



Parliament of Montenegro

NEWSLETTER OPEN PARLIAMENT

Newsletter on the Parliament of Montenegro Performance ♦ No. 88 ♦ December 2018

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OPEN PARLIAMENT



Parliament of Montenegro

Newsletter on the Parliament of Montenegro Performance ♦ Electronic format ♦ Release: monthly ♦ Year VIII ♦ No. 88 ♦ December 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 December, which is, in the form of monthly newsletter "Open Parliament", prepared by Parliamentary Service.

During December, Fourth Sitting of the Second Ordinary Session of the Parliament of Montenegro in 2018 and Eighth Sitting of the Second Ordinary Session of the Parliament of Montenegro in 2018 were held. There was also a Seventh Special Sitting of the Second Ordinary Session of the Parliament of Montenegro in 2018. Committees considered 13 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 holding of 14th Meeting of Conference of the Parliamentary Committees on European Integration/Affairs of the States Participating in the Stabilization and Association Process in South East Europe (COSAP). 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 Fourth Sitting of the Second Ordinary Session of the Parliament of Montenegro in 2018, the MPs adopted the following: Law on Amendments to the Law on Water, Law on Certification of Signatures, Manuscripts and Transcripts, Law on Judicial Cooperation in Criminal Matters with the EU Member States, Law on Amendments to the Law on Notaries, Law on the 2017 Final Budget Account of Montenegro, along with: the Report on Audit of the Proposal for the Law on Amendments to the Final Budget Statement of Montenegro for 2017 and Annual Report on Performed Audits and Activities of the State Audit Institution for the period October 2017 – October 2018, Law on Amendments to the Law on Cinematography, Law on Amendments to the Law on Maintenance of Residential Buildings, Law on Ratification of the Joint Protocol Relating to the Application of the Vienna Convention and the Paris Convention and the National Security Strategy. The Parliament also endorsed the Report on the Implementation of the 2017 Action Plan for 2014-2020 Regional Development Strategy of Montenegro, Report on the Implementation of the 2015-2018 National Consumer Protection Programme for the period July 2018 - June 2018, Ninth Semi-annual Report on the overall activities within the integration process of Montenegro to the European Union, for the period January - June 2018, 2017 Performance Report of the Fund for Protection and Exercising of Minority Rights and 2017 Report on Activities Related to Regulation of Communal Services.

Within the item of *Elections and appointments*, the Parliament appointed Uroš Andrijašević the president of

the Council of the Insurance Supervision Agency. Furthermore, Mirjana Kuveljić and Mirza Medunjanin were elected members of the Evaluation Commission. Branko Kovijanić was appointed the president of the Council of the Agency for Electronic Communications and Postal Services, and Vladan Đukanović and Šaleta Đurović members of the Council of the Agency for Electronic Communications and Postal Services.

At the Seventh 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, MPs' questions were answered by the Prime Minister of Montenegro and ministers in the Government. The Prime Minister was posed six questions, whereas ministers were posed 58 questions in total.

At the Eighth Sitting of the Second Ordinary Session of the Parliament of Montenegro in 2018, MPs adopted: Law on Amendments to the Law on International and Temporary Protection of Foreigners, Law on Amendments to the Law on Internal Affairs, 2019 Budget Law of Montenegro, Decision on Borrowing of Montenegro for 2019, Proposals for 2019 financial plans with the work plans of the following independent regulatory bodies: Agency for Electronic Communications and Postal Services, Energy Regulatory Agency, Insurance Supervision Agency, Capital Market Commission, Agency for Medicines and Medical Devices and the Agency for Electronic Media, Law on Amendments to the Law on Foreigners, Law on Local Self-Government Financing, Law on Ratification of ILO Convention No. 151 on Labour Relations in the Public Service, Law on Ratification of amendments to the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer and the Law on Amendments to the Law on Higher Education.

Proposals for law deliberated in committees

- **Proposal for a Law on Amendments to the Law on the execution of suspended sentence and sentence of community service** was considered and proposed to the Parliament for adoption by the Legislative Committee.
- **Proposal for a Law on Amendments to the Law on Enforcement of Imprisonment Sentences, Fines and Security Measures** was considered and proposed to the Parliament for adoption by the Legislative Committee.
- **Proposal for a Law on National Awards** was considered and proposed to the Parliament for adoption by the Legislative Committee.
- **Proposal for a Law on Ratification of the Montreal Protocol on Ozone Layer damaging substances** was considered and proposed to the Parliament for adoption by Legislative Committee and the Committee on International Relations and Emigrants.
- **Proposal for a Law on Ratification of the ILO Convention No. 151 on Labour Relations in the Public Service** was considered and proposed to the

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

- **Proposal for a Law on Amendments to the Law on working hours and recess time concerning mobile workers and recording equipment in road transport** was considered and proposed to the Parliament for adoption by the Committee on Economy, Finance and Budget.
- **Proposal for a 2019 Budget Law** was considered by Gender Equality Committee, Security and Defence Committee, Committee on Tourism, Agriculture, Ecology and Spatial Planning, Committee on Health, Labour and Social Welfare, Committee on Human Rights and Freedoms, Committee on Education, Science, Culture and Sports, Committee on Political System, Judiciary and Administration, Committee on International Relations and Emigrants, within the scope of their competence. The said committees decided to submit an opinion on the law proposal to the lead committee - Committee on Economy, Finance and Budget. Furthermore, the law proposal was considered and proposed to the Parliament for adoption by Committee on Economy, Finance and Budget and Legislative Committee.
- **Proposal for a Law on Amendments to the Law on International and Temporary Protection of Foreigners** was considered and proposed to the Parliament for adoption by Committee on Political System, Judiciary and Administration and Legislative Committee.
- **Proposal for a Law on Amendments to the Law on Internal Affairs** was considered and proposed to the Parliament for adoption by Committee on Political System, Judiciary and Administration and Legislative Committee.
- **Proposal for a Law on Amendments to the Law on Foreigners** was considered and proposed to the Parliament for adoption by Committee on Political System, Judiciary and Administration and Legislative Committee.
- **Proposal for a Law on Local Self-Government Financing** was considered and proposed to the Parliament for adoption by the Legislative Committee and the Committee on Economy, Finance and Budget.
- **Proposal for a Law on Amendments to the Law on Public Peace and Order** was considered and proposed to the Parliament for adoption by Legislative Committee and the Committee on Political System, Judiciary and Administration.
- **Proposal for a Law on Amendments to the Law on Higher Education** was considered and proposed to the Parliament for adoption by the Legislative Committee and the Committee on Education, Science, Culture and Sports.

Proposals for other acts deliberated in committees

- **Proposal for a Decision on Borrowing of**

Montenegro for 2019 was considered and proposed to the Parliament for adoption by the Committee on Economy, Finance and Budget and the Legislative Committee.

Other activities of working bodies

- At the 33rd meeting of the **Security and Defence Committee**, held on 20 December, the Committee adopted the 2019 Parliamentary Oversight Plan.
- At the 57th meeting of the **Committee on Political system, Judiciary and Administration**, held on 21 December, the Committee determined the List of eight candidates, relating to the Public Call for the Election of Four members of the Judicial Council from among respectable jurists.
- At the 58th meeting of the **Committee on Economy, Finance and Budget**, held on 14 December, Committee members considered and proposed that Parliament adopt Proposals for 2019 financial plans with the work plans of the following independent regulatory bodies: Agency for Electronic Communications and Postal Services, Insurance Supervision Agency, Capital Market Commission, Energy Regulatory Agency, Agency for Medicines and Medical Devices and the Agency for Electronic Media.



- At the 60th meeting, held on 18 December, the Committee determined three proposals for decisions, and decided to propose to the Parliament that Branko Kovijanić be elected Chair of the Council of Agency for Electronic Communications, and that Šaleta Đurović and Vladan Đukanović be elected members of the Agency Council.
- At the 61st meeting, held on 27 December, the Committee considered Montenegro's Draft Economic Reform Program (ERP) for the period 2019-2021.
- At the 27th meeting of the **Committee on Human Rights and Freedoms**, held on 3 December, there

was a consultative hearing of representatives of the Protector of Human Rights and Freedoms in Montenegro, Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare, Ministry of Health, Ministry of Education, Ministry of Justice, Ministry for Human Rights and Minorities, Ministry of Finance and Ministry of the Interior.

- At the 26th meeting of 17 December, a control hearing was conducted, on the topic: "Summarising results involving implementation of the Strategy for Permanent Resolution of Status of Displaced and Internally Displaced Persons in Montenegro, with special reference to the Konik area".
- At the 29th meeting, held on 24 December, there was a consultative hearing of representatives of Ministry of Justice, Ministry of the Interior and the Institute for the Execution of Criminal Sanctions.
- At the 30th meeting of 27 December, the Committee summed up the work results of 2018.
- At the 26th meeting of **Committee on Education, Science, Culture and Sports**, held on 27 December, there was a control hearing of Minister of Culture Aleksandar Bogdanović, on the topic: "Protection of Immovable Cultural Heritage of Montenegro".
- At the 24th meeting of the **Gender Equality Committee**, held on 6 December, the Committee marked 75th anniversary of political participation of women in Montenegro, respectively the date (5-6 December 1943) when the First Congress of Anti-Fascist Women's Front in Montenegro and Boka was held. Chair of the Gender Equality Committee Nada Drobnjak reminded of the significance and role of Anti-Fascist Women's Front throughout Montenegrin history, as well as the civilisational heritage originating from the movement.



- At the 40th meeting of the **Committee on Tourism, Agriculture, Ecology and Spatial Planning**, held on 24 December, a consultative hearing was conducted, on the topic: "Implementation of Activities

concerning regulation of the water course of Bojana river.



- At the 41st meeting of the Committee, held on the same day, a consultative hearing was conducted on the topic: "Implementation of assessments and positions of the Committee on Tourism, Agriculture, Ecology and Spatial Planning on the considering of recommendations of the Final Report of SAI on the audit of the financial report of the Public Enterprise Regional Water Supply Company for Montenegrin Coast Budva for 2016".
- At the 42nd meeting, held on 26 December, a consultative hearing was held on the topic: "Implementation of the Law on Spatial Planning and Construction of Structures".
- At the 54th meeting of the **Administrative Committee**, held on 7 December, the Committee readvertised the Public Notice for the Appointment of President of the State Election Commission. At the proposal of Committee member Raško Konjević, the Committee reached the decision to schedule a theme meeting until the January of next year, concerning the institute of parliamentary immunity.
- At the 55th meeting of the Committee, held on 10 December, Committee members determined two proposals for decisions, as follows: Proposal for a Decision on the Appointment of the Insurance Supervision Agency Council President, and the Proposal for a Decision on the Election of two members of the Evaluation Commission. The Committee decided to propose to the Parliament that Uroš Andrijašević be elected Insurance Supervision Agency Council President, and that Mirjana Kuveljić and Mirza Medunjanin be elected members of the Evaluation Commission.
- At the 56th meeting, held on 17 December, the Committee adopted several secondary acts, as follows: Rulebook on announcements for recruiting and the manner of insight in the documentation of the advertisement or vacancy notice in the Service of the Parliament of Montenegro; Rulebook on the manner of testing knowledge, abilities, competencies and

skills and on criteria and the manner of assessment of candidates during the testing of knowledge, abilities, competencies and skills for filling a vacancy in the Service of the Parliament of Montenegro; Rulebook on the content, manner of drafting and adopting the professional training and development programme of the Service of the Parliament of Montenegro; Decision on repealing the Decision on type and procedure for presenting awards to civil servants and state employees of the Service of the Parliament of Montenegro; and Decision on Special Advisers in the Parliament of Montenegro.

- At the 57th meeting, held on 27 December, the Committee members have not determined a list of candidates, in relation to the Election of the State Election Commission, since none of the candidates obtained the required majority of the present committee members. The Committee decided to readvertise the Public Notice for the Election of President of the State Election Commission, which is to be published on "Dan" daily newspapers on 9 January 2019, as well as on the Parliament web pages. The Committee also adopted three decisions, as follows: Decision on allowances for the President and a member of the Management Board of the Fund for Protection and Exercise of Minority Rights; Decision on allowances for a member of the Commission for the Evaluation; Decision on amending the Decision on determining wage supplements for employees of the Service of the Parliament of Montenegro for performing tasks in certain jobs.
- At the 58th meeting, held on 27 December, Administrative Committee reached a unanimous decision to propose that the Parliament appoint Nedeljko Rudović as member of the Committee on Further Reform of Electoral and Other Legislation.



- At the Second Joint Meeting of **Committee on Tourism, Agriculture, Ecology and Spatial Planning and the Committee on Economy, Finance and Budget**, held on 21 December, a consultative hearing was held on the topic: "Application of the Concession Contract between the Government of Montenegro and Vektra Jakić LLC".

NEWS FROM PARLIAMENT



President of the Parliament of Montenegro Ivan Brajović and his delegation paid a two-day visit to Romania(10-11 December)

President of the Parliament of Montenegro Ivan Brajović and his delegation paid a two-day visit to Romania, on which occasion they met with presidents of both chambers of Romanian Parliament Nicolae Liviu Dragnea and Călin Popescu-Tăriceanu. Brajović referred to Romania as the third country presiding over the Council of the European Union, followed by the Austrian and Bulgarian presidency, and is highly acquainted with the situation in the region, fully supports the enlargement process, as well as is fully aware of the importance of membership of Montenegro and other Western Balkans countries to the EU. Dragnea expressed interest in strengthening cooperation at the level of local governments. Tăriceanu offered to provide its support sharing the Romanian experience with Montenegro, in order to fully exploit its resources. In the follow-up, the Delegation met with Romanian Prime Minister Viorica Dăncilă. The Romanian Prime Minister emphasised that the Western Balkans will be one of the main priorities of



its Presidency, and that Montenegro may count on its full support, in order for its achievements to become more viable. Afterwards, there was a meeting with Minister of Foreign Affairs of Romania Teodor Viorel Meleşcanu. Meleşcanu emphasised the importance of engaging in parliamentary activities in order to further intensify the bilateral relations, and congratulated on a successful execution of elections and its post-electoral achievements.

Delegation of the Foreign Affairs Committee of the Grand National Assembly of Turkey paid a visit to the Parliament of Montenegro(4-5 December)

President of the Parliament of Montenegro met with the Delegation of the Foreign Affairs Committee of the Grand National Assembly of Turkey, headed by the Chair of the Committee Volkan Bozkir. Brajović was pleased that the meeting marked the first visit of the Foreign Affairs Committee of the Grand National Assembly of Turkey to Montenegro, in the history of relations of both parliaments. Bozkir was content with the readiness of both parliaments to engage in more intensive cooperation, and commended the activities undertaken by Montenegro since its membership in the organisation. Delegation of the Parliament of Montenegro composed of Chair of the Committee on International Relations and Emigrants Andrija Nikolić, and members of the Committee Nada Drobnjak, Halil Duković, Dragutin Papović, and Miodrag Lekić also met with the Delegation of the Foreign Affairs

Committee of the Grand National Assembly of Turkey. Nikolić acquainted the Turkish parliamentarians with the progress made by Montenegro in the European integration process. Montenegrin Friendship Group with the Grand National Assembly of Turkey also met with the Turkish Delegation. The interlocutors agreed that there were many platforms available to them, in terms of cooperation at the parliamentary level, and that parliamentary friendship groups were undoubtedly a very important mechanism in promoting cooperation in numerous areas. The Turkish Delegation announced that Montenegrin delegation will promptly receive an invitation to visit Turkey. Aside from Chair Nimanbegu and the invitees, the meeting was also attended by MPs Suad Numanović, Marija Maja Čatović, Branka Tanasijević and Nedžad Drešević.

PARLIAMENTARY GLOSSARY

Conference of Presidents of Parliaments of EU Countries is a forum for cooperation between the member state of the European Union at the level of the presidents of parliaments. Since 1999, this forum has been meeting at least once a year with a view to exchanging experience and practice and monitoring the implementation of the principle of subsidiarity and proportionality.¹ The subsidiarity principle aims to ensure that decisions are taken as closely as possible to the citizen. Except in cases where the EU has exclusive competence, action at European level should not be taken unless it is more effective than action taken at national, regional or local level.² "The proportionality principle means that, to achieve its aims, the EU will only take the action it needs to and no more. The principle is enshrined in the Treaty on European Union under Article 5, which states: 'the content and form of Union action shall not exceed what is necessary to achieve the objectives of the Treaties.'²

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. 188;² EU pojmovnik, detaljnije : https://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/en/policy/what/glossary/p/proportionality

IN FOCUS



The 14th COSAP Meeting held

XIV Meeting of Conference of the Parliamentary Committees on European Integration/Affairs of the States Participating in the Stabilization and Association Process in South East Europe (COSAP) took place on 2-3 December. This year's meeting was marked by discussion on the parliamentary dimension of the EU accession process and the prospect of EU enlargement. In his address,



President Brajović referred to the fact that all the parliamentary parties endorsed Montenegro's prospective membership to the EU, which is the main strategic goal of Montenegro at the international level, and that it greatly contributed to the inclusion and successful outcome of the process, as well as that bringing the Western Balkans closer to the centre of EU and out of the periphery would mean the stability of the Europe as a whole. In light of the recent challenges faced by the Parliament, in terms of obligations of certain MPs in court, he was convinced that all individuals and institutions would act accordingly and conscientiously in assuming the responsibilities towards the citizens, with the ultimate goal of democratisation and compliance with the law. Head of the EU Delegation to Montenegro Aivo Orav referred to the reforms realised so far, pertaining to the social, economic, as well as social and political areas, pointing out to the significance of obtaining measurable results and taking advantage of the current momentum for accession of new countries to the EU, this being the main priority of this year's presidency over the Council of the European Union, as well as of the summits held in Sophia and London.

Chair of the Committee on European Integration Slaven Radunović reminded of the importance of the COSAP initiative, a regional forum for the exchange of experience and discussion on the joint challenges in the EU accession process. Radunović welcomed the participants from Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, and Serbia, however, he stated that out of solidarity towards his colleagues from the *Democratic Front* Nebojša Medojević and Milan Knežević, he would not be joining them for the rest of the Conference. Analysing the current political situation in Montenegro, he pointed out to the lack of efficiency of work by judicial institutions, and

called on the necessity of protection of MPs and the right to freedom of speech. The Chair of Committee gained support from members of the Committee on European Integration Ranko Krivokapić and Nedeljko Rudović, who pointed out to the need of protecting parliamentarism and independence of MPs, in alignment with rights set forth in the Constitution. In the first session, the following provided their insights on the prospects and challenges of the EU enlargement policy: Aleksandar Drljević, Chief Negotiator for Montenegro's Accession to the European Union; Ambassador of the Federal Republic of Germany in Montenegro Robert Weber; and Gordana Đurović, professor at the Faculty of Economics, Podgorica and former Minister of European Integration. They assessed that europeanisation of the Western Balkans had remained a priority during the Bulgarian and Austrian Presidency, with the focus on the European Union's commitment towards the region. The EU assistance also entails an increase of funds awarded within the frameworks of the Instrument for Pre-Accession Assistance (IPA). The Parliamentarians referred to the importance of fostering regional cooperation and stability in the region, noting that enlargement policy was both at the interest of EU and prospective members. In the upcoming period, the focus will be on obtaining viable results as well as strengthening of the capacities of countries in terms of remaining in tune with and keeping up with the EU standards, with a view to increase competition. In light of the challenges faced by the EU (Brexit, migrant crisis and the ascending of nationalist parties), and the upcoming elections for the European Parliament, it is of crucial importance to maintain the support of the citizens regarding the European integration process by the means of strengthening transparency of the process, and maintaining a clear vision and commitment to European values. The second session was dedicated to parliamentary dimension of the EU accession process, and keynote speaker during the session was Kristian Vigenin, Chair of the Committee on European Affairs and Oversight of the European Funds of the National Assembly Republic of Bulgaria. During the session, the discussion was about the relationship of the government and parliament in the integration process, regional cooperation as an adequate mechanism in solving the common challenges, as well as parliamentary cooperation within the frameworks of the Berlin process.

In spite of the fact MPs haven't reached an agreement on the joint statement, they emphasised that the goal of the gathering was accomplished and expressed gratitude for the opportunity to directly and openly discuss issues of common interest pertaining to the process of the European integration. The upcoming COSAP Meeting is scheduled to take place in the first half of 2019, in Belgrade.

FROM THE HISTORY OF MONTENEGRIN PARLIAMENTARISM



**Excerpts from the Law on the Elections of MPs for the
Constituent Assembly of the People's Republic of
Montenegro, 1946 – Official Gazette of People's
Republic of Montenegro, N° 18 as of 18 September 1946**

VII POLLING STATIONS, ELECTORAL COMMITTEES, VOTING

Article 20

Each voter is entitled to vote once.
A voter shall show in person to vote and may only vote for
the determined and published list of candidates.

Article 21

It is prohibited to serve or offer any type of alcohol
beverages on the eve of elections, one day prior and after
the elections. This prohibition is to be announced by local
people's committees, three days prior to the elections.

Article 22

Polling stations headquarters shall be designated by the
local committee.
In locations populated by over 500 voters, voting shall be
performed in several polling stations which are to be made
accessible to its voters. In such events, each polling station
is to be marked with a number.

Article 28

On the eve of elections, precisely at 3 pm, all members of
the electoral committee or deputy members shall assemble
within the headquarters designated for voting, and will be
handed over boxes by the local people's committee with
keys and a specific number of little balls, the permanent
electoral register, list of candidates and all other necessities.
They are obliged to inspect the boxes and ascertain their
regularity. Afterwards, the President shall lock the boxes
with two keys in such a manner that the box is locked
entirely. One key is to be kept by the President and the
other by a member of the electoral committee. At the follow
up, the electoral committee shall place in each box all the
determined lists of candidates, so that each is viable and
understandable.

The boxes containing candidate lists for the Constituent
Assembly of the People's Republic of Montenegro are
positioned in the order in which the lists have been
determined. In the event two or more candidates have
joined within the same list of candidates, all candidates
shall be entitled to a separate box each, in the order in
which the candidates have been positioned. Lists'
representatives shall be given the opportunity to

participate in all the activities.

Article 31

President of the electoral committee together with the
members of the committees are in charge of maintaining
the order and peace during the voting. If necessary, the
President may seek the assistance of the police, who shall
remain at his service from the moment of its entry.

Article 35

Each voter shall enter and approach the table of the
electoral committee, and after being summoned by the
President, shall loudly state his/her first name and
surname and profession, and in places with many polling
stations even his address, so that all members of the
electoral committee are cognizant of his statement. The
President shall determine the voter's identity via his
identity card or another manner. Afterwards, the President
shall verify whether the relevant person is registered in the
electoral registry. Upon verifying the information, the
President shall circle the number of the voter contained in
the registry, in order to conclude that the said person is
about to vote. At the same time, the person in charge of
registry of voters shall right down the name and surname
of the voter, as well as the number he/she has been
designated in the electoral registry. Then, the President
shall inform the voter with the manner of voting and hand
him/her over the little ball.

Article 37

The voting shall be performed, as follows:
Upon receiving the little ball, he/she places it on his right or
left hand if he/she is deprived of the right hand, clench
his/her fists, therefore approaching every box with his
clenched fists. The little ball shall be dropped in the box
appertaining to the candidate for which the voter wishes to
vote for. Once the voter has dropped the little ball in the
box, he/she then unclenches his fist showing to the entire
masses that he performed his duty. The President and
members of the electoral committee shall be in charge of
overseeing the entire process, ascertaining whether the
voter tries to place the little ball in the other hand and take
it.

Article 45

After the voting has ended, the electoral committee is to
count all the balls that haven't been used and place them in
separate bag. The bag is to be closed and sealed.
Afterwards, the electoral committee verifies the electoral
registry and the turnout number, in order to determine the
number of votes cast.

CALENDAR



2 December

- Delegation of the Friendship Group with Poland headed by Vice-President Branimir Gvozdenović paid an official visit to Warsaw, from 2-5 December 2018. Gvozdenović emphasised the importance of the support of Poland to the integration of Western Balkans countries into the European and Euro-Atlantic structures and thanked them for declaring Montenegro as leader in the region, in terms of joining the Community of European countries. Vice-President of the Parliament of Poland Ryszard Terlecki emphasised that Montenegro may count on the friendly support of Poland, in terms of its EU path and NATO partnership, as well as support in the integration processes both at the multilateral and bilateral level. The meetings were attended by MPs Marta Šćepanović, Momčilo Martinović and Miloš Nikolić.

3 December

- The 14th Meeting of Conference of the Parliamentary Committees on European Integration/Affairs of the States Participating in the Stabilization and Association Process in South East Europe (COSAP), took place.

4 December

- President of the Parliament of Montenegro met with the Delegation of the Foreign Affairs Committee of the



Grand National Assembly of Turkey, headed by the Chair of the Committee Volkan Bozkir. Brajović was pleased that the meeting marked the first visit of the Foreign Affairs Committee of the Grand National Assembly of Turkey to Montenegro, in the history of relations of both parliaments. Bozkir was content with the readiness of both parliaments to engage in more intensive cooperation, and commended the activities undertaken by Montenegro since its membership in the organisation. Delegation of the Parliament of Montenegro composed of Chair of the Committee on

International Relations and Emigrants Andrija Nikolić, and members of the Committee Nada Drobnjak, Halil Duković, Dragutin Papović, and Miodrag Lekić also met with the Delegation of the Foreign Affairs Committee of the Grand National Assembly of Turkey.

- Members of the Committee on Economy, Finance and Budget met with parliamentary Delegation of the Assembly of Kosovo. The meeting was held within the project "Public Dialogue on Sustainable Use of Energy in South East Europe", organised by Open Regional Fund for South East Europe-Energy Efficiency (ORF EE) of the German Association for International Cooperation (GIZ) in cooperation with School for Political Studies and five political schools of the Council of Europe from the region. During the meeting, they discussed topics involving energy, exploiting energy resources, future prospects for the development of the sector, especially considering the ongoing projects of Energy Interconnection realised between Italy and Montenegro, valorisation of hydro and thermal potential, as well as alternative energy sources.

5 December

- On the occasion of marking the Human Rights Day, the Committee on Human Rights and Freedoms organised a conference titled: "Personal Data Protection in Montenegro- legislation and practice". Aside from the MPs, the Conference was attended by the Protector of Human Rights and Freedoms, and representatives of the Ministry of the Interior, Agency for Personal Data Protection and Free Access to Information, Delegation of the European Union to Montenegro, UNDP, UNICEF and UNHCR and NGO "Civic alliance". Participants of the Conference concluded that individual human rights are part of our everyday lives, and that marking of Human Rights Day was only a reminder of the obligation to exercise human rights and freedoms and showing appreciation for the different.
- At the invitation of the Austrian Ambassador Ana Janković, President of the Parliament of Montenegro Ivan Brajović was an honorary guest at the Meeting of the ambassadors of the member states of the European Union and prospective members. The meeting was an opportunity to once more exchange opinions on the EU enlargement policy.

6 December

- Chair of the Committee on International Relations and Emigrants Andrija Nikolić met with the Ambassador of

CALENDAR



Macedonia to Montenegro Mihailo Trpkovski. The interlocutors agreed that the good neighbouring policy was a precondition for progress, prosperity, wellbeing of the region, which was joined with a view to achieving the same foreign political goal-fullfledged membership in the European family. Nikolić and Trpkovski especially discussed the possibility of intensifying the parliamentary cooperation of both countries, especially via parliamentary committees in charge of foreign affairs.

- Delegation of the Parliament of Montenegro participated in the Annual Session of the Parliamentary Conference on the World Trade Organisation (PCWTO), organised by the Inter-Parliamentary Union and the European Parliament, which took place on 6-7 December, in Geneva. The aim of the Conference was the promotion of WTO transparency, and it was an opportunity for representatives of parliament to exchange opinions and experience with the WTO officials and representatives of the civic society. The Conference was attended by Chair of the Committee on Economy, Finance and Budget Predrag Sekulić and MP Filip Vuković.

7 December

- Vice-President of the Parliament of Montenegro and Chair of the Friendship Group with the National People's Congress (NPC) of the People's Republic of China Branimir Gvozdenović met with the Ambassador of the People's Republic of China Liu Jin. During the meeting, they discussed the ongoing projects in Montenegro being realised by Chinese companies. Gvozdenović and Jin announced a future cooperation in various areas, given that the joint activities and cooperation realised so far, laid a solid foundation for relations between both countries.
- Gender Equality Committee in cooperation with the OSCE Mission organised a two-day workshop dedicated to MPs and employees of the Parliament of Montenegro, on the topic: "Gender-Responsive Budgeting", with the

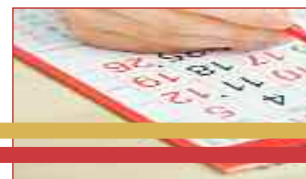


aim of implementing one of the measures from the Action Plan for the Gender Sensitive Parliament of Montenegro, September 2016 - September 2018, which envisages capacity building and development of procedures for the implementation of assessments in all stages of making and adopting laws, policies, and other acts.

10 December

- President of the Parliament of Montenegro Ivan Brajović and his delegation paid a two-day visit to Romania, on which occasion they met with presidents of both chambers of Romanian Parliament Nicolae Liviu Dragnea and Călin Popescu-Tăriceanu, Romanian Prime Minister Viorica Dăncilă, and Minister of Foreign Affairs of Romania Teodor Viorel Meleşcanu.
- Chair of the Committee on Education, Science, Culture and Sports Radule Novović met with the Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary Ambassador of the Republic of France to Montenegro Christine Toudic Gaborit. Novović acquainted the Ambassador with the duties and the functioning of the Committee, as well as activities undertaken in terms of the Reform of educational system in Montenegro. The meeting was organised with the aim of strengthening parliamentary cooperation in areas falling under the competence of the Committee on Education, Science, Culture and Sports, as well as establishing communication between the Committee and relevant working bodies of the French Assembly and Senate.
- Head of the Permanent Delegation to the NATO PA and MP Obrad Mišo Stanišić participated in the 18th Annual Trans-Atlantic Forum of the NATO PA, realised by the NATO PA in cooperation with the Atlantic Council of the United States, the Institute for National Strategic Studies of the National Defense University, on 10-12 December 2018, Washington, USA. The forum is realised annually by National Defense University and the Atlantic Council of the United States.
- Member of the Committee on Human Rights and Freedoms Suad Numanović participated in the Conference "Protection of Human Rights and Freedoms in Montenegro", held on 10 December, in Podgorica. In his address, the MP reminded that according to numerous survey results conducted in Montenegro, the level of tolerance towards violence against women was at a very high level, despite the fact that it gravely endangered fundamental human rights and freedoms.

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It was noted that the participants of the conference were acquainted with the level of exercise of human rights and freedoms in Montenegro, with a comprehensive approach to two areas, which have proven to be a challenge, thus, requiring intensive efforts from all actors in the society, in order to reach the highest standards.

11 December

- Members of the Committee on Political System, Judiciary and Administration, and MPs Marija Maja Čatović, Radule Novović and committee staff, paid a three - day visit to Državni zbor and judicial institutions of the Republic of Slovenia. The first day, the Delegation met with the highest representatives of the Judicial Council, State Prosecutorial Council and Ministry of Justice. Second day, the Delegation took part in several meetings held in the parliamentary assembly - Državni zbor. During the visit, the Delegation also had the opportunity to meet with representatives of the Slovenian Parliamentary Friendship Group, headed by Tomaž Lisec. The interlocutors discussed the current political situation in both countries, and areas of cooperation, noting that there was plenty of room for additional intensifying of relations, both at the interest of the said countries and the citizens. The third day, the Delegation paid a visit to the Embassy of Montenegro to Slovenia. The visit was realised with the aim of exchanging experience and strengthening cooperation between the Committee on Political System, Judiciary and Administration of the Parliament of Montenegro and working bodies of Državni zbor, provided with similar competences.

12 December

- Chair of the Committee on International Relations and Emigrants met with representatives of the Association and communities of emigrants in the Republic of Serbia. Representatives of the Association and communities of emigrants in the Republic of Serbia expressed their views and issues regarding the functioning of the national community, and asked for assistance from the parent body in terms of implementing projects involving culture and safeguarding of identity. Aside from associations of emigrants, the meeting was also attended by the

Ambassador of Montenegro to the Republic of Serbia Branislav Mićunović and Consul General of Montenegro in Serbia Miodrag Kankaraš.

- Chair of the Committee on Health, Labour and Social Welfare Suad Numanović was present at the revealing of Draft analysis of inter-sectoral support of different systems for children with developmental disabilities. The Draft analysis of inter-sectoral support of different systems for children with developmental disabilities was presented at the Blue Conference Hall of the United Nations headquarters.



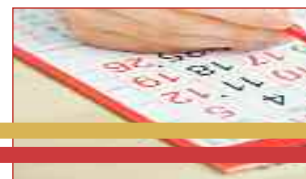
13 December

- Chair of the Committee on International Relations and Emigrants Andrija Nikolić received students from the Faculty of Administrative and European Studies, in Podgorica. Chair and Secretary of the Committee acquainted the students with the Rules of Procedure, duties of the Committee on International Relations and Emigrants, as well as the most important activities of this working body, implemented within the legislative and control function of the Parliament. At the end of the meeting, Chair Andrija Nikolić reiterated that the Parliament remains open to all citizens and expressed readiness to further continue the cooperation with the students.

14 December

- President of the Parliament of Montenegro Ivan Brajović spoke with the Ambassador of the Republic of Albania to Montenegro Ridi Kurtezi. The interlocutors jointly noted that Montenegro and Albania fostered excellent relations and pointed out to the need of further strengthening the overall cooperation, with special focus on Economy. President of the Parliament reiterated the readiness

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of Montenegro to share its experiences with and assist Albania on its European path.



20 December

- Chair of the Legislative Committee of the Parliament of Montenegro Marta Šćepanović met with the Ambassador of the Republic of Italy to Montenegro Luca Zelioli. They discussed at the meeting the work of the Legislative Committee and the possibility of establishing cooperation with the Parliament of Italy. The meeting was an opportunity to exchange opinions on current issues, as well as further steps in bringing closer Italy and Montenegro.

21 December

- Parliamentary Friendship Group met with the Parliament of Jordan. Chair of the Parliamentary Friendship Group Genci Nimanbegu emphasised the need to further strengthen the good relations with the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, noting that the parliamentary diplomacy manifested through direct communication of MPs of both parliaments via parliamentary friendship groups, was a very practical mechanism for promoting relations of both Montenegro and Jordan. The meeting was attended by MPs Sanja Pavićević, Momčilo Martinović and Miodrag Vuković.
- President of the Parliament of Montenegro Ivan Brajović hosted for an inaugural visit the new Ambassador of the United States of America to Montenegro Judy Rising Reinke. Interlocutors agreed that parliaments represented an important part of the democratic system and fundamental social values, and the work on strengthening parliamentary cooperation should be continued. The President of the Parliament

and the USA Ambassador stressed the mutual interest for the priority strengthening of bilateral economic cooperation. President Brajović thanked the Ambassador for expressed personal desire to be engaged in better mutual acquaintance of the citizens of the two countries and deepening the ties between friendly nations of partner countries with common values.



- President of the Parliament of Montenegro Ivan Brajović met with non-resident Ambassador of Jordan Fawwaz Al-Eitan. Bilateral relations between Montenegro and the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan have been developing without obstacles, thus providing opportunity for further parliamentary and economic cooperation - it was concluded at the meeting. The interlocutors assessed that parliamentary dialogue at the highest level and within the framework of friendship groups represented a good basis for the development of relations in many areas and the use of economic potentials of the two countries. President Brajović acknowledged preservation of stability and security of Jordan, bearing in mind the challenges that this country has faced, primarily with the large number of emigrants currently making up almost half of the population of the Kingdom.

28 December

- Working Groups of the Committee on Further Reform of Electoral and Other Legislation continued to work, and six meetings were held during this week, where MPs, representatives of the NGO sector and members of the academia discussed the work methodology and activities that the working groups of the Committee would deal with in the period ahead, with the aim of preparing legal solutions and their referral to the Committee for consideration.