



**Parliament of Montenegro  
Parliamentary Institute  
Research Centre**

Research paper:

**PARLIAMENTARY DIALOGUE  
with special focus on institutions of inter-parliamentary cooperation**

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## Foreword

Historically, the field of foreign affairs and international policy has been within the exclusive competence of the executive power. Many parliaments played a significant role in the ratification of international agreements, which emerged from diplomatic efforts. Diplomatic efforts were reflected in conducting foreign affairs through what was previously called secret diplomatic channels, and this is where their role had ended. The exceptions were with the United States of America and Mexico, where the Senate had a very significant role in conducting foreign affairs.<sup>1</sup>

In the beginning of the twentieth century, the following two facts contributed to the change of historical role of the parliament in international and multilateral affairs:

1. The twentieth century was the century of birth of international cooperation, reflected in establishment of numerous international organisations in various areas: human and social rights, employment policies, trade liberalisation, financial transactions, environmental standards, etc.
2. In addition, in the twentieth century, several regional integration processes started developing, therefore countries decided to integrate their markets, economies, etc. in order to overcome historical divisions and provide peace and regional stability.

Today, the oversight and control role of national parliaments over the executive branch of government is carried out through domestic and international policies. The involvement of parliament in international affairs is an indispensable tool in controlling the decisions made and activities realised by the executive power, since they concern all citizens represented by MPs through the legislative branch of government. Representatives of citizens should be informed precisely and should have the opportunity to express their political views to the representatives of government, for the purpose of conducting oversight over the manner and course of realisation of negotiations in the international arena.<sup>2</sup>

In order for the Parliament to have an efficient role in conducting international affairs, the following is needed:

- clear legal basis which would ensure the involvement of the parliament;
- precise and concise information on the government policy and negotiating positions;
- plenty of resources needed for solving issues, including the expertise of MPs, who are involved in the activities of specialised working bodies;
- MPs should be given the opportunity to pose questions to ministers and negotiators, as well as express their political views (not necessarily legally binding) to government representatives;
- getting informed about the activities of government delegations to international organisations, on a regular basis.<sup>3</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> *Parliament and democracy in the twenty-first century: a guide to good practice, An effective parliament (II): Parliament's involvement in international affairs* <http://www.ipu.org/dem-e/guide/guide-7.htm> (23 June 2014)

<sup>2</sup> Ibid.

<sup>3</sup> Ibid.

The globalisation process, by which political, economic and social activities in the world have been undoubtedly determined and defined; as well as the need for political stability, economic development and social cohesion, encouraged the establishment of inter-parliamentary cooperation organisations which share the same or similar interests and common goals (strategic, political, etc.).

The information on forms and institutions of inter-parliamentary cooperation are presented in the following three chapters: the first one refers to the analysis of the concept of parliamentary diplomacy, followed by the second chapter containing information on forms of inter-parliamentary cooperation, tabular representation of name, founding year, legislative competence, as well as websites of inter-parliamentary cooperation institutions, functioning at a regional and international level. Finally, the third chapter provides a description and explanation of inter-parliamentary cooperation mechanisms and dialogue of the Parliament of Montenegro.

Full document in Montenegrin can be found at:

[http://www.skupstina.me/images/dokumenti/biblioteka-i-istrazivanje/Parlamentarni\\_dijalog\\_-\\_sa\\_osebim\\_osvrtom\\_na\\_institucije\\_me%C4%91uparlamentarne\\_saradnje.pdf](http://www.skupstina.me/images/dokumenti/biblioteka-i-istrazivanje/Parlamentarni_dijalog_-_sa_osebim_osvrtom_na_institucije_me%C4%91uparlamentarne_saradnje.pdf)