



Parliament of Montenegro

# NEWSLETTER OPEN PARLIAMENT

Newsletter on the Parliament of Montenegro Performance ♦ No. 81 ♦ April 2018

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# OPEN PARLIAMENT



Parliament of Montenegro

Newsletter on the Parliament of Montenegro Performance ♦ Electronic format ♦ Release: monthly ♦ Year VIII ♦ No. 81 ♦ April 2018

## FOREWORD

*Dear readers,*

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

During April, the Sixth Sitting of the First Ordinary Session of the Parliament of Montenegro in 2018, as well as the Fifth Special Sitting of the First Ordinary Session of the Parliament of Montenegro in 2018 took place.

Committees considered six 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 President Brajović in the Conference of Speakers of the European Union Parliaments, held in Tallinn.

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

**Respectfully,  
Parliamentary Service**



## LEGISLATIVE AND OVERSIGHT ACTIVITY

**At the Sixth Sitting of the First Ordinary (Spring) Session in 2018**, the following was adopted: Law on International Developmental Cooperation and Delivering International Humanitarian Aid, Law on Ratification of the Agreement on Establishing the European Molecular Biology Conference, Law on Ratification of the Agreement on Establishing the European Molecular Biology Laboratory, with annexes, Law on Ratification of the Amendment to Article 20 paragraph 1 of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, the Decision on accepting the Agreement on Exercising the Put Option. The Parliament also determined the Opinion with a reply to the Constitutional Court of Montenegro with regard to the Decision on initiating the procedure of the constitutional review of provisions of Article 17 paragraph 6 and Article 22 paragraph 2 of the Law on Public Sector Salaries (Official Gazette of Montenegro, No 16/16, 83/16, 21/17, and 42/17). Under the item "Elections and appointments", the Parliament of Montenegro also elected four members of the Prosecutorial Council from among prominent lawyers, as follows: Velimir Rakočević, Aneta Spaić, Milan Filipović, and Ranka Čarapić. Furthermore, Zoran Vujičić was elected member of the State Election Commission from among representatives of the civil society, NGO sector and universities, while Rajko Todorović-Todor was appointed President of the Jury for Presenting the 13th July Award.

**At the Fifth Special Sitting of the First Ordinary Session of the Parliament of Montenegro in 2018**, within the item Prime Minister's Questions, Prime Minister of Montenegro answered the questions posed by MPs. The Prime Minister was posed three questions.

Parliament of Montenegro

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

### *Proposals for law deliberated in committees*

- **Proposal for a Law on Amendments to the Law on Obligations and Basic Legal Property Relations in Air Transport** was considered and proposed to the Parliament for adoption by the Committee on Economy, Finance and Budget.
- **Proposal for a Law on Amendments to the Law on Health Care** was considered and proposed to the Parliament for adoption by the Committee on Health, Labour and Social Welfare.
- **Proposal for a Law on Ratification of the Amendment to Article 20 paragraph 1 of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women** was considered by the Gender Equality Committee, who proposed to the Committee on International Relations and Emigrants, as a lead committee, to propose it to the Parliament for adoption. The same proposal was considered by the Committee on International Relations and Emigrants and the Legislative Committee, who decided to propose it to the Parliament for adoption.
- **Proposal for a Law on Ratification of the Agreement on Establishing the European Molecular Biology Conference** 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 Agreement on Establishing the European Molecular Biology Laboratory, with annexes** 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 International Developmental Cooperation and Delivering International Humanitarian Aid** 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 exercising the right on subsistence allowance for parliamentarians residing outside Podgorica, for their attendance at parliamentary sessions** was adopted by the Administrative Committee.
- **Proposal for a Decision on considering the position of persons with disabilities in Montenegro (No 00-72/18-10, EPA 401 XXVI, of 21 March 2018, on marking International Day of Persons with Disabilities)** was considered and supported by the Committee on Health, Labour and Social Welfare.
- **Proposal for a Decision on appointment of a member of the State Election Commission from among the representatives of civil society, non-governmental sector and universities** was determined by the Administrative Committee.

- **Proposal for a Decision of accepting the Agreement on Executing the Put Option** was considered and proposed to the Parliament for adoption by the Committee on Economy, Finance and Budget and the Legislative Committee.
- **Proposal for a Decision on Appointing the President of the Jury for Presenting the 13th July Award** was determined by the Administrative Committee.

### *Other activities of working bodies*

- At the 37th meeting of the **Committee on Political System, Judiciary and Administration**, held on 27 April, the Committee decided to propose to the Parliament to appoint Velimir Rakočević, Aneta Spaić, Milan Filipović and Ranka Čarapić as four members of the Prosectorial Council from among respectable jurists.
- At the 19th meeting of the **Security and Defence Committee**, 12 April, members of the Committee considered and approved of the 2017 Performance Report of the National Security Agency.
- At the 31st meeting of the **Committee on International Relations and Emigrants**, held on 19 April, members of the Committee provided a positive opinion on the proposal to appoint Milica Pejanović - Đurišić as Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary Ambassador of Montenegro - Permanent Representative, Head of the Permanent Mission of Montenegro to the United Nations, on residential basis in New York.
- At the 33rd meeting, held on 25 April, members of the Committee provided a positive opinion on the proposal to appoint Ana Vukadinović as the Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary Ambassador of Montenegro to the Republic of Greece, on residential basis in Athens.
- At the fourteenth meeting of the **Gender Equality Committee**, held on 3 April, there was a consultative hearing of Minister of Education Damir Šehović, Minister of Human and Minority Rights Mehmed Zenka and the Director General of the Directorate for Organisation of Judiciary, Criminal Legislation and Supervision Marijana Laković - Drašković on the topic "Exercising children's rights in the Roma community in Montenegro with a special focus on girls' education".
- At the 38th meeting of the **Administrative Committee**, held on 19 April, members of the Committee decided to propose to the Parliament to appoint Zoran Vujičić as member of the State Election Commission.
- At the second meeting of the **Commission for Monitoring and Control of the Privatization Process**, held on 25 April, the Commission was acquainted with the 2018 Privatisation Plan of the Government of Montenegro, and adopted the Work Plan of the Commission for the 2018.



## NEWS FROM PARLIAMENT



### *MP of the Parliament of Montenegro Radule Novović participated in the Fifth Plenary Session of the SEECP Parliamentary Assembly*

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 (SEECP PA) Mr Radule Novović took part in the Fifth Plenary Session of the SEECP PA held on 13-14 April in Ljubljana, within Slovenian Chairmanship-in-Office. The main topic of the discussion between the heads of parliaments and other parliamentarians was focused on the state of play and perspectives of regional organisations in Southeast Europe, as well as on the European perspective of individual countries participating in the SEECP PA, which are not members of the European Union, in the light of recent events in the EU, such as Brexit and the developments regarding Catalonia. The meeting was also dedicated to presentation and adoption of reports and resolutions prepared by the three SEECP PA general committees. On this occasion, MP Radule Novović also addressed the participants, when he presented the report and resolution from the meeting of the General Committee on Social

Development, Education, Research and Science. The participants in the meeting of the General Committee on Social Development, Education, Research and Science, chaired by MP Radule Novović, praised the efforts of the Parliament of Montenegro on drafting texts of reports and resolutions, as well as the excellent organisation of the meeting held on 24 February in Podgorica. Also, members of the General Committee unanimously decided, due to his successful chairing of the Committee in the previous period, to re-elected MP Radule Novović as the Committee Chair, for a new one-year mandate.



### *Delegation of the Committee on International Relations and Emigrants paid an official visit to the Parliament of Romania*

Members of the Committee held separate meetings with the Vice-Chairman of the Chamber of



Deputies of the Parliament of Romania Ben-Oni Ardelean, representatives of committees on foreign and European affairs of both chambers of the Romanian Parliament, representatives of the Committee for Romanian Communities Living Abroad of the Chamber of Deputies, as well as with the State Secretary at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Chairperson of the Committee for Foreign Policy of the Chamber of Deputies of the Romanian Parliament Ms Biró Rozália-Ibolya welcomed the seriousness of Montenegro's approach to the integration process, with the assessment that it was a country determining stability in the region, leading successful foreign policy and working

with commitment on the emancipation of society.

Pointing out the significance of parliamentary diplomacy, Chair of the Committee on International Relations and Emigrants Andrija Nikolić presented a concrete proposal for strengthening the parliamentary cooperation between Montenegro and Romania. At the meetings, they also discussed the fight against corruption, enhancing cooperation in the field of security, justice, gender equality, tourism, education and science. The interlocutors exchanged views on the models of cooperation with the diaspora, and agreed that special attention should be paid to the improvement of the status of emigrants, by recognising the contributions that emigrants provide to their country of origin.



## IN FOCUS



### *President Ivan Brajović attended the Conference of Speakers of the European Union Parliaments*

President of the Parliament of Montenegro Ivan Brajović participated in the Conference of Speakers of the European Union Parliaments, which took place on 23-24 April in the capital city of Estonia, Tallinn. President Brajović held several bilateral meetings. At the meeting with President of the



European Parliament Antonio Tajani, Tajani expressed optimism about Montenegro's EU accession by 2025. He voiced readiness for joint work and personal contribution to the strengthening of the economy and reform processes in Montenegro. The President of the Parliament of Montenegro also talked with the presidents of parliaments of the states that currently hold and that will hold presidency of the European Union in the upcoming period: Ms Tsveta Karayancheva from Bulgaria, Mr Wolfgang Sobotka from Austria, Ms Paula Risikko from Finland. Meetings were also held

with President of the Italian Senate Ms Maria Elisabetta Alberti Casellati, President of the French Senate Mr Gerard Larcher and Speaker of the Swedish Parliament Mr Urban Ahlin. All interlocutors pointed out good bilateral relations with Montenegro and voiced satisfaction with the citizens' decision to affirm the pro-European future of their country in the previous presidential election. The speakers of the parliaments, also without exception, advocated for the regatta principle for the future EU member states and voiced their willingness to be solid partners to Montenegro on its path towards the community of European peoples. They discussed the models of providing concrete support in the reform processes, strengthening the administrative capacities and economic cooperation with Montenegro.

President Brajović voiced realistic expectation that Montenegro be the first next member state of the EU, as well as the position that all Western Balkans countries - with the support of our country - should become a part of the Union as soon as possible. In the conclusions of the Conference, adopted by the speakers of the EU parliaments, they underlined enlargement as a key policy of the Union, which must be based on the principle of individual achievements of each country. One of the conclusions says that because of the strengthening of external influences on the WB countries, it is imperative that the EU continues to protect its values and interests in the region.

## PARLIAMENTARY GLOSSARY

**European Court of Human Rights.** "The European Court of Human Rights is a Council of Europe body established in 1959 on the basis of the European Convention on Human Rights. The number of judges in the Court matches the number of states which are High Contracting Parties to the Convention. It has its seat in Strasbourg. Under certain conditions stipulated in the European Convention on Human Rights, the European Court of Human Rights can consider individual applications against the violation of the rights enshrined in the European Convention and its Protocols to it. This Convention defines the fundamental civil and political rights and freedoms of every individual. Citizens of Council of Europe Member States, including those of Montenegro, can apply to the European Court of Human Rights for the protection of the rights and freedoms enshrined in the Convention and its Protocols if they have exhausted all the legal remedies available for them before national judicial bodies."<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. 210-211.

## FROM THE HISTORY OF MONTENEGRIN PARLIAMENTARISM



### Montenegrin Literature In The Medieval Period- Chronicle Of The Priest Of Duklja

Covering the period from 12th century to the 15th century, Montenegrin literature was introduced with significant literary works. The most important literary work of Montenegro in the Medieval period, as well as the most historically relevant work of that period is the “Chronicle of the Priest of Duklja” (*Ljetopis popa Dukljanina*). The said work came about at the end of the 12th century, and has also been referred to throughout literature as “Barski rodoslov”, referring to the place where the work was composed, as well as “Regnum Sclavorum”, referring to the topic predominantly discussed in the work. The work bears its author’s name, a priest of the Church of Duklja, however given the character of the work, the aforementioned title may not be the most suitable one. Some historians consider the chronicle to be the first national literary work, bearing in mind its slavic character, whereas certain historians consider the chronicle to be both a literary and

a historiographic achievement. The chronicle consists of seven sections, as follows: Foreword, writings concerning Goths, Hagiography of St. Constantine, Methodius, Chronicles of Travunia, Hagiography of St. Vladimir (the legend of Vladimir and Kosara), and the history of Duklja.

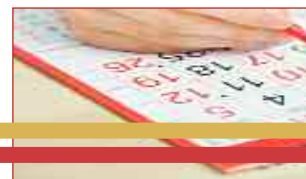
The sections are divided into 47 chapters. Thus, the priest of Duklja collected a few small slavic writings, translated them into Latin, while incorporating his historic view of Duklja. The parts he incorporated into the chronicle came about during the 10th and the 11th century.

Addressing the readers, he states that these writings were only records of what had already been passed onto him by “our fathers and older men as credible accounts”. He was clearly referring to the part involving the past of the State of Duklja, which he undoubtedly wrote. The priest of Duklja provides us with a genealogy of kings of Duklja and the royal family, the period involving the dynasty and the political situation, territorial jurisdiction of the State of Duklja, social life of Duklja, war with the Byzantine Empire, and the domestic political conflicts.

<sup>1</sup> Izvor: Andrijašević, Živko, Rastoder, Šerbo, *Istorija Crne Gore od najstarijih vremena do 2003.*, Centar za iseljenike Crne Gore, Podgorica, 2006, str. 66 – 67.



# CALENDAR



## 2 April

- A group of students from the Montenegrin Association of Political Science Students paid a visit to the Parliament of Montenegro. MAPSS has been conducting for five years in a row an activity of simulation of parliamentary practice, and visit to the Parliament of Montenegro as part of this project aimed at developing a culture of dialogue, debate and critical thinking among young people and providing insight into the functioning of legislative procedures. After the usual tour of the Montenegrin Parliament building, the students met Chair of the Constitutional Committee of the Parliament of Montenegro Miodrag Vuković and Deputy Secretary General of the Parliament of Montenegro Marija Mirjačić. Students were also informed about history of the Parliament of Montenegro, as well as the way of media reporting on the meetings of the working bodies and plenums.

## 12 April

- Member of the Committee on Economy, Finance and Budget Ms Ana Nikolić took part in the Conference devoted to presentation of the Strategic Development Plan of the State Audit Institution (SAI) of Montenegro for the period 2018-2022, organised by the SAI in cooperation with SIGMA (Support for improvement in Governance and Management - a program to support management and governance improvement, funded by the EU to support candidate countries in the public administration reform efforts). MP Nikolić expressed the expectation that the ambitious Strategic Development Plan of the SAI for the period 2018-2022 and the activities of the DRI in the forthcoming period would significantly contribute to improving the control of the spending of public funds, through increasing the quality of audits, in particular the audit of success and through improvement of cooperation with the Parliament and its working bodies, through the announced protocol on cooperation between these two institutions, which would introduce an even more dynamic relationship with regard to the exchange of information and joint activities.

## 13 April

- President of the Parliament of Montenegro Ivan Brajović spoke with Vice President and MPs of the European Parliament. Brajović expressed his gratitude with the fact that the EP accepted his invitation to monitor the

presidential election in Montenegro scheduled for 15 April. Among other things, the meeting also discussed the importance of holding the election process in fair and democratic environment, which should be contributed by all actors of the election process. The EP delegation headed by the EP Vice President Mr Fabio Massimo Castaldo, was composed of Mr Jose Inacio Faria, Mr Tonino Picula, Mr Javier Nart, Mr Tamas Meszerics and Mr Andre Elissen.

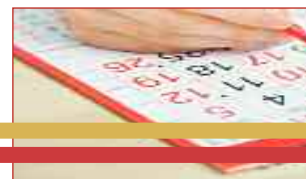


- Members of the Democrat Youth Community of Europe visited the Parliament of Montenegro. During their usual tour of the Parliament of Montenegro, representatives of this association learned about history, powers and manner of functioning of the Parliament of Montenegro. The visit was organised as part of the activities of the 26th Congress of the Democrat Youth Community, which is being held in Montenegro from 12 to 15 April. The Parliament was also visited by a group of undergraduate students at the Faculty of Political and Social Sciences Po from Dijon – France, organised by the Association Bourgogne Balkan Express, promoting relations between the Balkan states and the European Union. Upon their request, the students talked with Chairperson of the Gender Equality Committee Ms Nada Drobnjak and Chairperson of the Committee for European Integration Mr Adrijan Vuksanović. They were mostly interested in topics related to the relations between Montenegro and the EU, as well as the integration process itself.

## 14 April

- 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) Mr Radule Novović took part in the Fifth Plenary Session of the SEEC PA held last week in Ljubljana, within Slovenian Chairmanship-in-Office.

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## 18 April

- At today's meeting, the Collegium of the President of the Parliament of Montenegro has considered issues related to the current and upcoming parliamentary activities. The Collegium of the President has expressed pleasure with the presence of observer delegations from the Council of Europe, European Parliament and ODIHR at the presidential election of 15 April, as well as with preliminary findings and conclusions of the International Observation Mission. With regard to the EC's Progress Report, the Collegium of the President has considered the key findings and guidelines, related to achieved reforms and further progress of Montenegro on its integration process. The Collegium of the President has noted that the Report on addressing recommendations by the State Audit Institution (SAI) was delivered within legally prescribed deadline. By addressing the SAI requests, the shortcomings that had prevented the proper functioning of the parliamentary service have been removed.
- Delegation of the Committee on European Integration paid a visit to Budva, and during the meeting with the students of the secondary school and the municipal leadership they discussed the importance of the EU and possibilities of using IPA funds. Organisation of public debates with secondary school students and meetings with representatives of the local self-governments is one of the ways which the Committee on European Integration uses in order to bring the negotiation process closer to citizens. Since the beginning of the 26th Parliament of Montenegro, this is the fourth visit to a Montenegrin municipality. While presenting advantages of the European integration process for youth, Chair of the Committee on European Integration Mr Adrijan Vuksanović and members Mr Mihailo Anđušić and Mr Momčilo Martinović also promoted the possibilities for studying in the EU, intensifying information with regard to educational exchange programmes offered by the EU, but also the advantages



of the single labour market and honouring of the European values, such as tolerance and multiculturalism. Delegation of the Committee on European Integration met vice presidents of the Municipality, President of the Local Assembly, Chief Administrator and Head of the Cabinet of the President of the Municipality.

## 19 April

- Chair of the Committee on International Relations and Emigrants Andrija Nikolić held a meeting with French Ambassador to Montenegro Ms Christine Toudic Gaborit. The meeting was assessed as another proof of good and intensive communication between the French Embassy and the Parliament of Montenegro. The interlocutors discussed a visit of the French senators to Montenegro, being only one among many activities aimed at specifying the cooperation and improving friendly relations between France and Montenegro.

## 23 April

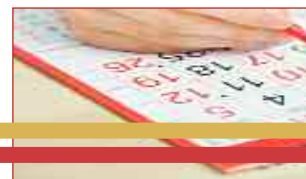
- Head of Delegation of the Parliament of Montenegro to the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (PACE) Mr Predrag Sekulić took part in the PACE Spring Session, in Strasbourg. In the course of four days of the session, the deputies exchanged views on the position of journalists in Europe and the protection of editorial integrity, confiscation of illegal assets as means of combating corruption, legal challenges related to hybrid war, climate change and the implementation of the Paris Agreement, and the right to derogation from the provisions of the European Convention on Human Rights in the event



of a state of emergency. The Session also included discussions on the humanitarian needs of internally displaced persons, prevention of terrorist groups funding, the situation in Libya, as well as Europe's role in peace-making initiatives in Syria. Special



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interest was triggered by a debate on the report of the Independent Investigation Body on the allegations of corruption within the Parliamentary Assembly as well as a discussion on the recently adopted Copenhagen Declaration dealing with the reform of the European system of human rights protection. On day two of the Session, the Parliamentary Assembly elected Ms Ivana Jelić as a new judge from Montenegro to the European Court of Human Rights.

- Member of the Parliament of Montenegro's Permanent Delegation to the NATO Parliamentary Assembly Mr Obrad Mišo Stanišić participated in the 97th Rose-Roth seminar of the NATO Parliamentary Assembly on: "Georgia and the Black Sea Region in the New Geopolitical Order", which took place on 23-25 April 2018. The seminar gathered about two hundred participants, including parliamentarians



from NATO member states, associate and partner countries, senior officials mainly from the host country and representatives of international organisations, non-governmental sector, universities and representatives of think tanks. The basic aim of the event is to provide a forum and facilitate dialogue at parliamentary level on security issues among main legislators of NATO countries and their counterparts from partnering countries and provide current information from the said field.

- Committee on Health, Labour and Social Welfare, headed by Chair of the Committee Mr Suad Numanović and MPs Ms Maja Bakrač and Mr Mirsad Murić, paid a visit to Special Psychiatric Hospital "Dobrota" in Kotor. During the visit, they met Director of the Psychiatric Hospital Mr Dragan Čabarkapa, Head of the Department for Addiction Treatment Ms Marina Roganović and Head of the Judicial Department Mr Jovo Đedović. After the meetings, the Chairperson of the Committee and MPs visited premises where the patients of the health

institution Special Psychiatric Hospital in Kotor are accommodated.

## 24 April

- Chair of the Committee on European Integration Mr Adrijan Vuksanović met with H.E. Mr Mladen Chervenjakov, Ambassador of the Republic of Bulgaria to Montenegro. At the meeting, they discussed the upcoming visit to Montenegro by a delegation of the Committee on European Affairs and Oversight of the European Funds of the National Assembly of the Republic of Bulgaria. Furthermore, they also discussed current developments regarding



the process of integration of the Western Balkans into the European Union and the upcoming EU-Western Balkans Summit, to be held in Sofia on 17 May.

- President of the Parliament of Montenegro Ivan Brajović took part in the Conference of Speakers of the European Union Parliaments, which was held in the capital of Estonia Tallinn, on 23 and 24 April.
- Delegation of the Committee on International Relations and Emigrants paid an official visit to the Parliament of Romania.
- Gender Equality Committee and the OSCE Mission to Montenegro organised a two-day thematic workshop for MPs and parliamentary staff on "Gender equality and gender mainstreaming", with the aim of implementing one of the measures from the Action Plan for the Gender Sensitive Parliament of Montenegro, September 2016 - September 2018, which stipulates that the Parliament will permanently educate and strengthen all its capacities for the implementation of the gender equality concept in everyday work. The following spoke at the opening of the conference: Ms Sanja Pavičević, member of the Gender Equality Committee, and Ms Lia

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Magnaguagno, Head of the Democratization Programme at the OSCE Mission. The following parliamentarians took part in the two-day workshop:



Ms Sanja Pavićević, Ms Jovanka Laličić, Ms Ana Nikolić, Mr Zvonko Vuković and Mr Radule Novović.

## 25 April

- Chair of the Gender Equality Committee Ms Nada Drobnjak met Adviser to the Minister for Human Rights and Refugees of Bosnia and Herzegovina Ms Sanja Škuletic - Malagić. During the meeting, the interlocutors discussed implementation of measures from the Action Plan for the Gender Sensitive Parliament of Montenegro, September 2016 - September 2018, with a special accent on topics: "Introduction gender aspects in legislation - Parliament of Montenegro", "Gender equality and gender mainstreaming" and "Introduction gender-responsive budgeting procedures (GRB)". They also talked about the results of regional cooperation in the field of gender equality promotion and pointed out the importance of its continuation.
- Vice President of the Parliament Mr Branimir Gvozdenović took part in the Sarajevo Business Forum, sponsored by the Presidency of Bosnia and Herzegovina. Vice President Gvozdenović spoke on digitalisation within the topic "Southeast Europe International Gateways and Connectivity". He



emphasised that global processes and digital transformation had a huge impact on economy,

government and society of a country, and that the process of digitalisation of society, that is, the digitisation of "everything" was a reality, not a far-off future. Speaking of chances of the region in the field of digitalisation, Vice President Gvozdenović emphasised that, since 2014, the governments of the six Western Balkans countries had been working with dedication on accelerated development of regional cooperation and promotion of joint projects in the areas of common interest, where the best example for this was the regional initiative to reduce the roaming costs.

## 26 April

- Chair of the Committee on International Relations and Emigrants Andrija Nikolić met with Ambassador of the Federal Republic of Germany to Montenegro Hans Günther Mattern. Nikolić and Mattern noted that the EU-Western Balkans Strategy sends a clear message that the European Union stands by the invitation addressed to the countries in the region to become the



EU members in an ambitious, but realistic perspective, with joint assessment that Montenegro has made good progress in the integration process, as recognised in this year's report of the European Commission, but that the field of the rule of law remains its biggest challenge. Furthermore, Ambassador Mattern emphasised the need for the reduction of the political influence on the judiciary bodies, which, as he said, was also noted in the EU report. Mr Nikolić especially thanked Ambassador Mattern for the strong support that Germany has been giving to the European integration of Montenegro, both at an expert level and through raising awareness among other EU members about the importance and the need for strengthening the enlargement policy. Nikolić noted that frequent communication with the Bundestag was very important for the Parliament of Montenegro, bearing in mind its role in the decision-making process on further stages of the integration processes of Montenegro and the Western Balkans countries.