



Parliament of Montenegro

# NEWSLETTER OPEN PARLIAMENT

Newsletter on the Parliament of Montenegro Performance ♦ No. 80 ♦ March 2018

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# OPEN PARLIAMENT



Parliament of Montenegro

Newsletter on the Parliament of Montenegro Performance ♦ Electronic format ♦ Release: monthly ♦ Year VIII ♦ No. 80 ♦ March 2018

## FOREWORD

*Dear readers,*

We present to you the key information on activities of the Parliament of Montenegro in the period from 1 to 31 March, which is, in the form of monthly newsletter "Open Parliament", prepared by Parliamentary Service.

During March, the First, Second and Third Sitting of the First Ordinary Session of the Parliament of Montenegro in 2018, as well as the Fourth Special Sitting of the First Ordinary Session of the Parliament of Montenegro in 2018 took place.

Committees considered thirteen proposals for a law, five proposals for a decision and performed other activities within their oversight role.

In focus of this month's newsletter is the participation of the Montenegrin Delegation in the 138th session of the IPU Parliamentary Assembly. The newsletter is published monthly through which the Parliament endeavours to bring its work closer to Montenegrin citizens. We consider this publication to be very significant as a reliable source of information regarding the work of the Parliament and we hope that you will find it useful. We remain open to your comments and suggestions, as well as criticism, which can help us bring more quality to our work.

**Respectfully,  
Parliamentary Service**



## LEGISLATIVE AND OVERSIGHT ACTIVITY

**At the First Sitting of the First Ordinary Session of the Parliament of Montenegro in 2018**, the MPs adopted: Law on Ratification of the Convention on Choice of Court Agreements, Law on Ratification of Agreement between the Government of Montenegro and the Government of the United States of America on improving the execution of international tax obligations and the implementation of FATCA and Law on Ratification of the Treaty establishing the Transport Community. Within the item Elections and appointments, the Parliament appointed Miroslav Vukčević as member of the Committee of the Energy Regulatory Agency. Also, the Higher Education Council of Montenegro was appointed. The Parliament noted the resignation by Minister of European Affairs Aleksandar Andrija Pejović.

**At the Second Sitting of the First Ordinary Session of the Parliament of Montenegro in 2018**, the MPs adopted: Law on Freshwater Fisheries and Aquaculture; Law on Amendments to the Law on State Surveying and Cadastre of Immovable Property; Report on the exercise of the rights of mentally ill persons deprived of their liberty, placed in the Institution for Enforcement of Criminal Sanctions and 2017 Performance Report of the Security and Defence Committee. Within the item Elections and appointments, the Parliament appointed Budimir Damjanović as member of the Council of the Agency for Electronic Media and Goran Sekulović as member of the RTCG Council. Furthermore, Proposal for a Decision on Amendments to the Rules of Procedure was adopted.

**At the Third Sitting of the First Ordinary Session of the Parliament of Montenegro in 2018**, the MPs adopted: Law on Amendments to the Budget Law of Montenegro for 2018, Opinion with the proposal for a reply to the Constitutional Court of Montenegro with regard to the initiative for the constitutional review of provisions of Articles 1 (2) and 18 of

the Law on Amendments to the Law on Free Access to Information (Official Gazette of Montenegro, No 30/17), Opinion with the proposal for a reply to the Constitutional Court of Montenegro with regard to the initiative for the constitutional review of provisions of Articles 15,16,17,18,19, 21, 22, 24, 25, 26, 28, 29, 32, 36 and 74 of the Law on Spatial Planning and Construction of Buildings (Official Gazette of Montenegro, No 64/17), Opinion with the proposal for a reply to the Constitutional Court of Montenegro with regard to the initiative for the constitutional review of provisions of Article 26 (1) and (2) of the Law on Administrative Disputes (Official Gazette of Montenegro, No 54/16), Opinion with the proposal for a reply to the Constitutional Court of Montenegro with regard to the Decision to initiate constitutional review of the provisions of Articles 9a, 9b, third indent of Article 9d (2), 9e, 9f and 10 (4) and (5) of the Law on Immovable Property Tax (Official Gazette of Montenegro, No 65/01 and Official Gazette of Montenegro, No 75/10, 9/15 and 44/17, Law on Ratification of the Protocol relating to an amendment to Article 50 (a) of the Convention on International Civil Aviation and Law on Ratification of the Protocol relating to an amendment to Article 56 of the Convention on International Civil Aviation. Proposal for a Decision on Borrowing of Montenegro for 2018 was also adopted.

**At the Fourth Special Sitting of the First Ordinary Session of the Parliament of Montenegro in 2018**, within the item Prime Minister's Questions and MPs' Questions, members of the Government of Montenegro and the Prime Minister of Montenegro answered the questions posed by MPs. The Prime Ministers was posed four questions, while the ministers were posed 45 questions.

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

- **Proposal for a Law on Ratification of the Convention on Choice of Court Agreements** was considered and proposed to the Parliament of Montenegro for adoption by the Legislative Committee.
- **Proposal for a Law on Ratification of Agreement between the Government of Montenegro and the Government of the United States of America on improving the execution of international tax obligations and the implementation of FATCA** was considered and proposed to the Parliament of Montenegro for adoption by the Legislative Committee.
- **Proposal for a Law on Ratification of the Treaty establishing the Transport Community** was considered and proposed to the Parliament of Montenegro for adoption by the Legislative Committee.
- **Proposal for a Law on Freshwater Fisheries and Aquaculture** was considered and proposed to the Parliament of Montenegro for adoption by the Legislative Committee.
- **Proposal for a Law on Amendments to the Law on Electronic Government** was considered and proposed to the Parliament for adoption by the Legislative Committee and the Committee on Human Rights and Freedoms.
- **Proposal for a Law on Montenegrin Development Bank** was considered by the Committee on Economy, Finance and

Budget, which proposed to the Parliament not to adopt it.

- **Proposal for a Law on Supplements to the Law on Innovation Activity** was considered by the Committee on Education, Science, Culture and Sports, which decided to propose to the Parliament not to adopt it.
- **Proposal for a Law on Amendments to the 2018 Budget Law** was considered and proposed to the Parliament for adoption by the Committee on Economy, Finance and Budget and the Legislative Committee.
- **Proposal for a Supplement to the Law on tax on use of passenger motor vehicles, vessels, airplanes and aircrafts** was considered and proposed to the Parliament for adoption by the Committee on Economy, Finance and Budget.
- **Proposal for a Law on Amendment and Supplement to the Law on State Surveying and Cadastre of Immovable Property** was considered and proposed to the Parliament for adoption by the Committee on Economy, Finance and Budget and the Legislative Committee.
- **Proposal for a Law on Amendments to the Law on Proprietary-Legal Relations** was considered and proposed to the Parliament for adoption by the Legislative Committee.
- **Proposal for a Law on Ratification of the Protocol relating to an amendment to Article 50 (a) of the Convention on International Civil Aviation** 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 Ratification of the Protocol relating to an amendment to Article 56 of the Convention on International Civil Aviation** was considered and proposed to the Parliament for adoption by the Committee on International Relations and Emigrants and the Legislative Committee.

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

- **Proposal for a Decision on Amendments to the Rules of Procedure** was considered and proposed to the Parliament for adoption by the Committee on Political System, Judiciary and Administration and Legislative Committee.
- **Proposal for a Decision on Borrowing of Montenegro for 2018** was considered and proposed to the Parliament for adoption by the Committee on Economy, Finance and Budget and Legislative Committee.
- **Proposal for a Decision on consideration of the position of persons with disabilities in Montenegro (implementation of the Committee's conclusion No 00-63-12 / 18-5 / 2 of 6 February 2018, on the occasion of marking the International Day of Persons with Disabilities)** was determined by the Committee on Health, Labour and Social Welfare.
- **Proposal for a Decision on deploying members of the Army of Montenegro in the international mission "Resolute Support - (RS)" in Afghanistan** was considered and proposed to the Parliament for adoption by the Security and Defence Committee and Legislative Committee.
- **Proposal for a Decision on deploying members of the Army of Montenegro in the KFOR international mission**

in the Republic of Kosovo was considered and proposed to the Parliament for adoption by the Security and Defence Committee and the Legislative Committee.

- **Proposal for a Resolution on the Establishment of a Sustainable and Modern Transportation System of Montenegro** was considered and proposed to the Parliament for adoption by the Legislative Committee. The same proposal was considered by the Committee on Economy, Finance and Budget, which decided to propose to the Parliament not to adopt it.
- **Proposal for a Resolution on the Manner of Valuation of the Electric Power Potential of Montenegro** was considered and proposed to the Parliament for adoption by the Legislative Committee. The same proposal was considered by the Committee on Economy, Finance and Budget, which decided to propose to the Parliament not to adopt it.
- **Proposal for a Resolution on Reindustrialisation of Montenegro** was considered and proposed to the Parliament for adoption by the Legislative Committee. The same proposal was considered by the Committee on Economy, Finance and Budget, which decided to propose to the Parliament not to adopt it.

#### *Other activities of working bodies*

- **Constitutional Committee** held the 1st constitutional meeting on 21 March, which discussed the issues of ensuring all the necessary conditions so that the Committee can achieve the expected results. The responsibilities of the Committee established by the Rules of Procedure has led this working body to an objectively unfavourable situation. The established practice of distributing obligations among the working bodies in the preparation of plenary sessions so far has not imposed the need for the Committee to work like other committees. Narrow and very precise rights and obligations, exclusive dealing with the issues such as: amending the Constitution, procedural actions related to this, considering of proposals for determining the responsibility of the president of the state with regard to violation of the Constitution, as well as analysing the fundamental issues of implementing the Constitution, precisely define but also limit the scope of work of this committee. It was noted that during the first year of the current legislature, there were no such initiatives. The Committee concluded that procedure for more precise parliamentary assignment of duties should be initiated, in particular when it comes to delegating obligations to the Constitutional and Legislative Committee and expects that parliamentarians who have not yet expressed such need and



interest will engage in this working body and its work.

- At the 48th meeting of the **Legislative Committee**, held on 1 March, the Committee considered and adopted the 2017 Performance Report of the Committee and the Work Plan of the Committee for the 2018.
- At the 34th meeting of the **Committee on Political System, Judiciary and Administration**, held on 8 March, the Committee adopted the 2017 Performance Report of the Committee and the Work Plan of the Committee for 2018.
- At the 35th meeting of 12 March, the Committee determined the list of applicants to the Public Call for the Election of four members of the Prosecutorial Council, from among respectable jurists.
- At the 36th meeting, held on 30 March, the Committee conducted a consultative hearing of candidates from the list of applicants to the Public Call for the Election of four members of the Prosecutorial Council, from among respectable jurists.
- At the 16th meeting of the **Security and Defence Committee**, of 13 March, members of the Committee, in the presence of the Minister of Defence and Acting Chief of the General staff of the Armed Forces of Montenegro, were informed about the planned activities in terms of deploying members of the Army of Montenegro in the international mission "Resolute Support - (RS)" in Afghanistan.



- At the 17th meeting of 13 March, the 2017 Report on deployment of the Armed Forces of Montenegro units to the international forces and participation in peacekeeping missions and other activities was unanimously supported.
- At the 18th meeting of 20 March, 2017 Performance and Status Report on administrative fields under the Ministry of Defence and 2017 Status Report on the Army of Montenegro were supported.
- At the 21st meeting of the **Committee on European Integration**, 6 March, the Committee held a meeting on the topic: "Progress of Montenegro in the negotiation process with the EU, in terms of fulfilling the economic criteria". The



participants discussed the content of negotiating chapters involving the fulfillment of the economic criteria, with a special focus on Chapter 8- Competition Policy.

- At 29th meeting of the **Committee on International Relations and Emigrants**, 15 March, the Committee adopted the Work Plan of the Committee for 2018.
- At 39th meeting of the **Committee on Economy, Finance and Budget** of 7 March, the Committee adopted the 2017 Performance Report of the Committee and determined the Work Plan for 2018.



- At the 17th meeting of the **Committee on Human Rights and Freedoms** of 7 March, the Committee adopted the Report on exercise of rights of mentally ill persons deprived of their liberty, placed in the Institution for Enforcement of Criminal Sanctions and 2017 Performance Report of the Committee.



- At the 18th meeting, 19 March, the Committee considered and unanimously adopted the Work Plan of the Committee for 2018.
- At the 13th meeting of the **Gender Equality Committee**, held on 21 March, the Committee adopted the Work Plan of the Committee for 2018.
- At the 14th meeting of the **Committee on Education, Culture and Sports**, 16 March, the Committee adopted the 2017 Performance Report of the Committee and Work Plan of the Committee for 2018.
- At the 23rd meeting of the **Committee on Tourism, Agriculture, Ecology and Spatial Planning**, 8 March, the Committee adopted Work Plan of the Committee for 2018.
- At the 23rd meeting of the **Committee on Health, Labour and Social Welfare**, 8 March, the Committee adopted the amendments to the Work Plan of the Committee for 2018.
- At the 24th meeting of 13 March, the previously determined Proposal for a Decision on consideration of the position of

persons with disabilities in Montenegro (implementation of the Committee's conclusion No 00-63-12 / 18-5 / 2 of 6 February 2018, on the occasion of marking the International Day of Persons with Disabilities) was reconsidered.

- At the 34th meeting of the **Administrative Committee**, held on 6 March, the Committee determined the List of proposals of candidates for one member of the Council of the Agency for Electronic Media, and proposed to the Parliament that Budimir Damjanović be appointed member of the Council of the Agency for Electronic Media; and a List of proposals of candidates for one member of the RTCG Council by the authorised proposer; and thereby propose to the Parliament that Goran Sekulović be appointed member of the RTCG Council. At the proposal of the Democratic Socialist Party MP Club, the Committee decided to propose to the Parliament that MP Bogdan Fatić be appointed member of the Commission for Monitoring and Control of the Privatisation Procedure.
- At the 35th meeting, held on 9 March, the Committee determined two proposals for a decision. Namely, the Committee decided for MP Bogdan Fatić to be deprived of office of the member of the Committee on Tourism, Agriculture, Ecology and Spatial Planning, and MP Sanja Pavićević to be elected member of the Committee; and for MP Sanja Pavićević to be deprived of office of the member of the Committee on Education, Science, Culture and Sports, and MP Bogdan Fatić to be elected member of the Committee.



- At the 36th meeting of 20 March, the Committee adopted the 2017 Performance Report and Work Plan of the Committee for 2018.
- At the First Joint Meeting of **Committee on Health, Labour and Social Welfare and the Committee on Education, Science, Culture and Sports**, 13 March, there was a consultative hearing of Minister of Labour and Social Welfare Kemal Purišić and Minister of Education Damir Šehović, on the topic: "Physical punishing of children and bullying".



## NEWS FROM PARLIAMENT



### *Eighth Session of the Women's Parliament held*

This year's session of the Women's Parliament, was organised by the Gender Equality Committee, ahead of International Women's Day, to promote the women human rights in Montenegro. In his introductory speech, President Brajović emphasised that, as the President of the Parliament, he has the privilege of contributing directly, together with other MPs, to the making of legal assumptions that take care of human rights in a long-term sustainable way, among which women's rights occupy a prominent place. Nada Drobnjak, Chair of the Gender Equality Committee, in her introductory address to the participants of the "Women's Parliament", emphasised that 8 March has been important in the history of the development of the whole society, because the economic, political and social achievements of women have been celebrated on that day. At the end of her presentation, the Chairperson of the Gender Equality Committee Nada Drobnjak, said that the essence should be restored to the 8 March, the struggle of women for equality to be celebrated, which was the goal of the "Women's

Parliament". Then followed the address by the Protector of Human Rights and Freedoms of Montenegro, Šučko Baković, and the responses of the members of the Government of Montenegro to the questions of representatives of women's associations of parliamentary parties and civil society. Besides the MPs, representatives of women's associations of parliamentary parties and civil society, the Session was attended by representatives of the diplomatic corps, international organisations and local self-government. The Session took place on 7 March.



### *President of the Parliament Ivan Brajović paid a two-day visit to Azerbaijan*

During the visit to Azerbaijan, on 13-14 March, President Brajović met with President of the



Republic of Azerbaijan Ilham Aliyev. The President of the Parliament of Montenegro emphasised the importance of friendly relations and mutual trust for cooperation in all areas, primarily economic, where there was still much room for strengthening foreign and trade exchange before everything else. The President had a speech at an International Conference on "The role of Parliamentarians in boosting economic cooperation and cultural ties along the Silk Road". Parliamentary diplomacy and activities of the Azerbaijan-Montenegro friendship groups open the door for further enhancement of political, economic and cultural ties between the two countries, this is said at the meeting between President of the Parliament of

Montenegro Ivan Brajović and Speaker of the National Assembly of Azerbaijan Ogtay Asadov. The cooperation between the Mixed Commission for Economic Cooperation and the forthcoming Business Forum, where top officials of our countries are expected to participate, were discussed at the meeting with Prime Minister of Azerbaijan Artur Rasizade. Similar tones of friendly support and recognition to Montenegro's consistent foreign policy and the special role of our country in the Western Balkans were heard at the meeting with Foreign Minister Elmar Mammadyarov. The parliamentary delegation, also including MP Bogdan Fatić, laid wreaths in the Ally of Honour and Ally of Martyrs, and visited the Honorary Consulate of Montenegro in Baku, led by Vugar Aliyev, who is a devoted friend to development of relations between the two countries.



## IN FOCUS



### *Delegation of the Parliament of Montenegro participated in the 138th session of the IPU Parliamentary Assembly*

**D**elegation of the Parliament of Montenegro composed of: President of the Parliament of



Montenegro Ivan Brajović, MPs Suad Numanović, Jovanka Laličić and Miloš Nikolić paid a visit to Geneva during the General 138th session of the IPU Parliamentary Assembly. The Inter-Parliamentary Union is a global organization based in Geneva and established in 1889, gathering 178 national parliaments. The President Brajović addressed the MPs from 178 countries at the General Session, and had several meetings with President of the Inter-Parliamentary Union IPU Gabriela Barron, during which they shared their views on certain issues of global importance. Brajović also spoke with Speaker of the National Assembly of Bulgaria Tsveta Karayancheva on continuation of the integration process of

Montenegro and the Western Balkans during her country's presidency of the European Union. During the meeting with the President of the National Council of the Swiss Confederation Dominique de Buman, it was noted that many issues have been considered under the competence of the parliaments, as well as the possibilities of intensified cooperation in the field of economy, with the emphasis on the development of tourism and agriculture, especially in the north of Montenegro. During the meeting with Thomas Guerber, Director of the Geneva Centre for the Democratic Control of Armed Forces (DCAF), President Brajović stressed the importance of cooperation with expert organisations such as DCAF and thanked for the support in numerous trainings and expert assistance in legislation, primarily through cooperation with the Parliament's Security and Defence Committee.



## PARLIAMENTARY GLOSSARY

**Plenary Hall.** "The Plenary Hall is the room where the plenary sittings of the parliament are held. The seating arrangement in the plenary hall differs among parliaments. The seats are usually distributed in an amphitheatric way, with the chairperson's seat set opposite the MPs' benches. In some parliaments, parties are distributed in accordance with their position in the political spectrum. In parliaments using the Westminster system, the seating arrangement often implies alignment of chairs in a straight line. MPs in the plenary hall of the Parliament of Montenegro sit grouped according to MP groups and each MP has a reserved seat which he/she uses when addressing the Parliament. The hall has a small journalist box, as well as area designated as a guest area and the clerks that follow the sitting. The hall is equipped with modern conference and voting systems."<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Doc. dr Komar, Olivera, Prof. dr Ivana Jelić, Nataša Komnenić, Irena Mijanović, Jelena Radonjić, Vlatko Šćepanović, *Parlamentarni leksikon*, Podgorica, Skupština Crne Gore 2016, str. 264-265.

## FROM THE HISTORY OF MONTENEGRIN PARLIAMENTARISM



### **Fiftieth Anniversary of the rule of Prince Nikola-Declaring of Montenegro a kingdom, and Nikola a king**

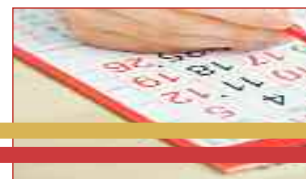
The beginning of the Twentieth century was declared a time of economic crisis and also immigration of Montenegrin citizens. In this difficult times, Montenegro celebrated a rare Jubileum- fifty years of the rule of Prince Nikola. For the purposes of this celebration, which was to take place on 15 August 1910, a special reception committee was formed. In the beginning of year 1910, the Committee made a written announcement stating that Prince Nikola dedicated his fifty years of life and rule to the wellbeing of Montenegro. The event during which Montenegro was declared a kingdom and Nikola its king took place on 15 August 1910. This day (according to the Gregorian calendar) commemorated fifty years since Prince Nikola assumed his thrown. With this ceremonious event, as stated in the newspapers, ensued official state holidays. The proposal to declare Montenegro a kingdom and Nikola a king, was formally submitted to the Parliamentary Assembly precisely on the date of marking the jubileum. By the means of a special proclamation, the Prince notified the citizens that the

Montenegrin Assembly, for the purposes of proudly marking fifty years of his rule as well as to simultaneously award the people for their courage and self-sacrifice, decided to submit a proposal for renewal of the kingdom of Montenegro. Aside from the mentioned reasons, he states that the Assembly has also taken into consideration a historical validation of such proposal, since Montenegro had previously been recognised a kingdom. Given that the proposal was based on valid grounds, the Prince Nikola announced that he supported the proposal of the Assembly, thus declaring Montenegro a kingdom and himself a hereditary king. The same day, the Assembly adopted the Law on declaring of Montenegro a kingdom. In his first address, King Nikola expressed gratitude to his people for the sacrifice and loyalty to the crown, and thus declaring Montenegro a kingdom was marked as a step closer towards the goal it initially aspired to. According to King Nikola, the Montenegrin kingdom was rooted in history, back in the times of the rule of kings of Zeta, Vojislav, Mihailo and Bodin. At the time, Montenegro, respectively Zeta was a kingdom, making this a valid ground for renewing its status in the beginning of twentieth century.

<sup>1</sup> Izvor: Andrijašević, Živko, Rastoder, Šerbo, Istorija Crne Gore od najstarijih vremena do 2003., Centar za iseljenike Crne Gore, Podgorica, 2006. str. 261 – 263.



# CALENDAR



## 1 March

- The Friendship Group with the Parliament of Islamic Republic of Iran, at the invitation of the Chair of the Iranian Friendship Group with the Parliament of Montenegro Parvaneh Salahshouri, held several constructive meetings in Tehran, from 25 to 27 February 2018. The interlocutors agreed that both Montenegro and Iran are characterised by rich cultural heritage and long tradition, and have a lot in common, and emphasised the need for strengthening cultural and touristic potential. The focus of the meeting were topics involving education with a special focus on the exchange of students, the position and the rights of women, infrastructural projects, investment climate, as well as issues concerning energy and energy potentials of both countries. Members of the Friendship Group who attended and participated in the meeting were the following: MPs Aleksandra Vuković, Nedžad Drešević, as well as member of the Committee on Education, Science, Culture and Sports Branka Tanasijević.



- Vice-President of the Parliament of Montenegro Branimir Gvozdenović, as Chair of the Friendship Group with the Parliament of Israel had a meeting with the Ambassador of Israel to Montenegro, with a residential basis in Belgrade, Alona Fisher-Kamm. The meeting was an opportunity for the interlocutors to jointly discuss achieved progress and contribution to cooperation since the establishing of both friendship groups. During the meeting, the participants also exchanged opinions involving the current global political relations and events in the Middle East.

## 2 March

- President of the Parliament of Montenegro Mr Ivan Brajović spoke with non-resident Ambassador of Georgia Zaza Kandelaki on further development of cooperation between the two states, based on good political relations. The meeting discussed the visit by the Speaker of the Georgian Parliament, which will happen in the upcoming months, to confirm that there are many reasons and a basis for strengthening relations at all levels.

- Chair of the Gender Equality Committee Nada Drobnjak met with the Ambassador of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland in Montenegro Alison Kemp. During the meeting, the interlocutors discussed the political strengthening of women in Montenegro, as well as a possible cooperation in the gender budgeting area with the Parliamentary Budget Office, which was established within the frameworks of the project realized between the Parliament of Montenegro and the Westminster Foundation for Democracy. The same day, Drobnjak met with non-resident Ambassador of Israel to Montenegro Alona Fisher-Kamm.

## 3 March

- Chair of the Committee on European Integration Adrijan Vuksanović participated as a panelist in a debate organised by Montenegrin PanEuropean Union, on the topic: "Importance of Tourism in the European Integration", which took place in Tivat. The participants discussed the strategic development of tourism and the state's incentives to promote tourism industry from the aspect of integration to the EU, as well as quality management of a touristic destination.

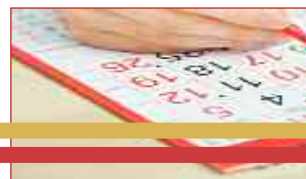
## 4 March

- Member of the Permanent Delegation of the Parliament of Montenegro to the SEECP Parliamentary Assembly, MP Milorad Vuletić, participated in the Meeting of the General Committee on Justice, Home Affairs and Security Cooperation, held in Sarajevo. The meeting of the General Committee was devoted to the topic: "Alternative criminal proceeding in criminal prosecution policy in the South East Europe region", gathering parliamentarians from eight SEECP member states. The meeting jointly noted that by introducing an alternative criminal proceeding, the judiciary would be relieved, allowing judicial institutions to concentrate their capacities on more complex criminal offenses, such as organised crime and corruption, which are the challenges of all countries of South East Europe.

## 6 March

- President of the Parliament of Montenegro Ivan Brajović met with the delegation of the Foreign Affairs Committee of the National Assembly of the Republic of Bulgaria, headed by the Chairperson of the Committee Dzhema Grozdanova. During the meeting, it was noted that Bulgaria particularly understands the importance of the European perspective of Montenegro and the region, which is, at the same time, in the focus of the ongoing Bulgarian Presidency of the EU. The interlocutors agreed

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that Montenegro and Bulgaria nourished friendly relations with no open issues, while intensive parliamentary cooperation was a part of overall political activities in the interest of the common perspective of the two countries and the entire region. The same day, Members of the Committee on European Integration and the Security and Defence Committee met with the delegation of the Foreign Affairs Committee of the Bulgarian National Assembly. In addition to chairpersons of the two committees, the meeting was attended by members of the Committee on European Integration Mihailo Anđušić, Nikola Rakočević and Daliborka Pejović and member of the Security and Defence Committee Marta Šćepanović. Furthermore, there was also a meeting between the Bulgarian Delegation with the Committee on International Relations and Emigrants. With the aim of strengthening parliamentary relations and specifying the cooperation between the working bodies of Montenegro and Bulgaria, Grozdanova invited back the Committee on International Relations and Emigrants to honour them with a visit to Bulgaria. In addition to Chair of the Committee on International Relations and Emigrants, the following members also attended the meeting: Halil Duković, Dragutin Papović, Miloš Nikolić and Ervin Ibrahimović.

- Chair of the Legislative Committee Marta Šćepanović met Ambassador Maryse Daviet, Head of the OSCE Mission to Montenegro. During the meeting, further strengthening of the cooperation between the Parliament of Montenegro and its working bodies and the OSCE Mission in Montenegro was discussed, whereby the previous cooperation was assessed as exemplary. The meeting discussed the activities that the OSCE Mission to Montenegro plans to implement during this year, which should contribute to strengthening the capacity of the parliamentary working bodies.

## 7 March

- President of the Parliament of Montenegro Ivan Brajović opened the Eighth Session of Womens' Parliament, which was organised by the Gender Equality committee, at the eve of International's Women Day, aimed at promoting women's human rights in Montenegro.

## 9 March

- President of the Parliament of Montenegro Ivan Brajović met with the US Ambassador to Montenegro Margaret Ann Uyehara. At the meeting, Brajović reiterated his assessment of the very successful meetings during his stay in the United States of

America, on the occasion of the National Prayer Breakfast, recently held in Washington. The President of the Parliament and the US Ambassador agreed on the importance of diplomatic activities and meetings with representatives of the United States of America and other countries, which Montenegro has shared same democratic values with. The political situation in Montenegro, ahead of the presidential elections, was also discussed at the meeting. In this context, President Brajović pointed out that the upcoming presidential elections, that would be followed by local elections, we are to welcome in an additionally improved election environment, bearing in mind adopted recommendations of OSCE/ODIHR.

- President of the Parliament of Montenegro Ivan Brajović met with Vojislav Raonić, team leader of the European Union regional project "Assistance to Public Service Media in the Western Balkans". It is a project of the European Commission, which will make contribution possible to the reforms and professional development of the Public Service Media of Montenegro, Serbia, Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo and Macedonia in the next two and a half years by engaging a consortium led by the International Federation of Journalists (IFJ) with the aim of production of pluralistic, independent and credible content. The President of the Parliament also emphasised that this project showed the importance of European integration for Montenegro in all areas, and to the support of the Public Service, with the expectation that the raising of the professional level of the media outlet financed by the citizens of Montenegro would contribute to the improvement of the overall image of the media in the country.

## 12 March

- Member of the Permanent Delegation of the Parliament of Montenegro to the SEECF Parliamentary Assembly, MP Radule Novović, attended the meeting of the General Committee Economy, Infrastructure and Energy of the SEECF PA, held in Istanbul. The meeting was dedicated to the topic: Opportunities for economic cooperation in the region of South-Eastern Europe, where committee members from 12 countries SEECF member states participated. In his address, MP Novović emphasised that the economies in the countries of South-Eastern Europe, who varied in terms of their structure and level of development, faced apart from many other challenges those challenges common to all. Aside from MP Novović and the hosts, the meeting was also attended by representatives of the following parliaments: Albania,

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Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Greece, Croatia, Macedonia, Romania, Serbia, Slovenia and Kosovo.



- Members of the Committee on International Relations and Emigrants Nada Drobnjak and Ervin Ibrahimović participated in an event, organised by the Montenegrin diaspora entitled: "Rozajsko vece", which took place on 10-11 March in Hanover, Germany. Member of the Committee on International Relations and Emigrants Nada Drobnjak expressed gratitude to the Montenegrin diaspora on its efforts to preserve Montenegrin Culture, as well as for emancipating Montenegrin society. Member of the Committee on International Relations and Emigrants Ervin Ibrahimović reminisced on the contribution the Montenegrin diaspora has provided on the occasion of renewal of Montenegrin independency in 2006. Participants of the event agreed that this was by far the greatest turnout of the Montenegrin diaspora, which would be followed by similar events in the future.

## 13 March

- President Ivan Brajović paid a two-day visit to Azerbaijan, on which occasion he met with the highest officials of the country: President of the Republic of Azerbaijan, Prime Minister, Minister of Foreign Affairs. He also delivered a speech at the International Conference: "The role of Parliamentarians in boosting economic cooperation and cultural ties along the Silk Road".

## 14 March

- Chair of the Committee on European Integration Adrijan Vuksanović met with Mladen Chervenjakov, the Ambassador of the Republic of Bulgaria to Montenegro, in order to schedule a visit of the Delegation of the Committee on European Affairs and Oversight of the European Funds to Montenegro. The interlocutors exchanged views on current issues at the EU level, and thus jointly emphasised the importance of parliamentary diplomacy and cooperation, especially taking into consideration the current presiding of Bulgaria over the

Council of the European Union.

- Chair of the Gender Equality Committee Nada Drobnjak spoke in the conference organised on presenting the results of the research "Prevention of child marriages in Montenegro: Challenges, lessons learnt and theory of change". The research was made within the programme "Coordinated action to combat violence and child marriages in the Roma and Egyptian communities", carried out by the NGO Centre for Roma Initiative in partnership with the UNICEF Office to Montenegro, and with financial support of the EU. Representatives of the relevant institutions, NGOs and international organisations took part in the conference.

## 15 March

- A group of High school students paid a visit to the Parliament of Montenegro, within the frameworks of the project *The Week of Civic Education*, organised by Montenegrin and American Association of Students. The students were acquainted with the history of Montenegrin Parliamentarism, competencies and duties of the Parliament, as well as its organisation and work. The visit of high school students was organised within the Parliamentary Programme Open Parliament, aimed at bringing the institution closer to citizens, especially the youth, who may directly enhance their knowledge.



- Chair of the Committee on Political System, Judiciary and Administration Željko Aprčević and Chair of the Legislative Committee Marta Šćepanović met with Vojislav Raonić i Željka Lekić - Subašić, representatives of the regional project "Support to Public Service Media in the Western Balkans". During the meeting, they discussed the legislative framework concerning this area and mechanisms for its further improvement. When it comes to parliamentary activities, the support of the carrier of the project will be mainly designated for the said areas. Chairs of both committees expressed willingness for further cooperation with regards to this project.

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## 16 March

- President of the Parliament of Montenegro Ivan Brajović spoke with Tana de Zulueta, Head of the ODIHR Observation Mission for the upcoming presidential election. Ivan Brajović expressed his satisfaction that the OSCE/ODIHR accepted his invitation to send the observation mission and expressed his expectation of yet another objective report of this organisation with regard to the elections in our country. It was assessed at the meeting that the Working Group of the Parliament did an excellent job while working on the implementation of the ODIHR recommendations, with the aim that the forthcoming election cycles be enforced with further improved electoral legislation.
- Member of the Parliament of Montenegro's permanent delegation and the Chairman of the General Committee on Social Development, Education, Research and Science of the South East Europe Cooperation Process Parliamentary Assembly (SEECP PA), Radule Novović, took part in the SEECP PA Standing Committee Meeting on 16 and 17 March in Bled. The Proposal of the Final Declaration, with amendments submitted by parliaments, was considered.

## 19 March

- Committee on Economy, Finance and Budget held its meeting, during which the results of the project "Strengthening financial oversight of the Parliament of Montenegro" were presented, which had been realised with financial support and cooperation of the Westminster Foundation for Democracy and the British Embassy in Podgorica. The following attended the meeting: Alison Kemp, Ambassador of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland to Montenegro, Aleksandar Jovičević, Secretary General of the Parliament of Montenegro and Emil Atanasovski, Westminster Foundation for Democracy's Regional Representative for the Western Balkans. Chair Predrag Sekulić said that during the two-year project period, researchers from the Parliamentary Budget Office provided expert and technical support to parliamentary committees and MPs while analysing complex documents related to public finance, and that the Office satisfied expectations. It was noted that: the project has been successfully implemented, it was necessary to continue strengthening the oversight role of the parliament and the possibility of organisational integration of the Budget Office within the Parliament's service needed to be considered. It was also pointed out that the establishment of the Budget Office, bearing in

mind previous strengthening of the capacity of the parliamentary service and the introduction of the practice for all interested committees to consider the proposal for the budget in the domain of the areas of their responsibility, would significantly contribute to the improvement of the parliamentary oversight of the budget.



- Chair of the Committee on International Relations and Emigrants Andrija Nikolić met with Ambassador of the Republic of France to Montenegro Christine Toudic Gaborit. They jointly concluded that it was important to establish more intensive contacts between Committee on Foreign Affairs of the French Parliament and Committee on International Relations and Emigrants of the Parliament of Montenegro.

## 20 March

- President of the Parliament Ivan Brajović hosted the Ambassador of the Italian Republic Vincenzo Del Monaco, in a farewell visit. The President of the Parliament thanked the Italian Ambassador for strong contribution to interparliamentary cooperation. Ambassador Del Monaco granted recognition to the Parliament of Montenegro and to President Brajović for the demonstrated openness for internal dialogue, as well as the contribution to the development of bilateral relations between Montenegro and Italy. The interlocutors agreed that the excellent political relations of the two countries should be the basis for the period to come in order to strengthen cooperation on the economic plane.

## 21 March

- Chair of the Committee on European Integration Adrijan Vuksanović held a meeting with evaluators of the Operational Programme "Human Resource Development" 2012-2013, when they highlighted the importance of human resource development and the return of people to the labour market. Evaluators of the Operational Programme Richard Alen and Boško

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Nektarijević spoke about effective and inclusive measures of active employment policy, education and research, social inclusion and technical support as the most relevant areas for their evaluation and analysis in making recommendations. The interlocutors shared views on the future vision of Montenegro and the role of the Parliament of Montenegro, as the legislative body, in reducing unemployment and impacting on the growth of self-confidence of the citizens of Montenegro when it comes to the human resources development and their contribution to the labour market.

## 22 March

- President Brajović met with non-residential Ambassador of the Republic of Azerbaijan Eldar Hasanov. The interlocutors agreed that the planned appointment of Montenegro's diplomatic representative in Baku would facilitate operational communication at all levels, and it is expected that the seasonal opening of charter flights will significantly increase the tourist exchange. They also added that excellent relations and investment projects carried out in this moment were a good basis for even more intensive economic cooperation. The meeting also discussed the political situation in Montenegro and Azerbaijan and the upcoming presidential elections which will be held next month in both countries.
- Chair of the Committee on Human Rights and Freedoms Halil Duković and member of the Committee Mirsad Murić took part in the conference "For the stronger voice of the child in society - Network of Golden Ombudsman Advisors", organised by the Protector of Human Rights and Freedoms of Montenegro. The Network of Golden Ombudsman Advisors was first established in 2014, with the aim of creating conditions for achieving a higher level of participation of children in all social life areas.
- President of the Parliament of Montenegro gave address at the ceremony of marking the 100th anniversary of the founding of the Czechoslovak Republic, at the invitation of the Ambassador of Slovakia and Czech Republic Roman Hloben and Karel Urban. This occasion also marks the 50th anniversary of the Prague Spring and the 25th anniversary of the two states' independence.

## 23 March

- A group of students of the Faculty of Law of the University "Mediterranean" visited the Parliament of Montenegro. The visit by the students of the Faculty of Law of the University "Mediterranean", within the "Open Parliament" programme, as noted, contributes to education of youth.

After the usual tour of the Montenegrin Parliament building, the students talked with MP and Chair of the Gender Equality Committee Nada Drobnjak, and Secretary of the Legislative Committee, representative of the parliamentary expert service Vlatko Šćepanović. They mostly discussed the work of parliamentary working bodies, adoption of laws and plenary sessions. Students learned about historical development of parliamentarism in Montenegro, as well as about activities of the current 26th Parliament of Montenegro.

- President Brajović met Director and Editor of "Nova knjiga" Predrag Uljarević, who informed him about publishing and other activities of this outlet, including the International Book Fair and award "Literary Flame", co-founded by Mario Vargas Llosa. Brajović assessed as significant activities on improving the reading culture, contributed by the publication of prominent titles and the maintenance of the bookstore chain in Montenegrin towns.
- Chair of the Committee on European Integration Adrijan Vuksanović participated in the roundtable "Montenegro, Western Balkans and the European Union: accession within easy reach?". Vuksanović said that Montenegro had only one path - the European one, and that external pressure positively influenced the process and implementation of social and economic internal reforms, especially emphasising that stability of the Western Balkans also affected the stability of the European Union. The roundtable participants agreed on the significance of the stability of the European Union, which will therefore make it more accessible to other candidate countries, as



well as the importance of further work on strengthening the rule of law in the region.

- Member of the Permanent Delegation of the Parliament of Montenegro to NATO PA Obrad Mišo Stanišić participated in the Spring Standing Committee Meeting of the NATO Parliamentary Assembly, held in Vilnius, on 23-24 March. The Meeting was aimed on the planning of the upcoming activities of the Parliamentary Assembly of NATO,

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consideration of a series of financial documents dealing with work of the Assembly, and the attention of the participants was dedicated to the issue of presiding over the Parliament.

## 26 March

- Delegation of the Parliament of Montenegro composed of President of the Parliament Ivan Brajović, MPs Suad Numanović, Jovanka Laličić and Miloš Nikolić paid a visit to Geneva, on the occasion of General Session of the 138th Assembly of the Inter-Parliamentary Union. President Brajović addressed MPs from 178 countries, and held meetings with the President of the Inter-Parliamentary Union, President of the Parliament of Bulgaria, National Council of the Swiss Confederation, and Director of the Geneva Centre for the Democratic Control of Armed Forces.

## 28 March

- Deputy Secretary General participated in the meeting of the Association of Secretaries General of Parliaments, as the advisory body to the Inter-Parliamentary Union, which was held simultaneously with the 138th Session of the IPU. Secretaries-General of parliaments from around 70 countries have, through presentations and debates, exchanged experiences and opinions on current challenges and issues that the parliamentary administrations encounter in their daily work. Parliament and the society, the role of civil society in innovative processes in parliaments, were also one of the topics of the



meeting of the Association, and attention was drawn by presentations on the influence of Brexit on the parliaments of other EU countries.

- Chair of the Gender Equality Committee Nada Drobnjak met with political analyst of the OSCE/ODIHR Observation Mission for the presidential elections Mauro Calvo. During the meeting, the position of women in Montenegro, their representation in the public sector and social life, were discussed.

## 29 March

- President of the Parliament of Montenegro Ivan Brajović hosted the newly appointed non-resident Ambassador of the Republic of Tunisia to Montenegro Seyf Allah Rejeb. President Brajović conveyed the readiness of the Parliament of Montenegro to contribute to the strengthening of overall relations through the strengthening of parliamentary cooperation with the Tunisian Parliament, especially with the aim of improving economic cooperation.

## 30 March

- Chair of the Gender Equality Committee Nada Drobnjak spoke at the opening of the final conference “Women in Management in Montenegro – Support to Women’s Leadership and Career Development in Montenegro”, hosted by the Union of Employers of Montenegro (UPCG), with the support of the International Labour Organisation (ILO) within the regional project of the ILO and UNDP “Promoting Inclusive Labour Market Solutions in the Western Balkans”, funded by the Austrian Development Agency (ADA). A special ceremony was organised within this event - presentation of awards for “Best female managers in Montenegro” for 2017. Chair of the Gender Equality Committee was presented with a plaque of the Union of Employers of Montenegro.



- President Brajović received the Ambassador of the Italian Republic to Podgorica Luka Zelioli. The interlocutors emphasised the importance of further intensification of economic cooperation and trade relations, with Ambassador Zelioli highlighting agriculture, sustainable tourism and environmental protection as priority areas of cooperation. With the emphasis on the importance of further improvement of the cooperation of the legislative authorities of Montenegro and the Italian Republic, the President congratulated the appointment of the new President of the Chamber of Deputies and the President of the Senate of the Italian Republic.