



Parliament of Montenegro

NEWSLETTER OPEN PARLIAMENT

Newsletter on the Parliament of Montenegro Performance ♦ No. 60 ♦ May 2016

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OPEN PARLIAMENT



Parliament of Montenegro

Newsletter on the Parliament of Montenegro Performance ♦ Electronic format ♦ Release: monthly ♦ Year VI ♦ No. 60 ♦ May 2016

FOREWORD

Dear readers,

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

In May, the Fourth Sitting of the First Ordinary Session took place, during which MPs adopted one law, as well as the Fifth Special Sitting of the First Ordinary Session, during which MPs posed seven questions to the Prime Minister.

During May, committees considered five proposals for a law, one proposal for a decision, and held other activities within their oversight role.

In focus of this month's newsletter is the Twelfth meeting of the Stabilisation and Association Parliamentary Committee, which took place on 19-20 May. 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 Fourth Sitting of the First Ordinary (Spring) Session of the Parliament of Montenegro in 2016, MPs adopted the Law on the application of the Agreement on Creating Conditions for Free and Fair Elections. New members of the 40th Government of Montenegro have been elected by a majority of MPs' votes, namely: Milorad Vujović for Deputy Prime Minister of the Government of Montenegro, Petar Ivanović for Deputy Prime Minister of the Government of Montenegro, Goran Danilović for Minister of the Interior, Raško Konjević for Minister of Finance, Boris Marić for Minister of Labour and Social Affairs and Milenko Popović for Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development. Following the vote, President of Parliament of Montenegro Ranko Krivokapić was dismissed from his office.

Prime Minister's Questions and Parliamentary Questions

At the Fifth Special Sitting of the First Ordinary Sitting of the Parliament of Montenegro in 2016, within the agenda item *Prime Minister's Questions*, MPs questions were answered by Prime Minister. MPs posed seven questions to the Prime Minister. During the sitting, the Parliament noted resignations of Goran Danilović

and Raško Konjević to their positions of MPs. In addition to that, the Parliament noted the beginning of their term as MPs for Mubera Kurpejović and Budimir Aleksić.

Proposals for a law deliberated in committees

- **Proposal for a Law on Application of the Agreement on Creating Conditions for Free and Fair Elections** was considered and proposed to the Parliament for adoption by the Legislative Committee and Committee on Political System, Judiciary and Administration.
- **Proposal for a Law on Amendments to the Law on Preschool Education** was considered and proposed to the Parliament for adoption by the Committee on Education, Science, Culture and Sports.
- **Proposal for a Law on Amendments to the Pension and Disability Insurance Law** was considered and proposed to the Parliament for adoption by the Committee on Health, Labour and Social Welfare.
- **Proposal for a Law on Amendments to the Law on Veteran and Disability Protection** was considered and proposed to the Parliament for adoption by the Committee on Health, Labour and Social Welfare.
- **Proposal for a Law on Amendments to the Law on Social and Child Welfare** was considered and proposed to the Parliament for adoption by the Committee on Health, Labour and Social Welfare.

Proposals for other acts deliberated in committees

- **Proposal for a Decision on sending members of the Army of Montenegro to the United Nations Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara – MINURSO** was considered and proposed to the Parliament for adoption by the Committee on Security and Defence Committee.

Other activities of working bodies

- At the 51st meeting of the **Security and Defence Committee**, on 9 May, the Committee considered and supported the Report on participation of members of the Army of Montenegro in international forces.
- At the 141st meeting of the **Committee on Economy, Finance and Budget**, held on 10 May, the Committee considered the 2015 Financial Operations Report and Performance Report of the Agency for Electronic Media as well as 2015 Financial and Performance Report of the Agency for Medicines and Medical Devices and proposed them to the Parliament for adoption.

At the 142nd meeting, held on 16 May, the Committee considered and supported 2015 Performance Report of the Central Bank of Montenegro and 2015 Performance Report of the Financial Stability Forum.

At the 143rd meeting, held on 24 May, the Committee

considered the 2015 Financial Statements with Performance Report of the Agency for Insurance Supervision and the 2015 Financial Statements with the Performance Report of the Energy Regulatory Agency. Furthermore, the Innovated 2015 Report on Use of Financial Resources of the Parliament and Parliamentary Service was also considered.



At the 143rd meeting, which was resumed on 30 May, the Committee supported the 2015 Financial statements and Report on the audit of financial statements, with Performance Report of the Agency for Insurance Supervision, and 2015 Financial and Performance Report of the Energy Regulatory Agency. The Innovated 2015 Report on Use of Financial Resources of the Parliament and Parliamentary Service, with Report on Public Procurement did not obtain the necessary majority.

At the 144th meeting, held on 30 May, the Committee reached the decision to hold a control hearing of the Minister of Finance and the Director of the Tax Administration, with regard to the opinion of the State Audit Institution on audit of success of the “Efficacy of Tax Administration in Implementing Measures for Tax Debt Collection”. Furthermore, the Committee considered the 2015 Performance Report of the Investment and Development Fund of Montenegro, which is submitted to the Parliament of Montenegro for reading, in accordance with Article 18 of the Law on Investment and Development Fund of Montenegro.

- At the 64th meeting of the **Committee on Human Rights and Freedoms**, held on 25 May, the Committee considered and supported the 2015 Status Report on Personal Data Protection and Access to Information, submitted to the Parliament of Montenegro by the Agency for Personal Data Protection and Free Access to Information.
- At the 70th meeting of the **Committee on Education, Science, Culture and Sports**, held on 11 May, the Committee considered and unanimously supported the initiative for amending the Law on Higher Education.

At the 71st meeting, held on 31 May, the Committee determined the wording of the Proposal for the Law on Amendments to the Law on Higher Education.

NEWS FROM PARLIAMENT



Spring Session of the NATO Parliamentary Assembly took place in Tirana

Member of the Delegation of the Parliament of Montenegro to the NATO PA Obrad Mišo Stanišić participated in the 2016 Spring Session of the NATO PA, held on 27-30 May, in Tirana.

During the meeting of the Standing Committee, Obrad Mišo Stanišić addressed the participants in the sitting, and thanked for the invitation to attend the meeting, which resulted in Montenegro being given the opportunity to participate in it for the first time along with parliamentarians of North-Atlantic Alliance member states.

Stanišić emphasised that sending the NATO invitation to Montenegro and signing of the Accession Protocol represented very significant steps and acknowledgment of efforts made by Montenegro on its path towards the Euro-Atlantic integration, which gave a strong stimulus to Montenegro to continue with dedicated and committed work in this area.

During the meeting of the Committee on Civil Dimension of Security, there was a panel discussion on “Political and Security Developments in the Western Balkans”, during which a draft special Report by special rapporteur Ulla Schmidt, Germany, was considered on the topic: “The Western Balkans: European and Euro-Atlantic integration

challenges”.

On the fourth day, during the Plenary Sitting, President of the Government of Montenegro Milo Đukanović addressed the participants. Inter alia, he stated that, bearing in mind that the European and Euro-Atlantic integration represented strategic priorities of Montenegro, the signing of the Accession Protocol represented one of the most significant achievements of Montenegro in the previous decade and also acknowledgement of the Alliance that in the previous period Montenegro had worked with dedication and commitment on achieving the set goal to become a part of the family of the NATO member states. In addition, he added that, since EU and NATO memberships represented a second name for stability and prosperity in the region, Montenegro would continue to make efforts to build good neighbouring relations and regional cooperation, and by becoming a part of the NATO community, as the most secure framework for stability and security in the Balkans, it would continue to contribute to regional security in Europe.

In that sense he especially stressed that Montenegro was ready to give further contribution to the system of collective security and that the NATO had a reliable partner and friend in Montenegro.

Members of Montenegrin Delegation participated in the Interparliamentary Conference “Interaction of political groups, parties, and the government in the process of European integration”

Members of the Montenegrin Delegation Žana Filipović, Ljerka Dragičević, Snežana Jonica and MP Izet Bralić participated in the Interparliamentary Conference “Interaction of political groups, parties, and the government in the process of European integration”, which took place on 31 May in Brussels.

The Conference highlighted the significance of holding meetings of this type where representatives of the candidate countries and members of the European Parliament have the opportunity to exchange opinions, views, and dilemmas they are facing.

In the focus of the meeting were the role of parties in the EU integration process, political parties in parliaments, relations between the government and the opposition, transparency, code of ethics of MPs, as well as the significance of MPs connecting with the citizens.

The participants exchanged opinions and experiences and presented the challenges that the candidate countries were facing on the path towards the European Union from the viewpoint of MPs and the role of parliaments in this process. Special attention was paid to problems that the EU was currently facing, such as the current migration issue.

Members of the Committee on Political System, Judiciary and Administration met with experts in the field of media freedom

Chair of the Committee on Political System, Judiciary and Administration Rifat Rastoder and members Marta Šćepanović and Danijela Marković met on 24 May with Jeremy McBride and Steve Crawshaw, independent experts in the field of media freedom. During the meeting, they exchanged views on current issues regarding media freedom in Montenegro, with special accent on the field of media reporting. On that occasion,

the participants agreed that it was necessary to monitor implementation of the current legal regulations in this area, adding that certain legal solutions should be improved and specified in order to achieve harmonisation with the European standards. The experts were accompanied by Angela Longo, representative of the European Commission, and Nemanja Tepavčević, representative of the EU Delegation to Montenegro.

IN FOCUS



Twelfth meeting of the Stabilisation and Association Parliamentary Committee was held

The first day of the Twelfth meeting of the Stabilisation and Association Parliamentary Committee was marked by discussion on dynamics of accession negotiations and relations between the European Union and Montenegro, particularly through the perspective of the rule of law and electoral legislation, respect of fundamental rights, gender equality and rights of the child. Gender equality, particularly political and economic empowerment of women were also discussed.

On the second day, debates were held on environmental policy and energy and the fight against corruption in connection with economic development. Minister of Tourism and Sustainable Development Branimir Gvozdenović emphasised that the normative framework had been established in the field of environmental protection through the enactment of laws and by laws, in accordance with European standards, and a number of strategies to improve the current situation in the area. During the debate on the fight against corruption, they discussed the work of the Agency for Prevention of Corruption and highlighted the effectiveness of the judiciary, but also emphasised the need for greater harmonisation of decisions of national courts with decisions of the European Court of Human Rights.

Declaration with the recommendations, adopted unanimously by the present members of the both delegations, welcomed the steady progress of Montenegro in the accession negotiations, and steps made for the purpose of improving the independence, accountability and professionalism of the judiciary.

SAPC Co-Chair Ranko Krivokapić, Head of the European Union Delegation Anneliese Dodds, Deputy Prime Minister Duško Marković, Dutch Ambassador to Montenegro Henk van den Dool, Head of the European Union Delegation to Montenegro Mitja Drobnič, and Acting President of the Parliament of Montenegro Milutin Simović also participated in the meeting.



PARLIAMENTARY GLOSSARY

EU - Montenegro Stabilisation and Association Parliamentary Committee (SAPC). "The Stabilisation and Association Agreement of the European Community and its member states with Montenegro defines that political dialogue at a parliamentary level is organised within the Stabilisation and Association Parliamentary Committee (SAPC). The same act defines the establishment of the SAPC as a forum in which MPs of the Parliament of Montenegro and the European Parliament exchange opinions and meet at intervals they themselves define. The SAPC was formed after the Stabilisation and Association Agreement entered into force, and the first constitutive meeting was held in Brussels on September 27 and 28, 2010. As a rule, the SAPC meets twice a year, interchangeably in Brussels or Strasbourg and in Podgorica. (...) The meetings of the Parliamentary Committee consider and adopt a declaration with recommendations sent to the European Parliament, the Parliament and the Government of Montenegro, the Council of EU and the European Commission."¹

¹ Doc. dr Komar, Olivera, Prof. dr Ivana Jelić, Nataša Komnenić, Irena Mijanović, Jelena Radonjić, Vlatko Šćepanović, *Parliamentary lexicon*, Podgorica, Parliament of Montenegro 2016, p. 208

FROM THE HISTORY OF MONTENEGRIN PARLIAMENTARISM



CUSTOMS LAW OF THE PRINCIPALITY OF MONTENEGRO

6/19 December 1903

**WE
NIKOLA I
BY THE GRACE OF GOD
PRINCE AND SOVEREIGN OF MONTENEGRO
AT THE PROPOSAL OF OUR MINISTER OF
FINANCE
AFTER HEARING OUR STATE COUNCIL,
DECIDED TO ORDER AND ORDERING THIS**

CUSTOMS LAW

I PART

GENERAL PROVISIONS

Article 1

State borders of the Principality of Montenegro is in effect identical to the customs boundary line.

Article 2

All goods brought into or out of customs territory, including livestock shall have a customs status and be subject to customs supervision.

Article 3

The goods may be brought into or out of customs territory only via the customs routes and in locations designated for such purpose.

Article 4

Steamships and vessels navigating in the sea or border rivers, are only allowed to stop in customs offices areas or in locations designated for such purpose.

Only in cases of force majeure, steamships and vessels may stop next to the shore or other designated locations, on which the closest customs office or its guards must be immediately notified.

Article 6

Each vessel carrying monopolised goods in Montenegro may approach within three nautical miles from shore at most.
Violation of these provisions shall be considered as an attempt of illicit trafficking.

Article 7

Customs officers are obliged to undertake all the necessary measures for the prevention of illicit disembarkation.
The commander of the ship shall be charged for the costs of customs supervision.

Article 12

When Crossing the border, the border residents shall be permitted to use other routes and locations in addition to the ones proscribed for the purpose of small farming, in case the property is located in a foreign neighbouring country, and only after being granted the permission by the competent customs authority and under their supervision.

Article 127

This Law shall enter into force on 1 January 1904.
Our Minister of Finance shall be in charge of its enforcement.

Cetinje, St Nicholas' Day 1903

Nikola, handwritten signature

Customs Law of the Principality of Montenegro,
Cetinje 1903

Pavićević, B, Raspopović, R, ur. Crnogorski zakonic 1796-1916, knj. II (Montenegrin Codes 1796-1916, Book II), Podgorica, Istorijiski institut Crne Gore, 1998, pp. 769-790.

CALENDAR



5 May

- Chair of the Gender Equality Committee Nada Drobnjak attended the gathering organised on the occasion of marking European Independent Living Day under the slogan “Independent living for people with disabilities - to live truly”. The gathering was organised to contribute to the respect of human dignity and rights of persons with disabilities within the project “Freedom of choice”, implemented by the Association of Youth with Disabilities of Montenegro in cooperation with the Center for multimedia production - CEZAM, with financial support of the United States Embassy in Podgorica and through the Democracy Commission Small Grants Program.
- Member of the Security and Defence Committee Ljuiđ Lubo Škrelja participated in the Sixth 2BS Forum (To Be Secure Forum), which took place in Budva, from 5 to 7 May 2016. The topic of the sixth 2BS Forum primarily referred to the future integration of the Western Balkans countries into the EU and NATO, with special focus on Montenegro.

6 May

- President of the Parliament of Montenegro Ranko Krivokapić attended 2BS NATO Forum, during which he met Alexander Vershbow, NATO Deputy Secretary General. The interlocutors shared opinions on the current political situation, with accent on the need for implementing fair and free forthcoming parliamentary elections, and agreed that it was necessary to resolve open issues through the dialogue and in that way preserve stability.

9 May

- Upon the invitation of the Consulate General of Montenegro, Vice-President of the Parliament of Montenegro Suljo Mustafić and Chair of the Committee on International Relations and Emigrants Miodrag Vuković attended the celebration of the 21st May, Independence Day of Montenegro, organised under the title “Montenegrin culture, literature and poetry”, held in Frankfurt. In addition, having in mind the importance of cooperation with emigrants, particularly their contribution to the renewal of Montenegro’s independence, the Consulate General of Montenegro in Frankfurt, Diaspora Administration and Association of Montenegrins “MonteHesse” from Frankfurt jointly

organised the round table on the topic “Improving cooperation between emigrants and their country of origin - Montenegro”, within the celebration of Independence Day of Montenegro.



18 May

- Chair of the Committee on Human Rights and Freedoms Halil Duković met with John L. Wodatch, attorney specialised for rights of peoples with disabilities. The interlocutors concluded that protection of rights of persons with disabilities presents a long-term process and that a maximum effort should be made to change the awareness of citizens, because when the public understands and supports all changes that are necessary to be implemented, the aims and standards which contribute to better living of citizens will be achieved much faster.

19 May

- Twelfth meeting of the Stabilisation and Association Parliamentary Committee, covered the following topics: dynamics of accession negotiations and relations between the European Union and Montenegro, particularly through the perspective of the rule of law and electoral legislation, respect of fundamental rights, gender equality and rights of the child; gender equality, particularly political and economic empowerment of women; environmental policy and energy and the fight against corruption in connection with economic development.

23 May

- Vice President of the Parliament of Montenegro Suljo Mustafić paid a visit to the United States of America on the occasion of marking a decade of Montenegro’s independence, where he was a guest of honour of the Culture Center “Rumija” from Chicago. During the visit,

CALENDAR



the Vice President met with representatives of emigrants' associations and businessmen who live and work in Chicago.

24 May

- Chair of the Committee on International Relations and Emigrants Miodrag Vuković received H.E. Krisztián Pósa, Ambassador of Hungary to Montenegro. The interlocutors exchanged opinions on a number of current issues of importance for the two countries and expressed mutual satisfaction regarding a very meaningful bilateral cooperation. The interlocutors expressed expectations that in the upcoming year, necessary procedures of ratification of the Accession Protocol in the parliaments of NATO member states will be implemented, and that it would represent an additional encouragement towards the already successful path of Montenegro's membership to the EU.
- Chair of the Committee on Political System, Judiciary and Administration Rifat Rastoder and members of the Committee Marta Šćepanović i Danijela Marković met with Jeremy McBride and Steve Crawshaw, independent experts in the field of media freedom. The experts were accompanied by Angela Longo, representative of the European Commission, and Nemanja Tepavčević, representative of the EU Delegation to Montenegro.



26 May

- Delegation of the Parliamentary Assembly of Bosnia and Herzegovina in the NATO Parliamentary Assembly has paid a working visit to Montenegro, awaiting the upcoming Spring Session of the NATO Parliamentary Assembly (PA). It was jointly estimated that the accession process was a challenge requiring continuation of reforms in all fields, and in that sense it was stressed that Montenegro will continue to strongly support Bosnia and Herzegovina on its

European and Euro-Atlantic path in the upcoming period as well.

27 May

- On the occasion of establishing a regional Programme of Support to Public Broadcasters in the South East Europe, organised by the European Union, Chair of the Committee on Political System, Judiciary and Administration Rifat Rastoder met with Bent Nørby Bonde, Director of Media Progress Europe. The meeting was held with a view to sharing experiences and information relating to the issue of media structure in Montenegro and thus the manner for improvement and promotion of the state of affairs in this field.
- Member of the Montenegrin Delegation to NATO Parliamentary Assembly Obrad Mišo Stanišić took part in the Spring Session of the NATO PA, held from 27 to 30 May in Tirana.

29 May

- Chair of the Committee on International Relations and Emigrants Miodrag Vuković attended the ceremony on ten years of Montenegro's independence, held in Zurich in Switzerland. Visit to Switzerland was a good opportunity for Chair of the Committee on International Relations and Emigrants to talk with emigrants on the current issues related to the status of emigrants and emigrant associations in Switzerland, in light of the Law on Cooperation of Montenegro with Diaspora.

31 May

- Delegation of the Parliament of Montenegro consisting of Žana Filipović, Ljerka Dragičević, Snežana Jonica and MP Izet Bralić participated in the Interparliamentary Conference "Interaction of political groups, parties, and the government in the process of European integration", in Brussels.
- Chair of the Committee on Political System, Judiciary and Administration Rifat Rastoder and members of the Committee Marta Šćepanović and Danijela Marković met Maurizio Mensi, independent expert in field of media freedom. The meeting discussed legislative framework from this field, practice in the EU member states and mechanisms for improving them.