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NATIONAL UPRISING DAY - OCTOBER 11

IS MARKED AT A FORMAL ACADEMY,
HELD UNDER THE AUSPICES OF
PARLIAMENT SPEAKER TRAJKO VELJANOSKI



7TH CONFERENCE OF WESTERN BALKANS PRESIDENTS OF PARLIAMENTS



The President of the Assembly of the Republic of Macedonia, Mr. Trajko Veljanoski, attended the 7th Conference of Western Balkans Presidents of Parliaments organized under the auspices of the Speaker of the Hungarian National Assembly, Mr. Laszlo Kover. President Veljanoski co-chaired and addressed the second session titled: "Current security challenges in South Eastern Europe - Possible Solutions." The current global developments,

organized crime, terrorism, greater nations concepts, irrational blockades were listed among the major security risks for the region by President Veljanoski, among which the greatest of all the refugee crisis with migrants coming from the Middle East and other states affected by the conflict. Over 200.000 migrants passed through the Macedonian territory in the past months, who have received all the international law required documents to reach their final destination in the EU, which is around 10% of the total number of inhabitants of the Republic of Macedonia. "The EU has recently allocated 17 million EUR for the Republic of Macedonia and the Republic of Serbia as assistance for the refugee crisis. I believe you will all agree that this, to put it mildly, underestimates the problem that the two countries face every day, coping with the real flow of refugees", stated President Veljanoski. Solidarity and humanity are universal civilization values, but countries have the obligation to protect themselves from all security challenges. In order to preserve the European borders, countries need regular exchange of information between relevant institutions, as well as to help in finding peaceful solution for the countries of origin of the refu-

gees. The crisis has been provoked by the activities of the so-called Islamic State that has nothing to do with the Islam as a religion, where people from the region also take part in their lines. In this regard, the Republic of Macedonia adopted a law, which defines as a heavy criminal act the participation of our citizens in military or paramilitary formations in other states, or recruitment of fighters for these purposes. The events in Kumanovo showed that some of the members of the group were closely related with the Islamic Radicalism and participated in the fights in Syria on the side of the Islamic State. This type of radical terrorism does not make a difference on ethnic basis or by state or religion and this is why that the integration of the Republic of Macedonia into the NATO Alliance that we have deserved since the Summit in Bucharest is not for the benefit of the state and the citizens, but will be a benefit for the region and the whole Europe. "Let's make Europe stronger in its democratic values and various, but yet common culture, and unresting spirit which made huge steps in the human civilization. It is up to us whether we will overcome some the still present old prejudices, stereotypes and egoism", concluded President Veljanoski.

DUTCH DEPUTY-FOREIGN MINISTER MEETS NEIC MEMBERS

Ms. Renée Jones-Bos, Deputy Foreign Minister of the Kingdom of Netherlands met with the MPs - Members of the National European Integration Council, the President of the Council Ms Lidija Dimova, the Vice-President Ilija Dimovski, the President of the Committee on EU Affairs, Ms. Ermira Mehmeti, and the Co-Chair of the Joint Parliamentary Committee - EU and the Republic of Macedonia. President Dimova informed the guests for the work of the Council and expressed appreciation for the meeting as a sign of the excellent cooperation between the two states.

Deputy-Minister Jones-Bos outlined that Netherlands shares our concerns regarding the Euro-Integration process and that it will remain our supporter during the Dutch Presidency starting from January 2016. At the meeting, they also discussed the current developments in the state, the Przino Agreement, the changes in the legislation, the refugee crisis and the incoming Progress Report of the Republic of Macedonia for 2015 and jointly agreed all should be done in order to obtain a positive recommendation for Macedonia and for opening the two important Chapters - 23 and 24.



MEDITERRANEAN EU AFFAIRS COMMITTEES MEET IN FLORENCE

Vice-President of the Parliament and Chair of the Foreign Policy Committee, Mr. Antonijo Miloshoski, and the Chair of the Committee on EU Affairs, Ms. Ermira Mehmeti, took part at the International Conference of EU Affairs Committees from the Mediterranean in Florence, Italy titled: New paradigms of Mediterranean Cooperation-20 Years after Barcelona Declaration. At the end of the meeting, a Final Declaration was adopted.

Delegations from Macedonia, Albania and Montenegro contributed to the final text of the Declaration, regarding the influence felt from the refugee crisis among Balkan countries, as support to the 17th item from the EU Western Balkans Action Plan



calling for more specific and coordinated strategies between the EU and the Western Balkans Mediterranean countries, to cope more efficiently with these challenges through several financial instruments of the Union that could be used by the Mediterranean countries.

COSAP MEETING IN TIRANA

The Chair of the Committee on European Affairs, Ms Ermira Mehmeti, and the Member, Ms. Lidija Dimova, also Chair of the National European Integration Council, took part at the Conference of the Committees on European Integration/Affairs from South-Eastern European countries - COSAP in Tirana, Republic of Albania. Ms Mehmeti chaired and addressed the first panel dedicated to the closer parliamentary cooperation, outlining that the deepening of cooperation between the states in the region as the only alternative for a sooner and better integration in the European Union. Ms. Mehmeti stated that the regional cooperation can not be a declarative one, but should also be transformed into projects and activities that will give a new spirit and energy to the whole region. Ms Mehmeti concluded that all political challenges that countries in the region face with should be overcome in the interest of the citizens who deserve the European perspective. Ms. Lidija Dimova took part in the panel dedicated to the parliamentary approach to the Ber-



lin process and discussed the delay in the Euro-Integration process in the Republic of Macedonia and in the dynamics of the European reforms. Speaking about the Berlin process, Ms. Dimova pointed out that this is an exceptional opportunity and chance for all countries in the region to move forward in the EU integration process. Ms. Dimova underlined that state budgets need to be adopted in a transparent and projected manner and to present a base for economic development. At the end, Ms. Dimova concluded that the economic development at the Vienna Summit was overshadowed by the refugee crisis and asked for opening of a Youth Office also in Skopje. The next COSAP Presidency will be taken by Bosnia and Herzegovina.

EXPANDING THE COOPERATION BETWEEN KOSOVO AND MACEDONIA



The Vice-President of the Assembly of the Republic of Kosovo, Ms. Duda Balje, paid first official visit to the Assembly Republic of Macedonia and met with her colleague, the Vice-President Antonijo Miloshoski. Both sides concluded that the two states have good bilateral cooperation, including be-

tween the two parliaments. Mr. Miloshoski expressed the interest of the Republic of Macedonia to develop friendly, economic and, political relations with Kosovo, and also expand the cultural cooperation between the two states. Ms. Balje expressed satisfaction for the ongoing bilateral cooperation and welcomed

the recent establishment of Parliamentary Group for Cooperation with Macedonia in the Parliament of Kosovo. They exchanged experiences for the visa liberalization process of Kosovo and the incoming elections in spring, as well as the absence of the opposition from the Kosovo Parliament.

CZECH SENATOR TOMÁŠ JIRSA IN MACEDONIAN PARLIAMENT



The Vice -President of the Assembly and Chair of the Foreign Policy Committee, Mr. Antonijo Miloshoski met the Mr. Tomáš Jirsa, Member of the Committee on Foreign Affairs, Defence and Security in the Czech Senate. At the beginning of the meeting, Mr. Miloshoski informed the guests on the recent developments and the early elections, as well as on the situation with the Roma and their problems in the field of education, employment and that the Government is working to find solution to these issues.

The good cooperation between neigh-

boring states was mentioned, except for the political problem with Republic of Greece, which uses the right for veto for membership of the Republic of Macedonia in NATO and the EU. Macedonia deserves to be part of the European family. The Balkans must not be ignored and should be sooner integrated for the sake of the security of the region. Migrant crisis was also discussed, as well as the possible solutions.

Concerns were expressed regarding the coming of autumn and winter and also regarding the identity of migrants and possible infiltration of suspicious persons with different ideology, which requires better exchange of information between countries in the region and the EU.

At the end, support was offered for the migrant crisis and other issues from the Euro-Integration process from the Czech Republic, which recognizes the Republic of Macedonia under its constitutional name.

SKOPJE JAZZ FESTIVAL 2015



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