



Parliament of Montenegro

NEWSLETTER OPEN PARLIAMENT

Newsletter on the Parliament of Montenegro Performance ♦ No. 95 ♦ July and August 2019

CONTENT

Legislative and oversight activity.....2

News from Parliament.....6

Delegation of the Parliament of Montenegro pays a study visit to the Republic of Slovenia.....6

President of the Parliament pays a visit to the Principality of Monaco.....6

Parliamentary glossary.....6

In focus.....7

From the Catalogue of Received Presents.....7

Calendar.....8

IN FOCUS

President of the Parliament heads the delegation at the Annual Session of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly

p.7



PARLIAMENTARY GLOSSARY

*Do you know...
what is Archive of Parliament?*

p.6

PARLIAMENT OF MONTENEGRO-FROM CATALOGUE OF RECEIVED PRESENTS

Presents awarded by the Head of the Azerbaijani Delegation to the OSCE PA and President of the Chamber of Deputies of Romania

p.7

OPEN PARLIAMENT



Parliament of Montenegro

Newsletter on the Parliament of Montenegro Performance ♦ Electronic format ♦ Release: monthly ♦ Year IX ♦ No. 95 ♦ July and August 2019

FOREWORD

Dear readers,

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

In July and August, the Tenth, Eleventh and Twelfth Sitting of the First Ordinary Session of the Parliament of Montenegro in 2019, Sitting of the Second Extraordinary Session of the Parliament in 2019, as well as the Ninth Special Sitting of the First Ordinary Session in 2019, took place.

During July and August, Committees considered 14 proposals for a law, six proposals for a decision and performed other activities within their oversight role.

In focus of this month's newsletter is the holding of the Annual Session of the OSCE PA on 4-8 July, in Luxembourg, which was attended by the Parliamentary Delegation, headed by the President.

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 Tenth Sitting of the First Ordinary Session of the Parliament of Montenegro in 2019, MPs adopted the following: Law on Amendment to the Law on Mandatory Social Security Contributions and Decision on establishing the Committee on Monitoring the Implementation of the Decision on granting a long-term lease of Island Lastavica with fortress Mamula, Municipality Herceg Novi and Decision on Accepting Annex No. 1 to the Lease Contract of the hotel "Kraljičina plaža" Budva. In addition, the following were also adopted: Law on Amendments to the Law on Defence, Law on Amendments to the Law on Confiscation of Assets Acquired from Criminal Activity, Law on Fiscalisation in the Trade in Goods and Services, Law on Amendments to the Law on Tax Advisors, Law on Amendments to the Law on Official Statistics and Official Statistical System, Law on Amendments to the Law on Cooperation of Montenegro with Diaspora - Emigrants, Law on Restriction of the Usage of Tobacco Products, Law on Ratifying the Protocol on Water and Health to the 1992 Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes, Law on Amendments to the Law on deployment of the Armed Forces of Montenegro units to the international forces and participation of members of civil defence, police and public administration employees in peacekeeping missions and other activities abroad, Law on Amendment to the Law on Higher Education, Law on Supplement to the Law on Regional Development, Decision on Amendments to the Decision on long-term lease of land for developing the base settlement of the mountain centre "Kolašin 1600" and the Annex to the long-term lease contract of the mountain centre "Kolašin

1600, Decision on Amendments to the Rules of Procedure of the Parliament of Montenegro, Code of Ethics for MPs, Tenth semi-annual report on the overall activities within the integration process of Montenegro to the European Union, for the period July – December 2018, 2018 Performance Report of the Protector of Human Rights and Freedoms, 2018 Annual Report of the National Mechanism for Prevention of Torture, 2018 Financial Statement with the Performance Report of the Energy Regulatory Agency, 2018 Financial Operations Report and Performance Report of the Agency for Electronic Media, 2018 Performance Report of the Agency for Electronic Communications and Postal Services with 2018 Financial Report of the Agency, and Report on Conducted Audit of 2018 Financial Statements of the Agency for Electronic Communications and Postal Services by the independent auditor "SPIN OFF" Ltd Podgorica, 2018 Financial and Performance Report of the Agency for Medicines and Medical Devices, 2018 Financial Statements and Report on Performed Audit of Financial Statements of the Insurance Supervision Agency and 2018 Performance Report of the Insurance Supervision Agency, 2018 Status Report on the Insurance Market in Montenegro, 2018 Performance Report of the State Commission for the Control of Public Procurement Procedures, 2018 Performance Report of the Agency for Protection of Competition, 2018 Performance Report of the Central Bank of Montenegro and 2018 Performance Report of the Financial Stability Forum of Montenegro.

As part of the item of *Elections and appointments*, the Parliament adopted the Decision on selection of five members of the Council of the Agency for Prevention of Corruption. MPs also adopted the Decision on selection of the Chairman and members of the Committee for monitoring the implementation of the Decision on a long-term lease of Mamula, Municipality of Herceg Novi and the Decision on accepting the Annex No 1 of the Agreement on the lease of Hotel "Kraljičina plaža", Budva.

At the Eleventh Sitting of the First Ordinary Session of the Parliament of Montenegro in 2019, MPs adopted: Law on Amendments to the 2019 Budget Law of Montenegro, Decision on Amendments to the Decision on Borrowing of Montenegro for 2019 and Law on Amendments to the Law on State Symbols and the Statehood Day of Montenegro.

At the Twelfth Sitting of the First Ordinary Session of the Parliament of Montenegro in 2019, MPs adopted the Decision on Amending the Decision on Forming the Committee on Further Reform of Electoral and Other Legislation.

At the Sitting of the Second Extraordinary Session of the Parliament of Montenegro in 2019, MPs adopted the Law on Supplements to the Law on Tax Administration.

Within the item *Elections and appointments*, the Parliament dismissed Miodrag Lekić from his duty of a member of the Committee on Comprehensive Reform of Electoral and Other Legislation and elected parliamentarians Momo Koprivica and Danilo Šaranović as members of the Committee.

At the Ninth Special Sitting of the First Ordinary Session of the Parliament of Montenegro in 2019, under the agenda item *Prime Minister's Hour and Parliamentary Questions*, MPs' questions were answered by the Prime Minister and ministers in the Government. MPs posed seven questions to the Prime Minister, whereas 89 questions were posed to the ministers.

Proposals for law deliberated in committees

- **Proposal for a Law on Amendments to the Law on Tax Advisors** was considered and proposed to the Parliament for adoption by the Committee on Economy, Finance and Budget and the Legislative Committee.
- **Proposal for a Law on Amendments to the Law on Official Statistics and Official Statistical System** was considered and proposed to the Parliament for adoption by the Committee on Economy, Finance and Budget and the Legislative Committee.
- **Proposal for a Law on Amendment to the Law on Mandatory Social Security Contributions** was considered and proposed to the Parliament for adoption by the Committee on Economy, Finance and Budget and the Legislative Committee.
- **Proposal for a Law on Amendments to the Law on Confiscation of Assets Acquired from Criminal Activity** 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 Ratifying the Protocol on Water and Health to the 1992 Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes** was considered and proposed to the Parliament for adoption by the Legislative Committee and the Committee on International Relations and Emigrants.
- **Proposal for a Law on Fiscalisation in the Trade in Goods and Services** 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 Defence** was considered and proposed to the Parliament for adoption by the Legislative Committee and the Security and Defence Committee.
- **Proposal for a Law on Restriction of the Usage of Tobacco Products** was considered and proposed to the Parliament for adoption by the Committee on Health, Labour and Social Welfare and the Legislative Committee.
- **Proposal for a Law on Supplement to the Law on Regional Development** was considered and proposed to the Parliament for adoption by the Committee on Economy, Finance and Budget and the Legislative Committee.
- **Proposal for a Law on Amendments to the Law on Cooperation of Montenegro with Diaspora - Emigrants** was considered and proposed to the Parliament for adoption by the Committee on International Relations and Emigrants and the Legislative

Committee.

- **Proposal for a Law on Amendments to the 2019 Budget Law** 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 Amendment to the Law on Higher Education** was considered and proposed to the Parliament for adoption by the Committee on Education, Science, Culture and Sports and the Legislative Committee.
- **Proposal for a Law on Amendments to the Law on State Symbols and the Statehood Day of Montenegro** was considered and proposed to the Parliament for adoption by the Committee on Political System, Judiciary and Administration and the Legislative Committee.
- **Proposal for a Law on Supplements to the Law on Tax Administration** 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 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 Legislative Committee.
- **Proposal for a Decision on establishing the Committee on Monitoring the Implementation of the Decision on granting a long-term lease of Island Lastavica with fortress Mamula, Municipality Herceg Novi and Decision on Accepting Annex No. 1 to the Lease Contract of the hotel "Kraljičina plaža" Budva** was considered and proposed to the Parliament for adoption by the Legislative Committee and the Committee on Economy, Finance and Budget.
- **Proposal for a Decision on Amendments to the Decision on Borrowing of Montenegro for 2019** was considered and proposed to the Parliament for adoption by the Legislative Committee and the Committee on Economy, Finance and Budget.
- **Proposal for a Code of Ethics for MPs** was considered and proposed to the Parliament for adoption by the Legislative Committee and the Committee on Human Rights and Freedoms.
- **Proposal for a Decision on Amendments to the Rules of Procedure of the Parliament of Montenegro** 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 Decision on Amending the Decision on Forming the Committee on Further Reform of Electoral and Other Legislation** was considered and proposed to the Parliament for adoption by the Legislative Committee and the Committee on Political System, Judiciary and Administration.

Other activities of working bodies

- At the 43rd meeting of the **Security and Defence Committee**, held on 5 July, the Committee considered and supported 2018 Report on participation of members of the Army of Montenegro in international forces, peace-keeping missions, and other activities abroad, followed by several conclusions.
- At the 56th meeting of the **Committee on International Relations and Emigrants**, held on 16 July, members of the Committee considered and unanimously supported the proposal on appointing Obrad Mišo Stanišić as Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary Ambassador of Montenegro to Bosnia and Herzegovina, on a residential basis, in Sarajevo.
- At the 58th meeting of 23 July, members of the Committee considered and unanimously supported the proposal on appointing Dubravka Lalović as Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary Ambassador of Montenegro-Permanent Representative-Head of the Permanent Mission of Montenegro to NATO, on a residential basis, in Brussels.
- At the 31st meeting of the **Committee on European Integration**, held on 24 July, members of the Committee adopted 21st Quarterly Report on the Overall Activities within the integration process of Montenegro to the European Union, covering the period January-March 2019, and considered the Seventh and Eighth Semiannual Reports on the implementation of the action plans for Negotiation Chapter 23 - Judiciary and fundamental rights, with the Fourth semi-annual report on the implementation of the Operating document for the prevention of corruption for 2018, as well as Seventh and Eighth Semiannual Reports on the Implementation of the Action Plans for Chapter 24-Justice, freedom and security, covering the year 2018.
- At the 32nd meeting, held on 24 July, members of the Committee, with the attendance of the Montenegro's Chief Negotiator with European Union Aleksandar Drljević, considered Information involving EU Financial Assistance programmes designated for 2018.
- At the 81st meeting of the **Committee on Economy, Finance and Budget**, held on 16 July, the Committee decided to propose that the Parliament adopt the following: 2018 Performance Report of the Agency for Protection of Competition, 2018 Performance Report of the State Commission for the Control of Public Procurement Procedures and 2018 Status Report on the Insurance Market in Montenegro.
- At the 82nd meeting, held on 17 July, the Committee considered and decided to propose to the Parliament to support the 2018 Performance Report of the Central Bank of Montenegro and 2018 Performance Report of

the Financial Stability Forum of Montenegro. In addition, the Committee considered the 2018 Report on the Stability of Financial System and the 2018 Report on Price Stability, submitted to the Parliament for information purpose, as well as acquainted with the 2018 Annual Financial Report of the Central Bank of Montenegro, with the opinion of the independent external auditor.

- At the 40th meeting of the **Committee on Human Rights and Freedoms**, held on 10 July, the Committee considered and supported the 2018 Performance Report of the Protector of Human Rights and Freedoms and the 2018 Annual Report of the Mechanism for the Prevention of Torture.
- The 35th meeting of the **Gender Equality Committee**, held on 8 July, was dedicated to presenting of Results of the report carried out within the project “OSCE Survey on the Well-being and Safety of Women”. On the occasion, the following attended the meeting: representatives of ministries, NGOs and international organisations, diplomatic corps. The research aimed to collect data on violence against women in conflict and post-conflict situations, to serve as a basis for making of policies, strategies, programs and activities based on specific data, as well as to lead to the improvement of services for women and girls who survived the violence. In 2018, the survey was conducted in Montenegro, Serbia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Albania, North Macedonia, Kosovo, Ukraine, and Moldova.
- At the 19th meeting of the **Anti-Corruption Committee**, held on 17 July, the Committee determined Proposal for a Decision on the election of five members of the Council of the Agency for Prevention of Corruption.
- 68th meeting of the **Administrative Committee**, held on 18 July, was dedicated to the topic “Parliamentary Immunity”. The introductory remarks were delivered by Committee Chair Luigj Shkrela, President of the Parliament of Montenegro Ivan Brajović, and Vice President of the Parliament of Montenegro Nimanbegu. The following prominent legal experts significantly contributed to the thematic meeting: Ivica Stanković, President of the Prosecutorial Council, Mladen Vukčević, President of the Judicial Council, Branislav Radulović, President of the Association of Lawyers of Montenegro, Zoran Jovetić, Representative of the Bar Association, and Đorđije Blažić, Dean of the Faculty of Administrative and European Studies. During the discussions of the invited participants and during the debate, they provided assessments as well as personal and political positions with regard to the said procedural measure “placing in prison” imposed upon the MP. They proposed amending articles 58 and 59 of the Rules of Procedure of the Parliament of Montenegro, which regulate the issue of immunity, and they provided assessments on the need for adopting the Law on Immunity. All participants assessed that the debate was constructive and that it would contribute to having the institute of parliamentary immunity, in addition to the constitutional provisions, be more closely regulated via legal regulation, and in more detail by the Rules of Procedure of the Parliament of Montenegro. The parliamentary majority extended an invitation to the opposition MPs to take part in the drafting of amendments to the Rules of Procedure of the Parliament of Montenegro.
- The 69th meeting of 23 July, the Committee provided consent to the Proposal for the Rulebook on Organisation and Job Scheme of working positions in the Parliamentary Service, submitted by Secretary General.
- The 70th meeting of 31 July, the Committee determined the Proposal for a Decision on the election of Chair and members of the Committee for monitoring the implementation of the Decision on a long-term lease of the Lastavica Island locality with the fortress Mamula, Municipality of Herceg Novi and the Decision on accepting the Annex No 1 of the Agreement on the lease of Kraljičina plaza Hotel, Budva, and decided to propose to the Parliament of Montenegro to elect: Mihailo Anđušić, as Chair; Ana Nikolić, Maja Bakrač, Momčilo Martinović, Nikola Divanović, Genci Nimanbegu and Andrija Popović, as members. The Committee also determined seven proposals for decisions on changes to the composition of permanent working bodies, namely: Proposal for a Decision on dismissal and election of a member of the Administrative Committee, Proposal for a Decision on dismissal and election of the Chair of the Commission for Monitoring and Control of the Privatisation Procedure, Proposal for a Decision on dismissal and election of a member of the Committee on Human Rights and Freedoms, Proposal for a Decision on dismissal and election of three members of the Anti-corruption Committee, Proposal for a Decision on dismissal and election of the Chair and dismissal and election of a member of the Security and Defence Committee, Proposal for a Decision on dismissal and election of the Chair of the Committee on Political System, Judiciary and Administration, and Proposal for a Decision on dismissal and election of the Chair and dismissal and election of a member of the Legislative Committee.
- At the 71st meeting of 22 August, the Committee determined Proposal for a Decision on dismissal of one and election of two members of the Committee on Comprehensive Reform of Election and Other Legislation, Proposal for a Decision on dismissal and election of a member of the Administrative Committee and Proposal for a Decision on dismissal and election of a member of the Constitutional Committee.

NEWS FROM PARLIAMENT



Delegation of the Parliament of Montenegro pays a study visit to the Republic of Slovenia

Secretary General of the Parliament of Montenegro Aleksandar Jovičević and Deputy Secretary General Marija Mirjačić with associates visited the Republic of Slovenia on 3-4 July 2019, as part of the project of cooperation between the OSCE and the Parliament of Montenegro. The aim of the visit was exchange of experience on the topic of Managing Employee Performance and a number of similar topics, during which the Montenegrin delegation met with colleagues from the National Assembly of the Republic of Slovenia, representatives of the Ministry of Public Administration of Slovenia, and the Deputy Mayor of the Municipality of Ljubljana. During the first day of the visit, the delegation visited the National Assembly of the Republic of Slovenia, and met with the Secretary General, Uršula

Zore Tavčar, and her associates, who briefly presented the work of the Assembly, as well as the activities that their institution has implemented with the aim of strengthening the capacity of parliamentary services. On the second day, the delegation of the Parliament of Montenegro visited the Ministry of Public Administration of the Republic of Slovenia, whose representatives informed the attendees with the civil service system in Slovenia, the general competency frameworks (CAF), as well as with the strategic approach of planning the work of the state administration of Slovenia, and the manner to measure performance of the work, i.e. key performance indicators (KPIs). At the end of the two-day visit, a meeting was held with the Deputy Mayor of the Municipality of Ljubljana, Aleš Čerin.

President of the Parliament pays a visit to the Principality of Monaco

President of the Parliament of Montenegro Ivan Brajović paid a visit to the Principality of Monaco on 26-27 July, upon the invitation of the President of the National Council, Stéphane Valeri. At the meeting with the President of the Council, which was also attended by the Chair of the Foreign Affairs Committee, José Badia, the importance of parliamentary cooperation was stressed both at the bilateral level and within the format of small European countries. President Brajović stressed that the cooperation between parliaments, being already of high level, will need to be further improved with new contents in line with the Framework Agreement of the two countries signed in 2013. The President was the guest of the President of the National Council at the traditional charity dinner organised by the Red Cross of the Principality of Monaco. During the meeting with the host of the evening, Prince Albert of Monaco, views were exchanged on the cooperation of the two countries, the economies of which have been primarily based on tourism. Prince Albert of Monaco, who recently visited Montenegro on the occasion of holding of the Games of the Small States of Europe, commended the exceptional organisation of the event and reiterated strong impressions on the beauty and potential of our country. At the meeting with the Minister of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation of the Principality of Monaco, Gilles Tonelli, the discussion

centred around the importance of regular political dialogue for better mutual understanding and finding new models of cooperation, as well as further strengthening of friendly relations between the two countries of mutual interest. It is jointly estimated that small European countries contributed to the co-operation and unity of Europe. To this end, Brajović



stressed the commitment of Montenegro to further strengthening cooperation with small successful countries, exchange of experiences and knowledge, particularly in those areas where comparative advantages existed. It was emphasised during all meetings that the excellent political relations of the two countries have been the basis for more intensive economic cooperation.

PARLIAMENTARY GLOSSARY

Archive of Parliament. An Archive is a special institution or a part of an organization dealing with record keeping and with taking over, storing, protecting, sorting, processing and making available archival material. Parliamentary archives contain all the original documents related to the legislative and other functions of the parliament stored in an appropriate way to ensure access to various groups of users. The archive of the Parliament of Montenegro is a separate part of the parliamentary service responsible for archiving parliamentary materials and files, i.e. for keeping records, collecting, sorting, processing, protecting, selecting and using archival material. The archive contains all the original documents related to the legislative procedure, including proposals of law and adopted laws, the reports of working bodies, amendments to the proposal of acts, edits on the promulgation of laws, decisions, conclusions and other acts of the Parliament of Montenegro, as well as other documents generated in the process of work of the Parliament and its services.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. 176

IN FOCUS



President of the Parliament heads the delegation at the Annual Session of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly

President of the Parliament headed the delegation at the 28th Annual Session of the OSCE PA, on 4-8 July, in Luxembourg. The session was titled “Advancing Sustainable Development to Promote Security: The Role of Parliaments”. In his address to the Standing Committee, President Brajović pointed out that if we truly wanted a stable, peaceful and prosperous Europe, then the enlargement process must be continued more decisively, until the rest of the South-eastern European countries become a part of the European community, and with its commitment to reforms, Montenegro had clearly proved to be a part of the European system of values, and that the achieved results and our leadership position in the integration process had made us more relaxed when it comes to the membership deadlines. During the meeting with Speaker of the Luxembourg Chamber of Deputies Fernand Etgen, they discussed the continuation of strengthening parliamentary cooperation of Montenegro and Luxembourg, as an important segment of bilateral relations as a whole. Brajović thanked for the previous support of Luxembourg to Montenegro’s NATO and European path and voiced his expectation for an even stronger support to Montenegro’s EU membership. Etgen said that Montenegrin diaspora in Luxembourg was very well integrated as well as that Montenegro was viewed as a positive example of a country which was not yet an EU member. Brajović also met with Prime Minister of Luxembourg Xavier Bettel, who confirmed that the future of Montenegro was in the European

Union and that he personally believed so. Brajović also addressed the participants of the Silk Road Support Group, with Montenegro being one of its 25 founding states. He met with Minister of Foreign Affairs of Luxembourg Jean Asselborn, who discussed the developments in Montenegro and European institutions, emphasising as significant that the majority of the new composition of the European Parliament was made up by advocates for the EU concept. Luxembourg will immediately give consent for Montenegro to open the remaining chapter eight relating to competition - said Asselborn. At the meeting with President and Secretary General of the OSCE PA George Tsereteli and Roberto Montella, they pointed out the commitment and active relationship of the Parliament of Montenegro with this organisation, as well as that the reform processes in our country were being carefully followed. With OSCE PA’s Special Representative on South East Europe Mark Pritchard it was mentioned that OSCE PA very much appreciated the fact that Montenegro invested a lot of its capacities in providing support to regional stability, which was also expected from our country in the future. Brajović also met with Doris Barnett, chair of the Socialist Group and candidate for OSCE PA’s President and representatives of Montenegrin diaspora in Luxembourg where he informed them about the current developments in the motherland, and they also discussed specific issues on better connectivity of immigrants living in Luxembourg with their hometowns in Montenegro.

PARLIAMENT OF MONTENEGRO-FROM CATALOGUE OF RECEIVED PRESENTS

Title: *Kilim Carpet in a Box*
 Country of origin: Azerbaijan
 Extended by: Head of Azerbaijani Delegation to the OSCE PA
 Recipient: President of the Parliament of Montenegro
 Date of receipt: 16 April 2014



Title: Glass Vase
 Country of origin: Romania
 Extended by: President of Chamber of Deputies of Romania
 Recipient: President of the Parliament of Montenegro
 Date of receipt: 10 May 2014



CALENDAR



1 July

- Chair of the Gender Equality Committee Nada Drobnjak held a meeting with Clare Hutchinson, NATO Secretary General's Special Representative for Women, Peace and Security. The meeting discussed regional cooperation in the field of gender equality, with special emphasis on the application of the National Action Plan for the Implementation of UN Security Council Resolution



1325 – Women, Peace and Security, as well as the fighting against human trafficking with special emphasis on women and children. They concluded that Montenegro was a good example to others in terms of the results achieved, while further cooperation was also agreed. The meeting was attended by Marco Sparano, associate at the Office of ATO Secretary General's Special Representative for Women, Peace and Security, and Danica Mijatović, senior secretary at the Director General for NATO and Security Policy, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Montenegro.

- President of the Parliament of Montenegro Ivan Brajović hosted the newly appointed Ambassador of the Republic of Finland to Montenegro Kimmo Lähdevirta. Placing emphasis on friendly relations between the two countries, President Brajović wished the ambassador a successful mandate, convinced that the cooperation of the two countries would be further strengthened. Ambassador Lähdevirta stressed that during its presidency of the Council of the European Union, Finland will make the enlargement policy credible, as recently confirmed by their foreign minister. The interlocutors stressed the importance of further strengthening of parliamentary cooperation with

the aim of providing better information to their MPs on the reforms and the results that Montenegro has been achieving in key areas.



2 July

- President of the Parliament of Montenegro Ivan Brajović opened the Constituent Sitting of the newly elected Council of Radio and Television of Montenegro, stressing his expectation that the new composition would work in responsible and professional manner and would contribute to the operating of the Public Service even more for all of the structures of the society and all citizens of Montenegro. Bearing in mind that significant funds have been allocated for the work of the Public Service, Brajović stressed that the Parliament of Montenegro and other competent institutions, as well as citizens, would carefully monitor the activities of the Council. President Brajović urged all interested parties to be benevolent, and thus enable the Council to work freely, independently and without pressure.

3 July

- Secretary General of the Parliament of Montenegro Aleksandar Jovičević and Deputy Secretary General Marija Mirjačić with associates visited the Republic of Slovenia on 3-4 July 2019, as part of the project of cooperation between the OSCE and the Parliament of Montenegro.

4 July

- Chair of the Committee on International Relations and Emigrants Andrija Nikolić met non-resident Irish Ambassador Pat Kelly. The interlocutors agreed that there was significant room for improvement of

CALENDAR



bilateral cooperation between Montenegro and Ireland and voiced expectations that in the upcoming period there would be an exchange of visits of the top state officials of the two countries. They also voiced mutual interest in the intensifying of parliamentary cooperation at the level of working bodies in charge of foreign affairs. Nikolić and Kelly also exchanged opinions on the current political moment in the European Union as well as the enlargement perspective for the Western Balkans. The interlocutors agreed that the enlargement process could and should be done in parallel with the EU internal reform process. At the end of the farewell visit by the Irish Ambassador, the Chair of the Committee voiced his gratitude to the Ambassador for his constructive contribution to the improvement of bilateral relations between Montenegro and Ireland.

- President of the Parliament heads the delegation at the 28th Annual Session of the OSCE PA, on 4-8 July, in Luxembourg.

10 July

- President of the Parliament of Montenegro Ivan Brajović opened national conference “Let the Fair Elections Become a Habit! – Building Trust in the Integrity of the Electoral Process in Montenegro”, held in the PR Centre, Podgorica.

11 July

- Chair of the Committee on Security and Defence Obrad Mišo Stanišić took part in the regional expert conference on security sector reform and governance, organised by the OSCE and held in London, on 11-12 July. The two-day conference included four panel discussions within which the representatives of security institutions had the opportunity to learn in more detail about the significance of the reform and governance of this sector in a complex and dynamic security environment, as well as about building resilience through inclusive and collaborative policies. Special attention was paid to the topic of leadership through good and democratic governance of security. On day two, the discussion included regulating private sector, and the participants in the conference exchanged opinions on the support to the multilateral approach to governance and response readiness. The OSCE has been supporting

its members for years in reforming the said area, and the meeting in London confirms that the security sector reform and governance are also a priority during the 2019 Slovak presidency of OSCE.

12 July

- President of the Parliament of Montenegro Ivan Brajović presented in Podgorica the 13th July awards for 2019. The winners are: Dragan B.



kuština Crne Gore

Perović, for original TV series “Montenegrins travelling the world”, TV show “Myth busters” and his book “Stefan Perović Cuca – orepak bića”, Božidar Šekularac for the book “Montenegro in the time of Crnojevići” and Pavle Goranović for the book under the title “Poetry”. In his address, the President of the Parliament said that the 13th July Uprising was one of the noblest historical books of Montenegro and enslaved Europe, whose old pages had been printed in the oldest state printing house in the world - in the medieval Montenegro as well as stressed that If there had not been 13 July, contemporary Montenegro would not exist.

17 July

- President of the Parliament of Montenegro Ivan Brajović hosted Lithuanian Ambassador Rase Kairiene, at the end of her diplomatic mission in Montenegro. President Brajović thanked Ambassador Kairiene for the fact that during her mandate, Montenegro had great support from Lithuania in achieving its strategic foreign policy priorities - full membership of NATO and progress in the process of joining the European Union and expressed expectation that the upcoming visit of the

CALENDAR



Speaker of the Seimas to Montenegro would additionally encourage the parliamentary cooperation. The meeting emphasised that the excellent political relations between Montenegro and Lithuania were a good basis for the strengthening of economic cooperation, whereby the increase of investments in Montenegro and trade were particularly highlighted, since Lithuanian businessmen are greatly interested in this.

19 July

- President of the Parliament of Montenegro Ivan Brajović received on a farewell visit Ambassador of the Republic of Slovenia Mitja Močnik, thanking him for his contribution during his successful diplomatic mission to Podgorica, the strengthening of relations, and partnership cooperation between the two countries which foster traditional friendship. They jointly voiced satisfaction with the intensifying of communication and cooperation witnessed lately on all levels by the two parliaments. Thanking him for Slovenia's precious support for the reform efforts of Montenegro and its European future, the President of Montenegrin Parliament voiced his conviction that support would be even more pronounced in the period requiring strong endorsement of the enlargement policy aimed at ensuring permanent stability and development of Europe. Ambassador Močnik voiced his satisfaction with the hospitality shown to him in Montenegro, as well as numerous friendships he had established in our country.
- President of the Parliament of Montenegro Ivan Brajović received President of the Montenegrin community in Buenos Aires Emilio Ognjenović who was visiting Montenegro. Voicing his satisfaction with the meeting, the President of the Parliament of Montenegro expressed satisfaction for the opportunity to talk with a descendant of a family pointed out with respect by the head of the Catholic Church Pope Francis when speaking of his relations with our country and Montenegrins. Ognjenović informed the President about the upcoming presentation of Montenegro, scheduled for 24 August at the Centre of the Capital of Argentina, as well as about the activities regarding the opening of a Montenegrin Cultural Centre. During the conversation they exchanged opinions on the

further strengthening of political, cultural, and economic ties between Montenegro and the Republic of Argentina and the significance of Montenegrin community in that country.

20 July

- Members of the Committee on International Relations and Emigrants Luid Škrelja and Miloš Nikolić took part in the 362nd anniversary of migration of Montenegrins to Peroj, organised by Association of Peroj Montenegrins "Peroj 1657", on 20 July, in the Istrian town of Peroj. Miloš Nikolić, MP, delivered speech on behalf of the Committee on International Relations and Emigrants at the official opening of the event, pointing out that Montenegrins in Peroj have managed to preserve historical memory without forgetting their origin, as well as authentic Montenegrin identity, culture, tradition and customs, while contributing to the construction a prosperous society in the Republic of Croatia.

21 July

- Conference of Parliamentary Committees for Union Affairs (COSAC) was held in Helsinki, on 21-22 July, and the Montenegrin Parliamentary Delegation was also present on the occasion. The Conference was marked by the debate on two topics: the priorities of the Finnish presidency in the next six months and the EU budget. The meeting in Helsinki was opened by Tuula Haatainen, Deputy Speaker of the Finnish Parliament (Eduskunta). In a discussion that followed, the attendees were also addressed by Chairperson of the Committee on European Integration Slaven Radunović, who wished his colleagues from Finland a successful presidency, especially bearing in mind the need for adjusting priorities at a specific political moment and circumstances requiring possible solutions for consolidating the EU itself. In the second session, European parliamentarians discussed the budget



CALENDAR



of the European Union and the Multiannual Financial Framework. European Parliamentarians agreed that it was necessary to protect the foundations of the European Union - peace, stability, democracy and prosperity, and that the solution was joint action aimed at defending European values and overcoming the current challenges, through strengthening its domestic and foreign security. During the COSAC meeting in Helsinki, Chair of the Committee on European Integration Slaven Radunović had a series of meetings with heads of parliamentary delegations from Germany, Netherlands, Slovakia, Romania and members of COSAP, discussing with them the developments on European and regional level, and the need for improving regional cooperation, but also more concrete support of the European Union to the candidate countries. During the COSAC, Chair Radunović held previously arranged bilateral meeting with Chairperson of the Foreign Affairs Committee of the Icelandic Parliament Áslaug Arna. The two chairpersons have agreed that the Icelandic experience could be very useful to our country. For that reason, the Chair of the Foreign Affairs Committee invited the Committee delegation to visit Reykjavik, for the purpose of exchanging experience and providing expertise, which Chair Radunović welcomed with pleasure, taking into account the fact that Iceland had addressed the challenges in the field of environmental protection in the most efficient and financially most favourable manner.

22 July

- Chair of the Committee on Human Rights and Freedoms Halil Duković organised a meeting with Honorary Consul of Montenegro in Israel Nimrod Rinot and Representative of OrCam Europe for Europe Doron Sagi, when a device OrCam MyEye was presented for people who are blind, visually impaired or have reading difficulties. The meeting concluded that the significance of the developed technologies in the field of health protection was enormous and participants expressed satisfaction over the fact that Montenegro was selected by the renowned Israeli company to be the basis for launching its technological achievements, with the possibility of spreading towards other Western Balkan countries. Recognising the significance of this project and the need for state participation, all participants expressed readiness for cooperation and partnership in the continuation of this process, with the hope that soon conditions would be created in Montenegro for the purchase of OrCam MyEye devices for blind, visually impaired and dyslexic people, which would enable not only a greater degree of their independence in carrying out daily activities, but also the possibility of education

that would be the path for their full inclusion, equally with other members of the social community.

24 July

- Chair of the Gender Equality Committee Nada Drobnjak met Emil Atanasovski, Director of Western Balkans at Westminster Foundation for Democracy. The meeting was organised for the purposes of the regional programme which will be conducted from April 2019 to October 2021, with the aim of establishing a regional network of parliamentary committees on human rights and gender equality in the Western Balkans. The main objective of the program is to establish a parliamentary network of committees on human rights and gender issues in the Western Balkans, examine and review the application of laws related to gender and human rights and establish law enforcement oversight in the parliaments of the Western Balkans and strengthen parliamentary oversight of legislation on human rights. Participation in the work of the Network is offered to parliamentary committees dealing with human rights and gender equality issues in the parliaments of the Western Balkans, on a voluntary and inclusive basis. Gender Equality Committee will play an active role in this program by strengthening parliamentary cooperation in the Western Balkans region through the promotion of human rights and gender equality, as well as by effectively monitoring the legislation on gender equality.
- Chair of the Committee on Human Rights and Freedoms Halil Duković met representatives of the Westminster Foundation for Democracy. The meeting was organised on the planned three-year project of the WFD - Regional Office in Belgrade, under the title "Creating a parliamentary network on human rights in the Western Balkans". The meeting presented the Programmed and the upcoming activities, discussing also the participation of the Committee on Human Rights and Freedoms in this Programme. Duković informed his interlocutors that the Committee on Human Rights and Freedoms has so far participated in activities involving the organising of gatherings of working bodies dealing with human rights, rights of the child, and gender equality. He announced that the Committee on Human Rights and Freedoms will participate and attain a prominent role in the programme, thus providing significant contribution towards the improvement of its work. In addition, he deemed extremely important the possibility of exchanging experience and good practices with similar working bodies of other parliaments, which will be a significant contribution in the strengthening of parliamentary cooperation in the Western Balkans region as well in improvement of the exercise of human rights and freedoms.

CALENDAR



26 July

- Chair of the Committee on International Relations and Emigrants Andrija Nikolić and Committee members: Luigj Shkrela, Dragutin Papović, and Ervin Ibrahimović attended the ceremonious part of constitutive meeting of the Council for Cooperation with Diaspora - Emigrants. The Council for Cooperation with Diaspora - Emigrants, formed in 2016 for the first time, is an advisory body of the Government of Montenegro tasked to participate in designing and creating policy for cooperation with the diaspora - emigrants. This body has 94 members and consists of representatives of the diaspora - emigrants, representatives of state and local bodies and institutions and prominent persons.
- President of the Parliament of Montenegro Ivan Brajović paid a visit to the Principality of Monaco, upon the invitation of the President of the National Council, Stéphane Valeri.

29 July

- President of the Parliament of Montenegro Ivan Brajović received Dubravka Lalović ahead of her assuming the office of Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Montenegro - Permanent Representative - Head of Permanent Mission of Montenegro to NATO, on a residential basis in Brussels. During the conversation, and highlighting the significance of Montenegro's membership to the North-Atlantic Alliance, President Brajović voiced his expectation that the new Ambassador with her team would represent Montenegro's interests in the best possible manner.

30 July

- President of the Parliament of Montenegro Ivan Brajović hosted Obrad Mišo Stanišić the new Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Montenegro to Bosnia and Herzegovina. President Brajović stressed his belief that previous rich professional experience of Stanišić was the best guarantee of his successful diplomatic mission in Sarajevo. The importance of further strengthening of relations with neighboring Bosnia and Herzegovina was underlined during the conversation, both on the bilateral level and in the regional context.

1 August

- President of the Parliament of Montenegro Ivan Brajović opened the Constituent Sitting of the newly elected Agency for Prevention of Corruption. He expressed his expectation that the Council would work in responsible and

professional manner and that it would, with great dedication, achieve the best results in the interest of the citizens of Montenegro. During the conversation, the interlocutors exchanged views on the future work of the Council of the Agency, based on the Law on Prevention of Corruption. Special emphasis was placed on the election of the President of the Council of the Agency and it was agreed that the election of the President should be made at the first following meeting of the Council with all of the members present.

28 August

- President of the Parliament of Montenegro received Katja Leikert, deputy chairperson of MP Group of Christian Democratic Union/Christian Social Union (CDU/CSU) at the German parliament, along with her associates. President Brajović emphasised Montenegro's interest to constantly promote friendly relations and cooperation with the Federal Republic of Germany, while he especially noted the significance of strengthening economic relations. In that respect, he pointed out the significance of maintaining the current good dynamics of the political dialogue at the highest level, as well as the fact that intensifying parliamentary cooperation had a stimulating effect on the strengthening of the overall relations between the two countries. Informing him that she was in charge of European issues in the MP Group of CDU/CSU, Deputy chair of MP Group of Christian Democratic Union/Christian Social Union (CDU/CSU) Ms Leikert pointed out that the focus of her work was the Western Balkans region. Agreeing with the assessment of Brajović that the EU consolidation and enlargement were two complementary processes, she emphasised that they strongly supported the EU enlargement, especially to the countries that reflect stability such as Montenegro. Leikert reiterated the Bundestag's support for the Parliament of Montenegro, pointing out that Montenegro had a strong ally in Germany.

