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Joint Parliamentary Committee EU-RM
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Ministry of Foreign Affairs
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Macedonian legislation harmonized with the EU acquis in September 2010:

- Law on International Cooperation in Criminal Matters
- Amendments to the Law on Personal Data Protection
- Amendments to the Law on Labour Relations
- Amendments to the Law on Control of Drugs and Psychotropic Substances

The Independence Day 8 September

"European Macedonia is a debt we owe to our predecessors, and even more to the future generations."

Address by the President Veljanoski on the Ceremonial Academy.



MEETING OF PRESIDENT VELJANOSKI WITH THE ARCHBISHOP AND ECUMENICAL PATRIARCH, HIS ALL HOLINESS BARTHOLOMEW



On 27 September 2010, the President of the Assembly of the Republic of Macedonia Mr. Trajko Veljanoski had a meeting with the Archbishop and Ecumenical Patriarch, His All Holiness Bartholomew.

At the meeting in the Ecumenical Patriarchate,

President Veljanoski expressed his pleasure that he is meeting the Patriarch Bartholomew on this particular day, the Holy Cross Day. The President expressed appreciation and gratitude for the pastoral and spiritual contribution of the Patriarch Bartholomew to the whole Orthodox Ecumene, to which Macedonian people and the Macedonian Orthodox Church-Ohrid Archbishopric belong. He also underlined that the Christianity and the Orthodoxy for the Macedonians are among the pillars of the national, cultural and linguistic identity. Mr. Veljanoski also expressed conviction that only through dialogue, will and respect for the other and the different, every issue can be resolved and a solution to a problem can be found. President Veljanoski conveyed the greetings from His Beatitude Archbishop Stephen of Ohrid, Head of the Macedonian Orthodox Church, inviting the Patriarch to visit the Republic of Macedonia, which above all said the President, will be a great joy for the Macedonian citizens.

The Ecumenical Patriarch underlined that these

meetings are joyful for the Patriarchy and that the Patriarch, after meeting President Ivanov and Prime Minister Gruevski is meeting with pleasure the President and a Delegation from the Assembly of the Republic of Macedonia.



MACEDONIA IS DOING ITS BEST TO RECEIVE A POSITIVE REPORT BY THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION

The Co-Chairs of the JPC RM-EU, Aleksandar Spasenovski, the President of the National Euro-Integration Council, Ms. Radmila Sekerinska, the President of the Committee on European Issues, Mr. Petar Pop Arsov and a representative of the Foreign Policy Committee, Mr. Vasko Sutarov, had a meeting with the President of the State, Mr. Gjorgje Ivanov, where they shared their ideas of how best to move forward toward integration of the Republic of Macedonia in the EU. The meeting with President Ivanov is part of his series of meetings with representatives of the executive and the legislative



power related to the EU integration of the Republic of Macedonia.

The Head of the Delegation in the JPC RM-EU, Mr. Aleksandar Spasenovski, stated that all relevant actors on the country's European road should fulfill their commitments. Spasenovski expressed hope that in the next Progress Report of the European Commission, Macedonia will come even closer to the Union, and as the same time expressed his satisfaction with the engagement of the Government, President of the State and the Parliament as the relevant institutions in charge of the state foreign policy making.

MEETING WITH PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF TURKEY, MR. ABDULA GÜL



A Parliamentary Delegation headed by President Veljanovski paid official visit to the Republic of Turkey. In the framework of the two days official visit, the Delegation had also a meeting with the President Mr. Abdullah Gül. The Macedonian parliamentary delegation expressed appreciation for the position of the Republic of Turkey regarding the membership of the Republic of Macedonia in EU and NATO and the support by the Turkish for the Macedonian people. They expressed conviction that following the good political relations on every level, the cooperation between both states will be deepened on the level of economy in the near future.

The President of the Republic of Turkey, Mr. Abdullah Gül underlined that the Republic of Turkey remains a friend of the Republic of Macedonia and that regardless of the events, the Republic of Macedonia should remain on the path for fulfilling the reforms, which will put the Republic of Macedonia in position to have all arguments on its side in the endeavours to become member of NATO and EU.

PARLIAMENTARY MEETINGS WITHIN THE MACEDONIAN PRESIDENCY WITH THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE

The Committee on Migration, Refugees and Population of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (PACE) held a hearing in Skopje on 20-21 September 2010 on human smuggling and trafficking for labour exploitation purposes. This was followed by a further hearing on migration



and demographic challenges for the Republic of Macedonia. The situation of Roma asylum seekers in member states and preventing harm to refugees and migrants in extradition and expulsion cases was also on the agenda of the meetings.

"The Head of the Delegation from the Assembly of the Republic of Macedonia in PACE, Mr. Aleksandar Nikolovski, in his address elaborated the activities the state is taking to tackle these issues, such as adoption of the necessary legislation, strengthening technical capacities for fight against organized crime, establishment of a national shelter for the victims of trafficking, activities for increasing the awareness of target groups about the dangers of trafficking, continued participation in the trans-national mechanisms of the SEE countries and prosecution of perpetrators. Regarding the hearing dedicated to the topic of migration and democratic challenges, he pointed out that it is a fortunate coincidence that the headquarters of the regional organization dealing with this issue - MARRI - is located in Macedonia.

MARRI has been an initiative established to address migration in the Western Balkans and to promote close cooperation, integrated approach to migration and asylum and border management, issue which is an important part of the process of European integration of the region.

PUBLIC DEBATE ON THE DRAFT-VERSION OF THE DRAFT-LAW ON ENERGY

The National European Integration Council organized a public debate on the Draft Version of the Energy Law, which is consisted in the NPAA- Revision 2010. Mr. Fatmir Besimi, Minister on Economy, elaborated this Draft-law.

The aim of this law is to harmonise the Macedonian legislation in the area of energy with the Acquis, i.e. the directives and regulations which are the essential elements of the legal framework of the Agreement Establishing Energy Community, as well as further liberalization of the energy markets and creating conditions for stable and sustainable energy sector.



SPASENOVSKI: THERE ARE WAYS HOW TO PROCEED WITH THE EUROPEAN INTEGRATION IN A SITUATION WITH UNRESOLVED DISPUTE OVER THE NAME ISSUE



Mr. Aleksandar Spasenovski, on 24 September 2010, held a lecture in front of the third generation of participants at the "School of Politics" entitled: "The role

of the Parliament in the Euro-Integration Process." He explained to the audience the significance of the European integration process, having in mind the challenges the state is facing in the accomplishment of its European goals. The Parliament is the one of the stake-holders of the process of European integration through its legislative activities as well as through its role in shaping the Macedonian foreign policy. The MPs, through their contacts with the colleagues in the European Parliament contribute to a large extent for speeding

up Macedonia's integration process", said Spasenovski.

In relation to the current conditions, Spasenovski stated that the name issue is an obstacle to enter in the next phase of the accession process, and according to his opinion, Macedonia together with the European friends should look for ways to continue with the integration process, in a situation of extended blocking on behalf of Greece. He sees the way out in the use of the Croatian - Slovenian scenario also in the Macedonian case with Greece, meaning

start of negotiations for membership in the EU without delay, and in the meantime to continue the talks with the southern neighbor for the differences over the name issue.

On an initiative raised by the Council of Europe in 2003, the Macedonian School of Politics has been created, which since 2004 is acting as an independent institution founded by the Macedonian Association for Political Promotion (MAPA).

Wine Routes of Macedonia



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