



Parliament of Montenegro

# NEWSLETTER OPEN PARLIAMENT

Newsletter on the Parliament of Montenegro Performance ♦ No. 96 ♦ September 2019

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# OPEN PARLIAMENT



Parliament of Montenegro

Newsletter on the Parliament of Montenegro Performance ♦ Electronic format ♦ Release: monthly ♦ Year IX ♦ No. 96 ♦ September 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 September, which is, in the form of monthly newsletter "Open Parliament", prepared by Parliamentary Service.

During September, Committees considered 11 proposals for a law, one proposal for a decision and performed other activities within their oversight role.

In focus of this month's newsletter is the holding of XXI Cetinje Parliamentary Forum, on the topic: "Parliament and the media - reality of mutual expectations". The Forum took place at the Government's house, in Cetinje.

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

### *Proposals for law deliberated in committees*

- **Proposal for a Law on the Amendments to the Labour Law** was considered by the Committee on Health, Labour and Social Welfare; however, the proposal did not obtain the required majority.
- **Proposal for a Law on Amendments to the Pensions and Disability Insurance Law** was considered by the Committee on Health, Labour and Social Welfare; however, the proposal did not obtain the required majority.
- **Proposal for a Law on Amendments to the Law on Personal Income Tax** was considered and proposed to the Parliament for adoption by the Committee on Economy, Finance and Budget.
- **Proposal for a Law on Amendments to the Law on Consumer Protection** was considered and proposed to the Parliament for adoption by the Committee on Economy, Finance and Budget.
- **Proposal for a Law on Amendments to the Law on Compulsory Social Insurance** was considered by the Committee on Economy, Finance and Budget; however, the proposal did not obtain the required majority.
- **Proposal for a Law on Amendments to the Law on Extra-Judicial Proceedings** was considered and proposed to the Parliament for adoption by the Legislative Committee and the Committee on Political System, Judiciary and Administration.

- **Proposal for a Law on Amendments to the Law on Removal and Transplantation of Human Organs for Therapeutic Purposes** was considered and proposed to the Parliament for adoption by the Legislative Committee and the Committee on Human Rights and Freedoms.
- **Proposal for a Law on Ratifying the Agreement between the Parties to the Police Cooperation Convention for Southeast Europe on the Automated Exchange of DNA Data, Dactyloscopic Data and Vehicle Registration Data and its Implementing Agreement** 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 Ratifying the Protocol from 2005 on Amending the Protocol for the Suppression of Unlawful Acts against the Safety of Fixed Platforms Located on the Continental Shelf** 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 Ratifying the Protocol from 2005 on Amending the Convention for the Suppression of Unlawful Acts against the Safety of Maritime Navigation** 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 Legalisation of Public Documents in International Traffic** was considered and proposed to the Parliament for adoption by the Committee on Political System, Judiciary and Administration.

#### Proposals for other acts deliberated in committees

- **Proposal for a Decision on Adopting Amendments to the State Location Study "Arsenal" Tivat** was considered and supported by the Committee on Tourism, Agriculture, Ecology and Spatial Planning.

#### Other activities of working bodies

- At the 59<sup>th</sup> meeting, held on 9 September, members of the **Committee on International Relations and**



**Emigrants** considered and unanimously supported the proposal on appointing Zoran Janković as Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary Ambassador of Montenegro–Permanent Representative – Head of the Permanent Mission of Montenegro to the Council of Europe, on a residential basis, with its headquarters in Strasbourg.

- At the 60<sup>th</sup> meeting, held on 12 September, members of the Committee considered and unanimously supported the proposal on appointing Periša Kastratović as Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary Ambassador of Montenegro to the Republic of Turkey, on a residential basis, in Ankara.
- At the 61<sup>st</sup> meeting of 16 September, members of the Committee considered and unanimously supported the proposal on appointing Tarzan Milošević as Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary Ambassador of Montenegro to the Republic of Serbia, on a residential basis, in Belgrade.
- At the 33<sup>rd</sup> meeting of **Committee on European Integration**, held on 17 September, there was a consultative hearing concerning the attacks on journalists and media property in Montenegro. The meeting was attended by the following: Minister of the Interior Mevludin Nuhodžić, Chief of Police Administration Veselin Veljović, Chief Negotiator with the European Union Aleksandar Drljević, Head of Department for Organisation of Justice - Directorate for Judiciary - Ministry of Justice Marijana Laković Drašković, Chair of the Commission for Monitoring Actions of Competent Authorities in the Investigation of Cases of Threats and Violence against Journalists, Assassinations of Journalists and Attacks on Media Property Nikola Marković, and Prosecutors at the High Public Prosecutor's Office in Podgorica Vesna Jovičević and Basic State Prosecutor's Office in Podgorica Ljiljana Klikovac. Aside from the discussion involving specific cases of assaults against journalists and the media, members of the Committee and invitees discussed the overall environment for the conducting of media activities, the Fund for Safeguarding Media Pluralism and Diversity and a set of media legislation to be soon placed under parliamentary procedure, as well as issues of self-regulation and professional responsibility of the media, outlined as highly important for the quality of journalism in Montenegro.
- At the 88<sup>th</sup> meeting, held on 23 September, **Committee on Economy, Finance and Budget** considered and determined 2020 Draft Budget Law of the State Audit Institution and 2020 Draft Budget Law of the Agency for Prevention of Corruption.



- At the 43<sup>rd</sup> meeting of **Committee for Human Rights and Freedoms**, of 25 September, there was a consultative hearing of State Secretary of the Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare Vukica Jelić, Director General of the Directorate for Social and Child Protection of the Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare Goran Kušević and Director of the Institute for Social and Child Protection Drago Spaić. As previously envisaged by the 2019 Committee's Work Plan, the hearing was held on the topic "Work of day care Centres dedicated to children with developmental disabilities and persons with disabilities". At the very



end of the meeting, they agreed upon drafting a report containing the conclusions reached at the meeting, which is to be submitted to the Collegium of the President of the Parliament, competent bodies for execution of conclusions, as well as to all the participants of the meeting, for notification purposes.

- At the 42<sup>nd</sup> meeting, held on 30 September, the Committee considered the Report „Children and addictive diseases in Montenegro“.
- At the 44<sup>th</sup> meeting of 30 September, the Committee considered the 2018 Performance Report of the Office of Representative of Montenegro before the European Court of Human Rights.
- At the 72<sup>nd</sup> meeting of **Administrative Committee**, held on 18 September, the Committee determined several proposals for decisions: Proposal for a decision on appointing a member in 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. The

Committee decided to propose to the Parliament that Srđan Milić be appointed as member of the Committee; Proposal for a Decision on Dismissal of one member of the MB of the Fund for the Protection and Exercise of Minority Rights. The Committee decided to propose to the Parliament that *Arta HOXHA* be dismissed from the said duty; and Proposal for a Decision on Dismissal of one member of the Committee on International Relations and Emigrants. The Committee decided to propose to the Parliament that Milan Knežević be dismissed from the duty of a member of the Committee on International Relations and Emigrants.

- At the follow-up of the meeting, on 23 September, a proposal submitted by Special MP's Club on 22 August 2019 requesting that Aleksandar Damjanović be appointed member of the Committee on Further Reform of Electoral and Other Legislation, did not obtain the required majority of the members present at the meeting.
- At the 73<sup>rd</sup> meeting, held on 26 September, the Committee members determined the List of timely and complete proposals of candidates for one member of the RTCG Council and the List of timely and complete proposals of candidates for two members of the Council of the Agency for Electronic Media.



- At the fifth meeting of 25 September, in accordance with its duties, **Commission for Monitoring and Control of the Privatisation Procedure**, considered the Performance Report of the Privatisation and Capital Investment Council together with the Report on the Privatisation Plan, covering the period January - June 2019, submitted by the Privatisation and Capital Investment Council for notification purposes. Within the agenda items, the Commission reached the decision on hiring a professional consultant.



## NEWS FROM PARLIAMENT



### *Committee on European Integration organises a Round table on the freedom of the media and media environment*

Committee on European Integration organised a Round table on the freedom of the media and media environment in Montenegro. The meeting was attended by Minister of Justice, Chief of Police Administration, representatives of Prosecution, Supreme Court, Ministry of the Interior, European Integration Office, representatives of Commercial Media and the Radio Television of Montenegro, and representatives of NGOs and the OSCE Mission in Montenegro, on which occasion they discussed the environment for conducting of media activities, as well as a possible solution for the assaults and attacks committed against journalists. The importance of freedom of the media, in the context of international standards, was addressed by Deputy Head of the OSCE Mission Siv-Katrine Leirtroe and Chief Negotiator with the European Union Aleksandar Drljević. Leirtroe stated that the OSCE Mission remained committed to further professionalisation and independence of the media, objective reporting and strengthening of legislative framework. The Chief Negotiator referred to the importance of the topic, emphasising that contemporary democratic society was unthinkable without the freedom of expression and freedom of the media.

### *Delegation of the Parliament at the Meeting of Speakers of Eurasian Countries' Parliaments*

Delegation of the Parliament headed by the President, participated in a two-day meeting of Speakers of Eurasian Countries' Parliaments, which took place in Nur Sultan, Kazakhstan. The first day, President Brajović met with Prime Minister of the Republic of Kazakhstan Askar Uzakbajuly Mamin, where they discussed the great political relations which served as a basis for a more intensive economic, cultural and other forms of cooperation. Brajović emphasised that NATO and EU membership were a prerequisite to Montenegro's security and further economic development, whilst retaining and fostering relations with all countries. With a view to strengthening economic relations, Mamin proposed that a business forum be organised by the end of 2019, gathering both Montenegrin and Kazakhstan businessmen so that joint projects could be discussed in more details. Brajović also met with the President of the Grand National Assembly of Turkey Mustafa Şentop. They emphasised that the intensive parliamentary cooperation significantly contributed to political understanding and partnership of both countries, particularly within the NATO Alliance. Şentop emphasised that a developed economic

Improvement of the programme scheme of the RTCG was also emphasised as important, since the National Public Broadcasting Service should serve as an example for the other media establishments. This was followed by discussion on the unified journalist's approach to safeguarding independent and objective reporting, as well as specific cases of assaults against journalists. In this context, it was concluded that all the assaults needed to be processed, with no exceptions, and examined in details, thus asserting the culpability of perpetrators. The mere fact that different structures of society were willing to attend the Round table signified readiness to initiate direct dialogue on sensible issues, all in order to ascertain the responsibility of the alleged offenders. In this context, other similar events have been envisaged by the Committee, with the purpose of monitoring the negotiation dynamics between Montenegro and the EU, as well as the efficiency and comprehensiveness of the European integration process. On behalf of the Committee on European Integration, the following attended: Daliborka Pejović, Momčilo Martinović, Sanja Pavićević, Ranko Krivokapić, Ljiljana Đurašković, Branko Radulović, and Branka Bošnjak.

cooperation was reflected in constant growth of investments, and that there was room for cooperation in various areas. Şentop extended an invitation to Brajović to attend a formal ceremony marking 120 years since the Grand National Assembly of Turkey was founded. Brajović addressed the participants of the IV meeting of Speakers of Eurasian Countries' Parliaments, maintaining that it was a politics with clearly defined goals, directed towards stability and cooperation and additionally strengthened with membership in NATO and successful structural reforms, that which set the grounds for investments in Montenegro, primarily in the fields of infrastructure, energy and tourism. Referring to prerequisites for achieving economic growth, he stated that Montenegro, together with the Chinese partners were currently constructing a Highway - the most significant infrastructural project, which is to connect the Adriatic coast with Central and Western Europe, adding that this project was a good example of cooperation between small and great economies, with clearly defined tasks and roles. Brajović also met with President of the Senate of Kazakhstan Dariga Nazarbayeva and President of Parliament of Jordan Faisal al-Fayez.

## PARLIAMENTARY GLOSSARY

**Working Group** is a temporary form of organising MPs for the purpose of performing a specific task or affairs for the needs of the parliament or a committee. As a rule, a working group is established by a committee from among its members. A working group may act independently except if the committee decides otherwise. The work of the working group may also include experts and civil sector representatives, upon invitation. In the Parliament of Montenegro, in order to perform affairs from their scope of competencies, a committee may establish special working groups whose composition may include scientific and professional consultants.<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Doc. dr Komar, Olivera, Prof. dr Ivana Jelić, Nataša Komnenić, Irena Mijanović, Jelena Radonjić, Vlatko Šćepanović, Parlamentarni leksikon, Podgorica, Skupština Crne Gore 2016, p.313

## IN FOCUS



### *XXI Cetinje Parliamentary Forum held 30.9.2019*

President of the Parliament of Montenegro was a keynote speaker at the XXI Cetinje Parliamentary Forum, held at the Government's house, in Cetinje. Brajović emphasised that building a democratic society required dialogue, freedom of speech and expression, and respect for different opinions and views. Brajović said that concerning the European integration process of regional countries, a great task lay ahead - creating better working environment for the media, and the role of parliaments was to enact laws to regulate such conditions, whereas the role of the media was to provide timely and trustworthy information, whilst fostering tolerance and difference in opinion, and restraining from the abuse of power and influence. While referring to this year's topic to be discussed at the Forum, he also expressed satisfaction over the attendance of representatives of both ruling and opposition parties of Montenegro and the region; public services and commercial media; as well as international and intergovernmental organisations. The first session of the Forum was dedicated to the topic: "Responsibility of parliaments and public services in promoting the culture of political dialogue", led by MP Nikola Rakočević. The second session titled: "Role of legal provisions in strengthening the working freedom and professionalism of the media" was led by MP Neđeljko Rudović. In an open discussion, the participants discussed the promotion of legislative and

institutional frameworks with a view to strengthening professionalism, and greater working responsibility of the media. It was emphasised that public services were to serve in the interest of public and satisfy the public's need, whilst fostering political pluralism. The participants appreciated the organising of the Cetinje Parliamentary Forum, considering it to be considerably significant for the strengthening of links and cooperation at the parliamentary level. Upon adopting a Joint Declaration, the Forum was concluded. Inter alia, the Declaration placed the emphasis on media pluralism and assuming of responsibility for publicly uttered claims. The importance of transparency in terms of ownership of the media, in order to ensure public debates in democratic societies, was emphasised. The need for further development of the professionalised approach was emphasised, as well as responsibility of journalists and abiding by ethical standards, while additional assistance may be also provided by MPs, within their competences. The participants noted that, by the means of their public roles and example, they would act as promoters of culture of political dialogue, thus investing additional efforts in creating a climate which would enable presenting of different opinions and facts to support such views, mutual understanding and respect for different opinion, with the ultimate goal of an overall progress of society.

## PARLIAMENT OF MONTENEGRO-FROM CATALOGUE OF RECEIVED PRESENTS

Title: *Painting of the Parliament of Romania*  
 Country of Origin: Romania  
 Extended by: President of the Chamber of Deputies of Romania  
 Recipient: President of the Parliament of Montenegro  
 Date of receipt: 10 May 2014



Title: *Cast religious motif*  
 Country of origin: Belarus  
 Extended by: Head of the Delegation of Belarus to the OSCE PA  
 Recipient: President of the Parliament of Montenegro  
 Date of receipt: 28 July 2014





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## 3 September

- Delegation of the Parliament of Montenegro took part in the XXIX Economic Forum, held in Krynica-Zdroj, Poland, from 3-5 September 2019. This year's topic was "Europe of Tomorrow. 'Strong' Meaning What?", organised with the purpose of establishing cooperation between European countries and their partners. Chair of the Committee on Economy, Finance and Budget Predrag Sekulić spoke within the session dedicated to the topic: "Tourism Heritage - Cultural Heritage and Business Opportunities", maintaining that Montenegro could be characterised as a predominantly touristic country, with the number of tourists growing every year, and cultural tourism was that which precisely attracted tourists to Montenegro, thus referring to the property contained in the UNESCO Heritage List, as well as other potential resources to be considered for restoration and economic gain, in future. Within the panel titled: "Synergy of Businessmaking, Science and Local Self-Government - How to have it all?", Chair of the Committee on Education, Science, Culture and Sports Radule Novović stated that securing an environment for creating scientific research papers and innovative projects should be one of the main strategic priorities of every country. During the panel "Crisis or the end of an international order as we know it", member of the Committee on International Relations and Emigrants Miloš Nikolić stated the world order had been continuously shifting in the past, however, not even closely as at today's pace and velocity.

## 4 September

- President of the Parliament of Montenegro Ivan Brajović met a delegation from the United States Congress, headed by Lindsey Graham, Senator and Chairperson of the United States Senate Committee on the Judiciary. The interlocutors expressed mutual pleasure with the overall cooperation of Montenegro and the United States, achieved through continuous development of bilateral relations and relations within NATO. During the conversation, President Brajović expressed gratitude for the strong support of the US Congress in achieving key foreign-policy priorities of

Montenegro, which is a further confirmation of friendship and strategic partnership. He also touched upon the significance of numerous legislative initiatives launched by US Congress and ultimately aimed at affirming Montenegro's NATO membership. The Speaker informed the interlocutors of the current political situation and economic situation in the country. In doing so, he emphasised the importance of further work of the

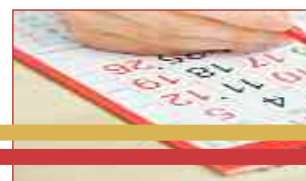


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parliamentary Committee on Comprehensive Reform of Electoral and Other Legislation and expressed his belief that all MPs would show the necessary degree of responsibility towards Montenegrin citizens. Senator and Chairperson of the Committee on the Judiciary Mr Lindsey Graham stressed that Montenegro had made a good decision to join NATO, safeguarding thus the security of its citizens, adding that the Congress would continue to fully support the further strengthening of the rule of law and media freedoms ahead of Montenegro's upcoming membership of the EU. The meeting was also attended by Vice President of the Parliament Genci Nimanbegu and Daliborka Pejović, MP.

- Delegation of the Parliament of Montenegro participated in Inter-parliamentary Conference on Common Foreign and Security Policy and the Common Security and Defence Policy (CFSP / CSDP), which took place within the frameworks of the Helsinki Presidency of the Council of the European Union, on 4-6 September. Among the participants were also Chair of the Committee on International Relations and Emigrants Andrija Nikolić and member of the Committee Ervin Ibrahimović, and members of the Security and Defence Committee Luid Škrelja and Boris Mugoša.

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During the panel dedicated to the current state of affairs in the Western Balkans region and the European integration process, Nikolić said that Brussels needed to adopt a more assertive approach in terms of the enlargement process, with a clearly defined politics concerning the Western Balkans. He also was convinced that the meeting of the European Council, taking place in October would decide favourably in regards to opening accession negotiations with North Macedonia and Albania, and also about opening the last negotiating chapter with Montenegro, which would as he put it, boost the shaken optimism of candidate countries. In the presence of parliamentarians from the EU member states and candidate countries, within separate sessions and panels, the following was discussed: “A stronger Europe towards European Security”, “Restoring Transatlantic Unity in Global Affairs”, “Exchange of views on the priorities of the EU in the area of CFSP and CSDP”, “Quo Vadis EU Defence: a Force for Peace or a Military Power?”.

## *7 September*

- President Brajović delivered a speech during the 12<sup>th</sup> Regional Euro-Atlantic Camp, in Žabljak, on the topic: “Montenegro in modern international relations”. Referring to the cooperation realised between the Montenegrin Parliament and EU and NATO members, as well as with other countries interested in promoting relations with Montenegro, he stated that an active engagement of MPs in various activities has immediately placed Montenegro among countries who were active participants in all the important processes, at the international level. He stated that the values stemming from EU and NATO membership would provide Montenegro with permanent security, safeguarding its stability as well as creating conditions for economic development which would offer a European standard of living to its citizens. He reminded that the economic indicators were favourable, with a growth in foreign direct investments being recorded, and an increase in the number of tourists from the NATO member states.

## *10 September*

- Member of the Security and Defence Committee

Luid Škrelja paid a visit to the Parliament of Albania, on which occasion he met with Head of the Permanent Delegation to NATO PA Mimi Kodheli, and Ermonela Felaj, Chairperson of the National Security Committee, as well as members of the working body. Shkrele emphasised that Montenegro proudly bore the title of a promoter of good neighbourly relations, especially since this was an epithet granted by its very neighbours. It was jointly assessed that NATO has been shown to offer the greatest framework of stability and a rewarding future, particularly for the Balkans regions. Participants jointly reiterated the fact that integration into Euro-Atlantic structures and the EU were two inseparable processes. MP Luid Škrelja also met with Ermonela Felaj, Chairperson of the National Security Committee, as well as members of the working body, on which occasion both parties presented competences of their committees, the results achieved so far, as well as the committee plans for the future. At the meeting with the members of the National Security Committee, it was noted that Albania was entirely committed to fostering good neighbourly relations and promoting of regional cooperation. On this occasion, the participants expressed mutual satisfaction for having taken part in the meeting, and emphasised that further fostering of friendly relations between both countries was needed, through mutual support and strengthening of cooperation, particularly considering the importance of a safe environment in the region and beyond, as well the opportunity to boost their economies. They jointly noted that this meeting confirmed once more the friendly relations between Montenegro and Albania.

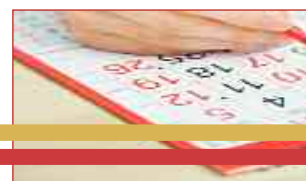
- Committee on European Integration organised a Round table on the freedom of the media and media environment in Montenegro.

## *12 September*

- President of the Parliament of Montenegro Ivan Brajović, hosted Christian Danielsson, Director-General for European Neighbourhood Policy and Enlargement Negotiations of the European Commission. Brajović informed the Delegation of the European Commission with the results of the present convocation of the Parliament so far,



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primarily pointing out the efforts of the ruling majority as for Montenegro to continue the ongoing reforms in the European integration process. Danielsson stressed that the months to follow



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would be a great challenge for all political actors in the Parliament to show they were willing and to agree on the necessary reforms as to further improve the electoral legislation and implement the recommendations given by relevant international organisations. He emphasises that the European Commission has been aware of the results achieved and the efforts the Parliament has been putting in to strengthen political dialogue, in the current political environment. He also pointed out that the new convocation of the European Commission has a clear message regarding credible strategy for the Western Balkans and the process of enlargement would take place and accelerate. It is agreed that the additional efforts of the competent institutions in achieving even more measurable results in the areas of the rule of law and freedom of the media, as well as strengthening the independence of institutions important for electoral processes, will ensure that Montenegro remains the leader of the process of integration into the European Union in the Western Balkans region.

- Fourth meeting of Committee on Further Reform of Electoral and Other Legislation, with attendance of Christian Danielsson, Director-General for European Neighbourhood Policy and Enlargement Negotiations of the European Commission and Aivo Orav, Head of the EU Delegation to Montenegro, was dedicated to presenting the ongoing activities in the field of reforms of electoral legislation. Christian Danielsson emphasised the importance of an active

and constructive role of all political subjects in resolving the pending issues, aimed at strengthening the rule of law and securing a European future for Montenegro. Danielsson also emphasised the importance of observing the recommendations pertaining to the freedom of the media, media legislation, the fight against corruption and organised crime, since those were important for the functioning of each democratic state. Vice-President of the Parliament and Chair of the Committee thanked Danielsson and Orav for their invested efforts and assistance provided so far, and emphasised that he shared his opinion that the key activities needed to be conducted within the Parliament, and a more enhanced role of political subjects on implementing the ongoing activities was needed. In this context, he also agreed that the substance surpassed form, ultimately, the citizen interest was what mattered most. He added that electoral legislation reforms were, inter alia, directed towards an overall objective of strengthening capacities of the Parliament of Montenegro.

- President of the Parliament of Montenegro hosted co-rapporteurs of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe for Montenegro Ionuț-Marian Stroe and Anne Mulder. President Brajović expressed gratitude for the mindfulness in monitoring the results achieved by Montenegro and his expectation that the co-rapporteurs would recognise progress during this mission in comparison to the previous Report. President Brajović pointed out that the ruling majority, with academia and civil society, had prepared a large part of proposals to further improve the overall electoral environment, and the opinion was pending and the input of the representatives of the opposition inside the Committee on Comprehensive Reform of Electoral and Other Legislation is expected. The co-rapporteur Stroe pointed out among other things that PACE appreciated openness of the parliamentary majority with regard to the dialogue between all the parties in the Parliament of Montenegro. He also stressed that Montenegro was going in the right direction, but that it should continue even more intensively with the reforms. Predrag Sekulić, the Head of the delegation of the Parliament of Montenegro to the Parliamentary

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Assembly of the Council of Europe, also attended the meeting with the co-rapporteurs.

- MPs of the Parliament from the MPs club of both ruling and opposition parties had separate meetings with co-rapporteurs of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe for Montenegro Ionuț-Marian Stroe and Anne Mulder. During the meeting, the interlocutors exchanged opinions on the current state of affairs in the country, as well as independence of judiciary, electoral process, fight against corruption and the current status of the media. Special attention was dedicated to reform of electoral legislation and promoting of political dialogue. In this context, they emphasised the importance of the work of the Committee on Further Reform of Electoral and Other Legislation. The meeting was attended by MPs Andrija Nikolić, Adrijan Vuksanović, Andrija Popović, Milutin Đukanović, Milan Knežević, Raško Konjević and Aleksandar Damjanović. Meetings with representatives from the executive and judicial branches of government were also envisaged, as well as with NGO representatives. The same day, co-rapporteurs had separate meetings with delegations of the Committee on Further Reform of Electoral and Other Legislation and the Committee on Human Rights and Freedoms. At the first meeting, co-rapporteurs urged the Committee on Further Reform of Electoral and Other Legislation to continue with its activities as well as commended the dialogue established at the level of the Committee. Chair of the Committee presented the Committee's Activity Plan and the results achieved so far. The co-rapporteurs highlighted the importance of adopting new legislative framework



so that the confidence of public in the electoral process is strengthened. They also offered assistance and support in upgrading the electoral reform process, and urged the MPs to continue with their work. Chair of the Committee on Human Rights and Freedoms Halil Duković acquainted the co-rapporteurs with the main competencies and key activities of the Committee, adding that the Committee employed a multisectoral approach and fostered cooperation with state authorities, international organisations with their headquarters in Montenegro, as well as NGOs competent in the field of human rights, in implementing its activities aimed at promoting the exercise and protection of human rights and freedoms. Duković hoped that the information provided in the course of their two-day visit, would enable them to discern the level of progress achieved by Montenegro in terms of observing the rules contained in the PACE Resolution 2030 (2015).

## 16 September

- President of the Parliament of Montenegro Ivan Brajović hosted the delegation of the Friendship Group of the Grand National Assembly of the Republic of Turkey with Montenegro, headed by Erol Kavuncu. Brajović emphasised his satisfaction with the dynamics of parliamentary cooperation, as well as the strengthening of the overall relations between the two countries. He stressed that excellent political relations have been accompanied by developed economic cooperation, where the investments in less developed areas have been of great importance for Montenegro. The Head of the Friendship Group, Kavuncu expressed satisfaction with the regular dialogue and readiness of both parliaments to deepen cooperation with new content. He emphasised that Montenegro was a country of tolerance, coexistence and peace, and that its Parliament, with the representatives of citizens, truly reflected multi-ethnicity and was an example in the world. The interlocutors agreed that numerous Montenegrin diaspora was a significant potential for intensifying our bilateral, cultural and economic relations.
- Friendship Group of the Parliament of Montenegro with the Republic of Turkey met with the delegation of the

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Grand National Assembly of the Republic of Turkey. Vice-President of the Parliament of Montenegro and Chair of the Friendship Group Genci Nimanbegu emphasised that both Montenegro's and Turkey's only rightful path was membership in the EU and NATO, and that their friendship had recently elevated into partnership in the Alliance. Nimanbegu emphasised that both countries fostered cooperation in numerous areas, most predominantly in the field of education, from which Montenegrin students have benefited for several years. In addition, both parties expressed mutual agreement when it comes to further investments of Turkey in Montenegro, with special focus on Trans-Adriatic Pipeline which would enable transmitting gas from Turkey offering supplies for the entire region. Members of the Friendship Group of the Parliament of Montenegro with the Republic of Turkey also attended the meeting: Suad Numanović, Branka Tanasijević, Marija Maja Čatović and Nedžad Drešević. The same day the meeting with the members of the Committee on International Relations and Emigrants took place. Chair of the Committee Andrija Nikolić particularly referred to the undertakings of Turkish Cooperation and Coordination Agency (TIKA), and thus acquainted the interlocutors with the positive outcome of numerous projects implemented by TIKA. Chair of the Friendship Group of the Grand National Assembly of the Republic of Turkey with Montenegro Erol Kavuncu pointed out to the current platform, proven to be very successful, when it comes to fostering relations in all the fields, and the role of MPs in such undertakings. Aside from Chair of the Committee on International Relations and Emigrants Andrija Nikolić, the following members also attended: Dragutin Papović, Nada Drobnjak, Miloš Nikolić, Ervin Ibrahimović and Miodrag Lekić. The Turkish Ambassador to Montenegro Songul Ozan also attended the meeting.



Kupština Crne Gore

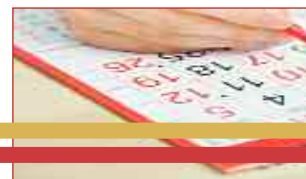
- President Brajović received the new Ambassador of Bosnia and Herzegovina to Montenegro Branimir Jukić, in an inaugural visit. Brajović congratulated Jukić on assuming the office of the Ambassador of Bosnia and Herzegovina to Montenegro, adding that both countries fostered friendly relations, which were also strengthened by the mutual foreign policy priorities in regards to regional cooperation and integration into the EU. Brajović emphasised that regional cooperation and good neighbourly relations remained a strategic foreign policy priority. Ambassador Jukić emphasised that there was enough room for strengthening their cooperation, and Montenegro's experience in the field of European and Euro-Atlantic Integrations may be of great assistance to other neighbouring countries. The interlocutors agreed that special efforts in the upcoming period needed to be invested into strengthening transport infrastructure, as a prerequisite for strengthening of economic and the overall relations.

## 17 September

- President of the Parliament of Montenegro Ivan Brajović hosted the Ambassador of the Republic of Greece Sotirios Athanassiou, on the occasion of completing his diplomatic mission in Montenegro. Expressing gratitude for the assistance of Greece so far in achieving key foreign policy goals of Montenegro, President Brajović stressed the expectation on non-failure in providing support for European integration in the period ahead. Ambassador Athanassiou stressed that the political relations between the two countries have been extraordinary and that he expected the economic cooperation to be strengthened in the forthcoming period. He expressed satisfaction with the great progress Montenegro has made, not only in the area of economy but also the rule of law and the strengthening of institutions, adding that the general impression in Greece was that Montenegro deserved to be part of the European Union and stressed that the integration of the Western Balkans would be a priority for Greece in the coming period.
- Chair of the Committee on International Relations and Emigrants Andrija Nikolić met with the newly-appointed Ambassador of the Republic of Slovenia to Montenegro Gregor Pesker. The Slovenian Ambassador assessed that both countries fostered great relations, with no open issues, and a quality cooperation in numerous areas, and that since the restoring of its independence, Montenegro had achieved significant



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progress, and had become a positive example in the region. He also referred to the contribution provided by the Slovenian experts, as well projects realised via developmental cooperation and also suggested further increase of bilateral cooperation through the TAIEX instrument. There were also talks about the upcoming visit of the Chairperson of the Committee on Foreign Policy of the Slovenian National Assembly Matjaž Nemeč, an invitation extended by the Chairperson of the Committee on International Relations and Emigrants Andrija Nikolić. The interlocutors agreed that the scheduled visit should provide an opportunity for exchange of experience and good practice, as well for informing the Slovenian MPs with the efforts invested by Montenegro, on its European path.

### 18 September

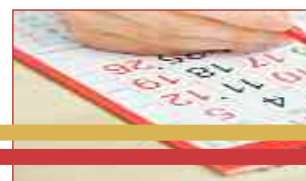
- President of the Parliament of Montenegro Ivan Brajović hosted Periša Kastratović, new Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Montenegro to the Republic of Turkey, on a residential basis in Ankara. Along with expressing gratitude for the previous successful cooperation, President Brajović wished Ambassador Kastratović success in carrying out his new duty and expressed his conviction that Montenegro received a diplomatic representative who would further improve the good relations between the two countries. The meeting focused on topics concerning migrant community in Turkey, as well as intensifying parliamentary, economic, cultural and other forms of cooperation.
- President of the Parliament of Montenegro Ivan Brajović hosted the Ambassador of the Republic of Estonia to Montenegro Kristi Karelsohn. "We remember Estonia as being the first country that Montenegro had established diplomatic relations with on 13 June, which has always strongly supported the Euro-Atlantic integration of Montenegro", President Brajović pointed out. Ambassador Karelsohn emphasised that the two countries shared many common characteristics and Estonia strongly supported Montenegro's fast integration into the European Union accordingly. She pointed out that Estonian diplomacy would pay more attention to enlargement issues in the coming period and provide concrete support in the process.
- Head of the Delegation of the Parliament of Montenegro to the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe Predrag Sekulić and the member of the Delegation Ervin Ibrahimović participated in the Conference of the

Parliamentary Network on Diaspora Policies, held in Amman, Jordan. The Conference on "The Economic Potential of Diasporas" was organised by the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe in cooperation with the Parliament of Jordan. Views on the role of the diaspora in fostering development cooperation and regional integration were exchanged at the Conference, as well as its contribution to economic development of countries of origin, especially with regard to promotion of foreign investment, knowledge transfer and technological development. Aside from the members of this parliamentary network, conference participants included representatives of international organisations, diaspora associations and academics. The Parliamentary Network on Diaspora Policies was founded in 2017 as a platform of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe for establishing and conducting political dialogue and exchanging views and good practices among MPs dealing with diaspora issues at national and international level.

### 19 September

- Chair of the Committee on Education, Science, Culture and Sports Radule Novović, members of the Committee Branka Tanasijević and Mihailo Anđušić paid a visit to the Combined High School, in Golubovci, and on the occasion met with the headmaster of the school and his associates. The visit was organised for the purpose of acquainting the Committee with developmental priorities and goals of general secondary schools and secondary vocational schools in Montenegro. It was emphasised that the envisaged educational programme was in line with modern policies and educational standards, with the focus on increasing interest of students in secondary vocational schools, offering various programmes aimed at fostering their talents. MPs expressed satisfaction over the held meeting, which was assessed as very valuable. They also announced a higher level of cooperation in the upcoming period.
- Chair of the Committee on Human Rights and Freedoms Halil Duković met with the Programme Manager of the Westminster Foundation for Democracy Ivan Radojević. The meeting was also attended by Secretary General of the Parliament of Montenegro Aleksandar Jovivićević, upon the invitation of the Chair of the Committee. Organisational and logistical aspects of the upcoming Regional Parliamentary Conference of the Human rights and gender equality network of parliamentary committees in the Western Balkan region, were discussed. The Conference is organised by the

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Westminster Foundation for Democracy, and it is envisaged to take place on 7-8 October, in Podgorica. Approximately 50 MPs and 15 members from professional staff of the committees on human rights and gender equality in the Western Balkans are expected to attend the Conference. It is envisaged that the Network of Committees on Human Rights and Gender Equality would officially become functional during the Conference. Programme Manager of the Westminster Foundation for Democracy stated that the analysis conducted on the work of the relevant committees in the region had shown that the Montenegrin Committees on Human Rights and Freedoms and the Gender Equality Committee were a positive example of a successful performance, serving as an example of good practice for other committees in the region. Participants of the meeting expressed willingness for cooperation and expectation that the upcoming Regional conference would contribute to maintaining a quality regional cooperation, and that the experience offered by the Westminster Foundation for Democracy experts and the exchange of regional experience would be of assistance to the committees of the Montenegrin Parliament in further performing their duties.

- Members of the Working Group of the Committee on Further Reform of Electoral and Other Legislation met with Tatyana Bogussevich, a Venice Commission expert and former OSCE/ODIHR employee, specialising in electoral processes, who has worked with various international organisations, including OSCE/ODIHR, EU, IFES, and the Venice Commission of the Council of Europe, in all election related projects. The meeting took place in order that international institutions were fully informed with the efforts invested by the working groups of the Committee towards achieving a demanding goal-full regulation of electoral legislation. The first meeting of fully engaged MPs, representatives of the civic sector and the academia with representatives of international institutions was an occasion for considering the Draft Code of Ethics for Electoral Campaigns. Bogussevich indicated that only the structures within the Montenegrin Parliament and the Parliamentary Decisions could provide the solution to any remaining open issues. She also reiterated that the invested efforts, dedication and thought poured into drafting the Code were visible, and this was a notable step forward, adding that the said Code of Ethics should provide a solution to issues posed by the previous electoral processes, which were contained in the reports drafted by international organisations in charge of

monitoring the said electoral processes.

## 20 September

- President of the Parliament of Montenegro received non-Resident Ambassador of Kingdom of Sweden to Montenegro Jan Lundin. They discussed the promotion of bilateral relations, Montenegro's European path, as well the current state of affairs in the country and the region. Assessing that both countries shared great relations, Brajović noted that all the prerequisites were met for strengthening relations in all areas of joint interest. Expressing gratitude for the support Sweden has provided to Montenegro in its European path, Brajović expressed expectation that the enlargement process would still remain at the top of the agenda of the new European Commission, which would convey a positive message for the other Western Balkan countries. Ambassador Lundin emphasised that Sweden highly supported the European path of Montenegro and of the region, and informed President Brajović that Kingdom of Sweden planned to intensify its cooperation with EU candidate countries, particularly in the field of Economy.
- Vice-President of the Parliament of Montenegro Genci Nimanbegu received the newly-appointed ambassador of Republic of Kosovo to Montenegro Ilber Hisa. They jointly pointed out to excellent intergovernmental cooperation between Montenegro and the Republic of Kosovo, and expressed willingness to further intensify the existing cooperation, in the interest of both their peoples and regions. A need for better infrastructural connectivity was expressed when it comes to the new route of the Highway Bar-Boljare, and roads Podgorica-Gusinje-Plav-Dečani and Rožaje-Peć. The interlocutors expressed expectation that similar meetings became more frequent and beneficial for everyone.

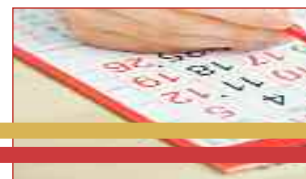
## 22 September

- A Commemorative sitting took place on the occasion of death of Koča Pavlović, Member of the Parliament of Montenegro. Addressing the participants, President Brajović reminded that Koča Pavlović performed the duty of member of the Parliament since the year 2006, taking part in all of the four parliamentary convocations.

## 23 September

- Delegation of the Parliament headed by the President, participated in a two-day meeting of Speakers of

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Eurasian Countries' Parliaments, which took place in Nur Sultan, Kazakhstan.

- Vice-President of the Parliament of Montenegro Genci Nimanbegu held a press conference concerning the issue of employment and equal representation of Albanian minority, in order to inform the public on the matter.

## 24 September

- Friendship Group of the Parliament of Montenegro with the Croatian Parliament (Hrvatski Sabor) headed by Vice-President Branimir Gvozdenović met with the Friendship Group of Croatian Sabor headed by Branko Bačić. Emphasising the importance of political and professional assistance provided by Croatia to Montenegro on its European and Euro-Atlantic path, Gvozdenović emphasised that Republic of Croatia provided a great example for the entire region **in terms of successfully fulfilling the European integration goals**. MPs considered the possibility of promoting parliamentary relations, particularly at the level of committees, and exchanged views on possible modalities and manners of cooperation. The Croatian Delegation particularly referred to the Croatian experience in the use of EU Funds and programmes, which could prove to be of great assistance to Montenegrin citizens. Cooperation in the field of Economy and projects in the field of Energy as well as perspectives for their development were discussed, considering previous and future large infrastructure projects, as well possibilities of creating separate programmes in the field of education. Aside from Vice-President Gvozdenović, the following also attended: members Radule Novović, Danijel Živković and Adrijan Vuksanović. The same day, the Croatian Delegation met with the Committee on European Integration, where they discussed Montenegro's EU accession process and assistance provided by Croatia, Croatia's comparative experience prior to and after joining the European Union, as well the great cooperation between both countries and parliaments. On behalf of the Committee on European Integration, the following participated in the meeting: Chair of the Committee Slaven Radunović, Deputy Chair Adrijan Vuksanović, and the Committee members Daliborka Pejović and Mihailo Anđušić. Chair Radunović emphasised that the purpose of the negotiating process was the proper execution of key reforms, which have frequently shown to be intolerable, but ultimately leading to greater improvements in the society, which is to be followed by membership in the

EU. The Parliamentarians agreed that the experience provided by Croatia in terms of the accession process and membership in the EU were of utmost importance for Montenegro, and in this context. they discussed the approach practiced by Croatia in terms of reforms during the EU accession process and after joining the EU, as well the benefits stemming from membership, related to economic development and accessibility to EU funds.

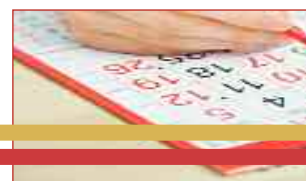
- Member of the Committee on Human Rights and Freedoms Branka Tanasijević participated in the Conference "Family and Partner Violence against women with disabilities in Montenegro". MP Tanasijević referred to one of the barriers in the field, and that was that the society has predominantly dealt with the notion of a medical approach towards persons with disabilities as opposed to the social approach towards persons with disabilities, which is aimed at integrating them into the society. In order for a woman with disability to integrate into the society, she required the support of her family, needed to be a productive and proactive person, capable of benefiting from the society resources and possesses the knowledge to thrive in life and achieve the goals. The conclusion was that the mutual efforts provided by each individual was the only model that could bear fruit. There are various forms of violence against women with disabilities and it was necessary to raise awareness of significant issues concerning this group. The willingness to assist the affected persons was prominent, especially by proactive individuals from among the NGO sector seeking to create a form of systematic support for women with disabilities, in order to raise awareness about these issues, resolving specific issues, overcoming obstacles and overcoming prejudice.

## 25 September

- Members of the Committee on Further Reform of Electoral and Other Legislation met with Vladimir Misev, Advisor on New Voting Technologies at OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights and Daria Paprocka, Advisor on Electoral Processes who were presenting their comments on the draft laws related to reform of electoral legislation. MP Predrag Sekulić presented the work and activities of the Committee aimed at promoting electoral legislation, which, inter alia, required observing of OSCE/ODIHR Recommendations concerning the parliamentary and presidential elections of 2016 and 2018, which was also one of the main task of the Committee. MP Miodrag Vuković emphasised that in the course of the work



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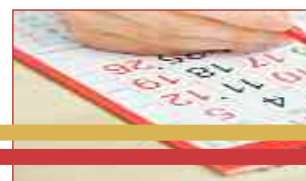


involving reform of electoral legislation, special attention was paid to observing of recommendations submitted by the international organisations, adding that the further activities will be directed towards harmonisation of electoral procedures with European democratic practices. The same day, the ODIHR representatives met with Vice-President of the Parliament and Chair of the Committee Branimir Gvozdenović. Key issues involving the process of reforms were discussed for the purpose of reaching joint solutions, aimed at both adopting and implementing the OSCE/ODIHR recommendations. Chair of the Committee presented the activities of the Committee and the Secretariate realised so far, whilst referring to the importance of strengthening the normative structure and professional capacities of the Parliament. MPs and the experts agreed that the draft laws were an impetus for further work and expressed expectation for further cooperation and joint activities of all political actors directed towards comprehensive and inclusive reforms. Gvozdenović emphasised that continuous efforts were being invested in Montenegro when it came to improving electoral legislation and expressed gratitude for the assistance provided so far by the OSCE and ODIHR. He expressed conviction that promoting the electoral legislation would bring Montenegro closer to world standards, thus strengthening the trust of Montenegrin citizens in the electoral process.

## 26 September

- President Brajović received the newly-appointed Head of the Permanent Mission of Montenegro to the Council of Europe Zoran Janković, on the occasion of his assuming of office. The interlocutors agreed that Montenegro should continue to be actively engaged in observing the COE recommendations, aimed at continuously promoting Montenegrin legislation and institutional framework in the key areas. Brajović also emphasised that the role of the Permanent Mission of Montenegro to the Council of Europe was of great significance in the strengthening of parliamentary diplomacy.
- Vice-President Branimir Gvozdenović met with non-resident Ambassador of the Kingdom of Belgium to Montenegro Adam Koenraad. The current state of affairs was the main topic discussed at the meeting. The Ambassador expressed great interest in the work and the current status of the Committee on Further Reform of Electoral and Other Legislation. Expressing satisfaction over the interest expressed in the work of the Committee, he acquainted him with the activities of the Committee from the moment it was formed, as well as with the activities undertaken so far. Koenraad positively assessed work of the Committee whilst adding that joint cooperation between the ruling parties and the opposition parties was needed. The interlocutors agreed that the role of the European Union, OSCE/ODIHR, and the Venice Commission were of utmost importance. In addition, they agreed that further substantial work was needed, requiring the adoption of new law, since a great time has been spent in procedures and discussions over the composition of the Committee and so forth
- Chair of the Committee on Tourism, Agriculture, Ecology and Spatial Planning Petar Ivanović and member of the Committee Ana Nikolić met with the Director of the Public Enterprise for Regional Water Supply of the Montenegrin Coast Goran Jevrić and his associates Vojislava Stijepović, financial director; Ivan Špadijer, technical director; and Jelena Martinović, Head of Accounting, and with representatives of the Institute of certified accountants of Montenegro Igor Pavićević, secretary general and competent auditor, and Ibro Šabović, authorised auditor. The Committee was acquainted with the Regulation on Entrusting the Institute of certified accountants of Montenegro the duties of the state Administrative body in charge of Accounting and Auditing. Representatives of the Institute notified the Committee that the Institute has signed an Agreement on Cooperation with the State Audit Institution and provided an opinion on implemented international accounting standards by the Public Enterprise for Regional Water Supply of the Montenegrin Coast. Director of the Public Enterprise for Regional Water Supply of the Montenegrin Coast Jevrić acquainted the Committee with the requirements for the use of IDA credits. He referred to the importance of regular work of the Enterprise dealing with implementation of developmental projects. It was recommended that discussion on the topic continue in the future, while the importance of the proper application of international standards was emphasised as well.
- Chair and Members of the Security and Defence Committee met with the Delegation of the Ministry of Republic of Slovenia headed by the Minister Karl Erjavec. Chair of the Committee Branko Čavor emphasised the importance of maintaining and fostering of traditionally excellent relations with the Republic of Slovenia, assessing the assistance provided

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by Slovenia to Montenegro's membership path in the NATO of utmost importance, as well as the ongoing support on Montenegro's European Integration path. In addition, Čavor acquainted the interlocutors with the competences and the results achieved by the Committee, with special emphasis on legislative activities and parliamentary oversight. The issue of security in the region and beyond was also one of the topics discussed at the meeting. The interlocutors assessed that both countries fostered outstanding bilateral cooperation in various fields, and especially in the field of security and defence, emphasising that joint efforts and action have proven to be a successful model in dealing with the current challenges in the field of security. Readiness was expressed to further promote cooperation in the said field.

- Deputy Secretary General of the Parliament of Montenegro Marija Mirjačić together with her associates paid a visit to the European Parliament, held on 26-27 September, which was organised for parliamentary services of Western Balkan countries and Turkey. Human Resources was the main topic discussed during the visit. The entire visit was realised through direct communication, exchange of views and experience between representatives of parliamentary services of Western Balkan countries and Turkey and colleagues from the European Parliament. The participants had the opportunity to get acquainted with the good practices and challenges faced by the European Parliament colleagues as well as identify possible areas of further cooperation.

## 27 September

- The conference "Openness of Executive and Legislative Power Institutions in the Region and Montenegro: Form without Essence", organised by the Centre for Democratic Transition (CDT), emphasised that the Parliament of Montenegro was the most transparent legislative parliament in the region. Within the panel discussion "Openness of parliaments in the region and Montenegro", it was stated that the Montenegrin Parliament has been the most open legislative institution in the region for years, with a high level of transparency because it meets almost 80 openness criteria, while the regional parliaments averagely meet 65 percent of the openness criteria. The Parliament of Montenegro will continue to work in a recognised manner, promoting transparency and accessibility at the

national and international levels.

- A group of 40 young people coming from 15 countries, visited the Parliament of Montenegro, on the occasion of attending the G-20 Youth Summit. During the visit, they were acquainted with the work of the Parliament, its competences and functions, its history as well as with the activities of the working bodies. They were also given a tour of the art gallery of the Parliament, and access to parliamentary archives, as well as a tour of the Great Hall and committee rooms in which parliamentary activities took place. The visit was organised within the frameworks of the programme "Open Parliament".

## 30 September

- President of the Parliament of Montenegro was a keynote speaker at the XXI Cetinje Parliamentary Forum, held at the Government's house, in Cetinje. President Brajović met with Deputy Speaker of the BiH House of Peoples Nikola Špirić. Emphasising the increasing importance of parliamentary diplomacy in strengthening parliamentary relations, he was pleased the Delegation of Bosnia and Herzegovina had decided to attend the Forum. Špirić emphasised that the progress achieved by Montenegro on its Euro-Atlantic path, was of utmost importance for the whole Western Balkans, and a soon Montenegro's membership in the EU would be proof of a credible enlargement policy. He also emphasised that the CPF was one of the best platforms for discussing the current topics concerning the entire region.
- Members of the Delegation of the Parliament of Montenegro to the PACE Predrag Sekulić, Head of the Delegation, and members Sanja Pavivčević and Ervin Ibrahimović participated in the Autumn Session of the PACE, on 30 September - 4 October, in Strasbourg. The main topics discussed at the session were as follows: strengthening protection of whistleblowers in Europe, need of establishing common standards for ombudsman institutions, contribution of Council of Europe Development Bank towards a more inclusive society, and migration of workers from East-Europe and its effects on the socio-demographic processes. The functioning of democratic institutions in Moldova, post-monitoring dialogue of the Parliamentary Assembly with North Macedonia, protection of victims of terrorism, obstetrical and gynaecological violence, and legal status of "climate refugees", were also discussed.