

Introductory speech of
President of the Parliament of Montenegro Mr Ivan Brajović
at the opening of inter-parliamentary conference on the
topic: **“Independent and Modern Public Administration
in the EU and in Enlargement Countries”**

Danilovgrad, Friday, 29 September 2017

Distinguished ladies and gentlemen,

I would like to begin by thanking to the European Parliament for organising this conference, as well as for the 2007 Support Programme for the Parliaments of the Enlargement countries.

Also, I would like to thank to the host of this conference - Regional School of Public Administration (ReSPA), which, as of 2010 has an important role in improving regional cooperation, exchange of knowledge and strengthening of public administration in the process of integration of the regional countries in the European Union.

Fully functional public administration is a precondition for transparent and effective democratic system. The capacity of state administration to assume the obligations stemming from the membership of the European Union is a crucial criterion in assessing the readiness of a candidate country, and the establishment of such public administration is one of the major challenges of the European integration process in the Western Balkan countries, including Montenegro. I will remind you that the European Commission, in its the Enlargement Strategy, cites the reform of the public administration as one of the three key enlargement pillars, together with the rule of law and economic governance. At the beginning of our EU path, the

insufficiency of our capacities was often discussed, but the pace of our progress has proved that we are overcoming that problem successfully.

Despite the concrete reform steps and significant progress, as well as the evaluation of all EU officials that Montenegro is a regional leader with regard to integration processes, which also relates to the opening of 28 out of 33 chapters, we still have to make a lot of additional efforts in order to build public administration which will be in compliance with the European standards and Principles of public administration. These are the principles which provide a framework to the states on how the good public administration should function and what they should strive for in order to provide the best possible services to the citizens. More efficient state administration, de-politicisation of public services, increase of the degree of reliability, predictability, accountability and transparency are key segments to which we should pay more attention in the period to come, in order to become a part of so-called: “European administration area”.

The principles promoted by modern public administration serve as a guideline when it comes to the work of the Service of the Parliament of Montenegro. In the following period, a special attention will be devoted to improving the abilities of the parliamentary service and creating the environment which will encourage effective and responsible team work. Support by all MPs and their active participation are a necessary precondition for the better implementation of this process.

Allow me to assure you that the Parliament of Montenegro continuously strives to improve different elements of openness and transparency, and in this regard, it is recognised as one of

the most open institutions in the county, maybe even the most open. Furthermore, according to recently published annual report of the Regional Openness Index, the Parliament of Montenegro is recognised as the most open parliament in the region. This makes us proud, but also motivates us to further improve communication with all segments of the society: executive and judicial power, independent state bodies, and particularly with citizens and civil sector.

Our efforts are directed towards the more balanced two-way communication, so that the Parliament of Montenegro serves even more as a representative home of its citizens. In achieving this goal we are helped by the development of information and communication technologies, so today citizens have significantly greater access to information on the work of the public sector, including MPs and the Parliament as a whole.

Of course, the Parliament has its own basic - legislative and control role which are conducted in compliance with all prescribed procedures and stages. These days it is possible to see that adoption of new laws is conducted with detailed and careful consideration, with the aim of adopting the best and for our citizens the most appropriate legislative solutions. On this occasion, I would like to emphasise that citizens have elected their representatives to advocate for their positions in the Parliament, which is the only place for decision-making and for holding talks on any topic.

In the end, to conclude, the state bodies - in accordance with the requirements of accession to the European Union, and especially with the aim of further democratisation of the society and strengthening of public administration capacities - should work on increasing their efficiency, openness and transparency. Quality system of strategic planning is a necessary condition for the development and prosperity of Montenegro, but also for

faster achieving of the aim of European integration and adoption of European standards.

In the Parliament of Montenegro, we see this as a need and opportunity for constant development of our parliament and for adapting to requests of modern era and needs of the society.

Thank you for your attention.