



Parliament of Montenegro

NEWSLETTER OPEN PARLIAMENT

Newsletter on the Parliament of Montenegro Performance ♦ -No. 99 ♦ December 2019

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OPEN PARLIAMENT



Parliament of Montenegro

Newsletter on the Parliament of Montenegro Performance ♦ Electronic format ♦ Release: monthly ♦ Year IX ♦ No. 99 ♦ December 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 December, which is, in the form of monthly newsletter "Open Parliament", prepared by Parliamentary Service.

In December, the Sixth, Eighth, and Ninth Sitting of the Second Ordinary (Autumn) Session of the Parliament of Montenegro in 2019 took place, as well as the Seventh Special Sitting of the Second Ordinary Session of the Parliament of Montenegro in 2019.

During December, Committees considered 31 proposals for a law, two proposals for a decision, one proposal for a resolution and performed other activities within their oversight role.

In focus of this month's newsletter is the 62nd Meeting of the Chairpersons of the Committees for Union Affairs of Parliaments of the EU – COSAC, which took place in Helsinki.

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 Sixth Sitting of the Second Ordinary (Autumn) Session of the Parliament of Montenegro in 2019, MPs adopted: Law on credit Institutions; Law on Rehabilitation of Credit Institutions; Law on Deposit Protection; Law on Amendments to the Law on Bankruptcy and Liquidation of Banks; Law on Amendments to the Law on Prevention of Money Laundering and Terrorism Financing; Law on Identifying and Protecting Critical Infrastructure; Law on the 2018 Final Budget Account together with the Report on the audit of the Proposal for a Law on the 2018 Final Budget Account and the Annual Report on performed audits and activities of the SAI, covering the period October 2018 - October 2019; Law on Public Procurement; Law on Public-Private Partnership; Law on Ratification of the Convention on Mutual Administrative Assistance in Tax Matters; Law on Amendments to the Law on International Restrictive Measures; Law on Amendments to the Law on Higher Education; Law on Amendments to the Law on Concessions; Law on Electronic Government; Law on Amendments to the Law on Electronic Identification and Electronic Signature and the Decision on Deployment of Members of the Military of Montenegro to the NATO Mission in Iraq. In addition, the Parliament granted approval to the Decision on Amendments to the Statute of the Fund for Protection and Exercising of Minority Rights.

Siniša Bjeković was appointed Ombudsman of Montenegro within the item *Elections and Appointments*. Also, Boris Raonić and Rajko Todorovic were elected members of the Council of the Electronic Media Agency.

Parliament of Montenegro

The newsletter is edited by the Education Centre of the Parliamentary Institute.

At the Eighth Sitting of the Second Ordinary (Autumn) Session of the Parliament of Montenegro in 2019 MPs adopted: Labour Law; Law on Protection from the Negative Impact of Climate Change; Law on Protection of Marine Area; Law on Amendments to the Law on Fiscalisation in the Trade in Goods and Services and the Law on Amendments to the Law on Montenegrin Citizenship.

At the Ninth Sitting of the Second Ordinary Session of the Parliament of Montenegro in 2019 MPs adopted: Law on Freedom of Religion or Beliefs and Legal Position of Religious Communities; 2020 Budget Law; Decision on Borrowing of Montenegro for 2020; the Proposal for 2020 financial plans together with work plans of independent regulatory bodies, namely: Agency for Electronic Communications and Postal Services, Energy Regulatory Agency, Insurance Supervision Agency, Capital Market Commission, Agency for Medicines and Medical Devices, and Agency for Electronic Media; Law on Selection, Use and Public Display of National Symbols; Law on Amendments to the Law on Public Peace and Order; Law on investing in the consolidation and development of the Association for the transport of passengers and goods in air transport "Montenegro Airlines" JSC Podgorica; Law on Financing of Political Entities and Election Campaigns; Law on Amendments to the Law on Voters' Register; Law on Amendments to the Law on Territorial Organisation and Law on Amendments to the Criminal Code of Montenegro.

Zorica Kalezić was appointed Vice Governor of the Central Bank of Montenegro within the item *Elections and Appointments*. Also, the Parliament adopted the Decision on appointing the President and two members of the Council of the Agency for Personal Data Protection and Free Access to Information.

At the Seventh Special Sitting of the Second Ordinary Session of the Parliament in 2019, within the agenda item *Prime Minister's Questions and Parliamentary Questions*, MPs' questions were answered by Prime Minister Duško Marković and ministers in the Government. The Prime Minister was posed seven questions and the ministers were asked 79 questions.

Proposals for law deliberated in committees

- **Proposal for a Law on Amendments to the Law on Higher Education** was considered and proposed to the Parliament for adoption by the Committee on Education, Science, Culture and Sports and the Legislative Committee.
- **Proposal for a Law on the 2018 Final Budget Account** was considered and proposed to the Parliament for adoption by the Security and Defence Committee.
- **Proposal for a 2020 Budget Law** was considered by Security and Defence Committee, Committee on Tourism, Agriculture, Ecology and Spatial Planning, Gender Equality Committee, Committee on Health, Labour and Social Welfare, Committee on Education, Science, Culture and Sports, Committee on Human Rights and Freedoms, Committee on Political System, Judiciary and Administration, Committee on International Relations and Emigrants, and thusly adopted an opinion which is to be

submitted to the lead committee. The law proposal was also considered by the Legislative Committee and the Committee on Economy, Finance and Budget, who decided to propose that the Parliament adopt the proposal.

- **Proposal for a Law on Identifying and Protecting Critical Infrastructure** was considered and proposed to the Parliament for adoption by the Legislative Committee.
- **Proposal for a Law on Amendments to the Law on Concessions** was considered and proposed to the Parliament for adoption by the Legislative Committee.
- **Proposal for a Law on Ratification of the Convention on Mutual Administrative Assistance in Tax Matters** 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 Public Procurement** was considered and proposed to the Parliament for adoption by the Legislative Committee.
- **Proposal for a Law on Amendments to the Law on International Restrictive Measures** was considered and proposed to the Parliament for adoption by the Committee on International Relations and Emigrants.
- **Proposal for a Law on Amendments to the Law on Electronic Identification and Electronic Signature** was considered and proposed to the Parliament for adoption by the Committee on Political System, Judiciary and Administration and the Legislative Committee.
- **Proposal for a Law on Electronic Government** was considered and proposed to the Parliament for adoption by the Committee on Political System, Judiciary and Administration.
- **Proposal for a Law on Rights of Passenger in Maritime and Inland Waterway Transport** 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 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 Protection from the Negative Impact of Climate Change** was considered and proposed to the Parliament for adoption by the Committee on Tourism, Agriculture, Ecology and Spatial Planning and the Legislative Committee.
- **Proposal for a Law on Protection of Marine Area** was considered and proposed to the Parliament for adoption by the Committee on Tourism, Agriculture, Ecology and Spatial Planning and the Legislative Committee.
- **Proposal for a Law on Ratification of the Status Agreement between the EU and Montenegro on actions carried out by the European Border and Coast Guard Agency** was considered and proposed to the Parliament for adoption by the Committee on International Relations and Emigrants.
- **Proposal for a Law on Ratification of the Protocol amending the additional Protocol to the convention on the Transfer of Sentenced Persons** was considered and proposed to the Parliament for adoption by the Legislative

Committee.

- **Proposal for a Law on Ratification of the Agreement between the Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and Montenegro supplementing the European Convention on Extradition of 13 December 1957** was considered and proposed to the Parliament for adoption by the Legislative Committee.
- **Proposal for a Law on Ratification of the Nagoya Protocol on access to genetic Resources and the fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits arising from their utilization to the convention on Biological diversity** was considered and proposed to the Parliament for adoption by the Legislative Committee.
- **Proposal for a Law on Amendments to the Law on Data Confidentiality** was considered and proposed to the Parliament for adoption by the Security and Defence Committee.
- **Proposal for a Labour Law** was considered and proposed to the Parliament for adoption by the Committee on Health, Labour and Social Welfare and the Legislative Committee. The same proposal was considered by the Gender Equality Committee, within the area of its competence, who submitted its opinion to the lead committee.
- **Proposal for a Law on Amendments to the Law on Fiscalisation in the Trade in Goods and Services** 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 investing in the consolidation and development of the Association for the transport of passengers and goods in air transport "Montenegro Airlines" JSC Podgorica** 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 Selection, Use and Public Display of National Symbols** was considered and proposed to the Parliament for adoption by the Committee on Political System, Judiciary and Administration and the Legislative Committee.
- **Proposal for a Law on Amendments to the Law on Public Peace and Order** was considered and proposed to the Parliament for adoption by the Committee on Political System, Judiciary and Administration and the Legislative Committee.
- **Proposal for a Law on Amendments to the Law on Montenegrin Citizenship** was considered and proposed to the Parliament for adoption by the Committee on Political System, Judiciary and Administration and the Legislative Committee.
- **Proposal for Law on Election of Councillors and Representatives** was considered and proposed to the Parliament for adoption by the Committee on Political System, Judiciary and Administration and the Legislative Committee. The proposal was considered by the Gender Equality Committee, within the area of its competence, who submitted its opinion to the lead committee.
- **Proposal for a Law on Amendments to the Law on Voters' Register** was considered and proposed to the

Parliament for adoption by the Committee on Political System, Judiciary and Administration and the Legislative Committee.

- **Proposal for a Law on Amendments to the Law on Territorial Organisation** was considered and proposed to the Parliament for adoption by the Committee on Political System, Judiciary and Administration and the Legislative Committee.
- **Proposal for a Law on Amendments to the Criminal Code of Montenegro** was considered and proposed to the Parliament for adoption by the Committee on Political System, Judiciary and Administration and the Legislative Committee.
- **Proposal for a Law on Freedom of Religion or Beliefs and Legal Position of Religious Communities** was considered and proposed to the Parliament for adoption by the Committee on Human Rights and Freedoms and the Legislative Committee.
- **Proposal for a Law on Financing of Political Entities and Election Campaigns** was considered and proposed to the Parliament for adoption by the Committee on Economy, Finance and Budget and the Legislative Committee. The proposal was considered by the Gender Equality Committee, within the area of its competence, who submitted its opinion to the lead committee.

Proposals for other acts deliberated in committees

- **Proposal for a Decision on granting approval to the Decision on Amendments to the Statute of the Fund for Protection and Exercising of Minority Rights** was considered and proposed to the Parliament for adoption by the Legislative Committee and the Committee on Human Rights and Freedoms.
- **Proposal for a Decision on Borrowing of Montenegro for 2020** was considered and proposed to the Parliament for adoption by the Legislative Committee and the Committee on Economy, Finance and Budget.
- **Proposal for a Resolution on Safeguarding of Airports of Montenegro** was considered by the Committee on Economy, Finance and Budget, who decided to propose that the Parliament decline it. The proposal was considered and proposed to the Parliament for adoption by the Legislative Committee.

Other activities of working bodies

- At the 96th meeting of the **Committee on Political System, Judiciary and Administration**, held on 23 December, the Committee considered Special Performance Report of the State Prosecutor's Office covering the period January - November 2019.
- At the 51st meeting of the **Security and Defence Committee**, held on 30 December, there was a control hearing of the Director of the National Security Agency, Minister of the Interior, Head of the Police Administration, Minister of Defence and Director General of the Division for Military Intelligence and Security Affairs, on the

topic: "Specific forms of hybrid warfare against Montenegro in recent years, its actors, and the capacity of the responsible state authorities to combat hybrid warfare and the measures and specific actions taken in each of the recorded cases". The Committee was informed in details of the current security status, aspects and trends in the relevant area, with the focus on actions taken and capacity of the responsible state authorities to combat hybrid warfare.

- At the 69th meeting of the **Committee on International Relations and Emigrants**, held on 23 December, there was a control hearing of Minister of the Interior Srđan Darmanović, on the topic: "An analysis of the functioning of the diplomatic and consular missions of Montenegro, with an emphasis on the rights and duties of diplomats and other employees in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and diplomatic and consular missions".
- At the 35th meeting of the **Committee on European Integration**, held on 13 December, the Committee held a consultative hearing of representatives of relevant institutions on the challenges relating to the negotiating Chapter 27 - Environment and Climate Change. The meeting was attended by Marko Mrdak, Deputy Chief Negotiator for the EU Acquis Chapters; Ivana Vojinović, general director at the Directorate for Environment and member of the negotiating group for Chapter 27 and Dragan Asanović, Director General at the Directorate for Waste Management and Utility Development - Ministry of Sustainable Development and Tourism; Nikola Medenica, Director of Environmental Protection Agency of Montenegro and Elvir Klica, Director of the National Parks of Montenegro. Chair Radunović referred to the importance of the subject not only in terms of the dynamics of negotiations and the process of European integration, but also in terms of the health of the citizens of Montenegro. Radunović recalled that the hearing was part of the initiative of the Committee to strengthen oversight over the activities of relevant institutions pertaining to the essential chapters, and thusly presented the experience of the MPs acquired during their visits, organised by the Committee in several municipalities, in the past two months. In the talks with the Committee members, representatives of relevant institutions stated that in terms of the dynamic of negotiations, eight criteria needed to be fulfilled in order to complete the negotiations involving the said chapter and attention needed to be dedicated to the activities involving the strategic plan for observing commitments in the respective field, which were, since 2016, allocated a sum of over 200 million EUR. The constructive discussion that followed was mainly dedicated to ascertaining of responsibility in terms of the negative approach toward the environmental protection, the effect of capital projects on the environment, presence of control mechanisms over the issuing of integrated permits (IPPC), as well as to conducting an ESIA study. Specific explanations were requested concerning the ecological reconstruction of the thermal powerplant in Plevlja, safeguarding the Lake Scutari as a very important swamp area, effects of cruise ships on the sea water and air in the Bay of Kotor, management and disposing of blasting grit waste in Bijela, and a model of management of Solana. They agreed that a dialogue between the representatives of State authorities and the civic sector was extremely important in order to solve the issues in the field, not only through education but also through ascertaining institutional and noninstitutional responsibility.
- At the 101st meeting of the **Committee on Economy, Finance and Budget**, held on 24 December, the Committee was acquainted with the 2020 Financial Plan of the Central Bank of Montenegro and Montenegro Draft Economic Reform Programme 2020-2022.
- At the 46th meeting of the **Committee on Human Rights and Freedoms**, on 3 December, the Strategy for Combating trafficking in Human Beings 2019 - 2024 and the Action Plan for the Implementation of the Strategy for Combating trafficking in Human Beings covering the year 2019, were considered.
- At the 48th meeting of 11 December, the Committee, pursuant to the 2019 Activity Plan, held control hearing of Minister of Human and Minority Rights Mehmed Zenka and Minister of Public Administration Suzana Pribilović.
- At the 72nd meeting of the **Committee on Tourism, Agriculture, Ecology and Spatial Planning**, on 18 December, a consultative hearing was conducted on the topic: "Revitalisation and Protection of Olive grove and the Cove of Valdanos".
- At the 58th meeting of the **Committee on Health, Labour and Social Welfare** of 2 December, a consultative hearing was conducted on the topic: "Depriving of and retrieving legal capacity".
- At the 27th meeting of the **Anti-Corruption Committee**, held on 4 December, Danijel Živković was elected deputy chair of the Committee.
- At the 28th meeting of 25 December, a consultative hearing was conducted on the topic: "Prevention of corruption-lobbying and whistle-blowing".
- At the 79th meeting of the **Administrative Committee** of 12 December, the Rulebook on specific criteria, the manner and procedure of assessment of Employees of the Service of the Parliament of Montenegro, was adopted.
- At the 80th meeting of 12 December, concerning the procedure on appointing the President and two members of the Council of the Agency for Personal Data Protection and Free Access to Information, the Committee determined the Proposal for a Decision. It was proposed that the Parliament appoint Sreten Radonjić as President, and Muhamed Gjokaj and Bojan Obrenović as members of the Council of the Agency for Personal Data Protection and Free Access to Information.

NEWS FROM PARLIAMENT



Delegation of the Committee of Experts of the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages pays a visit

Chair of the Committee on Human Rights and Freedoms Halil Duković and member of the Committee Branka Tanasijević met on 13 December the Delegation of the Committee of Experts of the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages. The Delegation was paying a three-day visit to Montenegro to monitor compliance with the provisions of the Charter, as part of the evaluation process of the Fifth Report on Implementation of the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages. Chair informed the experts that MPs of Albanian nationality were entitled to use the first language, pursuant to the Rules of Procedure stipulating

that an MP may exercise the right to address the Parliament in his/her language, and thusly inform the Secretary General prior to doing so, so that translation to the official language is provided. The experts deemed it appropriate that national minorities making up the majority of population in a local community receive bilingual education so that the ethnical distance is reduced, and also preventional and correction measures were needed in order to prevent linguistic and ethnical segregation, promote intercultural dialogue among different national communities and improve crossborder relations of minorities with countries in the region.

Delegation of the Parliament participated in a "High-level Roundtable on the European integration of the Western Balkans" and attended the Meeting of the European Parliament's Committee on Foreign Affairs

Delegation of the Parliament of Montenegro composed of Nikola Rakočević, Milutin Đukanović, Boris Mugoša and Ranko Krivokapić participated in a "High-level Roundtable on the European integration of the Western Balkans" and attended the Meeting of the European Parliament's Committee on Foreign Affairs on 3-4 December, in Brussels. MPs were provided with the opportunity to discuss the following: "Prospects of EU enlargement - different perspectives" and "Role of Parliaments in implementing the European Reform Agenda". The Delegation also attended the Meeting of the European Parliament's Committee on Foreign Affairs with representatives from the EU National Parliaments. The topics discussed concerned the EU foreign policy goals in light of the new European Commission and prospects of EU enlargement. High EU officials announced that the EU remains highly committed to the enlargement policy and was set on additionally intensifying the cooperation and integrating the Western Balkan countries into key EU policies prior

to joining the EU. It was noted that the EU was in for a more dynamic enlargement process whilst institutional reforms and consolidation weren't assessed as mandatory. A consensus was reached at the meetings among the EU member states in support of the Western Balkans joining the EU, it is only the views on the manner in which the process should be conducted that varied.



PARLIAMENTARY GLOSSARY

Entering of a Law into Force refers to the moment from which the law takes legal effect. The law enters into force after the expiry of the established deadline, defined by the constitution, from the moment of its publishing (*vacatio legis*). According to the Constitution of Montenegro, a law or another legal act is published before it enters into force, and it enters into force not later than on the eighth day from the day of its publishing. Exceptionally, when there are reasons defined in the adoption procedure, a law or another act may enter into force on the day of publishing. A law may also enter into force on a later day; its application or the application of some of its provisions may be delayed in exceptional situations, in which case the law contains those provisions on the day when the delayed application comes into force.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 204

IN FOCUS



Sixty - Second Meeting of the Chairpersons of the Committees for Union Affairs of Parliaments of the EU – COSAC

The 62nd Meeting of the Chairs of the Committees for Union Affairs of Parliaments of the EU – COSAC was held on 2-3 December, within the frameworks of the Finnish Presidency over the Council of the European Union, Helsinki. Chair Slaven Radunović attended the meeting on behalf of the Committee on European Integration, whilst the opening session was dedicated to priorities of the Finnish Presidency of the Council of the European Union.

The following events were highlighted: appointment and election of new management of the EU institutions, provision of concrete benefits to the EU and its members in the course of preparing the Multi-annual financial framework, strengthening social and economic cohesion,



the global role of the EU in facing the climate change issue, as well as progress in terms of the Brexit negotiations. MP Radunović assessed that the strengthening of social, economic and ecological Europe and the rule of law in the EU member states served as a positive example to the reform processes of the Western Balkan countries. Radunović added that the EU accession process was particularly significant in terms of the overall democratisation of the Montenegrin society, whilst appropriate implementation of the adopted EU acquis and concrete results were still required, as documented in the recently published *Non paper* by the European Commission concerning the progress achieved in regards to negotiating chapters 23 and 24. Further EU enlargement was supported by the parliamentarians, while the integration of the Western Balkans into the EU remained an EU agenda priority. They also discussed the importance of solving migration challenges, further parliamentarisation of the European policy, and also about promoting the dialogue between national parliaments and government. Solidarity was identified as a key value of the EU, and was pointed out to the need of continuously

meeting the citizen needs. Energy, digitalisation of the Union, social rights and the security and defence policy, were also discussed, with the focus on border security.

The second session was dedicated to the promotion of fundamental rights and the rule of law within the EU, on the occasion of marking ten years of the Lisbon Treaty and the European Charter of Fundamental Rights. The participants assessed that the Charter was essentially the *Magna carta* of Europe, however they noted that possible deficiencies involving the legislation affecting the functioning of the European Single Market as well as implementation of EU policies needed to be addressed by the EU and its member states, and rightfully so. At the ending of the discussion, key goals of the current EU management were discussed, such as Common Agricultural Policy reform, European Green Deal, European Digital Era, Conference on the future of Europe, protection of the European manner of living, a more stronger role of Europe in the world and further promotion of its democracy. Concerning the session dedicated to the European climate strategy, MPs discussed prospective green jobs, implementation of the goals set in the Paris Agreement, innovative technologies and „green“



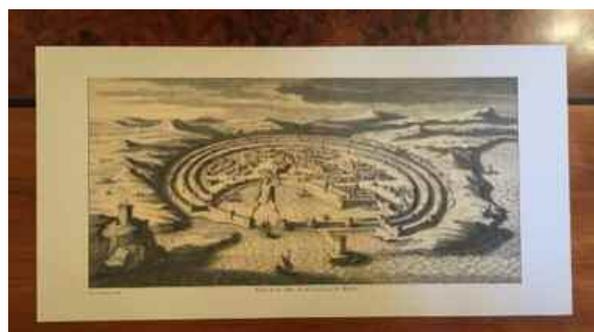
industries, renewable sources of energy, lowering the emission of carbon dioxide, financial assistance to decarbonisation of the energy sector, sustainability of the climate strategy, and the role of citizens and enterprises as well as the appropriate sanctions. The following addressed the participants at the session: Antti Rinne, Prime Minister of Finland; Maroš Ševčovič, Vice-President of the European Commission; *Michel Barnier*, Head of the Working Group for Relations with the United Kingdom; Mairead McGuinness, First Vice-president of the European Parliament; *Matti Vanhanen*, President of the Finnish Parliament and *Satu Hassi*, Chair of the Grand Committee of the Finnish Parliament.

PARLIAMENT OF MONTENEGRO-FROM CATALOGUE OF RECEIVED PRESENTS

Title: FOLDER - PHOTOS AND TEXTS
Country of origin: GREECE
Extended by: PRESIDENT OF THE GREEK PARLIAMENT
Recipient: PRESIDENT OF THE PARLIAMENT OF MONTENEGRO
Date of receipt: 24. 10. 2014.



Title: FOLDER - PHOTOS AND TEXTS
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Date of receipt: 24. 10. 2014.



CALENDAR



1 December

- Delegation of the Parliament headed by Vice-President of the Parliament and Chair of the Parliamentary Friendship Group with Albania Genci



Nimanbegu paid a visit to the areas in Albania affected by the earthquake. Vice-President Nimanbegu, on behalf of the Delegation, conveyed a message of solidarity to the Albanian peoples and authorities, expressing wish that the effects of the

earthquake would be overcome as quickly as possible. Nimanbegu informed the interlocutors that the Parliamentary Delegation would notify the Parliament with the information gathered at the scene of the event, in order to assist the neighbouring country in the best manner possible. The Delegation composed of Luid Škrelja, Halil Duković, Ana Nikolić, Mirsad Murić, Nedžad Drešević and Danijela Pavićević met with the Prime Minister of Albania Edi Rama and Minister of Tourism and Environment Blendi Klosi as well as Vice-President of the Parliament of Albania Vasilika Hysi.

2 December

- President of the Parliament Ivan Brajović received the Ambassador of the Republic of Turkey to Montenegro Songül Ozan. Brajović expressed satisfaction over the fact that both countries had continuously fostered great friendly and economic relations. Ambassador Ozan handed him an official letter of invitation by President of the Grand National Assembly of Turkey Mustafa Şentop to visit Turkey in the upcoming period. The interlocutors exchanged views on the

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importance of stability in the region that encompassed both Montenegro and Turkey, as well



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as on the integration process of the candidate countries.

- Member of the Committee on Human Rights and Freedoms Ljiljana Đurašković participated in a roundtable titled “Participation of persons with disabilities in political and public life”, organised by the Ministry for Human and Minority Rights, on the occasion of marking the International Day of People with Disabilities. MP Đurašković assessed that certain progress had been reached thanks to the efforts invested by Montenegrin authorities, primarily in



terms of harmonising the national legislation in the field with the international standards. Đurašković recalled that the Parliament had adopted the Law on Prohibition of Discrimination of Persons with Disabilities, which was in full alignment with the directives and international legislation in the field. Certain issues and deficiencies were noted in relation to the following: insufficient access for persons with disabilities to State authorities, depriving of and retrieving legal capacity, personal assistance, exercise

of the right to vote, application of the medical model approach to disability, insufficient access to electoral campaigns for persons of impaired vision and hearing and insufficient will by the political parties to include the persons with disabilities in the political and public life.

- The Sixty - Second Meeting of the Chairpersons of the Committees for Union Affairs of Parliaments of the EU – COSAC was held on 2-3 December, within the frameworks of the Finnish Presidency over the Council of the European Union, Helsinki.

3 December

- Delegation of the Parliament participated in a “High-level Roundtable on the European integration of the Western Balkans” and attended the Meeting of the European Parliament’s Committee on Foreign Affairs with representatives from the EU National Parliaments on 3-4 December, in Brussels.

6 December

- Members of the Committee on Economy, Finance and Budget met with Director of Energy Community Secretariat Janez Kopač, who was tasked with presenting the 2019 Annual Implementation Report of the Secretariate, in part relating to Montenegro, as well as the European integration status in the field of Energy. Members of the Committee were acquainted with the assessments of the Energy Community regarding the status of Montenegro in the following areas: electric power, gas, petroleum, renewable sources of energy, energy efficiency, environmental



and climate protection. Compared to the other Energy Community contracting parties, Montenegro was

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assessed as the most successful country as well as who had progressed most in terms of observing the reforms in the field of energy. Pursuant to the data, Montenegro had progressed most in the fields of electric power, renewable sources of energy and environment, whereas intensified efforts were needed in areas registering insufficient compliance with the Energy Community regulation or their implementation, thus referring to petroleum and petroleum products.

10 December

- Member of the Committee on Human Rights and Freedoms Mirsad Murić participated in the Conference “Exercise of the rights of persons with learning disabilities“. The Conference was organised by the Ministry for Human Rights and Minorities, Protector of Human Rights and Freedoms, Delegation of the European Union to Montenegro, Council of Europe, and the NGO “Civic Alliance“, on the occasion of marking the Human Rights Day. Pursuant to the last European Commission’s Progress Report, little progress had been made in terms of exercising of rights of persons with disabilities as well as in terms of harmonising national legislation with the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. It was required that Montenegro adopt an Action Plan for observing the Recommendations provided by the UN Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities as well as ensure appropriate and transparent use of financial means originating from the Fund for professional rehabilitation and employment of persons with disabilities.

12 December

- On the occasion of the visit of ODIHR representatives to the Parliament of Montenegro, there was a meeting with the Working Committee N1 of the Committee on Further Reform of Electoral and Other Legislation. The ODIHR experts also met with the Vice-President of the Parliament and Chair of the Committee on Further Reform of Electoral and Other Legislation, in order to discuss the activities realised so far as well as the upcoming steps involving the reforms and implementation of the goals the Committee had been tasked with. The following was also addressed: manner of election of members of electoral commission, verifying the signatures needed for registering electoral lists, access of persons with

disabilities to polling stations. In addition, examples of good practice were presented and alignment of proposals with international standards, aimed at providing for quality legal solutions as well as their



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adequate implementation. The ODIHR Delegation was composed of: Alexander Shlyk, Yuliya Shypilova and Raul Muresan. On behalf of the Working Committee N1 of the Committee on Further Reform of Electoral and other Legislation, the following attended: Marta Šćepanović, Jovanka Laličić, Boris Mugoša and Neđeljko Rudović.

13 December

- President of the Parliament Ivan Brajović received the Ambassador of Republic of Serbia to Montenegro Zoran Bingulac, on the occasion of completing his diplomatic mission. Brajović expressed gratitude over the efforts invested during his time of office in promoting a keen understanding between both countries. The interlocutors assessed as very important the cooperation realised between both countries at the bilateral and international level.



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- President Brajović received the newly appointed

Ambassador of the Republic of Greece to Montenegro Panagiotis Parcos. President Brajović assessed that both Montenegro and Greece shared common foreign policy goals and had a very successful cooperation within the NATO structures. Brajović thanked Greece for its continuous support in the integration path of Montenegro, hopeful that it continues to do so in the future. The interlocutors agreed that the future of all Western Balkans countries was alongside the EU.



Opština Crne Gore

Strengthening of parliamentary cooperation was also discussed, given the importance of parliaments in democratic state systems, as well as the exchange of economic relations.

- Chair of the Committee on Human Rights and Freedoms Halil Duković and MP Branka Tanasijević met with the Committee of Experts of the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages.

16 December

- Members of the Commission for Monitoring and Control of the Privatisation Procedure paid a visit to “Dr Simo Milošević” Institute, in Igalo. Chair Nikola Divanović and members Mihailo Anđušić and Radule Novović met with the executive director of the Institute Gordana Rajović, in order to discuss the functioning of the Institute, upcoming privatisation, required expenditures and investments. Representatives of the Commission were given a tour of the Institute and were informed of its conditions.

17 December

- Chair of the Committee on Human Rights and Freedoms Halil Duković and members Branka Tanasijević, paid a visit to the NGO Alliance of Associations of Parents of Children and Youth with Developmental Disorders “Our Initiative” and local association of parents of children with developmental disorders, in Podgorica. The visit was a follow-up of a continuous and quality cooperation realised between the NGO and the Committee on Human Rights and Freedoms since 2010, in order to acquaint the Committee members with the activities of

the NGO, current projects and services provided by the NGO in the field of child and social protection to children with developmental disorders. Chair of the Committee noted that the NGOs and parents of children with developmental disorders were faced with many challenges, and announced that the Committee would in accordance with its competencies strive to find a solution. They agreed to hold a meeting at the start of the first quarter of 2020, in order to acquaint the MPs with the challenges faced by the relevant organisations and provide an analysis of activities realised throughout the meetings.

23 December

- At the second meeting of 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”, members of the Committee considered reports on realised investment and other activities under the Agreement on long-term lease of Island Lastavica with fortress Mamula, Municipality Herceg Novi for 2017 and 2018.



Opština Crne Gore

27 December

- President Brajović hosted Ambassador of the Islamic Republic of Iran to Montenegro Hossein Molla Abdollahi, at the end of his diplomatic mission in Montenegro. Brajović thanked the Ambassador for his contribution to improving relations between the two countries, which have good and friendly relations. Pointing out the importance that Montenegro attaches to the development of parliamentary cooperation, the President highlighted that the two countries had a constructive parliamentary dialogue, which was confirmed by mutual visits of members of parliamentary friendship groups. Abdollahi reaffirmed Iran’s commitment to developing versatile relations with Montenegro, especially in the area of economy, where there are numerous opportunities for further improvement.