



Parliament of Montenegro

NEWSLETTER OPEN PARLIAMENT

Newsletter on the Parliament of Montenegro Performance ♦ No. 85 ♦ August and September 2018

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OPEN PARLIAMENT



Parliament of Montenegro

Newsletter on the Parliament of Montenegro Performance ♦ Electronic format ♦ Release: monthly ♦ Year VIII ♦ No. 85 ♦ August and September 2018

FOREWORD

Dear readers,

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

During September, the Sitting of the Third Extraordinary Session of the Parliament of Montenegro in 2018 took place, during which MPs adopted the Law on Amendments to the Law on Spatial Planning and Construction of Structures.

Committees considered 7 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 MPs' attendance to the conference, entitled: "Bridging the gap between the youth policy, youth participation and the parliamentarians in the Western Balkans countries".

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 meeting of the Sitting of the Third Extraordinary Session, MPs adopted the Law on Amendments to the Law on Spatial Planning and Construction of Structures.

Proposals for law deliberated in committees

- **Proposal for a Law on Amendments to the Law on Accounting** 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 Spatial Planning and Construction of Structures** 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 Law on Maintenance of Residential Buildings** was considered and proposed to the Parliament for adoption by the Legislative Committee.
- **Proposal for a Law on Ratification of the Doha Amendment to the Kyoto Protocol together with the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change** 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 Water** was considered and proposed to the Parliament for adoption by the Legislative Committee.
- **Proposal for a Law on Ratification of the Council of Europe Convention on Cinematographic Co-production (revised)** was considered and proposed to

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the Parliament for adoption by the Legislative Committee and the Committee on International Relations and Emigrants.

- **Proposal for a Law on Public Internal Financial Control System** was considered and proposed to the Parliament for adoption by the Committee on Economy, Finance and Budget.

Proposals for other acts deliberated in committees

- **Proposal for a Decision on adopting the Special Purpose Spatial Plan for the National Park "Skadarsko jezero"** 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

- At the 41st meeting of the **Committee on International Relations and Emigrants**, which took place on 17 September, members of the Committee unanimously supported the Report of the work and situation in the administrative areas within the remit of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs for 2017. The Minister of Foreign Affairs Srđan Darmanović also attended the meeting, accompanied by his associates. During his address to the attendees of the meeting, Darmanović stated that the previous year was marked by Montenegro's membership to NATO, a successful EU integration path, as well as strengthened neighbourly relations, which were ultimately three key pillars of the Montenegrin foreign policy. Referring to the Performance report of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Chair of the Committee on International Relations and Emigrants Andrija Nikolić emphasised that the overall progress of Montenegro was most visible in the foreign politics, and that he was pleased that Montenegro's membership to NATO had been realised within the reporting period. In addition, the Committee considered the Report on the audit of operations regularity of the Embassy of Montenegro in the Republic of Austria, Greece and Croatia and the Permanent Mission of Montenegro to the UN, OSCE and other international organisations in Vienna, for 2017.



- At the 51st meeting of the **Committee on Economy,**

Finance and Budget, held on 13 September, members of the Committee considered and supported: Performance Report, Financial Report with the Independent Auditor's Reports on Financial Statements of the Capital Market Commission and 2017 Status Report on Capital Market of Montenegro; Report on the implementation of the Action plan for implementing 2014-2020 Regional Development Strategy, for 2017, and Status Report on the Energy Sector of Montenegro in 2017.



- At the 52nd meeting, held on 28 September, the Committee considered and determined Draft Proposal of the Budget of the Agency for the Prevention of Corruption for the year 2019.
- At the 45th meeting of the **Administrative Committee**, held on 6 September, the Committee initiated the procedure for the appointment of the President of the State Electoral Commission.
- At the 46th meeting, held on 24 September, the Committee initiated the procedure for the appointment of Municipal Electoral Commission in Tuzi. In addition, the Committee initiated the procedure for the election of seven members of the Commission for the Evaluation of projects submitted to the public competition for allocating funds for supporting activities significant for preservation and development of national and/or ethnical particularities of minority nations and other minority national communities and their members in the field of national, cultural, linguistic and religious identity, in line with the Law on Minority Rights and Freedoms.



NEWS FROM PARLIAMENT



Chairs of three parliamentary committees participated in the 28th Economic Forum in Krynica

Chairs of three parliamentary committees participated in the 28th Economic Forum in



Krynica-Zdrój, which gathered participants from 60 countries. The participants exchanged views about the European perspective of the Western Balkans, the current challenges faced by the EU, as well as about the

MP Mihailo Anđušić participated in an International Conference “The managing bodies of the European Union for Democracy”

MP Mihailo Anđušić participated in an International Conference “The managing bodies of the European Union for Democracy”, organised on the occasion



of marking the International Day of Democracy by Democracy Support and Election Coordination Group, in cooperation with the European Commission and NGOs dealing with Human Rights in Brussels. The opening speech was given by High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy Federica Mogherini, followed by *inter alia* EU Special Representative for Human Rights Stavros Lambrinidis, former vice-president of the European Parliament Edward McMillan-Scott, Members of the European Parliament, as well as international experts, EU policymakers and members of academia. Participants

effects of tourism on the countries’ industry and economy. Chair of the Committee on International Relations and Emigrants Andrija Nikolić addressed the participants within a panel debate, on the topic: “Schengen Area in Face of Migrant Crisis – the End of Europe Without Borders?”. Within the margins of the Economic Forum, Nikolić had several informal meetings, *inter alia* with the Chair of the Committee on Foreign Affairs policy of the Croatian Parliament Miro Kovač, and Chair of the Committee on European Affairs of the Polish Parliament Izabela Kloc. Chair of the Committee on European Integration addressed the participants on the topic: “The Balkan countries in the EU. Is it still possible?”. In addition, Chair of the Committee on Economy, Finance and Budget Predrag Sekulić participated in the panel debate titled “The ABC of Tourism - To Present, To Promote, To Partake”.

of the Conference especially considered the challenges faced by Democracy, while particularly referring to democratic governments, and the difficulties they encounter in safeguarding democratic capacities, and that it is important that they observe the set democratic principles and values. In this context, they conveyed a clear message stating that preconditions to democracy and democratic processes were strengthening the rule of law and institutions, primarily the Parliament and the independent judiciary, as well as provision of assistance to most vulnerable categories in the society, the freedom of speech and the media, and unhindered work of civic society organisations. Bearing in mind the changes that have arisen in the geopolitical scene, growing populism and isolationism, they particularly emphasised that the European Union and its institutions were determined to place human rights and strengthening of democracy as top priorities on their agenda at all levels, within the EU and beyond. The participants discussed in separate panels innovative practices for the promotion of democracy, as well as models for a greater inclusion of citizens in political processes, the role of technology and the effects of social media on democratic processes, as well as strengthening democracy through female leadership and a more active engagement.

PARLIAMENTARY GLOSSARY

Inauguration is a ceremony in which the elected official or body formally becomes a part in the service or takes the office. In Montenegro, inauguration is envisaged for the taking of office of the President of Montenegro.

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. 223

IN FOCUS



The MPs participated in the Conference “Bridging the gap between the youth policy, youth participation and the parliamentarians in the Western Balkans countries”

Delegation of the Parliament of Montenegro composed of Momčilo Martinović, Bogdan Fatić and Danijel Živković participated in the Conference “Bridging the gap between the youth policy, youth participation and the parliamentarians in the Western Balkans countries”, organised by the European Commission and European Parliament, in Skopje.



The opening speech was given by Talat Khaferi, followed by an introductory session “Bridging the gap between the youth and politics”. Parallel panel discussions ensued, on the topics: Youth participation in Politics, Youth Employment, Entrepreneurship, and Human Capital Flight, Fake News, and Reconciliation and Legacies of the Past.

MP Momčilo Martinović spoke as a panellist on “Youth participation in politics”, which included Fabio Massimo Castaldo, Vice President of the European Parliament, as one of the speakers. In his remarks, Martinović made an overview of the experience and good practices from Montenegro. He acquainted the participants with the quality of Montenegrin legislative framework in the area, Law on the Youth, the youth national strategy and local youth strategies together with the Plan of activities. He referred to the fact that the youth in the Western Balkans often perceived politics as a negative phenomenon, and therefore urged that awareness be raised on the matter, depicting and affirming politics as a positive phenomenon. He emphasised that in the last few years, the youth started showing greater interest in politics, which is supported by the fact that the number of youth representatives in electoral lists, both at the parliamentary and local level, has grown. This is also confirmed by the data showing the number of young MPs in the Parliament of Montenegro, following the parliamentary elections held in 2012 and 2016. MP Martinović holds the view that children should be educated on democracy and the political processes from an early age during elementary school, while mentioning the positive example of our Parliament,

Democracy workshops “Barbara Pramer”, a project implemented by the Montenegrin Parliament. He concluded that programmes of this sort help children and the youth gain clearer understanding of politics, and thus contribute to a greater interest in political participation.

MPs Danijel Živković and Bogdan Fatić actively participated in discussions, dedicated to the following topics: Youth Employment, Entrepreneurship, and Human Capital Flight, and Reconciliation and Legacies of the Past.

The second day of the high level Conference, there was a panel discussion on the topic: “Promoting political dialogue and consensus”.

During the panel discussion, the participants particularly referred to Jean Monnet Dialogue, an EU instrument available to Macedonia, which enables mediation and informal political dialogue among representatives of different parties in Sobranie. The said instrument is also very important to Macedonia, given that it provides assistance to this country on its EU membership path.

At the follow-up of the Conference, rapporteurs in the following four panel discussions presented the key



conclusions and proposals of future activities in the relevant areas: Youth participation in Politics, Youth Employment, Entrepreneurship, and Human Capital Flight, fake news, and Reconciliation and Legacies of the Past.

At the end of the Conference, a Declaration was adopted, through which the young parliamentarians and representatives of youth organisations expressed willingness to initiate specific activities aimed at promoting political participation of youth and implementation of youth policies.

During the visit to Skopje, Delegation of the Parliament met with the Ambassador of Montenegro to the Republic of Macedonia Predrag Mitrović and his associates.

FROM THE HISTORY OF MONTENEGRIN PARLIAMENTARISM



**Law on the Personal Name – excerpts from the law
("Official Gazette of the Republic of Montenegro", No 020/93 as
of 17 June 1993, 027/94 as of 29 July 1994)**

GENERAL PROVISIONS

Article 1

A citizen is entitled to as well as required to choose a personal name. A citizen is required to use his/her personal name.

Article 2

A personal name is acquired through the means of registration in the registry of births.

A personal name shall be written in the language in official use. Representatives of national and ethnic groups may sign their name in their language.

Article 3

A personal name shall consist of first name and surname.

A name and surname may consist of several words.

A citizen shall be obliged to, while conducting legal affairs, always use the name he/she has chosen, and that is available in the registry of births.

Article 4

A citizen is entitled to change his/her personal name, respectively his/her name or surname, in manners, procedures and conditions proscribed by law.

II CHOOSING OF PERSONAL NAMES

Article 5

A child's name shall be chosen by his/her parents consensually.

A child shall be given the surname of one or both parents.

A child's personal name shall be chosen within the time-period of two months from the day he/she was born.

In the event parents of a child have not reached an agreement on how to name their child, the name shall be designated by the responsible guardianship authority, in accordance with the paragraph 2 of the Article.

Article 7

Children may not be given pejorative names, names derogatory to their moral or that are in contradiction with the population's customs and beliefs. In the event a child is given a pejorative name as mentioned in paragraph 1 of this Article, a responsible authority shall be obliged to, within the time-period of three days from the day of submission of request for the registry of a personal name, choose a different personal name.

III CHANGING A PERSONAL NAME

Article 8

A minor's name may be changed by the means of a consensual request by both parents or adopting parents, while at the request of a guardian, with a prior consent of the responsible guardianship authority.

In the event one of the parents of a minor has ceased to exist or is unknown, or that has not the means to perform his/her parental

duty, the other available parent may change the minor's name. In the event parents have not reached an agreement to choose a different name for the child, the decision shall be made by the responsible guardianship authority, upon hearing both parents.

Article 9

A competent authority shall not approve of a different personal name, in case the relevant person is under criminal investigation initiated ex officio, or has been convicted of a crime, up until the sentence has been served or the judgement is obsolete, or until the sentence is no longer legally binding, as well in case the relevant person has submitted such request in order to avoid fulfillment of his/her legal responsibilities.

Article 10

The responsible authority shall not approve of a different personal name, if intended for pejorative purposes, or names derogatory to one's moral or that are in contradiction with the customs and beliefs of that specific population.

Article 13

A person who has changed his/her surname while entering into marriage, is allowed to retrieve his/her initial surname upon termination of his/her marriage.

Article 14

The Ministry of Interior, respectively the local organisation unit, which is located within the residence area of the person requesting a different personal name, shall decide on the request on changing a personal name.

IV Punitive provisions

Article 16

A person who decides to choose or change his/her name or the name of another person engraved in the personal identification, official book or other book managed in accordance with the law contrary to the provisions of this law, he/she shall receive a prison sentence of 60 days.

Article 17

A physical person who decides to use a false name, or identifies himself/herself as another person, or fails to use his/her personal name when conducting legal affairs, shall receive a prison sentence of 30 days or a punitive amount of 500.000 dinars up to 7.000.000 dinars.

Article 18

A punitive amount of 300.000 up to 5.000.000 dinars shall be imposed on :

- A physical person or a responsible person within the guardianship authority, who fails to name his/her child within the time-period of two months from the day of birth (Article 5, paragraph 3) and
- A registrar who fails to notify the authority responsible for keeping the registry on citizens when a person changes his/her personal name, (as stipulated in Article 15, paragraph 2 of the Law).

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9 August

- Chair of the Committee on International Relations and Emigrants Andrija Nikolić met with John Grogan, an MP in the House of Commons of the United Kingdom. They announced during the meeting that the Parliament of Montenegro and the House of Commons shall establish parliamentary friendship groups, which is to take place in September. Grogan especially valued Montenegro's successful achievements in foreign relations, as well as emphasised the Montenegro's role in safeguarding the stability within the Western Balkans region.

3 September

- President of the Parliament of Montenegro Ivan Brajović met with the Prime Minister of Bulgaria Bojko Borisov. It was concluded that intensive parliamentary cooperation between Montenegro and Bulgaria significantly contributed to the strengthening of the already existing outstanding political cooperation between both countries. President Brajović expressed gratitude to Bulgaria, for providing its continuous support and assistance to Montenegro, in terms of the EU integration path, as well as commended its presidency over the Council of the EU, during which the enlargement policy was again the main focus of the EU member states.



4 September

- President of the Parliament of Montenegro Ivan Brajović received in a farewell visit the Ambassador of the Federal Republic of Germany to Montenegro Hans Günther Mattern. Brajović expressed gratitude for Germany's support provided within Montenegro's Euro-Atlantic and European path, as well as the contribution of the Ambassador in the development of relations of both countries. They emphasised the importance of parliamentary dialogue concerning

issues relevant to the country and its citizens, being represented by MPs.

6 September

- Chair of the Committee on International Relations and Emigrants Andrija Nikolić, Chair of the Committee on European Integration Adrijan Vuksanović and Chair of the Committee on Economy, Finance and Budget Predrag Sekulić participated in the 28th Economic Forum in Krynica-Zdrój, which gathered participants from 60 countries. The participants exchanged views about the European perspective of the Western Balkans, the current challenges faced by the EU, as well as about the effects of tourism on the countries' industry and economy.

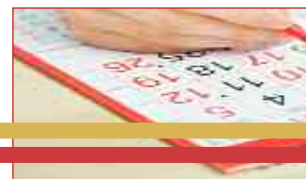
7 September

- President of the Parliament of Montenegro Ivan Brajović received in a visit the newly appointed Ambassador of Hungary to Montenegro József Négyesi. The interlocutors both shared mutual satisfaction over the excellent bilateral relations between both countries and their regular course, without any remaining unsolved issues. The interlocutors emphasised the importance of organising numerous high level gatherings, thus the upcoming visit of the President of the Parliament of Hungary László Kövér to Montenegro will provide a significant contribution in the matter.

10 September

- President of the Parliament of Montenegro Ivan Brajović received in a visit the President of the Parliament of Hungary László Kövér. Kövér reiterated during the meeting the official position of Hungarian officials, stating that Montenegro's membership to the EU could very soon become reality. President of the Parliament of Montenegro emphasised that the outstanding political relations between both countries aimed at strengthening economic cooperation in the interest of citizens, may serve as an example. Aside from the presidents of both parliaments, the meeting was also attended by the Vice-President of Parliament of Montenegro and Chair of the Montenegrin Friendship group with Hungary Branimir Gvozdenović.

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11 September

- Delegation of the Parliament of Montenegro, composed of Aleksandra Vuković, Miloš Nikolić and Marina Jočić, participated in a three-day seminar concerning the Western Balkans, which took place in London. The seminar was organised by the British Delegation to the Inter-Parliamentary Union. During the discussion among MPs of the House of Commons and the House of the Lords, as well as parliamentarians from the region, members of the Montenegrin Delegation also addressed the participants. MP Nikolić awaited the materialising of idea of the Berlin process, which, in accordance to him, would significantly contribute to a pro-European policy in the Balkans. MPs Aleksandra Vuković spoke about the Montenegro's results achieved so far in terms of its Euro-Atlantic path. During a discussion on the strengthening of the rule of law and prevention of corruption, MPs Jočić and Nikolić provided different opinions regarding the presence of corruption. MP Aleksandra Vuković spoke as a panelist on the topic: "The Parliament and the Inclusion Policy". Vuković also acquainted the colleagues with the Programme "Democracy Workshops", which was only available in Montenegrin and Austrian parliaments.



- Chair of the Committee on Political System, Judiciary and Administration MP Željko Aprcović, MP and member of the Committee Radule Novović, as well as Secretary General of the Parliament of Montenegro Aleksandar Jovičević paid a two-day visit to Sejm, lower house of Polish Parliament, on 11-12 September. The first day of the visit, members of the Delegation met with Chair of the Committee on Justice and Human Rights of the Polish Parliament Stanislaw Piotrowić, on which occasion the chairs of both committees discussed the judiciary reform, the manner of election of members of the Judicial and

Prosecutorial Council, as well as the overall functioning of this important area. The second day was marked by a meeting with Chair of the Committee on Administration and Interior Arkadiusz Czartoryski and Chair of the Committee on local self-government and regional policy Adrzej Maciejewski. During separate meetings, the main focus of discussion were the work and organisation of state administration. During the visit to the Polish Parliament, there was a meeting between secretary generals of both parliaments, Aleksandar Jovičević and Agnieszka Kaczmarek, on which occasion the



interlocutors spoke about the organisation and duties falling under their competences. At the end of the visit, there was a meeting with the Acting Minister of Justice of Polish Government Lukasz Piebak. The visit was realised for the purpose of exchanging their experience, as well as strengthening cooperation between working bodies of Sejm and the Montenegrin Committee on Political System, Judiciary and Administration, which shared similar competences, as well as in order to improve the skills of the Committee staffs.

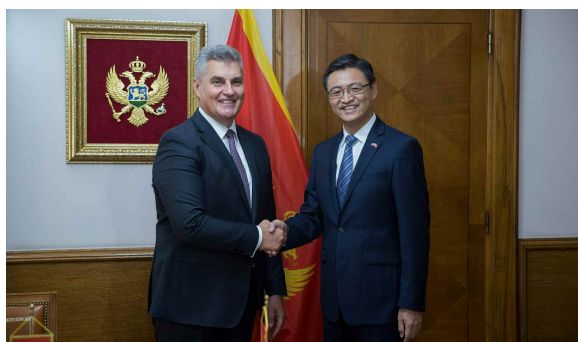
12 September

- President of the Parliament of Montenegro Ivan Brajović received in a visit the newlyappointed Ambassador of the Federal Republic of Germany to Montenegro Robert Heinrich Weber. Brajović thanked Germany for its support to the membership of Montenegro to NATO, as well as for a continuous assistance provided to our country on its European integration path. Ambassador Webber conveyed Germany's support as a friend of our country, that will continue to support its membership to the EU.
- President Brajović received in a visit the newlyappointed Ambassador of the People's Republic of China Liu Jin. The interlocutors agreed that both countries shared outstanding political and

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economic relations, and suggested continuous fostering of such relations. They especially emphasised the importance of honouring the work schedule in terms of construction of the Bar-Boljare highway priority section, as the greatest infrastructural project in Montenegro.



- Member of the Permanent Delegation of the Parliament of Montenegro to the NATO PA Obrad Mišo Stanišić and Tarzan Milošević paid a visit to the Economics and Security Committee (ESC), respectively the Sub-Committee on Transition and Development (ESCTD) within the NATO PA, which took place on 12-14 September, in Baku. MP Stanišić greeted the participants of the meeting, thanked the Ambassador of Hungary for organising such meeting, and spoke particularly of their cooperation with Montenegro. In the follow-up of the visit, there was a round table with the Delegation of the European Union in Azerbaijan, followed by a meeting with the Country Manager of the World Bank for Azerbaijan, as well as a meeting of delegates of the NATO PA with members of the Permanent Delegation of the Parliament of Azerbaijan to NATO PA. On this occasion, members of the Montenegrin Delegation met with the Honorary consul of Montenegro in Baku Vugar Alijev.

14 September

- Chair of the Committee on Education, Science, Culture and Sports of the Parliament of Montenegro Radule Novović met with the UNICEF Regional Advisor for Education, with the headquarters in Geneva Bobby Soobrayan. The meeting was realised in order for the UNICEF Regional Advisor for Education to become more closely acquainted with the Montenegrin

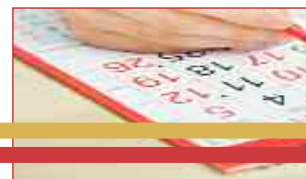
educational system, the ongoing and planned reform initiatives, aimed at planning cooperation which would ultimately provide for the financial support, a greater quality in the implementation and sustainability of reforms. Aside from the Chair and the staff of the Committee, the meeting was also attended by Maja Kovačević, UNICEF Education Officer at the UNICEF Office to Montenegro.

- Chair of the Committee on Education, Science, Culture and Sports Radule Novović met with political councillor Huo Yafang and Yan Jiaqi, Attaché in the Embassy of the People's Republic of China in Montenegro. The meeting was organised in order to get more acquainted and reach an agreement regarding the organisation details of the envisaged visit of the Delegation of the Committee on Education, Science, Culture and Health of the National People's Congress of the People's Republic of China to Montenegro, headed by the Chair of the Committee Li Xueyong.

17 September

- Collegium of the President of the Parliament of Montenegro assembled in order to discuss improvement of the electoral legislation. The participants discussed the possibilities for reaching the best model of functioning, aimed at further improvement of the electoral legislation.
- Students of the Secondary Economic and Catering school and Stojan Cerović in Nikšić, who won first, second and third place in a competition in search of youth rights, accompanied by their professors, paid a visit to the Committee on Human Rights and Freedoms. The visit was organised on the occasion of marking the International Youth Day and within the frameworks of the project, implemented jointly by Youth Initiative for Human Rights and the Ministry of Sports. The Chair of the Committee acquainted the visitors with the competencies of the Committee, as well as activities undertaken by the Committee aimed at promoting, safeguarding and affirming human rights.
- Gender Equality Committee, in cooperation with the OSCE Mission in Montenegro, organised two workshops dedicated to MPs and Parliament's employees, regarding "Gender Equality and Gender Mainstreaming", an activity envisaged by one of the

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measures set in the Activities Plan for a gender sensitive Parliament of Montenegro, covering the period from September 2016-September 2018. The workshops took place on 17 and 18 September in Podgorica. The participants were acquainted with the international gender equality standards and gender sensitive legislation, as well as introduced with a publication entitled “Laws for men and women: Practical guidebook to gender sensitive legislation” and case studies on gender analysis of the Proposal for a Law on Environmental Impact Assessment.

- Member of the Delegation of the Parliament of Montenegro to PACE Marija Čatović participated in a meeting of the PACE Committee on Social Affairs, Health and Sustainable Development, which took place on 17-18 September in Lisbon. During the meeting, at which MP Čatović participated as member of this working body, the participants discussed the role of national parliaments in implementation of goals of sustainable development, sustainable development of urban environments, provision of palliative care in European countries, as well as stress at work.
- Chair of the Committee on Economy, Finance and Budget Predrag Sekulić and member of the Committee Ana Nikolić participated in an Inter-parliamentary Conference on the topic “Stability, Economic Coordination and Management in the European Union”, which took place on 17-18 September in Vienna. The Conference was organised within the parliamentary dimension of the Austrian Presidency of the Council of European Union.

18 September

- MP Mihailo Anđušić participated in an International Conference “The managing bodies of the European Union for Democracy”, organised on the occasion of marking the International Day of Democracy by Democracy Support and Election Coordination Group, in cooperation with the European Commission and NGOs dealing with Human Rights in Brussels. The participants discussed in separate panels on innovative practices for the promotion of democracy, as well as models of greater inclusion of citizens in political processes, the role of technology and the effects of social media on democratic processes, as well as strengthening democracy through female leadership and a more active engagement.

19 September

- Chair of the Committee on European Integration Adrijan Vuksanović met with the Chief Negotiator for Montenegro's Accession to the European Union Aleksandar Drljević in order to discuss joint activities in the upcoming period. During the meeting, they discussed reorganising working groups, the process of harmonisation of national legislation with the Acquis, as well as proposals for reporting on the negotiations dynamics in the upcoming period.
- Member of the Montenegrin Parliamentary Delegation to PACE Sanja Pavićević participated in a meeting of the PACE Committee on Equality and Non-Discrimination as well as the meeting of the Parliamentary Network Women Free from Violence, which took place on 19-20 September, in Paris. The main topics discussed at the meeting of the PACE Committee on Equality and Non-Discrimination involved the fight against employment discrimination, adapting the work environment to the needs of persons with disabilities, recognising language signs as an official European language, reaching equality in private and family life regardless of their sexual orientation, as well as adopting strategies for the promotion of gender equality in the Parliamentary Assembly.

20 September

- President of the Parliament Ivan Brajović delivered a speech during the *Conference of Presidents of Parliaments of European States with less than a million inhabitants*, which took place in Liechtenstein. Addressing the colleagues from Andorra, Cyprus, Iceland, Liechtenstein, Luxembourg, Malta, Monaco and San Marino, Brajović suggested that more parliamentary meetings be held, respectively meetings of working bodies dealing with Tourism, Economy and Culture, and proposed submitting a joint initiative to governments of participant countries on establishing a special organisation of cooperation of small European states. Concerning their relations with Montenegro, it was concluded that the parliamentary cooperation should be strengthened at all levels, experience should be shared and mutual interests promoted. Brajović also had separate meetings with the President of the Parliament of Malta Anglu Farrugia, President of the Parliament of Monaco Stéphane Valeri, as well as with President of the Parliament of Liechtenstein. During

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the visit, President Brajović also had an official audience with His Serene Highness (H.S.H.) Hereditary Prince Alois of Liechtenstein.

- Delegation of the Parliament of Montenegro composed of Momčilo Martinović, Bogdan Fatić and Danijel Živković participated in the Conference “Bridging the gap between the youth policy, youth participation and the parliamentarians in the Western Balkans countries”, organised by the European Commission and European Parliament, in Skopje.

21 September

- Chair of the Committee on Education, Science, Culture and Sports Radule Novović and Aleksandra Vuković, member of the Committee, paid a visit to the Secondary School “Vuksan Đukić” and the Elementary School “Aleksa Đilas Bećo”, in Mojkovac. The visit was organised in order for the Committee members to become acquainted with the educational system reforms in Montenegro. The Committee members and the school principals discussed the issues faced by educational workers at a daily basis, primarily concerning the status of educational workers, as well a continuous educational training of the workforce, as well as a quality communication with the leading institutions in the area. Chair of the Committee Radule Novović and Aleksandra Vuković, member of the Committee, also met with the President of the Municipality Assembly of Mojkovac Dragan Mrdak.
- At the invitation of the Vice-President of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Republic of Azerbaijan Valeh Asgarov, Vice-President of the Parliament of Montenegro and Chair of the Montenegro-Azerbaijan Parliamentary Friendship Group Genci Nimanbegu participated in a ceremony marking the 100 years of the Parliamentary Assembly of Azerbaijan. Nimanbegu delivered a speech stating that nowadays, Azerbaijan was a fully-developed democratic country in terms of its aspirations and ideals, characterised by a proper and effective administration, social and economic progress and properly managed human capital, which has also acquired prestige and a significant role in the international relations. Vice-President Nimanbegu had separate meetings with the Chair of the Azerbaijan-Montenegro Friendship Group Igbal Mamadov and the honorary consul of Montenegro in the Republic of Azerbaijan Vugar Alijev. During the meeting, they scheduled a visit of the Azerbaijan-Montenegro Friendship Group to the Parliament of Montenegro,

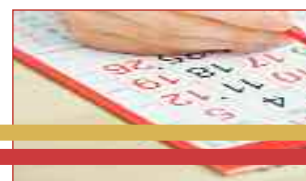
which is to take place in October 2018.



24 September

- President of the Parliament of Montenegro Ivan Brajović spoke with the Chair of the Parliamentary Friendship Group of Serbia Igor Bečić, within the frameworks of the visit of serbian parliamentarians to Montenegro. During the meeting, they jointly concluded that stronger parliamentary relations were especially significant for the strengthening of the overall relations and cooperation between both friendly countries.
- Montenegrin Parliamentary Friendship Group with Serbia, headed by Branimir Gvozdenović met with Serbian Parliamentary Friendship Group with Montenegro, headed by Igor Bečić. During the meeting, they discussed the possibilities for the improvement of cooperation, aimed at establishing a link between both countries and exchange of quality ideas and projects of mutual interest. At the proposal of Chair Gvozdenović, they jointly agreed on drafting a new protocol on cooperation of both parliamentary friendship groups, as a fundamental basis for the development of parliamentary relations. Aside from the aforementioned topics, various other topics were discussed relevant for the cooperation between the parliamentary groups, and they also agreed to schedule a joint meeting in the upcoming months in order to keep up with their constructive work. In addition to the Chair of the Friendship Group, the following also participated in the meeting: Andrija Nikolić, Suad Numanović, Bogdan Fatić, Filip Vuković and Radule Novović, as well as MPs Andrija Mandić and Milan Knežević. The Serbian Friendship Group was headed by Igor Bečić, and the following members: Aleksandar Marković, Jelena Žarić Kovačević, Zvonimir Đokić, Dejan Radenković, Dragomir Karić and Ivan Kostić.
- Head of the Permanent Delegation of the Parliament of Montenegro to the Parliamentary Dimension of the Central European Initiative Miodrag Vuković

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participated in the meeting of the General Committee on Economic Affairs of the CEI Parliamentary Dimension, which took place on 24-26 September, in Warsaw. During the meeting in the Polish Parliament, representatives of nine CEI member states discussed road, infrastructure and energy connections between CEI member states, as well as the project "Via Carpathia". In his address, Vuković emphasised the significance of the Berlin process to the Western Balkans region, and how this framework enabled access to European funds for the financing of infrastructural projects which should provide assistance to countries in the region in terms of rebuilding and development of roads, as well as energy and telecommunications networks. Vuković also mentioned three most important projects involving energy and infrastructure in Montenegro: "Highway Bar-Boljare", Adriatic-Ionic Highway, and the project involving a submarine power cable between Montenegro and Italy.

25 September

- Chair of the Gender Equality Committee of the Parliament of Montenegro Nada Drobnjak and members of the Committee paid a visit to Austrian institutions in Vienna, which took place on 25-26 September 2018. Within the visit, meetings were held with representatives competent for gender issues both within the OSCE Mission and the Austrian Parliament, as well as the Federal Ministry of Finance and the Municipality of Vienna. The Delegation exchanged experience and best practices involving gender budgeting, and promotion of principles and standards in the field of gender equality. The visit was realised within the frameworks of the ongoing support programme of the OSCE Mission to Montenegro.
- Delegation of the Committee on European Integration of the Parliament of Montenegro, composed of Chair Adrijan Vuksanović, and members Daliborka Pejović, Momčilo Martinović and Nikola Rakočević paid a visit to the Parliament of Bulgaria, at the invitation of Kristijan Vigenin, Committee on European Affairs and Oversight of the European Funds, which took place on 25-26 September, in Sofia. On the occasion, members of the Committees exchanged information concerning the integration process of Montenegro to the European Union, primarily involving the activities realised in the previous period, as well as further steps to be undertaken in order to meet the benchmarks, which are to be expected in the following period. During the meeting with the President of the Bulgarian Parliament Cveta Karajancheva, they spoke of friendly relations

between both countries, and the recently organised meetings of the highest officials of both parties and the unconditional Bulgaria's support to Montenegrin European path was a confirmation of their friendship. During the meeting with members of the Committee on European Affairs and Oversight of the European Funds, chairs of both the Bulgarian and Montenegrin Committee Kristijan Vigenin and Adrijan Vuksanović, signed the Protocol on cooperation, aimed at strengthening the existing friendly relations between both committees, as well as a closer parliamentary cooperation. During the visit, the Committee Delegation had meetings with the Chair and members of the



Bulgarian Parliamentary Friendship Group with Montenegro, Minister of the Bulgarian Presidency of the Council of the European Union and Acting Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Bulgaria. It was noted that it was necessary to bring closer the Western Balkan countries, and that the EU membership of regional countries led to EU stability and it complemented the idea of Europe.

26 September

- President of the Parliament of Montenegro Ivan Brajović spoke with representative of the Igman initiative, Chair of the Committee on Health, Labour and Social Welfare Suad Numanović, and representatives of the Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare about the goals of the upcoming gathering of four regional countries, signatories of the Dayton Agreement, which will be dedicated to freedom of movement for workers in the Western Balkans. Representatives of the Igman Initiative attended the meeting, as follows: Branko Luković, Vesna Simović-Zvicer, and Branislav Radulović. The Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare was represented by Vukica Jelić and Budimirka Đukanović.
- Chair of the Committee on Education, Science, Culture and Sports Radule Novović, and members of the Committee Aleksandra Vuković and Ervin Ibramović,

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paid a visit to the Montenegrin Academy of Sciences and Arts, and met with the president of CANU Dragan Vukčević. Chair of the Committee acquainted the President of CANU with the competencies of the Committee on Education, Science, Culture and Sports, and expressed satisfaction over their future cooperation in areas falling under the competence of the Committee. The meeting provided for the opportunity to discuss numerous current cultural and sociopolitical topics, and also announce a future cooperation, in terms of joint projects in the field of education, safeguarding cultural heritage, as well as organising gatherings and debates on relevant topics.



27 September

- A group of young workers from the Western Balkans and Turkey visited the Parliament of Montenegro. This visit was realised within the frameworks of a training programme of the Agency for Local Democracy in Nikšić. The Group also met with MPs Marta Šćepanović, Miloš Nikolić and Ervin Ibrahimović, who acquainted the young workers with the work of the Parliamentary working bodies and parliamentary sessions.



- MP Mirsad Murić participated in a meeting with experts, for the purpose of drafting an analysis concerning the inter-sectorial assistance to various systems dedicated to children with developmental problems and their families. The meeting took place in the premises of the UNICEF representation. Chair of the Committee on Health, Labour and Social Welfare Suad Numanović and

Mirsad Murić, member of the Committee on Human Rights and Freedoms met with experts Roksana Irimija and Sonja Vasić, who have been conducting an analysis concerning the inter-sectorial assistance to various systems dedicated to children with developmental problems and their families.

- Chair of the Committee on International Relations and Emigrants Andrija Nikolić met with the Ambassador of the People's Republic of China in Montenegro Liu Jin. Nikolić emphasised that when it comes to foreign relations, Beijing was extremely valuable to Montenegro, and according to Montenegrin official policy, Taiwan was an integral part of "China". Nikolić expressed gratitude for the immense inter-governmental assistance and support provided to development projects, especially the greatest strategic project so far, Highway Bar-Boljare. The interlocutors also discussed a meaningful cooperation at the level of local governments, which significantly contributed to improving infrastructure and development of Montenegrin municipalities. They also expressed willingness to further develop concrete bilateral relations, with a focus on Education, Science and Culture.
- At the Collegium of the President of the Parliament of Montenegro, participants resumed with the discussion on establishing a parliamentary body dealing with improvement of the electoral legislation and the manner of its operation.
- President of the Parliament of Montenegro Ivan Brajović received the "Charter of Excellence" and a Silver statue, awarded within the frameworks of the World Festival of Poetry "Eminescu-Njegoš", that took place on 25-30 September, in Podgorica. The Charter was awarded to Brajović, at the proposal of the great Romanian poet and cultural worker Jon Deakonescu, "as a mark of honour to the renewed Montenegrin independence, as well as for safeguarding identity values and promoting the development of cultural institutions in Montenegro".

