



Parliament of Montenegro

NEWSLETTER OPEN PARLIAMENT

Newsletter on the Parliament of Montenegro Performance ♦ No. 93 ♦ May 2019

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OPEN PARLIAMENT



Parliament of Montenegro

Newsletter on the Parliament of Montenegro Performance ♦ Electronic format ♦ Release: monthly ♦ Year IX ♦ No. 93 ♦ May 2019

FOREWORD

Dear readers,

We present to you the key information on activities of the Parliament of Montenegro in the period from 1 to 31 May, which is, in the form of monthly newsletter "Open Parliament", prepared by Parliamentary Service.

In May, the Sixth Sitting of the First Ordinary Session of the Parliament of Montenegro in 2019, as well as the Seventh Special Sitting of the First Ordinary Session in 2019, took place.

During May, Committees considered seven proposals for a law, three proposals for other acts and performed other activities within their oversight role.

In focus of this month's newsletter is the meeting between President of the Parliament Brajović and Head of the EU Delegation to Montenegro Aivo Orav, during which key findings of the EC's Montenegro 2019 Report, were presented.

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 Seventh Special Sitting of the First Ordinary Session of the Parliament of Montenegro in 2019, under the agenda item *Prime Minister's Hour and MPs' Questions*, MPs' questions were answered by the Prime Minister and ministers in the Government. MPs posed seven questions to the Prime Minister, whilst 69 questions were posed to ministers.

Proposals for law deliberated in committees

- **Proposal for a Law on Amendments to the Law on Army of Montenegro** was considered and proposed to the Parliament for adoption by the Legislative Committee and the Security and Defence Committee.
- **Proposal for a Law on Amendments to the Law on Communal Police** was considered and proposed to the Parliament for adoption by the Legislative Committee and the Committee on Political System, Judiciary and Administration.
- **Proposal for a Law on Amendments to the Labour Law** was considered by the Committee on Health, Labour and Social Welfare; however, the proposal did not obtain the required majority.
- **Proposal for a Law on Amendments to the Law on Local Self-Government** was considered and proposed to the Parliament for adoption by the Legislative Committee and the Committee on Political System, Judiciary and Administration.
- **Proposal for a Law on Amendments to the Law**

on Public Sector Salaries was considered and proposed to the Parliament for adoption by the Legislative Committee and the Committee on Economy, Finance and Budget.

- **Proposal for a Law on Amendments to the Law on Civil Servants and State Employees** was considered and proposed to the Parliament for adoption by the Legislative Committee and the Committee on Political System, Judiciary and Administration.
- **Proposal for a Law on the manner of entry of ships, vessels and hydrocarbons production facilities into register books and proprietary rights aboard ships and hydrocarbons production facilities** was considered and proposed to the Parliament for adoption by the Committee on Economy, Finance and Budget and the Legislative Committee.

Proposals for other acts deliberated in committees

- **Proposal for a Defence Strategy of Montenegro** was considered and proposed to the Parliament for adoption by the Legislative Committee.
- **Proposal for a Decision on Adopting Amendments to the State Location Study "Sector 36"** was considered and proposed to the Parliament for adoption by the Legislative Committee and the Committee on Tourism, Agriculture, Ecology and Spatial Planning.
- **Proposal for a Decision on Amendments to the Decision on long-term lease of land for developing the base settlement of the mountain centre "Kolašin 1600"** was considered and proposed to the Parliament for adoption by the Committee on Economy, Finance and Budget.

Other activities of working bodies

- At the 73rd meeting of the **Committee on Political System, Judiciary and Administration**, held on 14 May, the Committee considered 2018 Annual Report on performance of the Judicial Council and general state of the judiciary, and on the occasion decided to submit to the Parliament proposals for conclusions.
- At the 74th meeting of 15 May, the Committee considered 2018 Performance Report of the Prosecutorial Council and Public Prosecution Office, and on the occasion decided to submit to the Parliament proposals for conclusions.
- At the 39th meeting of the **Security and Defence Committee**, held on 10 May, the Committee members unanimously supported the 2018 Performance Report of the National Security Agency and reached several conclusions.

- At the 41st meeting of 17 May, the Committee considered and unanimously supported the Report on Work and Status in Administrative Areas under the authority of the Ministry of the Interior in 2018, as well as Status Report on Road Traffic Safety in Montenegro and Status Report on Protection and Rescue System in Montenegro.



- At the 53rd meeting of the **Committee on International Relations and Emigrants**, held on 15 May, members of the Committee considered and unanimously supported Report on Work and Status in Administrative Areas under the authority of the Ministry of the Interior in 2018.
- At the 28th meeting of the **Committee on European Integration** held on 24 May, the Committee supported the Tenth Semi-Annual Report on the overall activities within the integration process of Montenegro to the European Union, covering the period July-December 2018 and Nineteenth and Twentieth Quarterly Report on the overall activities within the integration process of Montenegro to the European Union, covering the period July-September, respectively October-December 2018.



- At the 29th meeting of 24 May, the Committee members considered three quarterly reports on observing of obligations contained in the Programme of Accession of Montenegro to the EU 2018 - 2020, covering the period January-March, April-June and July-September 2018, Report on the Implementation of Programme of Accession of Montenegro to the EU 2018 - 2020, covering the year 2018, Programme of Accession of Montenegro to the EU 2019 - 2020 and the First Quarterly Report on observing of

obligations contained in Programme of Accession of Montenegro to the EU 2019 - 2020, covering the period January-March 2019.

- At the 30th meeting of 30 May, Head of the EU Delegation to Montenegro Aivo Orav presented key findings of the EC's Montenegro 2019 Report to the members of the Committee.
- At the 76th meeting of 29 May, the **Committee on Economy, Finance and Budget**, was acquainted with Report on implemented investment and other activities on the basis of the Contract on the lease and construction relating to "Luštica Development" JSC Municipality Tivat - Luštica Bay project, for the period 2018; Report on implemented investments in accordance with the Decision on granting a long-term lease of land on the peninsula Luštica - Municipality Herceg Novi, for the period 16 December 2017- 20 December 2018; and the Report on the supervision of performed works and the level of investment, pursuant to the investment programme within the project "Portonovi"-Kumbor, Herceg Novi, covering the period 1 January 2017 - 31 December 2018, as well as with the 2018 Performance Report of the Concession Commission.



- At the 38th meeting, held on 13 May, **Committee on Human Rights and Freedoms** considered and unanimously supported 2018 Status Report on Personal Data Protection and Access to Information.
- At the 39th meeting of the Committee, held on 15 May, members considered and unanimously



supported 2018 Report on Development and Protection of Rights of Minorities and Other Minority Communities with performance and financial operations reports, and reports by external auditors of councils of minorities and other minority communities for 2018.

- At the 33rd meeting of 28 May, **Gender Equality Committee** conducted a consultative hearing, on the topic: "Methods in obtaining outstanding results concerning the Law on Medically Assisted Reproduction", which was attended by Prof. Nevena Petrušić, PhD and full professor at the Law Faculty of Niš; Dinka Pavičić Baldani, M.D., Ph.D., and a gynecologist at Clinical Hospital Centre Zagreb, and Snežana Vidaković, full professor at the Medical Faculty, at Belgrade. The hearing was organised for the purpose of overviewing the solutions contained in the Proposal for a Law on Medically Assisted Reproduction, which was placed under parliamentary procedure; however failed to acquire the required majority.



- At the 65th meeting of the **Administrative Committee**, held on 16 May, members of the Committee unanimously determined a List of timely and complete proposals of candidates for members of the RTCG Council. In addition, during the procedure for the appointment of one member of the Jury to present the 13th July Awards, and pursuant to the Law on State Awards, the Committee determined a proposal for a decision on the appointment of one member of the Jury, and decided to propose to the Parliament that Jadranka Selhanović be appointed a member of the Jury.



NEWS FROM PARLIAMENT



President of the Parliament Ivan Brajović met with President of the Republic of Slovenia

On 30 May, President of the Parliament of Montenegro Ivan Brajović hosted President of the Republic of Slovenia Borut Pahor, who had been paying an official visit to Montenegro. The interlocutors jointly noted at the meeting, held in the Parliament of Montenegro, that a continuous political dialogue was a proof of traditionally friendly relations between the two states, additionally deepened by a partnership in NATO Alliance. They concluded that excellent political relations between the two states should serve to more intensive economic cooperation. President Brajović thanked President Pahor for the Slovenian strong support to Montenegro's accession process, stressing the importance of partnership with other states that best understand the developments in the Western Balkans. The President of the Parliament emphasised his expectation that Montenegro would be supported, in the upcoming period as well, by the Slovenian representatives in the EP. He stressed that he shared Mr Pahor's clear position, expressed on several occasions, that the stability of the Western Balkans was important for the entire Europe. On this path, Mr Brajović said, Montenegro expects that success of every country and pace of their accession would depend solely on their achievements, while

the path towards the EU is as important as the membership itself. The Slovenian President particularly stressed the role of parliaments in the accession process, bearing in mind the importance of efficient adoption of the laws necessary for meeting the membership criteria. The Parliament is a place which brings together all representatives of the citizens, both from the government and opposition, while the accession process should be a cohesive factor for all political parties if they sincerely advocate Montenegro's membership in the EU - the President of the Republic of Slovenia stressed.



Conference "Western Balkans and the EU: Democratic consolidation through the fulfilment of political criteria" held

On 30 May, President of the Parliament of Montenegro, Ivan Brajović, pointed out, while opening the Conference that the topic, which has been discussed that day, was a natural follow-up to the ongoing efforts of the Parliament to raise issues of significance, with partners from the country and abroad, primarily for our countries individually, as well as the future of the Western Balkans in the European Union. The integration into the European Union that has gathered us today - President Brajović said - is one of those processes that enjoys the greatest support of the citizens of Montenegro, over 60%, according to all surveys. This is the goal of program of all parliamentary

parties of this convocation. This is the topic that a number of civil society organisations, academia and the media have been dealing with. And it is the responsibility of all of us involved in this process - President Brajović emphasised. Besides the President Brajović, members of the ruling majority and the opposition of the Parliament of Montenegro, as well as guests from the non-governmental sector from the country and the region, took part in the discussion in both panels. Guests from the country and abroad pointed out the openness of the Parliament of Montenegro for talks on issues of importance for the future of Montenegrin society and the entire region of the Western Balkans.

PARLIAMENTARY GLOSSARY

A Bicameral Parliament is an institution that performs the function of the legislative branch of power and comprises two separate representative bodies. Bicameral parliaments generally exist in countries that are federal in their structure. In such cases, one house is for the representatives of the federation member states (most frequently the upper house), while the other house is for the representatives of the citizens which is why it is frequently called the general representative house (most frequently the lower house). Some unitary states also have a bicameral parliament (for example the United Kingdom), but in such cases the reasons for the existence of two houses are most frequently historical.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. 179

IN FOCUS



President of the Parliament speaks with the Head of the European Union Delegation to Montenegro

On 30 May, President of the Parliament of Montenegro Ivan Brajović talked with Head of the European Union Delegation to Montenegro Aivo Orav, who handed the EC's Montenegro Report 2018-2019 to him.

The President of the Parliament stressed that he saw the Report as a joint result of the European Union Delegation to Podgorica and Montenegrin authorities in the accession process, as well as the challenge that should be addressed in the further integration process. President Brajović also expressed expectation that the principle of valuing countries' individual merits would be observed in the future as well. The interlocutors emphasised the importance of further work on improving the electoral environment through activities of the Committee for Improving Electoral and Other Legislation, with an active engagement of all parliamentary political parties. The meeting also discussed the upcoming legislative activities of the Parliament of Montenegro by the end of Spring Session.

In addition, at the 30th meeting of the Committee on European Integration, H.E. Mr Aivo Orav, Head of the EU Delegation to Montenegro, presented key findings of the EC's Montenegro 2019 Report to the members of the Committee. Mr Orav spoke about the assessment of the situation and the achieved level of Montenegro's readiness for the EU membership, especially in the part relating to political criteria and the rule of law. Orav referred to the following

areas: election legislation, parliamentary work, parliamentary oversight and, in particular, political dialogue, the judicial system, results in the fight against corruption and organised crime, fundamental rights, media freedom and public administration reform. He stressed that



Montenegro itself is responsible for reform processes in the country and fulfilling the criteria for membership in the Union, while it can count on the EU with regard to the funding and concrete recommendations for further reforms in key areas. In this regard, there are areas where some progress has been made, areas where there has been no progress in the reporting period, but also areas where concrete results have been achieved as a consequence of a significant work, primarily on the harmonisation of domestic legislation with the EU acquis.

PARLIAMENT OF MONTENEGRO-FROM CATALOGUE OF RECEIVED PRESENTS

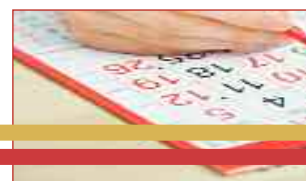
Title: Art Painting - Oil on Canvas
Country of origin: Ukraine
Extended by: President of the Parliament of Ukraine
Recipient: President of the Parliament of Montenegro
Date of receipt: 4 December 2013



Title: Crystal Figurine - Symbol of the Czech Senate
Country of origin: Czech Republic
Extended by: President of the Czech Senate
Recipient: President of the Parliament of Montenegro
Date of receipt: 4 March 2014



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6 May

- President of the Parliament of Montenegro Mr Ivan Brajović opened the Third Conference of Honorary Consuls of Montenegro, organised by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and attended by more than 40 honorary consuls of Montenegro.



7 May

- Chair of the Committee on Economy, Finance and Budget Predrag Sekulić and Committee member Genci Nimanbegu participated in the regional conference "Parliamentary Oversight of Public Finance", which was held in Prishtina on 7 May 2019.
- President of the Parliament of Montenegro Ivan Brajović and the Ambassador of Romania to Montenegro Ferdinand Nagy, opened in the Hall of the Parliament of Montenegro the photography exhibition "Greetings from Romania".

8 May

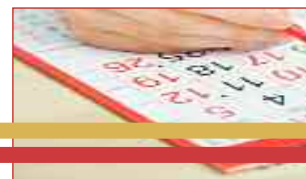
- President of the Parliament of Montenegro Ivan Brajović received Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Slovakia Miroslav Lajčák, who was paying an official visit to our country in his capacity as the OSCE Chairperson-in-Office. Voicing his full support to the Slovak priorities of the OSCE chairmanship, President Brajović pointed out that the fact that Minister Lajčák was starting his visit to the Western Balkans countries in Montenegro was the best indicator of how much he appreciated the progress achieved by our country since its independence. Lajčák especially praised our

country's commitment to the human dimension of the OSCE which was clearly recognised in all relevant reports and also announced the continuation of support to the improvement of the electoral environment through the work of the Temporary Committee on Further Reform of Electoral and Other Legislation. In the context of bilateral cooperation, Minister Lajčák said that Slovakia would continue to be a strong advocate for the European future of Montenegro with which it was developing a genuine friendship and meaningful cooperation.



- Chair of the Committee on International Relations and Emigrants Andrija Nikolić and Chair of the Legislative Committee Marta Šćepanović met with the Ambassador of Romania to Montenegro H.E. Ferdinand Nagy. Šćepanović and Nikolić reminded of the traffic accident from June 2013, when on the main road Kolašin-Podgorica 18 citizens of Romania had died, while 29 had been severely injured, with the note that this accident, after the railway accident in Bioče, was the largest traffic accident in Montenegro, according to the number of the dead and the injured. The Romanian Ambassador used an opportunity to once again voice his gratitude to the responsible institutions and the citizens of Montenegro for the help given during and after this tragic event.
- Discussion on "A century of the rise of fascism - What have we learned?" on the occasion of the Day of Victory over Fascism and Europe Day, was held at the Parliament of Montenegro. In addition to the President of the Parliament, Mr Ivan Brajović, the introductory speeches were delivered by Mr Hrvoje Klasić, historian from Zagreb, an associate professor at the Department of History at the Faculty of

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Philosophy, University of Zagreb, Mr Milan Ščekić, a historian, teaching assistant at the Department of History at the Faculty of Philosophy in Nikšić, and Mr Andrej Nikolaidis, a writer and columnist. Mr Dragutin Papović, historian and Member of the Parliament of Montenegro, moderated the discussion. The following MPs took part in the discussion: Branka Tanasijević, Nada Drobnjak, Ervin Ibrahimović, Andrija Popović, Nikola Rakočević, Ms Marta Šćepanović and Mihailo Anđušić.



9 May

- A lecture on the role of the Parliament of Montenegro in the EU accession process was held on 8 May in the organisation of the Centre for Civic Education and the Committee on European Integration. Deputy Chair of the Committee on European Integration Adrijan Vuksanović and member of the Committee Nedeljko Rudović debated with the School attendees. Members of the Committee agreed that communication with citizens, professional associations, entrepreneurs and academia with regard to the content of negotiation chapters is very important for critical consideration of negotiation positions and overview of the overall process through realistic perspective. They pointed out that chapters 23 and 24 were crucial for the negotiation pace as well as the chapter dealing with the environment.
- President of the Parliament of Montenegro Ivan Brajović laid a wreath at the Monument of the Partisan Fighter on Gorica hill together with a delegation, on the occasion of Day of Victory over Fascism. Deputy Prime Minister Zoran Pažin and Vice President of SUBNOR and antifascists Dragan Đurović were also in the delegation. Day of Victory over

Fascism and Europe Day were marked in the Parliament yesterday by a discussion on the topic “A century of the rise of fascism- What have we learned?” with the participation of historians, novelists and Montenegrin parliamentarians. For three years in a row, on the occasion Day of Victory over Fascism, upon the initiative of President Brajović, discussions on the topics of broader social significance are being held.

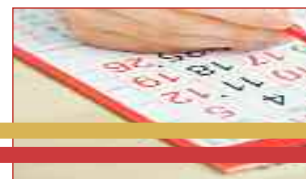


- Chair of the Committee on Economy, Finance and Budget Predrag Sekulić participated in the Regional Conference of State Audit Institutions and Network of Parliamentary Committees on Economy, Finance and European Integration of the Western Balkans (NPC), held in Tirana, Republic of Albania, on 9 and 10 May 2019. The two-day conference had five parts - panels, within which the parliamentarians and representatives of the supreme audit institutions (SAIs) exchanged experiences regarding the relationship of SAIs and parliaments; challenges for the effective external audit and financial oversight; global and regional reference points for external audit; consideration of the audit reports by parliaments and following recommendations based on the audit reports.

10 May

- Upon the invitation of the Centre for Civic Education, member of the Committee on Education, Science, Culture and Sports Aleksandra Vuković took part in the conference “What can politics and society do for youth in Montenegro?”, organised by the Centre for Civic Education in cooperation with the Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung. The conference was aimed at presenting and discussing the most interesting findings from the Youth Study in

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Montenegro 2018/2019. The Youth Study in Montenegro 2018/2019 represents a part of the broader international research project Youth Study Southeast Europe 2018/2019, initiated and supported by the Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung.

13 May

- President of the Parliament of Montenegro Ivan Brajović paid an official visit to Hungary, upon the invitation by Speaker of the Hungarian National Assembly László Kövér. Presidents Brajović and Kövér signed the Framework Partnership Agreement, which will enable more intensive and effective cooperation of the two parliaments. The Agreement, inter alia, envisages more concrete support of the Hungarian Parliament to the Montenegrin, with the aim of strengthening administrative and other capacities in the European integration process. Based on the Framework Agreement, secretaries general of the two parliaments signed the Cooperation Agreement of Parliamentary Services, which envisages the exchange of experiences with the aim of additional improvement of transparency, strengthening of parliamentary control, preparation for the establishment of e-parliament and support to research activities. During the visit, the President of the Parliament of Montenegro also spoke with President of Hungary János Áder, Deputy Speaker of the Hungarian National Assembly István Jakab, Chair of Hungary-Montenegro parliamentary friendship group Ádám Steinmetz, Deputy Speaker for Legislation Csaba Hende, Chair of the Committee on European Affairs Richárd Hörcsik and representatives of nine non-resident embassies covering Montenegro from Budapest.
- Chair of the Committee on Economy, Finance and Budget Predrag Sekulić and member of the Committee Filip Vuković took part in a two-day study visit to Ljubljana, on the topic of sustainable urban mobility.

14 May

- Gender Equality Committee and the OSCE Mission to Montenegro organised one-day workshop on “Gender responsive budgeting”, with the aim of implementing one of the measures from the Action

Plan for the Gender Sensitive Parliament of Montenegro, which envisages capacity building and development of procedures for the implementation of assessments in all stages of making and adopting laws, policies, and other acts. The following took part in the workshop: members of the Gender Equality Committee Nada Drobnjak, Branka Tanasijević, Aleksandra Vuković, Sanja Pavićević and Maja Bakrač, MPs Daliborka Pejović, Jovanka Laličić, Andrija Popović, Radule Novović.



- Vice President of the Parliament of Montenegro Genci Nimanbegu, with his associates, held a working meeting with representatives of all political subjects in municipalities of Plav and Gusinje, as well as with members of the Albanian National Council from these municipalities. The meeting was organised upon the invitation by the host. They informed the Vice President of the Parliament of Montenegro with their problems and dissatisfaction in exercising basic rights.



17 May

- President of the Parliament of Montenegro Ivan Brajović hosted Ambassador of the Republic of Cuba

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Gustavo Trista del Todo, speaking with him about possibilities for fostering relations and cooperation in the fields of mutual concern for both Montenegro and the Republic of Cuba. The Ambassador of the Republic of Cuba assessed that Montenegro is a stable country, which makes advancements in all fields, and with whom his country wants to develop friendly relations. Ambassador of the Republic of Cuba Gustavo Trista del Todo presented events planned to be held in Podgorica, aimed at bringing the Cuban culture closer to Montenegrin citizens.



Kupština Crne Gore

- Chair of the Committee on International Relations and Emigrants Andrija Nikolić met with Head of the OSCE Mission to Montenegro Maryse Daviet. Chair Nikolić emphasised that the Committee on Further Reform of Electoral and Other Legislation still remains engaged in its activities towards raising the



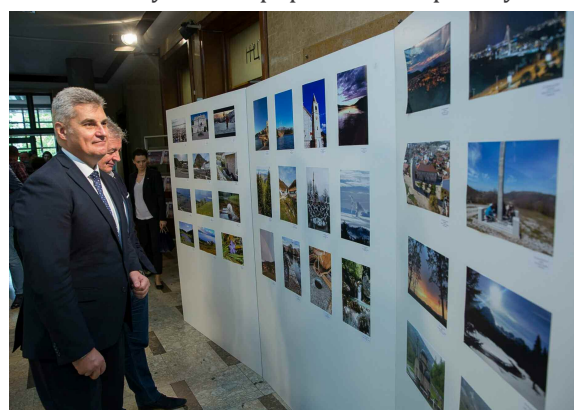
Kupština Crne Gore

trust of citizens in the electoral process, whilst the members of the opposition fail to participate in its work, showing once more the political maturity and responsibility of the leading coalition towards nation and international partners. He also stated that OSCE remains an important strategic partner

in the process of strengthening of peace, democracy, and security in the Western balkans region, as well as one of the leading partners in the process of Europeanisation of Montenegrin society. Ambassador Daviet commended the intensive cooperation with the Parliament of Montenegro, reflected in the support provided to the Committee on Further Reform of Electoral and Other Legislation, the standing committees as well as through continuous trainings aimed at strengthening the parliamentary capacities.

20 May

- On the occasion of the Independence Day of Montenegro on 21 May, the Parliament of Montenegro organised an exhibition of photographs of elementary schools pupils on the topic "My Town

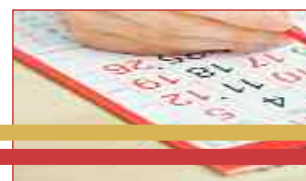


– My Homeland". The exhibition aimed to encourage pupils to present details from their surroundings with their creative expressions that serve as association to them on a given topic, in the form of photographs. The exhibition was presented with 100 works sent from 37 primary schools from 14 Montenegrin municipalities.

23 May

- President of the Parliament of Montenegro Ivan Brajović met delegation of the Venice Commission, visiting Montenegro on the occasion of preparing draft opinion on the Proposal for the Law on freedom of religion or beliefs and legal position of religious communities. Member of the Venice Commission from the Netherlands Ben Vermeulen said that they were aware of the importance of adopting the law regulating this complex issue.

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Therefore, in a very short time, after the Proposal was established, they came to hear all opinions once again. He particularly praised the seriousness of Montenegro regarding the issue of religious freedom and expressed the belief that the Commission could give its opinion at the end of June 2019.



- President of the Parliament of Montenegro Ivan Brajović hosted North Macedonian Prime Minister Zoran Zaev, who had been paying an official visit to Montenegro. The meeting was attended by members of Montenegro - North Macedonia parliamentary Friendship Group Maja Bakrač and Bogdan Fatić.

24 May

- Chair of the Committee on International Relations and Emigrants Andrija Nikolić met with the Hungarian Ambassador to Montenegro József Négyesi. The interlocutors exchanged views on the current state of affairs, noting that the future of the Western Balkans countries was European, and thus expressed conviction that following the European Parliamentary Elections, EU member states would retain their previous convictions towards the enlargement policy.

27 May

- Attendees of educational units “Little Mermaid”, Sutomore and “Little Prince”, Žukotrlica and Preschool Institution “Vukosava Ivanović Mašanović” paid a visit to the Parliament of Montenegro. The visit was realised within the frameworks of the programme “Open Parliament”, implemented by the Parliament in order to introduce the public more closely with its work, and aimed at promotion of transparency, openness and cooperation with the citizens. The visit served as a form of contribution to the topic “My state”, being implemented within the framework activities of the international project “Say hello to the world”. Preschool Institution

“Vukosava Ivanović Mašanović”, Bar is taking part in the project, in partnership with preschool institutions Woclawek, Poland and Malešnica, Zagreb.



- Upon the invitation by Ambassador of Romania to Montenegro Ferdinand Nagy, President of the Parliament of Montenegro Ivan Brajović attended a meeting of ambassadors from the EU member states.
- President of the Parliament of Montenegro Ivan Brajović wished the Ambassador Veselin Šuković a successful diplomatic mission in Vienna, where he was to assume the position of the Head of the Permanent Mission of Montenegro to the OSCE and other International Organisations.
- Chair of the Committee on Economy, Finance and Budget Nikola Rakočević and member of the Committee on European Integration Mihailo Anđušić, participated in a regional workshop in Vienna, organised by the World Trade Organisation, dedicated to MPs of parliaments of Central and Eastern Europe countries, and countries of Central Asia and the Caucasus. During the sessions held by WTO secretariate experts, members of national parliaments of WTO member states were more closely acquainted with the institutional and legal framework of the organisation, its role and activities, with a special focus on the manner and importance of decision-making process within the Ministerial Conference. They were also acquainted with the effects of implementation of Trade Facilitation Agreement on the member states, given this was the first multilateral agreement since the forming of the WTO, as well as on bilateral, respectively regional trade agreements.

28 May

- President of the Parliament of Montenegro Ivan Brajović spoke with the Ambassador of the Kingdom of Belgium Koenraad Adam about the promotion of bilateral

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relations, results of the European Parliament election, and the enlargement policy prospects. Adam conveyed Belgium's support to the European path of Montenegro and the region, noting that our country set an example to the other candidate countries as to the requirements that



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ought to be met. He also referred to the successfully organised Conference of Young Parliamentarians of the EU and the Western Balkans, in Podgorica, and once more emphasised that political debate was to be conducted in Parliament.

- Upon the invitation of the UNICEF representative in Montenegro, Chair of the Committee on Education, Science, Culture and Sports Radule Novović, attended the opening of an exhibition of children's work, which reflected positive attributes such as team work, optimism, creativity, respect, self-confidence, empathy, gratitude, tolerance, and self-control. The works were additionally developed by elementary and high school students within the frameworks of the Programme for the Development of Social and Emotional Skills "My values and positive attributes", implemented since 2015, by Bureau for Education Services of Montenegro, in cooperation with Ministry of Education and UNICEF.
- Secretary General of the Parliament of Montenegro Aleksandar Jovičević and Deputy Secretary General Marija Mirjačić together with the associates participated in the Forum of Secretary Generals of Western Balkans Parliaments, organised by the National Democratic Institute (NDI), in cooperation with the Parliament of Montenegro, which took place on 28-29 May, in Bečići.

29 May

- Chair of the Gender Equality Committee Nada Drobnjak met with consultant of the Westminster Foundation for Democracy Žarko Hadzi-Zafirov. The work of the Gender Equality Committee of the Parliament of Montenegro was

discussed, and the information gathered would be of use for the drafting of the initial analysis of the work of parliamentary working bodies dealing with human rights and gender equality. The meeting was held in relation to the three-year project of the Westminster Foundation for Democracy – Regional Office in Belgrade, titled "Creating a parliamentary network on human rights in the Western Balkans". Chair of the Committee on Human Rights and Freedoms Halil Duković also met with Hadzi-Zafirov and his associate Gorica Nadjinski.



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30 May

- President Brajović hosted President of the Republic of Slovenia Borut Pahor, who had been paying an official visit to Montenegro.
- Conference "Western Balkans and the EU: Democratic consolidation through the fulfilment of political criteria" was held at the Parliament of Montenegro, co-organised by the Montenegrin Parliament and the Center for Democratic Transition (CDT), under the auspices of the Balkan Trust for Democracy and the Embassy of the Kingdom of Norway.
- Brajović met with Head of the European Union Delegation to Montenegro Aivo Orav, who handed the EC's Montenegro Report 2018-2019 to him.

31 May

- Members of the Committee on International Relations and Emigrants Dragutin Papović and Miloš Nikolić met delegation from the City of Vodnjan, headed by its Major Klaudio Vitasović and President of the Society of Montenegrins "Peroj 1657" Miodrag Popović. Vitasović stressed that Montenegrins from Peroj can boast of the continuity of their duration, precisely thanks to the extraordinary commitment to preserving their ethnic roots.