



Parliament of Montenegro

NEWSLETTER OPEN PARLIAMENT

Newsletter on the Parliament of Montenegro Performance ♦ No. 90 ♦ February 2019

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OPEN PARLIAMENT



Parliament of Montenegro

Newsletter on the Parliament of Montenegro Performance ♦ Electronic format ♦ Release: monthly ♦ Year IX ♦ No. 90 ♦ February 2019

FOREWORD

Dear readers,

We present to you the key information on activities of the Parliament of Montenegro in the period from 1 to 28 February, which is, in the form of monthly newsletter "Open Parliament", prepared by Parliamentary Service.

During February, Committees considered 24 proposals for a law, one proposal for a decision and performed other activities within their oversight role. In focus of this month's newsletter is the meeting held between President Brajović and European Commissioner Johannes Hahn on 22 February.

As of this month's newsletter, we present to you a new column, titled "Parliament Of Montenegro-From Catalogue Of Received Presents" to follow up the previous column "From the history of Montenegrin Parliamentarism".

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

The Sitting of the First Extraordinary Session of the Parliament of Montenegro in 2018 ended with the withdrawal of the Proposal for Conclusions regarding the "Envelope" affair by the representative of the proposer.

Proposals for law deliberated in committees

- **Proposal for a Law on the Amendments to the Law on deployment of the Armed Forces of Montenegro units to the international forces and participation of members of civil defence, police and public administration employees in peacekeeping missions and other activities abroad** was considered and proposed to the Parliament for adoption by the Security and Defence Committee.
- **Proposal for a Law on Youth** was considered by the Gender Equality Committee within its area of competence, which recommended that the lead committee-Committee on Education, Science, Culture and Sports propose it to the Parliament for adoption.
- **Proposal for a Law on Amendments to the Law on State Border Supervision** was considered and proposed to the Parliament for adoption by the Security and Defence Committee.
- **Proposal for a Law on Amendments to the Law on Enforcement and Security** was considered and proposed to the Parliament for adoption by the Legislative Committee.

- **Proposal for a Law on Amendments to the Law on Civil Proceedings** was considered and proposed to the Parliament for adoption by the Legislative Committee.
 - **Proposal for a Law on Medically Assisted Fertilisation** was considered by the Gender Equality Committee, in part of its jurisdiction, which recommended that the lead committee-Committee on Health, Labour and Social Welfare propose it to the Parliament for adoption. The Lead Committee considered the law proposal and decided to propose it to the Parliament for adoption.
 - **Proposal for a Law on Amendments to the Law on Tourism Organisations** was considered and proposed to the Parliament for adoption by the Committee on Tourism, Agriculture, Ecology and Spatial Planning.
 - **Proposal for a Law on State Symbols and the Statehood Day of Montenegro** was considered and proposed to the Parliament for adoption by the Committee on Political System, Judiciary and Administration.
 - **Proposal for a Law on Detective Activities** was considered and proposed to the Parliament for adoption by the Committee on Political System, Judiciary and Administration.
 - **Proposal for a Law on Amendments to the Law on Identity Card** was considered and proposed to the Parliament for adoption by the Committee on Political System, Judiciary and Administration.
 - **Proposal for a Law on Pharmaceutical Activity** was considered and proposed to the Parliament for adoption by the Committee on Health, Labour and Social Welfare and the Legislative Committee.
 - **Proposal for a Law on Cosmetic Products** was considered and proposed to the Parliament for adoption by the Committee on Health, Labour and Social Welfare and the Legislative Committee.
 - **Proposal for a Law on Medical Devices** was considered and proposed to the Parliament for adoption by the Committee on Health, Labour and Social Welfare.
 - **Proposal for a Law on Ratification of the Protocol to the North-Atlantic Treaty on the Accession of the Republic of North Macedonia** was considered and proposed to the Parliament for adoption by the Legislative Committee and the Committee on International Relations and Emigrants.
 - **Proposal for a Law on Amendments to the Law on Ports** was considered and proposed to the Parliament for adoption by the Legislative Committee.
 - **Proposal for a Law on Administrative Fees** 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 Local Communal Fees** 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 Industrial Emissions** was considered and proposed to the Parliament for adoption by the Legislative Committee.
 - **Proposal for a Law on Immovable Property Tax** was considered and proposed to the Parliament for adoption by the Legislative Committee.
 - **Proposal for a Law on Amendments to the Law on Protection of Cultural Heritage** was considered and proposed to the Parliament for adoption by the Committee on Education, Science, Culture and Sports.
 - **Proposal for a Law on Same-sex Life Partnership** was considered and proposed to the Parliament for adoption by the Committee on Human Rights and Freedoms.
 - **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 Committee on Human Rights and Freedoms.
 - **Proposal for a Law on Ratification of the UNIDROIT Convention on Stolen or Illegally Exported Cultural Objects** was considered and proposed to the Parliament for adoption by the Committee on International Relations and Emigrants.
 - **Proposal for a Law on Mediation in Employment and Rights During Unemployment** was considered and proposed to the Parliament for adoption by the Committee on Health, Labour and Social Welfare.
- Proposals for other acts deliberated in committees***
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- **Proposal for a decision on appointing the President of the State Election Commission** was determined by the Administrative Committee, with the decision to propose to the Parliament that Đorđije Vukčević, law graduate, be appointed President of the State Election Commission.
- Other activities of working bodies***
-
- At the 5th meeting of the **Constitutional Committee**, held on 14 February, the 2018 Performance Report of the Committee and the 2019 Work Plan were adopted.
 - At the 66th meeting of the **Committee on Political System, Judiciary and Administration**, held on 27 February, the 2018 Performance Report and the 2019 Work Plan was adopted.
 - At the 35th meeting of the **Security and Defence Committee**, held on 1 February, members of the Committee adopted the performance 2018 Report of the Committee.
 - At the 48th meeting of the **Committee on International Relations and Emigrants**, held on 28

February, the Committee unanimously decided to propose to the Government to elect its members Luigj Shkreli and Ervin Ibrahimović as members of the Council for cooperation with Diaspora - Emigrants.



- At the 64th meeting, on 12 February, **Committee on Economy, Finance and Budget**, held a consultative hearing on: “The operating of the Deposit Protection Fund following the institution of bankruptcy in the Invest Bank of Montenegro”, with the Director of the Deposit Protection Fund in attendance.



- At the 65th meeting, held on 27 February, the Committee reached the decision on holding a control hearing of Minister of Finance and Director of the Tax Administration concerning the application of the Law on the Rescheduling Tax Receivables.



- At the 66th meeting, held on 28 February, with representatives of the Minister of Economy, Energy Regulatory Agency, and Electric Power Industry of Montenegro JSC (EPCG) in attendance, the Committee held a consultative hearing on: “Setting the price of electric energy and determining tariff packages”.

- At the 28th meeting of the **Gender Equality Committee**, held on 18 February, the 2018 Performance Report was adopted.



- At 29th meeting of the **Committee on Education, Science, Culture and Sports**, held on 15 February, a control hearing of Minister of Science Sanja Damjanović was held on the topic: “Science investment in Montenegro: Implemented vs planned”.



- At 43th meeting of the **Committee on Tourism, Agriculture, Ecology and Spatial Planning**, held on 11 February, the Committee members determined the Work Plan of the Committee for 2019.

- At the 45th meeting, held on 13 February, members of the Committee adopted the 2018 Performance Report of the Committee.

- At the 42nd meeting of the **Committee on Health, Labour and Social Welfare**, held on 28 February, the 2018 Performance Report and 2019 Work Plan of the Committee were adopted.



NEWS FROM PARLIAMENT



Delegation of the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the National Assembly of Hungary paid a visit to Montenegro on 5-7 February

Delegation of the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the National Assembly of Hungary paid a two-day visit to Montenegro, at the invitation of the Committee on International Relations and Emigrants of the Parliament of Montenegro. Chairs of the said committees Andrija Nikolić and Zsolt Németh exchanged views on the models of promoting parliamentary cooperation and exchange of parliamentary experience, particularly in the area of European integration, as the main foreign and political goal of Montenegro. The following Committee members attended the meeting: Dragutin Papović, Luid Škrelja, Ervin Ibrahimović and Miodrag Lekić. The Hungarian Delegation also met with members of the Committee on European Integration,

discussed the topic of integration process of Montenegro into the EU, as well as the current challenges faced by the EU.



Parliamentary delegation at the Joint Meeting of five NATO PA committees

Permanent delegation of the Parliament of Montenegro to the NATO Parliamentary Assembly composed of Obrad Mišo Stanišić, Head of Delegation and Genci Nimanbegu, member, took part in the work of the Joint Meeting of the Defence and Security, Economics and Security and Political Committees and officers of the Committee on the Civil Dimension of Security and of the Science and Technology Committee, held on 18-20 February 2019, in Brussels. The meeting was an opportunity for the participants, in the context of professional support and exchange of knowledge, to develop a dialogue with the lecturers from NATO and other organisations based in Belgium on the current topics from the field of security and defence. Day two of the Joint Meeting was chaired by Mr Michael R. Turner (United States), Chairperson of the Defence and Security Committee. Welcome remarks to the event's participants were given by H.E. Mr Pascal Heyman, Permanent Representative of Belgium to NATO, voicing his full satisfaction with participation in the work and having the

opportunity to exchange opinions on significant issues from the field of security and defence with the delegates of the NATO PA member states. There was also a presentation by Federica Mogherini, High Representative of the European Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy and Vice-President of the European Commission, on "The EU's Permanent Structured Cooperation on Security and Defence (PESCO) and the Future of NATO-EU Relations".



PARLIAMENTARY GLOSSARY

Parliamentary Library usually belongs to a group of specialised libraries in terms of the library collection/stock and the structure of its users. Its primary task is providing services to a limited group of users aimed at supporting the legislative process and providing a series of useful sources of information to the entire parliament. Parliamentary libraries may be open to the general public.

The parliamentary library of the Parliament of Montenegro is a specialized library whose main task is provision of services to a narrow group of users-MPs and parliamentary staff in the Parliament. The competencies of the parliamentary library include the provision, processing storage and use of the library resources and internal documents of the parliament, creating specialized library collections and data collections, the exchange of documents with similar institutions abroad and the use of electronic sources of information. The library resources of the parliamentary library of the Parliament of Montenegro consist of publications from the fields of legislation, law, international legal practice, political science, economic and related social sciences and humanities, as well as the issues of the Official Gazette.

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. 259

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President of the Parliament of Montenegro Ivan Brajović spoke with European Commissioner Johannes Hahn

President of the Parliament of Montenegro Ivan Brajović spoke on 22 February with European Commissioner Johannes Hahn. According to the OSCE/ODIHR, the Parliament of Montenegro is one of the most open parliaments for discussion on recommendations which should be incorporated in



electoral legislation, and it would be good for all parliamentary parties, together with the NGO sector and academic community, to participate in improving it, in order to enter the election year 2020 with a satisfactory legislative solution, acceptable to all - pointed out President

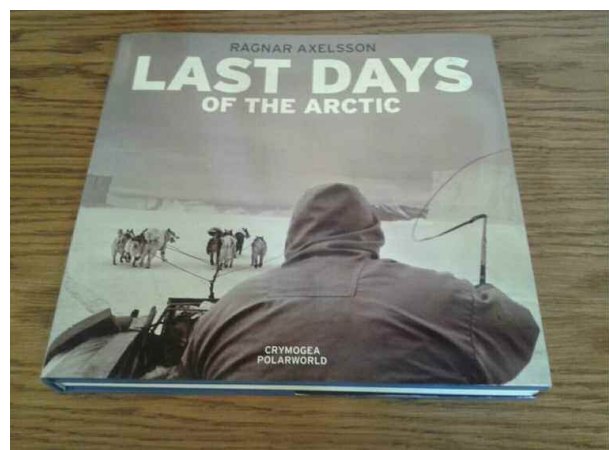
of the Parliament of Montenegro Ivan Brajović. Brajović also informed his interlocutor that, at the yesterday's extraordinary session of the Parliament, they discussed the current developments in Montenegro, with a major part of the opposition in attendance, and that specific conclusions should be adopted only based on specific facts. The Commissioner for Enlargement emphasised that the common goal - joining the EU - must be based on compromise, for which both the ruling majority and the opposition have their responsibility. Ahead of the EP elections, President Brajović thanked Commissioner Hahn for his contribution to regional stability and well-intentioned approach to Montenegro, and voiced his expectation that in the new convocation of the European Commission there would be no changes in the enlargement policy and honouring the regatta principle. The meeting was also attended by vice presidents of the Parliament of Montenegro Branimir Gvozdenović and Genci Nimanbegu, as well as chairpersons of the Committee on International Relations and Emigrants and of the Committee on European Integration Andrija Nikolić and Slaven Radunović respectively.

PARLIAMENT OF MONTENEGRO-FROM CATALOGUE OF RECEIVED PRESENTS

Title: *SMALL NICKEL TRAY*
Country of origin: UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
Extended by: Leader Of Democrats In the U.S. Congress
Recipient: President of Parliament of Montenegro
Date of receipt: 18 November 2013



Title: *BOOK TITLED "LAST DAYS OF THE ARCTIC"*
Country of origin: ICELAND
Extended by: President of Parliament of Iceland
Recipient: President of Parliament of Montenegro
Date of receipt: 10 April 2013



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5 February

- Chair of the Committee on Education, Science, Culture and Sports Radule Novović met with Delegation of the Committee on Science, Education, Culture, Youth and Sport of the Chamber of Deputies of the Czech Republic comprised of thirteen members. The aim of the meeting was the exchange of information and experience between committees of both Parliaments, this being a very important platform for the establishing of cooperation of Montenegrin and Czech secondary schools and higher education institutions, including the exchange programmes involving pupils, students and professors, as well as the possibility of engaging the Czech Republic in the process of building and sustaining science parks in Montenegro.

6 February

- Delegation of the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the National Assembly of Hungary paid a two-day visit to Montenegro, at the invitation of the Committee on International Relations and Emigrants of the Parliament of Montenegro. Chairs of the said committees Andrija Nikolić and Zsolt Németh exchanged views on the models of promoting parliamentary cooperation and exchange of parliamentary experience, particularly in the area of European integration, as the main foreign and political goal of Montenegro. The following Committee members attended the meeting: Dragutin Papović, Luid Škrelja, Ervin Ibrahimović and Miodrag Lekić.
- At the beginning of his visit to Washington, on the occasion of taking part in the 67th Prayer Breakfast, President of the Parliament of Montenegro Ivan Brajović was one of the keynote speakers in the US Senate, at the round table: “Current Challenges Facing Southeastern Europe and Combating Malignant Behaviour of Russia in the Region” upon the invitation of Senator James Inhofe, Chair of the Senate Armed Services Committee. Director of the Conflict Management Program at the Johns Hopkins School Mr Daniel Serwer hosted President Brajović who spoke at the round table: “The Future of the Western Balkans: Europe or long-term instability?” attended by eminent representatives of academia in Washington. The round table discussed current socio-political trends in the Western Balkans, and President Brajovic stressed the importance of Montenegro's

membership in NATO from political and economic point of view and presented dynamics of the European integration process of Montenegro. The President of the Parliament also presented his views on the most important regional issues. In separate conversations that he had with senators Susan Collins, Ben Cardin, Ron Johnson, Roger Wicher, Congressman Eliot Engel and Vice President of the Center for Strategic and International Studies Heather A. Conley, President Brajović especially emphasised the importance of continued US support to reform processes in Montenegro and its stronger economic presence. Separate meetings that the President had with Congresswoman Chellie Pingree and Congressman Mike Gallagher were an opportunity to emphasise once again the importance of the US-Montenegrin partnership and further strengthening of friendly relations and cooperation between the two countries, especially in the economic area. The President of the Parliament spoke with senior experts of the Atlantic Council, at the round table, chaired by the executive Vice-President of this organisation David Wilson, about the current political situation in Montenegro and the situation in the Western Balkans. President Brajović finished his visit to Washington by taking part in the Voice of America programme, which was followed by his conversation with President of the United Nations General Assembly María Espinoza in New York and a meeting with representatives of Montenegrin emigrant associations.



- Members of the Committee on European Integration of the Parliament of Montenegro met with Chair and members of the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the National Assembly of Hungary and discussed the topic of integration process of Montenegro into the EU, as well as the current challenges faced by the EU. The interlocutors agreed that the exchange of expert knowledge and experience between both parliaments was particularly important for the accession process,

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and that countries that are not required to reach a consensus over foreign policy goals have shown a greater level of stability. The importance of expert assistance in the field of climate change, human and minority rights and similar forms of cooperation were also discussed.

- Chair of the Committee on Education, Science, Culture and Sports Radule Novović, at the invitation of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and UNICEF Office in Montenegro, participated in a meeting dedicated to the overview of results achieved so far and drafting of work plans of the Government of Montenegro and UNICEF Office covering the period 2019-2020. The aim of the meeting was identifying the key results achieved as an outcome of implementation of 2017-2018 Work Plan, involving the children in Montenegro, as well as exchange of views on strategic activity planning and cross-sectoral priorities covering the period 2019-2020.

12 February

- Chair of the Security and Defence Committee Obrad Mišo Stanišić met with Ambassador of Romania to Montenegro Ferdinand Nagy who conveyed the initiative by Chairperson of the Committee for Defence Public Order, and National Security of the Romanian Chamber of Deputies with the aim of sharing experiences and best practices of the two parliamentary bodies. The meeting, inter alia, discussed the current security situation in the region and abroad. They jointly emphasised that Montenegro and Romania had excellent bilateral relations and confirmed willingness to further promote cooperation within parliamentary dimension, with special reference on cooperation of the working bodies dealing with defence and security sector.
- Head of the permanent delegation of the Parliament of Montenegro to the Parliamentary Dimension of the Central European Initiative Miodrag Vuković participated in the Meeting of the General Committee on Political and Home Affairs of the CEI-PD, which was held in Sofia. The topic of this year's meeting, organised by the National Assembly of the Republic of Bulgaria, was "CEI contribution to the European integrational processes in the region of the Western Balkans – synergy and perspectives". Head of the Montenegrin delegation, Mr Miodrag Vuković, addressed the participants of the meeting, and presented what has

been achieved in the field of European integration of Montenegro. Vuković expressed satisfaction with the fact that the enlargement policy was identified as one of the priorities during the new, 18-month programme of EU Troika, consisting of Finland, beside two other CEI countries - Romania and Croatia.



13 February

- Chair of the Committee on Education, Science, Culture and Sports Radule Novović and members of the Committee Branka Tanasijević, Aleksandra Vuković and Ervin Ibrahimović paid a visit to the Science Promotion Foundation- PRONA in Podgorica on which occasion they met with the Director of the Foundation Jovan Mirković and his associates. The interlocutors agreed that creativity and innovation was exactly what Montenegro needed, as a central production resource, as well as new technologies, new ideas and knowledge. They emphasised the importance of young people's participation in political life, with regard to their future. The meeting also announced the cooperation in the upcoming period, as well as that the Committee on Education, Science, Culture and Sports would give its contribution to the affirmation of future activities of the Foundation.
- President Brajović met with Ambassador of the Republic of Slovakia Roman Hloben who laid out the 2019 programme and priorities of the Slovak Presidency over the OSCE. Brajović emphasized the importance of strengthening multilateralism, as well as observing of jointly adopted rules and principles in order to successfully overcome challenges faced by the OSCE countries. Concerning the further strengthening of parliamentary cooperation, Ambassador Hloben reiterated the invitation to visit the Republic of Slovakia previously extended to Brajović by President of the National Council Andrej Danko.

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14 February

- Member of the Committee on Human Rights and Freedoms Momčilo Martinović participated in the Meeting dedicated to presentation of the Draft national strategy for exercising children's rights 2019-2023. Special Remarks on the Draft Strategy were given by the representatives of the Committee, Protector of Human Rights and Freedoms of Montenegro, Office of National Coordinator for Fight against Trafficking in Human beings, Professional services of the Supreme state prosecutor's office of Montenegro, Centre for the rights of the child, High School Students Union of Montenegro, Association of Youth with Disabilities of Montenegro and UNICEF. The conclusion of the meeting was that the main focus of Strategy for the Exercise of the rights of the child after its adoption should be on children with developmental disabilities and the ones pertaining to minority groups, so that the strategy, as the most important document concerning children, is made accessible to all. In addition, they agreed that the strategy was not the property of any institution or organization in Montenegro, with it pertaining solely to children.

18 February

- Permanent delegation of the Parliament of Montenegro to the NATO Parliamentary Assembly composed of Obrad Mišo Stanišić, Head of Delegation and Genci Nimanbegu, member, took part in the work of the Joint Meeting of the Defence and Security, Economics and Security and Political Committees and officers of the Committee on the Civil Dimension of Security and of the Science and Technology Committee, held on 18-20 February 2019, in Brussels. The meeting was an opportunity for the participants, in the context of professional support and exchange of knowledge, to develop a dialogue with the lecturers from NATO and other organisations based in Belgium on the current topics from the field of security and defence.
- Delegation of the Parliament of Montenegro consisting of Chairperson of the Committee on Economy, Finance and Budget Predrag Sekulić and member of the Committee Raško Konjević took part in European Parliamentary Week 2019, which was held on 18 and 19 February 2019, in the European Parliament, Brussels. The European Parliamentary Week 2019,

organised by the EP and Romanian Parliament, within parliamentary dimension of Romanian Presidency of the Council of the EU, consisted of the European Semester Conference and the Interparliamentary Conference on Stability, Economic Coordination and Governance in the European Union.

19 February

- President of the Parliament of Montenegro Ivan Brajović hosted new Ambassador of the Republic of Bulgaria Meglena Plougtchieva-Aleksandrova. Ambassador Aleksandrova stressed that the Parliament represented the key body and structure of a state and expressed the expectation that its role would be even more significant in the future. The Ambassador also announced that representatives of Bulgarian Parliament would take part in the upcoming Conference of young parliamentarians from the WB and EU, to be organised by the Parliament of Montenegro. The meeting discussed the strengthening of economic cooperation, particularly in the field of energy, sustainable technology and joint tourist offer.
- Deputy Chair of the Committee on European Integration Adrijan Vuksanović hosted the newly appointed Ambassador of the Republic of Bulgaria to Montenegro Meglena Plougtchieva-Aleksandrova. The meeting covered opinions on the achieved results of Montenegro and its further steps in the process of EU accession, as well as on future models of cooperation to contribute to stronger connecting and cooperation between the two countries. The same day, there was a meeting between Ambassador Aleksandrova and Chair of the Committee on International Relations and Emigrants Andrija Nikolić. The interlocutors shared opinions on the current developments in the region, and on political climate in light of the upcoming



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elections for the European Parliament.

- Delegation of the Parliament of Montenegro consisting of parliamentarians Filip Vuković and Aleksandar Damjanović took part in the Energy Community Parliamentary Plenum, held in the European Parliament, Brussels. In addition, the delegation took part in the Third SEE Parliamentary Forum on Energy Efficiency and Climate, organised by the German Association for International Cooperation (GIZ) with the support of the GIZ Open Regional Fund for SEE- Energy Efficiency. During the Forum, organised ahead of the meeting of the Parliamentary Plenum, MPs of national parliaments of the Contracting Parties of the Energy Community and representatives of political studies schools from six SEE countries learned about "Draft report on the future of energy efficiency in the Energy Community after the adoption of the EU's Clean Energy Package", prepared and presented by Aleksandar Damjanović, Montenegrin MP. During the discussion, the participants laid out their suggestions, comments and proposals, after which the final version of the Draft Report containing the joint positions of parliamentarians and political studies schools was adopted. The report will be the main agenda item at the following plenary meeting, envisaged to take place on 12 December 2019, in the Republic of Moldova.



20 February

- Chair of the Gender Equality Committee Nada Drobnjak spoke at the opening of the World Conference of Women in the Security Sector, held in Budva. In her address to the conference participants, Chair of the Committee Nada

Drobnjak said that Montenegro, through the formation of a normative framework as well as through practice, was creating a context where men and women would be equal and stressed the success in raising the level of gender equality in the security sector. Also, the Chair of the Committee spoke on the activities of the Gender Equality Committee of the Parliament of Montenegro. During the conference, attended by representatives of 18 countries, Chair of the Gender Equality Committee Nada Drobnjak met Clare Hutchinson, NATO Secretary General's Special Representative for Women, Peace and Security.



21 February

- Members of the Committee on Economy, Finance and Budget met with Director of the Energy Community Secretariat Janez Kopač, on which occasion he presented the 2018 Annual Implementation Report of the Secretariat with respect to Montenegro as well as the state of European integration of Montenegro in the field of energy. The meeting also discussed investments in the field of energy and the importance of the submarine power cable between Montenegro and Italy, particularly in the context of market liquidity, efficient functioning of Energy Regulatory Agency. Further efforts and actions of the Agency for the Protection of the Competition of Montenegro were needed, as well as a greater oversight level over quality of environmental impact assessment. The future of thermal power plant Pljevlja was also discussed.

22 February

- President of the Parliament of Montenegro Ivan

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Brajović spoke with European Commissioner Johannes Hahn.

- President of the Parliament received the Secretary General of the Regional Cooperation Council Majlinda Bregu. The interlocutors assessed that successful regional cooperation was a precondition for wider integration, and pointed out the necessity for strengthening parliamentary cooperation, considering that legislative authorities have a final say in the decision-making. Presenting her work



plan, the RCC Secretary General emphasised that she will focus her attention on achieving specific and tangible results, highlighting mobility, the significance of removing roaming charges between the Western Balkans countries, mutual recognition of diplomas and professions, as well as the strengthening of trade ties.

- Chair of the Committee on Tourism, Agriculture, Ecology and Spatial Planning Petar Ivanović and members of the Committee Mirsad Murić, Ana Nikolić and Sanja Pavićević met with the Chairperson of the Committee on Agriculture, Forestry and Food of the Parliament of Slovenia Franc Breznik. At the meeting they considered the issues of future cooperation in the field of rural and



ecotourism, organic food production, forest management in protected areas and in NATURA 2000 areas. They also discussed the planned study visit to the Parliament of the Republic Slovenia, which could be implemented in the second quarter of 2019. During this visit, the Committee would learn about the work of other committees covering the same fields of responsibility. There was also proposal for cooperation in the field of tourism and environment.

23 February

- The meeting of the General Committee on Social Development, Education, Research and Science of the Parliamentary Assembly of the South-East European Cooperation Process (SEECPPA) chaired by Radule Novović, was held today in the Plenary



Hall of the Parliament of Montenegro. At the meeting, opened with the welcome speech by President of the Parliament of Montenegro Mr Ivan Brajović, they held a discussion on: “Science and New Technologies at the Service of Modern Education”. Presenting the Report and Resolution prepared by the Delegation of the Parliament of Montenegro to the SEECPPA, Chairperson of the General Committee on Social Development, Education, Research and Science of the SEECPPA MP Novović said that science and technology were areas built into the foundations of modern society, areas upon which rested the prosperity of human community. Within the introductory session, the General Committee members were also addressed by Minister of Education Damir Šehović, Minister of Science Sanja Damjanović as well as the Regional Cooperation Council (RCC) expert Mimika Dobroshi. Upon the invitation of the Chairperson of the General Committee, the meeting was also

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attended by guests from the sphere of education and science from Montenegro.

25 February

- President of the Parliament of Montenegro Ivan Brajović talked with non-residential Ambassador of the Republic of Kazakhstan to Montenegro Tolezhan Barlybayev who handed him an invitation letter by President of the Kazakhstan House of



Representatives Nurlan Nigmatulin to participate in the IV meeting of speakers of Euro-Asian countries. During the conversation, the interlocutors shared opinions on the current developments in the Western Balkan region.

- President of the Parliament of Montenegro Ivan Brajović received the newly appointed Ambassador of the Republic of Turkey to Montenegro Songül Ozan, wishing her a successful diplomatic mission. During the conversation, they especially discussed the improvement of parliamentary cooperation, both at the highest level and the level of committees and friendship groups, with appropriate previous communication.



- Members of the Committee on Education, Science, Culture and Sports Branka Tanasijević, Aleksandra Vuković and Bogdan Fatić attended the Meeting of

the SEECF PA General Committee on Social Development, Education, Research and Science, chaired by Radule Novović, member of the Parliament of Montenegro, and Chair of the Committee on Education, Science, Culture and Sports. In their presentations, members of the General Committee from the parliaments of the countries of the region of South-East Europe, presented the situation, current events and good practice in their countries with reference to the mentioned area and pointed to the challenges they have been facing when it comes to the development and application of information and communication technologies in education.

26 February

- Chair of the Committee on Health, Labour and Social Welfare and member of the Committee on Human Rights and Freedoms Suad Numanović took part in the round table “Participation of persons with disabilities in political and public life”. This event, organised by the Association of Youth with Disabilities of Montenegro (AYDM), within the project Dignified Enabled Voting – DEVOTING, with the support of the British Embassy Podgorica, was held in Hilton hotel, Podgorica. In his address, Numanović said that the work of working group for electoral legislation should be in line with analysis achieved by the Law on Prohibition of Discrimination against Persons with Disabilities. The participants agreed that a general opinion on persons with disabilities should be changed in order to improve the current situation and practice in the area. The participation of persons with disabilities in the overall process is crucial and in order to provide concise quality solutions it is necessary to heed the voice of all the citizens in Montenegro.

