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## CELEBRATING THE INTERNATIONAL DAY OF TOLERANCE IN THE ASSEMBLY OF THE REPUBLIC OF NORTH MACEDONIA



Today at the Headquarters of the European Parliament in Brussels, the President of the Assembly of the Republic of North Macedonia, Afrim Gashi, met with the President of the European Parliament, Roberta Metsola. President Gashi thanked for the strong support of the European perspective of our country, which is continuously given by the European Parliament and by President Metsola, expressing his expectation that it will continue until the full membership of the country in the EU. The two interlocutors agreed that the citizens of our country expect big changes because concessions were made on our part that led to membership in NATO, but not to the start of an Intergovernmental Conference with the EU. President Metsola announced a visit to the region for the beginning of next year and advocated for specific activities on the economic plan, building the infrastructure, the abolition of roaming, but also more concrete steps for the through the Program for Democratic Support for our Parliament. The two Presidents agreed that a great benefit for the country and the citizens is to have clear vision that the EU has in the process of European integration, and clear messages delivered by the EU, so that country continues to keep its focus on this path with preserved dignity and satisfied citizens, regardless of their ethnic origin.

## MEETING WITH EP PRESIDENT ROBERTA METSOLA



## MEETING WITH THE EP RAPPORTEUR WAITZ AND SHADOW RAPPORTEUR REUTEN

During the working visit to Brussels, President Gashi met with the EP Rapporteur in AFET Thomas Waitz and the S&D Shadow Rapporteur Thijs Reuten. At the meetings, President Gashi emphasized that RS Macedonia continues to work on maintaining good neighborly relations, on solving open bilateral issues through dialogue in the spirit of European values and on the reform process that should lead to the fulfillment of our strategic goal. The interlocutors welcomed the adoption of the Growth Plan, with the envisaged conditionality for distribution depending on progress in the implementation of specific reforms, especially in the areas of the rule of law, the fight against corruption, fundamental rights, economic governance, the strengthening of democratic institutions and the reform of public administration. This will accelerate the necessary socio-economic and fundamental reforms.



At the meeting with the MEP Reuten, President Gashi expressing his belief that the new composition of the Assembly and of the European Parliament will maintain the dynamics of regular communication and cooperation through the Joint Parliamentary Committee, and will work together on the country's EU agenda, by evaluating the progress achieved in the implementation of key reforms and working on areas where further progress is needed. The interlocutors emphasized that the EU must send a clear and strong message at this critical moment to start opening the chapters, because this way the citizens will get the expected vision for the further development of the country.

## THE INTERNATIONAL DAY OF TOLERANCE IN THE ASSEMBLY





## REFORM AGENDA PRESENTED IN PARLIAMENT

The Committee on European Issues, held a public debate on the Reform Agenda of the Government (2024 - 2027), including the EC Growth Plan. The Vice-President of Parliament and Committee Chair Antonijo Miloshoski emphasized that this EU comprehensive plan for growth aims to economically strengthen and stabilize states aspiring to full membership. For our country, this Plan opens new opportunities, especially in the field of investments in infrastructure, development of sustainable energy and improvement of the business climate. What is essential to our progress is the implementation of reforms in education and human capital development, which will strengthen our workforce and prepare it for the new conditions brought by the digital economy. At the session, State President Gordana Siljanovska-Davkova, EU Ambassador Michalis Rokas, Minister of European Affairs Orhan Murtezani, MPs, representatives of ministries, as well as representatives from the non-governmental sector took part at the debate. Discussions were mainly focused on socio-economic reforms and fundamental areas such as the rule of law, the independence of the judiciary and the fight against corruption.

## 20th COSAP MEETING IN BELGRADE

The 20th meeting of the Conference of Parliamentary Committees on European Integration/Issues from countries Involved in the Stabilization and Association Process of Southeast Europe (COSAP), in which delegations of Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Turkey and Georgia participated, was marked by a discussion on the following topics: European Union enlargement policy: The way forward, as well as regional cooperation in the Western Balkans. The Committee for European Issues was represented by the members Mimoska Musa and Mitko Trajchuleski. At the meeting, it was emphasized that the geostrategic and geopolitical interests of the Western Balkans are clearly visible in the last period and they expressed hope that the EU will speed up the process of integration. Parliamentarians also discussed their commitment to the process, emphasizing its importance as a mechanism for strengthening reforms, ensuring a market economy, the rule of law and preserving regional peace and stability, as conditions for membership in the EU. The importance of the role of parliaments in solving common challenges in the region was also emphasized during the meeting, including focus is on the importance of regional cooperation and use of EU pre-accession funds. As a conclusion, it was pointed out that the COSAP conferences present an opportunity for sending clear message to the EU that the Western Balkans is an integral part of Europe. The MPs expressed their expectation that in the coming period the EU will intensify the negotiations with the countries of the Western Balkans. The next meeting is scheduled for the first half of 2025 in Tirana.



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## YOUTH CLUB DISCUSSES STUDENTS STANDARD AND YOUTH POLICIES

The Youth and Policies Club in the Parliament held a debate after the report of the State Audit Office on the students' standard. The Main Auditor Maksim Acevski, the Minister for Digital Transformation Stefan Andonovski, the Chair of the Club Dragana Bojkovska, MPs, as well as representatives from the CSO's and the manager of the State Student Dormitory "Skopje" took part at the debate. They referred to the measures and policies taken so far to improve the student standard and living conditions in the state student dormitories. It was emphasized that the current measures are not effective enough and reforms are needed to improve students' diet, access to the Internet, as well as the general living conditions in the dormitories.



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## EXCHANGE OF VIEWS WITH SLOVENIAN COLLEAGUES ON EDUCATION AND YOUTH POLICIES



The JPC Co-Chair Ivanka Vasilevska, who is also President of the Committee on Education, Science and Sport, was part of the Delegation visiting the Slovenian National Assembly in Ljubljana. The aim of the visit was to exchange views with the Slovenian colleagues on the work of the Club of Young Members of the Slovenian Parliament, the Club's cooperation with committees covering youth issues and policies, as well as the support the Club receives from the Parliament.

MP Dragana Bojkovska - coordinator of the Club for Youth Issues and Policies, MPs Monika Zajkova, Kaltrina Beqiri and Sergej Popov from the Club for Youth Issues and Policies, as well as MPs Ilire Dauti and Angelinka Petkova, took part in the visit. At the meeting with the Commission for Education, Science and Youth, they discussed youth issues and policies, whereby the Slovenian MPs pointed out the legal regulations that affect young people from pre-school age up to higher education and adult education, as well as a series of measures taken to ensure a better life for the young population. The visit was organized with the support of the Westminster Foundation for Democracy, through the "Practice Democracy" Project, funded by the British Embassy in Skopje.