



Parliament of Montenegro

NEWSLETTER OPEN PARLIAMENT

Newsletter on the Parliament of Montenegro Performance ♦ No. 82 ♦ May 2018

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OPEN PARLIAMENT



Parliament of Montenegro

Newsletter on the Parliament of Montenegro Performance ♦ Electronic format ♦ Release: monthly ♦ Year VIII ♦ No. 82 ♦ May 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 May, which is, in the form of monthly newsletter "Open Parliament", prepared by Parliamentary Service.

During May, the Seventh Sitting of the First Ordinary Session of the Parliament of Montenegro in 2018, as well as the Eighth Special Sitting of the First Ordinary Session of the Parliament of Montenegro in 2018 took place.

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

In focus of this month's newsletter is Commemoration of the Day of victory over fascism, on which occasion the Parliament had prepared several activities.

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 Seventh Sitting of the First Ordinary (Spring) Session in 2018, which was summoned by the President of the Parliament of Montenegro Ivan Brajović, was the occasion in which Milo Đukanović took an oath and assumed the office of the President of Montenegro. The Seventh Sitting of the First Ordinary (Spring) Session of the Parliament of Montenegro, besides the MPs of the 26th Convocation of the Parliament of Montenegro, was attended by members of the Government of Montenegro, former Presidents of Montenegro, the Parliament and the Government, high-level state officials, heads of state institutions, the representative of descendants of the Petrović Njegoš Dynasty, mayors of the Capital City and of the Old Royal Capital of Cetinje, religious dignitaries, university rectors, members of the diplomatic corps accredited in Montenegro, non-resident ambassadors and military defense delegates accredited in Montenegro, representatives of international organisations, presidents of municipalities and others.

At the Eighth Special Sitting of the First Ordinary Session of the Parliament of Montenegro in 2018, within the item Prime Minister's Questions and MPs Questions, Prime Minister of Montenegro and ministers in the Government answered questions posed by MPs. The Prime Minister answered 3 questions, while the ministers answered 30 questions.

Proposals for law deliberated in committees

- **Proposal for a Law on Protection of Persons and**

Property was considered and proposed to the Parliament for adoption by the Security and Defence Committee.

- **Proposal for a Law on Amendments to the Law on Prevention of Money Laundering and Terrorism Financing** was considered and proposed to the Parliament for adoption by the Committee on Economy, Finance and Budget.
- **Proposal for a Law on Social Council** was considered and proposed to the Parliament for adoption by the Committee on Health, Labour and Social Welfare.

Other activities of working bodies

- At the 20th meeting of the **Security and Defence Committee**, held on 7 May, members of the Committee supported the 2017 Performance Report of the Ministry of Interior and Status Report in the administrative fields, 2017 Status Report on Road Traffic Safety in Montenegro, and the 2017 Status Report on the protection and rescue system in Montenegro.
- At the 22nd meeting of 16 May, the Committee reached the decision on holding a control hearing of Minister of Interior, Acting Director of the Police Administration, Director of the National Security Agency, Supreme State Prosecutor and Chief Special Prosecutor, regarding the current security situation in Montenegro, with special focus on the wounding of Olivera Lakić, a reporter working for the independent Vijesti daily.
- At the 34th meeting of the **Committee on International Relations and Emigrants**, held on 7 May, members of the Committee supported the proposal to appoint Darko Pajović as Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary Ambassador of Montenegro to the Republic of China, with a residential basis in Beijing.



- At the 35th meeting of 7 May, members of the Committee supported the proposal to appoint Goran Poleksić as Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary Ambassador of Montenegro to Romania, with a residential basis in Bucharest.

- At the 43rd meeting of the **Committee on Economy, Finance and Budget**, held on 9 May, the Committee considered and decided to propose to the Parliament to adopt the financial statements along with the 2017 performance reports of the four independent regulatory bodies: Financial Operations Report and Performance Report of the Agency for Electronic Media; Financial Statements with the Performance Report of the Agency for Medicines and Medical Devices; Financial Statement with the Performance Report of the Energy Regulatory Agency; Financial Statements and the Performance Report of the Agency for Insurance Supervision.

- At the 19th meeting of the **Committee on Human Rights and Freedoms**, held on 15 May, the Committee unanimously adopted the 2017 Report on Development and Protection of Rights of Minorities and Other Minority Communities, with the 2017 performance and financial operations reports and independent auditors' reports in respect of minority nations' councils and councils of other minority national communities.

- At the 16th meeting of the **Gender Equality Committee**, held on 15 May, the Committee marked the International Day of Families with the theme "Families and inclusive societies". The Committee concluded that families should become a priority in creating sectoral policies, and that it was also necessary to continue organising meetings on the topics of family, marriage, the role of parents, especially the role of the father.



- At the 10th meeting of the **Anti-Corruption Committee**, held on 31 May, the Committee adopted the 2017 Performance Report of the Agency for Prevention of Corruption.

- At the First Joint Meeting of the **Security and Defence Committee** and the **Gender Equality Committee**, held on 14 May, members of the Committee considered and supported the Report on the implementation of the 2017 Action Plan for the implementation of the Resolution 1325 of the United Nations Security Council – Women, Peace and Security (2017-2018).

NEWS FROM PARLIAMENT



Parliament of Montenegro and SAI sign the Protocol on Cooperation

President of the Parliament of Montenegro Ivan Brajović and the President of the Senate of the State Audit Institution Milan Dabović, signed on 11 May the Protocol on Cooperation, defining measures for the improvement of mutual cooperation in order to achieve effective budgetary control and promote accountability, transparency and good governance in the field of public finances. President Brajović emphasised that public attention has been, quite logically, directed particularly towards the disposal of state budget funds, and that was how things should be. The President of the SAI Senate said that the State Audit Institution will by signing the Protocol and pay special attention to the suggestions of the Parliament when adopting the Annual Audit Plan, submit individual audits when a conditional and negative opinion

has been pronounced, provide the Parliament with all the information relevant to the quality of the discussion, regarding the use of public funds.



Delegation paid a two-day official visit to the Senate of the Czech Republic

Delegation of the Parliament of Montenegro led by Chair of the Committee on International Relations and Emigrants Andrija Nikolić and Chair of the Security and Defence Committee Obrad Mišo Stanišić paid a two -day visit to the Senate of the Czech Republic and had several meetings. The Delegation of the Parliament of Montenegro and their Czech hosts agreed to continue the intensive communication at the level of working bodies of the two parliaments dealing with foreign affairs and security and

evaluating the concrete and visible results of the candidates for membership. At the meeting with Bublan, Chairperson of the Security and Defence Committee Obrad Mišo Stanišić stressed that Montenegro's admission to NATO was the greatest political achievement since the restoration of statehood, the strongest long-term guarantee of the country's security, a prerequisite for unhindered economic development and a strong wind back to our integration process into the European Union. Miodrag Vuković, member of the Committee on International Relations and Emigrants, and Luid Ljubo Škrelja, member of the Security and Defence Committee, noted that integration as a cornerstone of Montenegrin state policy proved to be the best framework for the maturation and development of Montenegrin society. On day two of the official visit to the Czech Republic, the Parliament of Montenegro's delegation held a meeting with Deputy Minister Ministry of Defence of the Czech Republic Daniel Koštoval. Koštoval informed members of the Montenegrin delegation on the organisation structure of the Czech armed forces and plans for its further development, the capabilities of professional members of the army and the way they deal with challenges, as well as on the Czech companies in the military industry. Members of the Montenegrin Parliament met with the Special Envoy for Cyber Space Richard Kadlcak of the Czech Ministry of Foreign Affairs, who presented the legislative framework of the host country and the national organisational structure in the cyber security field. The joint conclusion is that the two-day visit of Montenegrin parliamentary delegation to the Czech Republic represented a contribution to the further strengthening of interstate cooperation, which should be intensified with concrete projects in the upcoming period.



defence issues. The Delegation held a series of meetings with the following: Vice-President of the Czech Republic Senate Jiří Šesták, Chairperson of the Senate's Committee on EU Affairs Václav Hampl, Chairperson of the Committee on Foreign Affairs, Defense and Security of the Senate František Bublan, Vice President of the Czech Chamber of Deputies Jan Hamáček, Chairperson of the Committee on Foreign Affairs Lubomír Zaorálek, as well as with Assistant Foreign Minister of the Czech Republic Jakub Dürr. Andrija Nikolić, Chair of the Committee on International Relations and Emigrants, expressed his belief that the future actions of the Visegrad Four countries, specifically the Czech Republic, would be aimed at preserving the principles for

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Parliament organised several events in order to mark the V-E Day

Parliament of Montenegro organised several activities on the occasion of marking the V-E Day, taking place on 9 May.



On the plateau in front of the Parliament of Montenegro, a concert of songs from the period of the



National Liberation War (NOB) performed by KIC Pop Chorus was held. Their guest also took part in the

programme: choir and ballerinas of the Music School "Vasa Pavić", choir "Zvezdice", and folklore from the KIC



ensemble Budo Tomović. The concert represents a gift of the highest legislative body to the citizens. President of the Parliament of Montenegro Ivan Brajović laid a wreath at the Monument of the Partisan Fighter in Gorica together with a delegation. Deputy Prime Minister Zoran Pažin and the academician Zuvdija Hodžić, President of SUBNOR and antifascists of Montenegro, were also in the delegation. President of the Parliament opened the round table on "Resisting populist movements". President Brajović said in his introductory speech that for the second consecutive year the Parliament of Montenegro, on the occasion of the V Day, held a discussion on antifascism, its values and what was left of it more than half a century later. MPs of the Parliament of Montenegro also took part in the discussion, as well as professors of history, young anti-fascists, and representatives of SUBNOR.

PARLIAMENTARY GLOSSARY

Democracy Workshops. "Democracy Workshops constitute one of the ways to open up the parliament to the public. This practice was started in Austria with a view to raising interest among the younger population about politics and democratic processes. In the Parliament of Montenegro, democracy workshops are organised with a view to strengthening the links between the Parliament and the young, particularly the primary school age population. These workshops have been designed as a programme of civic education for primary school pupils where they can acquire knowledge about parliamentary democracy, the functioning of the Parliament, the adoption and application of laws, as well as about the role of the media in a pluralistic society."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, str. 197.

FROM THE HISTORY OF MONTENEGRIN PARLIAMENTARISM



Work of the Constituent Assembly of the People's Republic of Montenegro of 1946- Excerpts from the transcripts of the First Ordinary Session: Taking the oath and election of the President²

FIRST AND SECOND SITTING- excerpts First Sitting- 21 November 1946 (4 p.m.)

Members of the Government of the People's Republic of Montenegro headed by President Blažo Jovanović and the Presidency of the People's Assembly along with the President of the Assembly Miloš Rašović enter the building-this is accompanied by an applause by MPs. The Sitting is opened by the President of the Assembly Miloš Rašović.

Miloš Rašović says: "Comrades, in accordance with Article 3 of the Law on the Constitutional Assembly, as well as at the proposal of the Government of the PRM, the Presidency of the People's Assembly of the PRM decides as follows: Constitutional Assembly of the PRM, formed in the elections of 3 November 1946, shall convene on 20 November 1946, in Cetinje. Death to fascism-freedom to the people."

The second Sitting- 21 November 1946 (4:20 p.m)

As stated by the Chair of Parliament: "In accordance with Article 10 of the Law on

Constitutional Assembly of the PRM, I call upon all the MPs to rise and take their oaths."

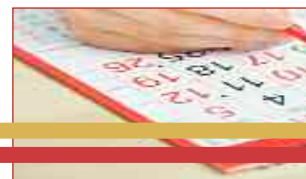
The oath states: I----- swear on my honour and the honour of my people, upon assuming the term of office in the Constitutional Assembly of the PRM, to loyally represent my people and relentlessly guard and defend the postulates of people's struggle, right to democracy and freedom to the people. The Chair states: "Let's resume with our work. We shall continue with the fourth item on the Agenda: Election of the President, Vice-Presidents, and the Secretary of the Constitutional Assembly of the PRM. Who among the MPs wishes to submit his proposal with regards to the election of the President of the Assembly? MP and comrade Vuko Radović has the floor."

Vuko Radović: "Comrades and MPs, on behalf of one group of MPs, I propose that Petar Komnenić be elected President of the Assembly." (He's being applauded).

Chair: "Does anyone else wish to put forward his proposal? (Noone responds). I place the motion to a vote. The vote is to be performed through raising hands. Who wishes to support the motion of Vuko Radović? (the MPs applause). Is there someone against the motion? (Noone responds). I declare that MP and comrade Petar Komnenić has been chosen President of the Constituting Assembly of the PRM. (accompanied by applause).

¹ Izvor: "Rad ustavotvorne Skupštine, Narodne republike Crne Gore", Izdanje Narodne Skupštine Crne Gore, Obod, 1948, str. 3-5.

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3 May

- President of the Parliament of Montenegro Ivan Brajović spoke with members of the Venice Commission delegation composed of Philip Dimitrov, member of the Bulgarian Constitutional Court, Marta Cartabia, Vice President of the Italian Constitutional Court, and Simona Granata-Menghini, Deputy Secretary of the Venice Commission. Brajović emphasised that the positive assessment in the EC reports on the legislative framework in all areas represented a common success. The meeting, attended also by Chair of the Constitutional Committee Miodrag Vuković, discussed the election of members of the Judicial Council. Representatives of the Venice Commission stressed that they highly appreciated the fact that Montenegro was consulting them for the purpose of finding legislative and political solution.
- Chair of the Committee on International Relations and Emigrants Andrija Nikolić met with Ambassador of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland to Montenegro Alison Kemp. The interlocutors confirmed the significance of holding the Western Balkans Summit in London in July this year. Ambassador Kemp stressed that parliamentary diplomacy was one of the pillars of practical cooperation between the two countries and emphasised the significance of also connecting the two parliaments through the continuation of the program implemented by the United Kingdom in cooperation with the Westminster Foundation for Democracy aimed at enhancing the capacities of the Parliament of Montenegro for effective implementation of parliamentary oversight. Chair of the Committee Andrija Nikolić pointed out the significance of connecting the committees on foreign affairs from the two parliaments.

4 May

- Members of the Committee on International Relations and Emigrants received a visit from the Romanian Ambassador to Montenegro Ferdinand Nagy. Nikolić and Nagy assessed that current bilateral political relations of Montenegro and Romania were at exceptionally high level, that there was intensive interstate communication, while these relations would be further enhanced through planned future activities at the highest state level.
- Vice President of the Parliament of Montenegro

Branimir Gvozdenović met non-resident Ambassador of Mexico to Montenegro H.E. Marco Antonio García Blanco. The meeting was organised with the aim of initiating further political and economic cooperation between Montenegro and Mexico, and in that sense, Vice President Gvozdenović initiated the establishment of the

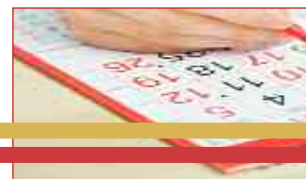


friendship group between the Parliament of Montenegro and the Mexican Congress. Vice President Gvozdenović emphasised the importance of cooperation in the field of tourism, given the tourist potentials of both countries. García Blanco emphasised the importance of signing three bilateral agreements over the past year, which will be an additional basis for enhancing cooperation.

8 May

- President of the Parliament of Montenegro Ivan Brajović received the representatives of the Committee on European Affairs of the House of Representatives of the States General of the Kingdom of the Netherlands headed by Chairperson of the Committee Malik Azmani. During their conversation, they emphasised the significance of intensifying parliamentary cooperation and continuity of political dialogue for further strengthening the friendly relations between the two countries. Chairperson Azmani pointed out visible progress that Montenegro had achieved in the negotiation process, with a clear position that the Kingdom of the Netherlands would continue to be principled and objective with regard to the evaluation of the candidate countries' progress. The meeting was also attended by Chair of the Committee on International Relations and Emigrants Andrija Nikolić and Chair of the Committee on European Integration Adrijan Vuksanović.
- On the plateau in front of the Parliament of Montenegro, a concert of songs from the period of the National Liberation War (NOB) performed by KIC Pop Chorus was held. Their guest also took part in the programme: choir and ballerinas of the Music School "Vasa Pavić", choir "Zvezdice", and folklore

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from the KIC ensemble Budo Tomović. The concert was one among many activities organised by the Parliament of Montenegro, on the occasion of marking the V-E Day, and it represented a gift of the highest legislative body to the citizens.

9 May

- President of the Parliament of Montenegro Ivan Brajović laid a wreath at the Monument of the Partisan Fighter in Gorica together with a delegation, continuing thus ceremonious marking of V-E Day. Deputy Prime Minister Zoran Pažin and the academician Zuvdija Hodžić, President of SUBNOR and antifascists of Montenegro, were also in the delegation.
- President of the Parliament opened the round table on "Resisting populist movements".

10 May

- President of the Parliament of Montenegro Ivan Brajović met with Gunter Krichbaum, Chairman of the Committee on European Affairs of the German Bundestag. Krichbaum pointed out that since restoring its independence, Montenegro achieved remarkable progress, stressed that the strengthening of the rule of law, the fight against corruption and crime, covered by chapters 23 and 24, would bring the greatest benefits to the citizens of Montenegro. President Brajović thanked for the continued support of Germany to Montenegro on its Euro-Atlantic and European path and stressed that it was important that the EU and its members supported the regatta principle.
- Committee on International Relations and Emigrants, the Committee on European Integration and the Montenegro - Germany parliamentary Friendship



Group held a joint meeting with Chair of the Committee on the Affairs of the European Union of the German

Bundestag Gunther Krichbaum. MP Gunther Krichbaum conveyed a clear message that Germany strongly supported the idea that the Western Balkans should join the European Union. He assessed that bilateral relations between Montenegro and the Federal Republic of Germany were friendly. Vice President of the Parliament of Montenegro Genci Nimanbegu, in his capacity of Chair of the Friendship Group with Germany, said that we were encouraged and happy because Germany remained devoted to the idea that Montenegro should be a part of the EU. Member of the Committee on European Integration Marija Maja Čatović thanked Germany for their support with regard to Montenegro's integration to the EU as well as for their contribution to our membership of NATO, and stressed the importance of parliamentary cooperation and communication at multilateral meetings such as COSAC. The meeting was also attended by members of the Montenegro - Germany parliamentary Friendship Group Genci Nimanbegu and Miodrag Radunović, member of the Committee on International Relations and Emigrants Nada Drobnjak and members of the Committee on European Integration Marija Maja Čatović and Momčilo Martinović. The meeting was also attended by German Ambassador to Montenegro H.E. Hans Günther Mattern.

- Delegation of the Parliament of Montenegro led by Chair of the Committee on International Relations and Emigrants Andrija Nikolić and Chair of the Security and Defence Committee Obrad Mišo Stanišić paid a two - day visit to the Senate of the Czech Republic and had several meetings.

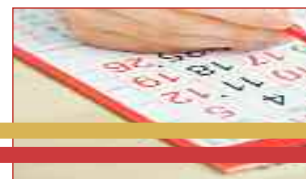
11 May

- President of the Parliament of Montenegro Ivan Brajović and the President of the Senate of the State Audit Institution Milan Dabović, signed the Protocol on Cooperation, defining measures for the



improvement of mutual cooperation in order to achieve effective budgetary control and promote

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accountability, transparency and good governance in the field of public finances.

12 May

- Chair of the Committee on International Relations and Emigrants and the Committee on European Integration, Andrija Nikolić and Adrijan Vuksanović, attended a two-day International Parliamentary Conference, held at the National Assembly of the Republic of Serbia. The conference brought together representatives of executive and parliamentary



structures of the member states of the European Union and countries of the region, and the discussion included issues on the European security: relations between EU, NATO and Russian Federation, enlargement and decentralisation policy of EU, as well as the relation between fiscal and monetary policy. The chairpersons of the two committees met during the conference with Gunter Krichbaum, Chairman of the Committee on European Affairs of the German Bundestag, and they discussed the progress of Montenegro on its path to the EU. Nikolić and Vuksanović discussed with Krichbaum the deepening of the cooperation between the Bundestag and the Parliament of Montenegro.

14 May

- Head of the Permanent Delegation of the Parliament of Montenegro to the Parliamentary Dimension of the Central European Initiative Miodrag Vuković took part in the Meeting of the CEI - PD parliamentary committee, held in the Croatian Parliament. Head of the Montenegrin parliamentary delegation to the CEI-PD Miodrag Vuković said that Montenegro had a good normative and institutional framework for sustainable tourism, explaining that the Constitution of our country provided a definition of Montenegro

as an ecological state. In this regard, he reminded of the comprehensive document “Directions for the development of Montenegro as an ecological state”, prepared in 2001. He pointed out that Montenegro was among the first countries of the world to fully accept and integrate the requirements set out in the 2030 UN Sustainable Development Agenda into the national system by adopting the National Sustainable Development Strategy for the same period. The meeting concluded that it was necessary to adopt a balanced approach to the economic, social and cultural aspect of sustainability, with special care for the environment and the preservation of cultural and natural resources.

- Chair of the Committee on Economy, Finance and Budget Predrag Sekulić took part in the Meeting of Chairpersons of Energy Committees, organised within the Bulgarian presidency of the Council of the European Union, held in Sofia, Bulgaria. During the discussions, the participants said that the EU can be

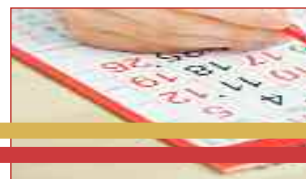


sustainable if it reflects the specificities of individual member states and uses non-discriminatory approach and technological neutrality, and that all Member States strive for an energy union that will ensure safe, affordable and low-carbon energy for all Europeans.

15 May

- Chair of the Committee on European Integration Adrijan Vuksanović visited “Democracy Workshops”, where he spoke with eight grade students of Njegoš Primary School, from Cetinje, on the topics such as: the European Union, Montenegro’s accession negotiations, education and the development of the youth. Answering the students’ questions about the creation and functioning of the European Union, Chairperson Vuksanović reminded of the first philosophical ideas

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about creating a federally organised Europe, and stressed the importance of post-war cooperation in the field of coal and steel as a cornerstone of peace and cooperation. Also, the workshop discussed the EU symbols, common European currency, and various programmes for youth mobility. Chair Vuksanović stressed the importance of student exchange, as the best way to expand the perspective and acquire new knowledge and skills. “Barbara Prammer” Democracy Workshops is education programme of the Parliament of Montenegro, where primary school students learn during four-hour workshop on parliamentary democracy, adoption and enforcements of laws, active citizens, values and history of the EU and universal principles translated into human and child rights.

- Chair of the Anti-corruption Committee Daliborka Pejović, and a member of the Gender Equality Committee Maja Bakrač, attended the Regional Meeting in Sarajevo on “Gender Equality and Corruption”, in Sarajevo. Chairperson of the Anti-corruption Committee, Daliborka Pejović, presented the experience of Montenegro in the fight against corruption, the challenges we have been fighting and our legal and institutional framework. During the discussion, among other things, she stressed the problem of case law in dealing with cases of corruption. Conclusions and recommendations were adopted at the end of the Regional Meeting.

16 May

- Vice President of the Parliament of Montenegro and Chair of the Montenegro - Ukraine parliamentary Friendship Group Genci Nimanbegu met with Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine Vasyl Bodnar. Nimanbegu stressed that the meeting represented a confirmation of readiness of the two friendly states to improve their cooperation in many fields. Bodnar informed Vice President Nimanbegu on political situation in Ukraine. Nimanbegu stressed that Montenegro and Ukraine shared the same foreign-policy priorities, and expressed the conviction that Ukraine may count on the understanding and solidarity of Montenegro. The interlocutors agreed that the two states had no open issues, therefore there is interest for further improvement of relations in all fields, particularly in the field of tourism and economy.
- Chair of the Committee on International Relations and Emigrants Andrija Nikolić met with the Ambassador of

the Republic of Austria to Montenegro, Ana Janković. Andrija Nikolić stated that Montenegro has appreciated the strong role of Austria within the framework of the Berlin Process, which specifies the continuing political and expert support to the European integration of our country. Chairperson of the Committee and the Ambassador discussed the idea of establishing parliamentary dimension of the Berlin Process, with an aim of regional integration and acceleration of the process of integration of the Western Balkans into the EU. Nikolić and Janković assessed that improving communication between parliaments, in particular the foreign affairs committees, created for an additional condition and stimulus for the overall progress of the interstate relations between Montenegro and Austria and better mutual understanding.

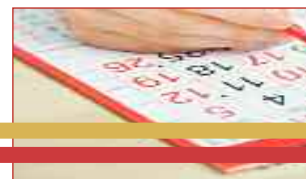
17 May

- Chair of the Gender Equality Committee Nada Drobñjak took part in the project “OSCE Survey on the Well-being and Safety of Women”, held in Podgorica. Drobñjak presented activities of the Gender Equality Committee in the field of preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence. The survey will provide data on the prevalence and intensity of violence against women in seven OSCE member states, encompassing countries in South-East Europe and Eastern Europe, including Montenegro. The ultimate goal of the project is to create a database on various forms of violence against women, which will be used to promote policies and planning of national actors, such as the security sector, executive and legislative institutions, social services, as well as international actors.

18 May

- MP of the Parliament and Chair of the Constitutional Committee Miodrag Vuković participated in the Conference “Experience of Balkan countries in peaceful solving of conflicts”, held in Zagreb. The focus of the Conference were topics involving the experience of Balkan countries in solving conflicts and its similarities with the Ukrainian model, the issue of gaining trust, peace agreements, territorial reintegration-legislative models and implementation, the role of international mediators in solving conflicts, as well as manners in which a country may assist refugees and displaced persons. Within the panel “Normalising and making peace in Former Yugoslavia”, MP Vuković spoke about the Balkans in the midst of the process of European

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Integration and the leading and medium forces, with a special focus on the experience of Montenegro. The Conference was organised by the Political Foundation of Ukraine.

21 May

- Chair of the Security and Defence Committee Obrad Mišo Stanišić, member of the Committee Miodrag Vuković and Chair of the Committee on International Relations and Emigrants Andrija Nikolić participated in the Eighth 2BS Forum, which took place from 21 to 23 May 2018, in Budva. 2BS represents a high level annual forum dealing with issues of global, Trans-Atlantic security, and security in South-East Europe. The Forum gathered approximately 400 participants, among who were also high-level officials, the academia and professionals in the security policy area.

23 May

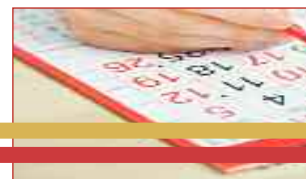
- President Ivan Brajović met with Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Defence of the Republic of Macedonia Radmila Šekerinska-Jankovska. President Brajović emphasised that Montenegro, as a NATO member state and the first next country to join the EU, would share its integration experience with Macedonia and other countries that want to take the same path. At the meeting, they discussed the significance that the continuous implementation of strategic policies had for the future of the two countries and the impact of clear political goals on the implementation of internal reforms. The interlocutors also referred to the messages from the Western Balkans Summit in Sofia and pointed out the significance of maintaining the EU's focus on the region. They agreed that the observing of the regatta principle sent a strong message, primarily to small countries, that joining the European Union depended to a large extent on the achieved results.
- Chair of the Committee on European Integration Adrijan Vuksanović and members Daliborka Pejović and Momčilo Martinović met with the French senators Simon Sutour and Claude Kern in order to exchange opinions on current issues involving European Integrations. The highlights of the meeting were the conversation involving the dynamics of negotiations

between Montenegro and the European Union, with the focus on the European Commission's Progress Report and the recently adopted Declaration in Sophia. The interlocutors agreed continuous results were needed in the area of fulfilling legal, political, and economic criteria, as well as investing efforts to maintain the current dynamics of negotiations. Aside from senators, the meeting was also attended by Christine Toudic, the Ambassador of the Republic of France to Montenegro. The same day, Chair of the Friendship Group between the Montenegrin Parliament and the French Parliament as well as Vice-President Genci Nimanbegu, and MP Ana Nikolić had a meeting with the French senators Simon Sutour and Claude Kern. The interlocutors also discussed establishing closer parliamentary cooperation, especially in terms of intensifying contacts at the friendship groups' level. Afterwards, the Committee on International Relations and Emigrants also had a meeting with the Delegation.

24 May

- President of the Parliament of Montenegro Ivan Brajović met with the delegation of the Senate of the Republic of France headed by senator Simon Sutour. Brajović reminded that Montenegro was continuously pursuing responsible state policy, both domestic and foreign. French senators voiced their pleasure over their visit to the Parliament of Montenegro and their meetings with the committees and the Parliamentary Friendship Group. The same day, Chair of the Committee on International Relations and Emigrants Andrija Nikolić had a meeting with Sutour. During the discussion, Senator Sutoura emphasised that the visit of the Senator was a sign of continuous interest of Paris for the Western Balkans region.
- President Brajović met with the Ambassador of Hungary to Montenegro Christian Posa. It was noted that Montenegro and Hungary have excellent bilateral relations, and mutual initiative has been welcomed to make this cooperation even more active and efficient. As a support of this initiative, the visit of the Hungarian Parliament Speaker, László Kövér, has been discussed, that will happen during the second half of the year.
- Deputy Secretary General of the Parliament of

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Montenegro Marija Mirjačić took part in Regional Seminar on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), held in Belgrade on 24 and 25 May, and co-organised by the National Assembly of the Republic of Serbia and the Inter-Parliamentary Union. The topic of the seminar was: Parliamentary cooperation for sustainable development: Combating poverty and promoting health-care, with the participation of parliaments from Central and Eastern Europe and Central Asia. Within the session on poverty reduction, a special attention was devoted to possibilities for improving the social position of marginalised groups and combating discrimination. Deputy Secretary General of the Parliament of Montenegro Marija Mirjačić highlighted the global problem of homelessness and child begging, as phenomena that require a strong interinstitutional approach to find long-term solutions. As an example of good practice, she reminded of provisions of the Montenegrin Law on Social and Child Welfare, which recognises special protection for a wide range of sensitive categories. In the final part of the seminar, IPU Global Parliamentary Report 2017 on Parliamentary oversight: Parliament's power to hold government to account was presented.

25 May

- A group of fourteen law students and trainees, members of the ELSA-Frankfurt (Oder) e.V. organisation visited the Parliament of Montenegro. During their usual tour of the Parliament of Montenegro, representatives of this organisation learned about history, powers and manner of functioning of the Parliament of Montenegro. The visit is a part of the Open Parliament project, implemented by the Parliament of Montenegro, in order to provide an insight to interested citizens into the manner of functioning and operating of the Montenegrin Parliament, with a special focus on contributing to education of youth.
- Chair of the Committee on International Relations and Emigrants Andrija Nikolić met with Ambassador of B&H to Montenegro Vinko Radovanović. A joint assessment of both parties was that Montenegro and Bosnia and Herzegovina have no open issues. On the contrary, they have very good cooperation and they should be persistent in promoting such policy. They

discussed the need for further improvement of interparliamentary cooperation, particularly through the intensification of communication at the level of parliamentary working bodies and friendship groups. The interlocutors jointly noted that the improvement of the traffic connections of the two countries would improve economic cooperation, and additionally bring the numerous immigrant communities to their mother country.

- Member of the Standing Delegation of the Parliament of Montenegro to the NATO PA Obrad Mišo Stanišić participated in the 2018 Standing Committee Meeting of the NATO Parliamentary Assembly, in Warsaw. The Spring Session gathered approximately 260 parliamentarians from 29 NATO member states, from North America and Europe, as well as delegates from partner countries and observer countries, with a goal to consider current security issues and draft reports of the Parliamentary Assembly's committees.

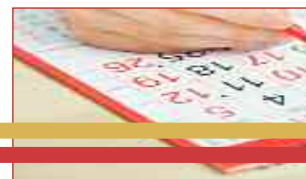
26 May

- Chair of the Committee on European Integration Adrijan Vuksanović spoke at the conference on the EU and perspective of the Western Balkans countries for membership in the community of European nations. Vuksanović said that the European idea was deeply rooted, characterised by necessity and persistence, and that integration was a solution to every crisis both at the European and regional level. During the two-day conference, activities of the regional states within the Cross-Border Cooperation Programme were discussed as well as multi-culturalism, and connectivity of neighbouring countries striving to similar goals.

28 May

- Chair of the Gender Equality Committee Nada Drobnjak took part in the 30th international conference "Women Leaders for Change", which took place on 28-31 May, in Haifa and Jerusalem - Israel. The conference was organised by Israel's Agency for International Development Cooperation (MASHAV) under the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Golda Meir Mount Carmel International Training Center (MCTC),

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one of the first training centres for women, dealing with gender topics. During the Conference, Chair Drobnjak attended a reception hosted by President of the State of Israel Reuven Rivlin, in his presidential residence, and visited Yad Vashem, official memorial to the victims of the Holocaust. On the margins of the conference, Chair Drobnjak met with Minister of Regional Development and EU funds Gabrijela Žalec.



30 May

- Members of the Committee on European Integration met delegation of the Committee on European Affairs and Oversight of the European Funds of the National Assembly of the Republic of Bulgaria, headed by the Committee Chair Kristijan Vigenin. The two committees agreed to sign a cooperation protocol, in order to deepen the existing communication and create a model of long-term cooperation and representing common



interests. Aside from Chair of the Committee Adrijan Vuksanović, the following members of the Committee attended the meeting: Marija Čatović, Daliborka Pejović, Mihailo Anđušić and Momčilo

Martinović. The meeting was also attended by Mladen Chervenjakov, Bulgarian Ambassador to Montenegro. The meeting also took place with the Committee on International Relations and Emigrants. At the meeting, they also discussed the use of the European funds, freedom of the media, creation of opportunities for youth cooperation between the two countries, as well as the EU budget for the upcoming period. In addition to Chair of the Committee Andrija Nikolić, the meeting was also attended by members of the Committee: Miloš Nikolić, Dragutin Papović and Ervin Ibrahimović.

- Parliament of Montenegro - National Assembly Republic of Bulgaria Friendship Group, headed by Chair of the Group Tarzan Milošević met with delegation of the Committee on European Affairs and Oversight of the European Funds of the National Assembly of the Republic of Bulgaria, headed by the Committee Chair Kristijan Vigenin. The Parliamentarians agreed that it is necessary to intensify cooperation in all fields, therefore they discussed numerous possibilities and potentials in the field of economy, trade, tourism, sports and improvement of transportation ties with the aim of better connection of the two friendly



states. Both parties expressed satisfaction over the established solid basis of bilateral friendly relations, during the Bulgarian Presidency of the Council of the European Union, by maintaining frequent contacts parliamentary and political contacts at all levels. It is also important that this cooperation continues and becomes more concrete. Aside from Chair Milošević, the meeting was attended by members of the Friendship Group Andrija Popović, Mihailo Anđušić, Maja Bakrač and Miloš Nikolić.