

OPEN PARLIAMENT



Center for Democratic Transition



Parliament of Montenegro



European Union

Bulletin on the Parliament of Montenegro Performance ♦ Electronic format ♦ Release: monthly ♦ Year I ♦ No. 9 ♦ October 2011

FOREWORD

Dear readers,

You are reading the most important information about the activities of the Parliament of Montenegro in the period from 1 to 31 October, which is, in the form of monthly bulletin "Open Parliament", prepared by the Center for Democratic Transition (CDT) and the Administration of the Parliament of Montenegro.

This edition of the bulletin focusses on establishing the Day of Parliamentarism in Montenegro, which will be celebrated on 31 October, in the memory of 31 October 1906, when the first National Assembly of Montenegro was constituted in Zetski Dom in Cetinje.

With regard to regular parliamentary activities, we would like to note that parliamentary committees deliberated 14 law proposals. Through the exercise of their oversight function, parliamentary committees, among other things, also discussed several reports submitted to the Parliament by certain authorities in accordance with the law. In addition, committees held four consultative hearings.

Also, the third meeting of the European Union – Montenegro Stabilisation and Association Parliamentary Committee (SAPC) was held, during which the views on relations between the EU and Montenegro were exchanged – the remaining conditions for the opening of membership negotiations, progress related to the recommendations adopted at the second meeting of the Parliamentary Committee, as well as other issues, after which the Declaration and recommendations were adopted. This month was marked by other numerous activities at regional and international level.

The bulletin "Open Parliament" is published monthly as a part of the project "Open Institutions", funded by the European Union through the Delegation of the European Union to Montenegro.

I would like to send you the warmest greetings until the next edition of the bulletin while waiting for your opinions, criticisms and suggestions to make this bulletin even better and more interesting.

*Respectfully,
Dragan Koprivica,
CDT Executive Director*



LEGISLATIVE ACTIVITY

In October, at the Fourth Sitting of the Second Regular session in 2011, the Parliament of Montenegro adopted the Proposal for a Decision on Establishing the Day of Parliamentarism in Montenegro.

Law proposals considered before committees:

- **Proposal for Amendments to the Constitution of Montenegro** considered and submitted to the Parliament for adoption by the leading Committee on Constitutional Affairs and Legislation.
- **Proposal for a Law on Postal Services** considered and submitted to the Parliament for adoption by the Committee on Constitutional Affairs and Legislation as well as the Committee on International Relations and European Integration.
- **Proposal for a Law on the Recognition of Foreign Educational Documents and Equalization of Qualifications** considered and submitted to the Parliament for adoption by the Committee on Constitutional Affairs and Legislation as well as the Committee on Education, Science, Culture and Sport.
- **Proposal for a Law Amending the Law on Inspection Control** considered and submitted to the Parliament for adoption by the Committee on Constitutional Affairs and Legislation.
- **Proposal for a Law on Ratification of the Agreement between the Government of Montenegro and the Republic of Kosovo on readmission (return and acceptance) of persons without a residence permit, with the Protocol on the Implementation of the Agreement** reviewed and submitted to the Parliament for adoption by the Committee on International Relations and European Integration



OPEN INSTITUTIONS
An EU-funded project managed by the
Delegation of the European Union to Montenegro

"This document has been produced with the financial assistance of the European Union. The contents of this document are the sole responsibility of Center for Democratic Transition and can under no circumstances be regarded as reflecting the position of the European Union."



- **Proposal for a Law Amending the Law on State Audit Institution** considered and submitted to the Parliament for adoption by the Committee on International Relations and European Integration.
- **Proposal for a Law Amending the Law on Foreigners** considered and submitted to the Parliament for approval by the Committee on Political System, Judiciary and Administration as well as by the Committee on Constitutional Affairs and Legislation.
- **Proposal for a Law Amending the Law on the Electronic Media** established at the Session of the Committee on Economics, Finance and Budget.
- **Proposal for a Law on Regional Water Supply of the Montenegrin Coast** considered and submitted to the Parliament for adoption by the Committee on International Relations and European Integration.
- **Proposal for a Law on Medicines** considered and submitted to the Parliament for adoption by the Committee on International Relations and European Integration.
- **Proposal for a Law on Ratification of the Protocol on Integrated Coastal Zone Management in the Mediterranean** discussed and submitted to the Parliament for adoption by the Committee on International Relations and European Integration.

- **Proposal for a Law Amending the Law on State Aid** discussed and submitted to the Parliament for adoption by the Committee on Economy, Finance and Budget and the Committee on International Relations and European Integration
- **Proposal for a Decision Establishing the Day of Parliamentarism in Montenegro** considered and submitted to the Parliament for adoption by the Committee on Political System, Judiciary and Administration as well as the Committee on Constitutional Affairs and Legislation.



OVERSIGHT ACTIVITY



- The Committee for Human Rights and Freedoms considered the Special Report on the state of the premises of the Police Directorate for detention of persons deprived of liberty. After the introductory notes of Sucko Bakovic, the Protector of Human Rights and Freedoms of Montenegro on the Special Report on the state of the premises of the Police Directorate for detention of persons deprived of liberty and a broader discussion involving members of the Committee and representatives of the Police Directorate, it was assessed that the Police Directorate, within its competences in the period from 2008 to 2011, intensified activities and undertook a series of measures to implement the recommendations of the CPT report and recommendations of the Ombudsman in 2008, which contributed to removing a number of shortcomings in the treatment of detainees, but that there has been still room for improvement. The Committee accepted as objective and impartial the findings and recommendations that the Ombudsman presented in the Special Report, considering the importance of protecting the rights of persons deprived of liberty, observations in the work on citizens' complaints, visits and inspections of the premises of the Police Directorate for detention of persons deprived of liberty. The Committee unani-

mously adopted the Special Report, with ten votes "for" and decided to submit the Report to the Parliament with a proposal for conclusions.

- The Committee on Economics, Finance and Budget held a sitting at which it adopted the Financial Report of the Agency for Electronic Communications and Postal Services for 2010 and established the request for the allocation of budget funds of the State Audit Institution in the Budget of Montenegro for 2012.
- The Committee for Human Rights and Freedoms of the Parliament of Montenegro, while conducting the nineteenth activity set out in the Work Plan of the Committee for the period from December 2010 until October 2011 based on the Decision adopted at the 52nd session on 18 October 2011, held a control hearing of the Minister for Human and Minority Rights Ferhat Dinosa. The control hearing was entitled as "The Implementation of the Law against Discrimination and Activities on Enhancing Awareness of the Importance of Prevention, Reporting and Sanctioning of all Forms of Discrimination." In addition to Members of Parliament, Committee members and the invited representative of the Government of Montenegro, the control hearing of Ferhat Dinosa, upon the invitation, in accordance with Article 67, paragraph 2 of the



OPEN INSTITUTIONS
An EU-funded project managed by the
Delegation of the European Union to Montenegro

"This document has been produced with the financial assistance of the European Union. The contents of this document are the sole responsibility of Center for Democratic Transition and can under no circumstances be regarded as reflecting the position of the European Union."

Rules of Procedure of the Parliament of Montenegro, was also attended by the Protector of Human Rights and Freedoms of Montenegro, Sucko Bakovic, which is by the Law on Protector of Human Rights and Freedoms designated as an institutional mechanism for protection against discrimination and Milan Radovic, a representative of the NGO "Citizens Alliance," which continuously monitors the work of the Committee for Human rights and Freedoms. Also, the representatives of the U.S. Embassy to Montenegro and NGOs dealing with human rights and freedoms including Centre for Civic Education, Action for Human Rights, Juventas, Roma Scholarship Foundation and LGBT Forum Progress attended the committee session at their request, and upon the approval of the Chairperson of the Committee.

When responding to the posed questions Minister Dinoshia said that the Ministry for Human and Minority Rights implemented a range of activities including: the adoption of the Rulebook on the contents and manner of keeping records of all cases of discrimination, research on citizens' attitudes towards vulnerable groups, implementation of the campaign for the Protection against Discrimination, organization of the Conference "Towards Europe - Towards Equality", organization of trainings for representatives of the state administration authorities who directly work on the issues related to discrimination prevention, protection and sanctioning. He emphasized that the Ministry would continue in the future with all the activities that contributed to raising awareness about the importance of prevention, reporting and sanctioning of all forms of discrimination.

Following the Control Hearing, the Committee, in accordance with Article 77, paragraph 2 of the Rules of Procedure of the Parliament of Montenegro, unanimously decided to submit the Report to the Parliament and propose an appropriate conclusion of the Control Hearing of the Minister for Human and Minority Rights, Ferhat Dinoshia.

- The Committee on Security and Defence held a consultative hearing on the prevention of floods in Montenegro. The session of the Committee on Security and Defence of the Parliament of Montenegro, upon the invitation, was attended by the representatives of: the Ministry of Interior, Zoran Begovic, Deputy Minister and Head of Emergency Situations and Civil Security Department; Ministry of Defence, Colonel Zoran Lazarevic, Chief of General Staff of the Army of Montenegro and a member of the Committee on Disaster, Risk Reduction; Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, Velizar Vojinovic, Deputy Minister for Water Resources; the Police Directorate, Nikola Janjusevic, Assistant to Director and Head of General Affairs Department; and Director of the Hydro-Meteorological Institute of Montenegro, Luka Mitrovic, as well as NGO representatives: Dobrislav Bajovic, from Alpha Center, Aida Petrovic, from

Montenegrin Women's Lobby, Zarija Pavicevic, from the Action for Democratic Prosperity, "ZID" - and Budislav Minic from the Center for Civic Initiative (CGI).

The Committee conducted a constructive discussion in which the representatives of the respective institutions introduced the Committee members with the results achieved in the field of flood prevention in Montenegro in 2011.



- The Committee on Economics, Finance and Budget, at the continuation of its 67th session, decided to recommend to the Parliament to adopt the four financial statements of independent regulatory bodies: the Financial Report with the report on the work of the Energy Regulatory Agency for 2010; Financial Report with the report of the Agency for Supervision of Insurance in 2010; Financial Report of the Commission for Securities in 2010 and Financial Report of the Agency for Medicines and Medical Devices in 2010.
- The Committee on Economics, Finance and Budget held a control hearing of: Deputy Prime Minister prof. Vujica Lazovic, Minister of Finance, Dr Milorad Katnic, and Minister of Economy, Dr Vladimir Kavaric, and obtained additional data, information, and answers to a list of questions asked about the previous state aid policy. The debate, among other things, pointed to the need to reduce the award of the state aid for rescuing and restructuring of business organizations; change the structure of the awarded aid - by increasing the share of good state aids; a review of regional state aid policy and the adoption of measures to increase its share in the structure of the total state aid and create the necessary conditions for monitoring the effects of aid given by all categories - horizontal, sectoral and regional. The Committee, taking into consideration the analysis and the views expressed in the debate on the Annual Report on awarded state aid in Montenegro in 2010, and those from recently held control hearing, decided to recommend to the Parliament not to adopt the said Annual Report.



NEWS FROM PARLIAMENT



The Third Meeting of the EU-Montenegro Stabilization and Association Parliamentary Committee (SAPC)

The third meeting of the EU-Montenegro Stabilization and Association Parliamentary Committee (SAPC) under the co-chairmanship of Ranko Krivokapic, President of the Parliament of Montenegro and Eduard Kukan, President of the Delegation of the European Parliament for Relations with Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Serbia, Montenegro and Kosovo, was held in Brussels on 3 and 4 October. In addition to the Chairman, Ranko Krivokapic, members of the delegation of the Parliament of Montenegro who attended the meeting were: Vice Chairperson, Vasilije Lalosevic, Miodrag Vukovic, Obrad Miso Stanisic, Milutin Simovic, Mevludin Nuhodzic, Aleksandar Bogdanovic, Rasko Konjevic, Suljo Mustafic, Predrag Bulatovic, Slaven Radunovic, Branko Radulovic, GenciNimanbegu and Goran Danilovic.

The meeting held an exchange of views on relations between the EU and Montenegro - the remaining conditions for the opening of membership negotiations, the progress in relation to the recommendations adopted at

the second meeting of the Parliamentary Committee, provisions of the Law on elections and Political Party Financing, progress in the protection of fundamental human rights, progress in the fight against organized crime and corruption and economic developments.

In addition to members of the Parliamentary Committee, the meeting was attended by Director General for Enlargement, Stefano Sannino, on behalf of the European Commission, Minister of Foreign Affairs and European Integration, Milan Rocen, on behalf of the Government of Montenegro, State Secretary for European Integration, Slavica Milacic, Head of the Mission of Montenegro to the EU Ambassador, Aleksandar Andrija Pejovic, and the Head of the Unit for Montenegro and Albania in the Directorate General for Enlargement, Marta Garcia Fidalgo and her Deputy, Vassilis Maragos.

At the end of the meeting, members of the Parliamentary Committee adopted the Declaration and recommendations.

The Fourth Regular Session of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe in 2011

The Fourth Regular Session of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe in 2011, which was attended by the Parliamentary Delegation of Montenegro to PACE, was held from 3 to 6 October. The first day of the autumn session of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe was marked by the presentation of the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine and the Chairman of the Committee of Ministers, Kostyantyn Gryshchenka, as well as by the topic of human rights and freedoms with a special focus on children's rights.

On the second day of the autumn session of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, Valentina Radulovic-Scepanovic, the Head of Delegation and Snezana Jonica MP participated in the meeting of the Monitoring Committee and informed the Committee members on the progress of Montenegro from June through October, with a special emphasis on the implementation of previous recommendations of rapporteurs. Members of Parliament, Scepanovic and Jonica exchanged detailed views with CoE rapporteurs Gardetto and Holovati on Montenegro's achievements in the process of fulfilling post-accession commitments undertaken by Montenegro when joining the Council of Europe.

The third day of the autumn session of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, in the forenoon sitting, was marked by the debate on the Report on the activities of the Organization for Cooperation and Economic Development (OECD) in the period 2010-2011.

On the fourth day of the autumn session of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, among other things, Members of Parliament discussed by urgent procedure the subject entitled "The Political Situation in the Balkans." The report was presented by the Chairman of the PACE Political Affairs Committee Bjorn Von Sydow. The report proposes a series of recommendations to address the situation in the region. In the afternoon session, MPs voted on the Draft Resolution on the basis of the Report.

In the morning session, the Chairman of the Executive Committee of the Organization for the Liberation of Palestine and the Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas addressed Members of Parliament. In his address, he particularly stressed the Palestinian progress in the implementation of intensive programs aimed at promoting and strengthening a culture of peace, justice and democracy to strengthen the state institutions. During the morning session, the MPs adopted the Draft Resolution and Draft Recommendations of the Report on Abuse of state secrecy and national security: obstacles to parliamentary and judicial scrutiny of human rights violations made by the Rapporteur of the Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights Dick Marty. During the afternoon, the plenary session discussed the burning topic entitled "How the Council of Europe member states can provide the assistance to the countries affected by humanitarian disasters such as the East African countries? "and the topic" Human Rights and the Fight against Terrorism. "



OPEN INSTITUTIONS
An EU-funded project managed by the
Delegation of the European Union to Montenegro

"This document has been produced with the financial assistance of the European Union. The contents of this document are the sole responsibility of Center for Democratic Transition and can under no circumstances be regarded as reflecting the position of the European Union."

Visit of Bavarian MPs to the Montenegrin Parliament

Members of the delegation of the Committee on Relations with the Federation and Europe of the Bavarian Parliament, led by the Chairperson, Ursula Menlo, visited the Parliament of Montenegro, during which they had meetings with Vice President of the Parliament of Montenegro, Zeljko Sturanovic, and representatives of the parliamentary caucuses.

The Vice President of Parliament of Montenegro, Zeljko Sturanovic, welcomed the guests and expressed his satisfaction with the overall good cooperation between the two countries. Members of the delegation acknowledged Montenegro's achievements on its way to the Eu-

ropean and Euro-Atlantic integration and during the talks; they expressed their interest in the role and operation of the Parliament on the road to the EU.

During joint-talks, Bavarian MPs and representatives of political party caucuses of the Montenegrin Parliament expressed their satisfaction with the previous cooperation. In addition, Montenegrin MPs used the opportunity to exchange experiences with German parliamentarians who visited Montenegro on the occasion of meetings scheduled with all candidate countries and potential candidate countries for EU membership.

The 46th COSAC Plenary Session

During the half-year of the Polish EU Presidency, the 46th plenary meeting of the chairs of the European Affairs Committees was held in Warsaw from 2-4 October. Zeljko Avramovic MP, a member of the International Relations and European Integration Committee of the Parliament of Montenegro participated in the meeting.

During the two-day session, the COSAC discussed the Multi-Annual Financial Framework from the perspective of the EU budget and from the perspective of cohesion policy for the period from 2014 to 2020, the previous performance of the Polish EU Presidency and the situation in the EU two years after the entry into force of the

Lisbon Treaty.

Also, at its 46th session, COSAC adopted the 16th Bi-annual Report on the work of COSAC and presented decisions made at the presiding troika meeting.

With granting Montenegro the status of a candidate country for the EU membership on 17 December 2010, the requirement was met for the participation of representatives of the Parliament of Montenegro, in the capacity of an observer country, in parliamentary meetings that gathered representatives of national parliaments of the EU member states, which is organized during a half-year rotating EU presidency.

The Sixth Conference of Presidents of the Parliaments of Small European States

The Sixth Conference of Presidents of Parliaments of Small European countries was held in Malta from 6 to 7 October. The conference was attended by Ranko Krivokapic, President of the Parliament of Montenegro, who gave an address on the topic "Parliamentary Diplomacy", "Small Parliaments Addressing the Challenges of an Increasing Legislative and Debating Workload" and "Setting up of an information sharing database for the exchange of information, resources and experiences."

In his opening remarks of the parliamentary diplomacy, President of the Parliament of Montenegro said that in practice many examples can be found of how parliamentary diplomacy changed historic course of a country and pointed out to an example of Montenegro, which restored its independence after almost a century. In an opening address entitled "Small Parliaments Addressing the Challenges of an Increasing Legislative and Debating Workload," he said that parliamentary democracy as the foundation of modern political systems was in constant quest for the best models that would enable an adequate position of parliaments in the state government. He assessed that parliaments were facing ever increasing challenges along with a global trend of strengthening their role, and emphasized that in that context, it represents a particular test for small state parliaments because of numerous tasks set before them, limited resources and ever increasing public expectations.

The President, Krivokapic, reiterated that the European Commission reports show in the best way a continued progress related to promoting the role of the Montenegrin Parliament – from the assessments related to the strengthening its legislative role, through the intensification of legislative activities, to the assessments given in the last report which clearly highlighted a continuous strong commitment to a continuous strengthening of overall parliamentary capacity. A statement on the key role of the Parliament of Montenegro in the EU integration process, which was recently pronounced by the Commissioner File, has certainly represented a great encouragement and an additional incentive for our parliamentarians, said Krivokapic.

Shifting the pendulum of political power from the executive to the legislative branch has created a new obligation, imposed a greater engagement, new forms of action and above all the additional responsibility for us parliamentarians. New institutional arrangements of the EU, established the Lisbon Treaty, are also reflected in an increased role of the European and national parliaments in shaping and defining the various policies of the Union. The President of the Parliament of Montenegro also emphasized that these were all new circumstances to which our small parliaments should respond by its expertise, quality and efficiency.

Montenegro will continue to work constantly on improving specialized knowledge - primarily the skills re-



lated to the areas that are an integral part of the European chapter 35, said Krivokapic. In this way, we are sending a clear and the best message –that we want to contribute to a quality of the European process primarily with our

knowledge and competences.

While in Malta, President Krivokapic met with Lawrence Gonzi, the Prime Minister of Malta and Asta Jöhanesdotir, President of the Parliament of Iceland.

The OSCE Parliamentary Assembly Session

The 10th autumn Session of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly was held in Dubrovnik from 7 to 9 October. Petros Efthymiou, President of the OSCE PA, Luka Bebic, President of the Croatian Parliament, Tonino Picula, Head of the Croatian delegation to the OSCE PS, Jadranka Kosor, Prime Minister of the Republic of Croatia and President of the Republic of Croatia, Ivo Josipovic, addressed parliamentarians at the opening of the OSCE PA session.

The opening ceremony was followed by the first sitting of the Parliamentary Conference under the topic "Challenges and Concerns of South-East Europe: the Role of the OSCE". In this part of the session, Heads of the OSCE missions in the region, including the Ambassador, Sarunas Adomavicius, Head of the OSCE Mission to Montenegro held presentations. In the second part of the day, parliamentary conference was resumed with another session entitled "Current Status: Economic Cooperation among Countries in South East Europe".

On the second day of the autumn OSCE PA session, the third and the last session of the Parliamentary Conference entitled "Challenges and Concerns of South East Europe: the Role of the OSCE" was held. The session discussed the Euro-Atlantic integration of South East Europe, Integration into the EU: meeting the criteria; Nationalism vs. European Integration; Promoting long-term

stability in the Balkans.

On the third day of the autumn OSCE PA session, a meeting of the Standing Committee was held, whose member was Ranko Krivokapic, the Head of the Montenegrin delegation and President of the Parliament of Montenegro. The meeting presented reports and activities of Mr Efthymiou, the President the OSCE PS, Mr Battelli, Director of the Treasury and Mr Olivera, PS Secretary-General. In addition to the said reports, also reports of other PS activities were presented at the meeting, such as: electoral observation missions, ad hoc committees and special representatives. Mr Battelli, as a Special Representative for South Eastern Europe, in his report mentioned his recent visit to Montenegro and meetings he had with Montenegrin officials. The Central Committee sitting also announced future meetings of the Parliamentary Assembly.

During the second part of the day, the Mediterranean Forum was held with an emphasis on making the Mediterranean a safer place and an area of freedom, security and justice.

Montenegrin delegation to the autumn session of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly included Ranko Krivokapic, President of the Parliament of Montenegro who was the Head of the delegation and its members Goran Danilovic and Aleksandar Bogdanovic.

The NATO Parliamentary Assembly

The Parliament of Romania was the host of the 57th Annual Session of the NATO Parliamentary Assembly, which took place in the period from 7 to 10 October 2011. On this occasion, the NATO PA session brought together about 350 parliamentarians from 28 member countries from North America and Europe, associate and partner countries, observers and others to discuss the common threats to international secu-

rity and adopt the reports of the Committee, which were the subject of the discussion during the spring session, held in Varna in Bulgaria in the period 27-30 May 2011.

The delegation of the Parliament of Montenegro, at the 57th annual session of the NATO Parliamentary Assembly comprised of Dragan Djurovic, Miodrag Vukovic and Vasilije Lalosevic.

The Fifth Conference of Presidents of Parliaments of the Western Balkan Countries

The Fifth, one-day Conference of Presidents of Parliaments of the Western Balkan Countries was held in Budapest, Hungary. The Conference was held under the topics: "Perspectives of EU integration of the Western Balkan Countries" and "The Security Dimension of Cooperation between the Western Balkan Countries". The conference was held under the chairmanship of Ranko Krivokapic, President of the Parliament of Montenegro and Laszlo Kever, President of the Parliament of Hungary.

At the conference, President Krivokapic emphasized that the issue of security remained an extremely important political issue in South-East Europe, and for this reason "the Montenegrin state policy has no doubt that the

only comprehensive response to current and potential regional security challenges –the full membership of our country, first in the NATO, then in the European Union."

Krivokapic reiterated that "the state policy of Montenegro is not burdened with deadlines for admission to the EU and NATO, while holding up very good dynamics in the process, but is primarily focused on the high quality implementation of standards of the developed world. Our goal is to provide citizens of Montenegro with economic, political and security conditions for the living that has been enjoyed by the citizens of other countries in the Euro-Atlantic area in the 21st century. Montenegro has more than enough economic potential and conditions for



such a life. It turned out that it has enough wisdom to cultivate its stability and create conditions for an accelerated economic development. I believe that, upon implementing all of these, as a logical satisfaction in the near future, Montenegro will become a member of the NATO and the EU" - said Krivokapic.

Upon the closure of the Fifth Conference of Presidents

of Parliaments of the Western Balkan Countries, Pal Schmitt, President of the Republic of Hungary received presidents and delegation members of parliaments of participating countries. On that occasion, he congratulated President Krivokapic on the positive opinion of the European Commission and the recommendation to start negotiations between Montenegro and the European Union.

Visit of the European Commissioner for Enlargement and European Neighbour Policy to the Parliament of Montenegro

European Commissioner for Enlargement and European Neighbourhood Policy, Stefan File, paid an official visit to Montenegro during which he visited the Parliament of Montenegro. During his visit, the Commissioner File met with Ranko Krivokapic, President of the Parliament, Vice-Presidents of the Parliament, and Chairmen of political party caucuses well as with members of the Committee on International Relations and European Integration and the National Council for European Integration.

During the meeting with Ranko Krivokapic, the President of the Parliament, Vice-Presidents of the Parliament, Heads of political party caucuses, the commissioner File praised the efforts of Montenegro in the European integration process which led to a recommendation to open accession negotiations with Montenegro.

The President of the Parliament thanked the Commissioner for his efforts towards encouraging Montenegro on its European path, adding that the Parliament of Montenegro was ready for the challenges ahead once the negotiations were opened.

Krivokapic reiterated that Montenegro recorded the fastest progress in the region and would give its best to keep a leading role in the European integration in the region.

He added that the negotiation process implied much greater focus to be placed on a negotiating country, and that Montenegro would do everything to meet expecta-

tions of its European partners in the next stages.

Krivokapic emphasized as a special quality the fact that there was consensus in Parliament on the European path of Montenegro, as well as the expressed need for the Parliament to have a special place in the overall process of European Integration, for which both the government and the opposition deserve mention.

At the meeting with members of the Committee on International Relations and European Integration of the Parliament and the National Council for European Integration, the Commissioner File highlighted an evident progress in the work of the Parliament of Montenegro, primarily through enhanced control and oversight role and stressed the need to further improve the work of the institution that would assume the key role in the negotiation process. He also stressed the importance of the National Council for European Integration, as a body that properly represented a social consensus on the EU integration.

Presidents of the Committee on International Relations and European Integration of the Parliament and the National Council for European Integration Miodrag Vukovic and Nebojsa Medojevic welcomed the recommendation to open negotiations on Montenegro's EU membership, stressing the need to continue to work energetically to reach European standards in all areas.

The Visit of the Delegation of the Croatian Parliament

Ranko Krivokapic, the President of the Parliament of Montenegro received the Delegation of the Croatian Parliament headed by Luka Bebic, the President of the Parliament in their two-day official visit to Montenegro.

At a press conference held in the Parliament, Luka Bebic, the President of the Croatian Parliament said: "We have about 300 laws that we had to adopt by harmonizing our legislation with the EU legislation and we place at your disposal everything that can be of use. We will not impose anything to anyone and Croatia does not want to be anybody's older or younger brother, but we will connect to each other to the extent we would like and to the extent it would be in our interest."

After the meeting with Ranko Krivokapic, the President of the Parliament of Montenegro, he said that relations between the two countries were excellent. "We have some problems that need to be resolved related to the border, certain areas, but, as civilized countries, we have accepted the way

to solve it, in a friendly and neighbourly spirit." Bebic said that Montenegro should not be afraid of 300 laws, adding that it would be a good for Montenegro to begin with the most difficult Chapter 23. "When it comes to the Chapter 23, you must adopt constitutional or legislative solutions that would enable this chapter to be concluded on time, and should not be left among the last ones, instead you should debate it, so that you do not get squeezed for time due to one or two chapters to be addressed," explained Bebic.

The President of the Parliament of Montenegro Ranko Krivokapic said that Luka Bebic, the President of the Croatian Parliament contributed to the development of relations between the two countries, and not only parliaments.

According to him, they talked about the cooperation "which slows down in the economy and needs to be strengthened," and about missed opportunities and everything that can be done for Montenegro and Croatia to have good economic and relations.



Two-day Regional Conference on Energy

The Regional Conference – “Regional conference - „Dialogue on Energy in South-East Europe,“ was held in Belgrade on 17-19 October 2011. The conference was organized under the auspices of the President of Serbia Boris Tadic, who opened the conference and with the support of the South East Europe Cooperation Process and Regional Cooperation Council.

The goal of the conference was the exchange of information and ideas, planning and shaping political actions needed for facing ever increasing global and regional issues of environmental protection, building the foundation for the development and implementation of sustainable energy policies, as well as strengthening the cooperation between the South East countries.

The conference gathered the representatives of the European Commission, members of the European Parliament, Council of Europe and representatives of national

parliaments of the South-East European countries and high level government officials, representatives of the civil society, energy experts, investors, donors and business sector.

On behalf of Montenegro, the Conference was attended by the members of the Committee on Economy, Finance and Budget and the Committee on Tourism, Agriculture, Ecology and Spatial Planning of the Parliament of Montenegro. In addition to the Chairman of the Committee on Economy, Finance and Budget of the Parliament of Montenegro Aleksandar Damjannovic the Montenegrin delegation consisted of the Committee members: Dragoslav Scekcic, Veselin Bakic, Zarija Pejovic, Radojica Zivkovic and members of the Committee on Tourism, Agriculture, Ecology and Spatial Planning: Obrad Gokovic, Slaven Radunovic, Dobrica Sljivancanin, Strahinja Bulajic i Milan Knezevic.

IN FOCUS



The 31st October established as the Day of parliamentarism in Montenegro

At the Fourth Sitting of the Second Regular (autumn) Session in 2011, the 24th composition of the Montenegrin Parliament adopted the Decision establishing the Day of Parliamentarism in Montenegro. The Day of Parliamentarism in Montenegro will be celebrated on 31 October, in the memory of the 31st October 1906, when the first Montenegrin National Assembly was convened and constituted in Cetinje in the Zetski dom.

The President of the Parliament of Montenegro, Ranko Krivokapic, on behalf of MPs, members of the Collegium of the President of the Parliament of Montenegro submitted the Draft Decision Establishing the Day of Parliamentarism in Montenegro. The justification of the Draft Decision says that the Constitution of the Principality of Montenegro in 1905 (adopted and declared on the Day of St. Nikolas in 1905) replaced a form of government in Montenegro with the constitutional and parliamentary system, establishing the Principality of Montenegro as hereditary and constitutional monarchy with the representation of the people. The National Assembly is the representation of the people, which replaced: previous National gatherings, meetings and councils in Montenegro. The Constitution stipulated that the National Assembly composed of members of parliament elected freely by people, and members of parliament elected by their position including: the Metropolitan of Montenegro, the Archbishop of Bar and Primate of Serbia, Montenegrin Mufti, Chairman and members of the State Council, President of the Great Court, President of the General State Control and three brigadiers appointed by the Lord Prince.

In accordance with the Constitution of the Principality of Montenegro, the Law on Election of Members of Parliament was adopted on 7 July, 1906 and in line with the Law, the election was held on 27 September 1906. After the elections, the first Montenegrin National Assembly was convened and constituted in Zetski Dom in Cetinje on 31 October 1906, thus this day signifies or represents the day of the beginning of parliamentarism in Montenegro.

The Program celebrating the Day of Parliamentarism in Montenegro will be established by the Collegium of the President of the Parliament of Montenegro each year no later than the end of September the current year.

On the occasion of establishing the 31st October as the Day of Parliamentarism in Montenegro, the President of the Montenegrin Parliament, Ranko Krivokapic, hosted a gala reception for former presidents of the Parliament. The reception was attended by the incumbent President of Montenegro Filip Vujanovic, Radivoje Brajovic, Omer Kurpejovic, Velisav Vukсанovic and Dragan Radonjic, as well as Heads of political party caucuses in the Parliament of Montenegro.



OPEN INSTITUTIONS
An EU-funded project managed by the
Delegation of the European Union to Montenegro

“This document has been produced with the financial assistance of the European Union. The contents of this document are the sole responsibility of Center for Democratic Transition and can under no circumstances be regarded as reflecting the position of the European Union.”

FROM THE HISTORY OF MONTENEGRIN PARLIAMENTARISM



The First National Assembly of Montenegro

The First National Assembly was elected in accordance with the Constitution in Zetski Dom, in Cetinje at 9:00 am, on Wednesday 31 October 1906. Then, the Members of the National Assembly went to the Cetinje Monastery where they attended the solemn liturgy, which was held every year on 31 October, on the occasion of the death of the Montenegrin Metropolitan Petar I, deceased in 1830.

The eldest member of the National Assembly, Savo Plamenac was elected temporary President of the National Assembly, and Dusan Gregovic, MP and Mihailo Ivanovic, MP were elected temporary secretaries. Members of the National Assembly were divided into five sections, and each section gave one MP who was elected as a member of the Committee for Verification of MPs authorizations. Spasoje Pileticas elected Chairman of the Verification Committee, Gabriel Cerovic was elected Secretary and Bajo Gardasevic, Janko Spasojevic and Janko Toskovic were elected members. The Committee appointed Janko Spasojevic as its Rapporteur.

The Duke Sako Petrovic was elected President of the National Assembly.

N. Rakocevic, the National Assembly of Montenegro 1906-1914, Podgorica 1997, 33.



FROM THE PARLIAMENTARY GALLERY

Luka Stankovic: "Ulcinj", 1953.

Luka Stankovic is another representative of the inter-war generation of Montenegrin painters who followed the dominant art movement at that time, turned towards intimacy and poetic realism. The scarce data that can be found on his work, indicate that he participated in the historic, the first exhibition of Fine Artists of Montenegro, which was opened in Cetinje on 12 July 1946, among 28 authors and 135 exponents, as well as in several traditional annual exhibitions of the Association of Fine Arts of Montenegro, later.

In the parliamentary art collection, he is presented by drawings "Ulcinj" and "Gusinje", made in pencil on paper.



OPEN INSTITUTIONS
An EU-funded project managed by the
Delegation of the European Union to Montenegro

"This document has been produced with the financial assistance of the European Union. The contents of this document are the sole responsibility of Center for Democratic Transition and can under no circumstances be regarded as reflecting the position of the European Union."

CALENDAR



3 October

- The President of the Parliament of Montenegro, Ranko Krivokapic, as a co-chairman of the Joint Stabilization and Association Parliamentary Committee, led the delegation of Montenegrin parliamentarians at the third meeting of the EU-Montenegro Stabilisation and Association Parliamentary Committee held in Brussels.

4 October

- President of the Parliament of Montenegro, Ranko Krivokapic, met in Brussels with the General Director for Russia, Eastern Neighbourhood and the Western Balkans in the European Service of Foreign Affairs, Miroslav Lajcak. During the meeting with Miroslav Lajcak, the President Krivokapic stressed the full commitment of Montenegro to the process of its accession to the European Union. Lajcak welcomed the great progress that Montenegro had made in previous stages of EU accession, which led the state to the expectation of the decision on the date of the negotiations and pointed out to the challenges that the countries in the region were facing with, including Montenegro, which primarily referred to the rule of law and the fight against corruption and organized crime. The interlocutors agreed that Montenegro's membership to the European family of nations is of particular importance for democratic values on which the Union is founded.
- Vice-President of the Parliament of Montenegro, Zeljko Sturanovic, received in Podgorica the delegation of the Committee on Relations with the Federation and Europe of the Bavarian Parliament headed by the Chairman of the Committee, Menlo Ursula. The meeting was attended by H.E. German Ambassador to Montenegro Pius Fisher. The Vice President, Sturanovic, gave a welcome address to the delegation and expressed his satisfaction with the overall good cooperation between the two countries. Members of the delegation acknowledged Montenegro's achievements towards the European and Euro-Atlantic integration and expressed interest in talking about the role of the Parliament and its operations on the road to the EU.
- Representatives of the political party caucuses of the Parliament of Montenegro received the delegation of the Committee on Relations with the Federation and Europe of the Bavarian Parliament. During the talks, they expressed satisfaction with cooperation, and used the opportunity to exchange experiences with German parliamentarians who visited Montenegro on the occa-

- sion of meetings scheduled with all candidate countries and potential candidate countries for the EU membership.
- Held the 46th plenary session of the Chairmen of the Committee for European Affairs, which was attended by Zeljko Avramovic, a member of the Committee on International Relations and European Integration of the Parliament of Montenegro.



5 October

- President of the Parliament of Montenegro, Ranko Krivokapic, who led the delegation of the Montenegrin parliamentarians at the third meeting of the EU - Montenegro Stabilisation and Association Parliamentary Committee in Brussels, met with Paul Rasmussen, the President of the Party of European Socialists, on the eve of the session entitled "Enlargement - the Western Balkans." During the meeting they exchanged views on Montenegro's European path, foreign policy priorities, the overall political situation in the country, and the conditions in the region.

6 October

- The Delegation of the Parliament of Montenegro, which consisted of members of the Security and Defence Committee including Obrad Stanisic, Goran Danilovic Danilovic, and members of the Committee on Political System, Judiciary and Administration Neven Gosovic and Sefkija Muric had the opportunity to attend, as observers, the committee meeting of the national parliaments and the European Parliament under the topic "Democratic Accountability Strategy of Homeland Security, the Role of Europol, EUROJUST and FRONTEX," which was held in Brussels in the period 5-6 October.
- Vice-President of the Parliament of Montenegro, Rifat



OPEN INSTITUTIONS
An EU-funded project managed by the
Delegation of the European Union to Montenegro

"This document has been produced with the financial assistance of the European Union. The contents of this document are the sole responsibility of Center for Democratic Transition and can under no circumstances be regarded as reflecting the position of the European Union."

CALENDAR



Rastoder, participated in the Conference entitled "Human rights and Members of Parliament," which was organized in Belgrade, on the occasion of the International Day of Democracy, by the National Assembly of the Republic of Serbia and the OSCE Mission to Serbia.

- President of the Parliament of Montenegro, Ranko Krivokapic, on the occasion of the Day of the Army of Montenegro - 7 October, sent congratulations –to the Montenegrin Minister of Defence, Boro Vucinic, and Chief of Staff of the Army of Montenegro, Vice Admiral, Dragan Samardzic, and members of the Army of Montenegro.
- President of the Parliament of Montenegro, Ranko Krivokapic, paid a visit to Malta to participate in the Sixth two-day Conference of Presidents of Small Parliaments of European States. At the Conference, Krivokapic gave address on the topics "Parliamentary Diplomacy", "Small Parliaments Addressing the Challenges of an Increasing Legislative and Debating Workload" and "Setting up of an information sharing database for the exchange of information, resources and experiences. During his stay in Malta, President Krivokapic met with the Prime Minister of Malta, Lawrence Gonzi and, the President of the Parliament of Malta, Michael Frendo.
- Vice-President of the Parliament of Montenegro, Zeljko Sturanovic, met, in Podgorica, a Special Representative of the OSCE PA, and the Liaison Office of the OSCE PA in Vienna Andreas Nothelle and a Special Representative of the OSCE PA for South East Europe, and the Parliament of the Republic of Slovenia Roberto Batelli. The meeting was attended by the Head of the OSCE Mission to Montenegro, H.E. Sarunas Adomavicius. During the meeting, officials agreed when it comes to a growing importance of the control - oversight role of the Parliament, and pointed out that the overall awareness of its importance as a part of regular procedure in the Parliament has changed.

12 October

- President of the Parliament of Montenegro, Ranko Krivokapic, and President of the Parliament of Hungary Laszlo Keve, co-chaired the Fifth Conference of Presidents of Parliaments of the Western Balkan Countries held in Budapest. The conference included the following topics: "Perspectives of the Western Balkans on EU integration" and "The Security Dimension of Cooperation between the Western Balkan Countries."

13 October

- President of the Parliament of Montenegro, Ranko Krivokapic, together with the Vice-Presidents of the Parliament and Heads of political party caucuses met in the Parliament with Stefan Fule, the Commissioner for Enlargement and European Neighbourhood Policy. On this occasion, Fule praised Montenegro's efforts in the process of European integration, which led it to the recommendation to open accession negotiations with the European Union. President of the Parliament thanked the Commissioner for his efforts towards encouraging Montenegro on its European path, adding that the Parliament of Montenegro was ready for the challenges ahead once the negotiations were opened

vokapic, together with the Vice-Presidents of the Parliament and Heads of political party caucuses met in the Parliament with Stefan Fule, the Commissioner for Enlargement and European Neighbourhood Policy. On this occasion, Fule praised Montenegro's efforts in the process of European integration, which led it to the recommendation to open accession negotiations with the European Union. President of the Parliament thanked the Commissioner for his efforts towards encouraging Montenegro on its European path, adding that the Parliament of Montenegro was ready for the challenges ahead once the negotiations were opened

14 October

- President of the Parliament of Montenegro, Ranko Krivokapic, received H.E. Mr. Nicholas Poposki, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Macedonia, who was in his first official visit to our country. In an open discussion, both sides highlighted the traditionally good and meaningful relations between the two friendly countries and intensive political contacts.

17 October

- President of the Parliament of Montenegro, Ranko Krivokapic, met, in Podgorica, with Luka Bebic, the President of the Croatian Parliament. After the meeting with the President of the Parliament of Montenegro Ranko Krivokapic, Luka Bebic, the President of the Croatian Parliament said that the relations between the two countries were excellent. Ranko Krivokapic, the President of the Parliament of Montenegro said that Luka Bebic, the President of the Croatian Parliament Speaker contributed to the development of relations between the two countries, not only parliaments. As he said, he talked about cooperation, "which slows down in the economy field and needs to be strengthened," and about failed opportunities and everything that could be done to contribute to good economic and political relations of Montenegro and Croatia.

24 October

- President of the Parliament of Montenegro, Ranko Krivokapic, sent to the President of the Grand National Assembly of Turkey, Cemil Cicek, a telegram of condolence on the occasion of a strong earthquake that struck the South-Eastern part of Turkey, in which around a thousand people were feared to have died.



OPEN INSTITUTIONS
An EU-funded project managed by the
Delegation of the European Union to Montenegro

"This document has been produced with the financial assistance of the European Union. The contents of this document are the sole responsibility of Center for Democratic Transition and can under no circumstances be regarded as reflecting the position of the European Union."

CALENDAR



25 October

- The Delegation of the Committee on Security and Defense, composed of Members of Parliament, Radivoje Nikcevic and Mehmet Bardhi, participated in the Adriatic Charter Conference on "Euro-Atlantic Integration and Security Challenges in the Western Balkans," held in Tirana on 24 and 25 October 2011 in the organization of the Parliament of the Republic of Albania.
- The Delegation of the National Council for European Integration of Montenegro composed of Nebojsa Medojevic, Miodrag Vukovic, Branko Radulovic, Branka Tanasijevic, Svetozar Golubovic, Andrija Mandic and Tijana Markovic paid an official visit to the Czech Republic.
- Vice-President of the Parliament of Montenegro, Rifat Rastoder, received representatives of the Organization of American Democracy International. The discussion particularly emphasized the role of the organization's mission to strengthen the administrative and overall capacity of the Parliament and strengthening its legislative and oversight functions particularly emphasized, as well as a significant contribution of the NDI to an overall political democratization, and the general public scene in Montenegro.
- President of the Parliament of Montenegro, Ranko Krivokapic, congratulated to the daily newspaper "Pobjeda" its 67th anniversary.

27 October

- President of the Parliament of Montenegro, Ranko Krivokapic, sent a telegram postcard to the Montene-

grin Society of Independent Writers on the occasion of their full membership to Writer's European Council.

- On the occasion of the Day of the Municipality of Herceg Novi - 28 October, the President of the Parliament of Montenegro, Ranko Krivokapic, sent a telegram postcard to the Dejan Mandic; Predrag Andjelic, President of the Municipal Assembly; and Councillors of the Herceg Novi Parliament and citizens.

28 October

- The Secretary General of the Parliament of Montenegro, Damir Davidovic, met with the new Head of the Department of Politics, Economy and European Integration in the European Union Delegation to Montenegro, Alberto Cammarata.

31 October

- On the occasion of the death of Radomir Konstatinovic, a famous Serbian philosopher, the President of the Parliament of Montenegro, Ranko Krivokapic, sent a telegram of condolence to the family Konstatinovic.
- On the occasion of the establishment of 31 October as the Day of Parliamentarism in Montenegro, Ranko Krivokapic, the President of the Parliament of Montenegro hosted a gala reception for former presidents of the Parliament of Montenegro. The reception was attended by the current President of Montenegro, Filip Vujanovic, Radivoje Brajovic, Omer Kurpejovic, Velisav Vuksanovic and Dragan Radonjic, and heads of political party caucuses in the Parliament of Montenegro.

PARLIAMENTARY GLOSSARY

INTEGRATION represents joining certain elements (objects, theories, nations, ideas...) into unified system, unit or community.¹ In international relations integration can be perceived at two levels: national - developing relations within one state; and regional - political, economic, cultural, legal and social joining of a larger number of states into inter-state communities which do not have character of the state.² INTEGRATION can also be defined as close networking of individual states into larger wholes in order to establish cooperation in certain areas (economy, politics, law, culture...) whereas the states create inter-state community that have no character of the state.³

¹ *Opća enciklopedija*, Jugoslovenski leksikografski zavod, Zagreb 1977.

² Radovan Vukdinović, *Teorije međunarodnih odnosa, Politicka kultura*, Zagreb, 2005.

³ *Pravna enciklopedija*, Savremena administracija, Beograd, 1985.



OPEN INSTITUTIONS
An EU-funded project managed by the
Delegation of the European Union to Montenegro

"This document has been produced with the financial assistance of the European Union. The contents of this document are the sole responsibility of Center for Democratic Transition and can under no circumstances be regarded as reflecting the position of the European Union."