



The Network for  
Affirmation of NGO  
Sector - MANS

Dalmatinska 188,  
81000 Podgorica,  
Crna Gora

Tel: 020 266 326; Fax:  
266 328

mans@t-com.me;  
www.mans.co.me

Bijelo Polje  
Omladinska bb,  
050.430.164

Kotor  
Škaljari bb,  
032.302.520

Budva  
Podkošljun bb,  
(zgrada Sunca)  
033.458.548

Herceg Novi  
I bokeške brigade 11,  
069.446.094

The Network for Affirmation of NGO Sector - MANS  
Parliamentarian programme  
Vuk Maraš, programme coordinator

## Extracts from the 4<sup>th</sup> Report on work of the Parliament of Montenegro from 1<sup>st</sup> February to 31<sup>st</sup> of August 2008

### 1. Plenary session's working days

Month	Number of days parliament held plenary sessions
January	0
February	7
March	6
April	1
May	2
June	2
July	3
August	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>21</b>

During the first half of 2008, the Parliament of Montenegro had plenary sessions in total for 21 days, including protocol session on appointment of a new Government and The President of Montenegro. The Parliament held 7 days of plenary sessions in February, 6 days in March, 1 day in April, 2 days in May, 2 days in June and 3 days of plenary sessions in July. The Parliament of Montenegro did not have plenary sessions in August, because of the vacations.

### 2. Committee session's working days

Month	Number of days parliament held committee sessions
January	0
February	9
March	8
April	3
May	4
June	13
July	11
August	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>48</b>

During first half of 2008 Committees of Montenegrin Parliament worked in total for 48 days. Committees held sessions during 9 working days in February, 8 days in March, 3 days in April, 4 days in May, 13 days in June and 11 days in July. The Parliament of Montenegro did not have committee sessions in August, because of the vacations.

### 3. Legislation adopted and working hours

In the first half of 2008, Parliament of Montenegro adopted 32 Law proposals in shortened procedures and 44 Law proposals in regular procedure. Six Law proposals were rejected, while 4 Law proposals were not revised. 20 other issues were incorporated in the plenary sessions Agenda, of which, 18 was adopted / discussed, 1 was not adopted and 1 was not revised.

The Parliament of Montenegro, in the first half of the year, worked in total 72 hours and 55 minutes, which includes 10 hours of different breaks. Effective working hours of the Parliament were 62 hours and 55 minutes.

Committees of the Parliament of Montenegro worked effectively 133 hours and 45 minutes. The single committee that worked most was Committee for constitutional issues and legislative, that effectively worked 30 hours and 45 minutes. Other 10 committees together worked 103 hours.



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Totally 277 amendments on the legislation that were rejected by the Government at the committees sessions, came for discussion and voting at the Plenary sessions. Most of the amendments were rejected - 249, furthermore, 19 amendments were adopted while 9 amendments were withdrawn.

## 5. Basic statistics on political parties and MPs

Information on the most active political parties / groups and single MPs in each working category is provided in the following table.

Type of activity	Total number	Best result political party / group	Best result single MP
Discussions	226	Democratic Party of Socialists - 54	Emilo Labudovic and Vasilije Lalosevic - 11
Replies	8	Serb List - 3	8 MPs had only one reply
Comments	116	Democratic Party of Socialists - 38	Miodrag Vukovic - 9
Reply on comments	86	Socialist People's Party - 20	Dragan Soc - 7
Replies due to violation of Rules of procedures	209	Social Democratic Party - 90	Ranko Krivokapic - 70
Overrun of time of the exposure	108	Socialist People's Party - 28	Vuksan Simonovic - 8
Violation of order on Plenary sessions	7	Socialist People's Party - 4	Vuksan Simonovic - 3

## 5. Key issues in the work of the Parliament in first half of the 2008.

### 5.1. Lack of transparency for salaries and benefits of Montenegrin MPs

Since January 2008 MANS was submitting Requests for information to the Parliament of Montenegro, asking for data on how much funds each MP receives per month, in total, but till now, we have not succeeded in obtaining asked information. On the other hand, MPs decided to increase their own salaries, even though there was lack of transparency with their current salaries.

Parliament of Montenegro first adopted Law on Earnings and Other Benefits of State and Public Functionaries that gave legal framework for MPs to increase their own salaries. The law was further enforced by two decisions of Administrative committee. The first one increased directly salaries of MPs for 35%, and the second one established new benefits for MPs, related to fees for membership in committees and fees for members of the Collegiums of the President of the Parliament.

After the increase of the salaries, data on how much each MP remained unavailable for public, that is why MANS decided to provide our own projection of the MP salaries (annex 1), according to Law and two Decisions of Administrative Committees.

### 5.2 Boycott of the Plenary sessions by oppositional political parties.

Almost all work period in the first half of 2008 oppositional MPs boycotted Plenary sessions, because State owned television decided not to broadcast all Plenary sessions. The decision was made because State owned television was 'in financial difficulties', and they asked Parliament to pay part further broadcasting of Plenary sessions.

Moreover, pricelist offered by the State owned television to the Parliament was shallow from many aspects. The price per day that RTCG asked from the Parliament was over 8,5 thousand euros. Because of the enormous price, MANS decided to conduct analysis what is the real price of RTCG broadcasting plenary sessions, and what are the real costs. Based on a full scale analysis, we obtained real price to be something above 3,8 thousand euros, what is less then half of the initial price that RTCG had asked.

Even though MANS presented real price list to the authorities of the Parliament, nothing happened, and RTCG still remained on the initial price list, stating that they have calculated the best pricelist.



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On the other hand, long-lasting boycott of Plenary sessions by oppositional political parties decreased quality of control function of the Parliament on the Government of Montenegro. Instead of President of the Parliament's call for 3 sessions dedicated to Prime minister's hour and MP questions, what was prescribed by the Rules of Procedures, he have called only one session, what directly reflected on the control function of the Parliament. Furthermore, there is a big possibility that lack of Parliamentarian monitoring reflected in decrease on quality of work of the Government of Montenegro.

For the period that MANS's report refers to, boycott of the oppositional parties was still ongoing.

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