



Parliament of Montenegro

NEWSLETTER OPEN PARLIAMENT

Newsletter on the Parliament of Montenegro Performance ♦ No. 84 ♦ July 2018

CONTENT

Legislative and oversight activity.....2

News from Parliament.....7

President of the Parliament of Montenegro Ivan Brajović presented the 13th July awards7

Delegation of the Parliament of Montenegro participated in the 27th OSCE PA session.....7

In focus.....8

Parliamentary glossary.....9

From the history of Montenegrin parliamentarism.....9

Calendar.....10

IN FOCUS

The Fifteenth meeting of the European Union - Montenegro Stabilisation and Association Parliamentary Committee (SAPC) was held

p.8



PARLIAMENTARY GLOSSARY

Do you know...
what is a Parliamentary Committee?

p.9

FROM THE HISTORY OF MONTENEGRIN PARLIAMENTARISM

Excerpt From The Proposal For The Rules Of Procedure Of The National Assembly Of The Republic Of Montenegro- Committees And Commissions In The Parliament

p.9

OPEN PARLIAMENT



Parliament of Montenegro

Newsletter on the Parliament of Montenegro Performance ♦ Electronic format ♦ Release: monthly ♦ Year VIII ♦ No. 84 ♦ July 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 July, which is, in the form of monthly newsletter "Open Parliament", prepared by Parliamentary Service.

During July, the Ninth and the Twelfth Sitting of the First Ordinary Session of the Parliament of Montenegro in 2018, as well as the Eleventh Special Sitting of the First Ordinary Session of the Parliament of Montenegro in 2018 took place.

Committees considered 12 proposals for a law, two proposals for a decision and performed other activities within their oversight role.

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

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

**Respectfully,
Parliamentary Service**



LEGISLATIVE AND OVERSIGHT ACTIVITY

At the Ninth Sitting of the First Ordinary Session of the Parliament of Montenegro, the MPs adopted: Law on Amendments and Supplement to the Criminal Code of Montenegro, Law on Amendments and Supplement to the Law on Spatial Planning and Construction of Buildings, Decision on deploying members of the Army of Montenegro in the KFOR international mission in the Republic of Kosovo, Decision on deploying members of the Army of Montenegro in the international mission "Resolute Support - (RS)" in Afghanistan, 2017 Annual Report on performance of the Judicial Council and general state of the judiciary, 2017 Performance Report of the Prosecutorial Council and the Public Prosecution Office, 2017 Status Report on Personal Data Protection and on Access to Information, 2017 Performance Report of the Agency for Prevention of Corruption, 2017 Performance Report of the Protector of Human Rights and Freedoms, 2017 Annual Report of the National Preventive Mechanism against Torture, 2017 Report on Development and Protection of Rights of Minorities and Other Minority Communities, 2017 Status Report on Road Traffic Safety in Montenegro, 2017 Financial Statement with the Performance Report of the Energy Regulatory Agency, 2017 Financial Operations Report and Performance Report of the Agency for Electronic Media, 2017 Performance Report of the Agency for Electronic Communications and Postal Services with Financial Report of the Agency, and Report on Conducted Audit of 2017 Financial Statements of the Agency for Electronic Communications and Postal Services, 2017 Financial Statement and Report on Performed Audit of Financial Statements of the Insurance Supervision Agency and 2017 Performance Report of the Insurance Supervision Agency, 2017 Financial and Performance Report of the Agency for Medicines and Medical Devices. The Parliament

Parliament of Montenegro

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also adopted the Opinion with the proposal for a reply to the Constitutional Court of Montenegro with regard to the initiative for the constitutional review of the provision of Article 4(4) of the Law on Amendments to the Law on Energy (Official Gazette of Montenegro 51/17) and Opinion with the proposal for a reply to the Constitutional Court of Montenegro with regard to the initiative for the constitutional review of the provision of Article 25 of the Law on Enforcement and Security (Official Gazette of Montenegro 11/15).

Under the item of the agenda "Elections and appointments", the Parliament dismissed from office the Vice Governor of the Central Bank of Montenegro Irena Radović and dismissed from duty member of the Council of the Agency for Prevention of Corruption Vanja Čalović-Marković. Furthermore, Ranko Milović was appointed member of the Jury for Presenting the 13th July Award, while Gavriilo Čabarkapa was elected member of the Council of the Agency for Prevention of Corruption.

At the Twelfth Sitting of the First Ordinary Session of the Parliament of Montenegro, MPs adopted:

Law on Amendment and Supplements to the Law on Budget and Fiscal Responsibility, Law on Amendments to the 2018 Budget Law of Montenegro, Law on Amendments to the Excise Law, Law on International Restrictive Measures, Law on Recognition of Professional Qualifications for Pursuing Regulated Professions, Law on Amendments to the Law on Executing a Decision of the Constitutional Court of Montenegro U-I No 6/16 of 19 April 2017 (Official Gazette of Montenegro 31/17), Law on Amendments to the Law on Postal Services, Law on Amendments to the Law on Integrated Prevention and Control of Pollution of the Environment, Law on Amendments to the Law on Higher Education, Law on Amendments to the Law on Youth, Decision on adopting the Special Purpose Spatial Plan for the Coastal Region and the Decision on adopting the Special Purpose Spatial Plan for the National Park "Prokletije". The Parliament has determined the Opinion with the proposal for a reply to the Constitutional Court of Montenegro with regard to the initiative for constitutional review of provisions of Article 9 (1) and (2) of the Law on the Chamber of Economy of Montenegro (Official Gazette of Montenegro 1/18), the Opinion with the proposal for a reply to the Constitutional Court of Montenegro with regard to the initiative for constitutional review of provisions of Article 236 (7), (8) and (9) of the Law on Misdemeanours (Official Gazette of Montenegro 1/11, 39/11, 32/14, 3/17 and 51/17), the Opinion with the proposal for a reply to the Constitutional Court of Montenegro with regard to the initiative for constitutional review of provisions of Article 231 (1) of the Criminal Procedure Code (Official Gazette of Montenegro 57/09, 49/10, 47/14, 2/15, 35/15 and 58/15), the Opinion with the proposal for a reply to the Constitutional Court of Montenegro with regard to the initiative for constitutional review of provisions of Article 37 (1) item 5, Article 38 (1) item 2, Article 40 (5), Article 47 (1) items 7 and 11, Article 49 (3) and (7), Article 52 (2), Article 58 (4) item 5, Article 59 item 4, Article 94 item 2 indent 1, Articles 107 and 116, Article 117 (3), Article 145 item 11 and Article 203 (2) of the Law on the Army of Montenegro (Official Gazette of

Montenegro 51/17) and the Opinion with the proposal for a reply to the Constitutional Court of Montenegro with regard to the initiative for constitutional review of provisions of Article 99 and 100 of the Law on Foreigners (Official Gazette of Montenegro 12/18). Within the item Elections and appointments, the Parliament appointed Veselin Veljović as the Director of the Police Administration. Also, the following four members of the Council of the Central Bank of Montenegro have been appointed: Milorad Jovović, Ruždija Tuzović, Nikola Milović and Zorica Kalezić. The following have been elected as members of the Management Board of the Fund for Protection and Exercising of Minority Rights: Ervin Duraković, Arta Hoxha, Mersad Latić, Syle Rugova, Senad Gačević, Zvonimir Deković, Ana Popović, Đorđe Brujić, Sabrija Vulić, Admir Adrović, Bujar Hasangjekaj and Igor Vučinić, while Tamara Pešić has been elected the member of the Management Board of the Fund for Protection and Exercising of Minority Rights from among the independent experts dealing with human and minority rights.

At the Eleventh Special Sitting of the First Ordinary Session of the Parliament of Montenegro in 2018, Prime Minister and ministers in the Government of Montenegro were posed questions by MPs. The Prime Minister was posed five questions, whereas ministers were posed 78 questions.

Proposals for law deliberated in committees

- **Proposal for a Law on Amendments to the Law on Postal Services** 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 Environmental Impact Assessment** was considered and proposed to the Parliament for adoption by the Legislative Committee and the Committee on Tourism, Agriculture, Ecology and Spatial Planning.
- **Proposal for a Law on Amendments to the 2018 Budget Law** was considered and proposed to the Parliament for adoption by the Committee on Economy, Finance and Budget and the Legislative Committee.
- **Proposal for a Law on Excise Duties** 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 Budget and Fiscal Responsibility** 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 Supplement to the Law on Integrated Prevention and Control of Pollution of the Environment** 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 Recognition of Foreign Qualifications for Pursuing Regulated Professions** 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 International Restrictive Measures** 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 Amendments to the Law on Executing a Decision of the Constitutional Court of Montenegro U-I No 6/16 of 19 April 2017 (Official Gazette of Montenegro 31/17)** was considered and proposed to the Parliament for adoption by the Committee on Health, Labour and Social Welfare and the Legislative Committee.
- **Proposal for a Law on Higher Education** 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 Youth** was considered and proposed to the Parliament for adoption by the Committee on Education, Science, Culture and Sports and the Legislative Committee.
- **Proposal for a Law on Amendments to the Law on Foreigners** was considered and proposed to the Parliament for adoption by the Committee on Political System, Judiciary and Administration.

Proposals for other acts deliberated in committees

- **Proposal for a Decision on adopting the Special Purpose Spatial Plan for the National Park "Prokletije"** 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 Decision on adopting the Special Purpose Spatial Plan for the Coastal Region** was considered and proposed to the Parliament for adoption by the Legislative Committee and the Committee on Tourism, Agriculture, Ecology and Spatial Planning.

Other activities of working bodies

- The Second meeting of the **Constitutional Committee** of 17 July, was held in order to prepare the Committee members for the meeting and for the conversation with members of the Constitutional Committee of the European Parliament. Also, the Committee members dealt with a number of issues within their responsibilities relating to the ongoing processes of implementation of the provisions of the Constitution of Montenegro.
- At the 47th meeting of the **Committee on Political System, Judiciary and Administration**, held on 3 July, the Committee started a consultative hearing of applicants to the Public Vacancy Notice for the election of four members of the Judicial Council from among respectable lawyers.
- At the follow up of the meeting, held on 5 July, the

Committee conducted a hearing of applicants for the position of a member of the Judicial Council from among respectable lawyers, who were not able to attend the consultative hearing of 3 July 2018.

- At the 48th meeting of 5 July, the Committee decided to propose to the Parliament of Montenegro to elect the following as four members of the Judicial Council from among prominent lawyers: Nebojša Vučinić, Sreten Ivanović, Veselin Racković, Vesna Ratković.



- At the 26th meeting of the **Security and Defence Committee**, held on 18 July, the Committee was informed in detail about the findings of the subject Report, which addressed the issue of control over the implementation of the recommendations contained in the Final Report on the Audit of the Annual Financial Statement and Regularity of Operations of the Ministry of Interior of Montenegro for 2014, aimed at determining the adequacy, effectiveness and timeliness of the actions undertaken by the management of the audited entity in order to eliminate the identified shortcomings. Following the debate, the Committee unanimously accepted the Final Report of the State Audit Institution on the control audit of the Ministry of Interior.
- At the 27th meeting of 27 July, the Committee proposed to the Parliament to submit to the Government the opinion to appoint Veselin Veljović as Director of the Police Administration.



- At the 22nd meeting of the **Committee on European Integration**, held on 6 July, the newly-appointed Chief Negotiator for EU accession negotiations Aleksandar Drljević addressed members of the Committee for the first time. Chief Negotiator Drljević acquainted the Committee members with the reorganisation of the

Negotiation Team, where two acting assistants and two advisors of the Chief Negotiator were appointed. The Office for European Integration was formed and operated as part of the Cabinet of the Prime Minister, in order to increase the level of commitment and coordination of all participants in the negotiation process. Drljević emphasised that the additional efforts in the upcoming period shall be invested in the rule of law, as well as strengthening of administrative capacities, especially when it comes to realization of Environmental activities, through additional reforms, and pursuant to the guidelines of the European Commission. He expressed satisfaction over the established legislative and institutional framework, and added that certain results are expected in the upcoming period. Sharing the same view as the Committee members that the European Integration process does not depend solely on the achieved results, but also on the support provided by the EU member states and the state of affairs in the Union, Drljević referred to the important role of the Parliament and the Committee on European Integration, which may through parliamentary diplomacy significantly contribute to accelerating the final phase of the accession process.



- At the 23rd meeting of 6 July, the Committee members adopted the Eighth Semi-Annual Report on the overall activities within the integration process of Montenegro to the EU, covering the period July-December 2017, and the Sixteenth Quarterly Report on the overall activities within the integration process of Montenegro to the EU, covering the period October - December 2017. In addition, members considered the following: Report on the realisation of the accession Programme of Montenegro to the EU 2017 – 2018, for the year 2017; Sixth Semi-Annual Report on the implementation of the Action Plan for the negotiating chapter 23 - Judiciary and Fundamental Rights, covering the period July-December 2017, together with the Third Semi-Annual Report on the Implementation of the Operative document for prevention of corruption, and the Sixth Semi-Annual Report on the implementation of the Action Plan for the negotiating chapter 24 - Justice, Freedom and Security, covering the period July-December 2017. The Committee shall submit to the Parliament the Report with the conclusion to adopt the Eighth Semi-Annual Report on the overall activities within the integration process of Montenegro to the EU, covering the period July-December 2017, whereby Momčilo Martinović was designated as the rapporteur on behalf of the Committee during the plenary. The Committee shall

submit the Opinion on the Sixteenth Quarterly Report on the overall activities within the integration process of Montenegro to the EU to the Office for European Integration, operating as part of the Office of the Prime Minister of Montenegro.

- At the 24th meeting of 11 July, the Committee conducted a consultative hearing of representatives of competent authorities in terms of fulfilling the obligations within the EU accession process, particularly referring to the chapters 23 and 24. The participants discussed challenges involving the said chapters, implementation of the legislative and institutional framework, as well as liberalising and professionalising the media, and results of the Agency for the Prevention of Corruption and the level of security. By posing questions, members of the Committee on European Integration expressed interest about: cases involving violence against reporters, amending the legislation concerning the media, joint cooperation of the Montenegrin border police and the neighbouring countries, and a possibility of admitting migrants in Montenegro.



- At the 48th meeting of the **Committee on Economy, Finance and Budget**, held on 5 July, the Committee considered and voted in favour of the following: 2017 Performance Report of the Central Bank of Montenegro; 2017 Report on the Stability of Financial System; 2017 Performance Report of the Deposit Protection Fund; 2017 Performance Report of the Agency for Protection of Competition; 2017 Performance Report of the State Commission for the Control of Public Procurement Procedures; 2017 Status Report on the Insurance Market in Montenegro. In addition, the Committee was acquainted with 2017 Financial System Stability Report, 2017 Report on Price Stability, and Annual Financial Report of the Central Bank of Montenegro, with the opinion of independent external auditor for the 2017.
- At the 50th meeting of 27 July, the Committee decided to propose to the Parliament to appoint Milorad Jovović, Ruždija Tuzović, Nikola Milović and Zorica Kalezić as members of the Council of the Central Bank of Montenegro.
- At the 22nd meeting of the **Committee on Human Rights and Freedoms**, held on 25 July, the Committee supported the 2018 Report on the realisation of activities of the Committee on Human Rights and Freedoms, covering the period January-July 2018.

- At the 20th meeting of the **Gender Equality Committee**, held on 2 July, the Committee considered the Action Plan for the implementation of the Women's Entrepreneurship Strategy in Montenegro 2015-2020, for the year 2018; and the Report on the Realisation of the Strategy for the Development of Women's Entrepreneurship 2015-2020, for the year 2017.



- At the 21st meeting, held on 20 July, the Committee conducted a consultative hearing of Minister of Sustainable Development and Tourism Pavle Radulović, on the topic: Monitoring the implementation of the 2030 Sustainable Development Strategy in alignment with Target 5 of the 2015 Sustainable Development Strategy of the United Nations General Assembly.
- At the 42nd meeting of the **Administrative Committee**, held on 5 July, the Committee issued the following decisions: Decision on repealing the Decision on task complexity coefficient in the Service of the Parliament of Montenegro, Decision on task complexity coefficient in the Service of the Parliament of Montenegro, and the Decision on determining additional benefits to employees, aside from the salary, for specific duties performed within the Service of the Parliament of Montenegro. The Committee also determined Proposal for a Decision on Dismissal and Election of one member of the Committee on European Integration, whereby the proposal proscribed that MP Maja Bakrač be dismissed and Sanja Pavičević be elected as member of the Committee on European Integration; Proposal for a Decision on Dismissal and Election of one member of the Committee on Human Rights and Freedoms, whereby the proposal proscribed that MP Nada Drobnjak be dismissed and Momčilo Martinović be elected as member of the Committee on Human Rights and Freedoms; Proposal for a Decision on Dismissal and Election of one member of the Legislative Committee, whereby the proposal proscribed that MP Filip Vuković be dismissed and Momčilo Martinović be elected as member of the Legislative Committee. Given that the new Law on Civil Servants and State Employees contained important changes, inter alia with regards to certain jobs criteria to be met by the person to be employed, and that the deadline of sixty days had already started, which entailed that the Secretary General issue a new Rulebook on Organisation and Job Scheme of the Parliamentary Service, hence the Committee suggested to the Secretary General that the proposed amendments concerning the organisational part be included in the act, to be considered in the following

meetings of the committee. Since the implementation of the Law on Civil Servants and State Employees started on 1 July 2018, and the Article 158 of the Law proscribes that secondary legislation for the implementation of the law must be adopted by 1 July 2018, the Committee established a working group who shall be tasked to, jointly with the Committee staff, harmonise the previously adopted acts with the current law. The Working Group is to be composed of Marta Šćepanović, Ana Nikolić and Adrijan Vuksanović.

- At the 43rd meeting, held on 6 July, the Committee gave consent to the Rulebook on Amendments to the Rulebook on Organisation and Job Scheme of the Parliamentary Service, N^o00-63-14/18-84 of 18 June 2018.
- At the 44th meeting of 23 July, the Committee determined the Proposal for a Decision on election of one member of the Security and Defence Committee, Proposal for a Decision on the election of one member of the Committee on Economy, Finance and Budget, and Proposal for a Decision on the election of one member of the Committee on Health, Labour and Social Welfare, and thus decided to propose to the Parliament that Boris Mugoša be appointed member of the aforementioned committees.



- At the 41st meeting of 27 July, the Committee determined a Proposal for a Decision on the Election of members of the Management Board of the Fund for the protection and exercise of minority rights, and thusly decided to propose to the Parliament to elect the following as members of the Management Board of the Fund for the protection and exercise of minority rights: Ervin Duraković, representative of the Parliament of Montenegro; Arta Hoxha, representative of the Parliament of Montenegro; Mersad Latić, representative of the Parliament of Montenegro; Syle Rugova, representative of the Ministry for Human and Minority Rights; Senad Gačević, representative of the Council for Higher Education; Zvonimir Deković, representative of the Croatian National Council; Ana Popović, representative of the Roma Council; Đorđe Brujić, representative of the Serbian National Council; Sabrija Vulić, representative of the Council for Muslim People; Admir Adrović, representative of the Bosnian Council; Bujar Hasangjekaj, representative of the Albanian National Council; Igor Vučinić, representative of the Ministry for Culture; and Tamara Pešić, from among the independent experts dealing with human and minority rights.

NEWS FROM PARLIAMENT



President of the Parliament of Montenegro Ivan Brajović presented the 13th July awards

Jury designated for presenting the 13th July awards was composed of: Chair Rajko Todorović Todor, and members prof. Ilija Vujošević, PHD, prof. Igor Lakić, PHD, Miomir Vojinović, MA, and Doctor of Sciences Primarius



Doctor of Medicine Asim Dizdarević, have reached the decision on awarding the 13th July Lifetime Achievement Award to prof. Vukić Pulević, PHD. In addition the following also received the Award: Krsto Andrijašević, academic sculptor, for the exhibition "Face Mirror" and printing of the monograph "Krsto Andrijašević"; Aleksa Asanović, solo cellist, for achievements in the previous two years; and author prof. Adnan Čirgić, PhD, for books "Dialectology of the Montenegrin language" and "Montenegrin Oral Lament".

In his address, President of the Parliament of Montenegro Ivan Brajović pointed out that Montenegro has always been a

Delegation of the Parliament of Montenegro participated in the 27th OSCE PA session

President of the Parliament of Montenegro Ivan Brajović was the head of the parliamentary delegation at the



27th Annual Session of the OSCE Parliamentary Session in Berlin, and had several meetings on the occasion. The topic of this year's OSCE PA session is "Implementing OSCE Commitments: The Role of Parliaments". In addition to President Brajović, the delegation of the Parliament in Berlin consisted of MPs Aleksandra Vuković and Nikola Rakočević. At its 27th Annual Session, the Berlin Declaration was adopted after several days of discussion in general committees which have considered resolutions dealing with security, environmental protection and human rights. This year's

hot iron on the anvil of the past, forged under the strikes of the future. "As there is no stone that does not remember a sacrifice for the freedom in Montenegro, and we do have our stones, if nothing else, there is almost no date that could not serve as the statehood name day of Montenegro. But, like some people and their acts stand out, so does the 13th July stand prominent over other dates, as the personification of the Montenegrin fervency for freedom above all, and the state before everything else. Regardless of the circumstance, the very often accomplished fact Montenegro had been brought to, but also during good times and troubles, its path and form have always depended on the visions of its champions, both from the political and social life." "What can I say except – May their memory live for their reputation, honor and freedom of Montenegro, brought centuries back by the first decades and wars of the XX century and taken centuries forward by the first decades and wars of the XXI century, primarily thanks to individuals who did not renounce our identity, and then again carved the Montenegrin spirit, and taken them back to an irreplaceable course and the path of the restoration of independence and autonomy of Montenegro for all time sake."

Author prof. Adnan Čirgić, PhD, thanked the jury, on behalf of the winners, for this year's selection, emphasising that the award named after the brightest holiday in over a thousand years old Montenegrin history binds both the jury and the winners.

session of the OSCE PA was marked by a common assessment of the need for stronger political will to ensure full implementation of international obligations arising from the Helsinki Final Act and other OSCE documents. President of the Parliament of Montenegro Ivan Brajović met President of the Bundestag Wolfgang Schäuble. In a longer conversation, the interlocutors exchanged views on numerous issues of interest for the future of Montenegro and the European Union. They also spoke about strengthening of bilateral cooperation with emphasis on the role of parliaments in diplomatic and economic relations between Germany and Montenegro. Brajović used this opportunity to remind of the achievements of Montenegro since his first meeting with President Schäuble nine years ago, when both served as ministers of interior in their countries. The President of the Parliament emphasised that our country would continue to intensify reform processes after the completion of the election cycle, whose results have confirmed the citizens' commitment to the European path of Montenegro. During the continuation of OSCE PA session, the President of the Parliament also met OSCE Secretary General Thomas Greminger, Head of the UK Delegation to the OSCE PA Mark Pritchard, President of the Parliamentary group for the South Eastern Europe in the Bundestag Josip Juratović and other EU officials.

IN FOCUS



The Fifteenth meeting of the European Union - Montenegro Stabilisation and Association Parliamentary Committee (SAPC) was held

President of the Parliament of Montenegro Ivan Brajović and head of the EP delegation to the SAPC Peter Kouroumbashev presided over the Fifteenth meeting



of the European Union - Montenegro Stabilisation and Association Parliamentary Committee (SAPC), which took place on 16 and 17 July. The First day, the SAPC members exchanged their views on the state of accession negotiations and the EU - Montenegro relations. In his introductory address, President of the Parliament of Montenegro Ivan Brajović said that the Fifteenth SAPC meeting was an opportunity for members of the Parliament of Montenegro to jointly consider once more, in an ordinary dialogue with their counterparts from the European Parliament, the progress which our country had been achieving and exchange views on key developments in Montenegro, the region and the EU.

President Brajović referred to the fact that Montenegro was a candidate which had achieved the most progress and advanced the most in its negotiation process, as well as that on several occasions it had been demonstrated that Montenegro, with its positions and concrete steps, its commitment to good neighbourly politics and active participation in regional cooperation, fostered European values and that it was the most agile promoter of those values in the Western Balkans.

The SAPC meeting co-chair Peter Kouroumbashev, among other things, voiced satisfaction with Montenegro's great commitment in the European integration process and added that Montenegro, as a frontrunner in the negotiation process, had special responsibility of being an example to others, and its membership could bring about a spillover effect on the entire region.

The chief negotiator of Montenegro with the European Union Aleksandar Drljević said that the Montenegrin administration approached all its commitments in implementing reforms from the European agenda with

dedication, guided by the quality of reforms rather than their speed, with the expectation that progress would be evaluated based on the results.

Austrian Ambassador to Montenegro Anna Janković addressed the SAPC members, pointing out that the enlargement and the Western Balkans would remain high on the agenda during Austrian presidency in the coming months.

„I think that enlargement is one of the most successful Union policies that needs to be strongly promoted, primarily in the member states. I firmly believe that the membership and economic development of the Western Balkans are an investment in the long-term stability and security of the European region.“

President of the Parliament of Montenegro
Ivan Brajović

On behalf of the European Commission, the EU Ambassador Aivo Orav pointed out that the Parliament, in its full composition, should engage in ensuring steady progress in all areas covered by the accession process.

In the continuation of the meeting, they also discussed the role of the Parliament in strengthening democratic processes and electoral reform, the rule of law, judicial reform and the fight against corruption, as well as fundamental rights and freedoms, with focus on free and professional work of the media and protection of private property.

The second day, a discussion was lead on the topics of good neighbourly relations and regional cooperation and economic development as well.

The Fifteenth SAPC meeting was held in extended composition with the presence of representatives of the Constitutional Committee of the Parliament of Montenegro and European Parliament's Committee on Constitutional Affairs. This year's SAPC meeting, which discussed various aspects of EU-Montenegro relations, as well as the implementation of the Stabilisation and Association Agreement, was concluded with the adoption of the Declaration and Recommendations.

Upon termination of the Meeting, President of the Parliament of Montenegro Ivan Brajović and Head of the EP Delegation to the SAPC Peter Kouroumbashev delivered press statements.

FROM THE HISTORY OF MONTENEGRIN PARLIAMENTARISM



EXCERPT FROM THE PROPOSAL FOR THE RULES OF PROCEDURE OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF THE REPUBLIC OF MONTENEGRO - COMMITTEES AND COMMISSIONS IN THE PARLIAMENT ¹

PROPOSAL FOR THE RULES OF PROCEDURE OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF THE REPUBLIC OF MONTENEGRO Second Joint Sitting of 25-26 February 1954

Article 88

The National Assembly established the following committees and commissions: Administrative Committee; Electoral Committee; Commission for interpretation of law; Commission in charge of People's Committees.

Article 89

During joint sittings of chambers, the Assembly, may establish other standing or temporary committees and commissions for inquiries and preparation of acts falling under the competence of the joint sitting of chambers or under the competence of both chambers.

Article 90

Administrative Committee shall submit to the Parliament the Report on the execution of Budget of the Assembly, and is responsible for implementation of rules on granting awards, allowances and salaries to MPs of the Assembly and provides consent to the Rulebook on the management of Administration and its Employees. The Administrative Committee is composed of five members.

Article 91

The Electoral Committee is responsible for deliberating on proposals for the election and dismissal of judges of the Supreme Court, examines if there are any legal grounds for the

election and dismissal and submits a report to the Parliament on the matter. The Committee is composed of five members.

Article 92

Commission for interpretation of law provides compulsory interpretation of laws of the Republic. A proposal for interpretation of a law may be submitted by: every MP, committee, executive council and the Supreme Court. The Commission submits to competent chambers compulsory interpretation for additional approval. The Commission for the interpretation of law shall perform its duty even upon termination of office of the previous Parliament until the election of a new commission. The Commission for interpretation of law is composed of nine members.

Article 93

Commission in charge of People's Committees handles disputes between the county council, respectively the city council and the Council of Producers of People's Committee of the County, respectively the city. The Commission in charge of People's Committees examines complaints submitted by People's committees for the purpose of protection of their self-governing right in the event of dealing with acts issued by the Executive Council, and also considers other issues pertaining to the organisation and work of the people's committees, falling under the competence of the Assembly, and submits to the chambers, respectively the Assembly a proposal for their dismissal. The Commission in charge of People's Committees is composed of seven members.

Article 96

An MP is entitled for election as member of the committee or commission of the Assembly. A member of the Executive Council may not perform the duty of member of the committee or the commission of the Assembly. Members of the Executive Council may participate in deliberations of meetings of committees and commissions, with no decision-making rights.

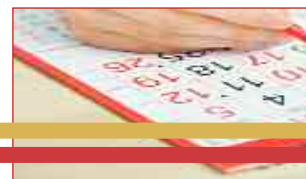
¹ Stenografske bilješke Narodne Skupštine narodne Republike Crne Gore, sveska I, Titograd 1954. godine, str. 36 – 42.

PARLIAMENTARY GLOSSARY

Parliamentary Committee. "The system of Parliamentary Committees exists to a large extent in parliaments nowadays. For reasons of rationality and ensuring a thorough approach to dealing with the issues from the scope of the competences of parliaments, smaller groups of MPs with clearly defined competencies and tasks are formed in parliaments to review specific proposals of laws and other topics of public interest, to decide on them and submit a report on that to the parliament. A Parliamentary Committee in Montenegro is a working body of the Parliament with the competence of reviewing proposals of acts, proposing acts and carrying out parliamentary control. They can also be established for performing other tasks assigned by the Parliament. Committees may be permanent or temporary. A Committee has a president and a specific number of members. As a rule, the composition of a committee corresponds to the representation of parties in the Parliament. The number of committee members is defined on the occasion of their establishment. An MP can be a member of not more than three permanent committees."¹

¹ Doc. dr Komar, Olivera, Prof. dr Ivana Jelić, Nataša Komnenić, Irena Mijanović, Jelena Radonjić, Vlatko Šćepanović, Parlamentarni leksikon, Podgorica, Skupština Crne Gore 2016, p. 256.

CALENDAR



2 July

- President of the Parliament of Montenegro Ivan Brajović met the Hungarian Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade Péter Szijjártó. Szijjártó expressed satisfaction with the intensity of the political dialogue, which confirmed the excellent bilateral relations between the two countries. Further strengthening of parliamentary cooperation is also going to be contributed by the planned visit of the Speaker of the National Assembly of Hungary László Kövér to Montenegro, which will be realised by the end of this year. The President of the Parliament expressed his belief that the support of Hungary to the European path of Montenegro will be as strong as it has been for NATO membership, as well as the gratitude for the personal engagement of the Minister Szijjártó. The work of the Parliament of Montenegro following the presidential and local elections has also been discussed at the meeting, as well as the continuation of the reform process aimed at the economic and institutional strengthening of the state and society as a whole.
- President of the Parliament of Montenegro Ivan Brajović met with the Ambassador of the Arab Republic of Egypt to Montenegro Abderahman Salaheldin whom, on the occasion of ending his diplomatic mission in Montenegro, he thanked for his personal contribution to



improving relations between the two countries. President Brajović expressed hope that the relations between Montenegro and Egypt would continue to strengthen, based on the foundations of traditional friendship, both at the parliamentary level, and through the intensification of political dialogue and cooperation in the fields of trade, culture, especially tourism. The interlocutors expressed satisfaction with the progress of the Luštica Bay project of the Egyptian and Swiss consortium Orascom, and concluded that such projects contributed to the development of the economy of the whole country and could serve as an example to other foreign investors wanting to invest in Montenegro.

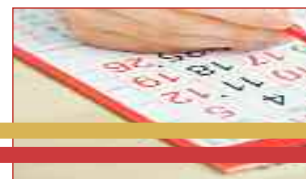
4 July

- President of the Parliament held a lecture to attendees of the University of Donja Gorica Camp for Talents, in Grand Hotel, Cetinje. The attendees of this year's Camp for Talents were 33 primary school students of final grades from Montenegro, who have been selected on the basis on the essay they sent on the topic "How do I learn from my mistakes?", and as the best attendees of the two previous Camp for Talents. Thirteen students from China, from Xinhua Sichuan University, were participating in the Camp, which is a tradition in cooperation of the two universities.

6 July

- President of the Parliament of Montenegro Ivan Brajović met with the Head of the United Nations Democracy Fund (UNDEF) Hannah McGlue and coordinator of the MANS parliamentary programme Danilo Kalezić on the project of this NGO "Improving parliamentary oversight and accountability in Montenegro", funded by UNDEF. This is the first project by this international organisation in Montenegro. President Brajović underlined the importance of constructive cooperation of the Parliament with NGOs with the aim of further strengthening institutions in the country. The interlocutors agreed on the importance of continuous cooperation with NGOs in Montenegro through various forms, including the project that will be implemented by MANS in the future. In general, the goal of the project is to contribute to strengthening the role of the Parliament of Montenegro in the development of democracy and establishing the principles of good governance, with a focus on greater citizen engagement in parliamentary processes.
- President of the Parliament of Montenegro hosted the leaving Hungarian Ambassador Krisztián Pósa. Montenegro and Hungary have excellent political relations, as confirmed by frequent high-level meetings - it was concluded during the farewell visit. President of the Parliament thanked the Hungarian Ambassador for his excellent cooperation, as well as for his genuine and committed contribution to further improvement of the overall relations. The interlocutors noted that the two countries had good economic cooperation, but also that there was significant room for further strengthening and deepening of ties in many areas. Voicing his great satisfaction that, within the duration of his mandate, Montenegro had become a NATO member and thus

CALENDAR



fulfilled one of its foreign policy goals, Ambassador Pósa pointed out that Hungary would continue to strongly support Montenegro's European integration process in the upcoming period.

8 July

- President of the Parliament of Montenegro Ivan Brajović headed a parliamentary delegation at the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly's 27th Annual Session, which took place in Berlin where several meetings were organised. The theme of this year's Annual session was "Implementing OSCE Commitments: The Role of Parliaments".



9 July

- Within the parliamentary dimension of Austrian Presidency over the European Union, a meeting of chairpersons of COSAC took place in Vienna. The following members of the Committee on European Integration participated in the meeting: Chair of the Committee Adrijan Vuksanović and member of the Committee Marija Čatović. The first session was dedicated to the priority of Austrian presidency over the Council of the EU. Within the discussion, Chair of the Committee Adrijan Vuksanović addressed the participants, also thanking Austria for making the European perspective of the region, one of the priorities of the presidency. Vuksanović informed them with Montenegro's progress in the negotiation process, while emphasising the commitment of the entire society in the reform process, especially the rule of law, as well as readiness to commence negotiations on chapter 27-Environment and climate change. Within the second session, member of the Committee Marija Čatović addressed the parliamentarians on the topic "Future and perspectives of the European Union", emphasising that one of the most important tasks ahead of the European union was adopting the

Multiannual Financial Framework post 2020. Čatović emphasized that Montenegro invested its greatest efforts in political and economic reforms, and expressed expectation that the next Financial perspective would be the period during which Montenegro joins the EU. During the discussion, European parliamentarians expressed various views regarding the migrant crisis, relationship between the European Parliament and national parliaments and Brexit. A great number of MPs voiced their unconditional support to the Western Balkans countries within the EU accession process.

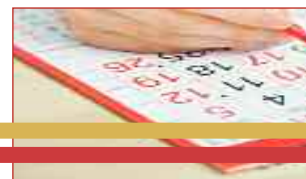
- Vice-President of the Parliament of Montenegro and Chair of the Friendship Group with the National Assembly of the Republic of Serbia Branimir Gvozdenović and the Ambassador of Montenegro to the Republic of Serbia Branislav Mićunović met with Chair of the Friendship Group with Montenegro in the Serbian Parliament Igor Bečić and with several members of the Friendship Group. During the meeting, they exchanged information involving domestic and international activities of both parliaments, especially the European integration process, as a priority of both legislative chambers.

10 July

- At the invitation of President of the Israel's Parliament Yuli-Yoel Edelstein, MPs of the Parliament of Montenegro Miodrag Radunović and Andrija Popović participated in the Conference with presidents of Friendship Groups organised on the occasion of marking the 70th anniversary of Israel. The Conference took place in the Parliament, whereby the MPs actively participated in a panel, on the topic of improving the position of Israel in the interparliamentary surroundings. In addition, during the same event, simultaneous round tables were organised. MP Miodrag Radunović participated in a



CALENDAR



round table on the topic "Public Health and Fight against smoking". MP Andrija Popović actively participated in round tables organised on the topics "Multiculturalism of society" and "Environment and Sustainable Development". MP Popović exchanged views with members of other parliaments on the topic of multiculturalism, as follows: Parliament of Albania, Georgia, Lithuania, France, Canada, Macedonia and Portugal.

- Member of the Standing Delegation to the NATO Parliamentary Assembly Obrad Mišo Stanišić participated in the work of a Conference of the NATO PA, prior to the Brussels Summit. The Conference gathered parliamentarians of NATO member states in order to enable the participants to discuss with high officials of governments of NATO member states as well as NATO officials about current issues involving the security, in accordance with the envisaged Agenda of the NATO Summit of 11 July 2018.
- Members of the Committee on Human Rights and Freedoms of the Montenegrin Parliament visited the Day care centre for children with disabilities and persons with disabilities in Nikšić - Sector B. Upon the invitation, the following took part in the visit: Protector of Human Rights and Freedoms and his Deputy, representatives of the Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare, Ministry of Human and Minority Rights, Ministry of Health, UNICEF and NGO Federation of Associations of Parents of Children and Youth with Developmental Disabilities "Our Initiative". Chair of the Committee on Human Rights and Freedoms Halil Duković emphasised that the composition variety in the Delegation paying a visit to Nikšić, at the invitation of the Committee, was a confirmation of quality relations of the Committee with the competent state authorities, international organisations and the NGO sector.
- Chair of the Committee on Economy, Finance and Budget Predrag Sekulić, member of the Committee on Economy, Finance and Budget Filip Vuković, and MP Janko Vučinić took part in the conference on "EU Fund Management: EP Budget Control Authorities", hosted by the European Parliament on 11 and 12 July 2018 in Brussels, Belgium. Apart from the delegations of the national parliaments of the enlargement countries, the conference was attended by MEPs, as well as members of the EU member

states - the neighbouring countries of the Western Balkans and Turkey. MEPs stressed that the conference was an opportunity for members of the national parliaments to present their role in controlling the spending of EU funds so that they can apply the best practices of the European Parliament in this area, in their respective parliaments.



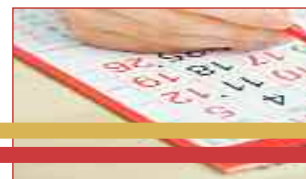
12 July

- President of the Parliament of Montenegro Ivan Brajović presented the 13th July awards. In his address, President of the Parliament of Montenegro Ivan Brajović pointed out that Montenegro has always been a hot iron on the anvil of the past, forged under the strikes of the future. He added that the votaries of 13th July, as well as the winners of the 13th July Award, left a profound and indelible mark in the past and present, as our rivers left behind deep and ineradicable cliffs, not in geographical sense, but for the good name of Montenegro.

13 July

- Delegation of the Parliament of Montenegro participated in the Parliamentary Conference on "Trade Facilitation and Investments in the Western Balkans" that took place in Belgrade on 12 and 13 July 2018. The conference was attended by Vice President of the Parliament Branimir Gvozdenović, MP Momčilo Martinović, and MP and member of the Committee on Economy, Finance and Budget Ana Nikolić. At the opening of the discussion, the participants were addressed by Vice-President Branimir Gvozdenović, who inter alia emphasised that 98% of world trade is conducted between members of the World Trade Organisation and that membership in this organisation was a crucial step of integration in international economic relations. At the end of the Conference, the hosts expressed interest in holding the next similar conference in

CALENDAR



Montenegro.

16 July

- President of the Parliament of Montenegro Ivan Brajović met with members of the European Parliament prior to the Fifteenth meeting of the European Union - Montenegro Stabilisation and Association Parliamentary Committee (SAPC). Brajović emphasised the importance of intensive dialogue and continuous exchange of views with the aim of better understanding and strengthening of partnership relations. Co-Chair of the SAPC meeting Peter Kouroumbashev, who is also heading the EP delegation, stressed the fact that a long path has been crossed and noted remarkable progress during the past year. Montenegrin and European parliamentarians noted the importance of enlargement policy and focus on the Western Balkans by presiding and other members of the EU. The meeting was attended by chairs of Montenegrin Constitutional Committee and the Committee on European integration - Miodrag Vuković and Adrijan Vuksanović, as well as Chief Negotiator for Montenegro's Accession to the EU Aleksandar Drljević.
- President of the Parliament of Montenegro Ivan Brajović met with the Governor of the State of Maine Paul LePage, who paid the first official visit to Montenegro. Expressing his gratitude for the sincere help of the US in respect of Montenegro's



membership in NATO, President Brajović stressed the importance of the strategic partnership with the State of Maine, being continually developed at all levels. Governour LePage emphasised the strong commitment towards further strengthening of cooperation within NATO, as well as the support to the Army of Montenegro in implementing partnership goals. The interlocutors expressed the

readiness of Montenegro and the US to use the numerous potentials for developing cooperation in different fields of mutual concern, and particularly in the field of economy and culture.

- President of the Parliament of Montenegro Ivan Brajović and Head of the EP delegation to the SAPC Peter Kouroumbashev presided over the Fifteenth meeting of the European Union - Montenegro Stabilisation and Association Parliamentary Committee (SAPC). The First day, the SAPC members exchanged their views on the state of accession negotiations and the EU - Montenegro relations. At the ending of the second day, a Declaration was adopted.

17 July

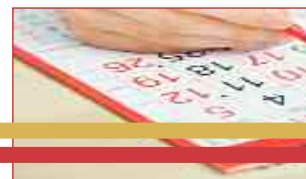
- The Constitutional Committee of the Parliament of Montenegro held a joint meeting with members of the Constitutional Committee of the European Parliament György Schöpflin and Cristian Dan Preda. They exchanged views on the current issues of functioning of the constitutionally regulated countries such as Montenegro, and comparative experiences of the EU member states. Chair of the Constitutional Committee of the Parliament of Montenegro Miodrag Miško Vuković informed the guests about the processes of



constitutional foundation, the processes lasting for the past 12 years of the new, renewed and independent state of Montenegro, about its constitutional structure based on the universal values of civic sovereignty, a society with full human and civil rights and freedoms, full inter-ethnic and inter-religious tolerance, a system of division of powers, responsibility and lawful treatment. The guests voiced their full interest regarding the constitutional reality of Montenegro and offered their political and expert support to their counterparts from the Montenegrin Parliament.

- Chair of the Committee on Economy, Finance and Budget Predrag Sekulić took part in the high level

CALENDAR



regional meeting on the development of international tax cooperation: Fight against tax evasion, held in Tbilisi, Georgia, on 17 and 18 July. The two-day meeting gathered representatives of: ministries of finance; tax administrations, parliaments and parliamentary committees dealing with tax issues and central banks from European countries and Central Asia, as well as several OECD representatives dealing with tax issues. The participants discussed the issues relating to: increasing tax collection through strengthening measures and activities related to reducing tax frauds and tax evasion; challenges in the digitisation of the economy and supervision of the competent tax authorities; creation of international standards in this area, as well as the Exchange of Information on Request (EOIR) and automatic exchange of information on the financial account (AEOI) in accordance with the established rules; further strengthening of transparency and the like.

19 July

- President of the Parliament Brajović opened the regional conference “All for one one for all”, organised by the Alfa Centre and dedicated to NATO membership issues of the Western Balkans countries. The Conference was also attended by MP Obrad Mišo Stanišić, who delivered a speech on the topic: “Role of Parliaments in the



Integration Process”. Stanišić stressed that the Montenegrin Parliament made an exceptional contribution to the recognition of our country in the Balkans as a stability factor and as an example of good regional neighbourly relations. MPs Aleksandar Damjanović and Dritan Abazović also participated in the debate.

20 July

- President of the Parliament Ivan Brajović received in a farewell visit the U.S. Ambassador Margaret Ann

Uyehara, at the end of her diplomatic mission. President Brajović informed the Ambassador proudly of the results achieved during her time of office, and expressed gratitude for the contribution made in the development of our country as well as in

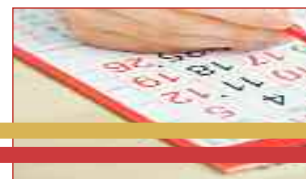


fostering the relations with the United States of America. President Brajović and Ambassador Uyehara agreed that an intensive dialogue and joint efforts led to significant results in numerous areas and to further development of relations between Montenegro and the U.S. The same day, President of the Parliament hosted Bulgarian Ambassador Mladen Chervenjakov, at the end of his diplomatic mission in Montenegro. Noting that the two countries have traditionally friendly relations, Brajović thanked the Ambassador Chervenjakov on his personal endeavours for strengthening the overall relations of the two countries.

24 July

- President of the Parliament of Montenegro Ivan Brajović met with the members of the Friendship Group of Poland with Montenegro, headed by Chair Gżegoż Matusjak. President Brajović expressed gratitude for the strong support Poland had provided to the Western Balkans within the integration process to European and Euro-Atlantic structures, as well as for referring to Montenegro as the leading country in the region within the EU accession process. The interlocutors also discussed the strengthening of relations, especially in the area of tourism and energetics, as strategic branches of development of Montenegro.
- President Brajović met with Prime Minister of Hungary Viktor Orban. President Brajović expressed readiness of the Parliament to, within its area of competence, intensify the cooperation between both countries, and thanked Hungary for the strong and

CALENDAR



open support provided to Montenegro on its European and Euro-Atlantic path. Following several decades of parliamentary experience, the Prime Minister of Hungary emphasised the importance of cooperation of both legislative chambers, and also expressed readiness to strengthen economic cooperation with Montenegro, in areas and projects of top priority to our countries. The interlocutors agreed that this visit would additionally strengthen political relations of the countries with a positive historical perspective, and would be encouraging for the strengthening of economic cooperation in the interest of the citizens of both Montenegro and Hungary.

25 July

- President of the Parliament of Montenegro Ivan Brajović met with the President of the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe Gudrun Mosler-Törnström. The interlocutors noted that the efficient functioning of the local self-



government created the basis for a good managing system in every state, whereas inter-governmental cooperation at the local level contributes to the strengthening of democratic values. The interlocutors exchanged views on the territorial organisation in Montenegro, as well as the functioning of public administration and local self-governments. The meeting was also attended by Head of Delegation of the Parliament of Montenegro to the PACE Predrag Sekulić and Andreas Kiefer, Secretary General of the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe.

- Members of the Committee on Tourism, Agriculture, Ecology and Spatial Planning met with members of the Polish Friendship Group with Montenegro. The interlocutors jointly noted that the first official visit of the Poland - Montenegro parliamentary Friendship Group to the Parliament of Montenegro opened a new page in relations of the two friendly countries and that

good foundations for strengthening cooperation in many areas had been established, both for Montenegro and Poland. During the meeting, a contact person was appointed to implement the twinning of cities procedure, it was agreed that the Polish side would consider the possibility of offering to Montenegro its expert assistance for developing of the rural areas, a return visit was agreed upon, which, in addition to the



delegation of the Parliament of Montenegro, would include representatives of companies in order to establish cooperation.

26 July

- President Brajović met with the Prime Minister of Romania Viorica Dăncilă, who paid an official visit to Montenegro. President Brajović acknowledged that the first visit of this level was a strong confirmation of friendship between both countries, which were this year also marking a significant jubileum-140 years since the Berlin Congress. During the conversation, they jointly concluded that a more intensive parliamentary cooperation, both at the level of friendship groups and working bodies, as well as the partnership relations within NATO, were an incentive to strengthening the overall relations, which shall ultimately result in stronger economic cooperation, especially in the area of tourism and energetics.

27 July

- Chair of the Gender Equality Committee Nada Drobnjak met the Head of the Democratisation Programme in the OSCE Mission Lia Magnaguagno. Readiness was expressed to continue a successful cooperation, especially when it comes to implementation of the Plan of Activities for a gender-responsive Parliament of Montenegro, and monitoring the implementation of the Law on Gender Equality, within the oversight function of the Parliament, as well as participation of women in the political and public life.