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### Your links:

Members of the Assembly

Councils of the Assembly

Working bodies of the Assembly

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 November 2011:

- Law on European Economic Interest Communities

Dear colleagues,

Dear friends,

On the eve of the Christmas and New Year holidays, when we are celebrating the second anniversary of our JPC Newsletter, we are addressing you on behalf of the Delegation from the Assembly of the Republic of Macedonia in the Joint Parliamentary Committee - European Union and the Republic of Macedonia to wish you happy holidays, good health and many professional and personal successes in the year to come and success in the work of our Committee.

This year we are also marking two important anniversaries, the one being the 20th Anniversary from the independence of the Republic of Macedonia, when the citizens have decided, in a peaceful manner, to live in their own state, realizing their centuries old dream for independence

### 2ND ANNIVERSARY OF THE JPC NEWSLETTER

## MERRY CHRISTMAS AND HAPPY NEW YEAR HOLIDAYS

and sovereignty. The other is the 10th anniversary of the signing of the Ohrid Framework Agreement, that continues to be an essential element of democracy and rule of law and provides the basis for building of true coexistence of all ethnic communities in the Republic of Macedonia. With the Agreement, Republic of Macedonia opened a new chapter in its history which in the last ten years has been confirmed by the political dedication of all governments for its practical implementation.

Taking on our new offices within the Joint Parliamentary Committee - Republic of Macedonia and the European Union after the parliamentary elections in June this year, we have continued to work in the spirit of good cooperation and constructiveness during our joint meetings. Despite the fact that we come from different political parties from the government and the opposition and despite belonging to different ethnicities, we are united in our aspiration to continue with the fulfillment of the necessary reforms

and advance the process of integration of the Assembly of the Republic of Macedonia in the European Union. The priority of our state, of our citizens and of all political parties in the state is to obtain a date for start of negotiations for EU membership. We sincerely believe that the renewed recommendation of the European Commission this year shall be taken into account on the next EU Council summit, thus enabling Macedonia to enter into the next phase of its Euro-Integration path and that we, as parliamentarians from both parliaments, will work together on the full and expedient accomplishment of this goal.

Once again, let us wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Sincerely,

*Kenan Hasipi, JPC Co-Chair*

*Andrej Petrov & Ermira Mehmeti Devaja, Vice Co-Chairs*



## STATEMENT OF THE PRESIDENT VELJANOSKI ON THE OCCASION OF THE VERDICT OF THE INTERNATIONAL COURT OF JUSTICE

bour consciously violated the Interim Accord of 1995.

The Court, with this historic decision, rejected the arguments of the Republic of Greece and strongly confirmed the politics of peaceful co-existence and acceptance of the democratic standards, which are the guiding determinant of the Macedonian state in the past two decades.

Allow me to underlie that we highly appreciate the confirmation of the International Court of Justice that the Republic of Macedonia has presented its GOOD WILL in the negotiations, which fully rejects the Greek statements of the opposite.

This resolution is also the strongest verification for the Macedonian aspirations and priorities, as well as unambiguous answer to everyone who accused the Republic of Macedonia on allegedly insufficient devotion to the Euro Atlantic Integration in the past years.

The Republic of Macedonia continues with this determination and strong efforts.

The Macedonian citizens should be proud because

they received the highest international verification of all legitimate beliefs to which we strongly aspire in the past period.

Allow me to express my deepest conviction for building good neighbourly relations of respect and cooperation with the Republic of Greece in the spirit of friendship and regional stability.

Also, I strongly believe that this outcome will contribute in the additional catalyses of the European and Euro-Atlantic Integration, which are the guiding national and state interest of the Republic of Macedonia.

On my personal behalf and on behalf of the legislative house, allow me to congratulate the citizens on this significant legal peak which was conquered by our state, the Republic of Macedonia.

Thank you

*Monday, 5 December 2011*



Today, three years after the initializing the process of the Republic of Macedonia against the Republic of Greece on the violation of the Interim Accord, the International Court of Justice has adopted the final verdict, which strongly confirmed the unambiguous reality that our southern neigh-



*Seasons Greetings from Macedonia*

*JPC*

Photo: Nace Popov

## PRESIDENT VELJANOSKI MEETS HIS COLLEAGUES IN THE UK PARLIAMENT



President of the Assembly of the Republic of Macedonia, Mr. Trajko Veljanoski, together with the three Vice Presidents, Ms. Svetlana Jakimovska, Ms. Suzana Salju and Mr. Jani Makraduli and the Coordinators of the Parliamentary Groups, during their three day visit to the United Kingdom, met with Baroness D'Souza, Speaker of the House of Lords and with Rt. Hon. John Bercow, Speaker of the House of Commons of the UK Parliament.

At the meeting with Baroness D'Souza, both sides expressed satisfaction with cooperation on the parliamentary level. With the 2007 Wilton Park project, the British Parliament has influenced positively the work of the Macedonian Assembly. President Veljanoski spoke about the new Parliamentary Rules of Procedure and the Law on the Assembly, and that the political dialogue is conducted on a regular basis through the coordination meetings held every Monday. The European Progress Report on the Republic of Macedonia was also discussed. It was pointed out that in the last three years, the EC assessed positively the progress of the country, espe-



cially regarding the work of the Assembly for which credit must be given to all the parliamentary political parties.

Mr. Bercow expressed the strong support that the United Kingdom is giving to the Republic of Macedonia in the process of accession to NATO and the European Union. He noted the friendly relations between the United Kingdom and the Republic of Macedonia and the cooperation in various fields, especially in the international peace keeping missions. President Veljanoski said that he expects and hopes that the decision of the International Court of Justice in Hague regarding the imposed dispute over the constitutional name of the Republic of Macedonia will contribute to the creation of favourable conditions for realization of the aspirations of the country. He also informed his host that the reforms demanded by the EU and NATO are improving the lives of the citizens of the country.

## DELEGATION FROM THE EUROPEAN AFFAIRS COMMITTEE IN BRUSSELS



Delegation of the Committee on European Issues of the Assembly of the Republic of Macedonia, headed by the Chairperson of the Committee Mr. Hajrula Misini, together with the members Mr. Ilija Dimovski and Mr. Gordan Georgiev had bilateral meetings in the European Parliament with MEPs Eduard Kukan, Richard Howitt, Norica Nicolai, Jorgo Chatzimakakis, and Kristian Vigenin. The meetings were useful and important from the aspect of intensification of the cooperation with the European Parliament and strengthening of the Macedonian position in the process of integration in the EU. The Rapporteur for Macedonia in the European Parliament, the British MEP Mr. Richard Howitt, informed the Macedonian Delegation that the first draft of the Resolution on the Progress of Macedonia will be submitted on 20 December. MEPs reiterated the support Macedonia has in the European Parliament and expressed their understanding for the irrational problem we have regarding our constitutional name



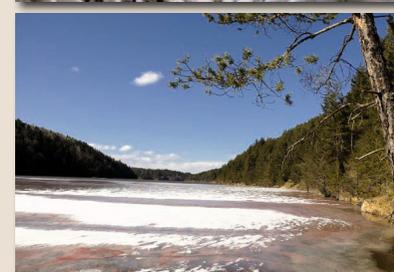
that is blocking our path towards joining the EU. MPs of the Assembly of the Republic of Macedonia informed their colleagues that the priority and commitment of the Republic of Macedonia for building its European future with a clearly expressed public and political support in the realization of this goal, continue to be our primary focus. They pointed out that after 7 years since becoming candidate country and 3 years since the first recommendation for opening the accession negotiations, the society is becoming frustrated and this affects the internal political situation, but also the open issues in the region.

The meetings were concluded in a positive atmosphere and hope that the meetings and exchange of opinions will continue in future.

MPs used the opportunity to meet their colleagues in the Belgian Parliament, where they met with Mr. Herman De Croo, former President of the Chamber of Representatives of the Belgian Parliament and member of the European Affairs Committee, and with several members of the Committee. The meeting confirmed the readiness for further development and intensification of the relations between the two countries, having in mind the fact that this was the first bilateral meeting on parliamentary level since 2004. The Macedonian parliamentarians informed their hosts about the position of the country regarding its European integration process. They emphasized that for us, as a candidate country for European Union membership, it is important to have the support of the member countries, especially after the European Commission repeated its recommendation for opening the accession negotiations with the European Union and ahead of the December Summit of the EU.

The Members of Parliament from the Kingdom of Belgium showed interest and understanding for the developments in the Republic of Macedonia, and expressed their readiness for cooperation and assistance in the process of adoption of the European standards on the road towards accession.

## BEROVO IN WINTER



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