



Parliament of Montenegro

# NEWSLETTER OPEN PARLIAMENT

Newsletter on the Parliament of Montenegro Performance ♦ No. 43 ♦ November 2014

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# OPEN PARLIAMENT



Parliament of Montenegro

Newsletter on the Parliament of Montenegro Performance ♦ Electronic format ♦ Release: monthly ♦ Year IV ♦ No. 43 ♦ November 2014

## FOREWORD

*Dear readers,*

We present to you the key information on activities of the Parliament of Montenegro in the period from 1 to 30 November, which is in the form of monthly newsletter "Open Parliament" prepared by Parliamentary Service.

In November, the Parliament held its Fourth and Fifth Sitting of the Second Ordinary Session, and Sixth Special Sitting of the Second Ordinary Session.

During November, committees considered 21 proposals for a law, 10 proposals for a decision and held other activities within their oversight role.

In focus of this month's newsletter is the VI session of Children's Parliament, held on 24 November in the Parliament of Montenegro.

The newsletter is published monthly through which the Parliament endeavours to bring its work closer to Montenegrin citizens.

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 Fourth Sitting of the Second Ordinary Session of the Parliament of Montenegro in 2014**, under the Agenda item Elections and Appointments, MPs noted resignation of MP Zoran Srzentić, Minister of Education Slavoljub Stijepović, as well resignation of Secretary General of the Parliament of Montenegro Damir Davidović, after which Siniša Stanković was elected as the new Secretary General of the Parliament of Montenegro.

**The Fifth Sitting of the Second Ordinary Session of the Parliament of Montenegro in 2014** commenced with the adoption of the Agenda.

### *Prime Minister's Hour*

**At the Sixth Special Sitting of the Second Ordinary Session of the Parliament of Montenegro in 2014**, under the agenda item Prime Minister's Hour, MPs' questions were answered by Prime Minister of Montenegro Milo Đukanović. Five questions were posed to the Prime Minister.

### *Proposals for a law deliberated in committees*

- **Proposal for a Law on Administrative Procedure** was considered and proposed to the Parliament for adoption by the Legislative Committee.
- **Proposal for a Law on Amendments to the Law on DNA Register**, was considered and proposed to the

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- Parliament for adoption by the Legislative Committee.
- **Proposal for a Law on Amendments to the Law on Scientific and Research Activity**, was considered and proposed to the Parliament for adoption by the Legislative Committee.
  - **Proposal for a Law on Foreigners**, was considered by the Gender Equality Committee in part under its competence, which proposed to the Committee on Political System, Judiciary and Administration, as the lead committee, to propose it to the Parliament for adoption.
  - **Proposal for a Law on Lobbying**, was considered and proposed to the Parliament for adoption by the Committee on Political System, Judiciary and Administration and the Legislative Committee. The same proposal was considered by the Anti-corruption Committee, which decided that it will notify the Committee on Political System, Judiciary and Administration, as the lead committee that it considered the said proposal.
  - **Proposal for a Law on Financing Veterans' Organisations**, was considered by the Committee on Economy, Finance and Budget, and, it did not obtain the required majority. The same proposal for law was considered by the Legislative Committee, which decided to propose it to the Parliament for adoption.
  - **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 Media Law**, 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 Consensual Financial Restructuring of Debts to Financial Institutions**, was considered and proposed to the Parliament for adoption by the Committee on Economy, Finance and Budget.
  - **Proposal for a Law on the Highway Bar – Boljare**, was considered and proposed to the Parliament for adoption by the Legislative Committee and the Committee on Economy, Finance and Budget.
  - **Proposal for a Law on the Amendments to the Law on Regional Development**, was considered and proposed to the Parliament for adoption by the Committee on Economy, Finance and Budget.
  - **Proposal for a Law on the Amendments to the Law on Public Procurement**, 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 Final Budget Account of Montenegro for 2013**, was considered and proposed to the Parliament for adoption by the Committee on Economy, Finance and Budget.
  - **Proposal for a Law on Prevention of Corruption**, was considered by the Anti-corruption Committee, which submitted its opinion to the Committee on Political System, Judiciary and Administration, the lead committee to propose it to the Parliament for adoption. The same proposal was considered by the Committee on Political System, Judiciary and Administration and the Legislative Committee, which decided to propose it to the Parliament for adoption.
  - **Proposal for a Law on Amendments to the Law on Prevention of Conflict of Interest**, was considered by the Anti-corruption Committee, which submitted its opinion to the Committee on Political System, Judiciary and Administration, the lead committee to propose it to the Parliament for adoption. The same proposal was considered by the Committee on Political System, Judiciary and Administration and the Legislative Committee, which decided to propose it to the Parliament for adoption.
  - **Proposal for a Law on Amendments to the Law on Free Legal Aid**, was considered by the Gender Equality Committee in part under its competence, which proposed to the Committee on Political System, Judiciary and Administration, as the lead committee, to propose it to the Parliament for adoption. The same law proposal was considered by the Legislative Committee which decided to propose it to the Parliament for adoption.
  - **Proposal for a Law on Amendments to the Law on Extrajudicial Proceedings**, 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 Enforcement and Security**, was considered and proposed to the Parliament for adoption by the Committee on Political System, Judiciary and Administration and Legislative Committee.
  - **Proposal for a Law on Amendments to the Law on National Security Agency**, was considered and proposed to the Parliament for adoption by the Legislative Committee.
  - **Proposal for a Law on Cooperation**, was considered and proposed to the Parliament for adoption by the Committee on Tourism, Agriculture, Ecology and Spatial Planning.
  - **Proposal for a Law on Amendments to the Law on Air Protection**, was considered and proposed to the Parliament for adoption by the Committee on Tourism, Agriculture, Ecology and Spatial Planning.
- Proposals for other acts deliberated in committees***
- Administrative Committee determined the following proposals for decision:
- **Proposal for a Decision on Dismissal and Election of one member of Commission for Monitoring and Control of the privatisation Process of the**

**Parliament of Montenegro;**

- **Proposal for a Decision on Dismissal and Election of one member of the Anti-corruption Committee of the Parliament of Montenegro;**
- **Proposal for a Decision on Dismissal and Election of one member of the Committee on Economy, Finance and Budget of the Parliament of Montenegro;**
- **Proposal for a Decision on Dismissal and Election of one member of the Committee on European Integration of the Parliament of Montenegro;**
- **Proposal for a Decision on Dismissal and Election of one member of the Committee on Health, Labour and Social Welfare of the Parliament of Montenegro;**
- **Proposal for a Decision on Dismissal of one member of the Constitutional Committee of the Parliament of Montenegro;**
- **Proposal for a Decision on Dismissal of one member of the Administrative Committee of the Parliament of Montenegro;**
- **Proposal for a Decision on Dismissal of one member of the Committee on Human Rights and Freedoms of the Parliament of Montenegro;**
- **Proposal for a Decision on Dismissal of one member of the Committee on International Relations and Emigrants of the Parliament of Montenegro;**
- **Proposal for a Decision on Dismissal of one member of the Gender Equality Committee of the Parliament of Montenegro.**

*Other activities of working bodies*

- At the 35<sup>th</sup> meeting of the **Committee on International Relations and Emigrants**, on 26 November, the Committee gave a positive opinion on the proposal to appoint Predrag Mitrović to the position of Ambassador of Montenegro to the Republic of Macedonia, on a residential basis, in Skopje.



- At the 78<sup>th</sup> meeting of the **Committee on Economy, Finance and Budget**, on 7 November, the Committee decided to propose to the Parliament to support the 2013 Performance Report and Financial Report of the Agency for Electronic Communications and Postal Services with the 2013 Report on Performed Audits of Financial Statements of the Agency.  
At the continuation of the 75<sup>th</sup> meeting, on 14

November, given that the Committee was not in full composition, the Proposal for a Decision on the Appointment of a Member of the State Audit Institution Senate, was not determined.

At the 81<sup>st</sup> meeting, on 19 November, the Committee considered the degree of implementation of conclusions of the Montenegrin Parliament regarding the consideration of the Proposal for the Final Budget Account for 2012. In addition, the Committee considered the degree of implementation of conclusions of the Parliament of Montenegro regarding the adoption of the Law on Budget of Montenegro for 2014 with the Information on the implementation of budget revenue in the first half of 2014.

At the 82<sup>nd</sup> meeting, on 19 November, the Committee commenced the discussion on Proposal for a Law on Final Budget Account of Montenegro for 2013 with Report of the State Audit Institution on audit of Proposal for the Law on Final Budget Account of Montenegro for 2013 and Annual report on performed audits and activities of the State Audit Institution for the period October 2013 – October 2014.

At 82<sup>nd</sup> meeting reconvened by the Committee on 20 November, the Committee considered and proposed to the Parliament to adopt the Proposal for a Law on Final Budget Statement of Montenegro for 2013, with the Report on audit of the Final Budget Statement of Montenegro for 2013 and Annual report on performed audits and activities of the State Audit Institution for the period October 2013 – October 2014. In order to further improve the system of public spending, the Committee decided to propose to the Parliament of Montenegro to adopt 11 conclusions that support the findings and recommendations of the State Audit Institution, as well as to monitor the implementation of parliamentary conclusions.



- At the 37<sup>th</sup> meeting of the **Committee on Human Rights and Freedoms**, on 4 November, the Committee supported the Proposal for the requests for budget funds allocation to the Protector of Human Rights and Freedoms for 2015.
- At the 37<sup>th</sup> meeting of the **Gender Equality Committee**, on 17 November, the Committee members spoke with representatives of the Association of Youth with

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Disabilities Marina Vujačić i Sandra Nedović and representatives of the Association of Paraplegics of Montenegro Nataša Borović i Marija Šćepanović. Following the discussion, during which participants exchanged views and shared experiences in the field, it was concluded that there was still a lack of understanding towards persons with disabilities and that it was necessary to eliminate prejudice towards them. In addition, it was necessary to establish interconnectedness of economic, educational segments and health care, in order to provide the conditions for financial independence and employment of persons with disabilities.

In cooperation with the OSCE mission in Montenegro, OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR), United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in Montenegro and NGO "SPES", the Gender Equality Committee held its 38<sup>th</sup> meeting on 21 November, on the topic "Networking of Women in Political Parties/Politics". By holding this meeting, the Committee fulfilled its obligation determined in the Action Plan for Chapter 23 – Judiciary and Fundamental Rights. The presentations included the experience of women's parliamentary networks in Serbia and Macedonia, and Comparative Study of working bodies of female parliamentarians in the OSCE member states.



Opinion made by OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR) experts from Warsaw on the impact of ratified Council of Europe Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence on the legislation in Montenegro was presented at the 36<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Gender Equality Committee, on 24 November. Opinion on the Draft Law on the Compensation of Victims of Crimes in Montenegro was presented as well, which was spoken by the Head of OSCE/ODIHR Department for Legislation Alice Thomas and OSCE/ODIHR Gender Equality Advisor Lana Ackar. The meeting was attended by the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs and European Integration and the President of the Council for Protection against Discrimination Igor Lukšić, Head of the EU Delegation to Montenegro Mitja Drobnič, Deputy Head of the OSCE Mission to Montenegro Waldemar Figaj, Minister for Human and Minority Rights Suad Numanović, MPs Kemal Zoronjić and Milorad Vuletić, representatives of certain institutions, NGOs and

representatives of the OSCE and UNDP.

- At the 42<sup>nd</sup> meeting of the **Committee on Education, Culture and Sports**, on 3 November, the Committee considered the current situation at the University of Montenegro, with special focus on legal solutions in the Statute of the University of Montenegro and the Law on Higher Education. It was concluded that the cooperation between the Committee and the University of Montenegro could be beneficial in many ways for a more proactive action towards improvement and development of the University of Montenegro.

At the 43<sup>rd</sup> meeting of the Committee, on 10 November, the Committee members considered Adult Education Strategy for the period 2015-2025. While identifying the importance of adult education, the Committee recommended that in the period to come more attention be given to adult education and more funds be allocated to this segment of education.

At the 45<sup>th</sup> meeting, on 20 November, the Committee was informed on the current situation at the University of Montenegro and urged to reach a solution which would be in the best interest of the academic community and the students. In the wake of recent events related to the current state of Bijelo Polje hospital, the Committee expressed concern about the situation of education and urged the competent inspection bodies to urgently check the hygienic conditions in all schools and kindergartens in Montenegro.



- At the 61<sup>st</sup> meeting of the **Committee on Health, Labour and Social Welfare**, on 5 November, the Committee considered Initiative of NGO "Disabled Veterans Association".
- At the 62<sup>nd</sup> meeting of the Committee, on 14 November, the Committee marked World Diabetes Day.



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At the 65<sup>th</sup> meeting, on 18 November, Committee members unanimously adopted an initiative to hold a control hearing in relation to the current situation at the Public Health Institution General Hospital of Bijelo Polje. The Committee will send a letter to Minister of Health, Director of the Institute of Public Health and Director of the General Hospital of Bijelo Polje, asking for information on the current situation at the General Hospital. The Committee will schedule a control hearing upon obtaining the requested information.

The Committee dedicated its 63<sup>th</sup> meeting, held on 28 November, to free movement of labor force between the countries signatories of the Dayton Agreement using the experiences of the Nordic model of cooperation. The following participated in the work of the meeting: representatives of competent parliamentary bodies and executive bodies from Montenegro, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia and Serbia, and representatives of the Igman Initiative. Following the discussion, participants of the theme session of the Igman Initiative unanimously reached several conclusions.

- At the 17<sup>th</sup> meeting of the **Commission for Monitoring and Control of the Privatisation Process**, on 3 November, discussion was initiated about the control of the privatisation process of "Crnagoraput" SC Podgorica. The Commission also reached conclusions regarding the control of the privatisation process of hotel "Otrant" SC Ulcinj and considered a request made by Union Organisation TE "PKB Herceg Novi" SC Zelenika, regarding the control of the privatisation process of the company.



- At the 44<sup>th</sup> meeting of the **Administrative Committee**, on 10 November, the Committee determined the List of timely and complete proposals of candidates for membership in the Council of the Agency for Electronic Media. In addition, the Committee established a Proposal for candidates for the appointment of two members of the Commission for Concessions of Montenegro from amongst renowned experts. The Committee proposed to the Parliament to appoint Milutin Korać and Goran Dašić as members of the Commission for Concessions of Montenegro from amongst renowned experts. The Committee has also initiated the procedure for the appointment of President and two members of the

Council of Agency for the protection of personal data and free access to information.



At the 45<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Committee, held on the same day, according to the proposal of MP Group of Positive Montenegro, the Committee determined five proposals for decision on dismissal and five proposals for decision on dismissal and appointment. The Committee decided to propose to the Parliament to: dismiss MP Dritan Abazović from the duty of a member of the Committee on International Relations and Emigrants, dismiss MP Srđan Perić from the duty of a member of the Administrative Committee, dismiss MP Dritan Abazović from the duty of a member of the Committee on Human Rights and Freedoms, dismiss MP Azra Jasavić from the duty of a member of the Constitutional Committee, dismiss MP Goran Tuptionja from the duty of a member of the Gender Equality Committee, dismiss MP Mladen Bojanić from the duty of a member of the Anti-corruption Committee, appoint MP Darko Pajović as member of the Anti-corruption Committee, dismiss MP Dritan Abazović from the duty of a member of the Committee on European Integration of the Parliament of Montenegro, and appoint MP Azra Jasavić as member of the Committee on European Integration of the Parliament of Montenegro, dismiss MP Mladen Bojanić from the duty of a member of the Committee on Economy, Finance and Budget, and appoint MP Goran Tuptionja as member of the Committee on Economy, Finance and Budget, dismiss MP Goran Tuptionja from the duty of a member of the Committee on Health, Labour and Social Welfare, and appoint MP Srđan Perić as member of the Committee on Health, Labour and Social Welfare, dismiss MP Mladen Bojanić from the duty of a member of the Commission for Monitoring and Control of the privatisation Process of the Parliament of Montenegro, and appoint MP Goran Tuptionja as member of the Commission for Monitoring and Control of the privatisation Process.



## NEWS FROM PARLIAMENT



### *President of the Parliament of Montenegro Ranko Krivokapić hosted Deputy Chairperson of the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress (NPC) of the People's Republic of China*

President of the Parliament of Montenegro Ranko Krivokapić hosted on 3 November Deputy Chairperson of the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress (NPC) of the People's Republic of China Zhang Ping.



During the meeting with Zhang Ping, Krivokapić assessed that the historic venture of Montenegro and the major projects such as the highway, would symbolically

also be a way of friendship between the two states and two people. Krivokapić informed his guest that the Parliament of Montenegro was soon expecting in its procedure a set of documents signifying the implementation of the Bar-Boljare highway project.

Zhang Ping expressed pleasure and joy over the highway construction project, and also his belief that the beginning of implementation of this great venture for Montenegro would start soon, and that the project would have amicable support of the entire system.

The interlocutors underlined that, in addition to cooperation in nautical industry (third boat is in construction), and traffic, there was also a great potential of Montenegro to meet the increasing interest of the Chinese tourists, because in the last year alone, about 10 million Chinese tourists visited other countries. In addition to tourism growth, commerce growth of 40% was recorded between the two economies.

### *Seminar held on the topic "E-parliaments"*

In cooperation with the European Centre for Parliamentary Research and Documentation (ECPRD), the Parliament of Montenegro organised a seminar on 6 and 7 November, on the topic "The E-Parliament in Action: best practices about ICT strategic planning, information security, mobility and cloud computing". The seminar was organised for representatives of the parliaments of the ECPRD member states dealing with issues of information and communication technologies.

At the opening of the seminar, Assistant Secretary General of the Parliament of Montenegro Nataša Komnenić emphasised that the seminar was an opportunity for achieving a constructive dialogue on ICT solutions, leading to a greater efficiency and openness of the Parliament, as well as a possibility to exchange views on the importance of the strategic approach to developing the ICT system, as a form of support to the legislative process.

The sessions held included issues relating to links between ICT solutions and parliamentary priorities, implementation models, actors and users, the necessity to provide support and willingness of all interested parties to accept the novelties. The participants also discussed the aspects of mobility and advantages of cloud computing, which allowed MPs and parliamentary services to work at any place, and any time, by using any device.



### *Members of the Committee on European Integration met with Johannes Hahn*

The meeting of the Chair and members of the Committee on European Integration with Johannes Hahn, new European Commissioner for Neighbourhood Policy and Enlargement Negotiations, held on 21 November, was marked by constructive debate on EU priorities in the following five year period regarding enlargement, as well as obligations of Montenegro in the

upcoming stages of negotiation. In his address, Hahn pointed out that his visit to Montenegro in the first month of his taking office indicated dedication of the Commission to the enlargement process and significance of the neighbourhood policy. During the meeting, Hahn highlighted the importance of establishing the rule of law and at the same time stimulating economic development

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as mutually conditioned processes. In his comments on the statement of the President of the European Commission Jean-Claude Juncker regarding enlargement in the following five years, Hahn pointed out that his message certainly should not be understood as a standstill in negotiations, but on the contrary, as facticity of the current willingness not only of the Union, but also of the countries aspiring to fulfill the membership obligations in a quality and sustainable manner.



With regard to economic investment, Hahn believes that investments are needed not only in transportation, but also in energy as well as information infrastructure. In relation to that, the EU is willing to continue to support Montenegro financially in order to facilitate the accession process, provided that the investments are followed by quality reforms, strengthening of competitiveness and better standard of living for the citizens.

Members of the Committee on European Integration welcomed the support that the EU was giving to Montenegro in implementing reforms and pointed out to the existence of political consensus and wide support of the citizens regarding Montenegro's membership to the EU. They jointly assessed that the integration pace depended on the will and readiness of the aspiring countries themselves, and they pointed at the responsibility of all political subjects regarding implementation of reforms and ensuring measurable results.

### *Meeting of the Secretary General with representatives of GRECO evaluation team held*

Secretary General of the Parliament of Montenegro Damir Davidović met with members of GRECO evaluation team on 6 November.



The meeting was held under the Fourth evaluation round, focused on prevention of corruption in relation to MPs, judges and prosecutors. The aim of the meeting was to collect information needed in order to finalise the Evaluation Report on Montenegro, since this was one of the stages in the evaluation process of GRECO member states. The report will provide an assessment of the effectiveness of measures taken by

the authorities of Montenegro to prevent corruption in relation to MPs, judges and prosecutors, it will include an analysis of the situation in the country, identify any gaps and make recommendations for further improvements. Secretary General informed participants about the procedures in the legislative and oversight activities of the Parliament of Montenegro, especially on actual measures aimed at strengthening the oversight role of the Parliament in preventing and combatting corruption in relation to MPs. In this sense, Davidović informed GRECO experts about the obligation of MPs to declare any private interests, as well as report assets, income and gifts, and regulations pertaining to salaries and wages for MPs.

GRECO experts were particularly interested in work on the adoption of the Code of Ethics for MPs. Davidović informed that Working group for drafting the Code of Ethics was formed, which held six meetings so far, and that the work on the draft of this document is closing.

## PARLIAMENTARY GLOSSARY

**Taxes.** "Taxes represent an instrument of public revenues, through which the state, including lower-level forms of political and territorial organisation, collects financial resources from legal entities which are under its taxation authority, without any direct refunds, for the purpose of meeting its financial needs and attain other goals, primarily the economic and social ones."<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Dr Marko Radičić, dr Božidar Raičević, *Javne finansije-Teorija i praksa, Beograd 2008, p.67*



## IN FOCUS



### *Sixth session of Children's Parliament held*

President of the Parliament of Montenegro opened the Sixth session of the Children's Parliament on 24 November in the Parliament of Montenegro, stressing that he was particularly pleased with the fact that the session has become a tradition. President Krivokapić stated that he had just returned from the celebration of a quarter century since the adoption of the Convention on the Rights of the Child, reminding that children's rights were the most universal value.



President Krivokapić referred to the tendency of the Montenegrin Parliament to ensure "that public good becomes the prime good for everyone, as soon as people go out from their houses". It is a prerequisite, President Krivokapić believes, for young people to stay in Montenegro and those who have already gone to return to Montenegro.

Afterwards, President of the Parliament of Montenegro gave the floor to co-presiding Kristina Dedić. Kristina's friends Nađa Vujović and Slobodan

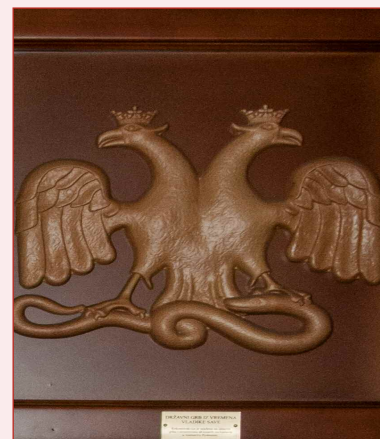
Marković were also with her at the presiding table, helping President Krivokapić and Secretary General Siniša Stanković to conduct the Children's Parliament.

This session was focused on questions and answers of government officials regarding their activities in the past five years, in response to demands of children sent from the Parliament. Most of the questions were sent to the Ministry of Education, Ministry of Interior as well as ministries on tourism, agriculture, health, etc.

Various requirements were heard during the session: "that school should be a place of logical and critical thinking, place to recognise potentials and strengthen skills, where children will be prepared to be responsible citizens of the 21st century". The children referred to specific problems such as: number of classes, method of evaluation, quality of textbooks and peer violence. Today children reminded the adults of the initiative from last year's session about the establishment of "Open Door Days for Children", but they also addressed MPs with the following words: "We hope that you are aware of the fact that here you also represent the interests of children. However, rarely did we hear that you repeated some of the issues highlighted here at the regular sessions of the Parliament, and rarely did we hear that some of you participated in an action related to children. Is this how you protect our interests, have our sessions had any impact on you? You should think about us also the next time you sit on these benches".

## FROM PARLIAMENT'S GALLERY

On the state coat of arms introduced during the reign of Prince-bishop Sava, there is a double-headed eagle holding in its talons a defeated serpent. The double-headed eagle symbolises strength, greatness, resistance to the enemy as well as unity of spiritual and worldly powers. Symbolically, the double-headed eagle represents Montenegro, whereas the serpent in the claws of the eagle symbolises the enemy.



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# FROM THE HISTORY OF MONTENEGRIN PARLIAMENTARISM



## RULES AND INSTRUCTIONS FOR REGISTERING AND COLLECTING TAXES

1904

## RULES AND INSTRUCTIONS FOR REGISTERING AND COLLECTING TAXES

### Article 1.

Taxes shall be registered each year from St. George's Day(23 April) to 20 May.  
The inventory shall be made during holidays. Those days shall be designated by the Captain for at least two weeks before the set time-limit, of which the elders of households located in that captaincy, shall be notified.

### Article 2

Both personal property and real estate, which is chargeable, must be reported and kept as evidence in the Protocol, and on the said property certain tax shall be paid. This obligation shall be met by each elder of the household who is in possession of the property at the time when the inventory takes place. In case the owner or holder of property is a temporary owner of the said property(whether for a certain time-limit or non-specified time limit), that person shall be obliged, before the inventory takes place, to come to an agreement with the real owner of the property, e.i. the person paying taxes for it. The Captain shall not deal with any potential litigations between the real owner and the holder of property regarding the paying of the tax.

### Article 3

In order to avoid any kind of mistakes and misunderstandings, the Captain shall be obliged, before the inventory takes place, to explain and interpret the said rules and instructions to the people, and to warn them to report their assets in a timely and faithful manner, so that he could register them in the Protocol. The captain shall be accountable for any type of negligence in performing his duties.

### Article 4

Personal property and real estate will be registered within the Captaincy, where it was located during the

inventory, and the tax shall be paid to the said Captain.

\*\*\*

### Article 7

Personal property and real estate which is not reported or is being hidden shall be confiscated from the owner. It shall be correctly registered in the Protocol, and used to refund the taxes owed to the state, and the rest is to be divided in the following manner: one half is allocated to the Ministry of Finance for the guards' fund, while the other half is divided among the Captain, scribe and the person which has found the hidden property. Declaring ignorance of the law shall not excuse anyone.

\*\*\*

### Article 9

Householders who are residents of a village should be registered in alphabetical order. Each householder must be registered within his municipality; it is prohibited to register someone in a municipality which is not their place of residence.

### Article 10

The Captain shall register in the Protocol each personal property and real estate, which is located within the Captaincy and which is chargeable. All the taxes collected on the said property, shall be turned in the cash office, whether the owner is the resident of the captaincy or not.

\*\*\*

### Article 33

It is recommended and strictly ordered to captains to interpret and explain these rules and instructions to all household elders located within their Captaincies, and advise them to meet these obligations, because this will reflect on the efficiency of their execution.

From the Rules and Instructions for registering and collecting taxes, Cetinje 1904

Pavićević, B, Raspopović, R, ur. Crnogorski zakonic 1796-1916, knj.II (Montenegrin Codes 1796-1916, Book II), Podgorica, Istorijski institut Crne Gore, 1998, pp. 947-954

# CALENDAR



## 2 November

- Chair of the Gender Equality Committee Nada Drobnjak participated at the Pride Parade, which took place in Podgorica.

## 3 November

- At the thirteenth meeting of the Working Group formed in order to prepare Proposal for a Law on Financing of Political Parties and Proposal for a Decision on Establishment of the ad hoc committee, charged with overseeing the work of state authorities, state administration bodies and local government bodies in regards to consistent implementation of law for the purpose of building trust in the election process; members of the Working Group continued their work on the draft version of the Law on Financing Political Parties and Election Campaigns. The meeting was marked by consideration of proposed amendments.
- President of the Parliament of Montenegro Ranko Krivokapić hosted Deputy Chairperson of the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress (NPC) of the People's Republic of China Zhang Ping.

## 4 November

- At the sixth meeting of the Working Group for drafting a Code of Ethics for MPs, the sixth chapter of the Draft Code: Code Violation (Articles 19 to 22) was discussed. Additionally, the debate on the provision of the fifth chapter of the Draft Code of Ethics for MPs also resumed. Members of the Working Group took a position that this was one of the key provisions of the Draft Code, relating to the oversight over implementation of the Code, and that it required further consideration.
- President of the Parliament of Montenegro Ranko Krivokapić received in a farewell visit Rastislav Vrbensky, United Nations Resident Coordinator/ United Nations Development Programme Resident Representative to Montenegro. The interlocutors emphasised that Montenegro has been actively participating in the UN system, and that it has shown a capacity to seize the opportunities of UN organisations on the reform path. Krivokapić thanked Vrbensky for a very fruitful cooperation and also stressed that during the term of office of Vrbensky, Montenegro has initiated key reform processes with the aim of strengthening its

institutions, and that UN and Vrbensky personally had understanding for and gave significant support to those processes. Vrbensky said that he was very pleased that he was in Montenegro in its key Euro-Atlantic moments, from gaining a status of candidate for full-fledged membership until opening negotiations with the EU.



## 5 November

- At the fourteenth meeting of the Working Group formed in order to prepare Proposal for a Law on Financing of Political Parties and Proposal for a Decision on Establishment of the ad hoc committee, charged with overseeing the work of State Authorities, State Administration bodies and local government bodies in regard to consistent implementation of law for the purpose of building trust in the election process; the Working group continued its work on the Draft version of the Law on Financing of Political Parties and Election Campaigns. The meeting was marked by discussion on proposed amendments.
- FORCA MP Genci Nimanbegu and Albanian Alternative MP Nik Gjelošhaj held a press conference in order to inform the public that they had filed a criminal charge against tabloid "Informer CG".
- Chairwoman of the Gender Equality Committee Nada Drobnjak and member of the Committee Ljiljana Đurašković participated in the conference entitled "Information Society and Gender Equality", organised by the Ministry for Information Society and Telecommunications and Gender Equality Committee. The conference was organised with the aim to highlight the importance of gender equality for the development of the information society, respectively the importance of a balanced participation of women and men in the implementation and use of information and communication technology (ICT).
- Chair of the Legislative Committee Džavid Šabović and

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Deputy Chair of the Constitutional Committee Velizar Kaluđerović participated in the workshop titled “Roles and Responsibilities of Legislative Parliamentary Services”, held from 5 to 7 November in the Slovak Republic. Participants discussed specific proposals for improving the quality of legislation through strengthening parliamentary legislative services, emphasising that their legislative service departments provide assistance to MPs and committees at every stage of legislative process, during writing of amendments, providing legal opinions on laws, participating in committee meetings for the purpose of clarifying issues, providing consultations, monitoring harmonisation of the law proposals with the Montenegrin national legislation and EU legislation.

- Mevludin Nuhodžić, Chair of the Security and Defence Committee and member of the Committee on International Relations and Emigrants and Borislav Banović, member of the Security and Defence Committee and member of the Committee on International Relations and Emigrants participated in the Interparliamentary Conference on Common Foreign and Security Policy and Common Security and Defence Policy, held within parliamentary dimension of Italian presidency of the Council of the European Union in Rome. Topics discussed at this year's conference were: the Mediterranean and the crises at the borders of the European Union, Regional and global challenges: from the Middle East to Ukraine, the European Union as a global player: priorities and strategies within the Common Foreign and Security Policy and the Common Security and Defence Policy and perspectives on the future of the EU Battlegroups; Regional stability and enlargement to the Western Balkans.

## 6 November

- The Parliament of Montenegro, in cooperation with the European Centre for Parliamentary Research and Documentation (ECPRD), organised a two-day seminar on the topic “The e-Parliament in Action: best practices about ICT strategic planning, information security, mobility and cloud computing”. The seminar was organised specifically for representatives of the parliaments of the ECPRD member states dealing with issues of information and communication technologies.
- Secretary General of the Parliament of Montenegro Damir Davidović met with members of the GRECO

evaluation team.

- Representatives of the Committee on Political System, Judiciary and Administration, the Committee on Economy, Finance and Budget, and the Anti-corruption Committee met with GRECO experts (Group of States against corruption). The meeting was held within the Fourth evaluation round concerning the “prevention of corruption in relation to MPs, judges and prosecutors”. On this occasion, views regarding the performance of committees were shared. Interest was particularly expressed about the performance and contribution made by the Anti-corruption Committee, implementation of rules concerning conflict of interest, lobbying, consideration of a set of draft laws in the field of judiciary, as well as contribution to promoting the oversight role of working bodies and the Parliament.



- Suljo Mustafić, Vice-President of the Parliament of Montenegro and Chair of the Working Group for drafting a Code of Ethics for MPs and Branka Tanasijević and Snežana Jonica, members of the Working Group met with GRECO experts. The meeting was organised for the purpose of informing the members of GRECO more closely about the activities of the Working Group.

## 7 November

- Vice President of the Parliament of Montenegro Suljo Mustafić met with Director of the Turkish Culture Centre Cihan Ozdemir. During the meeting, it was stated that the culture sphere could lead to the improvement of relations between Montenegro and Turkey. Mustafić emphasised that friendship parliamentary groups could contribute significantly to the relations of both countries. Ozdemir referred to the economic field, where important progress had already been achieved and added that the interest of Turkish investors in Montenegro continued to increase.
- At the sixth meeting of the Working Group charged

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with solving the status of weekly newspaper “Koha Javore”, members of the Working Group, together with representatives of the Parliament of Montenegro, Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Culture, Ministry for Human and Minority Rights and editorial board of the weekly newspaper “Koha Javore”, discussed potential sustainable models for the functioning of weekly newspaper “Koha Javore”.

- Members of the Committee on European Integration organised a debate with high school students from Berane and Bijelo Polje and had meetings with governing bodies of the said municipalities. Chair of the Committee Slaven Radunović and members of the Committee Šefkija Murić and Koča Pavlović addressed the students, focusing on the importance of the role of youth in the European integration process and reform dynamics of the society. During the meetings held with the governing municipal bodies of Berane and Bijelo Polje, views were shared regarding the possibility of deepening the cooperation at the state and local level, as well as on realised projects, with the emphasis on the IPA programme.
- Members of the Security and Defence Committee Snežana Jonica and Obrad Mišo Stanišić attended a workshop on the topic “Integrity building”, organised by North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), in cooperation with NATO Parliamentary Assembly and the Global Organization of Parliamentarians Against Corruption (GOPAC) in Vienna. The aim of the workshop was to raise awareness on the existence of corruption in the security and defence sector, as well as finding efficient ways of action in the fight against corruption through strengthening transparency and integrity building.



**8 November**

- Member of the Committee on International Relations and Emigrants, Dritan Abazović, as a member of the

Working Group, participated in the 13<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Working Group of the Parliamentary Assembly of the South East European Cooperation process - SEECP PA, which took place in Tirana, within the SEECP Albanian Chairmanship. During the meeting, the focus was on the “SEECP PA” Secretariat, method of operation and financing.

**10 November**

- At the 15<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Working Group formed in order to prepare Proposal for a Law on Financing of Political Parties and Proposal for a Decision on Establishment of the ad hoc committee, charged with overseeing the work of state authorities, state administration bodies and local government bodies in regards to consistent implementation of law for the purpose of building trust in the election process; members of the Working Group considered amendments submitted to the draft version of law on Financing of Political Parties and Election Campaigns. Certain proposed amendments were deemed acceptable, while there were suggestions to modify certain amendments.

**12 November**

- At the seventh meeting of the Working Group for drafting a Code of Ethics for MPs, there was discussion on the eighth and ninth chapter: transitional and final provisions. In addition, provisions from the sixth chapter: Code Violation, were additionally considered.
- Chair of the Committee on Political System, Judiciary and Administration Rifat Rastoder participated at the Round-table: “Introduction of Draft Law on confiscation of property acquired through a criminal act”. Branka Lakočević, General Director of the Judicial Directorate of the Ministry of Justice of Montenegro and Dragan Novosel, European commission expert spoke on the subject.

**14 November**

- At the 16<sup>th</sup> meeting, the Working Group formed in order to prepare Proposal for a Law on Financing of Political Parties and Proposal for a Decision on Establishment of the ad hoc committee, charged with overseeing the work of state authorities, state administration bodies and local government bodies

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in regards to consistent implementation of law for the purpose of building trust in the election process, amendments submitted to the draft version of law on Financing of Political Parties and Election Campaigns were discussed.

- Chair of the Security and Defence Committee Mevludin Nuhodžić opened a two-day seminar on the topic: "Dilemmas in Montenegro with regard to NATO integration". Referring to the dilemma of Montenegro's positioning in the collective security sector, Nuhodžić emphasised that NATO represented an insurance policy for a safe life in the Balkans, thus adding that in conditions of global threats, a concept of neutrality was hardly sustainable.

## 17 November

- At the 17<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Working Group formed in order to prepare Proposal for a Law on Financing of Political Parties and Proposal for a Decision on Establishment of the ad hoc committee, charged with overseeing the work of state authorities, state administration bodies and local government bodies in regards to consistent implementation of law for the purpose of building trust in the election process; the work on the Draft Law on Financing of Political Parties and Election Campaigns, was completed. After the final drafting, the Proposal will be placed under parliamentary procedure.



- Members of the Delegation of the Parliament of Montenegro to PACE Predrag Sekulić, Draganja Vuksanović and Snežana Jonica met with co-rapporteurs of the PACE Monitoring Committee Kimm Sassi and Terry Leyden, which paid the third monitoring visit to Montenegro.
- MPs Mićo Orlandić and Danko Šarančić, members of Standing Delegation of the Parliament of Montenegro to the Central European Initiative Parliamentary Dimension attended the ordinary session of the CEI-

PD Parliamentary Assembly, which took place from 17 to 19 November in Vienna. At the end of the meeting, the Final Declaration was adopted, which stated conclusions and main points of discussion from the meeting of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Central European Initiative "CEI-PD".

## 18 November

- Chair of the Committee on European Integration Slaven Radunović participated in the regional parliamentary discussion on IPA funds, which took place in the Macedonian Parliament –Sobranie. The discussion was led regarding parliamentary oversight of the use of EU pre-accession funds, as well as the perspective and possibilities in using IPA II funds for the period 2014-2020.

## 19 November

- President of the Parliament of Montenegro paid a visit to Washington and New York.



In the event of marking the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of signing the Helsinki Final Act, President Krivokapić participated in the second out of three seminars that were established during his term of office as the President of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly. The second seminar was marked by a special discussion on the Ukrainian crisis, where it was assessed that it was necessary to review the existing principles as well as to work on defining new principles which would amend and at the same time ensure the implementation of those already defined by the Helsinki Final Act. During his visit to Washington, President Krivokapić spoke with Senators John McCain, Chris Murphy, Roger Wicker and Benjamin Cardin. During his visit to New York, President Krivokapić met with Sam Kutesa, President of United Nations General Assembly, Jens Toyberg Frandzen, Assistant UN Secretary General for Political Affairs, as well as with Ivan Šimunović, UN Assistant Secretary

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General for Human Rights.

- At the eighth meeting of the Working Group for drafting Code of Ethics for MPs, held on 19 November, work on the Draft version of the Code of Ethics for MPs was completed. After the final drafting, the Proposal for the Code of Ethics of MPs will be placed under parliamentary procedure.



## 20 November

- Members of the Committee on Human Rights and Freedoms of the Parliament of Montenegro, MPs Srđa Popović and Izet Bralić, participated in the Inter-parliamentary Conference on "Civic Representation and Political Participation of National and Ethnic Minorities", which was held in Belgrade on 20 and 21 November 2014. The Conference dealt with issues of national and supranational guarantees, constitutional norms and electoral systems, integration and measures for promotion of reconciliation.



- MPs Husnija Šabović, member of the Committee on Human Rights and Freedoms and Nikola Gegaj, member of the Gender Equality Committee participated in the Joint Conference "Fundamental rights, non-discrimination and the protection of vulnerable groups, including the LGBT population", which took place on 20 and 21 November in Tirana. Participants of the conference were unanimous in their opinion that the cooperation of all society segments is necessary in the fight for respect of basic rights of all,

especially the most vulnerable groups.

## 21 November

- Chair of the Committee on European Integration Slaven Radunović and members of the Committee had a meeting with Johannes Hahn, new European Commissioner for Neighbourhood Policy and Enlargement Negotiations, during which there was constructive discussion on EU priorities in the following five year period regarding enlargement, as well as obligations of Montenegro in the upcoming stages of negotiation.
- Head of the permanent delegation of the Parliament of Montenegro to the NATO Parliamentary Assembly Mevludin Nuhodžić, and members Borislav Banović and Branko Radulović participated in the 60<sup>th</sup> Annual Session of the NATO Parliamentary Assembly, which was held from 21 to 24 November in the Hague, Kingdom of the Netherlands.



- Chair of the Committee on Health, Labour and Social Welfare Zoran Jelić and member of the Committee Janko Vučinić participated in the Meeting of Chairpersons of Committees Specialised in Employment, Research and Innovation, held in Rome on 21 and 22 November, within Italian presidency of the Council of European Union. The following topics were discussed during the meeting: "The European way to stable and high-quality employment", "Digital Opportunities", "Research: an engine for growth" and "Cities as drivers of innovation".

## 24 November

- The Parliament of Montenegro in cooperation with Center for Children's Rights of Montenegro, with the support of Save the Children International, organised the VI Children's Parliament, which was attended by 44 representatives of local children's parliaments from 22 municipalities, representatives of the Government

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of Montenegro, representatives of MP Groups in the Parliament of Montenegro, representatives of domestic institutions and international organisations dealing with rights of the child as well as members of diplomatic corps.

## 25 November

- Chairwoman of the Gender Equality Committee Nada Drobnjak participated in the work of the round-table, organised on the topic: “Establishing efficient system of prevention and protection of children and youth from domestic violence and violence in educational institutions”. The aim of the project will be achieved through the analysis of the situation and needs of school professionals, drafting a handbook for systematic support, fostering capacity of professionals from educational institutions to implement effective treatment in accordance with the Protocol on the treatment, prevention and protection from domestic violence, strengthening inter-sector cooperation, informing children and young people about their rights and possibilities of protection and the general public about the problems of children and young people exposed to domestic violence.



- Chairwoman of the Gender Equality Committee Nada Drobnjak participated in the work of the round-table, organised on the occasion of presenting survey results, published in the publication titled “Domestic violence in the Roma and Egyptian communities in Montenegro”. Initiative for improving the situation of female Roma and Egyptians in political and public life was presented at the round table and it was agreed that the Centre for Roma Initiatives and Women REA Network "FIRST" should designate a representative who will be invited to attend the meetings of the Gender Equality Committee.

## 27 November

- President of the Parliament of Montenegro Ranko

Krivokapić met with H.E. Ian Robert Whitting, Ambassador of United Kingdom to Montenegro. The interlocutors emphasised that Montenegro and United Kingdom have been actively cooperating and sharing experiences in fields important for the process of Euro-Atlantic integrations and strengthening of democracy. President Krivokapić expressed gratitude to the United Kingdom for a friendly and constructive position towards Montenegro. Also, President Krivokapić reiterated that in the coming period, Montenegro will be focused on the rule of law and strengthening of institutions that are the bearers of this process. Whitting stated that the United Kingdom recognised and appreciated the clear goals of Montenegro regarding the NATO and the EU integration, and also added that Montenegro will have the support of UK institutions in this process, especially in the coming year, which is crucial for NATO integration.



## 28 November

- Chair of the Commission for Monitoring and Control of privatisation Process Janko Vučinić and Deputy Chair Branko Čavor met with President of the Trade Union Adriatic Shipyard SC Bijela Gligo Tomanović and member of the Board of Directors Zdravko Čurović. During the meeting, four unsuccessful public tenders for the sale of the Adriatic Shipyard, as well as forthcoming introduction of programmed bankruptcy of the company were discussed.

## 30 November

- MP Predrag Sekulić, Head of Delegation of the Parliament of Montenegro to the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe participated in the observation mission of the PACE in charge of observing parliamentary elections in the Republic of Moldova.

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