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Montenegro

Last update:	1 March 2017
Population:	644,578 million (World Bank 2016 est.)
Prime minister:	Milo Djukanovic
President:	Filip Vujanović
Governemental type:	Republic
Ruling coalition:	Democratic Party of Socialists, the Liberal Party and the Social Democratic Party
Last election:	16 October 2016 (parliamentary elections)
Next election:	2018 (presidential elections)
Sister parties:	Democratic Party of Socialists (DPS), the Liberal Party (LP), Social Democrats (SD, SDP split-off), Albanian coalition and Croatian Citizens' Initiative

After having managed to peacefully survive the 1990's wars that led to the disintegration of Yugoslavia, Montenegro's politics and its society were determined by the relations with, and independence from Serbia. In 2006 a majority of 55.5 percent declared in a referendum to be in favour of independence, narrowly passing the official 55,5 percent threshold. Anno 2017 Montenegro is in the process of EU accession - talks have been opened on 26 out of 33 negotiation chapters and two of them already closed. On the one hand, the country has relatively good relations with other countries in South East Europe, is frontrunner in the region when it comes to LGBTI Rights, has appointed an independent special prosecutor to tackle organised crime and high level corruption, considerably improved the relations between civil society and the government, aligned its foreign policy with the EU and is close to becoming a NATO member. On the other hand, however, business tycoons are dominating the economy that mostly runs on remittances and tourism, major incidents around election day are the rule rather than the exception, and the country has never experienced a change of power at elections.

Political Situation

Montenegro is a candidate country for the EU and has opened twenty-four chapters in the EU negotiations, while two have already been closed. Montenegro's future was further shaped by the NATO invite it received in December 2015. The invitation led to protests by pro-Serbian parties and their supporters. Further protests were fuelled by the opposition alliance Democratic Front (DF) who voiced accusations of corruption, undemocratic practices and election fraud against Prime Minister Milo Djukovic (Democratic Party of Socialists; DPS). During the elections of 2016 several incidents occurred reflecting the choice between NATO and Europe or Russia on the other hand. In the end, a 'choice for the West' coalition was formed led by DPS, which got the majority of votes. Although divided, the opposition has become stronger due to the reforms that go along with the EU integration process.

After World War II Montenegro became one of the six equal republics of the Yugoslav federation. After the disintegration of Yugoslavia, Montenegro remained in a union with Serbia as the State Union of Serbia and Montenegro. On 21 May 2006 a referendum was held, where the majority of the Montenegrin population (55.5 percent) declared to be in favour of independence. With that the threshold of 55 percent as stippled by the EU was narrowly passed. Montenegro's first parliamentary and presidential elections as an independent state as well as the parliamentary elections of October 2012 did not bring any big political changes.

Since 1998 SDP and DPS have ruled together. However, the coalition is becoming less stable. At the national level DPS blocked the adoption of a new electoral law. Failure to adopt this electoral law could lead to a serious political crisis. After the blockade, the main opposition party, Democratic Front Party, has left the parliament. They accused DPS for obstructing the Assembly and claimed that DPS needs to take responsibility for the political crisis.

The blockade of the DPS has deepened the distrust between the opposition and the government, which started on April 2013 with electoral fraud and misuse of state resources on the presidential elections, announced the Democratic Front. Next to the national

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level, friction at the local level was visible as well: during local elections in 2013 the SDP decided to work together with an opposition party, which is the first time since DPS and SDP rule together. This new alliance could cause friction within the national coalition. For the April 2014 local elections in the capital Podgorica SDP formed a pre-election coalition with the new opposition 'Positive' party.

Freedom of media continues to be a problem in Montenegro and in December 2015 the European Parliament's Montenegro rapporteur condemned the attacks on activists and politicians by the media and urged in a resolution to continue OSCE-facilitated dialogue on improving ethical and professional standards in the media. The ruling coalition of the DPS, supported by the Social Democratic Party (SDP) and several ethnic parties, has been unstable due to a conflict between the DPS and SDP. After a split within SDP – party leadership contest resulted in establishment of a new party that decided to continue supporting the ruling DPS – Djukanovic's position was weakened. In addition, street protests have pressured the ruling DPS (in power since 1991) to include a part of the opposition in a caretaker government.

Coup attempt

The country has been immersed in a coup drama since the 16 October general elections when authorities arrested 20 people accused of planning armed attacks against government institutions. This group consisted of mostly Serb nationals, but also included two Russian citizens, Eduard Sirokov and Vladimir Popov, and two Montenegrin opposition leaders.

Prime Minister at that time Milo Djukanovic (Democratic Party of Socialists), whose party came out first in the election but without a parliamentary majority, had presented the vote as a chance for Montenegro's 620,000 citizens to endorse his policy of joining NATO and the EU, instead of pursuing deeper ties with allies in Serbia and Russia.

Since then, tensions have built up, and the situation became even more tense after the nation's special prosecutor lifted the [parliamentary immunity](#) of two leaders who are suspected of having participated in a failed coup. In February this year, riot police were stationed to restrain hundreds of protesters who gathered in front of the parliament in Podgorica to protest against the motion lifting the two leaders' immunity. It is assumed by the government that the coup to attack Montenegro's parliament and kill Djukanovic was directed by Russian intelligence officers in order to sabotage the country's plan to join NATO.

Parliament, dominated by the Democratic Party of Socialists, lifted one of opposition leaders Medojevic's immunity on the request of the special prosecutor for organised crime, Milivoje Katnic. Katnic said police should take Medojevic in for questioning, after which a decision on his possible arrest would be made. Medojevic is known as one of the sharpest critics of the government and of the ruling party run by veteran leader Milo Djukanovic.

But the question remains whether this was a genuine coup attempt. On the one hand, it is claimed that it was a sinister effort to overturn a democratically elected administration and take over the country by force. On the other, critical analysts argue that it was a carefully choreographed event, designed to win sympathy for a controversial and allegedly corrupt ruling party that is in power since 1991 on the verge of decreasing public support.

It is believed by these critics that the government sought to manipulate the situation to its advantage. Although the indictment says Velimirović told authorities about the plot several days before the election, there was no mention of it in the media until election day itself, when the arrests of several alleged conspirators were announced. Internet communication services such as WhatsApp and Viber were cut off for hours during the day. All of these elements contributed to the sense that the country was in danger — a sense that may have persuaded some voters to rally behind the ruling party for the sake of stability.

Corruption

After the presidential elections in April 2013, won narrowly by DPS candidate Filip Vujanović, allegations of misuse of public resources were ever louder. Under pressure from the opposition, the SDP, junior partner in the governing coalition, and Brussels, the process of so-called 'restore confidence in the electoral process' started. An inquiry team was founded in which all the parties were represented, in addition to the representatives from the NGO sector, while Brussels also provided with technical assistance.

The Country Reports on Human Rights Practices for 2013 states that pervasive corruption, marked by nepotism, political favouritism, and weak controls over conflicts of interest in all branches of the government is one of the biggest problems in Montenegro. In the Corruption Perceptions Index (CPI) 2016 of Transparency International, Montenegro scored 45, which is one point more than in 2013. Since 2013 it has moved from the 67th position to the 64th position (together with Oman, Senegal, South Africa and Suriname).

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EU accession

In 2008, Montenegro applied for EU membership. In December 2011, the Council launched the accession process with a view to opening negotiations in June 2012, which started at 29 June. Since its accession process the European Commission has presented a (progress) report for Montenegro each year. In the last report of 2016, Montenegro's first priority should be reforms concerning the rule of law 'demonstrated by tangible results on fighting corruption and organised crime', because it will also determine the pace of the of the negotiations. The EU also stressed improving the economy due to increasing public debt and strengthening the administrative capacity to ensure the application of the European acquis.

By 24 November 2016, out of 35 chapters were opened, with two (25: science and research and 26: education and culture) of them provisionally closed. In 2016 the chapters 11 (Agriculture and rural development), 12 (Food safety, veterinary and phytosanitary policy), 13 (Fisheries), and 19 (Social policy and employment) are opened.

For ruling Democratic Party of Socialists (DPS) and their leader Milo Djukanovic, the EU accession could be less favourable. There will be more supervision on his work, powers will be transferred to the parliament and the rule of law will be strengthened. This will put pressure on the power basis of Djukanovic possibly resulting in charges against him, something we have seen happening in Croatia with former Prime Minister Ivo Sander. Moreover, the accession process gives other parties less of a reason to work together with the DPS: In 2012 the SDP was part of the Coalition for a European Montenegro led by Djukanović, instead of following an independent political course. In 2016, after a split within their party, the SDP left the ruling coalition and even announced a vote of no confidence. The split provided an opportunity to SDP to reform and modernise into a citizens' party, transparent and open to outside influence and a vocal point for civil society and human rights activist. Furthermore, the party can engage in new partnerships with the progressive opposition that will have more room to manoeuvre as the EU accession negotiations move on.

Representation of women

Women remain significantly underrepresented in Montenegrin politics. In the presidential election of 2008 no female candidates competed. The 2012 parliamentary elections provided for an improvement in women election participation with a total of 264 women that stood as candidates, declared to be a significant increase from past elections. In 2016, 15 out of 81 seats in the parliament are held by women, which is two more than in 2012. This is the highest share of women in the history of this institution. However, Montenegro lags behind on other Western-Balkan countries.

Parliamentary Elections

The Democratic Party of Socialists (DPS) of current Prime Minister Milo Djukanovic won the parliamentary elections in Montenegro on 16 October 2016 with 41 percent of the votes. After winning yet another election in October 2016, 'father of the nation' and long-time Prime Minister Milo Djukanović (Democratic Party of Socialists, DPS) resigned after having been in power since 1991. This is the third time Djukanovic has 'left' politics, although he always remained very influential and was widely believed to be pulling the strings from the backstage. During his breaks in power he remained leader of the ruling DPS and it is expected that he will continue to be the party leader in the years ahead. His confidant Duško Marović now formed a ruling coalition together with the SPD split-off Social Democrats (SD) and the national minority parties (Bosnian, Albanian and Croatian). With the 36 seats of the DPS, the 2 seats of the SD and 4 seats of the national minority parties the ruling coalition has a slight majority of 42 out of 81 seats. The voters turnout on 16 October was 71 percent despite the actively spread through the social media flashmob of 'staying lazy' on elections day.

Election results

Party	% of the votes	Seats
Democratic Party of Socialists (DPS)	41.41 %	36
Democratic Front (DF)	20.32 %	18
Ključ (Key) Coalition	11.05 %	9
Democratic Montenegro	10.01 %	8
Social Democratic Party (SDP)	5.23 %	4
Social Democrats	3.26 %	2
Bosniak Party	3.16 %	2
Positive Montenegro	1.32 %	0

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Albanians Decisively	1.27 %	1
Albanian Coalition	0.89 %	0
Croatian Civic Initiative	0.47 %	1

*These parties did not compete in the 2012 elections

Presidential Elections

In the 2013 presidential elections incumbent President Filip Vujanović (Democratic Party of Socialists, DPS) was challenged by the opposition leader Miodrag Lekić. Lekić ran as an independent candidate but was widely supported by the largest opposition party, the Democratic Front (DF). On 8 April the electoral commission announced that Vujanović had won the elections with a landslide victory of only 52.2 percent of the votes. Lekić gained 48.8 percent of the total votes. Representatives for Lekić' campaign announced that they would not recognize the result, and demanded a recount of the votes.

Several protesters in Podgorica demanded from the parliament to annul the vote within ten days and would call for new elections. The protesters said they would not accept the alleged fraud, and carried banners with slogans like 'We defend our victory, we defend our Montenegro'.

The commission however said no major irregularities were reported during the elections, and added that voter turnout was 63.9 percent. The Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe also said that the election "generally met OSCE requirements".

DPS's coalition partner, the Social Democratic Party (SDP), called upon its voters not to vote or to cast a blank vote as they consider the candidacy of Vujanović as unconstitutional. This would be his third term as president, while only two terms are allowed in the constitution. DPS on the other hand, backed by the Constitutional Court, claimed that Vujanović first term does not count as it was during the State Union with Serbia.

The presidential election is consistent with a slow but growing popularity of Miodrag Lekić and his Democratic Front. During the parliamentary elections of 2012 the Democratic Front gained 23.8 percent of the votes.

Social Democratic Parties

Social Democratic Party (SDP)

Party Leader: Ranko Krivokapić

Number of seats: 4

<http://www.sdp.co.me/>

The SDP was founded in June 1993 after a merger of the Social Democratic Reform Party and the Socialist Party of Montenegro. The party is firmly anti-war oriented and strongly opposed to Milosević. Its main goal is the development of a "democratic internationally recognised and independent Montenegro that keeps abreast with Europe in order to provide better life, greater rights, freedoms and happiness for every person and for all people". Over the years SDP remained a relatively small party (around 5 percent of the votes), however, at the parliamentary elections in 2009 SDP succeeded in getting just over 11 percent of the votes, which meant 9 out of 81 seats in the parliament. The party managed to attract more young progressive voters and became the third biggest party in the country. Despite being a relatively small party, SDP managed to play a notable role in the political scene over the years. Although regarded by critics as the small supportive brother of the ruling Democratic Party of Socialists (DPS), at the local elections in 2010 SDP ran separately from DPS for the first time in a decade and got its best election result: around 15

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percent of the votes. During the 2012 parliamentary elections, the DPS was a part of the European Montenegro coalition, together with the Democratic party of Socialists and the Liberal Party, which managed to secure 45.6 percent of the votes and thus 39 seats out of the 81 in parliament.

SDP President and Speaker of the Montenegro parliament Ranko Krivokapić is one of the founders of the party and has led the party ever since. SDP is member of Socialist International and associate party of Party of European Socialists (PES).

Democratic Party of Socialists (DPS)

Party Leader: Milo Djukanović

Number of seats: 36

<http://www.dps.me/>

The Democratic Party of Socialists, founded in 1991, is a successor to the former leading League of Communists. In 1992 the party supported the continued existence of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia. Until October 1997 the party was led by former President of Montenegro Bulatovic (from December 1990 – October 1997). In January 1998 Milovan Djukanović was sworn in as President of the Republic, after beating his former ally Bulatovic – who was removed from the party – in the presidential race. In the same year he was elected Chairman of DPS and has led the party ever since. With Djukanović becoming president, DPS took more and more distance from Milosevic. The pro-Serbian, pro-Milosevic element then broke away in 1998 to form a new party, the Socialist People's Party. At the fourth party congress in 2011, the DPS reinvented its main goals, fighting for a democratic, internationally recognised and independent state of Montenegro. DPS holds such an independent Montenegro is the main condition for its development and Europeanization. Furthermore, other leading issues in its platform are tolerance and improvement of life standards for all citizens of Montenegro.

The DPS has won every general election in Montenegro since the first multi-party elections of 1990. In June 2012, the DPS-led government celebrated the official start of membership talks with the EU. Additionally, the party strongly favours joining NATO, despite the lack of popular support for this idea. Nominally a social democratic party, opposition parties accuse it of pursuing neo-liberal economic policies and of disregarding welfare safeguards. It is said to be one of the best organized parties in the region, with approximately 100,000 members. Polls show that, despite the existence of ethnic minority parties in Montenegro, many members of those minorities, such as Bosniaks and Albanians, prefer to vote for the DPS.

In the 2012 elections, the party ran as the leader of the European Montenegro coalition, which won 45.6 percent of the votes and thus 39 seats out of the 81 in parliament. Its leader, Djukanović is said to once again take the post of Prime Minister.

DPS is member of Socialist International and associate party of Party of European Socialists (PES).

Social Democrats of Montenegro (DS)

Party Leader: Ivan Brajovic

Number of seats: 2

<http://sdcg.me/>

In 2015 the Social Democrats of Montenegro was created as a new political party by a split faction of the SDP. Almost half of the party officials left the SDP and joined the newly established Social Democrats (SD) that consist of prominent SDP members who are close to the DPS. After the elections of 2016, the SD joined the ruling coalition with DPS and several national minorities parties, having won two seats in the parliament.

The SD is led by Ivan Brajovic, former vice-president of the SDP. The SD ideology is similar to the DPS, pursuing neoliberal economic policies and pro-Europeanism.

Other Parties

Socialist People's Party (SNP)

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Party Leader: Srdjan Milić

Number of seats:

<http://www.snp.co.me/>

The SNP is the main pro-Belgrade party in Montenegro. Former federal Prime Minister Momir Bulatović, considered as a puppet of Milosevic, was party leader until February 2001. He was replaced by Predrag Bulatović. The SNP formed a pre-election coalition with the NS and DSS and within this coalition (11 seats) holds 8 seats in the parliament. After the 10 September 2006 elections, which turned out a big disappointment for the SNP, Predrag Bulatovic announced his resignation. Srdjan Milic was elected new party leader on 26 November 2006.

In the 2012 elections it won the support of 10.6 percent of the voters and thus secured nine seats in parliament.

Movement for Changes (PZP)

Party Leader: Nebojsa Medojević

Number of seats:

<http://www.promjene.org/>

The PZP was founded by top economists and academics in September 2002 as a group seeking to promote Montenegro's EU accession and acceleration of reforms. On 15 July 2006, Nebojsa Medojević, Chairman of the Movement for Change modified the statutes of his organisation in order to turn it into a political party under the name Movement for Change (PZP). The new party would like to have a government of experts responsible for the revision of privatisation and the adoption of a new constitution. The party is not only part of the opposition to the present government but it also rejects the present system based, in its opinion, on unstable and faulty foundations, corruption, theft and ignorance.

During the 2012 parliamentary elections, the PZP ran in a coalition with the New Serb Democracy, forming the Democratic Front coalition. Democratic Front won 23.8 percent of the votes and 20 mandates

New Serbian Democracy (NOVA)

Party Leader: Andrija Mandić

Number of seats:

<http://www.nova.org.me>

New Serbian Democracy or NOVA, is one of the newest political parties in Montenegro, formed on 24 January 2009 as a merger between the Serb People's Party and the People's Socialist Party of Montenegro.

New Serb Democracy is led by Andrija Mandić, leader of the former Serb List. Mandić sought to transform the Serb List into a more civic-oriented party, in order to boost the party's coalition potential, and even the dropping of the Serb prefix from the newly formed party's name was considered. This idea was met with strong resistance during the merger talks.

The party won 8 seats in the 2009 parliamentary elections. In 2012 it participated in the Democratic Front coalition which won 23.8 percent and 20 mandates.

Positive Montenegro (PCG)

Party Leader: Darko Pajović

Number of seats:

<https://www.facebook.com/PozitivnaCrnaGora/>

Positive Montenegro is one of the newest parties in the country, formed in May 2012 under the leadership of former green activist Darko Pajovic with the aim of showcasing new people and ideas. Positive Montenegro presents itself as a new, civic, centre-left

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force with a “clean past”. It aims to focus on socio-economic issues. It further strives for a more moderate rhetoric than some of the older parties like the Movement for Changes and it steers clear of quarrels over issues of national identity. The party advocates a socially responsible state, arguing for tight controls of natural resources and help for those who are struggling with the market economy.

It ran independently in the 2012 election and won 8.9 percent support and reserved seven seats in parliament.

The Bosniak Party (BS)

Party Leader: Rafet Husović

Number of seats: 2

<http://www.bscg.me/>

Founded in 2006 to protect the interests of the Bosniak [Muslim] minority, which makes up 7.7 percent of the population according to the 2003 census, the Bosniak Party was formed out of a merger of four small parties: the International Democratic Union, the Party For Democratic Action, the Democratic Alliance of Bosniaks and the Party of National Equality. The party lent the DPS-led government significant support in the independence referendum of 2006. Since the Bosniak minority is concentrated in certain areas of the country, the party favours devolving powers to regions.

The BS has decided to run in the 2012 general election independently, winning 4.17 percent and three seats in parliament. It is said to provide majority support to the European Montenegro coalition.

The Democratic Union of Albanians (DUA)

Party Leader: Ferhat Dinosa

Number of seats:

Led by Ferhat Dinosa, the Democratic Union of Albanians is one of the four parties that aim to protect the rights of the country's ethnic Albanian minority, who make up 5,03 percent of the population according to the 2003 census. It has one seat in parliament. The other three parties are Forca, the Democratic League of Montenegro and the Albanian Alternative. Each also has one seat in the Skupstina.

Liberal Party of Montenegro (LPCG)

Party Leader: Andrija Popović

Number of seats:

<http://www.lpcg.me/>

The Liberal Party of Montenegro was founded in 2004. It describes itself as a party that has been continually anti-war, liberal and standing for the idea of statehood since the beginning of the 1990s. The party was part of the European Montenegro coalition at the 2012 general elections and has one seat in the parliament.

Biographies

Filip Vujanović

President

Filip Vujanović was born on 1 September 1954 in Belgrade. After he graduated from the University of Belgrade's Law School, he worked in one of the city's Municipal Courts, and later as an assistant at the Belgrade District Court. In 1981 he moved to Podgorica

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(at that time Titograd), working as a secretary and a lawyer at the District Court.

In 1993 Vujanović joined the Democratic Party of Socialists (DPS) and became Minister of Justice upon the invitation of then Montenegrin federal President Momir Bulatović. From 1996 to 1998 he was Interior Minister. During the 1997 DPS leadership conflict, Vujanović initially declared neutrality. He eventually sided with Djukanović who won the presidential elections in 1998.

In February 1998 Djukanović appointed Vujanović as the first Prime Minister of Montenegro, which was at the time still part of Yugoslavia. In November 2002, he became Speaker of the Montenegrin parliament. Vujanović ran in the December 2002 presidential elections and won a landslide victory, securing 86 percent of the votes. However, the election was ruled invalid as the turnout was less than 50 percent. The elections were held again in February 2003, with Vujanović winning 81 percent of the vote, but again turnout was below 50 percent. The elections were held for a third time in May, with the minimum turnout rule abolished, and Vujanović winning again with 63 percent of the vote. He became president on 19 May 2003. President Vujanović was a supporter of the Montenegro independence referendum, though PM Djukanović was much more involved in the referendum campaign. Vujanović' messages often focused on Montenegro's and Serbia's ability to have a peaceful separation and post-independence cooperation.

At the 2008 presidential election, Vujanović ran for the second presidential term, and secured another five years in office in the first election round, winning 51.89 percent of the votes.

Filip Vujanović is married and has three children.

Milo Djukanovic

Prime Minister

Milo Djukanović was born on 15 February 1962 in Nikšić. He graduated from the Faculty of Economics at the University of Montenegro, Podgorica. In 1979, while still in high school, Djukanović joined the Yugoslav Communist League. By 1986 he was a presidency member of the Socialist Youth Alliance's (SSO) Montenegrin branch as well as the presidency member of its federal-level parent organisation. As a member of the party's various youth bodies he earned the nickname Britva ('Straight razor') for his direct, fiery and forceful rhetoric. Progressing steadily up the party ladder, by mid-1989 Djukanović became a member of the League's highest decision making body, the Central Committee. He became the Secretary of the Presidency of the League of Communists of Montenegro, a post he held until the parties' transformation into Democratic Party of Socialists (DPS).

In 1991 he was elected prime minister, becoming the youngest PM in Europe. On 15 January 1998 he was sworn in as President of the Republic, after winning the presidential elections. In the same year he was elected Chairman of DPS. Having led the Democratic Coalition for a European Montenegro to victory in the parliamentary election in October 2002, he was nominated PM Designate of Montenegro. On 8 January he was elected PM for his fourth term. In May 2006 he led the Block for Independent Montenegro at a referendum in which 55.5 percent voted in favour of Montenegrin independence. In the 2006 elections his Coalition for a European Montenegro (DPS and Social Democratic Party, SDP) won an absolute majority.

Although he chose to step down in late 2006, he remained president of DPS. He returned to office as PM after his coalition won the 2009 early elections with an absolute majority, securing him a sixth term in office.

In July 2003, the public prosecutor's office in Naples linked Djukanović with an organised crime network, mainly related to tobacco smuggling during the UN embargo on Yugoslavia. Djukanović denied the allegations as a "loathsome political trick", aimed at criminalising him and his country. The Italian authorities dropped all charges against him in April 2009.

In December 2010 Djukanović for the second time resigned his post as PM, saying he would still play an important role in the ruling DPS. Announcing his resignation he said "the conditions have been created for him to step down". However, he continued to lead the DPS during the 2012 parliamentary elections, securing a win for his party, and returned as a prime minister with the new cabinet in 2012.

Milo Djukanovic is married and has one son.

Ranko Krivokapić

Speaker of the Parliament of Montenegro, leader of the Social Democratic Party

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Ranko Krivokapić was born on 17 August 1961 in Kotor. He graduated from the Faculty of Law in Belgrade. In the late 1980s he became politically active and became a member of the presidency of Reform Forces of Yugoslavia, headed by the last Prime Minister of the Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, Ante Marković.

He was elected as a representative in the Montenegrin parliament six times, the first time in 1989. Furthermore, Krivokapić was Montenegrin representative to the parliament of Yugoslavia from 1993 to 1997. From 2003 to 2006, Krivokapić served as the Speaker of Parliament of Montenegro within the state union of Serbia and Montenegro (SCG). Following the ratification of an independence referendum held in 2006, he became the Speaker of Montenegro's parliament.

Krivokapić is leader of the Social Democratic Party of Montenegro (SDP), a coalition partner of the Democratic Party of Socialists in the current government. Furthermore, he was one of the founders of the SDP in 1990.

Ranko Krivokapić has two children.

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