

Your contacts:

Chairman of the EU-MK JPC: k.hasipi@sobranie.mk

Members: jpc@sobranie.mk

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 April 2012:

- Law Ratifying the Agreement with Republic of Croatia on Extradition
- Law Ratifying the Agreement with Republic of Serbia on Extradition
- Law Amending the Law on Quality of Agricultural Products

20th Anniversary of the Monetary Independence of the Republic of Macedonia



PRESIDENT VELJANOSKI AT THE CONFERENCE OF SPEAKERS IN WARSAW



The President of the Assembly of the Republic of Macedonia, Mr. Trajko Veljanoski, attended the Conference of Speakers of the European Union Parliaments, held in Warsaw, Republic of Poland, where he took part in the debate on the crisis of the European unity, the Parliament, public opinion and the media.

He also used the opportunity to meet and exchange views during several bilateral meetings with his colleagues at the Conference.

Speaking about the crisis of the European unity,

President Veljanoski quoted Konrad Adenauer "The unity of Europe was the dream of a few. It became the hope of many...", and emphasized that Europe must make maximum efforts in order to protect the values and benefits deriving from the unity of the European nations. It is not about how much friendship means to us or how much we are personally affected by the unjust treatment of others, it is not about having strict and egoistic approach towards the obligations and benefits, it is about how much our common Europe means to us, about the standards and values we all share, about what we are prepared to do to preserve and strengthen the unity, said President Veljanoski. Regarding the parliament, public opinion and the media, President Veljanoski emphasized that we live in a world where Internet, the social networks and the open debate forums are creating a completely new approach to the media, where the politicians, the traditional media and the journalists are not any more the only ones creating the public opinion.

The digital technology provides even more possibilities for the citizens to influence the shaping of public opinion. In this regard, the Assembly of the Republic of Macedonia introduced E-Parliament and ensured full

transparency of the whole legislative process.

With the redesigned parliamentary website the citizens can contact their MPs or political groups and submit their proposals, ideas and remarks. The Parliamentary TV Channel broadcasts all parliamentary sessions, oversight debates and the meetings of the Assembly Committees. In future it tends to start a new, interactive program which will include not only the MPs, but also the social entities, including the citizens, said President Veljanoski.



CZECH REPUBLIC SUPPORTS MACEDONIA'S EURO-ATLANTIC INTEGRATION

During his official visit in the Republic of Macedonia, the Prime Minister of the Czech Republic, Mr. Petr Nečas, met with President Veljanoski in the Assembly of the Republic of Macedonia.

They both agreed that the highly developed and friendly bilateral relations between the two countries encompass all spheres. President Veljanoski pointed out that the experiences of the Czech Parliament in the process of harmonization of Macedonian legislation with that of the EU are important for our Euro-integration process. Prime-Minister Nečas



said that the integration of Macedonia in NATO and the EU is one of the priorities of his Government and that they will continue to support the country in its reform efforts and expressed appreciation for everything Macedonia has been doing for the stability of the region.

The economic cooperation between the two states has increased and the Czech businessmen accompanying him during this visit showed interest for investment in the Republic of Macedonia, especially in the energy and transport sectors.

EU Affairs Committee Chair at the COSAC Meeting



The Chair of the Committee on European Affairs, Mr. Hajrula Misini, attended the 47th COSAC plenary meeting in Copenhagen, held in the framework of the Danish Presidency with the European Union. The President of the European Commission Mr. José Manuel Barroso addressed the meeting. Mr. Barroso's speech was on the topic "20 years of free movement for goods, people, services and capital", where he pointed out that at the moment Europe is faced with a lot of challenges, which need to be addressed in order to create more developed, stronger and more competitive Europe.

At this COSAC meeting Macedonia received strong support from the Parliaments of Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia. **The Chairpersons of the Committees on European Affairs of these countries submitted a joint statement to all the COSAC members asking for opening of the EU accession negotiations with the Republic of Macedonia, and invited the Danish EU Presidency to include this matter in the EU agenda.** Mr. Misini met the Chairpersons of the European Affairs Committees of the three Parliaments and expressed appreciation for their support. He also called on the other European parliaments to follow this example and help Macedonia on its path towards its European integration.

Meeting of Women MPs Club on Gender Responsive Budgeting

The Women Parliamentarians Club and UN Women – the United Nations entity for promotion of gender equality, had a working meeting with the Austrian expert on gender responsive budgeting, Dr. Elisabeth Klatzer. The meeting was organized in the framework of the UN Women regional project "Gender Responsive Budgeting in South Eastern Europe", that is supported by the Austrian Development Cooperation. It is part of the second visit of Dr. Klatzer and support for the Working Group of the Ministry of Labour and Social

Policy for gender responsive budgeting, which is working on preparation of the first National Strategy on gender responsive budgeting to be adopted in June this year. Having in mind the role that the Assembly has in the adoption of the Budget, as well as the possibilities of the parliamentarians to influence the process of budgeting regarding implementation of gender responsive policies, the meeting with Dr. Klatzer was used for exchange of ideas and transfer of international experiences regarding gender budgeting.



Joint Meeting of the EU Affairs Committee and the National European Integration Council

The EU Affairs Committee and the National European Integration Council (NEIC) had a joint meeting dedicated to the Information and the implemented activities of the National Program for the Adoption of the Acquis (NPAA) - revision 2012. The Deputy-Prime Minister Ms. Teuta Arifi presented the program and the measures taken by the Government, in light of the start of the High-Level Accession Dialogue (HLAD) with the European Commission. She said that the Republic of Macedonia requested the opening of HLAD as a creative approach and a by-pass of the name issue, giving priority to the reforms in several crucial areas. At the first HLAD meeting held in March 2012 the Government of the Republic of Macedonia gave commitments to prepare the Roadmap defining the timeline for five selected key activities to be fulfilled in the forthcoming period, such as: the media, freedom of expression and professional standards, reforms in the field of judiciary, internal affairs and inter-ethnic relations, reform of the administration, of the electoral system and electoral procedures, as well as regarding the economic criteria.

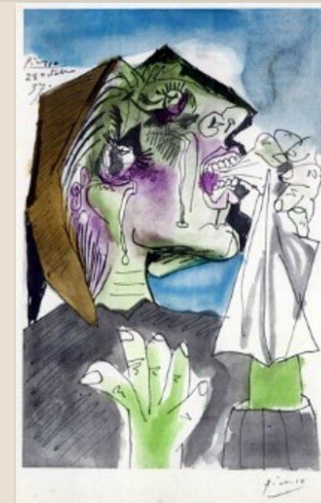
Elaborating each of the areas, Ms. Arifi said that the legislation should be harmonized with the European standards regarding libel and defamation, the level of fines, elimination of detention as a sanction and defining of legal means used in the process. For that purpose there is an ongoing dialogue with representatives of the media, as well as with experts from the Council of Europe, and special trainings

have been completed for implementation of Article 10 of the European Convention on Human Rights. Amendments will also be made to the legislation on the Broadcasting Council. Activities have been taken to increase the efficiency and capacities of the judiciary, develop software for judicial statistics and reduce the number of unresolved cases in the Constitutional and Administrative Court and in the Courts of Appeals in Macedonia, as well as to improve the situation regarding the infrastructure and equipment in the Public Prosecutor's Office. Amendments have been made regarding the contents of the statements for conflict of interest and for check-ups of the past statements of the elected and appointed officials, as measures in the fight against corruption. Attention is also being paid to the legal regulations regarding financing of the political parties. Ms. Arifi referred to the forthcoming amendments to the Law on Interception of Communications concerning the role of the Minister of Interior in the approval of special investigation measures. Report will be prepared on the activities deriving from the Ohrid Framework Agreement. Regarding the reform of the administration, new legal solutions will be offered to the Law on Public and Law on Civil Servants related to the transparency and merit based approach in the employment procedure. Electoral reform will be carried out to reflect the OSCE/ODIHR reports and recommendations. Ms. Arifi concluded her presentation with the efforts for improvement of the economic criteria for membership and of the labour market, as well as in the education and the criteria for functioning of the market economy.

The Vice-President of the NEIC, Ms. Silvana Boneva, the Chairman of the EU Affairs Committee, Mr. Hajrula Misini, the Vice-President of the Parliament, Mr. Jani Makraduli, the Deputy-Member of NEIC, Mr. Zijadin Sela, the Foreign Policy Committee Chairman, Mr. Antonio Milososki, the NEIC Member Mr. Tito Petkovski and the Representative of the Civil Platform NEIC member, Ms. Tanja Hafner Ademi participated in the debate. They encouraged the Government to implement the undertaken commitments and forward the legal amendments of the respective laws related to the HLAD Roadmap in the Parliament as soon as possible.



Picasso at World Gallery "Osten" COLLECTION OF 66 ORIGINALS



JPC Committee - News from the Assembly of the Republic of Macedonia, No. 21, April 2012

The JPC Newsletter is published by the Assembly of the Republic of Macedonia, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Macedonia (www.mfa.gov.mk) and Macedonian Information Centre (www.micnews.com.mk).

Editorial Board: Kenan Hasipi, Susannah Gjorceva, Marijana Opašinova Šundovska and Dragan Antonov.

The contents of this newsletter do not necessarily represent the views of the publishers.