



Parliament of Montenegro

# NEWSLETTER OPEN PARLIAMENT

Newsletter on the Parliament of Montenegro Performance ♦ No. 83 ♦ June 2018

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# OPEN PARLIAMENT



Parliament of Montenegro

Newsletter on the Parliament of Montenegro Performance ♦ Electronic format ♦ Release: monthly ♦ Year VIII ♦ No. 83 ♦ June 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 June, which is, in the form of monthly newsletter "Open Parliament", prepared by Parliamentary Service.

During June, the Ninth Sitting of the First Ordinary Session of the Parliament of Montenegro in 2018, as well as the Tenth Special Sitting of the First Ordinary Session of the Parliament of Montenegro in 2018 took place.

Committees considered 22 proposals for a law, one proposal for a decision and performed other activities within their oversight role.

In focus of this month's newsletter is the President's official visit to the People's Republic of China.

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

**Respectfully,  
Parliamentary Service**



## LEGISLATIVE AND OVERSIGHT ACTIVITY

**At the Ninth Sitting of the First Ordinary Session in 2018**, MPs adopted the following: Law on Sports, Law on Amendments and Supplement to the Law on the Judicial Council and Judges, Law on Ratification of the Council of Europe Convention against Trafficking in Human Organs, Law on Ratification of the Agreement for the Establishment of the International Development Law Organization, Law on Protection of Persons and Property, Law on Amendments and Supplement to the Law on Plant Nutrition Products, Law on Amendments to the Veterinary Law, Law on the President of Montenegro, Law on Cooperation of Montenegro with Diaspora - Emigrants, Law on Amendment to the Law on Market Surveillance, Law on Ratification of the Law on Ratification of the Agreement between the Government of Montenegro and the Government of the Republic of Turkey on Defence Industry Cooperation; Law on Amendments to the Law on Obligations and Basic Legal Property Relations in Air Transport, Law on Amendments to the Law on Prevention of Money Laundering and Terrorism Financing, Law on Amendments and Supplements to the Law on Public Sector Salaries, Law on Amendments to the Law on Consensual Financial Restructuring of Debts to Financial Institutions, Law on Amendment and Supplement to the Law on Health Care, Law on Social Council, Law on Amendments to the Law on Safety and Health at Work and the Law on Supplement to the Law on tax on use of passenger motor vehicles, vessels, airplanes and aircrafts.

**At the Tenth 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 questions posed by MPs. The Prime Minister answered five 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 Ratification of the Council of Europe Convention against Trafficking in Human Organs** 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 for the Establishment of the International Development Law Organization** 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 Amendment to the Law on Market Surveillance** 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 Consensual Financial Restructuring of Debts to Financial Institutions** 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 and Supplements to the Law on Public Sector Salaries** 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 Protection of Persons and Property** was considered and proposed to the Parliament for adoption by the Legislative Committee.
- **Proposal for a Law on Sports** was considered and proposed to the Parliament for adoption by the Legislative Committee and the Committee on Education, Science, Culture and Sports.
- **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 Legislative Committee.
- **Proposal for a Law on Amendments and Supplement to the Law on Spatial Planning and Construction of Buildings** was considered and proposed to the Parliament for adoption by the Legislative Committee and the Committee on Tourism, Agriculture, Ecology and Spatial Planning.
- **Proposal for a Law on Amendment and Supplement to the Law on Health Care** was considered and proposed to the Parliament for adoption by the Legislative Committee.
- **Proposal for a Law on Ratification of the Law on Ratification of the Agreement between the Government of Montenegro and the Government of the Republic of Turkey on Defence Industry Cooperation** 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 Amendments to the Law on Safety and Health at Work** was considered and proposed to the Parliament for adoption by the Committee on Health, Labour and Social Welfare and the Legislative Committee.
- **Proposal for a Law on Amendments and Supplement to the Criminal Code of Montenegro** was considered and proposed to the Parliament for adoption by the Legislative Committee and the Committee on Political System, Judiciary and Administration.
- **Proposal for a Law on 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 Legislative Committee.
- **Proposal for a Law on Social Council** was considered and proposed to the Parliament for adoption by the Legislative Committee.
- **Proposal for a Law on Amendments to the Veterinary Law** was considered and proposed to the Parliament for adoption by the Legislative Committee and the Committee on Tourism, Agriculture, Ecology and Spatial Planning.
- **Proposal for a Law on Amendments and Supplement to the Law on Plant Nutrition Products** was considered and proposed to the Parliament for adoption by the Legislative Committee and the Committee on Tourism, Agriculture, Ecology and Spatial Planning.
- **Proposal for a Law on the President of Montenegro** was considered and proposed to the Parliament for adoption by the Committee on Political System, Judiciary and Administration and the Legislative Committee. The same proposal was considered by the Committee on Economy, Finance and Budget who submitted its opinion to the lead committee-Committee on Political System, Judiciary and Administration.
- **Proposal for a Law on Cooperation of Montenegro with Diaspora - Emigrants** was considered and proposed to the Parliament for adoption by the Legislative Committee and the Committee on International Relations and Emigrants.
- **Proposal for a Law on 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 Legislative Committee.
- **Proposal for a Law on Amendment to the Law on Default Interest Rate** 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 Supplements to the Law on the Judicial Council and Judges** was considered and proposed to the Parliament for adoption by the Legislative Committee and the Committee on Political System, Judiciary and Administration.

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

- **Proposal for a Decision on appointing one member of the Jury to present the 13th July awards** was determined by the Administrative Committee and proposed to the Parliament that Ranko Milović be appointed for a member of the Jury.



### *Other activities of working bodies*

- At the 39th meeting of the **Committee on Political System, Judiciary and Administration**, held on 6 June, the Committee considered the 2017 Performance Report of the Prosecutorial Council and the Public Prosecution Office, submitted to the Parliament of Montenegro by the Prosecutorial Council.
- At the 40th meeting of 6 June, the Committee determined a List of candidates for the election of four members of the Judicial Council from among reputable lawyers.
- At the 41st meeting, held on 12 June, the Committee considered the 2017 Annual Report on performance of the Judicial Council and general state of the judiciary, submitted to the Parliament of Montenegro by the Judicial Council.
- At the 23rd meeting of the **Security and Defence Committee**, held on 1 June, the Committee conducted a control hearing of the Minister of Interior, Assistant Director of the Criminal Police Sector at the Police Administration, Director of the National Security Agency, Supreme Public Prosecutor and Chief Special Prosecutor, with regard to the casting light on the case of wounding Olivera Lakić, journalist of independent Vijesti daily.
- At the 24th meeting of 14 June, the Committee conducted a consultative hearing of military and diplomatic representatives of Montenegro prior to their assuming of office: Brigadier General Ilija Daković, defence envoy to the United States of America, and non-residential defence envoy to Canada; captain of the battleship Darko Vuković, defence envoy to the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland - London and non-residential defence envoy to the Kingdom of the Netherlands, the Kingdom of Belgium, the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg and Iceland; Lieutenant Colonel Esmer Gašanin, defence envoy to the Federal Republic of Germany - Berlin and non-residential defence envoy to the Republic of Poland, the Kingdom of Norway, the Kingdom of Sweden, the Republic of Latvia, the Republic of Lithuania, the Republic of Estonia and the Republic of Finland; and Lieutenant Colonel Veljko Mališić, residential defence envoy to the Republic of Austria - Vienna, and assistant military advisor at the Permanent Mission of Montenegro to the UN, OSCE and other international organizations in Vienna, and non-residential assistant defence envoy to the Republic of Slovakia, the Czech Republic and the Republic of Hungary.
- At the 44th meeting, on 5 June, **Committee on Economy, Finance and Budget** considered and decided to propose to the Parliament for adoption the 2017 Work and Financial Plan of the Agency for Electronic Communications and Postal Services.
- At the 46th meeting of 21 June, the Committee was acquainted with Report on implemented investments in accordance with the Decision on granting a long-term lease of land on the peninsula Luštica - Municipality Herceg Novi, for the period 01 December 2016 - 15 December 2017; Report on implemented investment and other activities on the basis of the Contract on the lease and construction relating to "Luštica Development" JSC Municipality Tivat - Luštica Bay project, for the period 1 December 2016 - 31 December 2017; 2017 Performance Report of the Investment and Development Fund of Montenegro JSC with financial statements and 2017 Report by independent external auditor.
- At the 20th meeting of the **Committee on Human Rights and Freedoms**, held on 13 June, the members considered and supported the 2017 Performance Report of the Protector of Human Rights and Freedoms in Montenegro and the 2017 Annual Report of the National Preventive Mechanism against Torture.
- At the 21st meeting of 18 June, the Committee considered and supported the 2017 Status Report on Personal Data Protection and Access to Information.
- At the 17th meeting held on 11 June, the **Gender Equality Committee**, within its area of competence, considered the 2017 Performance Report of the Protector of Human Rights and Freedoms in Montenegro and proposed to the lead committee-Committee on Human Rights and Freedoms to adopt it.
- At the 18th meeting of 18 June, the Committee considered the Report on the Implementation of the 2017 Plan of Action for Gender Equality (PAPRR) for the period 2017-2021.
- At the 19th meeting of 27 June, the Committee considered the Action Plan for implementing the Strategy for Social Inclusion of Roma and Egyptians in Montenegro 2016-2020 along with the Report on implementation of the Action Plan for implementing the Strategy for Social Inclusion of Roma and Egyptians in Montenegro 2016-2020 for 2017.
- **Committee on Education, Science, Culture and Sports** dedicated its 16th meeting of 15 June to the topic "Use of ICT in education: Where are we now and where are we heading?". Aside from the Committee members, the meeting was attended by representatives of the Ministry of Education, Ministry of Public Administration, educational institutions from different education levels and important institutions from the education field.
- At the 3rd meeting, held on 20 June, **Commission for Monitoring and Control of the Privatisation Procedure** considered the valuating procedure of the Military Tourist Resort "Mediteran" – Žabljak, upon which conclusions were adopted.

## NEWS FROM PARLIAMENT



### *MP Damjanović visited the institutions of the the Federal Republic of Germany*

Member of the Parliament of Montenegro Aleksandar Damjanović paid a visit to Germany, within the project Regional Cooperation and Capacity Development of Parliamentarians of South-



East Europe on Energy Efficiency and Climate Protection. During their visit to Bundestag and Bundesrat, parliamentarians from the Western Balkans countries met Josip Juratović, Chair of the German - Eastern European parliamentary group at Bundestag, representatives of the Eastern European parliamentary group at Bundestag as well as with representatives of the Greens parliamentary group. The Bundestag representatives urged on the Western

Balkans countries to pay more attention to energy efficiency and climate change issues, stressing that the Federal Republic of Germany was ready to help the Western Balkans countries, as it had been the case in the past. During debate time at the meetings, MP Damjanović emphasised, inter alia, that no country in the region was able to plan and implement the energy policies aimed at energy shift on its own, therefore they need assistance by Germany through its previous experience, since it is a pioneer country in these processes, but also a comprehensive support of the EU via relevant projects and funds.



### *MP Drobnjak participated in the Women Political Leaders (WPL) Summit in Lithuania*

Chair of the Gender Equality Committee Nada Drobnjak spoke at a two-day workshop Women Political Leaders (WPL) Summit 2018 - It's about time! 100 reasons to act! in Lithuania.



The WPL Summit brings together over three hundred women (female heads of state and government and parliamentarians) from all over the world. During two days, the challenges of society and

institutions in digital era were discussed, with a special emphasis on how the digital environment can be the driver of economic and social development, and inclusive society as well. The focus was on the topics of women's leadership, the importance of gender-responsive parliaments, the economic empowerment of women, and the use of social networks in the political work of women. Speaking about the implementation of the Activity Plan for Gender-Responsive Parliament of Montenegro, Drobnjak stressed that its implementation has influenced on awareness raising of gender equality issues, as well as the integration of gender equality policies and the empowerment of mechanisms for its implementation in the Parliament of Montenegro. The Parliament of Montenegro, as she pointed out, is committed to the adoption of gender-responsive laws and policies, as well as to raising awareness of gender equality in parliamentary work.

## IN FOCUS



### *President of the Parliament of Montenegro paid an official visit to the People's Republic of China*

Parliament of Montenegro was one among five parliaments in the world, whose presidents were extended an official invitation to the People's



Republic of China, and at the invitation of the Chairman of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference Wang Yang. President Brajović and Wang Yang noted that Cooperation of the highest legislative bodies of Montenegro and the People's Republic of China provides an important support to increasing the volume of economic cooperation and further development of relations in a number of other areas among the countries that cherish the winning spirit and mutual trust. Brajović reminded that Montenegro was one of the first signatories and beneficiaries of the "One belt one road" initiative and mechanism "16+1", initiated by China, whereby the aim of this long-term investment projects is infrastructural, energy, financial and cultural connectivity of the states in Asia, eastern Africa, Middle East and Europe. The interlocutors

agreed that Montenegro and China can be an example of good partnering relations in political and economic cooperation, regardless of the differences in size of the countries and their geographic distance. At the follow up of the bilateral visit, President Brajović met with Chairman of the National People's Congress Standing Committee Li Zhanshu. Li Zhanshu emphasised that China will continue encouraging Chinese companies to invest in big projects in Montenegro. It is necessary to



encourage the institutions to intensify their activities, while the legislative bodies should consider specific issues of mutual interest through the friendship groups and individual committees, Li and Brajović agreed. In addition to the meetings with two top Chinese officials Li and Wang Yang, President Brajović was welcomed in China at the highest level in the most respectable industrial and cultural institutions, medical examination centres, and also met with Montenegrin students who study in China.

## PARLIAMENTARY GLOSSARY

**Shorthand Record.** "Writing by using abbreviations that accelerates the process of writing down oral speeches is called stenography or shorthand writing and the record created in such a way is named the Shorthand Record. This way of note-taking was used more frequently in the past before appearance of the recording equipment and other equipment for recording speech. The speeches of participants in a debate are still recorded in shorthand in some parliaments, although other ways of recording speeches is used more often in the meetings of the parliament and its working bodies. In the Parliament of Montenegro, verbatim notes of debates in plenary sessions are developed based on phonographic records instead of shorthand records. Shorthand or phonograph recordings can be taken also in some committee meetings, if decided so by the committee, upon the proposal of the committee chair or upon the request of one thirds of the committee members."<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. 290



# FROM THE HISTORY OF MONTENEGRIN PARLIAMENTARISM



**Work of the Constituent Assembly of the People's Republic of Montenegro; First Convocation- Excerpts from the transcripts of the Seventh Ordinary Session of the National Assembly of the People's Republic of Montenegro<sup>2</sup>**

## **PROPOSAL FOR A LAW ON THE ELECTION OF MPS OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF MONTENEGRO II Sitting of the Ordinary session-20 July 1950**

National Assembly of the People's Republic of Montenegro is elected within the period of four years. The beginning of the term is considered the day of the holding of elections.

The Presidium of the People's Republic of Montenegro is responsible for calling the elections, by issuing a Decree, on the last day prior to the termination of the term of office of the previous Parliament. No more than three and less than two month may pass from the day of expiry of term of office of the Parliament to the day of holding of the elections.

### Article 2

MPs of the Parliament are elected in accordance with the number of citizens of the People's Republic of Montenegro, so that one elected MP shall amount to exactly 2500 votes.

### Article 3

MPs of the National Assembly of the People's Republic of Montenegro are elected by the people of the Federal People's Republic of Yugoslavia, registered within the electoral register of the territory of the PRM, and on the basis of general, equal, and direct electoral right, and also the right of secret voting. Each citizen registered within the electoral register is entitled to a vote. Each voter may vote only once, and therefore may vote only once in the elections.

### Article 5

Each citizen of the PRM with a right to suffrage may be elected for an MP of the National Assembly.

### Article 7

The elections of MPs are conducted within electoral counties. Only one MP may be elected in each county. The electoral county is established, as a rule, for the

administrative area of the county(city). In the event, more than one MP is elected within a county, the county (city) shall be divided into two or more electoral counties, as long as each electoral county has approximately 2500 citizens.

### Article 9

The candidate to have acquired the absolute majority of votes shall be elected, unless the law proscribes otherwise.

### Article 25

A proposal for a candidate to be elected must acquire signatures from a total of 50 voters, coming from at least a half of all places, cities, within the electoral area county, where an MP is to be elected. The first three signatories shall be considered the proposers. A voter may provide his signature for one candidate only. Each proposal for a candidate consists of one candidate to be elected MP and another candidate to be elected as his replacement.

### Article 27

The same person may be proposed as candidate or replacement of a candidate only in two electoral counties, within the territory of the PRM.

### Article 48

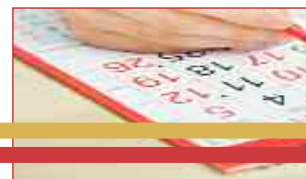
The voter shall vote as follows: upon receiving a little ball, the person shall take it, clench his fists, therefore approaching every box with his clenched fists. The little ball shall be dropped in the box appertaining to the candidate for which the voter wishes to vote for; or in a box without a list. Once the voter has dropped the little ball in the box, he then unclenches his fist showing to the entire masses that he performed his duty. A voter may abstain from voting if he wishes to.

### Article 53

The voting shall take place the entire day up until 7 p.m. The courtyard shall be closed at 6 p.m. or a building, if there is no courtyard, and noone is to be allowed in. The President shall allow to vote only the ones waiting in front of the building. In the event the voting had to be interrupted longer than an hour, due to inconsistencies, the electoral board shall allow that an hour be added to the regular timeline of voting.

<sup>1</sup> Šesto i sedmo redovno zasijedanje narodne Skupštine Republike Crne Gore, Narodna Skupština narodne Republike Crne Gore, 1952, Obod, str. 196 – 210.

# CALENDAR



## 1 June

- President of the Parliament of Montenegro paid an official visit to the People's Republic of China, at the invitation of the Chairman of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference Wang Yang.

## 4 June

- Member of the Permanent Delegation of the Parliament of Montenegro to the NATO PA Obrad Mišo Stanišić participated in the work of the Interparliamentary Meeting with the European Parliament's Delegation to the NATO Parliamentary Assembly, on the topic: Countering New Threats Together - A New Era of EU-NATO Cooperation, held in cooperation with the Centre for Democratic Control of the Armed Forces (DCAF) from Geneva, on 4 and 5 June in Brussels. The meeting provided an opportunity to discuss the roles of NATO and the European Union in the Defence system, with a special focus on the issue of strengthening the cooperation, and possible manner for its improvement.

## 6 June

- Chair of the Gender Equality Committee Nada Drobnjak participated in the workshop involving creating of Online programmes for gender sensitive parliaments, organised by the European Institute for Gender Equality, in Vilnius, Lithuania. During the workshop, the participants discussed the development of self-evaluation programmes in national and regional parliaments, in order to provide assistance in the gathering of data for measuring gender sensitivity within their organisation and work, especially in the areas of: equal opportunity for both men and women in being elected as MPs; equal saying in the decision-making process; available room in the Agenda for discussing topics in this area as well as adopting gender sensitive laws.

## 7 June

- President of the Parliament of Montenegro Ivan Brajović received newly-appointed Ambassador of Montenegro to Romania Goran Poleksić. President Brajović and Ambassador Poleksić agreed that good relations of Montenegro and Romania should be additionally improved, and the embassy of our country can make a significant contribution in that sense.

Bearing in mind the European path of our country, the President of the Parliament stressed the added importance of cooperation with Romania, which will preside over the EU Council in the first half of 2019.

- Chair of the Committee on Health, Labor and Social Welfare Suad Numanović, participated in the implementation of a semi-structured interview at the premises of the Institute for Social and Child Welfare in Podgorica, at the invitation of the Institute, which, with the support of UNICEF, has been conducting qualitative research on the analysis and evaluation of the performance of centers for social work in Montenegro. The participation of the Chair of the Committee on Health, Labor and Social Welfare is a contribution of the Committee to the social welfare and child care system reform and support to the improvement the organisation and quality of work of the centers for social work in Montenegro, in order to improve the quality of services provided for children and families, users of social and child protection.
- Member of the Parliament of Montenegro Aleksandar Damjanović paid a visit to the Institutions of the Federative Republic of Germany, within the project Regional Cooperation and Capacity Development of Parliamentarians of South-East Europe on Energy Efficiency and Climate Protection.

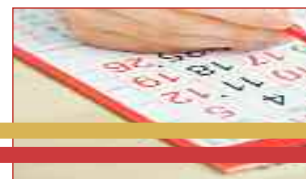
## 8 June

- Chair of the Gender Equality Committee Nada Drobnjak spoke at a two-day workshop Women Political Leaders (WPL) Summit 2018 - It's about time! 100 reasons to act! in Lithuania.
- President of the Parliament of Montenegro Ivan Brajović hosted the leaving Chinese Ambassador





# CALENDAR



Cui Zhiwei. Brajović thanked to the Chinese Ambassador for his contribution to accelerated development of political and economic relations during the previous four years. The interlocutors expressed pleasure with the increased volume of trade, as well as the growing number of Chinese tourists visiting Montenegro. They also discussed scholarships for students from our country, Bar-Boljare Highway, as the greatest infrastructural project in Montenegro, whose successful construction will open a new developmental phase in our country, as well as many other donations, which ascertained their friendship.

- Chair of the Committee on European Integration Adrijan Vuksanović spoke at the conference entitled “The European perspective of the Western Balkans within the Berlin Process – Youth Cooperation RYCO”, dedicated to the European perspective of the Western Balkans. The Conference was marked by discussion on the results



achieved within the Berlin process, as well as prospects of further reforms within the initiative, with the focus on the youth cooperation and implementation of youth policy at both national and regional level. In addition, the European future of Western Balkans countries was discussed, as well as the importance of the enlargement process both to the region and the European Union. Vuksanović expressed satisfaction over the recently adopted documents at the level of EU, which acknowledge the European willingness to accept membership of Montenegro in the Community of European Peoples. He added that the Parliament plays a significant role in promoting the European Integration process, which, *inter alia* achieved through its activities performed by the committees, aiming at familiarizing the youth with the process, given that they are the future beneficiaries of the membership in the Union.

## 11 June

- Chair of the Committee on International Relations and

Emigrants Andrija Nikolić visited “Barbara Prammer” Democracy Workshops, where he spoke with students of V-4 class, from Dašo Pavličić primary school - Herceg Novi. Answering to the questions, Nikolić noted that it was important for students to be active citizens and to take part in the events such as democracy workshops, because children can, by their suggestions, help parliamentarians by indicating children’s interests, which is a way to improve quality of life of both - children and community. At the end of the visit, Nikolić explained the process of adopting laws, showed a copy of the Constitution of Montenegro and pointed out to the most important constitutional principles. Nikolić also expressed his pleasure with participating in the programme and added that “Barbara Pramer” Democracy Workshops was an excellent idea that needs to be constantly improved, emphasising how important it was for the youth to learn about the rules, laws and the most important aspects of the state functioning.

## 13 June

- Chair of the Committee on Political System, Judiciary and Administration Željko Aprcović participated in a Round table on the topic “Disciplinary and Ethical Responsibility of Judges in Montenegro”, which was jointly organised by Judicial Council, Supreme Court and Council of Europe Programme Office in Podgorica. The event was organised within the frameworks of the project “Responsibility within the Judicial System”, whereas within the Western Balkans and Turkey Horizontal programme. The aim of the project was to summarise the results achieved so far in implementing the system of disciplinary and ethical responsibility of judges in Montenegro, as well as laying out challenges currently facing the member states of the Council of Europe concerning the various aspects of responsibility in the judicial system.

## 15 June

- Chair of the Committee on International Relations and Emigrants Andrija Nikolić had separate meetings with heads of six diplomatic representations of Montenegro on a non-residential basis in Belgrade. The First day, Nikolić met with ambassadors of the Kingdom of Denmark Anders Hougard and Kingdom of Belgium H.E. Leo D’aes. Nikolić assessed that now our country was counting on even stronger support

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from Copenhagen and Brussels in overcoming the remaining challenges on our road to the European



integration. The meetings discussed expert assistance of Denmark and Belgium in the fight against organised crime and corruption, the state of the Montenegrin media scene, as well as the necessity for improving inter-parliamentary cooperation. The next day, the meetings with the following ambassadors took place: Republic of Portugal H.E. Augusto José Pestana Saraiva Peixot, Kingdom of the Netherlands H.E. Henkom Van den Dool, Kingdom of Spain Nj.E. Miguel Fuertes Suarez and Canada Kathleen Csaba. The interlocutors spoke on fight against organised crime and corruption, rule of law, situation on the media scene, as well as on current investment projects. The third day, there was a meeting with the representatives of the National Council of the Montenegrin National Minority in the Republic of Serbia. Nikolić pointed out that this format of the emigrants gathering was the best opportunity for the Committee to directly learn about the manner of operation of our emigrant community in the Republic of Serbia and carefully note all the difficulties in their functioning. The meeting in Sremski Karlovci was attended by the Montenegrin Consul General in the Republic of Serbia Miodrag Kankaraš.

- Members of the Parliament of Montenegro: Aleksandra Vuković, Momčilo Martinović, Mihailo Anđušić and Aleksandar Damjanović participated in the conference on "Upholding the freedom of expression, including media freedom, and beyond", which took place in Prague. This conference, organised by the European Parliament in cooperation with the Chamber of Deputies of the Parliament of the Czech Republic, is part of the 2018 European Parliament Support Programme for the parliaments of pre-accession countries. The conference, inter alia, discussed the role of media in

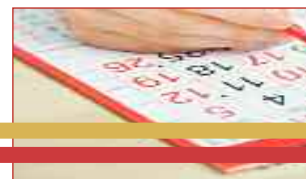
political debate, particularly during the election process as well as the importance of transparent ownership structure of the media. The agenda also covered the phenomena of fake news, their influence on creating the reality and the need for much better media education, in order to make it easier to recognise the real news in comparison to propaganda. MP Aleksandar Damjanović critically referred to current events on the Montenegrin media scene, concluding that there was no freedom of media without adequate protection of journalists, and that the state's obligation is essential to address this issue. As for media regulation, MP Momčilo Martinović stressed that necessary changes and revision of the umbrella media laws were needed, as well as that it was necessary to create a dialogue for public officials, the NGO sector and journalists, in order to create the conditions for better protection of freedom of expression as one of the fundamental political rights.



## 18 June

- Deputy Secretary General of the Parliament of Montenegro Mersudin Gredić and Assistant Secretary General Nataša Komnenić took part in the meeting of secretaries general of the Western Balkan parliaments, held in Ljubljana, on 18 and 19 June, and organised by the National Democratic Institute (NDI). The event gathered parliamentary secretaries from Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro, Kosovo and Macedonia, who had the opportunity to share their experiences in strengthening professional capacities, primarily within the framework of legislative and research services. Participants also discussed the challenges, the best practices when it comes to transparency of parliamentary activities and the involvement of civil society, the use of information technologies, the establishment of thematic MP clubs, and the parliamentary administration and organisation

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of services available to MPs.

## 19 June

- Within three day meeting of the Regional Coordination Committee of the gender equality mechanisms - Balkan Region, Chair of the Gender Equality Committee Nada Drobnjak held a meeting with Višnja Ljubičić, Ombudswoman for Gender Equality of the Republic of Croatia and Samra Filipović-Hadžiabdić, Director of the Gender Equality Agency of Bosnia and Herzegovina. The



participants discussed the regional cooperation in the area of gender equality with a special emphasis on the status of institutional mechanisms and the localisation of action plans for the implementation of Resolution 1325 of the United Nations Security Council – Women, Peace and Security. The interlocutors noted that the cooperation so far has been successful and agreed its continuation.

## 25 June

- President Brajović met with President of the House of Representatives of the Kingdom of Morocco Habib El Malki. The presidents signed a Protocol on Parliamentary Cooperation, creating thus the foundations for strengthening bilateral relations including cooperation between parliamentary working



bodies, friendship groups, as well as between the staff of the two legislatures. In their statements after the

meeting, the two presidents said that Montenegro and Morocco shared the same values, being stability factors in their respective regions of the Western Balkans and North Africa. Regarding the migrant crisis, the interlocutors agreed that this issue must be a subject of serious consideration, whereby President Brajović presented the experience of Montenegro, which, a few decades ago, was a refuge for a large number of people from war-affected areas. They also discussed experiences with the EU and NATO, with a focus on further intensifying of parliamentary and economic cooperation of Montenegro and Morocco. The meeting with the President of the House of Representatives of the Kingdom of Morocco was attended by chairpersons of two parliamentary committees Radule Novović and Andrija Nikolić. Presidents Brajović and El Maliki laid the wreath at the Monument of the Partisan Fighter, and they also visited a manifestation “Moroccan Week of Craftsmen”, being held on Trg nezavisnosti.

- Head of Delegation of the Parliament of Montenegro to the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe Predrag Sekulić took part in the PACE Summer Session which was held in Strasbourg. The five-day Session was dedicated to considering the issues related to the position of NGOs in certain Council of Europe member states, the protection of human rights defenders, the economic empowerment of women, forced marriage in Europe, and striking a balance between the best interest of the child and the need to keep families together.



## 26 June

- Staff of the Committee on Political System, Judiciary and Administration attended a two-day conference held in Tirana, on the beginning of the project “Technical Assistance to Public Service Media in the Western Balkans”. The Conference was aimed at providing contributions to reforms and professional development of public media services in the Western



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Balkans countries. The said project will be implemented in the period from 1 February 2018 to 31 July 2020, consisting of three components focused on: ensuring the political and financial independence of public services, achieving their best professional standards and improving program content through co-operation and fostering of pluralistic, independent and credible program content.

## 27 June

- President of the Parliament of Montenegro Ivan Brajović talked with the British Ambassador to Montenegro Alison Kemp. At the meeting, they discussed the issues significant for further development of democratic processes in Montenegro, as well as the strengthening of bilateral relations between the two countries. The President of the Parliament emphasised the importance of the presence and support to Montenegro by countries with a strong democratic tradition, to which Great



Britain certainly belonged. The interlocutors agreed that for Montenegro, as well as for the Western Balkans as a whole, was significant to remain in the EU's focus, which would be especially addressed at the upcoming Western Balkans Summit within the Berlin Process to be held in London in July, and our region would also be discussed at the Annual Session of the OSCE PA in Berlin. Brajović and Ambassador Kemp also discussed the support of the media in Montenegro, parliamentary activities with the participation of the largest number of MPs both from the ruling majority and the opposition, as well as projects contributing to the further strengthening of the administrative capacities of the Parliament.

- Member of the Parliament of Montenegro's Permanent Delegation to the NATO Parliamentary Assembly Obrad Mišo Stanišić participated in the 98th Rose Roth Seminar titled: "Euro-Atlantic

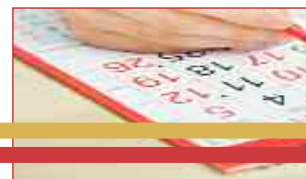
Integration of the Western Balkans: Reinforcing the European Peace Project", which was held in Macedonia, from 27 to 29 June. The main goal of this event was to provide a forum and to enable dialogue at the parliamentary level on the issues of security among the main legislators of the NATO member states and their counterparts from partner states and to provide the participants with current information on the subject matter. During the visit, Mišo Stanišić met with the Macedonian Prime Minister Zoran Zaev. On this occasion, Stanišić conveyed his congratulations regarding the decision of the Council of Ministers of the European Union on the progress of Macedonia on its European integration path and the conclusions reached on the possibility of opening the accession negotiations in June 2019. During this conversation, they exchanged views on the current political situation in Macedonia and the undertaken steps, and expressed full support from Montenegro for the host country's further path of development.



## 28 June

- President of the Parliament of Montenegro Ivan Brajović met with Secretary of State of the Holy See Cardinal Pietro Parolin. The President of the Parliament emphasised that quality of co-existence was one in a series of true values that Montenegro has been dedicated to traditionally and continuously, and that he considered a visit of the important guest as a kind of recognition to that devotion and emphasised the importance of appointing the residential representative of the Holy See, as planned and announced. Cardinal Parolin said that the Holy See wanted to support Montenegro's contribution in creating a society where differences are respected and minorities naturally integrated in the community. He also said that Montenegro can play a role in building

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bridges and decreasing tensions worldwide. Delegation of the Parliament at the meeting with Cardinal Parolin also included parliamentarians - Miodrag Radunović, Luid Škrelja and Ervin Ibrahimović.

- The Delegation of the Committee on European Integration of the Parliament of Montenegro, headed by the Chair of the Committee Adrijan Vuksanović, paid a visit to Zagreb on 28-29 June, at the invitation of the Chair of the European Affairs Committee of the Croatian Parliament Domagoj Ivan Milošević. In addition to Chair Vuksanović, the delegation of the Committee consisted of its members Mihailo Anđušić and Momčilo Martinović, as well as MP Miloš Nikolić, member of the Committee on International Relations and Emigrants. The delegation has been received by Speaker of the Croatian Parliament Gordan Jandroković, who voiced strong support for Montenegro's accession to the European Union. The participants also focused on current bilateral issues, and good cooperation between the two countries was emphasised. At a meeting with the European Affairs Committee, Domagoj Ivan Milošević emphasised the significance of implementing effective reforms in the pre-accession period so that the EU as a member state would not



face the toughest challenges. The meeting also covered the inclusion of the Boka Navy in the UNESCO's List of Intangible Cultural Heritage, migration and security issues, the departure of young people into other EU countries, as well as investment climate and economic cooperation. The delegation of the Committee also met with the Foreign Affairs Committee, headed by its Chairperson Miro Kovač, the Croatia-Montenegro Friendship Group, headed by Vesna Bedeković, and

the Committee on Regional Development and European Union Funds, headed by its Chairperson Branka Juričev-Martinčev. Vuksanović and Chairperson Ivan Milošević signed the Protocol on Cooperation of the two committees. Furthermore, the Committee delegation met with Vesna Pusić, member of the European Affairs Committee and former Chairperson of the National Committee for Monitoring the EU Accession Negotiations. The interlocutors particularly emphasised the significance of political coordination and further work on keeping the citizens informed even after joining the EU. At the end of the visit, the delegation was received by Marija Pejčinović-Burić, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign and European Affairs of Croatia.

## 29 June

- Vice President of the Parliament of Montenegro Branimir Gvozdenović took part in the Western Balkans Conference, held in the UK House of Lords. The Conference was held ahead of the EU - Western Balkans Summit, to be held also in London, on 9 and 10 July. Vice President Gvozdenović stressed that this year's EU - Western Balkans Summit should provide a summary of the progress made over the past four years and answer the question of how and



in which segments the process has enhanced the regional cooperation of the Western Balkans and, moreover, how to ensure the process to be more efficient in case it continues through "Berlin Plus" or some other initiative. Gvozdenović specifically underlined that in the past major concrete projects and initiatives were about the economic connectivity in the field of transport and energy infrastructures, while the last one, held in Trieste, dealt with digitalisation and cooperation in science.