



Parliament of Montenegro

NEWSLETTER OPEN PARLIAMENT

Newsletter on the Parliament of Montenegro Performance ♦ No. 92 ♦ April 2019

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OPEN PARLIAMENT



Parliament of Montenegro

Newsletter on the Parliament of Montenegro Performance ♦ Electronic format ♦ Release: monthly ♦ Year IX ♦ No. 92 ♦ April 2019

FOREWORD

Dear readers,

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

In April, the Fourth Sitting of the First Ordinary Session of the Parliament of Montenegro in 2019, as well as the Fifth Special Sitting of the First Ordinary Session in 2019, took place.

During April, Committees considered seven proposals for a law, two proposals for a decision and performed other activities within their oversight role.

In focus of this month's newsletter is holding of a two-day Conference of Young Parliamentarians of EU and Western Balkans.

The newsletter is published monthly through which the Parliament endeavours to bring its work closer to Montenegrin citizens. We consider this publication to be very significant as a reliable source of information regarding the work of the Parliament and we hope that you will find it useful. We remain open to your comments and suggestions, as well as criticism, which can help us bring more quality to our work.

**Respectfully,
Parliamentary Service**



LEGISLATIVE AND OVERSIGHT ACTIVITY

At the Fourth Sitting of the First Ordinary Session of the Parliament of Montenegro in 2019, the MPs adopted as follows: Law on Immovable Property Tax, Law on Amendments to the Law on Tourism Organisations, Law on Amendments to the Law on Tourism and Hospitality Industry, Decision on Adoption of Amendments to the State Location Study "Sector 5", Law on Amendments to the Law on Enforcement and Security, Law on Detective Activities, Law on Amendments to the Law on Effective Energy Use, Law on Pharmaceutical Activity, Law on Cosmetic Products, Law on Medical Devices, Law on Mediation in Employment and Rights during Unemployment, Law on Youth, Decision on considering the position of persons with disabilities in Montenegro and the 2018 Performance Report of the Security and Defence Committee. Furthermore, the Parliament of Montenegro formulated the Opinion with the proposal for the reply to the Constitutional Court of Montenegro with regard to the initiative for constitutional review of the Law on Financing of the Federation of Associations of Veterans of the People's Liberation War of Montenegro, Opinion with the proposal for the reply to the Constitutional Court of Montenegro with regard to the initiative for constitutional review of provision of Article 12 paragraph 2 of the Law on Prevention of Corruption, Opinion with the proposal for the reply to the Constitutional Court of Montenegro with regard to the initiative for constitutional review of the provision of Article 42 paragraph 1 item 2 of the Pension and Disability Insurance Law, Opinion with the proposal for the reply to the Constitutional Court of Montenegro with regard to the

initiative for constitutional review of Article 48 paragraph 2 of the Law on Financial Leasing, Factoring, Debt Repurchase, Micro-crediting, and Credit and Guarantee Operation, Opinion with the proposal for the reply to the Constitutional Court of Montenegro with regard to the initiative for constitutional review of the provision of Article 139 paragraph 1 item 1 of the Labour Law and the Opinion with the proposal for the reply to the Constitutional Court of Montenegro with regard to the initiative for constitutional review of the provision of Article 54 paragraph 2 of the Law on Tax Administration. Within the item of Elections and appointments, MPs adopted the Proposal for the decision on the dismissal of one member of the Management Board of the Fund for Protection and Exercising of Minority Rights.

At the Fifth Special Sitting of the First Ordinary Session of the Parliament of Montenegro in 2019, under the agenda item *Prime Minister's Hour*, MPs' questions were answered by the Prime Minister. MPs posed six questions to the Prime Minister.

Proposals for law deliberated in committees

- **Proposal for a Law on same-sex Life Partnership** was considered and proposed to the Parliament for adoption by the Legislative Committee.
- **Proposal for a Law on Mediation in Employment and Rights during Unemployment** was considered and proposed to the Parliament for adoption by the Legislative Committee.
- **Proposal for a Law on Amendments to the Law on Effective Energy Use** was considered and proposed to the Parliament for adoption by the Legislative Committee.
- **Proposal for a Law on Amendments to the Law on Tourism and Hospitality Industry** was considered and proposed to the Parliament for adoption by the Committee on Tourism, Agriculture, Ecology and Spatial Planning.
- **Proposal for a Law on Amendments to the Law on Excise Taxes** was considered by the Committee on Economy, Finance and Budget; however, the proposal did not obtain the required majority.
- **Proposal for a Law on Amendments to the Law on Personal Income Tax** was considered by the Committee on Economy, Finance and Budget; however, the proposal did not obtain the required majority.
- **Proposal for a Law on Amendments to the Law on Value Added Tax** was considered by the Committee on Economy, Finance and Budget; however, the proposal did not obtain the required majority.

Proposals for other acts deliberated in committees

- **Proposal for a Decision on Adoption of Amendments to the State Location Study "Sector 5"** was considered and proposed to the Parliament for adoption by the Legislative Committee and Committee on Tourism, Agriculture, Ecology and Spatial Planning.

- **Proposal for a Decision on the status of Persons with Disabilities in Montenegro** was considered and proposed to the Parliament for adoption by the Legislative Committee.

Other activities of working bodies

- At the 72nd meeting of the **Committee on Political System, Judiciary and Administration**, held on 19 April, there was a consultative hearing pertaining to the petition "Justice for Pavle", submitted by a group of citizens of Montenegro.
- At the 37th meeting of the **Security and Defence Committee**, held on 5 April, the Committee supported the Report on Work and Status in Administrative Areas under the authority of the Ministry of Defence in 2018 and the Report on the situation in the Armed Forces of Montenegro for 2018.
- At the 38th meeting of 8 April, the Committee considered Proposal for the Defence Strategy of Montenegro and proposed that the Parliament adopt it. In the presence of the Director General of Defence Policy Directorate at Government of Montenegro, the Committee was acquainted with envisaged elements pertaining to long-term regulation and providing of guidelines for the development of normative, doctrinary and organisational solutions in the defence system. In addition, the members were acquainted with engagement and visions towards developing defence resources, aimed at tackling the contemporary challenges, risks and threats.
- At the 52nd meeting of the **Committee on International Relations and Emigrants**, held on 23 April, members of the Committee considered and unanimously supported the proposal that Veselin Šuković be appointed as Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary Ambassador of Montenegro, Permanent Representative - Head of the Permanent Mission of Montenegro to the OSCE and specialised UN Agencies, on a residential basis, with headquarters in Vienna.
- At the 74th meeting of 24 April, the **Committee on Economy, Finance and Budget** conducted control hearing of Minister of Finance Darko Radunović and Director of Tax Administration Miomir M. Mugoša pertaining to the implementation of the Law on reprogramming of tax debt.
- At the 35th meeting of the **Committee on Human Rights and Freedoms**, held on 3 April, the Committee considered and unanimously adopted the 2018 Performance Report of the Committee and the First Quarterly Report for the 2019.
- At the 36th meeting, held on 15 April, the Committee considered and unanimously adopted the 2019 Activity

Plan of the Committee.

- At the 37th meeting, held on 23 April, the Committee considered and unanimously supported the 2018 Performance Report of the Fund for Protection and Exercise of Minority Rights.
- At the 31st meeting of the **Gender Equality Committee**, held on 15 April, the Committee considered Programme for the Implementation of Activity Plan for achieving gender equality 2017-2021 covering the period 2019-2020 together with the 2018 Report on the Implementation of the Programme. Biljana Pejović, Head of the department for Gender Equality Affairs at the Ministry for Human and Minority Rights also attended the meeting.
- At the 32nd meeting, held on 22 April, the Committee, within the area under its competence, considered the 2018 Report on the work of the Protector of Human Rights and Freedoms, and proposed that the Lead Committee - Committee on Human Rights and Freedoms propose the 2018 Report on the work of the Protector of Human Rights and Freedoms to the Parliament for adoption.
- At the 37th meeting, held on 25 April, **Committee on Education, Science, Culture and Sports** organised a theme meeting on the topic: "Digital Transformation of Montenegro". Aside from the members of the Committee, the representatives of the following institutions also attended the meeting: Parliament of Montenegro, Ministry of Public Administration, Ministry of Education, Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Economy, Ministry of Health, Ministry of Transport and Maritime Affairs, National Security Agency, Cabinet of the Prime Minister, Capital City, Tax Administration, Chamber of Economy of Montenegro, Post Office of Montenegro, Association of Montenegrin Managers, Čikoma DOO, Amplitudo DOO, Montex-elektronike, Saga Montenegro, S & T Montenegro, Digit Montenegro, Datalink, ZZI DOO, Deloitte DOO, CEO and Visola.
- At the 49th meeting of the **Committee on Tourism, Agriculture, Ecology and Spatial Planning**, on 3 April, there was a consultative hearing (discussion) on the topic: "Current status of environmental segments of Tara River". The representatives of the following institutions attended the meeting: Ministry of Sustainable Development and Tourism, Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, Water Administration, NGO Environmental Movement "OZON" and NGO "Breznica", Pljevlja.
- At the 16th meeting of the **Anti-Corruption Committee**, held on 10 April, the Committee considered the 2018 Performance Report of the Agency for Prevention of Corruption, and by a majority of votes, decided to

propose it to the Parliament of Montenegro for adoption. The Committee formed a Commission for conducting the election of members of the Council of the Agency for Prevention of Corruption, and the Commission is, in accordance with Article 85 paragraph 4 of the Law on Prevention of Corruption, composed of representatives of the Parliament of Montenegro, Judicial Council and Prosecutorial Council, as well as a member from among the NGO sector, which is pursuant to the Article 85 paragraph 5 of the Law on the Prevention of Corruption, appointed by the means of a Public Call. Pursuant to Articles 85 and 105 of the Law on the Prevention of Corruption, the Committee advertised a public notice for the election of members of the Council of the Agency for the Prevention of Corruption.

- At the 63rd meeting of the **Administrative Committee**, held on 4 April, the Committee established that the mandate of the advisor to the President of the Parliament of Montenegro Obrad Nenezić had terminated, at his personal request, and issued a Decision on dismissal and the Decision on termination of right to the earnings on his name. The Committee also determined a Proposal for a Decision on Dismissal of Sabrija Vulić as a representative of the Council of Muslim People of Montenegro in the Managing Board of the Fund for the Protection and Exercise of Minority Rights, which shall be submitted to the Parliament for further deliberation and deciding.
- At the 64th meeting of 18 April, the Committee issued decisions on pecuniary fines within a proscribed amount designated for MPs Nebojša Medojević, Janko Vučinić, Milan Knežević, Andrija Popović, Jovan Vučurović and Branko Radulović, following the reprimand measures pronounced to the said MPs during the Third and Fourth Sitting of the Second Ordinary (Autumn) Session of the Parliament of Montenegro in 2018, Sitting of the First Extraordinary Session in 2019 and the First Sitting of the First Ordinary (Spring) Session of the Parliament in 2019. The Committee also adopted a Decision on exercising the right on subsistence allowance for parliamentarians residing outside Podgorica, for their attendance on parliamentary sessions, pursuant to the suggestions provided by the Secretary General of the Parliament of Montenegro.



NEWS FROM PARLIAMENT



President of the Parliament Brajović at the Conference of Presidents of Parliaments of EU Countries

President Brajović participated at the Conference of Speakers of the European Union Parliaments, which was held in Vienna, 7-9 April. During a debate dedicated to the EU and its neighbours, Brajović emphasised that the consolidation process within the EU and the joining of the countries which share the same values are two complementary processes, since they are mutually conditioned and must take place simultaneously if the European Union wants to be a stronger, more efficient and more attractive alliance for the existing and new members. Several bilateral meetings took place within the frameworks of the Convention. During his bilateral meeting with President of the Italian Chamber of Deputies Roberto Fico, President Brajović pointed out the significance of good cooperation of the Parliament of Montenegro with both chambers of the Italian Parliament. The interlocutors also agreed that, in addition to the important existing industry projects of Montenegro and Italy, further enhancing of economic cooperation should be continued. During the Conference, President Brajović had a series of bilateral meetings with heads of delegations of the parliaments of: the Netherlands

Ankie Broekers-Knol, Ireland Denis O'Donovan, the Czech Republic Radek Vondráček and Jaroslav Kubera, Slovakia Andrej Danko, France Jean Bizet, Latvia Ināra Mūrniece and Lithuania Viktoras Prancietis. The emphasis was put on political and economic relations of Montenegro and each of the countries, the status of accession negotiations and the necessary reforms that are being implemented with the aim of institutional strengthening and harmonisation of the legislation and other regulations with the regulations of the European Union.



President of the Parliament of Iceland in an official visit to Montenegro

President of the Parliament of Montenegro, Ivan Brajović, hosted on 4 April the Speaker of the Icelandic Parliament, Steingrímur Sigfússon, who had been paying an official visit to Montenegro upon the invitation of Brajović. President Brajović emphasised that he was exceptionally honoured to host the Speaker of the Parliament of the state that had been the first to recognise the renewed independence of Montenegro and the first to ratify the Protocol on the Accession of Montenegro to NATO, and that these symbolic gestures remained recorded in the history of relations between the two countries. He stressed that there existed good parliamentary cooperation, primarily in the framework of the Conference of the Speakers of Parliament of the Small States of Europe, made up of countries experiencing similar challenges. President Sigfússon stressed that the two countries, although located on different ends of Europe, had a lot in common and that in the period ahead

attention should be focused on strengthening economic cooperation, in addition to the parliamentary one and emphasised that tourism was for both countries an area of constant growth, and that Montenegro could be a very attractive destination for tourists from Iceland. In his statement given after the meeting, Brajović said that he spoke with President Sigfússon about regional cooperation and commitment of Montenegro with regards to this issue. He stressed that the Nordic Council was an excellent example of regional cooperation, so that the Western Balkan countries could consider its mode of operation and possibly adopt solutions of that model. Members of the Parliament, Predrag Sekulić and Boris Mugoša, attended the meeting, in capacity as members of the Friendship Group with the Parliament of Iceland. The Delegation of the Althingi held the meeting with representatives of MPs groups in the Parliament of Montenegro as well.

PARLIAMENTARY GLOSSARY

An **Attendance List** is a method of keeping records of the presence of MPs in the sittings of the parliament or meetings of the parliamentary working bodies.

In the Parliament of Montenegro the attendance list of sittings are kept by the Secretary General of the Parliament, while in the meetings of the working bodies they are kept by the secretary of each working body. The attendance of the MPs in the sittings of the Parliament or meetings of parliamentary bodies is noted every day in the beginning of the sitting.¹

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. 177

IN FOCUS



Parliament of Montenegro organised a two-day Conference of Young Parliamentarians of EU and Western Balkans-15 and 16 April

Parliament of Montenegro and the Committee on International Relations and Emigrants organised a two-day "Conference of Young Parliamentarians of the European Union and the Western Balkans", which gathered National parliaments from 20 countries of the European Union and the Western Balkans. Brajović opened the Conference, also attended by President of the Government of Montenegro Duško Marković, whereby the attendees were addressed by Srđan Darmanović, Minister of Foreign Affairs. Bearing in mind the key role that national parliaments play in democratic processes in countries aspiring to join the European Union, as well as to be close to those who are already members of the Union, the President of the Parliament said that by forming a network of young parliamentarians the intention was therefore to move towards a better mutual understanding and strengthening of trust. During three sessions of the Conference: "Western Balkans enlargement perspective after the EP elections 2019", "The role of the national parliaments in the Berlin process" and "Education as a Tool for Development", young parliamentarians sent strong messages of support to the European integration of the Western Balkans and expressed their unified position that enlargement policy has been one of the most successful European Union policies. It was concluded at the end of the Conference that Montenegro, by organising this event, set the cornerstone in building a new model for the sake of networking of young

parliamentarians from Europe. Participants of the Conference strongly supported the idea of establishing the Network of Young Parliamentarians of the EU and Western Balkans and concluded that gathering of young parliamentarians on regular basis within this unique format would contribute to better understanding and cooperation and acceleration of integration of Western Balkan countries into the EU. Brajović had separate meetings with representatives of the Delegations of Slovakia and Croatia, who participated in the Conference. In the meeting with Katarina Csefalvayova, Chair of the Committee on Foreign Policy of the Slovak Parliament and Ľuboš Blaha, Chair of the Committee on EU Affairs, Brajović emphasised continuous excellent political relations between Montenegro and Slovakia, and it was expected that cooperation with the young parliamentarians initiated by this Conference, would additionally contribute on the matter. During the meeting with Miro Kovač, Chair of the Committee on Foreign Policy of the Croatian Parliament, they discussed continuous strengthening of bilateral relations, resulting from open dialogue, awareness on the importance of good neighbourly relations, joint partnership in the Alliance and mutual readiness for realising future projects. It was agreed that good political relations must be accompanied by a more intensive economic cooperation, and the infrastructural links would be of great assistance in such endeavours, thus a greater emphasis needed to be placed on the said area.

PARLIAMENT OF MONTENEGRO-FROM CATALOGUE OF RECEIVED PRESENTS

Title: *TEMPLE CAST IN BRONZE*

Country of origin: BULGARIA

Extended by: President of the Republic of Bulgaria

Recipient: President of the Parliament of Montenegro

Date of receipt: 25 February 2014



Title: *Old Gold Coin Ducat*

Country of origin: ITALY

Extended by: President of the Senate of Italy

Recipient: President of the Parliament of Montenegro

Date of receipt: 28 February 2014



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2 April

- On the occasion of marking the World Autism Awareness Day, Chair of the Committee on Health, Labour and Social Welfare Suad Numanović and members Draginja Vuksanović - Stanković and Boris Mugoša paid a visit to the Centre for Autism, Developmental Disorders and Child Psychiatry "Ognjen Rakočević". During the visit, there was a meeting with the Head of the Centre Nada Ševaljević and the chief nurse Mirjana Ralević - Vukmirović. Upon concluding the meetings, they were acquainted with the accommodation capacities of the Centre.
- President Brajović spoke with the OSCE Secretary General Thomas Greminger. Mr Greminger said that the OSCE will continue with its support to Montenegro in implementing key reforms and that he expected that all political entities would contribute to the completion of activities with the aim to improve electoral legislation as soon as possible. President Brajović expressed his satisfaction with the continuous meetings and good cooperation with the OSCE representatives. The meeting was attended by the Chairperson of the Legislative Committee, Ms Marta Šćepanović, MP, and the Head of the OSCE Mission to Montenegro, Ambassador Maryse Daviet.



- During his stay in Brussels, Chair of the Committee on International Relations and Emigrants Andrija Nikolić had several meetings with the European parliamentarians Eduard Kukan, Charles Tannock, Andrey Kovatchev, and Jozo Radoš. The discussion was mainly about the current political momentum within the EU, in terms of enlargement policy into the Balkans, with special focus on Montenegro's integration path. Nikolić acquainted his colleagues from the European Parliament with the current state

of affairs in Montenegro. A joint assessment made at all of the meetings was that peaceful protests were a genuine characteristic of all democratic countries, however, the political dialogue were to be conducted only within the state institutions. The meetings held at the European Parliament were attended by Head of Mission of Montenegro to the EU Bojan Šarkić.



4 April

- President of the Parliament of Montenegro, Ivan Brajović, hosted the Speaker of the Icelandic Parliament, Steingrímur Sigfússon, who had been paying an official visit to Montenegro upon the invitation of Brajović.



5 April

- Chair of the Gender Equality Committee Nada Drobnjak met with Clifton Cortez, World Bank representative. During the meeting, Chair Drobnjak presented the previous activities undertaken by the Committee as well as with the future activities, especially concerning the social inclusion of vulnerable groups. During the meeting, World Bank

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representatives presented results from a survey conducted in the Western Balkan countries concerning discrimination, exclusion and violence.

- President of the Parliament of Montenegro received Srđan Stanković, newly-appointed Ambassador of Montenegro to the Republic of Argentina.

7 April

- President Brajović participated at the Conference of Speakers of the European Union Parliaments, which was held in Vienna, 7-9 April.

8 March

- On the occasion of marking International Romani Day, the Committee on Human Rights and Freedoms organised a Public debate on the topic: Changes through activism: Social Inclusion of Roma by the means of education, training and employment - assessment of current status and planned activities aimed at comprehensive integration of Roma into the society". Chair Halil Duković informed the participants that the Committee organised the Public debate pursuant to the Rules of Procedure of the Parliament of Montenegro, and at the initiative of the President of the Parliament and the Secretary General, in response to a plea by Romani NGOs. As to the integration of Roma people, special attention should be paid to six key areas: education, healthcare, employment, legal status, social status, and family protection and culture, identity and right to information, in which significant progress has already been achieved. Chair Duković concluded that the integration of the Romani community into society was a perplexing and extensive process requiring a multidisciplinary approach and it is necessary that more activities are realised in the future so that all the rights guaranteed to them by law are realised in practice, at the highest rate possible. The participants agreed that all the activities should be directed towards improving the quality of education and creating the conditions for Roma's political engagement. At the public stage, young and successful Romani and Egyptian girls and boys introduced themselves, sharing with the audience how, thanks to the support provided to them by the parents, they managed to finish education and thus become a role model to the younger generations. Within the frameworks of the public debate, a video clip was aired, portraying the life of the Roma in Montenegro, challenges they were facing, as well as all the efforts

invested by the country, which, under the assistance of the international partners, and together with the romani NGOs and the Romani community helped improve the situation.

- Members of the Permanent Delegation of the Parliament of Montenegro to the PACE Predrag Sekulić, Head of the Delegation, and members Marija Čatović, Sanja Pavićević, and Ervin Ibrahimović participated in the Spring Session of the PACE, which took place from 8-12 April, in Strasbourg. Among the agenda items were the following: strengthening cooperation with the United Nations in terms of implementation of the Agenda 2030 for sustainable development; role and responsibility of political leaders in the prevention of hate speech and intolerance; banning hate speech and other acts of hatred in Sports; establishing cooperation between the Council of Europe and the European Union in building mechanisms for safeguarding democracy, rule of law and fundamental rights; establishing a balance between the rights of parents, donors, and children concerning anonymous donations of sex cells, and the amendments to the Rules of Procedure of the PA. MPs also spoke about promoting a parliament free of sexism and sexual harassment, solutions to new challenges in the international fight against organised crime, corruption and money laundering, status of migrants in the Greek islands, as well as the influence of the social media on human rights. During the session, an urgent discussion also took place concerning the topic: "Role and mission of the Parliamentary Assembly: Key Challenges in the Future".



12 April

- Chair of the Committee on Education, Science, Culture and Sports Radule Novović paid a visit to the National Museum in Montenegro, in Podgorica, on

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which occasion he met with the National Museum's representatives. The purpose of the visit was to inform the Committee about the priorities in terms of culture development in Montenegro, as well as to assess the current status of cultural institutions in Montenegro. The interlocutors agreed that solving the accommodation capacities would mean solving of all other issues, since the current capacities did not meet the basic requirements for work, adequate maintaining and preservation of the available collections, as well as the processing and showcasing of materials. It was announced that the collection of materials contained within the museum would soon be available to the public eye, within the premises of a new rented accommodation, and that the Committee on Education, Science, Culture and Sports, in the cooperation to follow, would support the future activities of the National Museum.



- Parliament of Montenegro's Permanent Delegation to the NATO Parliamentary Assembly composed of Obrad Mišo Stanišić and Tarzan Milošević took part in the 99th Rose-Roth Seminar and Mediterranean and Middle East Special Group (GSM), held in Antalya,



Turkey, from 12-14 April 2019. This event gathered more than a hundred participants - parliamentarians of NATO members, associate members and partner states, as well as many representatives of the host country, such as - high officials, representatives of international organisations, NGOs, universities and public opinion. The main goal of this meeting was to provide a forum for exchanging views on the internal and external challenges facing countries and to facilitate parliamentary dialogue on security issues between key NATO lawmakers and their counterparts from partner countries, as well as provide the participants with the current information on the field.

15 April

- Parliament of Montenegro and the Committee on International Relations and Emigrants organised a two-day "Conference of Young Parliamentarians of the European Union and the Western Balkans", which had gathered National parliaments from 20 countries of the European Union and the Western Balkans.
- Chair of the Committee on European Integration Nikola Rakočević met with Katarina Csefalvayova, Chair of the Committee on Foreign Policy of the Slovak Parliament and Ľuboš Blaha, Chair of the Committee on EU Affairs. The meeting was attended by MPs Marta Šćepanović, Chair of the Legislative Committee and Aleksandra Vuković. The main topic of discussion concerned the dynamics of the



accession process of Montenegro into the EU, the cooperation between two parliaments and feasible joint activities aimed at accelerating Montenegro's integration process and a soon membership in the EU. On behalf of the Slovakian Delegation, the Ambassador Roman Hloben and his acting assistant Martin Balco attended the meeting. The same day, there was a meeting between the Slovakian Delegation and Chair of the Committee on

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International Relations and Emigrants Andrija Nikolić. Nikolić expressed satisfaction over the intensifying parliamentary cooperation and gratitude to Slovakia for providing a continuous support to Montenegro on its path of European integration. The interlocutors agreed that the Conference of Young Parliamentarians of the European Union and the Western Balkans was a great opportunity to restore the initially shared opinion that Europe needed a prosperous and integrated Balkans as much as the Balkans needed a stable and unified Europe.

- President of the Parliament of Montenegro Ivan Brajović met with Zsolt Nemeth, Chairperson of the Foreign Affairs Committee of the Hungarian National Assembly. Excellent bilateral relations were acknowledged, with the highest level of political dialogue, and also a seemingly growing economic cooperation. As to the strengthening of parliamentary cooperation, the interlocutors referred to the importance of an upcoming visit of the President Brajović to Hungary, on which occasion a Cooperation Agreement between the Parliament of Montenegro and the Hungarian Parliament is to be signed. Within the frameworks of the Conference of Young Parliamentarians of the European Union and the Western Balkans, Zsolt Nemeth was a keynote speaker during the session dedicated to the role of national parliaments in the Berlin process.
- XV Conference of the Parliamentary Committees on European Integration/Affairs of the States Participating in the Stabilization and Association Process in South East Europe (COSAP) took place. This year's COSAP was marked by discussion on the importance of cooperation among the Western Balkans parliaments, and exchange of experience with the focus on establishing satisfactory relations aimed at effective preparation of countries aspiring to become EU members. Chair of the Committee on European Integration Slaven Radunović stated that the cooperation among the neighbouring countries meant a guarantee of stability, strengthening of European aspirations and enlargement process. Deputy Chair of the Committee Adrijan Vuksanović emphasised that the Parliament of Montenegro fostered quality relations with the civic sector, reflected in work transparency, mutual respect, as well as organising of conferences, round tables and public debates during which the society needs are effectively explained, and ultimately so that citizen needs are clearly presented during parliamentary

sittings. At the end of the Conference, notwithstanding a fruitful and useful discussion, during which joint goals and future challenges in terms of cooperation towards membership in the EU were identified, a Joint Statement was not adopted. The following COSAP Meeting is to be held in the second half of 2019, in Tirana.



16 April

- Member of the Committee on Human Rights and Freedoms Momčilo Martinović participated in a public discussion on Draft Strategy for the Exercise of Rights of the Child in Montenegro covering the period 2019-2023. The meeting was organised by the Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare, during which the following attended: children and youth, representatives of state authorities, members of the Working Group tasked with preparing the Draft Strategy, representatives of the Council for the rights of the Child, NGOs, consultant Branka Pavlović, and the UNICEF expert team in Montenegro. MP Momčilo Martinović announced that, in the upcoming period, the Committee shall continue to use a multisectoral approach and realise a cooperation with relevant subjects in the field of protection of rights of the child. He also informed the participants that the 2019 Activity Plan had been adopted, which, with the purpose of marking 30 years since the adoption of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, had determined 11 activities covering this field. Martinović concluded that the Committee on Human Rights and Freedoms remains a significant and reliable partner in promoting the legislative framework and overseeing the implementation of all activities undertaken by the relevant institutions, aimed at protection, affirmation and promotion of the rights of the child in Montenegro.

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- Chair of the Committee on Education, Science, Culture and Sports Radule Novović participated in a Public debate “Human Rights of Persons with Disabilities pertaining to the Education Curriculum”, at the invitation of the Association of Youth with Disabilities of Montenegro, organised within the frameworks of the project “Right to Participate in Decision-Making”. The said project is supported by the Government of the Federal Republic of Germany, under the assistance of the Embassy of the Federal Republic of Germany in Podgorica, with the aim of increasing the level of respect for dignity, diversity, and rights of persons with disabilities in Montenegrin society. Participants of the debate concluded that human rights and rights of persons with disabilities should be introduced within the educational curriculum, and adjusted for children belonging to early ages, in order to prevent possible discrimination.



17 April

- Chair of the Committee on Education, Science, Culture and Sports Radule Novović and Ervin Ibrahimović, member of the Committee paid a visit to Madrasah “Mehmed Fatih” and met with the Head of Madrasah and his associates. The purpose of the visit was to acquaint the Committee with the priorities in the field of development of education in Montenegro, as well as assessment of the current status of Montenegrin educational institutions. The interlocutors agreed that the Madrasah students may upgrade their knowledge within the existing programme, as well as via other methods of specialised acquirement of knowledge and skills. Pursuant to the Rules of Procedure of the Parliament

of Montenegro, Chair of the Committee expressed readiness of the members to actively engage in the solving of issues faced by the said educational institution on its daily basis.



18 April

- Vice President of the Parliament of Montenegro Genci Nimanbegu hosted the Ambassador of the United States of America, H.E. Judy Rising Reinke. the interlocutors exchanged opinions and information on the political situation in Montenegro, countries of the region, and the progress of Montenegro in the negotiations with the European Union. The Vice President informed the Ambassador Reinke about issues important for the improvement of the position in the municipalities where the majority have been Albanians, and above all about the issues in the field of economic development, ecology and environmental protection (Salina), privatisation (hotels in Ulcinj) and restitution (the return of nationalised property to real owners). The interlocutors agreed that the exceptional cooperation between the United States and Montenegro would continue in favor of the general development of the democratisation of society and citizens of both countries and administrations, stressing that the special focus of the Embassy would be young people and their education - as bearers of the future development of society.

19 April

- President of the Parliament of Montenegro Ivan Brajović spoke with the newly-appointed Ambassador of Montenegro to the Republic of North Macedonia Marija Đerković-Petrović, just in the

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course of preparations of her assuming office.



23 April

- Within the "Open Parliament" programme, Parliament of Montenegro hosted professors and students of Gazi-Isa beg Madrasah from Rožaje. On this occasion, the guests had a tour of the Great Hall of the Parliament of Montenegro where they were given a presentation of the history, organisation and the manner of operation of the Montenegrin parliament. During the further tour of the building of the Parliament of Montenegro, they also visited other parliamentary meetings rooms.

25 April

- Member of the Parliament of Montenegro's Permanent Delegation to the NATO Parliamentary Assembly Genci Nimanbegu participated in the 100th Rose-Roth Seminar, which took place on 25-26 April 2019, in Brussels. The 100th Rose-Roth Seminar, entitled



"Engagement of NATO partners: Celebration of Rose-Roth heritage and marking the road ahead" was held in cooperation with NATO Public Diplomacy Division, the

Belgian Federal Parliament and the Geneva Centre for the Democratic Control of Armed Forces (DCAF). The seminar brought together around 180 participants, parliamentarians from NATO and associate members, as well as partner countries, high-level state officials and representatives of international organisations, non-governmental sector, universities, governments and representatives of public opinion. The seminar mostly focused on the following current topics: Development path of NATO's policy for partnership and enlargement; Rose-Roth programs and the parliamentary dimension of enlargement; The unfinished business of NATO open door policy; Wider NATO partnerships; Alliance relationship with Russia; Parliamentary cooperation with NATO partners and the future of the Rose-Roth project, in addition to other topics from the subject area.

30 April

- Chair of the Committee on International Relations and Emigrants Andrija Nikolić met with Ambassador of the USA to Montenegro H.E. Judy Rising Reinke. Chair Nikolić informed Ambassador Reinke about the results and the most significant activities of the Committee on International Relations and Emigrants and the Committee on Reform of Electoral and Other Legislation. One of the topics of the meeting was also the current political situation in Montenegro. During their conversation, the interlocutors paid special attention to the opportunities for intensifying parliamentary cooperation of the countries, especially in the format of



the parliamentary foreign affairs committees. The interlocutors also fully agreed in their assessment that Montenegrin diaspora in the USA was an important factor of linking the two countries and that the Committee on International Relations and Emigrants represented an important link in Montenegrin system with regard to the policy towards its emigrants.