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Republic of Macedonia on the way to the EU

Joint Parliamentary Committee EU-RM

The Assembly of the Republic of Macedonia and the EU

Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Ministry of Culture

Macedonian legislation harmonized with the EU acquis in January 2012:

- Law on Concessions and Public Private Partnership
- Law on Management with Waste of Electrical and Electronic Equipment
- Law on European Labor Council
- Law Amending the Law on Equal Opportunities for Women and Men
- Law on Payment of Pensions and Pension Contributions from Capital-Financed Pension Insurance
- Law Amending the Law on Pharmaceuticals and Medical Devices



The Committee on Relations among the Communities held a meeting related to the latest developments and their effect on the inter-ethnic and inter-religious relations in the Republic of Macedonia. The Ombudsman, representatives of the Macedonian Orthodox Church, the Islamic Religious Community, the Committee for Relations with the Religious Communities and Religious Groups, representatives of the Embassies of the United States, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, France, the Kingdom of the Netherlands, Republic of Bulgaria, Republic of Italy, Republic of Albania and Republic of Kosovo in the Republic of Macedonia, representatives of the OSCE Mission in Skopje, the UNDP, the NATO Liaison Office in Skopje, the As-



Delegation headed by the President of the Assembly of the Republic of Macedonia, Mr. Trajko Veljanoski and com-

THIRD MEETING OF THE COMMITTEE ON RELATIONS AMONG THE COMMUNITIES

sociation of Journalists of Macedonia, the Agency for Youth and Sport, ZELS, the Mayors of the Municipalities of Struga and Vevcani, and a number of other Members of Parliaments also attended and took part in the meeting. After an extensive debate, the Committee on Relations among the Communities adopted the following Conclusions:

“1. The inter-ethnic, inter-confessional, inter-cultural and relations among the people should be built in the spirit of mutual understanding and in accordance with the principles and norms of the Constitution and of the Laws of the Republic of Macedonia;

2. Condemning the acts which undermine the trust, we call on the religious communities, the local self-government, the political parties, the civil society and the citizens to behave responsibly and with restraint;

3. The Committee on Relations among the Communities urges:

- The central authorities to continue to demonstrate its full commitment for further strengthening of the inter-ethnic and inter-religious relations;

- The local authorities to promote dialogue and cooperation;

- The media to give their contribution as part of the overall efforts for suppressing the tensions;

- The NGO sector to be strong partner in the activities and projects aimed at strengthening the trust;

- The religious communities to continue to nurture the values of tolerance, understanding and respect among the people;

4. The Committee on Relations among the Communities, as a body responsible for promotion of the inter-ethnic dialogue, expressing full confidence in the institutions, appeals that the dialogue be led exclusively in the framework of the institutions;

5. The cultural and sport activities must not be used as an excuse for inciting mistrust and disrespect among the citizens. The Committee condemns all acts of desecration of religious objects;

6. The future of the Republic of Macedonia lies in full integration in NATO and the EU, and key precondition in this direction is the creation of trust and positive atmosphere in the relations among the citizens;

7. These Conclusions shall be forwarded to the President of the Assembly of the Republic of Macedonia, the Government of the Republic of Macedonia, the Ministry of Internal Affairs, the Secretariat for Implementation of the Framework Agreement, the Ministry of Justice, the Ombudsman, the Macedonian Orthodox Church, the Islamic Religious Community, the Mayors of Struga and Vevcani, the Committee for Relations with the Religious Communities and Religious Groups, and the Association of the Units of Local Self-government of the Republic of Macedonia.”

PRESIDENT VELJANOSKI PAYS OFFICIAL VISIT TO REPUBLIC OF KOSOVO

panied by the Vice President, Mr. Jani Makraduli, the MPs: Mr. Talat Xhaferi, Ms. Svetlana Karapetrova and Mr. Bekim Fazliu officially visited Republic of Kosovo. At the meeting with the President of the Assembly, Mr. Jakup Krasniqi, Mr. Veljanoski emphasised that it will provide a positive impetus for the development of the overall relations, especially in the relations of the two parliaments. The Macedonian Assembly is prepared to share the experience in the European integration process and in the area of building efficient and functional institutions with the colleagues from Kosovo. The President Veljanoski also referred to the situation of the Macedonian minority in the Region of Gora in Kosovo, reminding that this minority is recognized by the international factor as an ethnic community, whose mother tongue is Macedonian, with a hope that their status will

be resolved in accordance with the European principles which will provide them preservation and development of their ethnic, linguistic and cultural identity.

The President of the Assembly of the Republic of Kosovo, Mr. Jakup Krasniqi expressed appreciation from today's meeting and underlined the highly developed political and economic relations. He stated that Macedonia has experience in the process of European Integration, and Kosovo is pleased to accept the proposal to share the experience with the Republic of Macedonia in this process. He also underlined that their Assembly will soon establish Parliamentary group for cooperation with the Assembly of the Republic of Macedonia which is certainly an impetus for the mutual relations.

MACEDONIA AND TURKEY HAVE EXCELLENT COOPERATION AND HISTORICAL AND CULTURAL TIES

The Parliamentary Group for Cooperation with the Parliament of Turkey had a meeting with the Delegation of the Turkey-Macedonia Friendship Group of the Grand National Assembly of the Republic of Turkey.

Mr. Kenan Hasipi, Chairperson of the Parliamentary Group for Cooperation with the Parliament of Turkey and JPC Co-Chair, expressed his satisfaction from the meeting and the high level of cooperation, understanding and friendship between the two countries that have no open issues. He pointed out that Macedonia appreciates highly the support from Turkey, especially having in mind the fact that Turkey was the first country that recognized the Republic of Macedonia under its constitutional name and the first country to open its Embassy in Macedonia. Macedonia and Turkey have fruitful cooperation on bilateral and multilateral level in many fields such as the economy, trade, industry, defence, education and culture. He especially emphasized the presence of many Turkish compa-



nies in Macedonia, the cooperation among the universities of both countries, the importance of the International Balkan University, and the historical and cultural connections.

The Chairman of the Friendship Group of the Grand National Assembly of the Republic of Turkey, Mr. Hüseyin Bürge, expressed appreciation for the hospitality and informed the hosts that all the Friendship Group of the Turkish Parliament for cooperation with the countries in South East Europe have initiated the establishing of the Parliamentary Assembly of South Eastern Europe. Mr. Bürge said that Turkey has been supporting Macedonia since its independence and that Turkey will use the ruling of the Hague Tribunal regarding the dispute over the constitutional name with Greece for increased support for Macedonia in the Euro-Atlantic structures. He also said that Macedonia has fulfilled all the criteria necessary for joining NATO, and that Turkey will do everything in its power to help Macedonia on its path towards full membership. Furthermore, Mr. Bürge emphasized the importance of the Ohrid Framework Agreement as foundation for peaceful inter-ethnic coexistence.

He added that the Turkish community in Macedonia acts as a bridge for the friendship between the two countries.

THE PRIORITIES OF THE DANISH EU PRESIDENCY PRESENTED BEFORE THE MACEDONIAN PARLIAMENTARIANS



The priorities and the programme of the Danish Presidency of the Council of the European Union were presented in the Macedonian Parliament by the Ambassador of the Kingdom of Denmark to the Republic of Macedonia - H.E. Mr. Torben Brylle. He informed the MPs on the top priorities during the Presidency: a Responsible Europe, A Dynamic Europe, a Green Europe, and a Safe Europe. He said that the Danish EU Presidency will continue to be dedicated to all the areas noted in the programme, especially to the enlargement agenda, and added that his role will be to act as moderator working

for the interests of the European Union.

The Deputy-Chairman of the Committee on European Issues, Mr. Arben Ljabishta, pointed out that the Republic of Macedonia continues to have the same priorities, and as a candidate country for EU membership Macedonia will give its contribution to the realization of the goals of the Danish Presidency. This Presidency is important for the Republic of Macedonia because the Euro-integration remains to be a factor of cohesion of the Macedonian multiethnic society and because of the continued consensus among the political forces and the overall society regarding joining the EU. Ms. Radmila Šekerinska-Jankovska - Chairperson of the National Council for European Integration, Mr. Antonijo Milošoski - Chairman of the Committee on Foreign Policy, the MPs: Mr. Pavle Trajanov, Ms. Vladanka Avirović, Ms. Liljana Popovska, and Mr. Vladimir Gjørčev, as well as Mr. Dimitar Mirčev - member of the National Council for European Integration and representative of the Cabinet of the President of the Republic of Macedonia, also took part in the debate.

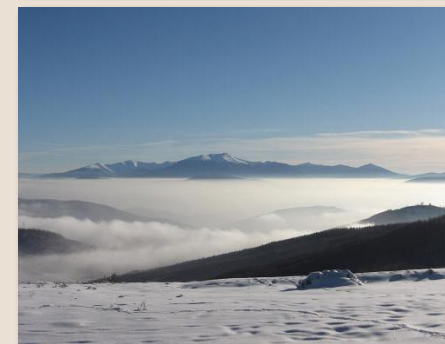
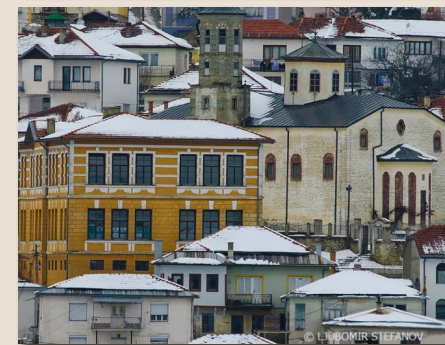
MR. HAJRULA MISINI AT THE COSAC CONFERENCE IN COPENHAGEN

The Chairman of the Committee on European Issues, Mr. Hajrula Misini, is attending the Conference of the committees of the national Parliaments of the European Union Member States dealing with the European Union affairs (COSAC), which is being held in Copenhagen in the framework of the

Danish Presidency of the European Union. The President of the Danish Parliament, Mr. Mogens Lykketoft, opened the Conference which was focused on the European economic crisis. Mr. Maroš Šefčovič, Commissioner for Inter-Institutional Relations and Administration, addressed the participants. The discussion was concentrated on the economic problems the countries are having and on the possibilities for overcoming the current crisis. One of the topics on the Conference agenda was the Climate and Energy policies 2020, as one of the priorities of the Danish EU Presidency. In the framework of the Conference, Mr. Misini met with the Chairpersons of the European Affairs Committees of Bulgaria, Slovakia, Slovenia, Turkey, Italy and Montenegro, as well as with some other high-ranking officials.



KRUSEVO IN WINTER



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