



Parliament of Montenegro

NEWSLETTER OPEN PARLIAMENT

Newsletter on the Parliament of Montenegro Performance ♦ No. 97 ♦ October 2019

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OPEN PARLIAMENT



Parliament of Montenegro

Newsletter on the Parliament of Montenegro Performance ♦ Electronic format ♦ Release: monthly ♦ Year IX ♦ No. 97 ♦ October 2019

FOREWORD

Dear readers,

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

In October, First Sitting of the Second Ordinary (Autumn) Session of the Parliament of Montenegro in 2019 and the first part of the Third Special Sitting of the Second Ordinary Session of the Parliament of Montenegro in 2019, took place.

During October, Committees considered 14 proposals for a law, two proposal for a decision and three proposals for a resolution, and performed other activities within their oversight role.

In focus of this month's newsletter is participation of the President of the Parliament in the European Conference of Presidents of Parliament, which took place on 24-25 October, in Strasbourg.

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 First Sitting of the Second Ordinary (Autumn) Session of the Parliament of Montenegro in 2019

MPs adopted the 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, Law on Ratifying the Protocol from 2005 on Amending the Convention for the Suppression of Unlawful Acts against the Safety of Maritime Navigation and the Decision on Adopting Amendments to the State Location Study "Arsenal" Tivat. The Sitting noted the resignations of MPs Mr Obrad Mišo Stanišić, Mr Tarzan Milošević, while the term of office to Ms Žana Filipović and Ms Nada Nenezic has started. The termination of the office to Koča Pavlović, MP, due to his death, was also noted, and the term of office began for Ms Aleksandra Vujičić, MP. Within the item Elections and appointments, the Parliament appointed Mr Srđan Milić as member of 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. Also, Mr Milan Knežević, MP, was dismissed from his duty of a member of the Committee on International Relations and Emigrants.

Within the same item, the Parliament dismissed Ms Arta Hoxha from the Administrative Board of the Fund for

Protection and Exercising of Minority Rights.

At the Third Special Sitting of the Second Ordinary Session of the Parliament of Montenegro in 2019 of 30 October; MPs questions were answered by the prime Minister Duško Marković and Vice-President of the Government for Economic Policy and Financial System and Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development Milutin Simović. The Prime Minister was posed seven questions, whereas the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development was posed nine questions.

Proposals for law deliberated in committees

- **Proposal for a law on Amendments to the Law on Health Insurance** 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 Legalisation of Public Documents in International Traffic** was considered and proposed to the parliament for adoption by the Legislative Committee.
- **Proposal for a Law on Amendments to the Law on Personal Income Tax** was considered and proposed to the parliament for adoption by the Legislative Committee.
- **Proposal for a Law on the 2018 Final Budget Account** was considered and proposed to the parliament for adoption by the Legislative Committee.
- **Proposal for a Law on Amendments to the Law on International Legal Assistance in Criminal Matters** 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 Communal Activities** was considered and proposed to the parliament for adoption by the Legislative Committee and the Committee on Tourism, Agriculture, Ecology and Spatial Planning.
- **Proposal for a Law on Amendments to the Law on Protection of Natural and Cultural Historical Heritage of the Kotor Region** 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 Public Sector Accounting** 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 Contracts for Transportation in Road Traffic** 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**

Public Sector Salaries was considered by the Committee on Economy, Finance and Budget; however, the proposal did not obtain the required majority.

- **Proposal for a Law on Development Bank of Montenegro** 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 Road Traffic Safety** 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 Consumer Protection** was considered and proposed to the Parliament for adoption by the Legislative Committee.
- **Proposal for a Law on Amendments to the Law on Environmental Noise Protection** was considered and proposed to the Parliament for adoption by the Committee on Tourism, Ecology and Spatial Planning.

Proposals for other acts deliberated in Committees

- **Proposal for a Decision on Adopting Amendments to the State Location Study "Arsenal" Tivat** was considered and proposed to the Parliament for adoption by the Legislative Committee.
- **Proposal for a Resolution on the manner of valorisation of the electric energy sector in Montenegro** was considered by the Committee on Economy, Finance and Budget; however, the proposal did not obtain the required majority. The same was considered by the Legislative Committee, which decided to propose it to the Parliament for adoption.
- **Proposal for a Resolution on Reindustrialisation of Montenegro** was considered by the Committee on Economy, Finance and Budget; however, the proposal did not obtain the required majority. The same was considered by the Legislative Committee, which decided to propose it to the Parliament for adoption.
- **Proposal for a Resolution on Establishing a Sustainable and Modern Transport System in Montenegro** was considered by the Committee on Economy, Finance and Budget; however, the proposal did not obtain the required majority. The same was considered by the Legislative Committee, which decided to propose it to the Parliament for adoption.
- **Proposal for a Decision on deployment of members of the Military of Montenegro to the NATO Mission in Iraq** was considered and proposed to the Parliament for adoption by the Security and Defence Committee.

Other activities of working bodies

- At the 46th meeting of the Security and Defence Committee of 4 October, the Committee unanimously adopted the Opinion that Miljan Perović be appointed

Head of the Division for Military Intelligence and Security Affairs-Ministry of Defence.

- At the 63rd meeting of the **Committee on International Relations and Emigrants** of 1 October, members of the Committee considered the 2018 Performance Report of the Diaspora Administration, and supported it by a majority of votes.
- At the 64th meeting of 2 October, there was a consultative hearing of Minister of Foreign Affairs Srđan Darmanović, on the topic: "Current state of affairs pertaining to the European integration process".
- At the 89th meeting of the **Committee on Economy, Finance and Budget**, held on 7 October, members of the Committee decided to support the following: Report on the Implementation of the Strategy on Regional Development 2014- 2020, covering the year 2018; 2018 Performance Report of the Deposit Protection Fund; Performance Report of the Capital Market Commission with the Financial Report and the Independent Auditor's Report on the Audit of the Financial Statements of the Commission for ; The 2018 Status Report on the Energy Sector of Montenegro. The Committee was also acquainted with the 2018 Performance Report of the Investment and Development Fund of Montenegro JSC with financial statements and 2018 Independent Auditor's Report.
- At the 45th meeting of the **Committee on Human Rights and Freedoms**, held on 29 October, members of the Committee considered Strategy for Minority Policy 2019-2023, Action Plan for the Implementation of the Strategy for Minority Policy 2019-2020, as well as Proposal for a Request on allocation of budgetary income to the Protector of Human Rights and Freedoms in Montenegro for the year 2020.
- At the 37th meeting of the **Gender Equality Committee** of 2 October, members of the Committee considered the Action Plan for the Implementation of the UN Security Council Resolution 1325 Women, Peace And Security In Montenegro (2019 – 2022), which was adopted by the Government and prepared by the Ministry of Defence.
- At the 60th meeting of the **Committee on Tourism, Agriculture, Ecology and Spatial Planning**, of 21 October, the Committee considered the activities related to regulation of communal activities for the year 2018, and unanimously decided to propose to the Parliament to adopt it.
- At the 54th meeting of the **Committee on Health, Labour and Social Welfare**, held on 9 October, there was a consultative hearing on the topic: "Position and Socio-Economic Status of health workers in Montenegro", while the initiative had been submitted by Draginja Vuksanović Stanković.
- At the 74th meeting of the **Administrative Committee**

of 3 October, members of the Committee determined Proposal for a list on the appointment of one member of RTCG Council, by authorised proposer, and decided to propose to the Parliament that Bojana Jokić, Tourism Graduate be appointed a member of the RTCG Council. The Committee also determined the Proposal for a List for the appointment of two members of the Agency for Electronic Media Council, by authorised proposers- an NGO in the field of Media and Montenegrin PEN Center. The Committee decided to propose that the Parliament appoint Boris Raonić and Rajko Todorović as members of the Agency for Electronic Media Council.

- At the 76th meeting of 22 October, the Committee determined several proposals, as follows: Proposal for a Decision on Dismissal of Deputy Chair and two members of the Committee on Further reform of Electoral and other Legislation. The Committee decided to propose to the Parliament that Strahinja Bulajić be dismissed from the duty of a chair of the Committee, whereas Branka Bošnjak and Predrag Bulatović be dismissed from the duty of members of the Committee; Proposal for a Decision on Appointment and Dismissal of one member of the Administrative Committee. The Committee decided to propose that Branka Bošnjak be dismissed from the duty of a member of the Administrative Committee, and Aleksandra Vujičić be appointed as member of the Committee; Proposal for a Decision on Dismissal and Appointment of one member of the Committee on Education, Science, Culture and Sports. The Committee decided to propose that Branka Bošnjak be dismissed from the duty of a member of the Committee on Education, Science, Culture and Sports , and Aleksandra Vujičić be appointed as member of the Committee; proposal for a Decision on Dismissal of one member and Appointment of two members of the Committee of the Anti-Corruption Committee. The Committee decided to propose that Draginja Vuksanović-Stanković be dismissed from the duty of a member of the Anti-Corruption Committee, whereas Ranko Krivokapić and Branka Bošnjak be appointed as members of the said Committee; Proposal for a Decision on Appointment of one member of the Legislative Committee. The Committee decided to propose that Draginja Vuksanović-Stanković be appointed member of the Legislative Committee; Proposal for a Decision on Appointment of one member of the Committee on International Relations and Emigrants. The Committee decided to propose that the Parliament appoint Branka Bošnjak as member of the Committee on International Relations and Emigrants; Proposal for a Decision on Appointment of one member of the Security and Defence Committee. The Committee decided to propose that the Parliament appoint Danijela Pavićević as member of the Security and Defence Committee; and Proposal for a Decision on Appointment of one member of the Committee on Economy, Finance and Budget, where they proposed that Srđan Milić be appointed member of the Committee on Economy, Finance and Budget.

NEWS FROM PARLIAMENT



Delegation of the Parliament of Montenegro took part in the 141st Assembly of the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU)

Delegation of the Parliament of Montenegro, headed by its President Ivan Brajović, took part in the 141st Assembly of the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) in Belgrade. More than 70 speakers from all over the world took part in this year's IPU Assembly. Parliament of Montenegro's delegation was composed of MPs Suad Numanović, Jovanka Laličić and Miloš Nikolić. President of the Parliament of Montenegro Ivan Brajović addressed at the General Debate of the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) on the topic: Strengthening international law: Parliamentary roles and mechanisms, and the contribution of regional cooperation. During the speech, Mr Brajović said that the direction that we have been following for the last 13 years, since the renewal

of our independence, is based precisely on the values of solidarity, dialogue, and respect of diversities – which are the greatest values of a civic, multi-ethnic and multi-confessional Montenegro. Prior to the official opening of the Conference and during the Conference, President Brajović had several bilateral meetings with Speaker of the National Assembly of the Republic of Serbia Maja Gojković; President of the Argentinian Senate Mr Federico Pinedo; Amal Al Qubaisi, President of the Federal National Council of the United Arab Emirates; President of the Inter-Parliamentary Union Ms Gabriela Cuevas Barron; President of the National Assembly of the Republic of Slovenia Mr Dejan Židan; and Algeria's National Assembly Ms Slimane Chenine.

Montenegrin Parliamentarism Day marked

Parliament of Montenegro marked Montenegrin Parliamentarism Day with a ceremony. President Brajović said that he did not see today's marking of Parliamentarism Day as a ceremony, but as another opportunity to extend his hand and invite all political entities in Montenegro to a dialogue "because we have a why, a how and a what to agree upon. Dialogue is a foundation of relations among people, among democracies, among countries. And there is no better nor more natural environment for having a dialogue than the parliament, an oasis of discussions, negotiations and compromises. Our desire is the same: to have as better and as democratic as possible Montenegro in the 21st century." Brajović pointed out that the MPs of the previous convocations and of the 26th convocation have jointly achieved results which they would gladly leave to future generations as a support and foundation for the development of our society in accordance with the brightest examples of European and Western democracies. He said that today both our democracy and parliamentarism were facing challenges, as do other developed democracies. "We intend to strengthen our democratic society by, among other things, improving electoral legislation, and improving other legislation independently and as part of reforms within the European Union accession. Bearing in mind what we have achieved and what we are about to achieve, I am delighted to note that we are only thirty years away from the single-party system, and a little over a

century away from monarchical parliamentarism. Considering the human, spiritual and material sacrifices of Montenegro, that century has lasted as much as somebody's millennium. But even if our ancestors did not leave us democracy as a legacy, they did leave us freedom, just as we are obliged to leave both freedom and democracy to our descendants" and added: (...) I say that we have a reason to look forward to Montenegro's future in the 21st century, a century in which Montenegrin parliamentarism will experience its expansion. Because it spent far too much time on searches, which, in spite of all the dead ends, have led us to having the most open parliament in recent years in the region, and I expect it will be even beyond, which is a task for our future colleagues. Because the boundaries of Montenegro's dialogue are not found in the region, but in the whole well-intentioned and democratic world." There was a premiere showing of the documentary film "Parliamentarism in Montenegro", which covers the beginning and the course of the democratic process since the historic environment ahead of the establishment of the first National Assembly on the Saint Luke Day in 1906 in Cetinje and until today. Choirs of students from schools in Cetinje - "Lovčenski partizanski odred" Primary School, Cetinje Grammar School, and "Petar Lubarda" Secondary Art School, as well as "Štigljići" Music Group, which consists of pupils from second, third and fourth grade of "Vasa Pavić" Music School Podgorica, took part in the musical portion of the programme.

PARLAMENTARNI POJMOVNIK

Screening is a part of the negotiation process of a state and the European Union on the accession of that state to the Union, which is actually the first stage in the accession negotiations. Screening consists of two parts. The first part is an explanatory screening in which EU experts present the Acquis Communautaire, i.e. the legislative and institutional framework within the EU for each individual chapter of the 35 negotiating chapters, to the representatives of the candidate country for EU membership. Basically, this is the stage in which the state is presented with its commitments regarding harmonisation with the EU Acquis Communautaire. The second part is a bilateral screening which refers to the presentation of the legislative and institutional framework of the candidate country for each negotiating chapter. After the screening there is a stage of developing action plans for meeting the obligations of harmonisation with the EU Communautaire.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 285

IN FOCUS



President of the Parliament headed the Delegation at the European Conference of Presidents of Parliament

Delegation of the Parliament of Montenegro participated at the European Conference of Presidents of Parliament, headed by President Brajović, which took place on 24-25 October, in Strasbourg. Montenegrin Delegation was composed of MP Marija Čatović and Secretary General of the Parliament Aleksandar Jovičević. During his address on the topic "Our common European home: the next 70 years", Brajović stated that it was no coincidence that Gorbacov promoted the idea of a "common European home" during his address in 1989, which had been delivered at a Parliamentary Assembly, and even after 30 years, the idea survived and left a mark in history. Brajović stated that, in its activities, the Parliament contributed to promotion of political and socio-economic environment, through continuous communication with the institutions, citizens, media representatives and the civic sector, as well as with international organisations with headquarters in Montenegro. Referring to the future of the EU, he emphasised that the aforementioned topic *our common european home* was an opportunity to discuss the EU enlargement, since the future of the Western Balkans undoubtedly lay alongside a strong, stable and unified Europe. "Since Montenegro had in the course of the years become acknowledged as a leader when it comes to fulfilling the needed criteria and the main promoter of the European Union, certain discouragement coming from European countries in regards to enlargement, weren't beneficial in the further democratisation of the Western Balkans or the European stability.

Those messages were encouraging only to populist movement within countries, thus creating a pathway for certain political influences which were not deemed desirable. He was convinced that there would soon be higher awareness on the need to internally strengthen the common european home- built on healthy and solid foundations, as well as make it accessible for other members. In his view "Montenegro envisions itself as a predictable, useful and loyal member of the european home, preferably in the very near future". There was a meeting of heads of delegations of parliaments from small European countries, during which Brajović emphasised the importance of regular meetings in order to reach conclusions about and discuss coordination of joint interest of states that have less than 1 million people. On the eve of the upcoming gathering in Cyprus, the increase of the number of topics was discussed in order that the parliamentary model of cooperation may provide its assistance in the financial strengthening, exchange of experience in the field of economy, health, etc. Brajović also met with President of the Danish Parliament Henrik Dam Kristensen, Deputy Speaker of the Finnish parliament Tuula Haatainen, Head of German Delegation to Parliamentary Assembly Andreas Nick, PACE President Liliane Maury Pasquier. Delegation of the Parliament of Montenegro also met with Secretary General of the Council of Europe Marija Pejčinović-Burić. President Brajović spoke with Speaker of the Swedish Parliament Andreas Norlén and President of the Senate of the Netherland Jan Anthonie Bruijn.

PARLIAMENT OF MONTENEGRO-FROM CATALOGUE OF RECEIVED PRESENTS

Title: *MODEL OF A WELL*
 Country of origin: CROATIA
 Extended by: PRESIDENT OF THE CROATIAN SABOR
 Recipient: PRESIDENT OF THE PARLIAMENT OF MONTENEGRO
 Date of receipt: 19. 5. 2014.



Title: *GOLD MEDAL*
 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. 5. 2014.



CALENDAR



1 October

- Vice-President of the Parliament and Chair of the Committee on Further Reform of Electoral and Other Legislation Branimir Gvozdenović received experts of the Venice Commission Marta Cartabia and Philip Dimitrov. They discussed the election of members of the Judicial Council, with the focus on possible recommendations aimed at solving the pending issues in the said field. The same day, Venice Commission experts had a meeting with the members of the Committee, on which occasion, MPs from both the ruling majority and opposition, as well as representatives of academia and the NGO sector, discussed various solutions to promoting the functional and status organization of the Judicial Council. The experts emphasized that the Venice Commission would soon submit an official report containing specific and accurate assessments on the subject matter.

2 October

- President of the Parliament of Montenegro Ivan Brajović received in an inaugural visit the newly appointed ambassador of the Republic of Slovenia to Montenegro Gregor Pesker. Congratulating Pesker on assuming office, Brajović assessed that Slovenia was a reliable partner of Montenegro when it came to achieving the key foreign policy priorities, referring to European integration, which was preceded by membership in the NATO. The Ambassador emphasized that Slovenia greatly supported the enlargement process, noting that Montenegro deserved to be continuously commended for progressing the most in reforms, and may serve as an example for other countries in the region. The interlocutors agreed that in the upcoming period special attention should be dedicated to the strengthening of economic relations of Montenegro and Slovenia, especially in the field of Economy.

3 October

- President of the Parliament of Montenegro Ivan Brajović met with the Delegation of the Committee on Foreign Policy of the National Assembly of the Republic of Slovenia. Brajović expressed satisfaction over the excellent relations between Montenegro and Slovenia, and a fruitful cooperation between both countries in various fields, additionally enhanced by

regular parliamentary cooperation at all levels. The President expressed gratitude for the support Slovenia had been providing to Montenegro on its EU path and emphasized the importance of honoring the principle of merit based progress of EU candidate countries. Chair Matjaž Nemec reiterated Slovenia's position asserting that the regatta principle is to be fully observed in the integration processes and emphasized that Slovenia highly valued the achievements of Montenegro in the field, as well as its recent membership in the NATO. The Meeting was also attended by members of the Delegation of the Committee on Foreign Policy of the National Assembly of the Republic of Slovenia, MPs Monika Gregorčič and Nik Prebil, and the Ambassador of Slovenia to Montenegro Gregor Pesker.

- Members of the Committee on European Integration and the Security and Defence Committee met with members of the Committee on Foreign Policy of the National Assembly of the Republic of Slovenia. The importance of further promoting the traditionally good relations and the cooperation between Montenegro and Slovenia was emphasised, especially involving the European integration process as well as



the security and defence sector. Chair of the Committee on European Integration Slaven Radunović emphasised that the proper conducting of key reforms by Montenegro was essential in the negotiation process, with the focus on the rule of law and chapters 23 and 24. Chair of the Security and Defence Committee Branko Čavor presented the results on the conduct of parliamentary oversight and cooperation with institutions in the security and defence sector. The same day, there was a meeting between the Slovenian Delegation and the Chair of the Committee on International relations and Emigrants Andrija

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Nikolić. Further strengthening of the existing quality parliamentary cooperation was also discussed, and especially the possibility of establishing a trilateral format cooperation at a committee level, i.e. committees in charge of foreign affairs. Aside from Chair Nikolić, the meeting was also attended by members of the Committee: Nada Drobnjak, Miloš Nikolić, Jovan Vučurović and Miodrag Lekić.

- Members of the Committee on Further Reform of Electoral and other Legislation Marta Šćepanović and Neđeljko Rudović met with Isabella Kurkowski, International Media Consultant and Jelena Mijanović, Montenegrin Media Consultant concerning a survey on assessing the need for training in the media, being conducted by the OSCE Mission in Montenegro, within the Media Programme. The interlocutors exchanged opinions on the current status, challenges and possibilities within the media sector, media legislation framework and the national media strategy.
- At the follow-up of the Fifth meeting of the Committee on Further Reform of Electoral and other Legislation, there was a discussion about the texts submitted by the Centre for Democratic Transition-associated member of the Committee. It mainly concerned Proposal for a Decision on the organisational structure and manner of operation and Proposal for the Rulebook of the Committee, with an alternate solution in regards to the title *working group/subcommittee or working committee*.

4 October

- Head of Division 'Western Balkans' within the European External Action Service Elsa Fenet spoke with the members of the Committee on Further Reform of Electoral and other Legislation on the previous activities of the Committee, and the results achieved so far. There was a discussion about the key issues involving the current electoral reform process in Montenegro, in order to reach joint solutions aimed at providing a better electoral environment for the holding of future elections. Chair of the Committee Branimir Gvozdenović, at the presence of Head of the EU Delegation to Montenegro Aivo Orav, presented the previous activities of the Committee and the Secretariate, with the focus on the recent changes that took place. MPs from both the ruling majority and the opposition provided their assessments in regards to the state of political affairs affecting the functioning of

the Committee. Fenet welcomed the results achieved so far by the Committee, thus emphasising that, aside from promoting the electoral environment, continuous efforts towards a higher degree of rule of law in Montenegro were needed, primarily in the fields of judiciary, prevention of corruption and freedom of the media.

7 October

- On the occasion of the 140th anniversary of the diplomatic relations between Montenegro and Italy, the Parliament of Montenegro hosted an exhibition titled "Montenegro on the front pages of the Italian magazines in the period from 1896-1921". At the opening of the exhibition, organised by the Parliament of Montenegro and the Italian Embassy in Montenegro, President Brajović emphasised that Italy had also been a significant European neighbour to Montenegro, whilst Italian territories were Montenegro's gateway into the world. While reminiscing of Montenegrin princess and Italian Queen Jelena Petrović Njegoš, he reminded that upon stripping Montenegro of its independence, Italy was the last country to terminate diplomatic relations with our country, whilst mutual reliance, numerous links and positive memories contributed in overcoming the conflicts during the II World War. Ambassador of the Republic of Italy Luka Zelioli stated that the exhibition was among the most important activities on the Embassy's agenda, on the occasion of marking the jubilee of diplomatic relations between two countries, covering the year 1879.
- President of the Parliament of Montenegro Ivan Brajović received the newly-appointed ambassador of Montenegro in the Republic of Serbia Tarzan Milošević. President Brajović expressed gratitude for the contribution his previous colleague had provided in terms of parliamentary work, wishing him a successful work ahead. Given that both countries shared great relations and cooperation, the interlocutors agreed that further efforts and engagement of the diplomatic mission in Serbia were needed.
- President of the Parliament of Montenegro Ivan Brajović received in an inaugural visit the newly appointed Ambassador of the Russian Federation to Montenegro Vladislav Maslennikov. Convinced that the relations between the two countries would be

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enhanced during his mandate, Brajović congratulated Maslennikov on assuming office, wishing him successful term of office. Maslennikov emphasised that he was very honored to have been chosen to represent his country in Montenegro, given the traditionally great relations shared between two countries for many centuries. Given that in 2017, the Parliament of Montenegro had already established a



parliamentary friendship group with Russian Duma, the interlocutors agreed that parliamentary diplomacy would be crucial in promoting their relations, and that new forms of cooperation needed to be jointly considered.

8 October

- Westminster Foundation for Democracy together with the Committee on Human Rights and Freedoms and the Gender Equality Committee organised a regional parliamentary conference titled “Strengthening regional cooperation and oversight of legislation in the field of human rights and gender equality in the Western Balkans”, which took place in Cetinje. President of the Parliament Brajović commended the two committees for hosting the first regional conference within the frameworks of the project. In addition, Brajović met with Emil Atanasovski, Director of Western Balkans at Westminster Foundation for Democracy. Chair of the Committee on Human Rights and Freedoms Halil Duković presented the successful activities as well as the obstacles and challenges faced by the Committee in conducting its control and oversight role. Experience with regards to regional cooperation in the field of human rights and gender equality in the Western Balkans was presented at the Conference, as well as key issues and obstacles faced by parliamentary committees in conducting of

oversight of implementation of legislation. There was also a coordination meeting of the managing board of human rights and gender equality network of parliamentary committees in the Western Balkan region (HUGEN), formed within the frameworks of the project.

9 October

- Delegation of the Parliament of Georgia, headed by President Archil Talakvadze, paid a visit to Montenegro. President Brajović emphasised that the visit of the President of the Georgian Parliament was an additional impetus to strengthening the overall relations and political dialogue at top and high level. The interlocutors agreed on the importance of the role of parliaments in further democratisation of the countries, whereas pertaining to parliamentary cooperation between Montenegro and Georgia, they emphasised the importance of parliamentary cooperation at the highest levels, via parliamentary friendship groups, as well as via international organisations. President of the Georgian Parliament also expressed gratitude for the support Montenegro had been providing to Georgia in the process of democratic transition and its Euro-Atlantic and European path, also recalling on a positive example set by the Montenegrin Military, where certain members of the Army participated in the *Agile Spirit* military exercise in Georgia. The meeting was also attended by members of the Montenegrin Friendship Group with Georgia Andrija Nikolić, Nikola Rakočević and Andrija Popović. Presidents of the Parliament of Montenegro and Georgia laid a wreath at the Monument of the Partisan Fighter in Gorica. The same



day, an honorary consulate of Georgia was opened in Bar. On the occasion, addresses were given by

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President of the Parliament of Montenegro Ivan Brajović and President Archil Talakvadze. A member of the infantry battalion of the Military of Montenegro received an award by a high-level guest from Georgia.

- Vice-President of the Parliament and Chair of the Committee on Further Reform of Electoral and other Legislation Branimir Gvozdenović met with Head of the OSCE Mission to Montenegro and Ambassador Maryse Daviet. Gvozdenović acquainted Daviet with the previous activities realised by the Committee as well as with political circumstances affecting its functioning.

10 October

- Members of the Committee on European Integration met with the parliamentarians from the Republic of France, whose visit was aimed at getting better acquainted with the current status, progress and challenges faced by Montenegro in the European integration process. The parliamentarians agreed that the results achieved in terms of conducting the key reforms in chapters 23 and 24 shall decide the outcome of the overall negotiation process and relatively lead to the ending of the negotiations. They initiated the signing of protocols on cooperation between committees of both parliaments in charge of European affairs, aimed at regular exchange of information relevant to the reform process of both Montenegro and the EU, as well as providing professional and parliamentary support to functioning of the Committee on European Integration and the Parliament of Montenegro in the EU accession process. The meeting was also attended by Chair Slaven Radunović and members Daliborka Pejović, Momčilo Martinović, Sanja Pavićević and Nedeljko Rudović.

11 October

- President of the Parliament of Montenegro Ivan Brajović received the Delegation of the National Assembly of the Republic of France. They discussed the overall relations of both countries on the occasion of the 140th anniversary of diplomatic relations between Montenegro and France. Members of the Delegation presented an initiative to President Brajović, on behalf of the French Parliament, aimed at strengthening bilateral relations and in order to acquaint the public more closely with the status and goals of Montenegro. French parliamentarians also

emphasised the importance of the strategy on Western Balkans, adopted in April 2019, aimed at providing assistance in economic and social development and strengthening the rule of law, in line with the conclusions and tasks of the Berlin Process. The interlocutors agreed on the importance of abiding by the regatta principle, as well as familiarizing with the internal EU reforms. The French Delegation was composed by Chair of the French Friendship Group with Montenegro Jacqueline Maquet, as well as members of the Committee on Foreign Affairs Jacques Maire, Liliana Tanguy and Mireille Clapot. The same day, there was a meeting between the Committee on International Relations and Emigrants and Friendship Group with members of the French Delegation. Chair of the Committee on International Relations and Emigrants Andrija Nikolić emphasised that Montenegro was mindful of the fact that the French position and views significantly affected the policy-making in the EU, and especially emphasised the role and significance of the French National Assembly in the decision-making process within the advanced stages of the integration process and joining of Western Balkan countries. Chair of the French Friendship Group with Montenegro Jacqueline Maquet stated that France was mindful of the pending issues in the functioning of the EU, however, they were convinced that the said issues would not undermine the enlargement process.

- Permanent Delegation of the Parliament of Montenegro to NATO PA composed of Head of the Delegation Branimir Gvozdenović and members Genci



Nimanbegu and Branko Čavor participated in the 65th Annual Session of the NATO PA, which took place on 11-15 October in London, United Kingdom. The session gathers over 50 national parliamentary

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delegations, representatives of member states, associated members, regional partners and Mediterranean associated countries and observers, as well as guests from the United Kingdom and abroad. The main topics discussed during the session involved the international security, as well as issues in relation to the subject. In addition, the proposals of reports of committees that were discussed during the Spring Session held in May 2019 in Bratislava were adopted and political recommendations formulated in this respect. During the plenary session, members of the permanent delegation of the Parliament of Montenegro participated in the decision-making on proposals of resolutions and other acts within the agenda items.

- Within the activities dedicated to key challenges within the negotiation chapter 27-Environment and Climate Change, Delegation of the Committee on European Integration paid a visit to the Ulcinj Solana. On the occasion, members of the Committee discussed with representatives of NGOs. During the visit to Ulcinj, Delegation of the Committee had a meeting with Head of the Municipality, vice-presidents of the Municipality and Secretary at the Secretariate for Communal Activities. The future model of operation and manager of Solana were discussed, as well as the issue of maintaining of biodiversity of the area. Delegation of the Committee on European Integration was composed of Chair Slaven Radunović and members Marija Čatović, Daliborka Pejović, Momčilo Martinović and Ljiljana Đurašković.

13 October

- Delegation of the Parliament of Montenegro composed of President of the Parliament Ivan Brajović and MPs Suad Numanović, Jovanka Laličić and Miloš Nikolić participated in the 141st Parliament of Interparliamentary Union, which took place on 13-14 October, in Belgrade.

14 October

- Members of the Montenegro - China parliamentary Friendship Group Nada Drobnjak and Branka Tanasijević held a meeting with a delegation of the China Public Diplomacy Association (CPDA). Nada Drobnjak thanked for the Chinese support provided so far, reflected in the large number of donations and implementation of development projects deemed to

be of great importance for our country and stressed the importance of the current project of construction of the Bar - Boljare highway and reconstruction of the Tara Đurđević bridge. MP Tanasijević noted that during the previous convocation of the Parliament, as Chair of the Committee on Education, Science, Culture and Sports, had the opportunity to visit China, thus shared her view that the Chinese economy was rapidly blooming, whilst its educational system was regarded as a paradigm by the entire world. Chen Yuming, the CPDA Vice-President outlined the basic responsibilities of the China Public Diplomacy Association. The meeting was also attended by Acting Ambassador of the People's Republic of China to Montenegro Hua Yafang.

- Secretary General of the Parliament of Montenegro Aleksandar Jovičević participated in the meeting of the Association of Secretaries General of Parliaments (ASGP), held on 14-16 October, in Belgrade. Practice and experience in conducting the legislative and control role of the parliament were among the key topics discussed at the meeting. The second debate concerned the accessibility of parliaments to persons with disabilities, during which a two-annual Accessibility Plan recently adopted by the Brazilian Senate, was presented. The Importance of inclusive



work of legislative bodies, as well as activities on re-adjusting parliament buildings, web pages of institutions and TV broadcasting of parliamentary sittings to be made in compliance with modern accessibility standards, were discussed. They also discussed activities in promoting openness and transparency of parliamentary work, the importance of trainings aimed at strengthening administrative capacities, as well as the procedures for employment. The meeting had gathered secretaries from 80

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countries, and took place simultaneously with the 141st IPU session.

- Andrija Nikolić, Chair of the Committee on International Relations and Emigrants and Luigj Shkrela, member of the Committee paid an official visit to the Parliament of the Republic of Latvia, at the invitation of the Chair of the Committee on Foreign Relations Rihards Kols, on 14-15 October, in Latvia. Delegation of the Committee met with members of the Montenegrin Armed Forces deployed in Adaji military base within NATO's mission "Enhanced Continued Presence" in the East. In conversation with our soldiers, Chair Nikolić and Shkrela, member of the Committee expressed satisfaction with the positive assessments of NATO's senior military representatives, the professional attitude of Montenegrin soldiers to their regular tasks, expecting that they would continue to represent in the future the state of Montenegro. The meeting with Montenegrin soldiers was attended by Ambassador of Montenegro to the Republic of Poland and the non-resident Ambassador of Montenegro to the Republic of Latvia H.E. Budimir Šegrt, as well as First Secretary at Montenegrin Embassy in the Republic of Poland Robert Markić. During the two-day visit to Riga, the Delegation had several meetings with the Vice-president of the Parliament of Latvia, chairs of committees on foreign relations and European Affairs, as well chair of the Defence, Internal Affairs and Corruption Prevention Committee, as well as with parliamentary secretaries of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Ministry of Defence of Latvia.

15 October

- Gender Equality Committee, in cooperation with the OSCE Mission to Montenegro, organised a one day workshop for the employees of the Parliament of Montenegro, on the topic: "Gender sensitive budgeting", with the aim of implementing one of the measures from the Action Plan for the Gender Sensitive Parliament of Montenegro, which envisages capacity building and development of procedures for the implementation of assessments in all stages of making and adopting laws, policies, and other acts. The work was moderated by Marija Risteska, expert and took place within the panel "Gender mainstreaming" and "Gender responsive budgeting". The participants were acquainted with the basics on gender responsive budgeting, policy analyses, cost effective and efficiency analysis, with the focus on

gender, as well as international examples of gender responsive budgeting. The workshop was attended by Parliamentary staff from the secretariats of the Gender Equality Committee, Constitutional Committee, Committee on International Relations and Emigrants, Committee on Economy, Finance and Budget, Committee on Tourism, Agriculture, Ecology and Spatial Planning, Committee on Education, Science, Culture and Sports, Anti-Corruption Committee, Administrative Committee, as well as the associate for the preparation and processing of parliamentary sitting and the Bureau of Financial Affairs.

- President Brajović received in an inaugural visit the newly appointed Ambassador of the Republic of Kosovo to Montenegro Ilber Hisa. Brajović expressed wish that the outcome of the extraordinary parliamentary elections proved as a basis for further reforms, whilst expecting that upon forming a new government, negotiations with Serbia would be enhanced. Referring to European integrations, Brajović emphasised that as a leader in the process, Montenegro remained open for any exchange of information and transfer of knowledge and experience. In this context, he emphasised the importance of the Agreement on cooperation between the Governments of Montenegro and Kosovo in terms of EU accession, which was signed in March 2019. Ambassador Hisa expressed gratitude for the support provided by Montenegro, especially in the European integration process.
- Delegation of the Parliament of Montenegro composed of Marta Šćepanović, Mihailo Anđušić, Nikola Rakočević and Miloš Nikolić paid an official visit to the Irish Parliament, at the invitation of Seán Ó Fearghaíl, President of the Lower Chamber of



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Parliament of Ireland, on 15-17 October, in Dublin. The aim of the visit was to exchange experience and good practice in terms of legislative procedures. On the occasion, several meetings with members of responsible committees took place. The Delegation of the Parliament of Montenegro also learned about the electoral legislation, namely the manner of its implementation and the election administration procedures in Ireland.

16 October

- Chair of the Committee on Education, Science, Culture and Sports Radule Novović met with Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary Ambassador of the People's Republic of China to Montenegro Liu Jin. The meeting was organised for the purpose of planning and realisation of joint activities which would contribute to providing the students with safer and more comfortable school premises offering higher quality level to its students; as well as acquaintance with different experience in conducting of reforms within the educational system in Montenegro. The finalising of the previously initiated joint activity concerning a Chinese donation to rebuild the „Štampar Makarije“ Elementary School, was also discussed. Chair of the Committee emphasised that the realisation of the said activity provided a significant support to development of education in Montenegro, especially given that the school students had obtained significant results at the national level, and also since it is considered a school with the highest number of alumni attending.

17 October

- Chair of the Committee on International Relations and Emigrants Andrija Nikolić met with Cuba's Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs, Ana Teresita González Fraga. It was emphasised that traditionally great relations of Montenegro and Cuba shared since the SFRY needed to be enhanced through intensifying of parliamentary cooperation. Emphasising the importance of parliamentary relations and the potential contribution of elected representatives to promoting inter-governmental cooperation, Nikolić and Fraga agreed that the establishing of parliamentary friendship groups would contribute to the promotion of bilateral relations. The interlocutors exchanged opinions on intensifying of economic cooperation, specifying as a priority fields of

Tourism, Culture and Energy. Current political and security challenges in the world were discussed, as well as normalizing of economic cooperation between Cuba and the U.S. and aspirations for progress in the relations of the two countries. The meeting was also attended by the Ambassador of Cuba to Montenegro, with residence in Belgrade, Gustavo Tristá del Todo.

- Delegation of the Committee on European Integration composed of Deputy Chair Adrijan Vuksanović and members Marija Čatović, Daliborka Pejović, Momčilo Martinović and Sanja Pavičević paid a visit to Podgorica Capital City. On the occasion, the Delegation met with Deputy Mayor, secretary at the Secretariat for Communal Activities, Director of “Deponija”, Director of “Čistoća”, Head of International cooperation office at Capital city Podgorica, and Deputy Executive Director of *Vodovod i kanalizacija d.o.o.* They discussed the treatment of wastewater and waste management, as challenges at the local and national level, deemed as very important by the capital city, which was also the largest municipality in Montenegro.

18 October

- Chair of the Committee on Human Rights and Freedoms Halil Duković and member of the Committee Mirsad Murić paid a visit to the day care centre for children and youth with disabilities, in the Municipality of Rozaje. MP Duković emphasised that the purpose of the visit was not the oversight of work of the centre, but rather that the participants observe for themselves the manner of its functioning, relations between employees and the beneficiaries of the centre, as well as to commend the institution for its efforts in performing such a humane mission. The visitors agreed that great progress had been achieved in Montenegro when it comes to protection of children with developmental difficulties, however continuous and coordinated activities needed to be undertaken in the upcoming period, both at the state and local level, in cooperation with international organisations, donors and the NGO sector, in order to achieve higher results in the field.
- President of the Parliament of Montenegro Ivan Brajović met with creators and participants of the open lecture “For Justice, Honor And Freedom Of Montenegro”. A project, realized in form of public

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lecture, is an homage to the “komit” movement, designed by pupils and professors at the “Stojan Cerović” gymnasium, Nikšić, who are also the participants in the said lectures, as well students-former pupils of the gymnasium.

- Chair of the Constitutional Committee and Head of the Permanent Delegation of the Parliament of Montenegro to Parliamentary Dimension of the Central European Initiative (CEI-PD) Miodrag Vuković took part in the XV International Forum of Aquileia



Euroregion, held in Udine on 18-19 October. This year’s forum was dedicated to the topics: “Reawakening of the Mitteleurope, nostalgia for the future”. MP Vuković spoke as a panellist on the topic: “Western Balkans: always on the waiting list”. Addressing the participants, Vuković pointed out that Montenegro was involved in EU negotiation process at the moment when the main priorities of the European Union were “Brexit” and the migration crisis. Regardless of the aforementioned, Montenegro remains fully committed in fulfilling its tasks and awaits the final stages of the negotiation process. The conference, traditionally organised by the Mitteleuropa Cultural Association, in cooperation with the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Friuli Venezia Giulia Region and Secretariat of the Central European Initiative, brought together European and national parliamentarians, political stakeholders, diplomats, representatives of the academia, businessmen, NGO activists and students from the central Europe.

19 October

- Delegation of the Committee on European Integration paid a visit to the municipalities of Šavnik and Pljevlja. Firstly, members of the Committee paid a visit to Šavnik, on which occasion they spoke with the

President of the Municipality and his associates. The President emphasised that the environment protection was top priority of the Municipality, and that many strategic projects and EU funded projects were being implemented in the said field. Among the greatest assets of the Municipality Šavnik were valorization of water potentials, wind power plants and national parks, while significant economic benefits were to be expected from the building of small hydropower plants. During their visit to Pljevlja, the Delegation of the Committee met with the representatives of the local self-government and NGOs, as well as paid a visit to the thermal power plant “Pljevlja”. The purpose of the visit was to discuss the air pollution in the Municipality and the role of thermal power plant in the subject matter. The Delegation of the Committee on European Integration was composed of Chair Slaven Radunović and members of the Committee Daliborka Pejović and Momčilo Martinović.

21 October

- President of the Parliament Ivan Brajović received State Secretary to the Ministry of the Armed Forces of the Republic of France Geneviève Darrieussecq. Commending the great relations between Montenegro and France, Brajović expressed interest in intensifying political contacts at high level, as well as promoting cooperation in all fields. State Secretary to the Ministry of the Armed Forces commended the results achieved by Montenegro in the conducting of its reforms, good neighbourly cooperation and strengthening of democratization of society. Darrieussecq acquainted Brajović with the state of affairs in the European Union, and in this context, France wished to strengthen its partnership with Montenegro, thus offering its assistance on Montenegro’s EU path.
- Vice-President of the Parliament of Montenegro and Chair of the Committee on Further Reform of Electoral and Other Legislation Branimir Gvozdenović and member of the Committee Neđeljko Rudović met with non-resident Ambassador of Australia to Montenegro Ruth Stewart. Vice-President Gvozdenović emphasised that by joining the Alliance, Montenegro had accomplished one of the foreign policy priorities, whereas great efforts and work were being continuously invested into accomplishing another goal-joining the European Union. Ambassador Stewart emphasised that Australia highly supported and valued Montenegro’s European path, noting that the

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stability of Western Balkans region and economic progress were of high importance to this country, and also that continuous efforts were needed in strengthening the democratic systems of the said part of Europe. MP Nedjeljko Rudovic stated that a part of the opposition taking part in the work of the Committee was open for dialogue, and willing to find the best solutions, while noting that they endorsed the view of forming a technical government, since the government cannot be trusted that it would implement what has been offered as eventual agreement. The Ambassador hoped that the ruling majority and the opposition would reach an agreement on this important matter, concluding that all the parties should participate in the dialogue.

22 October

- President of the Parliament of Montenegro Ivan Brajović received the Ambassador of the United Arab Emirates to Montenegro Abdulsalam Hareb Obaid Al Romaithi in a farewell visit. Brajović expressed gratitude for the contribution of the Ambassador to promoting and strengthening of relations between UAE and Montenegro, creating a basis for a more meaningful cooperation between both countries in numerous fields. Al Romaithi commended the great and friendly relations between both countries, assessing that Montenegro's upcoming visit to Dubai, on the occasion of attending EXPO 2020, would provide a great opportunity for UAE and its neighbouring countries to get more closely acquainted with numerous investment and tourism potentials of Montenegro.
- Sixth meeting of the Committee on Further Reform of Electoral and other Legislation was marked by discussion on the results achieved by the working committees.
- During the Seventh meeting of the Committee on Further Reform of Electoral and other Legislation, pertaining to the agenda item "Analysis of the implementation of the Law on the Territorial Organisation of Montenegro", in respect to determining of models of solutions in order to meet the needed requirements for full implementation of the Law on Electoral Registry and devising of the whole electoral registry, there was a discussion whether this issue should be discussed by a competent working committee, as an opening of the discussion at a committee meeting, or it should be discussed only at a committee meeting, in the

presence of representatives of competent institutions.

- Chair of the Committee on Human rights and Freedoms participated in the Conference "Investing in the Early Years – Conference on Fiscal and Public Administration Imperatives for Early Childhood Development", which took place on 22-23 October, in Podgorica. The Conference was organized by UNICEF Representation in Montenegro and University Donja Gorica. The importance of early development of a child as a vital strategy aimed at long-term economic development of a country was emphasized, which also helped in reaching the desired objectives in the field of human rights and sustainable development.

23 October

- Chair of the Committee on Human Rights and Freedoms Halil Duković met with UN Human Rights Adviser Anjet Lanting, at her request. Duković



upština Crne Gore

thanked Lanting for expressing interest in the work of the Committee, since it reinforced its authority, and thusly acquainted her with the key activities of the Committee within the legislative, control and oversight role of the Parliament of Montenegro. He emphasized that the Committee employed a multisectoral approach and fostered great cooperation with the Government and competent ministries, Protector of Human Rights and Freedoms, 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, especially in terms of the legislation framework, as well in the oversight of its implementation. Lanting commended the Committee for its work and activities in monitoring the implementation of laws and exercise of human rights.

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- Chair of the Gender Equality Committee Nada Drobnjak participated in the Regional Conference “Keeping up with modern times” covering the topic of women entrepreneurship in the EU accession process, as well as the exchange of positive practice and experience in the region. The Conference took place in Podgorica and was organized by the Ministry on Human and Minority Rights and the Chamber of Economy of Montenegro. Chair of the Committee spoke as a panelist on the topic – Women’s Entrepreneurship as part of Development Policy. The goal was to emphasise the importance of women’s entrepreneurship, empowering accomplished and future businesswomen in undertaking new business projects, as well as exchange of experience and promotion of cooperation between businesswomen in the region. Aside from the representatives of state authorities, representatives of Union of Municipalities of Montenegro and the Investment and Development Fund of Montenegro, also attended.

24 October

- Delegation of the Parliament of Montenegro headed by President Brajović, participated in the European Conference of Presidents of Parliament, which took place on 24-25 October, in Strasbourg.

25 October

- Chair of the Committee on Education, Science, Culture and Sports Radule Novović, at the invitation of the Economic Chamber of Montenegro, participated in the Conference on Economy-Montenegro 2019, which was organized by the Economic Chamber and Investment Forum for the Western Balkans of the Chamber. The Conference took place on 24-25 October, in Budva. The purpose of the Conference was initiating discussion and examining issues, deemed important for the economic future of the neighbouring countries, within the main topic “Synergy-key to a successful region”.
- Secretary General of the Parliament of Montenegro Aleksandar Jovičević participated in the Meeting of Secretary Generals of Parliaments of Council of Europe member states, in Strasbourg. The meeting was dedicated to activities and priorities of the ECPRD Network, a network of exchange of information between parliamentary services of Council of Europe member states. Various mechanisms for enabling greater transparency of work of the PACE and

inclusion of MPs, members of national delegations in its regular activities, were also discussed. Secretary General Aleksandar Jovičević met with the Secretary General of the Lower Chamber of the Austria Harald



Dossi. They discussed the Democracy Workshops “Barbara Pramer” and the Internship programme in the Austrian Parliament, which had been initiated this year, in cooperation with the European Fund for Balkan.

- Chair of the Committee on Health, Labour and Social Welfare Suad Numanović together with members of the Committee paid a visit to the General Hospital Kotor and the Municipality of Kotor. There was a meeting with the general manager of the Hospital Prim. Dr. Ivan Ilić, his physician assistants Marija Ivanović, assistant Director and specialist in gynecology. Implementation of laws, quality health care for citizens, insufficient work staff, socio-economic status of the employees, were discussed, with a focus on solving the housing problem. Chair and members of the Committee also paid a visit to the Municipality of Kotor and held a meeting with the President of the Municipality Željko Aprcović and his associates- Vice-President of the Municipality of Kotor, secretary of the Secretariat on Culture, Sports, and Social Activities of the Municipality of Kotor.
- Delegation of the Committee on European Integration composed of Chair Slaven Radunović and members Daliborka Pejović, Momčilo Martinović and Sanja Pavičević paid a visit to the Municipality of Herceg Novi. Members of the Committee met with the managing body of the Municipality and NGO representatives where they discussed the treatment of wastewaters and waste management in Herceg Novi. At the meeting, they discussed the issues of key projects such as building wastewater treatment plants

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and the Main Collector in Herceg Novi, as well as building of a sewage network and water supply networks. MPs also visited a location containing a new wastewater treatment plant, and were acquainted with the challenges of maintaining and functioning of the plant. Aside from this, they discussed with the managing body of Herceg Novi the issue in terms of building sanitary landfill Gluhi Do, emerging of new landslides in Moljiš, lack of experience in managing projects in accordance with FIDIC rules, as well as financial issues due to failure of observing of deadlines concerning the final stages of work in the plant in Meljine and Main Sewerage Collector *Istok*. There was also a meeting with representatives of NGOs “Prijatelji” and “Steps”, where they got acquainted with their ongoing projects.

- Chair of the Constitutional Committee participated in the “XV International Conference on Reconciliation, Tolerance and Human Security” organised by the European Centre for Peace and Development on 25 October, in Belgrade. This year’s Conference was dedicated to the topic: “The UN Agenda 2030 to transform the world”. Chair of the Constitutional Committee addressed the participants on the topic: “Montenegro as an Ecological State - Intentions and Projects that this Constitutional and Fundamental Commitment of the Community to Respect the Place”. The following took part in the work of the Conference: estimated scientists, representatives of the Academia, professors, experts and analysts, politicians and diplomats, representatives of international organisations and diplomatic missions from Europe, U.S., Canada, Japan, China, India, etc.

28 October

- A commemorative sitting was organised by the Parliament of Montenegro on the occasion of the death of MP Janko Vučinić.
- President Brajović gave addresss at the opening of the Fourth Regional Conference of Equality bodies, in Podgorica. The following participated at the Conference: representatives of the Ombudsman institution or other institutions competent in the field from Montenegro, Republic of Croatia, Republic of Serbia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Republic of Slovenia, and the Republic of North Macedonia. Chair of the Committee on Human Rights and Freedoms Halil Duković stated that the Committee, in accordance with its duties stipulated in the Rules of Procedure of the

Parliament, had a very important role in the exercise, protection and promotion of human rights and freedoms, and performed various activities in the field. MP Duković stated that the adoption of the



system Law on Prohibition of Discrimination in 2010, followed by the adoption of the Law on Amendments to the Law on Prohibition of Discrimination in 2014, which was harmonised with international legislation in the field, as well as the adoption of the Law on Prohibition of Discrimination of Persons with Disabilities, all originated from the Parliament’s and Committee’s contribution in the field.

- Chair of the Committee on European Integration Slaven Radunović participated in the Conference “Challenges faced by Montenegro pertaining to negotiation chapters 23 and 24”, organised by NGO Civic Alliance with the support of the Embassy of the



Kingdom of Norway and the Balkan Trust for Democracy. Radunović was one of the panellists on the topic of *institutions in the negotiations process*, together with Montenegro’s Chief Negotiator with European Union Aleksandar Drljević and President of the Judicial Council Mladen Vukčević.

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- Delegation of the Parliament of Montenegro composed of Chair of the Legislative Committee Jovanka Laličić, Chair of the Committee on Economy, Finance and Budget Predrag Sekulić, Chair of the Committee on Education, Science, Culture and Sports Radule Novović, Secretary General Aleksandar Jovičević, and three representatives of the Service, paid a two-day study visit to the Slovak National Council. The study visit to the Slovak National Council was organised by the OSCE Mission to Montenegro within the cooperation of the Parliament of Montenegro and the OSCE Mission to Montenegro, with the aim of further strengthening the work and role of committees in the legislative process and promoting best international standards and practices. The first day, MPs and the professional service met with Vice-President of the Slovak Parliament Martin Klus and Secretary General Daniel Guspan. Members of the Delegation also met with MPs and chairs of working bodies of the Slovak Parliament: Chair of Constitutional Committee of the Parliament of Slovakia Robert Madej; Chair of the Committee on European Affairs Ľuboš Blaha; Education, Youth, Science and Sports Committee Chair Lubomir Petrak; Chair of Parliamentary Committee for Culture and Media Dušan Jarjabeek; and Eduard Heger, Economic Committee member. The second day was marked by meetings with professional staff representatives of the Slovak National Council, for the most part with Parliamentary Institute representatives, headed by Ľubomír Fajták.

29 October

- Chair of the Committee on Health, Labour and Social Welfare Suad Numanović attended the presentation of the “Guidelines on the Transition from Institutional to Community-based Care”, in Podgorica. The document “Guidelines on the Transition from Institutional Care to a Family and Community life” offered a minimum package of services in terms of providing assistance for the family and community, as well as an expenditure analysis of Transition from Institutional care to a life in Community. It was drafted by experts at the Centre for Social Policy, Belgrade, hired by UNICEF together with the Ministry of Labour and Social welfare, Institute for Social and Child Protection and the UNDP. The presentation was also attended by representatives of the state institutions, Ombudsman, as well as Union of Municipalities of Montenegro and the NGO sector.
- Chair of the Gender Equality Committee Nada Drobnjak participated in the Beijing+25 Regional Review Meeting, which took place on 29-30 October in Geneva. The

purpose of the meeting was to review the progress of Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, as well the conclusions from the 23rd Special of the General Assembly, as well the progress achieved in terms of exercise of gender equality and strengthening of women, which were envisaged by the Agenda 2030.

30 October

- President Brajović hosted MPs of the Christian Democratic Union from the German federal state Lower Saxony. Brajović commended friendly relations between Montenegro and the Federal Republic of Germany and emphasised our interest in continuously improving cooperation at all levels, including cooperation with the German federal states, in order to provide them with more information on Montenegro’s progress and give them more reasons to strongly support our country. CDU MP Christian Calderone, noting that our two countries shared the same values, emphasised that this visit was a form of support to Montenegro on its European path. He praised the work of the Parliament in this term, as



well as the efforts made towards improving the electoral legislation. Stefan Gärtner, Mayor of Gellersen, said that both Germany and the CDU were confused by recent decisions of some European countries which seek to divert public attention from internal problems by bringing into question the enlargement policy. Delegation of Lower Saxony especially stressed that Germany would continue to strongly support European integration of Montenegro, as a state which reflected stability in the entire region and which deserved to be rewarded for its achievements.

31 October

- Parliament of Montenegro marked Montenegrin parliamentarism Day with a ceremony.