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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 2010:

- Law on Railway system
- Law on Railway Safety
- Law Amending the Law on Environment
- Law amending the Law on fast money transfer
- Law amending the Customs law
- Law amending the Law on company law
- Law Amending the Law on Environment
- Law on agriculture and rural development
- Law on wine
- Law amending the Law on compulsory capially financed pension insurance
- Law amending the Law on employment and insurance in a case of unemployment
- Law on Prevention and Protection against Discrimination
- Law on inspection surveillance
- Law on associations and foundations
- Law on public servants
- Law amending the law on plant health
- Law amending the Law on prevention of money laundering and financing of terrorism
- Law amending the Law on securities

PUBLIC DEBATE FOR THE INTERNATIONAL ROMA DAY

On the occasion of the International Roma Day, 8th April, a Public Debate on "Faster Integration and Inclusion of the Roma Community in the Republic of Macedonia" was organized in the Assembly of the Republic of Macedonia, which was opened by President Trajko Veljanoski.



Leading politicians such as Mr. Vasko Naumovski, the Vice Prime-Minister on European Integration the Vice Prime Minister Abdulakjim Ademi and parliamentarians, together with the US Deputy Ambassador, Mr. Thomas Navratil, the OSCE Head of Mission, Mr. Jose Luis Herero, UNDP Representative, Mr. Deidre Boyd, the Executive Director of the Community of Local Self-Government Units of the Republic of Macedonia, Mr. Dushica Perishik, and the Mr. Amdi Bajram, Roma MP, took part at the debate. It was underlined that the Roma community is the biggest minority in Europe and that the Republic of Macedonia is the leader in the field of promotion of the Roma community rights, but that there is also much more to be done in the future. The aim of the Decade of Roma Inclusion 2005–2015 is an unprecedented political commitment by European governments to improve the socio-economic status and social inclusion of Roma in Europe.

PRESIDENT VELJANOSKI MET WITH THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE SECRETARY GENERAL JAGLAND



President Veljanoski welcomed Secretary General Jagland just a few weeks before the Macedonian Chairmanship with the Council of Europe starting in May this year. "Our Assembly and our Delegation in the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (PACE) are prepared to provide full contribution in the achievement of the tasks during the CE Chairmanship", said Mr. Veljanoski.

In May 2010, the Assembly of the Republic of Macedonia will organize a session of the PACE Standing Committee as a first international parliamentary meeting organized in our country, which will include parliamentarians from 47 countries. Mr. Jagland stated that he has no doubts that the Macedonian Chairmanship will be successful. "Your state has potential, you have made successful reforms, you are entering in a negotiating phase with the EU, you do not have visa regime, you have credibility of a democratic state and your Chairmanship is happening in a very significant moment for the Council of Europe", stated Mr. Jagland. At the end, Mr. Jagland concluded that he is aware of the sensitivity of the name issue and expressed his hope that it will not overshadow the activities during the Chairmanship of the Republic of Macedonia.

VICE-PRESIDENT SVETLANA JAKIMOVSKA MET WITH A DELEGATION FROM THE EU HARMONIZATION COMMITTEE OF THE GRAND NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF THE REPUBLIC OF TURKEY



During the meeting, both sides concluded that the good and stabile relations between the Republic of Macedonia and the Republic of Turkey are characterised with friendship and mutual understanding on bilateral level, as well as on multilateral level within the frames of the international organizations. The Republic of Macedonia highly appreciates the constructive support and solidarity from the Republic of Turkey, as well as the principle to use the constitutional name of our country.

The Republic of Macedonia and the Republic of Turkey are also connected through strong historic and cultural links. The Turkish minority in Macedonia and the Turks who have migrated from Macedonia in Turkey are significant chain of the friendship between the two states. Turkey is also an important trade partner, being one of the top ten countries of the Republic of Macedonia's major trade exchange in the past years. Nevertheless, both sides stated that the economic cooperation should be increased with significant investments from the Republic of Turkey in the Republic of Macedonia.

THE PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF ALBANIA, H.E. BAMIR TOPI, ADDRESSES BEFORE THE MEMBERS OF THE ASSEMBLY

President Topi started his address by underlining that in the past several years the two states worked hard to achieve the today's high level of cooperation, since, as he said, politicians have the obligation to serve their countries and nations and that building friendly and good-neighbourly relations is in the interest of both countries and nations. This cooperation is not limited on bilateral relations alone; it includes the regional dimension as well, such as the development of the grand project - Corridor 8, and projects in the field of energy, infrastructure, roads, marine and railway transport, and telecommunications. "By allowing free movement of our citizens, we increased the trust between our people and made the Albanian-Macedonian border into a safe and modern European border. Our countries are strongly determined to their mutual Euro Atlantic goals and our dedication, focus, and efforts are the only way to enable our citizens to be part of the large European family, to increase the number of friends, and to secure that our countries will develop in peace, stability and sustainable welfare. This is a historical obligation and there is no time to waste. These efforts are for the future of our children, and at the same time appreciation for the efforts of the previous generations dedicated to development of peace and democracy" said Mr. Topi.

The membership of Albania in NATO and the progress of Macedonia in the EU should not be seen as a contest between the states; on the contrary, the achievements and success of every neighbouring country increase the confidence of the citizens that integration is a real and tangible process. Mr. Topi welcomed Macedonia's decision to recognize the independence of Kosovo, as a significant message of peace and stability in the region and the demarcation of

the border between the two states. At the end, President Topi concluded that the Ohrid Framework Agreement continues to be an example not only of a political compromise, but also of the multiethnic peace achieved in the Republic of Macedonia and that its full implementation is the key element for the stability of the state, placing all citizens of Macedonia on an equal basis before the law and the Constitution and guaranteeing rights of the minorities – the right to study in their mother tongue and use their language, respect of their national, historic and cultural symbols and their equitable representation in state institutions.



MADRID SUPPORTS THE EUROPEAN INTEGRATION OF MACEDONIA



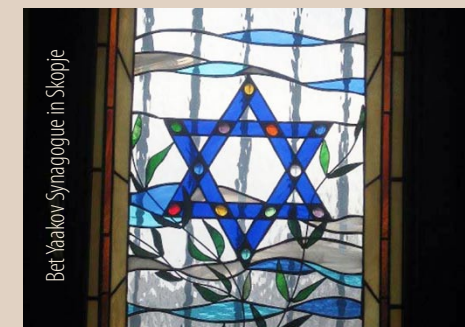
The Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of Spain Mr. Miguel Angel Moratinos, during his visit in the Republic of Macedonia within the frames of the Spanish

Presidency with the EU, had a joint meeting with the members of the National European Integration Council, the Committee on European Issues, the Foreign Policy Committee, the members of the Joint Parliamentary Committee - EU and the Republic of Macedonia and representatives of the NGO sector in the state.

Mr. Moratinos stated that he is optimistic on the name issue which could be closed during their Presidency with the EU by the end of June 2010, underlining that Madrid supports the European Integration of the Republic of Macedonia. "The situation now it is not a question of one being a Euro-optimist or Euro-pessimist, but of being a Euro- realist. We all have the right to be part of the EU. Macedonia is a candidate state and it belongs to the states which advanced in the relations with the EU. Macedonia cannot miss this enlargement momentum of the Union", said Mr. Moratinos.

The Spanish Minister said that the Macedonia is implementing the economic and the social reforms needed for the European future of the state. The Council Chair, Ms. Radmila Shekerinska, said that besides solving the name issue, the country should also make the necessary reforms and fulfill the standards for EU membership and that both this Council and the Assembly of the Republic of Macedonia will continue to work on the accomplishment of these standards. The present members from the Macedonian side expressed their appreciation of the support provided by Spain on the path towards Euro-Atlantic structures and requested a realistic approach in the solution of the name issue.

Multiethnic Macedonia



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