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Joint Parliamentary Committee EU-RM

Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Ministry of Culture

Macedonian legislation harmonized with the EU acquis in JUNE-JULY 2015:

- Law Amending the Law on Prevention of Corruption
- Law Amending the Law on Consumer Protection
- Law Ratifying the Framework Agreement between the Republic of Macedonia represented by the Government of the Republic of Macedonia and the European Commission for the Procedures to Implement the Union Financial Assistance for the Republic of Macedonia within the Implementation of the Assistance IPA II
- Law on Construction Materials
- Law Amending the Law on Quality of Agricultural Products
- Law Ratifying the Convention for Protection and Use of Cross-Border Rivers and International Lakes – amended
- Law Amending the Law on Public Roads
- Law Ratifying the Agreement between the Republic of Macedonia and the European Union for participation in the Program "Employment and Social Innovations"
- Law on General Administrative Procedure.

IMPLEMENTATION OF THE AGREEMENT WILL BRING THE POLITICAL CRISIS TO AN END

The Bureau of the JPC from the European Parliament: Mr. Alojz Peterle, Co-Chair; Mr. Sergei Stanishev and Mr. Angel Džambaski, Vice Co-Chairs, met with Mr. Kenan Hasipi, JPC Co-Chair and Mr. Artan Harsh, Vice Co-Chair, as well as with other Members of the Delegation. The focus of the meeting was the recently achieved agreement among the four largest political parties in Macedonia to get out of the political crisis. Macedonian counterparts expressed gratitude for the outstanding interest and unreserved commitments by Mr. Peterle in resolving the crisis, and hope for the implementation of the Treaty, because the interests of our country to return to democratic course and to remain on the EU integration path. The problem of migrants was also discussed as a potential danger for country and the region, which is yet another reason that Macedonia should be part of the NATO alliance security umbrella. Mr. Peterle stressed that the Bureau should make good preparation for the dynamic fall, when the 13th JPC meeting will take place. The coming months are very important, not only within the country but also in relations with the EU, and in that context, Macedonia should show that national interest comes first. The Vice- Co-Chair Stanishev expressed regret that ten years passed since the Republic of Macedonia was granted a candidate status for EU membership. He underlined the need for support from the European Parliament and to give a clear signal to the European Council that things are changing. The implementation of reforms, economic development and recognizing the election in April by all stakeholders remain critical for the stability of the state. At the meeting with other members of the Committee were also shared views on the current political situation, as well as the economical, welcoming the GDP growth, which last year was 3.8%, the second best result for GDP growth in the EU and in the first quarter of 2015. This growth is 3.2%.

They all agreed that there is an intensive period ahead, which requires a lot of commitment and willingness by all sides to overcome the political crisis.



THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR EUROPEAN AFFAIRS, MR. HARLEM DÉSIR VISITS MACEDONIA

Mr. Désir was accompanied by Mr. Philippe Duron, Chair of the Friendship Group with the Republic of Macedonia from the National Assembly and had a joint meeting with the European Affairs and the Foreign Affairs Committee. He pointed out that France will continue to support Republic of Macedonia on its road to NATO and the EU. He also emphasized the seriousness of the problem with influx of Syrian migrant in the region and in the EU, but also from other Middle East and Central Asia countries, where Macedonia is a transit country on their route, and stated that EU has allocated a financial assistance for the region to cope with this crisis that still continues to worsen in the following months.

Views were also exchanged for the Euro-Integration process of the Republic of Macedonia and its determination for a European perspective by all political parties in the state as well as the majority of its citizens. The guests welcome the mediation of the international community that put and end of the political crisis.



PUBLIC DEBATE ON THE DRAFT-LAW ON ROAD TRAFFIC SECURITY

The National Council for European Integration (NCEI), together with the Committee on Defence and Security held a public hearing on the Draft-Law on Road Traffic Safety, which is part of the NCEI Opinion for the adoption of the EU acquis 2015, adopted this year.

The Government representative noted that the objective is harmonization of certain issues related to road traffic and to overcome some inconsistencies in the implementation, complying with the EU law in the relevant area. The proposed Law is harmonized with the Council Directive of 16 December 1991 on the approximation of the laws of the Member States of the mandatory use of seat belts in vehicles weighing less than 3.5 tons (91/671 / EEC), Directive the European Parliament and Council 2003/20/EC of 8 April 2003 amending Council Directive 91/671/EEC on the approximation of the laws of the Member States relating to the compulsory use of seat belts in vehicles weighing less than 3.5 tons, and Directive 2006/126/EC of the European Parliament and the Council of 20 December 2006 on driving licenses.

The participants welcomed the adoption of a new law on road traffic safety and they pointed to the need to clarify and specify some provisions in the law, in order to provide good implementation in practice.



PUBLIC DEBATE ON ASYLUM AND EU ACQUIS

The EU Affairs Committee held a public debate couple on 25th June 2015 on the asylum and the EU acquis that was related to the amendment of the Law on Asylum and Temporary Protection, in order to give the migrants a possibility for legal transit on the territory of the Republic of Macedonia during 72 hours, but also a possibility to apply for asylum in the state.

The need was also raised to establish joint European approach to the influx of migrants, since this is the issue the Republic of Macedonia has been facing with these months, as a transit country of thousands of migrants, having a final destination in the EU. Representatives of the NGO sector, as well as other participants proposed several measures to improve the conditions in the centers for asylum seekers and to satisfy their social, economic and medical needs. The efforts of the state were positively assessed, as well as the work of the Red Cross, humanitarian and non-governmental organizations that have been working with the migrants during their stay and transit through the Republic of Macedonia.



PEFA REPRESENTATIVES MEET MEMBERS OF THE BUDGET AND FINANCE COMMITTEE

Members of the Finance and Budget Committee met with representatives of the Program for Public Expenditure and Financial Accountability (PEFA). They exchanged views on aspects of public finance management in the country, the procedure for adoption of Budget and cooperation between the Parliament and the State Audit Office. The MPs explained that regarding the adoption of the State Budget, the parliamentary procedure is regulated in the Budget Law and the Rules of Procedure of Parliament. The Draft is submitted to the Parliament no later than 15th November each year. The MPs have 20 days before plenary to review the Draft and to make the necessary analyses and preparations for discussion, as well as for submission of amendments. The Draft is reviewed by the Budget and Finance Committee, and also by the Legislative Committee and other interested committees. The Budget and Finance Committee reviews all submitted amendments during a committee session, which is publicly broadcasted on the parliamentary TV channel. This is part of the commitments for transparency of the Parliament. The Committee also reviews the Annual Reports of the State Audit Bureau and adopts conclusions that are later submitted to plenary. The State Auditor is also present at the committee meeting. The reports of the Bureau are also publicly uploaded on their website. At the end of the meeting, collocutors expressed hope that these meetings will continue in future as an excellent opportunity for exchange of views and experiences.



112 YEARS OF ILINDEN UPRISING AND 71 YEARS OF FIRST ASSEMBLY OF ASNOM MARKED



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