



Parliament of Montenegro

NEWSLETTER OPEN PARLIAMENT

Newsletter on the Parliament of Montenegro Performance ♦ No. 94 ♦ June 2019

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OPEN PARLIAMENT



Parliament of Montenegro

Newsletter on the Parliament of Montenegro Performance ♦ Electronic format ♦ Release: monthly ♦ Year IX ♦ No. 94 ♦ June 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 June, which is, in the form of monthly newsletter "Open Parliament", prepared by Parliamentary Service.

In June, the Fourth and Sixth Sitting of the First Ordinary Session of the Parliament of Montenegro in 2019, as well as the Eighth Special Sitting of the First Ordinary Session in 2019, took place.

During June, Committees considered one proposal 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 official visit of the President of Parliament to Slovenia.

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 (Spring) Session of the Parliament of Montenegro in 2019, MPs adopted the following: Law on Amendments to the Law on Civil Procedure and Law on Amendments to the Law on State Symbols and the Statehood Day of Montenegro.

At the Sixth Sitting of the First Ordinary Session of the Parliament of Montenegro in 2019, MPs adopted: Law on Amendments to the Law on the Army of Montenegro, Law on Amendments to the Law on Local Self-Government, Law on the manner of entry of ships, vessels and hydrocarbon production facilities into register books and proprietary rights aboard ships and hydrocarbon production facilities, Law on Amendments to the Law on Communal Police, Law on Amendments to the Law on Civil Servants and State Employees, Law on Amendments and Supplements to the Law on Public Sector Salaries, Law on Amendments to the Law on Domestic Trade, Defence Strategy of Montenegro, Decision on Adopting Amendments to the State Location Study "Sector 36", Report on Mental Health of Children in Montenegro, 2018 Performance Report of the Fund for Protection and Exercising of Minority Rights, 2018 Report on Development and Protection of Rights of Minorities and Other Minority Communities, 2018 Status Report on Personal Data Protection and on Access to Information, 2018 Annual Report on performance of the Judicial Council and general state of the judiciary, 2018 Performance Report of the Prosecutorial Council and the Public Prosecution

Office, 2018 Report on Application of the Law on Public Assembly and Public Events, 2018 Status Report on Road Traffic Safety in Montenegro and 2018 Performance Report of the Agency for Prevention of Corruption. Under the item of the agenda Elections and appointments, the Parliament adopted the list for the appointment of the RTCG Council members by authorised proposers, whilst it also appointed Jadranka Selhanović as member of the Jury for Presenting the 13th July Award.

At the Eighth 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 seven questions to the Prime Minister.

Proposals for law deliberated in committees

- **Proposal for a Law on Amendments to the Law on Domestic Trade** was considered and proposed to the Parliament for adoption by the Legislative Committee.

Proposals for other acts deliberated in committees

- **Proposal for a Decision on establishing a Committee on investigating the consequences of NATO bombing in 1999 on the health of citizens of Montenegro** was considered by the Committee on Health, Labour and Social Welfare; however, the proposal did not obtain the required majority.

Other activities of working bodies

- At the 79th meeting of the **Committee on Political System, Judiciary and Administration**, held on 14 June, the Committee considered the 2018 Report on Application of the Law on Public Assembly and Public Events, and on the occasion decided to submit to the Parliament proposals for conclusions.
- At the 80th meeting of 18 June, the Committee held a consultative hearing of applicants to the Public Vacancy Notice for the election of four members of the Judicial Council from among respectable lawyers.
- At the 81st meeting of 18 June, the Committee determined the Proposal for the election of four members of the Judicial Council from among respectable lawyers, and proposed to the Parliament that the following be elected members of the Council: Ljubinka Popović-Kustudić, Vesna Ratković, Veselin Racković, and Rifat Hadrović.
- At the 42nd meeting of the **Security and Defence Committee**, held on 14 June, the Committee considered and unanimously supported the Report on the results concerning the fight against organised crime and corruption.
- At the 54th meeting of the **Committee on International Relations and Emigrants**, held on 7 June, members of the Committee considered and unanimously supported the proposal that Ivan Ivanišević be appointed Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Montenegro to the Republic of France, on a residential basis in Paris.
- At the 55th of 26 June, members of the Committee considered and unanimously supported the proposal that Ivan Ivanišević be appointed Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Montenegro - permanent representative to the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization - UNESCO, based in Paris.
- At the 79th meeting of 20 June, **Committee on Economy, Finance and Budget** considered and decided to propose to the Parliament of Montenegro to adopt the financial statements with the performance reports of the five independent regulatory bodies, namely: 2018 Financial Operations Report and Performance Report of the Agency for Electronic Media; 2018 Work and Financial Plan of the Agency for Electronic Communications and Postal Services; 2018 Financial Statements with the Performance Report of the Agency for Medicines and Medical Devices; 2018 Financial Statement with the Performance Report of the Energy Regulatory Agency; 2018 Financial Statements and the Performance Report of the Agency for Insurance Supervision.
- At the 34th meeting of 10 June, **Gender Equality Committee** unanimously supported Montenegro's Report on the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action (BPfA) and the Agenda for Sustainable Development 2030 (AGENDA 2030).
- At the 18th meeting of the **Anti-Corruption Committee**, held 19 June, the Committee supported the Report of the Commission for selection of members of the Council of the Agency for Prevention of Corruption of 31 May 2019 and adopted the Decision on announcement of the repeated public invitation for the selection of five members of the Council of the Agency for Prevention of Corruption.
- At the 66th meeting of the **Administrative Committee**, held on 6 June, the Committee determined the Proposal for a list for the appointment of the RTCG Council members by authorised proposers.
- At the 67th meeting of 14 June, the Committee initiated a procedure for appointing a member of the RTCG Council and a procedure for appointing two members of the Council of Agency for Electronic Media.

NEWS FROM PARLIAMENT



Delegation of the Committee on International Relations and Emigrants in a visit to Turkey

Delegation of the Committee on International Relations and Emigrants paid an official visit to the Republic of Turkey, from 11 to 14 June, upon the invitation by Chairperson of the Foreign Affairs Committee of the Grand National Assembly of Turkey Volkan Bozkir. Good quality of intergovernmental relations between Turkey and Montenegro should provide a new impetus in the field of economic cooperation, it has been a joint assessment at the meeting of the Speaker of the Grand National Assembly of the Republic of Turkey Mustafa Şentop and the Chairperson of the Committee on International Relations and Emigrants Andrija Nikolić who heads the Committee's delegation during an official visit to the Republic of Turkey. Şentop pointed out that there was a serious interest of the Turkish capital to invest in the tourism industry of Montenegro, with the assessment that both parliaments of the two countries could also help in networking of Turkish and Montenegrin business circles. At the meeting with the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Turkey Mr Mevlüt Çavuşoğlu, it was estimated that intense political dialogue was of great importance for further development of mutual relations. Çavuşoğlu emphasised that his, but primarily the visit of the Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan to Montenegro, would bring a new quality to relations between the two countries. During the meeting with the Foreign Affairs Committee of the Grand National Assembly

of the Republic of Turkey, headed by its Chair Volkan Bozkir, in addition to the mutual expressions of satisfaction regarding the friendship and regular contacts, they also discussed the specifying of the cooperation of the two committees through the establishment of trilateral forums that would gather the friendly countries around the same goal. It was emphasised that the cooperation between the Montenegrin and Turkish foreign affairs committees could serve as an example of good cooperation between parliamentary working bodies. Members of the Committee Dragutin Papović and Ervin Ibrahimović noted that Montenegro and Turkey share a common history, culture, tradition and customs, and invited Turkish investors to invest in the north of Montenegro. They also met with the Minister of Youth and Sports and the co-chair of the Mixed Commission for Economic Cooperation of the Government of Montenegro and the Government of the Republic of Turkey Mehmet Kasapoğlu, with whom they discussed the topics of the next meeting of the Mixed Commission, as well as the possibilities for establishing cooperation between the ministries of sports of the two countries. The meetings in Ankara were also attended by the Ambassador of Montenegro to the Republic of Turkey Branko Milić. The Delegation also held a meeting with the emigrants gathered around the "Karadağ - Montenegro" Association and Honorary Consul of Montenegro to Istanbul Suver Akan.

Delegation at the VI plenary session of the Parliamentary Assembly of the South-East European Cooperation Process

President Brajović heads a delegation at the VI plenary session of the SEECP PA, held in Sarajevo on 21 and 22 June 2019. In his speech on: "Better Connectivity for Better Life – How to bring about a real change within regional cooperation process?", Brajović said that Montenegro - as a NATO member and according to the level of achieved development the first next EU member - was aware of the importance of building a partner relation, as well as better interstate connectivity in all fields of sustainable economic and social development, including a safer future that our citizens expected. The event in Sarajevo was also an opportunity to meet with senior officials of Bosnia and Herzegovina. Brajović also had separate conversations with member of the Presidency of Bosnia and Herzegovina Šefik

Džaferović, member of the Collegium of the House of Representatives of the Parliamentary Assembly Denis Zvizdić, at the same time Chair of the Council of Ministers of Bosnia and Herzegovina. It was assessed that the two states had excellent friendly relations that represented an example of good neighbourly relations in the region, and in that context they especially emphasised the significance of parliamentary cooperation. It was noted that there was significant potential for further strengthening of the overall relations, especially in the field of economy, whereby the significance of improving road infrastructure was emphasised. SEECP PA was established in 2014, as a result of the multiannual work of participating states on the institutionalisation of the parliamentary dimension of this initiative.

PARLIAMENTARY GLOSSARY

Committee Report is submitted to the parliament and it presents the results of the work of the committee regarding the issues the committee is responsible of. In the Parliament of Montenegro, a committee report contains the opinion of the committee and the proposal formed after the committee discussed the issue or the proposed act to delivered to it. This report is submitted in the situation that the opinion and the proposals differ, i.e. if they do not get the required majority in the committee. Upon the request of a committee member who wants to separate his/her opinion from that of the report, the committee report notes the existence of their separate opinion. The Committee report is signed by the committee chair.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. 187

IN FOCUS



President of the Parliament in an official visit to Slovenia

President Brajović paid an official visit to Slovenia, on 5-6 June, on which occasion he met with the highest Slovenian officials. At the meeting with President of the National Assembly of Slovenia Dejan Židan, they noted the importance of meetings between officials from the two countries, in the field of parliamentary cooperation and the exchange of views on key aspects of bilateral relations, regional developments, the future of the European Union and its enlargement policy. During the meeting with Slovenian Prime Minister Marjan Šarec, it was emphasised once again that Montenegro and Slovenia had friendly relations and meaningful cooperation which should be additionally improved especially in the economic field. The two countries understand each other excellently because they share a common past, but also the future within NATO and the EU. At the meeting with Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Miroslav Cerar, it was jointly agreed that the two friendly countries should constantly enrich their relations with new contents. President Brajović and delegation of the Montenegrin Parliament also met President of the National Council of the Republic of Slovenia Alojz Kovšca, who also reiterated Slovenian full support to Montenegro's European future.

On second day of his official visit to the Republic of Slovenia, President of the Parliament of Montenegro Ivan

Brajović had a joint meeting with representatives of the Committee on Foreign Policy, Committee on European Union Affairs and parliamentarians-members of the Slovenia-Montenegro parliamentary Friendship Group. In the Slovenian Parliament, Montenegrin delegation also met representatives of MP groups from Marjan Šarec List (LMŠ), Slovenian Democratic Party (SDS) and Alenka Bratušek Party (SAB). All meetings confirmed full support to Montenegro's efforts in achieving its strategic aims, adopting necessary standards for the membership in the European family of nations and creating safe and stable political and economic environment for better living standard of Montenegrin citizens.

The President of the Parliament used his visit to Slovenia for a meeting with the Honorary Consul of Montenegro in Slovenia Vojo Kovač, representative of the Council for Cooperation with Emigrants Remza Skenderović, and with representatives of all associations of Montenegrin emigrants in the Republic of Slovenia. The meeting discussed matters of importance of Montenegrin citizens living in Slovenia as well as developments in Montenegro and in the region. Parliamentarians Branko Čavor and Danijel Živković, members of the Montenegro-Slovenia parliamentary Friendship Group, were also part of the Delegation of the Parliament of Montenegro visiting the Republic of Slovenia.

PARLIAMENT OF MONTENEGRO-FROM CATALOGUE OF RECEIVED PRESENTS

Title: Painting with a Moscow motif
Country of origin: Russia
Extended by: President of the Russian .Duma
Recipient: President of the Parliament of Montenegro
Date of receipt: 31 March 2014



Title: Gold Gilded Medal
Country of origin: Azerbaijan
Extended by: President of the Azerbaijani Parliament
Recipient: President of the Parliament of Montenegro
Date of receipt: 16 April 2014



CALENDAR



1 June

- Chair of the Committee on Education, Science, Culture and Sports Radule Novović attended the celebration of Day of “Aleksa Bećo Đilas” Primary School, on 31 May 2019, Mojkovac.
- Members of the Parliament of Montenegro's Permanent Delegation to the NATO Parliamentary Assembly Obrad Mišo Stanišić and Genci



Nimanbegu took part in the NATO PA Spring Session, covering the period 31 May - 3 June, in Bratislava. The Spring Session in Bratislava brought together approximately 280 parliamentarians from 29 NATO member states, from North America and Europe, as well as delegates from partner countries and observer countries, with a goal to consider current security issues and draft reports of the Parliamentary Assembly's committees.

3 June

- President of the Parliament of Montenegro Ivan Brajović hosted Ivan Ivanišević, on the occasion of his upcoming appointment as Ambassador of Montenegro to the Republic of France.

4 June

- Chair of the Committee on Security and Defence Obrad Mišo Stanišić took part in the regional conference on security sector reform and governance in South East Europe, organised by the OSCE and held in Belgrade, on 4-5 June. The two-day regional workshop included six panel discussions, within which the parliamentarians and representatives of security agencies had the

opportunity to be informed in more detail about the securing of sustainable reforms through political commitment and dedication, as well as about the concept of security sector reform and governance as a driver of resilience in South East Europe.

5 June

- President of the Parliament of Montenegro Ivan Brajović paid an official visit to the Republic of Slovenia, where he met with top Slovenian officials.

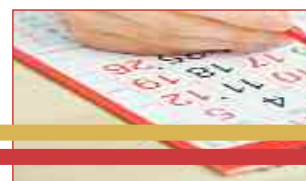
10 June

- President of the Parliament of Montenegro Ivan Brajović met with Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Czech Republic Tomáš Petříček. Brajović stressed the importance of further strengthening of the excellent bilateral relations between the two states, with an emphasis on parliamentary cooperation, and appreciated the support by states of Višegrad Group, which would be chaired by Chekia in the second half of the year. The interlocutors agreed that enlargement policy, and regatta principle, should remain high on the EU's list of priorities in its new institutions, as well as that internal reforms and Union's enlargement were complimentary processes. The meeting also discussed political developments in Montenegro, Western Balkans and the European Union. Predrag Sekulić and Boris Mugoša attended the meeting of the President of the Parliament of Montenegro and the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Czech Republic.

11 June

- President Ivan Brajović hosted Dutch Ambassador Henk van den Dool, who was ending his diplomatic mission in Montenegro. Emphasising the contribution of Ambassador Van den Dool to the strengthening of bilateral relations, President Brajović stressed that planned opening of the Embassy of Montenegro in the Netherlands would additionally strengthen the political, economic and cultural cooperation of the two countries.
- Delegation of the Committee on International Relations and Emigrants, paid an official visit to the Republic of Turkey, on 11-14 June, upon the invitation by Chair of the Foreign Affairs Committee

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of the Grand National Assembly of Turkey Volkan Bozkir.

- Chair of the Committee on Education, Science, Culture and Sports of the Parliament of Montenegro Radule Novović and member of the Committee Andrija Popović paid a three-day study visit (11-13 June 2019) to the Chamber of Deputies of the Czech Parliament, upon the invitation by Chair of its Committee on Science, Education, Culture, Youth and Sport Václav Klaus. The study visit was implemented for the purpose of exchanging experiences and opinions in order to define the challenges in the areas within the competence of the Committee. The first day, there was a meeting with the Committee on Science, Education, Culture, Youth and Sport. Both parties expressed satisfaction over solid communication between the two countries, especially in regards to the recently signed Agreement on Scientific and Technological Cooperation, in Podgorica, between Minister of Science, Government of Montenegro, and Ambassador of the Czech Republic in Montenegro. Representatives of the Economic Chamber of the Czech Republic particularly referred to cooperation in the field of Culture, ultimately leading to the strengthening of cooperation in the economic field. There were also talks about a mini Czech film festival, currently being prepared, as well as communication with the Public Service Broadcaster in terms of exchange and broadcasting of television material for educational purposes. Upon the visit to the Chamber of Deputies, a visit to the Charles University ensued, respectively with the management of the Charles University. On day two, the delegation of the Committee on Education, Science, Culture and Sports visited Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports of the Czech Republic. They discussed law proposals in the field of education, already placed under parliamentary procedure, whose amendments, continue to attract much attention by the civil sector, as well as public controversy. On day three, a tour of the Senate of the Parliament of the Czech Republic was organised for the representatives of the Committee on Education, Science, Culture and Sports of the Parliament of Montenegro.

12 June

- President of the Parliament of Montenegro Ivan

Brajiović presented certificates at Villa "Gorica" to representatives of 3,214 pupils who had attended educational programme "Barbara Prammer" Democracy Workshops in the Montenegrin Parliament over the past nine months. On that



occasion, President Brajiović stated that the Parliament of Montenegro has cherished the program of Democratic Workshops "Barbara Prammer" with great pleasure and responsibility, and that in addition to its basic activity, through numerous programs and events, it has demonstrated openness to participate in the further modernisation of society. "Barbara Prammer" Democracy Workshops are an educational programme of the Parliament of Montenegro, within which the children of primary school age learn about: parliamentary democracy, functioning of the parliament, adoption and implementation of laws, institutions and values of the European Union, as well as human and children's rights.

- Member of the Security and Defence Committee Luid Ljubo Škrelja took part in the Eighth annual discussion on the OSCE Code of Conduct on Politico-Military Aspects of Security, held in Vienna. The gathering dealt with the topics such as normative and functional elements of the OSCE Code of Conduct (CoC) with special reference to its implementation, principles of cooperation among the states, and implementation of democratic oversight over the security and defence sector, as key part of the document whose implementation is significant for facing current challenges in this field.
- Delegation of the Committee on Health, Labour and Social Welfare paid a study visit to the Croatian Parliament. The Committee delegation was

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composed of: Suad Numanović, Chair of the Committee, and Maja Bakrač and Nedžad Drešević, members of the Committee. One-day study visit was implemented through four meetings with different committees. Meeting of the Committee on Labour, Pension System and Social Partnership was devoted to the exchange of experiences in the field of pension system reform as well as to the employment field where seasonal employment was discussed among other things. At the meeting with the Health and Social Policy Committee of the Croatian Parliament, the interlocutors talked mostly about primary health care with a special emphasis on the institute of the chosen physician. The meeting with members of the European Affairs Committee of the Croatian Parliament was mainly dedicated to Montenegro's status in the accession negotiations with the EU, in its EU accession process. All the meetings were attended by Milovan Lučić, counsellor at the Embassy of Montenegro in the Republic of Croatia. Upon the invitation by Ambassador of Montenegro to the Republic of Croatia H.E. Boro Vučinić, the Committee delegation visited the Embassy of Montenegro.

member states. Vuletić said that one of the main priorities of Montenegro 2030 energy policy was related to sustainable energy development, i.e. enabling development based on accelerated but also rational use of its own energy resources, while respecting the principles of environmental protection, increasing energy efficiency and increasing the use of renewable energy sources in accordance with the needs of the socio-economic development of our country. At the end of the meeting, members of the General Committee adopted the texts of the Draft Report and the Draft Resolution. Aside from MP Vuletić and the host, the meeting was attended by parliamentarians from: Greece, Serbia, Croatia, Albania, Romania and Kosovo.

- Delegation of the Parliament of Montenegro, led by the Vice President Genci Nimanbegu, also the Head of Montenegro – Lithuania parliamentary Friendship Group, and members of the Group: Andrija Nikolić, Aleksandra Vuković and Boris Mugoša, paid an official visit to the Republic of

17 June

- Member of the Standing Delegation of the Parliament of Montenegro to Parliamentary Assembly of the South East European Cooperation Process (SEECP PA) Milorad Vuletić took part in the SEECP PA General Committee on Economy,

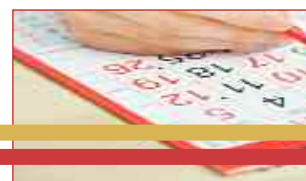


Infrastructure and Energy, held in Ankara. The meeting of the General Committee was devoted to the topic: "The role of energy in sustainable development of the South East Europe region", gathering parliamentarians from eight SEECP



Lithuania, from 17 to 19 June 2019. During the two day visit, meetings were held with the Speaker of the Parliament of the Republic of Lithuania, Viktoras Pranckietis, deputy speakers of the Seimas, Gediminas Kirkilas and Juozas Liesys, representatives of the Group for Inter-Parliamentary Relations with Montenegro of the Parliament of Lithuania, Committee on Foreign Affairs and Committee on European Affairs, the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Linas Linkevičius, the Minister of National Defence of Lithuania, Raimundas Karoblis and the Mayor of Lithuanian municipality of Trakai, Edita Rudelienė. High-level Lithuanian officials assessed as impressive

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20 June

- Chair of the Committee for Health, Labour and Social Welfare Suad Numanović met with Ambassador of the Republic of Turkey to Montenegro Songül Ozan, and the candidate for the Regional Director of the World Health Organization for Europe Nedret Emiroglu. The meeting was held at the initiative of the Ambassador of the Republic of Turkey to Montenegro, in order to present a candidate for the Regional Director of the World Health Organization for Europe Nedret Emiroglu. Numanović voiced expectation that the cooperation between the Ministry of Health and the World Health Organization would be at the same or a greater level in the upcoming period. He also recalled the successful cooperation between Montenegro and Turkey based on the Agreement signed between the Health Insurance Fund of Montenegro and the private hospital Acibadem, where many patients from Montenegro had been treated and were still being treated. Ozan commended the good friendly relations between Montenegro and the Republic of Turkey and noted that the Turkish candidate for the Regional Director of the World Health Organization for Europe would have a positive impact on the improvement of the Montenegrin health system.

21 June

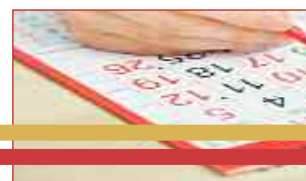
- Gender Equality Committee and the OSCE Mission to Montenegro organised a two-day thematic workshop on Capacity building for an inclusive and efficient Parliament of Montenegro: gender perspective in legislation, with the aim of implementing one of the measures from the Action Plan for the Gender Sensitive 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 workshop was held on 20 and 21 June in Podgorica Hotel. The following took part in two-day workshop: MPs Nada Drobnjak, Miodrag Vuković, Ana Nikolić, Mirsad Murić, Anka Vukićević, Danijel Živković and Filip Vuković, and staff of several parliamentary committees.
- President of the Parliament of Montenegro Ivan Brajović headed a delegation at the VI plenary

Montenegro's progress in European integration so far and promised to provide further support to our country, which they saw as a positive example in the region. A special emphasis during meetings was put on cooperation in the field of defence, which has been particularly intense since the two countries have become partners within NATO. The Minister of Foreign Affairs and the Minister of National Defence of the Republic of Lithuania expressed their gratitude to Montenegro for contributing to the security of the Baltic States, by sending Montenegrin soldiers to the NATO mission in Latvia. The visit of the delegation of the Parliament of Montenegro to Lithuania, arranged at the invitation of the Group for interparliamentary relations with Montenegro of the Sejmas, was assessed as extremely successful and constructive, with mutual openness for further development of parliamentary cooperation.

18 June

- Chair of the Security and Defence Committee met with a delegation of the NATO Defense College from Rome, headed by its Commander Lieutenant General Chris Whitecross. The focus of the discussion of members of the Security and Defence Committee with representatives of the delegation of the NATO Defense College, which had 80 members from 33 NATO member states and partner countries, were the obligations and priorities of Montenegro as the newest member state as well as its position in the Western Balkans region. President of the Parliament Ivan Brajović also attended, and in his address, pointed out that Montenegro had earned its status as a new Alliance member through its responsible foreign policy of fostering good neighbourly and regional relations, as well as, as he noted, its unambiguous orientation towards the values of developed Western democracies. In his introductory speech, Chair of the Security and Defence Committee Obrad Mišo Stanišić informed the NATO Defense College members about the activities of the Security and Defence Committee in the period since its becoming a new member of the Alliance. The mission of the NATO Defense College is to contribute to the effectiveness and cohesion of the Alliance via its role as a centre of education and research on transatlantic security issues.

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session of the Parliamentary Assembly of the South-East European Cooperation Process which was held in Sarajevo on 21 and 22 June 2019.

23 June

- Chair of the Committee on European Integration Slaven Radunović and Deputy Chair Adrijan Vuksanović, and member of the Committee Neđeljko Rudović attended 16th Plenary Meeting of the Committees for Union Affairs of the Parliaments of the European Union (COSAC), held in Bucharest, from 23 to 25 June 2019. The COSAC Plenary Meeting covered topics on: results of the six months long Romanian Presidency of the Council of the



European Union; the international trade relations of the European Union; the role of education, training and measures to encourage employment in strengthening the single market of EU; as well as innovation, technological progress and research and development (R&D) as the main drivers of competitiveness and economic growth. Chair of the Committee on European Integration Slaven Radunović said that Europe needed a firm and stable European Union, capable of observing its values, as well as that uses its strength and stability to influence the stability of its neighbourhood. He also stated that a continuous and clearly expressed interest of the EU towards the final democratisation of the region, as well as its concrete assistance in the implementation of reforms, were crucially important to Montenegro and all the Western Balkans countries. He opined that in the Western Balkan countries, the leading parties were in charge of all the ruling mechanisms, therefore, EU's assistance and influence would play a crucial role in undertaking final and crucial steps towards creating an environment in which citizens factually enjoy and believe in the democratic values- rule of law, exercise of human rights and economic growth. The Plenary meeting was organised within the framework of the parliamentary dimension of the Romanian Presidency at the EU Council.

24 June

- Delegation of the Parliament of Montenegro to the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (PACE) consisting of MPs Predrag Sekulić, Head of Delegation, Marija Čatović, Sanja Pavićević and Ervin Ibrahimović, took part in the PACE Summer Session, held in Strasbourg, from 24 to 28 June. One of the key events of this session was the election of a new Secretary General of the Council of Europe. In September of the current year, that office will be overtaken by the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign and European Affairs of the Republic of Croatia Marija Pejčinović-Burić. They also discussed the budget and priorities of the Council of Europe 2020-2021, and planned expenses of the Parliamentary Assembly for the biennium. The agenda of the session also included the debate on "The Istanbul Convention on violence against women: achievements and challenges" within which a member of the parliamentary delegation Ms Sanja Pavićević, who is also a member of the Committee on Equality and Non-Discrimination, pointed out Montenegro's progress achieved in developing a legislative, political and institutional framework for preventing and eliminating violence against women and domestic violence, which has also been recognised in the first GREVIO report for Montenegro. The significance of promoting the Istanbul Convention and raising awareness on all types of violence against women was also emphasised, as well as numerous activities that the Parliament of Montenegro, i.e. its Gender Equality Committee, was implementing in this field. MP Pavićević also took part in the discussion on "Preventing violence against children" within which she spoke of the measures that the responsible Montenegrin institutions were undertaking at the strategic and operative level in order to create a violence-free environment for each child. The key measures which were implemented in the previous period within the Strategy for the Prevention and Protection of Children against Violence 2017-2021 were presented, and the commitment to achieving further progress in this area was emphasised. In addition to the plenary session, members of the Delegation of the Parliament of Montenegro took part in meeting of political groups of the Parliamentary Assembly, and meetings of the Committee on Political Affairs and Democracy, Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights, Committee on Migration, Refugees and Displaced Persons, Committee on Social Affairs, Health and Sustainable Development, and Committee on Equality and Non-Discrimination. At the meeting of the Sub-Committee on Disability and Multiple and Intersectional Discrimination, which was held on day two of the session, member of Montenegrin

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delegation Sanja Pavićević was elected Chair of this working body formed within the Committee on Equality and Non-Discrimination. At the meeting of the Sub-Committee on Human Rights, a list of candidates from Montenegro for membership to the European Committee for the Prevention of Torture and Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (CPT) was presented and, along with the Sub-Committee's recommendation on the top eligible candidate, it will be forwarded to the PACE Bureau for further action.

- Member of the Committee on Human Rights and Freedoms Momčilo Martinović attended an event where the INSPIRE strategy was promoted in Montenegro, in the organisation of the Centre for the Rights of the Child of Montenegro. The INSPIRE strategy is a technical package intended for all entities in the public, private and civil sector at the national and local level, who are dealing with the prevention of violence against children and adolescents. It is a set of seven strategies selected based on the best available evidence and with the greatest potential to reduce violence against children. The goal of the strategy concerning the implementation of the law is to ensure law enforcement in order to prevent violent behaviour, alcohol abuse, as well as decrease availability of firearms and other arms to children. It was concluded at the event that the seven strategies and cross-sectoral activities that make up the INSPIRE strategy represent the best manner to accelerate the progress in the prevention of violence against children.
- Chair of the Security and Defence Committee Obrad Mišo Stanišić paid an official visit to Bucharest. The two-day visit is implemented pursuant to the invitation by the Chair of the Committee on Defence, Public Order and National Security of the Chamber of Deputies of the Parliament of Romania Dorel-Gheorghe Căprar. On day one of the visit, Chair Stanišić met with Chair Dorel-Gheorghe Căprar and members of the Committee on Defence, Public Order and National Security of the Chamber of Deputies of the Parliament of Romania. At the meeting they presented the experiences in the work of the two committees, with focus on implementation practices of parliamentary oversight in the field of security and defence. In continuation, there was also a meeting with members of the Joint Standing Committee of the Chamber of Deputies and the Senate for the exercise of parliamentary control over the activity of the Romanian Intelligence Service SRI. The interlocutors exchanged experiences with regard to the implementation of parliamentary oversight over the intelligence and security sector, and pointed out the

significance of deepening the cooperation in this area at bilateral level, but also within the North-Atlantic Alliance and Montenegrin path towards the full membership in the European Union. Chair Stanišić also visited the Special Telecommunications Service of Romania and, within it, the Operative Centre for Cybersecurity, where he learned about their legislative framework, the manner of operation, experiences and results which the said Service achieved in its work. On day one, there was also a visit to the Ministry of National Defence. On day two, the Chair of the Security and Defence Committee met with members of the Joint Standing Committee of the Chamber of Deputies and the Senate for the exercise of parliamentary control over the activity of the Romanian foreign intelligence service, where he presented the activities and practices in the Montenegrin Parliament, related to the oversight of the security and defence sector. The importance of maintaining a balance between efficiency and transparency of work related to the security system, was jointly concluded, as well as readiness to further continue the cooperation in the field. There was also an arranged visit with the Inspectorate of Romanian Gendarmerie, with highest honours. In addition, a working meeting was held with the NATO Force Integration Unit. They referred to the importance of cooperation among partners within the Alliance, with the focus on strengthening personal and institutional ties, exchange of information and sharing experience. A visit was also paid to the Inspectorate for Emergency Situations, within the frameworks of which there was a meeting between Chair Stanišić and State secretary and Head of Romanian Department of Emergency Situations Raed Arafat.

25 June

- Members of the Committee, Boris Mugoša, Genci Nimanbegu, Filip Vuković, Ana Nikolić and Raško Konjević met with the delegation of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) Mission, that paid a visit to Montenegro, with the aim of gathering information on the state of the economy, prospects and policies in the framework of the regular consultations under Article IV of the Fund Agreement. The meeting covered topics on the state of public finances, fiscal challenges, public debt, public administration reform, tax policy, as well as the future of the highway construction project.
- Chair of the Constitutional Committee Miodrag Vuković participated in the Third Session of the International Parliament for Peace and Tolerance, held on 25-27 June in Buenos Aires, organised by the Global Council for Peace and Tolerance. At a gathering opened by the President of

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the Chamber of Deputies of the Argentine National Congress, Emilio Monzó, parliamentarians from 40 countries of the world discussed joint efforts for strengthening and promotion of the values of tolerance and peace in the world. The International Parliament, ahead of the Plenary Session, also held meetings of general committees, and Miodrag Vuković, MP, participated in the meeting of the General Committee on International Relations. Global Council for Peace and Tolerance is an international organisation aimed at spreading the principles and values of peace and tolerance in the world, with an emphasis on the younger population.

26 June

- President Brajović met with Deputy Leader of the House of Lords and Minister of State for Defence of the United Kingdom Frederick Richard Penn Curzon, the 7th Earl Howe. Interlocutors agreed that the partnership and cooperation within NATO represented a strong indicator of the strength of bilateral relations between Montenegro



and the United Kingdom. Additionally, the established friendship groups between the Parliament of Montenegro and the House of Commons of the UK Parliament are a testament to mutual readiness for the strengthening of parliamentary cooperation and relations of the two countries. The interlocutors agreed on the significance of effective legislation, while efforts of all actors on the political stage are significant for its implementation. President Brajović highlighted, among other things, the continuously good cooperation with the Westminster Foundation for Democracy and further openness of the Parliament to joint projects, and voiced his expectation that, in the upcoming period as well, Montenegro would continue to receive the support of its European partners for its reform efforts and promotion of values of the western democracies. They also mentioned security and political developments in the countries of the region. The meeting was also attended by Chair of the Committee on

Security and Defence Obrad Mišo Stanišić.

- Chair of the Gender Equality Committee Nada Drobnjak spoke at the Regional Conference of Women Parliamentarians, held in Skopje, on 26 - 27 June 2019. The conference was organised by the Assembly of the Republic of North Macedonia, with the support of the OSCE Mission to Skopje. The conference dealt with international standards and good practice of gender sensitive parliaments, and regional parliaments, and women parliamentarians from the region had an opportunity to exchange experiences on legislation and public funding that relate to gender equality. Speaking about the implementation of the Activity Plan for Gender-Responsive Parliament of Montenegro, Drobnjak stressed that its implementation has influenced on awareness raising about gender equality issues, as well as the integration of gender equality policies and the empowerment of mechanisms for its implementation. She stressed that the Parliament of Montenegro was committed to the adoption of gender-responsive laws and policies, as well as to raising awareness of gender equality in parliamentary work. Two-day conference discussed possibilities of improving regional parliamentary cooperation, especially in the field of gender equality. At the conference margins, the Chair of the Committee met Talat Xhaferi, President of the Assembly of the Republic of Macedonia.

27 June

- Members of the Committee on European Integration met with representatives of the NGO sector, on which occasion 2019 Work Plan of the Committee, covering the period September - December 2019, was presented. The importance of a mutual cooperation in the further process of EU integrations was also emphasised. It was also referred to the importance of joint cooperation and activities of both the Committee and the civic sector in overseeing the challenges involving the reforms of the overall society, and which concerned EU accession negotiations and observing of commitments for the closing of chapters. The meeting was attended by representatives of the Civic Alliance, Green Home, Association of Youth with Disabilities of Montenegro, Association for Democratic Prosperity, Centre for Democracy and Human Rights, Environmental movement OZON, Human Rights Action, Centre for the Development of Non-Governmental Organisations.
- President Brajović hosted the delegation of the Igman Initiative: Zoran Pusić-Croatia, Aleksandar Popov - Serbia, Vehid Šehić - Bosnia and Herzegovina, and Branislav Radulović and Branko Lukovac - Montenegro. The meeting was organised on the occasion of the 20th anniversary of

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the establishment of the Igman Initiative, to be marked next year. Brajović stressed the importance of good neighbourly relations and regional cooperation, as one of the priorities of Montenegro's foreign policy, which has been successfully implemented in continuity. He reminded of the fact that the Igman Initiative has significantly contributed to the restoration of trust and tolerance during the two decades of activities, to the improvement of good neighbourly relations, and the overcoming of all types of discrimination in the signatory countries of the Dayton Agreement. Interlocutors agreed that the common goal of institutions and civil sector of the countries of the region should be further democratisation of societies through strengthening the rule of law, the exercising of human and minority rights.

28 June

- Chair of the Committee on Health, Labour and Social Welfare Suad Numanović, Chair of the Gender Equality Committee Nada Drobnjak, Chair of the Committee on Education, Science, Culture and Sports Radule Novović, Chair of the Committee on Human Rights and Freedoms Halil Duković attended the press conference on the presentation of key findings of the Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey, carried out in 2018 by the Statistical Office of Montenegro, with the technical assistance provided by UNICEF, and financial support of the Government of Montenegro, UNICEF, and UNHCR. held in the UN Eco House. It was pointed out that Montenegro was the first in the Balkans to implement the new round of international MICS within which this time a total of 3,826 households were surveyed in the country and additional 854 households in Roma neighbourhoods.



- Chair of the Committee on International Relations and Emigrants Andrija Nikolić met with Vice President of the Republic of Bulgaria Iliana Iotova, who paid an official visit to Montenegro. Nikolić stated that the friendly relations between Montenegro and Bulgaria, confirmed during the Bulgarian presidency of the Council of the European Union,

are the foundation for the successful integration of Montenegro into the family of the most developed countries of Europe. Iotova noted that their support to Montenegro was a part of Bulgaria's consistent policy regarding the appreciation of the Western Balkans countries, along with Bulgaria's official position that Montenegro had progressed the most on its European path. The interlocutors exchanged their views on the current political moment in Europe, with a reference to the results of the European elections and their possible implications for the enlargement policy. The meeting was also attended by Bulgarian Ambassador to Montenegro Meglena Pflugcziewa.

- President Brajović received the Ambassador of the Republic of Kosovo to Montenegro Skender Durmishi, in a farewell visit, congratulating him on a successful mandate and thanking him for his contribution to the improvement of interstate relations. President Brajović stressed, among other things, the importance of opening the Development Centre of Montenegrins in Kosovo with the support of the Government of the Republic of Kosovo. They jointly noted that the exchange in the field of economy and culture should be intensified in the period ahead. Brajović stressed that Montenegro has closely monitored and supported the continuation of the dialogue between Priština and Belgrade under the auspices of the European Union, and expressed his belief that a solution would be reached as soon as possible, satisfactory to both sides.
- Chair of the Committee on European Integration Slaven Radunović and Committee member Daliborka Pejović attended the panel "Changes in Montenegrin institutions and society following the negotiations?", within the Conference "Seven years of Montenegro's negotiations with the EU", organised by Centre for Civic Organisation. Radunović emphasised that in the course of seven years, the Committee had done a great job, emphasising that upon considering of negotiating positions, it presented the Work Plan for the current mandate, which envisaged intensive activities involving the most important negotiating chapters within the EU accession negotiations, oversight of work of institutions, and pointing out the issues hindering the progress of negotiations, whilst additional assistance to the Committee would also be provided by the civic sector, by the means of cooperation. Pejović pointed out to the need for constant promotion of the work of institutions and enforcement of reforms in order to clearly identify the remaining challenges in the process of European integrations. Pejović emphasised that Montenegro must not hinder the further development of the European Union, but rather offer solid guidelines in solving all the challenges, thus setting a good example.