



Parliament of Montenegro

NEWSLETTER OPEN PARLIAMENT

Newsletter on the Parliament of Montenegro Performance ♦ No. 86 ♦ October 2018

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OPEN PARLIAMENT



Parliament of Montenegro

Newsletter on the Parliament of Montenegro Performance ♦ Electronic format ♦ Release: monthly ♦ Year VIII ♦ No. 86 ♦ October 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 October, which is, in the form of monthly newsletter "Open Parliament", prepared by Parliamentary Service.

During October, the First Sitting of the Second Ordinary Session of the Parliament of Montenegro in 2018, and the Third Sitting of the Second Ordinary Session of the Parliament of Montenegro took place. There was also a Second Special Sitting of the Second Ordinary Session of the Parliament of Montenegro in 2018. Committees considered 5 proposals for a law, 5 proposals for a decision and performed other activities within their oversight role.

In focus of this month's newsletter is the Ceremonious sitting organised by the Constitutional Committee, on the occasion of marking ten years since the adoption of the Constitution.

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 First Sitting of the Second Ordinary Session of the Parliament of Montenegro in 2018, the MPs adopted the following: Law on Ratification of the Doha Amendment to the Kyoto protocol together with the United Nations framework Convention on Climate Change, Law on Ratification of the Council of Europe Convention on Cinematographic Co-production, and the Eighth Semi-Annual Report on the overall activities within the integration process of Montenegro to the EU, covering the period July-December 2017.

At the Third Sitting of the Second Ordinary Session of the Parliament of Montenegro in 2018, the MPs adopted the Decision on the Forming of the Committee on further reform of electoral and other legislation.

At the Second Special Sitting of the Second Ordinary Session of the Parliament of Montenegro in 2018, within the Agenda item Prime Minister's Questions and MPs' Questions, Prime Minister of Montenegro and ministers in the Government of Montenegro answered the questions posed by the MPs. The Prime Minister was posed six questions, whereas the ministers were posed 97 questions.

Proposals for law deliberated in committees

- **Proposal for a Law on the 2017 Final Budget Account** was considered and proposed to the Parliament for adoption by the Legislative Committee.
- **Proposal for a Law on Academic Integrity** was considered and proposed to the Parliament for adoption by the Legislative Committee. The same proposal was considered by the Committee on Economy, Finance and Budget, within its area of

competence, and the Committee decided to submit an opinion on the proposal to the lead committee - Committee on Education, Science, Culture and Sports.

- **Proposal for a Law on Ratification of the Minamata Convention on Mercury** was considered and proposed to the Parliament for adoption by the Legislative Committee.
- **Proposal for a Law on Amendments to the Law on Water** was considered and proposed to the Parliament for adoption by the Committee on Tourism, Agriculture, Ecology and Spatial Planning.
- **Proposal for a Law on Amendments to the Law on Expropriation** was considered and proposed to the Parliament for adoption by the Legislative Committee and the Committee on Economy, Finance and Budget.

Proposals for other acts deliberated in committees

- **Proposal for a Decision on Dismissal of the Director of the Insurance Supervision Agency Council** was determined by the Administrative Committee, which decided to propose to the Parliament to dismiss Branko Vujović from the duty of a Director of the Insurance Supervision Agency Council.
- **Proposal for a Decision on the Election of one member of the Committee on Health, Labour and Social Welfare** was determined by the Administrative Committee, which decided to propose to the Parliament that Nikola Divanović be elected as member of the Committee on Health, Labour and Social Welfare.
- **Proposal for a Strategy on the National Security of Montenegro** was considered and proposed to the Parliament of Montenegro for adoption by the Legislative Committee and the Security and Defence Committee.
- **Proposal for a Decision on long-term lease of land for developing the base settlement of the mountain centre "Kolašin 1600"** was considered and proposed to the Parliament for adoption by the Legislative Committee and the Committee on Economy, Finance and Budget.
- **Proposal for a Decision on the Forming of the Committee on further reform of electoral and other legislation** was considered and proposed to the Parliament for adoption by the Committee on Political System, Judiciary and Administration and the Legislative Committee.

Other activities of working bodies

- The **Constitutional Committee** organised a meeting on the occasion of marking 11 years since the Montenegrin Constitution was adopted.
- At the 28th meeting of the **Security and Defence Committee**, held on 24 October, the Committee considered and proposed to the Parliament to adopt the Proposal for a Strategy on the National Security of Montenegro. In the presence of the Minister of Defence and Director General of Directorate for Defence Policy, the Committee learned about basic orientation of national

and security policy, national security interests and goals, elements of national security policy, strategic and regional background of the national security, security challenges, risks and threats, structure, developments, elements of crisis management and resources necessary for the functioning of the system, contained in the Proposal for the Strategy on national security of Montenegro.



- At the 25th meeting of the **Committee on European Integration**, held on 24 October, the Committee discussed the programme and preparations for the 14th Conference of Committees for European Affairs/Integration of countries within the Stabilisation and Association Process of South-East Europe, which is organised within the frameworks of the Montenegrin Presidency over the COSAP initiative.



- At the 53rd meeting of the **Committee on Economy, Finance and Budget**, held on 26 October, members of the Committee considered the Report on the realisation of the National Program for Consumer Protection 2015-2018, covering the period from July 2017- June 2018, and proposed to the Parliament for adoption.
- At the 54th meeting, held on 31 October, members of the Committee conducted a control hearing of the Minister of Transport and Maritime Affairs Osman Nurković, on the topic: "Development Policy of the Airports of Montenegro in the context of the proposed concession act". During the hearing, members of the Committee reviewed documents submitted by the Ministry of Transport and Maritime Affairs for the purposes of the hearing, which refer to the Report on the conducted public discussion on the Concession Act - Airports of Montenegro, draft of the new Concession Contract and Concession Act - Airports of Montenegro Concession Project.
- At the 23rd meeting of the **Committee on Human Rights**

and Freedoms, held on 3 October, the Committee considered the Concluding observations on the combined second and third periodic reports of Montenegro adopted by the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child on the application of the Convention on the Rights of the Child, Report by the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) Working Group adopted following the review of the human rights records in Montenegro, carried out by the UN Council on Human Rights within the Universal Periodic Review, and Proposal for the Request for Allocation of Budget Funds to the Protector of Human Rights and Freedoms for 2019.



- At the 22nd meeting of the **Gender Equality Committee**, held on 8 October, the Chair of the Committee Nada Drobnjak acquainted the members of the Committee with the activities of the Committee. In addition, views were exchanged regarding the upcoming activities.



- At the 34th meeting of the **Committee on Tourism, Agriculture, Ecology and Spatial Planning**, held on 24 October, members of the Committee considered the Report on activities related to regulation of communal services in 2017.



- At the 31st meeting of the **Committee on Health, Labour and Social Welfare**, members of the Committee were acquainted with the upcoming conference of the Igman Initiative, on the topic: "Free Movement of Labour Force between the Countries Signatories of the Dayton Agreement, Using the Experiences of the Nordic Model of Cooperation".



- At the 32nd meeting of 22 October, the Committee organised a consultative hearing of the Minister of Labour and Social Welfare Kemal Purišić, on the occasion of Draft Law on Amendments to the Law on Pension and disability insurance.



- At the 49th meeting of the **Administrative Committee**, held on 15 October, the Committee did not determine the Proposal for a Decision on appointment of the President of the State Electoral Commission, relating to the public notice of 6 September 2018, given that none of the candidates obtained the required majority. In addition, the Committee was acquainted with the applications submitted by candidates relating to the election of seven members of the Evaluation Commission and Electoral Municipal Commission in Tuzi.



NEWS FROM PARLIAMENT



Parliament marks the Day of Montenegrin Parliamentarism

The Parliament of Montenegro marked 31 October, Day of Parliamentarism, the date when, in accordance with the Constitution from 1905, the first National Assembly in Montenegro was constituted in Cetinje in 1906. The President of the Parliament of Montenegro Ivan Brajović, and the Prime Minister Duško Marković addressed numerous guests at the event.

President Brajović stated, as follows: “Parliament reflects the will of citizens, hence, today’s Parliament (Skupština) is a personification of diversity in Montenegro, be it ethnic, religious and cultural, which unambiguously, as well as with commitment and responsibility places its resources in service of progress.” In addition, he said: “Over the last years, our parliament has been granted the title of ‘the most open parliament’ in the region, to which contributed an ongoing communication with citizens,

media, civic society, and the international partners. Today’s parliamentary life, as well as the executive and judicial



power in Montenegro are being independently shaped, as well as harmonised with the high - level democracy standards.”

Delegation of the Parliament of Montenegro participated in the Autumn Session of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe(PACE), in Strasbourg

Delegation of the Parliament of Montenegro, composed of Predrag Sekulić, Head of the Delegation, and Marija Čatović, Milan Knežević, Sanja Pavićević, and Ervin Ibrahimović, participated in the Autumn Session of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, on 8-12 October, in Strasbourg. The key topics discussed at the session, were as follows: the role of national parliaments in successful decentralisation processes, empowering women as key actors for integration, family reunification in member states and the radicalisation of migrants and diaspora communities. The participants also discussed nuclear safety and security in Europe, access to member States by Council of Europe and United

Nations human rights monitoring bodies as well as the treatment of Palestinian minors in the Israeli justice system.



PARLIAMENTARY GLOSSARY

Parliamentary Friendship Group represents a form of parliamentary cooperation among national parliaments and are aimed at improving parliamentary and interstate cooperation. Parliamentary friendship groups are formed on the basis of the mutually expressed interest of two parties to achieve cooperation¹, and they contribute to improvement and networking of contacts of MPs with representatives of other states, achievement of interests and priorities in overall bilateral relations and represent an additional mechanism in establishing more productive cooperation of parliamentarians. As a unique form of bilateral parliamentary cooperation, activities within the friendship groups are a confirmation of good relations among states and represent the important continuation of the official diplomacy.² The Parliament of Montenegro has formed 40 parliamentary friendship groups with parliaments of other countries.

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.257

² Izvor: <http://www.skupstina.me/index.php/me/medjunarodna-saradnja/bilateralna-saradnja/uvod>

IN FOCUS



Constitutional Committee holds ceremonious meeting on the occasion of eleven years since the adoption of the Constitution

Constitutional Committee of the Parliament of Montenegro held the ceremonious meeting on the occasion of eleven years since the adoption of the Constitution, with the address of the President of the Parliament of Montenegro Ivan Brajović.



- The 2007 Constitution is a symbol and personification of modern European Montenegro. This Constitution is a symbol of our continued commitment towards progress and contemporary democratic societies, legal confirmation of the common life of civic Montenegro, the harmony of diversity and mutual respect. All this was preceded by the key decision in the referendum and the restoration of statehood, as the foundation of the upcoming Montenegrin democracy, renewed state and civic identity, President Brajović pointed out.

He reminded of the fact that the first Montenegrin Constitution, at the beginning of the twentieth century, was an attempt of modernisation and development of Montenegrin state, being on the doorstep of the European family.

- The last one, more than a hundred years later, will become a comprehensive striving towards Euro-Atlantic and European integration. Every constitution that was adopted in Montenegro in the period from 1905 to 2007, was adopted during some crucial periods, the President of the Parliament said.

- This institution is open to any type of discussion, anniversary marking and important dates, and the discussion on topics to be proud of and those less pleasant. Even though the Parliament of Montenegro represents different opinions, visions and ideas, it seems that there are not many of those here that would alter basic postulates on which our society is based upon, and are written in the Constitution and laws, because nothing important that we have achieved as a society and what we intend to achieve, should be implied. That is why the last Constitution is the Constitution of the three millennium long, independent and modern Montenegro, the characteristic of Montenegro that is made of diversity. Nevertheless, characteristic of peaceful Montenegro, picturesque oasis in the midst of the Balkan spontaneity. The country capable of supporting, being a friend and the harbourer to the weak, always, and even today, but using different and civilised means, President Brajović added. Member

of the Parliament of Montenegro and the Chair of the Constitutional Committee, Miodrag Miško Vuković, who was a member of the Constitutional Assembly of the Republic of Montenegro in 2006, stated in his address that today we mark eleven years of new constitutionality of Montenegro, that modern and democratic legal act certainly possesses.

- That is legal and political text suitable for the greatest number of parliamentary democracies of modern times. It exists alongside constitutions of civilised states, committed to the concept of civil sovereignty. Using the categorisation known in theory, it belongs to the group of democratic, but also to a large extent to national constitutions. Bearing in mind the revision procedure of our biggest legal and political act, in accordance with its manner of adoption, it is undoubtedly a democratic act, and in accordance with the manner of amending, it is democratic and national Constitution, and it belongs to the group of codified, but to the so-called hard constitutions. What is most important for all of us is that our Constitution is normative, feasible Constitution, therefore not a nominal one, not a goal in itself, Vuković said.

Following the ceremonious meeting, Mladen Vukčević, the Chairperson of the Judicial Council of Montenegro and the President of the Constitutional Court of Montenegro in the period from 2005 to 2007, opened the exhibition "Constitutions of Montenegro" in the Hall of the Parliament. Referring to the exhibition of constitutional texts, he pointed out that modern times offer no condensed image of the development of a state, than the one provided by the history of its highest legal acts.

- For this reason, today's exhibition is not only the accompanying content of marking the anniversary of a single, valid Constitution, but also a reminder of constitutionality as an idea, as the foundation for the dignity of the state and every individual. They are testimonies of our constitutional and legal risings and stalemates, sometimes shadowed by the interweaving of rights, politics and ideology, Vukčević pointed out.

- Everything starts and finishes with the Constitution when it comes to the law - this is a lesson for those who make decisions in this institution, but also for everyone who implement them, President of the Judicial Council of Montenegro added.

The exhibition "Constitutions of Montenegro" was open to the public in the period 22-26 October 2018, from 10 am to 4 pm.

Proceeding from the decision of the citizens of Montenegro to live in an independent and sovereign state of Montenegro, made in the referendum held on 21 May 2006, the Constitutional Assembly of the Republic of Montenegro adopted the Constitution and the Constitutional Law for its implementation, at the Third Sitting of the Second Ordinary Session in 2007, held on 19 October 2007.

The Constitution and the Constitutional Law for its implementation were promulgated on 22 October 2007.

FROM THE HISTORY OF MONTENEGRIN PARLIAMENTARISM



Law on the State Seal and Seals of State Authorities
("Official Gazette of the Republic of Montenegro", No. 056/93
as of 29 December 1993, 027/94 as of 29 July 1994, Official
Gazette of Montenegro", No. 073/10 as of 10 December 2010,
040/11 as of 8 August 2011)

Article 1

The state of Montenegro and the state authorities of Montenegro shall have a seal.

Article 2

The Seal shall serve as a means of authentication of acts.

Article 3

The Seal of Montenegro (hereinafter: seal of Montenegro) and seals of state authorities shall be in the shape of a circle containing the coat of arms of Montenegro as well as the following wording: "Montenegro". In the middle of the seal is the Republic Coat of Arms.

Article 4

The wording is placed within the concentric circles around the Coat of Arms of Montenegro, in the Serbian language (dialect: ijekavski).

Article 5

The Seal is of 50 mm in diameter, which is metally crafted so that it leaves the imprints in the sealing wax.

Article 6

The seal of Montenegro may be found in the original legal texts, as well as in the acts issued by the President of Montenegro when representing Montenegro abroad, specifically the ones designated by him, as well as within confirmed international agreements and other agreements falling under the competence of the state of Montenegro.

Article 7

The Seal is safeguarded by the Parliament of Montenegro. Secretary General is in charge of safeguarding the seal, as well as for using the seal.

Article 8

The Seal of a state authority shall be placed in acts by the means of which the state authority reaches its decisions or maintains communication with other state authorities, institutions, other legal entities and citizens.

Article 9

Aside from the contents referred to in Article 3 of the Law, the seal of a state authority shall also contain the title of the state authority and its headquarters.

Article 10

The seal of a state authority shall be 32 mm in diameter. When the state authority deems it necessary, a seal of smaller dimensions may be used.

Article 11

The State authority may have at its disposal several copies of a seal with the same dimensions, as well as a dry seal.

Article 12

A state authority seal is manufactured out of rubber or other adequate substance. Seals or other insignia found in an act issued by a state authority, may not be round in shape.

Article 13

The state Seal and the seal of a state authority are manufactured by a company, other legal entity or a self-employed person (hereinafter: stamp engravers), in the basis of an authorisation provided by the Ministry dealing with administrative affairs.

Article 14

State authorities shall be obliged to submit the seal imprints and report the misplacement of a seal to the ministry dealing with internal affairs.

Article 16

A punitive amount of 500 euro up to the amount of 15 000 euro shall be imposed on a legal entity which, manufactures a state seal or a state authority seal without the prior consent of ministry in charge of internal affairs.

Article 17

A punitive amount of 50 euro up to the amount of 1000 euro may be imposed on a person for committing a criminal offence, when acting on behalf of a state authority, i.e. for placing an order for the manufacture of seals from a company, other legal entity, respectively a self-employed person, who hasn't been granted a permit to manufacture seals.

Article 18

A punitive amount of 500 euro up to the amount of 15 000 euro shall be imposed on an institution or other legal entity, that has failed to destroy a seal, which is prohibited for them to use in accordance with the law.

Article 19

A punitive amount of 50 euro up to the amount of 1000 euro may be imposed on a person who has failed to report the missing or misplacement of a seal, therefore committing a criminal offence (Article 14, paragraph 1)

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2 October

- Vice-President of the Parliament of Montenegro Branimir Gvozdenović participated in the Summit of 100 business leaders from the South-Eastern Europe, which took place in Belgrade. Gvozdenović delivered a speech concerning the experiences of Montenegro in attracting investments, given that Montenegro is a leader in the region when it comes to per capita investment.
- Chair of the Committee on Education, Science, Culture and Sports Radule Novović met with Katarina Bigović, advisor for international cooperation at the Union of the Blind of Montenegro. The meeting was organised in order for the Committee to get more closely acquainted with the realistic deadlines of ratification and establishing the cooperation during the ratification process of the Marrakesh Agreement. Chair Novović announced cooperation with the Union of the Blind of Montenegro, in the sense of implementing joint projects, as well as organising events and round tables on topical issues.
- MPs of the Parliament of Montenegro Željko Aprcović, Marta Šćepanović, Luid Škrelja and Boris Mugoša participated in a round-table, titled: "Public media services in Montenegro-Financing, management and regulation, which took place on 2-3 October, in Podgorica. The round-table was mainly focused on two topics: financing, respectively management and regulation of Public media services. MP Aprcović delivered a speech on the topic: "Role of the Parliament in Election, Appointment and Dismissal of Members of the RTCG Council.

3 October

- President of the Committee on Health, Labour and Social Welfare Suad Numanović met with the Ambassador of the Republic of Slovenia in Montenegro Mitja Močnik. The meeting was organised at the initiative of the Chair of the Committee for the purpose of establishing a closer cooperation and exchange of experience between the Committee on Health, Labour and Social Welfare and working bodies of the National Assembly of the Republic of Slovenia, with the same or similar competences.
- President of the Parliament Ivan Brajović spoke with the newly-appointed Ambassador of the Republic of Macedonia in Montenegro Mihajlo Trpkoski, wishing him success in performing the duty of an ambassador. The interlocutors jointly assessed that the traditional friendship based on the closeness of citizens of the two

countries should be continuously strengthened by improving cooperation in the areas of common interest and fostering economic ties, which should be encouraged by further concretisation of cooperation of the legislative authorities.

- President Ivan Brajović met with the newly-appointed NATO PA President Rasa Juknevičienė. The interlocutors agreed that membership to both EU and NATO were equally important, particularly given the leadership role of Montenegro and its contribution to the good neighbourly relations in the region. The meeting was also attended by Chair of the Security and Defence Committee Obrad Mišo Stanišić and the Acting Head of the Delegation of the Parliament of Montenegro to the NATO Parliamentary Assembly, whose performance within the organisation was commended by the President Juknevičienė.



4 October

- Chair of the Committee on Education, Science, Culture and Sports Radule Novović met with Liu Jin, Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary Ambassador of the People's Republic of China to Montenegro. The meeting was dedicated to strengthening of parliamentary cooperation in areas falling under the competence of the Committee on Education, Science, Culture and Sports, as well as joint preparations in regards to the upcoming visit of the National People's Congress of the People's Republic of China to the Parliament of Montenegro, which is to take place on 10-13 November 2018.
- A group of youth activists of the civic society organisation "New horizons" from Ulcinj paid a visit to the Parliament of Montenegro. Following a customary tour of the Parliament, NGO representatives from Ulcinj met and spoke with Vice-President of the Parliament of Montenegro Genci Nimanbegu, and MPs Luid Škrelja

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and Boris Mugoša. Open Parliament is a project realised by the Parliament of Montenegro, in order to enable the interested citizens to gain direct insight into the manner of functioning and the work of the Parliament of Montenegro, with a special focus on the youth education process.



- President of the Parliament of Montenegro met with representatives of the political parties and members of the Collegium. The President of the Parliament of Montenegro acquainted the representatives of the political parties with the activities realised so far, proposals and initiatives of MP groups related to preparation for improvement of electoral environment. The attendees discussed key prerequisites for getting the best possible solutions to be included in the electoral legislation and implemented in future electoral cycles.
- Delegation of the Parliament of Montenegro composed of MPs and members of the Committee on Tourism, Agriculture, Ecology and Spatial Planning Sanja Pavićević and Mirsad Murić participated in the Fifth Danube Parliamentary Conference, in Budapest. The Conference was organised by the National Assembly of Hungary, during which the following topics were discussed: effects of climate change on agriculture, water management and water use systems. At the end of the Convention, the participants adopted a declaration recognising climate change as the cause of problems in agriculture and water management. After the Conference, MPs visited the Embassy of Montenegro in Budapest.
- Chair of the Committee on Education, Science, Culture and Sports Radule Novović and Branka Tanasijević, member of the Committee, visited Niko Rolović Grammar School and Blažo Jokov Orlandić Primary School, in Bar. The aim of the visit was to provide an opportunity for the Committee to learn about the various experiences in the implementation of education system reform in Montenegro. Representatives of the Committee talked with the school principals about the current problems

faced by educational workers in their day-to-day work.

- Members of the Parliament of Montenegro's Permanent Delegation to the NATO Parliamentary Assembly Obrad Mišo Stanišić and Genci Nimanbegu took part in activities of NATO PA Mission for monitoring general elections in Bosnia and Herzegovina, in the period 4-8 October 2018. The aim of the Mission was full informing of participants on electoral law in Bosnia and Herzegovina, development of a discussion on the current issues from the said field and direct insight into general elections in Bosnia and Herzegovina. On the election day - 7 October 2018, members of Parliament of Montenegro's Permanent Delegation to the NATO Parliamentary Assembly, within the team of the Mission for monitoring general elections in Bosnia and Herzegovina, in accordance with the given duties and instructions, did a field work - touring of the polling stations.

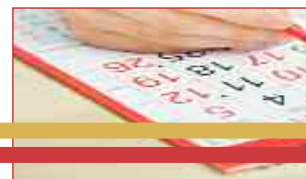
5 October

- President of the Parliament of Montenegro Ivan Brajović met with the Federal Minister for Europe, Integration and Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Austria Karin Kneissl. Minister Kneissl said, among other things, that successful projects at economic and parliamentary level strengthened trust of citizens in representatives of political life. The interlocutors also mentioned Democracy workshops, project for children, started at the initiative of former President of the Austrian National Council Barbara Prammer, implemented regularly and successfully by the Parliament of Montenegro in cooperation with primary schools in our country.



- Member of the Committee on European Integration Nikola Rakočević addressed the participants of the seminar "European integration - a challenge and a goal", which gathered students from Montenegro and Serbia. The seminar was marked by the topic of European perspective of Western Balkan countries. The seminar was organised by the Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung, and

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was aimed at its scholarship recipients from Montenegro and Serbia.

- The delegation of the Parliament of Montenegro consisting of MPs: Adrijan Vuksanović, Bogdan Fatić, Danijel Živković, and Milun Zogović took part in the Interparliamentary Conference, organised by the European Parliament and the National Assembly of the Republic of Bulgaria. The conference was dedicated to the role of national parliaments and the European Parliament in strengthening the European perspective of the Western Balkans. Adrijan Vuksanović, Chair of the Committee on European Integration, spoke within this panel. He said that Montenegro has already showed values of European family of nations, citing it as a good example of the state which preserved peace and multi-ethnic harmony as well as good relations with neighbours.

8 October

- Delegation of the Parliament of Montenegro, composed of Predrag Sekulić, Head of the Delegation, and Marija Čatović, Milan Knežević, Sanja Pavićević, and Ervin Ibrahimović, participated in the Autumn Session of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, on 8-12 October, in Strasbourg. The key topics discussed at the session, were as follows: the role of national parliaments in successful decentralisation processes, empowering women as key actors for integration, family reunification in member states and the radicalisation of migrants and diaspora communities. The participants also discussed nuclear safety and security in Europe, access to member States by Council of Europe and United Nations human rights monitoring bodies as well as the treatment of Palestinian minors in the Israeli justice system.
- Speaker of the National Assembly of the Republic of Bulgaria Tsveta Karayancheva paid an official visit to the Parliament of Montenegro. The emphasis was placed on the significance of keeping parliamentary and other types of relations between the two states dynamic, keeping in mind, among other things, the challenges in the region. It was pointed out that excellent political relations should result in an even greater economic exchange. The meeting was attended by members of the Montenegro - Bulgaria parliamentary Friendship Group, MPs Tarzan Milošević as the Chair of the Group, Andrija Nikolić, Chair of the Committee on International Relations and Emigrants, and Miloš Nikolić. The Speaker of the

National Assembly of the Republic of Bulgaria and the President of the Parliament of Montenegro laid down a wreath at the Monument to the Partisan Fighter on Gorica.

- Ambassador of the Federal Republic of Germany to Montenegro Robert Heinrich Weber met with the Chair of the Committee on International Relations and Emigrants Andrija Nikolić. They expressed mutual interest in establishing parliamentary cooperation at the level of working bodies of the two parliaments, especially in the areas of foreign affairs and European integration. They also discussed concrete projects, for which the German side showed willingness to provide support.
- Member of the Committee on Human Rights and Freedoms participated in a panel discussion, on the topic: "Contributions of the media in reducing prejudices against Roma", which took place in Podgorica. The panel discussion was organised by a coalition of NGOs "United support to Roma inclusion in Montenegro". Anđušić referred to the activities of



the Committee on Human Rights and Freedoms, which significantly contributed to the improvement of position of the Roma population in Montenegro. He assessed that progress had been made in many fields, particularly in the education, being a precondition for a high-quality inclusion of the Roma population in Montenegrin society.

- Chair of the Committee on Political System, Judiciary and Administration Željko Aprcović and members of the Committee Miloš Nikolić and Radule Novović spoke with Jozefina Topalli, an OSCE expert. The meeting was organised as part of the activity implemented by the Mission aimed at providing support to the strengthening of the work of the Committee. The MPs had the opportunity to inform the expert about the responsibilities and activities of

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this Committee. MP Aprcović especially referred to the reform process in the field of judiciary, being implemented since 2012, as a key area falling under the competence of the Committee. Members of the Committee acquainted the expert with the legislative process, and the role of the Committee in the field. Their conversation was especially dedicated to topics related to the following: electoral legislation, transparency in holding committee meetings, consideration of the budget for consumer units under the responsibility of the Committee, as well as the oversight and control role of this working body.

9 October

- President of the Parliament of Montenegro Ivan Brajović held a meeting with Ukrainian Parliamentary Friendship Group, headed by the Andrija Šipka. The interlocutors agreed that the need to strengthen the political and economic ties of the two countries was promoted precisely through a single parliamentary mechanism such as friendship groups, and that strengthening cooperation in the field of tourism could provide additional impetus to the overall relations between Ukraine and Montenegro. The same day, there was a meeting between Montenegrin and Ukrainian Parliamentary Friendship Groups.
- Chair of the Administrative Committee Luid Škrelja and Ana Nikolić, member of the committee, met with Jozefina Topali, an OSCE expert, within the activities of supporting strengthening of the work of the



Administrative Committee. The Chair and member of the Committee acquainted the OSCE expert with the competencies, structural and procedural capacities of the Committees, especially focusing on proposals for further improvement of the Committee's work. They agreed upon scheduling three theme seminars intended for members and the staff of the Committee, involving best legislative and oversight practice of parliamentary working bodies, as well as

improvement of communication with citizens, media, civic society and independent institutions.

- President of the Parliament received the Parliamentary Friendship Group of Lithuania with Montenegro, headed by its Chair Gintaras Vaičekauskas. The interlocutors agreed that the enlargement process and the internal consolidation of the EU were two complementary processes, which may ultimately lead to a stronger Europe. They emphasised that Montenegro and Lithuania fostered good political relations. Following the reception with the President of the Parliament, meetings were held with the Montenegro-Lithuania parliamentary Friendship Group, the Committee on International Relations and Emigrants, and the Committee on European Integration. The delegation of the Lithuania-Montenegro parliamentary Friendship Group consisted of Gintaras Vaičekauskas, Chair of the Group, and Edmundas Pupins, member of the Group. The meetings were also attended by the Ambassador of the Republic of Lithuania to Montenegro Rasa Kairienė.

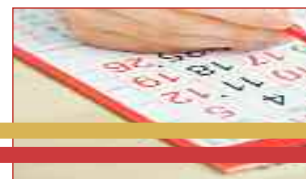
10 October

- Chair of the Legislative Committee Marta Šćepanović and Jovanka Laličić, member of the Committee met with Jozefina Topali, OSCE expert. This meeting represents a follow-up of a successful cooperation between the Parliament of Montenegro and the OSCE Mission to Montenegro. During their talks, they expressed satisfaction with the cooperation realised so far, and emphasised the need for additional training and exchange of good experience and practice among parliaments, primarily at the level of parliamentary services.
- Vice-President of the Parliament of Montenegro Genci Nimanbegu received the newly-appointed Ambassador of the Federal Republic of Germany Robert Heinrich Weber. The interlocutors exchanged information regarding the political situation in Montenegro and the region. Ambassador Weber expressed particular interest for ecology, namely the status of Ulcinj Saltworks, the ecological oasis of not only Ulcinj and Montenegro, but also the Europe itself, this also being a crucial area of negotiating chapter 27- Environment.

11 October

- Delegation of the Constitutional Committee of the Parliament of Montenegro, headed by the Chair of the

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Committee Miodrag Vuković participated in the Interparliamentary Meeting, which was organised by the Committee on Constitutional Affairs of the European Parliament in Brussels. Members of national parliaments and representatives of EU institutions and experts discussed the future of Europe in the institutional and political context, in light of the much needed reforms of the European union, as well as the forthcoming elections of the European Parliament, to be held in 2019. The Chair of the Constitutional Committee was satisfied with the messages promoting Montenegro as a positive example and leader in the European integration process.



- Delegation of the Parliament of Montenegro composed of Andrija Nikolić and Obrad Mišo Stanišić participated in the Interparliamentary Conference for the Common Foreign and Security Policy (CFSP) and the Common Security and Defence Policy (CSDP), which took place in Vienna. The first day of the Interparliamentary conference, the participants discussed the Security, Migration and Control of External Borders, within the frameworks of which the Chair of the Security and Defence Committee Obrad Mišo Stanišić addressed the participants. He concluded that Montenegro approached the migrant crisis issue with humanity and solidarity. The second day of the Interparliamentary conference was dedicated to the following topics: "The European Contribution to the Improvement of the Political and Humanitarian Situation in Syria" and the "The European Perspective for the Western Balkans". The participants were addressed by the Chair of the Committee on International Relations and Emigrants Andrija Nikolić who referred to the fact that Montenegro was at its final stages of joining the EU, in the times when the European Union itself faced serious internal challenges.

12 October

- Chair of the Committee on Education, Science, Culture

and Sports Radule Novović and members of the Committee Branka Tanasijević, Aleksandra Vuković and Ervin Ibrahimović paid a visit to the National Museum of Montenegro, in Cetinje. The aim of the visit was to acquaint the Committee with the priorities in terms of development of culture in Montenegro, as well as reviewing the current situation in Montenegrin cultural institutions.

15 October

- Deputy Secretary General of the Parliament of Montenegro Marija Mirjačić participated in the meeting of the Association of Secretaries General of Parliaments, which took place on 15-17 October, in Geneva. The topics discussed by the participants were dedicated to the issues of parliamentary openness, modernisation of the work process and application of new technologies, and the relationship of the parliament and the government from the aspect of parliamentary oversight, as well as practices and obligations of parliaments relating to the new convocation. On October 18, the Deputy Secretary General participated in the joint IPU and ASGP conference dedicated to the parliamentary oversight function and effective control mechanisms.



16 October

- Members of the Parliament of Montenegro's Permanent Delegation Obrad Mišo Stanišić and Genci Nimanbegu met with the Head of the Albanian Parliament's Permanent Delegation to the NATO PA Mimi Kodheli, who paid an official visit to Montenegro. On the occasion, participants emphasised the significance of continuous improvement of good neighbourly relations and regional cooperation, acknowledged the need of Montenegro and Albania to continue fostering their friendly relations, providing thus support to each other and strengthening cooperation, especially bearing in mind the importance of ensuring a secure environment for the region and beyond. Furthermore, they cited

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opportunities for improving the economic cooperation. In the conclusion, they jointly noted that this meeting was another confirmation of the friendly relations between Montenegro and Albania.

- Collegium of President of the Parliament of Montenegro agreed that the operative body of the Parliament prepare a Proposal for a Decision on the Forming of the Committee on further reform of electoral and other legislation.

17 October

- Chair of the Committee on International Relations and Emigrants Andrija Nikolić and members of the Committee Luid Škrelja and Miloš Nikolić paid an official visit to the National Assembly of the Republic of Bulgaria. Speaker of the National Assembly of the Republic of Bulgaria Tsveta Karayancheva communicated that Bulgaria shall be the greatest supporter of Montenegro's membership to the EU. The Delegation expressed gratitude to the Bulgarian National Assembly for the most frequent inter-parliamentary cooperation fostered between the Montenegrin Parliament and a EU member state. During the meeting of the Montenegrin Delegation with the colleagues from the Foreign Affairs Committee of the National Assembly of the Republic of Bulgaria, the Chair of the Committee Dzema Grozdanova announced a greater support to Montenegro's membership to the EU, noting that Bulgaria would insist that candidate countries be assessed on the basis of individual



achievements. During the meeting of the Committee with the Friendship Group with Montenegro, headed by Petar Petrov, it was reiterated that Montenegro irretrievably was on the road to European integration, and that significant results were achieved with regard to the adoption of the European system of values, and economic and social development. During the talks with the Deputy Foreign Minister of the Republic of Bulgaria, Todor Stoyanov, the emphasis was on economic issues

and prospects for the improvement of the cooperation, especially in the fields of energy, infrastructure and tourism. The official meetings of the Committee on International Relations and Emigrants in Sofia were attended by the Ambassador of Montenegro to the Republic of Bulgaria Snežana Radović.

18 October

- Vice-president of the Parliament of Montenegro Branimir Gvozdenović met with the Ambassador of the Republic of Croatia to Montenegro Veselko Grubišić. The topic of their conversation was the strengthening of parliamentary cooperation via friendship groups of the Parliament of Montenegro and the Croatian Parliament. The interlocutors voiced mutual willingness to intensify cooperation at the friendship group level, specifically aimed at exchanging parliamentary experiences in the fields of tourism, investment, and infrastructure projects of mutual interest.
- Chair of the Committee on Education, Science, Culture and Sports Radule Novović, at the invitation of the Ambassador of France to Montenegro Christine Toudic, attended the reception on the occasion of the official opening of the French European School in Podgorica. By opening the French European School in Podgorica, Montenegro has become a part of the international network of French schools intended for children of all nationalities.
- Delegation of the Committee on Human Rights and Freedoms composed of Momčilo Martinović, Head of the Delegation, and members Mihailo Anđušić and Mirsad Murić participated in the Inter-parliamentary meeting on the topic: "Fundamental rights aspects of Roma inclusion and fighting anti-Gypsyism", held in Brussels. During the discussion, the participants of the Inter-parliamentary Meeting were addressed by MPs Momčilo Martinović and Mirsad Murić, who spoke about the activities undertaken by Montenegro towards the Roma integration and improving their standard of living. Mirsad Murić stressed that the Committee on Human Rights and Freedoms of the Parliament of Montenegro implemented its activities aimed at protection of Roma, through a multi-sectoral approach and in cooperation with relevant state authorities, international organisations based in Montenegro and non-governmental organisations. The achieved progress was recognised by the international organisations, therefore the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, by the 2015 Resolution, closed a monitoring procedure

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over Montenegro. He also informed that the Ministry for Human and Minority Rights financed the first Romani Spelling Book and Romani-Montenegrin dictionary. The participants concluded that the policies involving the Roma should be implemented both at the European and national level.

19 October

- Vice-President of the Parliament of Montenegro Branimir Gvozdenović met with the Ambassador of the Republic of Kosovo to Montenegro H.E. Skender Durmishi. Gvozdenović expressed pleasure with continuously dynamic relations between the two states, intensive political dialogue at the highest level and common European and Euro-Atlantic strategic goals. Efficient cooperation mechanism of the two states are friendship groups between the Parliament of Montenegro and the Assembly of Kosovo, which should serve as a successful platform for dialogue on all topics of mutual concern.



- President of the Parliament of Montenegro Ivan Brajović presented certificates to representatives of students who have attended the educational programme “Barbara Prammer” Democracy Workshops in the period from 10 October 2017 to 8 June 2018. On this occasion, representatives from 41 Montenegrin schools from 16 municipalities, as well as members of the Roma Association of Montenegro, and “Stara Varoš” Scout Squad, have been presented with certificates on behalf of 2962 attendees in this cycle. “Barbara Prammer”



Democracy Workshops are an educational programme of the Parliament of Montenegro, within which the children of primary school age learn about parliamentary democracy, functioning of the parliament, adoption and implementation of laws, and other topics within civic education. Since its beginning in October 2012, the programme included more than 26,000 participants from 121 Montenegrin primary schools from the territory of all Montenegrin municipalities.

20 October

- Chair of the Constitutional Committee and Head of the Permanent Delegation of the Parliament of Montenegro to the Parliamentary Dimension of the Central European Initiative (CEI-PD) Miodrag Vuković participated in the XIV International Forum of Aquileia Euroregion, held in Udine on 19 October. This year’s forum was dedicated to the topics: “The Betrayed Europe – Illusions and Disillusions”. The aim of the conference was to open the debate and make efficient comparison for the purpose of making a realistic analysis of the new scenarios, and considering the further development of mechanisms within international, and especially in the framework of European relations.

22 October

- The Constitutional Committee of the Parliament of Montenegro organised a ceremonious sitting, on the occasion of marking 11 years since the adoption of the Constitution. On the occasion, President of the Parliament of Montenegro Ivan Brajović and Chair of the Constitutional Committee Miodrag Miško Vuković addressed the participants. Following the ceremonious meeting, Mladen Vukčević, the Chair of the Judicial Council of Montenegro and the President of the Constitutional Court of Montenegro in the period from 2005 to 2007, opened the exhibition “Constitutions of Montenegro” in the Hall of the Parliament.
- Delegation of the Committee on Education, Science, Culture and Sports composed of Chair Radule Novović, members of the Committee Branka Tanasijević and Bogdan Fatić, paid a working visit to the Croatian National Assembly, on 22-23 October 2018, in Zagreb. The visit was aimed at establishing a more intensive cooperation and sharing of experience of the Committee members with the permanent and external members of the Education, Science and Culture Committee of the Croatian Parliament. The two-day visit to the Croatian Parliament also included meetings with representatives

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of the National Council for Science, Higher Education and Technological Development of the Republic of Croatia, as well as with members of the Croatia-Montenegro parliamentary Friendship Group. Members of the Montenegrin Delegation acquainted the Croatian colleagues with the proceedings of the working bodies of the Parliament of Montenegro, which are not



practiced by the working bodies of the Croatian Parliament. Namely, the theme meetings of the Montenegrin parliamentary committees are held outside the premises of the Parliamentary building, whereas the parliamentary bodies may also organise control and consultative hearings. Both parties expressed mutual satisfaction for the encounter, which was assessed as very useful, and also announced a stronger cooperation in the future, in the context of a more intensive exchange of information and good practice.

- Chair of the Committee on International Relations and Emigrants Andrija Nikolić and member of the Committee on Economy, Finance and Budget Nikola Rakočević participated in the 2018 World Investment Forum, which was dedicated to the topic: "Investing in Sustainable Development", held in Geneva in the period 22 - 26 October. Within the World Investment Forum, the Delegation of the Parliament of Montenegro took part in the first parliamentary workshop dedicated to parliamentary committees on foreign affairs and committees on economy, finance and budget, organised by the Inter-Parliamentary Union as one of a series of initiatives aimed at strengthening parliamentary activities in the implementation of the "2030 UN Agenda for Sustainable Development". Also, MPs of the Parliament of Montenegro participated in the session entitled "Legislation for Sustainable Development", which gathered MPs, governments and business leaders with the aim of identifying ways to direct investments in sustainable sectors. The delegation of the Parliament of Montenegro attended the Summit of Global Leaders within the Forum with the topic on "Investment in a new

era of globalisation".

23 October

- Vice-President of the Parliament of Montenegro Branimir Gvozdenović, in his capacity of the Chair of the Montenegro-China parliamentary Friendship Group received the Ambassador of the People's Republic of China to Montenegro H.E. Liu Jin. In the meeting they analysed the activities of the current projects in Montenegro in which the Chinese companies participate, especially the works on the highway and wind power plant Možur, and they also considered Montenegro's potential as well as business and investment opportunities. The interlocutors noted that cooperation at the friendship group level could help with further development of Montenegro-China relations, with focus on the fields of ecology, innovation, energy, science, culture, and education.

24 October

- President of the Parliament of Montenegro Ivan Brajović met with the newly-appointed Ambassador of the Republic of Poland to Montenegro Artur Dmochowski. The basic task of Montenegro and Poland, which have excellent political relations, is the joint NATO and future EU membership. They noted that the achieved parliamentary cooperation at the highest level and within friendship groups may significantly contribute to strengthening of ties between the two states.



- The Collegium of the President of the Parliament of Montenegro continued its work on harmonising the text of the Proposal for the Decision on the forming of the Committee on further reform of electoral and other legislation, to be sent to the Parliament for further consideration.

26 October

- The Collegium of the President of the Parliament of

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Montenegro accepted the harmonised text of the Proposal for the Decision on the formation of the Committee on further reform of electoral and other legislation.

- Chair of the Constitutional Committee of the Parliament of Montenegro Miodrag Vuković participated in the XIV International Conference “Peace and Democratic Multilateralism” organised by the European Centre for Peace and Development (ECPD), in Belgrade. Chair of the Constitutional Committee Miodrag Vuković had an intervention within the Panel II “Challenges of human security in the Western Balkans”, on the topic: “Collective security system - Montenegro in NATO”. Vuković had separate meetings with Don Wallas, Chair of the International Law Institute, and other distinguished scientists, diplomats, professors, theorists, and many other eminent experts from all around Europe and world.

30 October

- President of the Parliament of Montenegro Ivan Brajović spoke with the Deputy Head of the ODIHR election observation mission for the presidential election in Montenegro, Donald Bisson, and the Senior Election Adviser, Vladimir Misev, about the future work of the Committee on further reform of electoral and other legislation. The interlocutors agreed that electoral legislation should keep track of the real needs of every society and to always make room for their improvement. The President of the Parliament emphasised that the electoral legislation will be the topic of discussion at the forthcoming Cetinje Parliamentary Forum, on 9 November, when MPs from the region and prominent international officials will discuss "Electoral Laws, Participants and Campaigns: is the voter at the centre of attention?"



- Chair of the Committee on Political System, Judiciary and Administration Željko Aprcović, and members of the

Committee, Jovanka Laličić and Miloš Nikolić, met with the Delegation of the OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights, composed of Donald Bisson, Head of the ODIHR election observation mission for the presidential election in Montenegro, and Vladimir Misev, Senior Election Adviser. The discussion was about the ODIHR Election Observation Mission Final Report on the presidential elections in Montenegro, held in April 2018. The interlocutors concluded that the elections constitute a comprehensive process that requires continuous improvement, and that it is in the public interest for them to be extremely transparent, open, with the aim of strengthening democracy in Montenegro.

31 October

- President of the Parliament of Montenegro Ivan Brajović hosted Head of the EU Delegation to Montenegro H.E. Aivo Orav, discussing with him the planned activities of the Committee on further reform of electoral and other legislation. President Brajović emphasised pleasure with active and constructive relation of MP groups of parliamentary parties which took part in the establishing of the Committee. Ambassador Orav welcomed the establishment of the temporary parliamentary committee, stressing it has an ambitious agenda ahead that is important for Montenegro's EU path. The same day, Vice President of the Parliament of Montenegro Branimir Gvozdenović met with Aivo Orav. Gvozdenović invited all political parties represented in the Parliament of Montenegro to be actively involved in the Committee's work. Ambassador Orav welcomed the establishment of the temporary parliamentary committee, stressing it has an ambitious agenda ahead that is important for Montenegro's EU path. Orav also met with Vice President of the Parliament of Montenegro Genci Nimanbegu. Nimanbegu voiced his deep respect and satisfaction with the engagement of Ambassador Orav and Commissioner Hahn, as well as their help during this entire process.
- The Parliament of Montenegro marked 31 October, Day of Parliamentarism, the date when, in accordance with the Constitution from 1905, the first National Assembly in Montenegro was constituted in Cetinje in 1906. The President of the Parliament of Montenegro Ivan Brajović, and the Prime Minister Duško Marković addressed numerous guests at the event. A group of music teachers from Podgorica performed newly arranged Montenegrin songs.