, the Committee considered the 2016 Performance Report of the Fund for Protection and Exercising of Minority Rights.

At the sixteenth meeting, held on 28 December, the Committee considered and unanimously adopted the 2017 Performance Report of the Committee.

- At the sixteenth meeting of the **Committee on Tourism, Agriculture, Ecology and Spatial Planning**, held on 22 December, there was a consultative hearing on the topic: "Recommendations from the Final Report of the SAI on the audit of the financial statements of the Public Enterprise Regional Water Supply Company for Montenegrin Coast Budva for 2016". The meeting was attended by representatives of the Public Enterprise Regional Water Supply Company for Montenegrin Coast Budva for 2016 and State Audit Institution (SAI).
- The sixteenth meeting of the **Committee on Health, Labour and Social Welfare**, held on 1 December, was dedicated to the International Day of Persons with Disabilities. The representatives of organisations addressing the issues of disabled persons spoke about specific issues and problems that persons with disabilities faced in daily life. With regard to that, it was noted that Montenegro should create a base on the number of unemployed persons with disabilities. Also, it is necessary to work more on the improvement of rights of persons with disabilities, and additionally improve some legal frameworks related to the rights of persons with disabilities.



- At the seventh meeting of the **Anti-Corruption Committee**, held on 8 December, the Committee held a consultative hearing of the Director of the Agency for Prevention of Corruption Sreten Radonjić on the topic: "Progress in the fight against corruption and an overview

of the observation of local elections for the Local Assembly of the Old Royal Capital of Cetinje, local assemblies of Mojkovac and Petnjica and the Local Assembly of Tuzi within the Capital City”.

At the eighth meeting, held on 20 December, the Committee has issued public invitation for the selection of a member of the Council of the Agency for Prevention of Corruption.

- At the 22nd meeting, held on 4 December, the **Administrative Committee**, within the continuation of the procedure for the election of members of the Administrative Board of the Fund for Protection and Exercising of Minority Rights, the Administrative Committee of the Parliament of Montenegro noted that the conditions for the election of members of the Administrative Board of the Fund for Protection and Exercising of Minority Rights were not met, because a number of authorised representatives failed to submit proposals for candidates within the prescribed deadline. Within continuation of the procedure for appointment of candidates as one member of the State Election Commission, from among the representatives of the civil society, NGO sector and universities, the Committee did not determine the Proposal for the decision for appointment of one member of the State Election Commission, given that Vladimir Bošković did not obtain the necessary majority of votes of the Committee members present. After learning about the Decision of the Agency for Prevention of Corruption, which determined that Mr Darko Ivanović, a member of the Council of the Agency for Electronic Media, as a public official violated Articles 11 and 13 of the Law on Prevention of Corruption by exercising public office at the same time as the duty of the authorised representative of the company "Media Agency N-Gage" DOO Podgorica after the expiration of the statutory deadline, the Committee decided to initiate the procedure for the dismissal of Mr Darko Ivanović, member of the Council of the Agency for Electronic Media.

At the 23rd meeting, held on 12 December, the Committee unanimously decided to propose to the Parliament of Montenegro to dismiss Darko Ivanović from his position of a member of the Council of the AEM.

At the 24th meeting of the Committee, held on 20 December, the Committee has determined a List of timely and complete proposals of candidates for the appointment of one member of the Council of the Radio and Television of Montenegro.

At the 26th meeting, held on 22 December, the Committee adopted the Proposal of the list for the appointment of one member of the Council of the Radio and Television of Montenegro by the authorised proposer, and decided to propose to the Parliament of Montenegro to appoint Sloba Pajović, graduate of

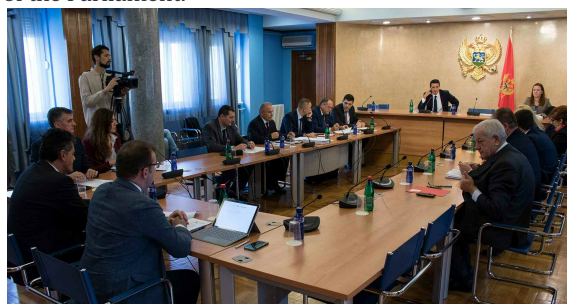
economy and candidate of the Union of Employers of Montenegro, as a member of the Council of the Radio and Television of Montenegro. The Committee also adopted the Proposal for the Decision on the election of the chairperson and members of the Commission for Monitoring and Control of the Privatisation Procedure. The Committee proposed to the Parliament of Montenegro that the Commission for Monitoring and Control of the Privatisation Procedure should have 11 members and proposed MP Mr Branko Čavor as the Chair of the Commission, and MPs Mihailo Anđušić, Petar Smolović, Radule Novović, Ana Nikolić, and Andrija Popović as members.

At the 25th meeting, held on 27 December, the Committee unanimously decided to propose to the Parliament to dismiss Goran Đurović from the duty of a member of the Council of the Radio and Television of Montenegro.

At the 27th meeting of 28 December, the Committee adopted the Decision on Amendments to the Decision on determining the amount, method and procedure for spending special-purpose funds allocated to MP groups for hiring secretaries and expert consultants to the groups as well as the Decision on Amendments to the Decision on the payment of the difference in earnings that a member would have had if they had exercised their parliamentary office exclusively.

At the 28th meeting of 29 December, the Committee has initiated the procedure for the appointment of one member of the Council of Radio Television of Montenegro, by sending the Public Notice to the authorised representatives - non-governmental organisations from the fields of protection of human rights and freedoms, which deal with the exercising and the protection of: national, gender and overall equality; rights to a healthy environment; consumer rights; rights of persons with disabilities or the right to education and social protection, to submit proposals for the appointment of one member of the Council of the Radio Television of Montenegro.

- At the joint meeting of the **Committee on Tourism, Agriculture, Ecology and Spatial Planning and Committee on Economy, Finance and Budget**, on 26 December, a consultative hearing was held on the topic "Regulating the flow of the Bojana River", in accordance with Article 73 of the Rules of Procedure of the Parliament of Montenegro. The hearing was held at the initiative of the MP Genci Nimanbegu, the Vice President of the Parliament.



NEWS FROM PARLIAMENT



The 19th Cetinje Parliamentary Forum was held

President of the Parliament Ivan Brajović opened the 19th Cetinje Parliamentary Forum (CPF), which was held on the topic “Parliament and mass communications”, on 7-8 December, in Cetinje. The Cetinje Parliamentary Forum is the autochthonous regional initiative of parliamentary cooperation of South East European countries on their path towards the EU, and an important form of encouragement and promotion of parliamentary dialogue between the countries of the region. Brajović stressed that today, primarily via mass media, the expert and layman public examine every day whether elected representatives of citizens have met democratic requirements and assessed that in the event of negative response, the punishment would be received in the elections. The discussion held at the Ministry of Culture in Cetinje, within two panels “Democracy in Digital Era” and “The Truth in the Post-Truth Age” gathered parliamentarians from the countries of the region and Montenegro, media representatives and non-governmental

organisations, as well as eminent experts in the field of communications, the diplomatic corps and the students of relevant faculties. At the end of the Cetinje Parliamentary Forum, a Joint Statement of Participants was adopted. On the occasion of the CPF, an exhibition “Art Collection of the Parliament of Montenegro” was opened in the Ministry of Culture in Cetinje.



Seventh Session of the Women’s Parliament held

President of the Parliament of Montenegro Ivan Brajović opened the Seventh Session of the Women’s Parliament on 6 December, devoted to the implementation of activities in the field of preventing and suppressing violence against women and domestic



violence during the global campaign 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence. President Brajović assessed that the second session of the Women’s Parliament in this year in the Parliament of Montenegro was a clear message that the highest legislative body addressed all topics related to further democratisation of the society. Participants of the Women’s Parliament were also addressed by Vice President of the Parliament of Montenegro Branimir Gvozdenović, who believes that it is important to send a clear message - “NO to violence” from parliamentary seats, during the global campaign. Vice President of the Parliament of Montenegro Genci Nimanbegu said in

his address that the “Women’s Parliament” has become an inseparable part of parliamentary life. The attendees were also addressed by: Protector of Human Rights and Freedoms of Montenegro Šučko Baković, and President of the Supreme Court of Montenegro Vesna Medenica, as well as Commissioner for the Protection of Equality of the Republic of Serbia Brankica Janković. Also, there was a presentation of the research on domestic violence and violence against women, conducted within the Program “Support to the anti-discrimination and gender equality policies”. Chair of the Gender Equality Drobnjak said that actions were needed for the purpose of visibly reducing violence against women and domestic violence, and eradicating it as a threat to women and part of the lives of many families, hence the Gender Equality Committee would pay due attention to this problem in the next period.



IN FOCUS



Fourteenth meeting of the European Union - Montenegro Stabilisation and Association Parliamentary Committee (SAPC)

The Fourteenth meeting of the European Union - Montenegro Stabilisation and Association Parliamentary Committee (SAPC), under the joint chairmanship of Ivan Brajović, President of the Parliament of Montenegro, and David Martin, Chairman of the EP's Delegation to the EU-Montenegro SAPC, was held in Podgorica, on 18 December.



In his introductory statement, President of the Parliament Ivan Brajović reminded that the previous 13 meetings of the European Union - Montenegro Stabilisation and Association Parliamentary Committee (SAPC) were one of the proofs of the tremendous path that we have gone through from our independence until today, particularly in the field of the rule of law and strengthening of institutions, adding the NATO membership and leader position in the European integration were the confirmation of the correctness of the current policy.

President Brajović stressed that meetings like this one were crucial for defining parliamentary priorities in the following period, and that the SAPC proved to be an excellent tool for exchanging opinions and experiences among parliamentarians, with regard to contributing to Montenegro's integration into the European Union. That partnering relation implies that, aside from receiving commendations as a leader in the Western Balkans integration process, we are also ready to constructive critical relationship and honouring of suggestions, he said. President Brajović also commented on the presence of the strongest opposition group at the SAPC meeting, convinced that accepting of political reality was effective for the overall society and a precondition for further advancement and development of the state, and that absence of remaining opposition MPs will not slow down the work on fulfilling these obligations. He is of the opinion that such attitude raises doubts as to whether the opposition consciously wants to slow down the European integration of our country, now that Montenegro is a full member of NATO and a leader in European integrations throughout the region, because as the country that leads the process, it has the greatest

obligation to justify enlargement policy before the member states. The Parliament and the Government office will last for another three years, which will be devoted to strengthening of Euro-Atlantic Montenegro and to meeting aims from the European agenda, further strengthening of institutions and economic progress, which ultimately leads to improving the life of our citizens, President Ivan Brajović concluded.

The EU ambassador to Montenegro Aivo Orav reminded, on behalf of the EC, that Montenegro was a regional frontrunner, in the EU integration as well, which had been confirmed at the recent ministerial intergovernmental conference, while the opening of two additional chapters - which were the core of the EU freedom - had confirmed devotion to Montenegro's progress towards the EU.

In the continuation of the 14th SAPC meeting, a discussion was held on the status of the accession negotiations and relations between the EU and Montenegro, and the keynote speakers were Charles Tannock, member of the EP's Foreign Affairs Committee and Rapporteur on Montenegro, and Adrijan Vuksanović, Chair of the parliamentary Committee on European Integration.

They also discussed the functioning of the Parliament and electoral reform ahead of the upcoming elections, and the keynote speakers were Ivan Brajović, Co-chair and President of the Parliament of Montenegro, and Jozo Radoš of the EP's Foreign Affairs Committee.



President Brajović pointed out that the results that we had achieved at the international and domestic level in 2017 factually confirmed that this had been a very successful year for Montenegro and this convocation of the Parliament. The implementation of essential reforms, both from the domain of the rule of law and of economic and financial stability, stimulating growth and development of Montenegro, reaffirmed our European orientation. We had demonstrated that, according to all parameters, political stability, economic criteria and constructive role in the region, in addition to all challenges, we had kept the leading position, assessed President Brajović.

FROM THE HISTORY OF MONTENEGRIN PARLIAMENTARISM



Excerpts from the Constitution of the Principality of Montenegro(1905) involving the System of State Government -PART II Parliamentary Assembly representatives (Election, role and legal status of MPs)¹

The National Representation was established by the Constitution, and was called the National Assembly. The provisions involving the National Assembly were approximately the third of the overall Constitution text. The National Assembly was composed of two types of MPs. The MPs who were elected by the citizens in the electoral units and “MPs appointed on the basis of their function”. The people elect in overall 60 MPs, whereby 14 MPs are appointed on the basis of their function. Their mandate lasts four years. MPs appointed on the basis of their function are persons who perform state duties and religious affairs of extreme importance to the state and people; holding responsibility, primarily for affairs of the state, and second, for the order, and handling the interests of the state and its people; who have a college degree or a school which is equally ranked with a college degree, as well as at least ten years of work experience in higher state positions; as well as who have acquired the knowledge needed for the performance of legislative duties. The Constitution specifically rules out the possibility of the Leader to appoint them according to his special criteria or personal affiliation. Each MP has equal rights and obligations when representing their people and

their interests. Each Montenegrin citizen who has reached the age of 21, except for military personnel, were entitled to the right to elect national representatives.

According to the Constitution, each Montenegrin citizen may be elected for an MP, if he meets the following criteria: has reached the age of 30, has permanent residence in Montenegro, excluding those who work abroad on state affairs, enjoys all civil rights, and pays at least 15 crowns a year as taxes and fees to the state, or jointly fees and taxes. According to the Constitution, all MPs must live in Montenegro. Each MP is obliged to represent the rights of all the people, not only the ones that elected him. An MP shall vote and deal with the state affairs and affairs of the people, in line with with his convictions and conscience (Article 60). The MPs shall have sworn their oath after they have assumed their term of office, and the oath states that the MP shall honour the Constitution, and be solely committed to the wellbeing of the Prince and the fatherland. An MP enjoys immunity. An MP may not be held accountable for his voting, neither criminally prosecuted for his insults and other statements made during the plenary, and which according to the criminal law are considered a crime or an offence. The level of immunity has been determined in line with the existing constitutional standards at the time. Both MPs and MPs appointed on the basis of their function shall equally abide to the provisions of the Constitution.

¹ Izvor: Šuković, Mijat, „Istorija zakonodavstva Crne Gore 1796 – 1916.“, CID, Podgorica, 2007, str. 332-341.

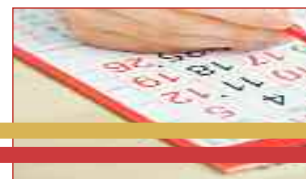
PARLIAMENTARY GLOSSARY

Decree.“A Decree is a legal act issued by a head of state.

In Montenegro, a decree is a legal act that the President of the State uses to promulgate a law, dissolve the Parliament, appoint and revoke Ambassadors of Montenegro and award medals.”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. 195-196.

CALENDAR



1 December

- President of the Parliament of Montenegro Ivan Brajović met with the non-resident Ambassador of Argentina Ricardo Fernandez. It was concluded that there were no open issues in relations between the two friendly countries, which are continuously on the rise. At the meeting, they also emphasised the significance of further strengthening of cooperation on all levels, and especially in the fields of trade and tourism, where there was significant room for further improvement of relations. The interlocutors noted significant contribution to the development of the country by a large Montenegrin community in Argentina.
- Vice-President of the Parliament of Montenegro Branimir Gvozdenović participated in the investments fair REXPO 2017, in Zagreb. The international fair for investment projects REXPO 2017, gathers domestic and foreign investors and represents the best investment projects in the region. As one of the main speakers, Vice-President Gvozdenović addressed at the opening all the participants. He also took part in the panel on the topic "Impact of the international economic trend on investment trends in the region".
- Chair of the Legislative Committee Marta Šćepanović and a member of the Committee Jovanka Laličić met with an Italian expert Alessandro Zagarella who paid a visit in Montenegro within the IPA Twinning Project "Support to the Implementation of the Integrity Measures", whose beneficiary is the Agency for Prevention of Corruption (APC). During the meeting they shared experiences with regard to the implementation and significance of the institute of lobbying, with special focus on the role of lobbyists in the legislative process. They also pointed out the need for promoting this institute to the overall public, i.e. the significance of knowing the Law on Lobbying.
- Member of the Committee of Human Rights and Freedoms Mihailo Anđušić took part at the event organised by the Ministry of Human and Minority Rights, on the occasion of marking the International Day of Persons with Disabilities. The central part of the event was dedicated to a program prepared by students of the Centre for Education and Vocational Training "1 June" from Podgorica, Daycare Centre from Pljevlja, NGO "Zračak nade" (eng. Ray of Hope) and the Resource Center for Children and Youth "Podgorica".

4 December

- President of the Parliament of Montenegro Ivan Brajović

was at the International Parliamentary Conference "EU and Partners - Embracing Diversity for Stronger Unity", in which he participated during his bilateral visit to Georgia, on 4-5 December. During the visit, Brajović met with the Speaker of the Parliament of Georgia Irakli Kobakhidze, President of Georgia Giorgi Margvelashvili, Prime Minister of Georgia Giorgi Kvirikashvili. During the talks, they jointly assessed that the two countries had friendly relations, and a lot of historical similarities as well as similar European and Euro-Atlantic goals. They noted that there was a lot of room for improving relations between our two countries, particularly in the field of economy. During his two-day visit, President Brajović had a meeting with Catholicos-Patriarch of all Georgia, His Holiness and Beatitude Ilia II, and visited Administrative Boundary Line (ABL) in Khurvaleti.



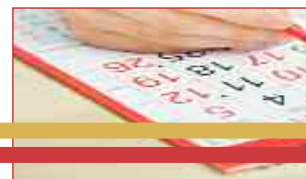
5 December

- Chair of the Committee on European Integration Adrijan Vuksanović and members Marija Maja Čatović, Mihailo Anđušić, and Momčilo Martinović had several meetings with the representatives of the parliamentary and executive powers of the Republic of Italy, which took place from 5 to 8 December. The study visit was implemented in line with the Protocol of Cooperation of the Committee on European Integration of the Parliament of Montenegro and the Committee on European Union Policies of the Italian Senate.

6 December

- The Seventh Session of the Women's Parliament took place, and it was devoted to the implementation of activities in the field of preventing and suppressing violence against women and domestic violence during the global campaign 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence.
- Head of the Friendship Group with Ukraine and Vice President of the Parliament of Montenegro Genci Nimanbegu met with Charge d'Affaires of Ukraine to

CALENDAR



Montenegro Nataliia Fiialka. The interlocutors agreed that it was important to work on establishing even better economic relations between the two countries in the upcoming period, especially in the area of tourism and agriculture cooperation. Also, the interlocutors agreed that the establishment of friendship groups, as well as the planning of the mutual visits of members of the two parliaments, directly contributed to strengthening of bilateral and overall relations between Montenegro and Ukraine.



7 December

- Members of the Working Group for the Implementation of the Recommendations from the OSCE/ODIHR Election Observation Mission Final Report, met with the delegation of the European Commission that has been paying a visit to Montenegro, as well as with the representatives of the Delegation of the European Union to Montenegro. The members of the Working Group presented the activities that were carried out in the previous period, with the aim of implementing recommendations from the OSCE/ODIHR Election Observation Mission Final Report.
- Chair of the Committee on International Relations and Emigrants Andrija Nikolić met with Ambassador of the Republic of Bulgaria to Montenegro H.E. Mladen Tcherveniakov. The interlocutors exchanged views on the perspectives of parliamentary cooperation, and discussed models of concrete activities at the level of parliamentary working bodies and friendship groups.
- President of the Parliament Ivan Brajović opened the 19th Cetinje Parliamentary Forum (CPF) on the topic "Parliament and mass communications".
- Members of the Security and Defence Committee Luid Ljubo Škrelja and Branko Čavor participated in a two-day Regional Conference on Emergency Situations, in Belgrade, on 7-8 December. The Conference that was organised in order to intensify regional cooperation and

provide the most effective response in cases of natural and other disasters, brought together parliamentarians and representatives of relevant institutions from the countries of the region, the Kingdom of the Netherlands, as well as representatives of the OSCE regional offices and the Embassy of the Kingdom of Sweden in Serbia.

8 December

- Awaiting the International Human Rights Day, the Committee on Human Rights and Freedoms organised the Conference on the Rights of the Child, with an emphasis on the protection of children from all forms of violence, in the light of the Campaign of the Government of Montenegro and UNICEF "Stop Violence".

11 December

- President of the Parliament of Montenegro Ivan Brajović received for a farewell visit Polish Ambassador to Montenegro H.E. Irena Tatarzynska. They jointly stated that the relations between the two countries were excellent, and that further strengthening of economic relations should provide the special dynamics to the future development of cooperation.
- Chair of the Gender Equality Committee, Nada Drobnjak, participated at the Conference marking the tenth anniversary of the signing of the Memorandum of Cooperation between the Ministry of Human and Minority Rights, OSCE Mission to Montenegro and the Montenegrin municipalities: Ten Years of Work in the Field of Gender Equality - Achievements and Challenges. The Conference is part of the OSCE Mission project,



entitled "Support to the Improvement of Good Governance Standards in Montenegro" and brings together participants from institutions in Montenegro and the region in the field of gender equality, with a special emphasis on the presentation of results achieved at the municipal level.

- Secretary General of the Parliament of Montenegro

CALENDAR



Aleksandar Jovičević participated in the Conference of secretaries of working bodies of parliaments and assemblies of Bosnia and Herzegovina, in Jahorina. The Conference was held for the sixth time, and was organised by the OSCE Mission to Bosnia and Herzegovina, dedicated to the role of parliaments in the European integration process via parliamentary cooperation and inclusion of the civil sector. They jointly pointed out the importance of encouraging cooperation among the parliaments in the region and of strengthening coordination, aimed at greater inclusiveness, regional cooperation, and exchange of best practices.



- Delegation of the Committee on International Relations and Emigrants paid an official visit to the Croatian Parliament, on 11-12 December. Aside from Chair of the Committee Andrija Nikolić, the delegation of the Committee on International Relations and Emigrants, consisted of members of the Committee: Halil Duković, Dragutin Papović and Miloš Nikolić. It was jointly noted that the unresolved inter-state issues between Montenegro and Croatia were not a problem in the political sense, and that they should be addressed as before, by constructive, friendly, bilateral talks, in the spirit of good neighbourly relations and within the framework of international law. The meetings in Zagreb also covered other topics such as: the strengthening of economic cooperation.
- Deputy Head of the Permanent Delegation at the NATO Parliamentary Assembly Obrad Mišo Stanišić participated in the 17th Annual Transatlantic Forum of the NATO Parliamentary Assembly, on 11-13 December, in Washington D.C.. The Forum was carried out in cooperation of the NATO Parliamentary Assembly with the Atlantic Council of the United States, the Institute for National Strategic Studies of the National Defense University, and gathered parliamentarians - members of permanent delegations from the NATO member states,

as well as associate members from Austria, Finland and Sweden.

12 December

- Member of the Security and Defence Committee Miodrag Vuković participated in the conference “Information Warfare and the New World Order: Case Study of the Western Balkans”, organised in Podgorica by the Atlantic Council of Montenegro. The event was aimed at establishing a platform for better communication and long-term cooperation among the regional and international decision makers and policy creators, and improving the integration of the SEE region in NATO.

14 December

- President of the Parliament of Montenegro Ivan Brajović was the Head of Delegation of the Parliament of Montenegro, composed of MPs Tarzan Milošević, Andrija Popović and Mihailo Anđušić, which paid an official visit to Bulgaria, at the invitation of Speaker of the National Assembly of the Republic of Bulgaria Tsveta Karayancheva. As presiding country of the EU in the upcoming 2018, we will strongly advocate the



enlargement policy of the Western Balkans, whereby we will significantly appreciate the individual achievements of each candidate country, stated the Speaker of the National Assembly of the Republic of Bulgaria Tsveta Karayancheva, during the meeting with the delegation of the Parliament of Montenegro. At the meetings with Deputy PM and Minister of Foreign Affairs Ekaterina Zakharijeva and Minister for the Bulgarian Presidency of the EU Liliana Pavlova, the interlocutors expressed expectation that Bulgarian presidency of the EU, with accent on expanding to the Western Balkan countries and their connecting, would be successful both for that country and for Montenegro. All the talks assessed that the European perspective kept the Balkans stable, and that the new states in the community of European nations would bring their values. The second day,

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Brajović met with President of the Republic of Bulgaria Rumen Radev. Summing up the results of the first official visit to Bulgaria's Assembly by a President of the Parliament, since the restoration of Montenegro's independence, President Ivan Brajović emphasised that all the preconditions for developing stronger economic relations were fulfilled. During the day, meetings were held with the Committee on European Affairs and Oversight of the European Funds and the Parliamentary Friendship Group with Montenegro.

- Chair of the Committee on International Relations and Emigrants Andrija Nikolić participated in the Meeting of the Foreign Affairs Committees of the Visegrad Group - V4 (Hungary, Poland, Slovakia and the Czech Republic) and the countries of the Western Balkans, chaired by Chair of the Foreign Affairs Committee of the Hungarian National Assembly Zsolt Németh. The meeting was dedicated to the topic: "Stability of the Western Balkans - Perspective of the European Integration Process", and within the main debate, the address was also given by Chair of the Committee Andrija Nikolić. The meeting in Budapest was also attended by Ambassador of Montenegro to the Republic of Hungary H.E. Aleksandar Moštrokol.



- A group of primary school students from Bar, Nikšić, and Podgorica visited the Parliament of Montenegro. During the visit, the students had the opportunity to learn about the responsibilities and functions of the



Parliament, as well as about its organisation and structure. The visit was organised within the programme "Open Parliament", which is 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.

15 December

- Andrija Nikolić, Chair of the Committee on International Relations and Emigrants met with Daniel Kapitanić, Vice Governor of the Chaco Province of the Republic of Argentina. The interlocutors agreed that there was room for improvement of cooperation in the fields of economy, trade, tourism, agriculture, science and culture, for which there was good normative basis through signed agreements. Also, they showed readiness for developing parliamentary cooperation between the two countries, and in this regard, Chairperson of the Committee Andrija Nikolić announced that initiative for establishing Montenegro - Argentina parliamentary friendship group would be launched.
- Students of Secondary Vocational School and Secondary School of Economics and Hospitality from Nikšić, as well as students of "Spasoje Raspopović" Secondary Vocational School from Podgorica visited the Parliament of Montenegro. The visit was organised by the NGO Hand of Friendship Foundation. Participants in the visit included representatives of the Ministry of Human and Minority Rights, the NGO Hand of Friendship Foundation, and the aforementioned schools. The visit was organised within the programme "Open Parliament".

17 December

- Member of the standing delegation of the Parliament of Montenegro and Chair of the General Committee on Social Development, Education, Research and Science of the Parliamentary Assembly of the South-East European Cooperation Process (SEEC PA) Radule Novović took part in the meeting of the Standing Committee in Ljubljana. Aside from MP Novović and the host, the meeting in Ljubljana was attended by parliamentarians from: Albania, Bulgaria, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Greece, Romania, Serbia, Croatia, Turkey and Macedonia.

CALENDAR



18 December

- President of the Parliament of Montenegro Ivan Brajović hosted a delegation of the European Parliament, headed by its Chairman David Martin, which was staying in Montenegro for participation in the Fourteenth meeting of the European Union - Montenegro Stabilisation and Association Parliamentary Committee (SAPC).
- Delegation of the Legislative Committee consisted of Chair of the Committee Marta Šćepanović, and members of the Committee Jovanka Laličić and Danijel Živković, paid a two-day visit to the National Assembly of the Republic of Serbia. During the meeting with the counterparts from the Committee on Constitutional and Legislative Issues of the National Assembly of the Republic of Serbia, the interlocutors pointed out the position and significance of these working bodies in a legislative procedure. Experiences and good practices in all stages of the legislative process were shared, as possibilities for further improvement of the work of these committees were explored. They concluded that bilateral meetings of parliamentary committees were of great importance and expressed hope that the cooperation and the exchange of experiences would continue.

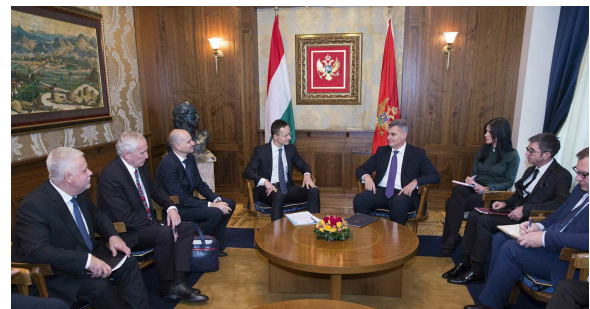
19 December

- President of the Parliament spoke with the European Parliament's Rapporteur for Montenegro Charles Tannock. Regardless of the Brexit that he opposed, as an MP from the UK, Rapporteur Tannock said that his country wanted to be present in the Western Balkans and strengthen the partnership with Montenegro both within NATO and in the bilateral sphere. During the talk, they commented on the freedom of



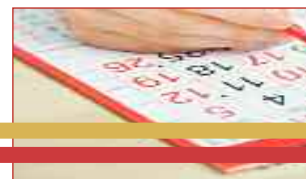
expression and freedom of media, Montenegro's successful membership of NATO, and visible progress achieved by our country in many fields.

- President of the Parliament of Montenegro Ivan Brajović met with Hungarian Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade Péter Szijjártó. President Brajović thanked for the strong support that Hungary has been continuously providing to Montenegro, both with regard to our full membership to NATO, and our reform processes on the European integration path. During the meeting, President Brajović informed Minister Szijjártó about the most important activities in the Parliament as well as with the current political development in Montenegro and the region. The interlocutors agreed that the regatta principle and assessment of individual results of each states was a good approach, and that Montenegro's example can send a strong message to other candidates that the Western Balkans had a real perspective.



- Vice President of the Parliament Branimir Gvozdenović took part in the 20th meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention, in Tirana, where he participated in his capacity of Ambassador of the Mediterranean coast, on which occasion he gave a speech. The meeting was an opportunity to recall on the importance of Integrated Coastal Zone Management (ICZM) for the sustainable development of coastal and marine areas, the elimination of pollution and the achievement of a good state of the environment in line with the ecosystem approach.
- Member of the Committee on Economy, Finance and Budget Filip Vuković, who is also a representative of the Parliament of Montenegro in the Energy Community Parliamentary Plenum, took part in the

CALENDAR



Energy Community Parliamentary Plenum meeting held on 19 December in Vienna. Filip Vuković took part in the 1st South East Europe Parliamentary Forum on Energy Efficiency and Climate Change, held after the meeting of the Parliamentary Plenum, on 20 December. The Forum represents the beginning of the implementation of a new stage of the project “Public dialogue on sustainable use of energy in South-East Europe”, organised by the German Association for International Cooperation (GIZ) with the support of the GIZ Open Regional Fund for SEE-Energy Efficiency and in cooperation with the Energy Community Secretariat.

20 December

- Chair of the Committee on European Integration Adrijan Vuksanović met with H.E. Ferdinand Nagy, Ambassador of the Republic of Romania to Montenegro. The interlocutors discussed the strong bilateral relations between Romania and Montenegro and further improvement of parliamentary cooperation, in the context of Montenegro’s accession to the European Union and the upcoming Romanian presidency of the EU in the first half of 2019.



21 December

- President of the Parliament of Montenegro Ivan Brajović met with the Head of the OSCE Mission in Montenegro Maryse Daviet and ODIHR External Expert Don Bisson, who was also Deputy Head for the 2016 ODIHR Election Observation Mission in Montenegro. The meeting was also attended by MP Marta Šćepanović, Head of the Working Group for the Implementation of the OSCE/ODIHR Recommendations. OSCE/ODIHR representatives assessed positively activities of the Working Group

so far as well as prepared proposals for laws on amendments to laws on: the voter register, the financing of political subjects and electoral campaigns, electronic media and the election of councillors and MPs. The Head of the OSCE Mission expressed pleasure with the readiness of Montenegrin government to continue to additionally improve the electoral legislation, in line with the OSCE/ODIHR recommendations.

22 December

- President of the Parliament of Montenegro Ivan Brajović, delivered a speech at the 134th ordinary sitting of the Assembly of the Montenegrin Academy of Sciences and Arts (MASA).
- Chair of the Committee on Tourism, Agriculture, Ecology and Spatial Planning Petar Ivanović and members of the Committee Ana Nikolić and Mirsad Murić met representatives of the Directorate for Food Safety, Veterinary and Phytosanitary Affairs (Directorate) and Association “Korina”. The reason for the meeting is proposal to ban the use of animals in circuses, sent by non-governmental organisation Association “Korina” to the Committee on Tourism, Agriculture, Ecology and Spatial Planning.

29 December

- President of the Parliament of Montenegro Ivan Brajović received the employees of the Parliament with the most work and life experience, on the occasion of the upcoming holidays. They discussed the manner of operation of the parliamentary service, change of working conditions and the environment during the previous decades. The meeting was also attended by Secretary General of the Parliament of Montenegro Aleksandar Jovičević.

