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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 July & August 2010:

- Law on Academy of Judges and Public Prosecutors - **adopted**
- Law amending the Law on Drugs and Medical Devices - **adopted**
- Law amending the Law on Public Procurement - **adopted**
- Law amending the Law on Value Added Tax - **adopted**
- European Company Law - **adopted**
- Law on Copyright and Related Rights - **adopted**

Day of the Republic 2 August

Address by the President of the Assembly, Mr. Trajko Veljanovski on the occasion of wreaths laying ceremony on the monument of Metodija Andonov Cenko, first President of the Presidium of ASNOM



The President of the Assembly of the Republic of Macedonia, Mr. Trajko Veljanovski had meetings with two Presidents of states: the President of the Republic of Latvia, Mr. Valdis Zatlers and Mr. Ivo Josipovic, President of the Republic of Croatia. At the meetings, President Veljanovski expressed his appreciation for the



At a joint session of the bodies working on European integration in the Parliament, among which the Joint Parliamentary Committee EU - Republic of Macedonia, the priorities of the Belgian Presidency were presented. Addressing on behalf of the EU, the Ambassador Erwan Fouéré asked that the Republic of Macedonia

MEETINGS OF PRESIDENT TRAJKO VELJANOSKI WITH PRESIDENT VALDIS ZATLERS AND PRESIDENT IVO JOSIPOVIC

supported both countries to the Republic of Macedonia for integration in the European Union and NATO, and expectation that the Republic of Macedonia will open the accession negotiations and will become a member of EU in near future. He welcomed the positions of both states that bilateral issues such should not be a direct condition for the progress of the Euro-Integration processes. However, Macedonia will continue with the efforts to find a mutually acceptable solution of the issue with the Republic of Greece, a solution which will not have losers and winners and which will close this problem and we will all see forward to our European goals and values.

President Zatlers expressed his plea-

sure for the good words during this first official visit to the Republic of Macedonia, and especially emphasised the determination of the Republic of Latvia to fully support our European and Atlantic integration. President Zatlers outlined the benefits of his country after being and EU member state and the benefits for all countries that will be part of the common European market. "I sincerely wish the Republic of Macedonia to achieve the same success as the Republic of Latvia did six years ago, when it became an EU member state. We are prepared to share our experience and assistance in this area," said Mr. Zatlers.

The President of the Republic of Croatia, Mr. Ivo Josipovic expressed his

pleasure from this visit, to, as he said, friendly Macedonia, and underlined the fact that the two countries do not have open issues and that this is a good basis for promotion and strengthening of mutual relations in the future.



THE PRIORITIES OF THE BELGIAN PRESIDENCY WITH THE COUNCIL OF THE EU PRESENTED

continues with the reforms in the field of administration, judiciary, the implementation of the Ohrid Framework Agreement and the strengthening of the political dialogue. H.E., the Ambassador of the Kingdom of Belgium, Mr. Marc Michiels presented the five priorities of the new EU Presidency: the social and economic priorities regarding the financial problems of some countries in the Union, avoiding such cases in future by taking special preventive measures; strengthening of the social cohesion in all member states; protection of the environment with special attention to the combat against global warming; implementation of the Stockholm Programme in the field of justice

and internal affairs, especially in the field of migration, asylum and combat against the organized crime and corruption; and last but not least, the enlargement process on which Belgium will actively work for bringing all aspiring countries for membership closer to the EU, including the Republic of Macedonia.

Parliamentary groups in the Assembly of the Republic of Macedonia expressed their opinions and expectations. The social democrats expressed satisfaction for the enlargement priority by the current presidency and called the Government to continue with the reforms necessary for EU membership. The JPC Co-Chair, Mr. Aleksandar Spasenovski, emphasized the

importance of the enlargement priority of the Belgian Presidency in times when EU is entering into a new chapter of its existence, which is also of great importance for the citizens of the Republic of Macedonia. The common approach towards the Euro-integration of Macedonia both from the parties of the position and opposition, the civil society and the citizens is a unifying force of our community. Mr. Spasenovski expressed reassurance that Macedonia will continue with the reforms and that within the frames of the Belgian Presidency will deepen the relations with the European Union, by which a clear signal will be sent that the place of Macedonia is in the EU.

PEACE IN THE BALKANS IS NECESSARY FOR STABILITY IN EUROPE

Ms. Radmila Shekerinska, Chairperson and the members of the National Integration Council, had a meeting with Mr. Pierre Lellouche, Minister on European Issues from the Republic of France, the Ambassador of the Republic of France to the Republic of Macedonia, Mr. Jean-Claude Schlumberger, MEP, Mr. Arnaud Danjean and Mr. Thierry Guichoux, Deputy Director of the Sub-Direction of the Balkan Europe.



Ms. Shekerinska welcomed the presence of the Minister on European Issues from the Republic of France, and informed the guests on the composition and the aims of the National Integration Council. Mr. Lellouche underlined the good cooperation between the Republic of France and

the Republic of Macedonia and underlined that France has always been present in the Balkans and that the situation on the Balkans has always been important for France. „Our aim is to provide stability and development of the Republic of Macedonia and the Balkans in general, with its Euro-Atlantic perspective.”

Participants expressed appreciation for the support and for the solidarity provided by France on the Macedonian path towards EU and NATO and underlined that the accession in the Union is an inevitable process.

SCIENCE SHOULD GIVE AN ANSWER FOR THE ROLE OF THE PARTIES AND THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY IN THE EUROPEAN INTEGRATION OF MACEDONIA

On the occasion of the publishing of the political magazine “Political Thought”, on 13 July 2010, a round table was organized by the Konrad Adenauer local office with representatives of the scientific and academic sector, with civil society, Ambassadors and politicians. The JPC Co-Chair Aleksandar Spasenovski also took part in the discussion. Outlining the thesis from his article published in the magazine, Spasenovski emphasized the value of statehood in the EU membership project of Macedonia. For a faster integration, the JPC Co-Chair pointed to the need for further strengthening of the unity both on inter-political and inter-ethnic level.

In the context of today’s challenges facing Macedonia, Mr. Aleksandar Spasenovski called on the scientific public offer input on issues related to the cur-

rent role of the parties, the international community and the NGO sector in the process of the European integration of Macedonia. Spasenovski, in his speech, stated among other things, that in this twenty year period since independence, the European integration of the Macedonian state has been blocked at least eight years due to the name dispute. “I consider that one should take into consideration the role of the international community in Macedonia for its integration in the European family of nations. The party responsible for managing the state needs the utmost support from the international community. The most recent elections were deemed to be free and fair and the latest reports from the European Commission have been positive on the whole. The government bearing the weight of Macedonian integration into

MEETING WITH THE PRESIDENT OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF THE REPUBLIC OF SERBIA, MS. SLAVICA GJUKIK DEJANOVIK



The Parliamentary Group for Cooperation with the Parliament of the Republic of Serbia had a meeting with the President of the National Assembly of the Republic of Serbia, Ms. Slavica Gjukik Dejanovik. Mr. Ivan Stoiljkovic, Mr. Abedin Zumberi, Ms. Vesna Bendevska and Mr.

Safet Neziri attended the meeting.

MPs underlined that the Republic of Macedonia is strongly determined on the enhancement of the political dialogue and application of the principle of good neighbourly relations. The economic relations between the two states should be on higher level and that the parliaments can take the role to remind the ministries on this topic. President Dejanovik expressed pleasure from this visit to the Republic of Macedonia, which, for her, is a close and friendly country, and underlined that in the future both countries will have opportunities to solve many good and common issues of mutual European interest. President Dejanovik also underlined the importance of the parliamentary cooperation and expressed appreciation from the increased intensity of the communication between the two parliaments on very level. The importance of the development of the parliamentary diplomacy and the importance of mutual understanding and strengthening the national minorities that live in these two states was also a shared opinion at the meeting.



the EU needs the support of that same Union and of the international community.” stated Spasenovski.

At the end, the JPC Co-Chair expressed satisfaction from the role of the Assembly in the realization of the European priorities of the state through the relevant parliamentary bodies, as well as in the parliamentary dimension of the international policy of the Republic of Macedonia.

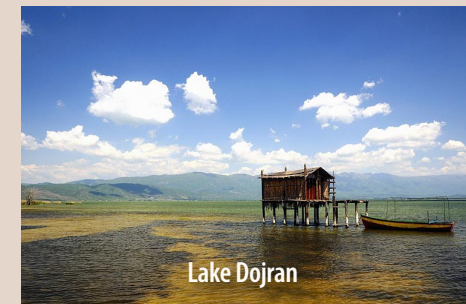
Natural Lakes in Macedonia



Lake Ohrid



Lake Prespa



Lake Dojran

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