



**Service of the Parliament of Montenegro
Section for Research, Analysis, Library and Documentation**

PARLIAMENTARY AUTONOMY
with special focus on financial and administrative aspect

Podgorica, September 2010

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The contents of this document do not reflect the official views of the Parliament of Montenegro.

Foreword

Considering that there is no unique formula for establishing a functional and democratic parliament, different countries develop their parliaments and parliamentary practice in different ways. However, despite the fact that there isn't a unique institutional form that can ensure the fulfillment of recognized democratic standards, the most important thing, when it comes to the quality of parliamentary work in a parliamentary democracy, is how well the Parliament, respectively its members represent their citizens, as well as the quality of oversight of the work of executive power. This primarily means division of power into legislative, executive and judicial. In order for the principle of division of power to become functional, it is expected that each branch of power is given a significant level of autonomy when it comes to internal functioning.

Parliamentary autonomy involves the capacity of the Parliament, as an institution, to draft its own internal legislation, in order to provide for the means to achieve its goals, such as: representation of citizens, public expression of different opinions and views supported by the citizens, drafting and voting on the most relevant standards (generally referred to as "laws") and oversight of government work and activities of executive bodies of government, to the extent possible.¹

This document focuses on already existing documents dealing with this issue. In order to collect as much data as possible on this issue, Service of the Parliament of Montenegro also conducted a research, by submitting a questionnaire as a research instrument, containing several actual issues regarding financial and administrative autonomy, through the ECPRD² Network (the European Centre for Parliamentary Research and Documentation) to a number of Parliaments of countries in the region and the EU. Based on the obtained responses, submitted in English, the most relevant observations are presented, as well as an overview of given practices. The document contains the analysis of responses obtained by parliaments of 23 countries (Albania, Andorra, Austria³, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Czech Republic⁴, Estonia, Finland, Greece, Georgia, Croatia, Iceland, Israel, Italy, Macedonia, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovak Republic, Slovenia, Serbia, Switzerland, Sweden) of which 13 countries are EU member states, while the other six are candidate countries or potential candidate countries for the EU membership.

The complete document in Montenegrin language can be found at:

<http://www.skupstina.me/images/dokumenti/biblioteka-i-istrazivanje/PARLAMENTARNA%20AUTONOMIJA.pdf>

¹ Association of the Secretaries-general of the Parliaments Questionnaire on the various aspects of parliamentary autonomy: <http://www.asgp.info/Resources/Data/Documents/MCEBSWKBPYYTBUBNJOCODPSGKJERUA.doc>; (accessed on 07/07/2010)

² ECPRD (European Center for Parliamentary Research and Documentation), <https://ecprd.secure.europarl.europa.eu/ecprd/pub/about.do>

³ Information for this country, for both chambers, are collected based on response to ECPRD Request no. 1396 from February 2006.

⁴ Information for this country, for Chamber of Deputies, are collected based on response to ECPRD Request no. 1396 from February 2006.