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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 May 2010:

- Law on State Audit - **adopted**
- Law on Audit of the Instrument for Pre-Accession Assistance (IPA) - **adopted**

9 MAJ
ДЕН НА ЕВРОПА

60th anniversary of the Schuman Declaration



Council of Europe
Macedonian Chairmanship 2010

MACEDONIA HONOURS ST. CYRIL IN ROME

The official Macedonian Delegation attending at this year's event "Macedonia Honoring St. Cyril" in Rome was led by President Trajko Veljanoski. Attending the Papal Audience with Pope Benedict XVI has also been envisaged in the visit, where President Veljanoski conveyed the greetings from the state authorities of the Republic of Macedonia and emphasized the importance of the pastoral mission of His Holiness and his selfless efforts for peace, solidarity and love among the nations, having in mind the temptations and challenges the world is faced with.



His Holiness Pope Benedict XVI expressed hope for finding a solution for the name issue of the Republic of Macedonia and underlined that everyone has the right to use his own name. On this occasion, President Veljanoski used the opportunity to once again invite Pope Benedict XVI to visit the Republic of Macedonia. The official Delegation also met the Secretary of State Cardinal Tarcisio Bertone and expressed appreciation for the consistent support of the Holy See to the Republic of Macedonia. At the meeting, President Veljanoski underlined that the Christ's teaching, religion and



Church, together with the language and literacy which the Holy Brothers Cyril and Methodius left to the Macedonian nation, are the fundamental values that have defined our national and cultural identity. On 24 May, the Delegation attended the prayer at the St. Cyril's grave, in the Basilica di San Clemente in Rome.

PACE STANDING COMMITTEE MEETS IN SKOPJE

The Standing Committee of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (PACE) met in Skopje, on Friday, 21 May 2010, to discuss the priorities of the Macedonian Chairmanship with the Committee of Ministers, the Organisation's executive body. The meeting was opened by Mevlüt Çavuşoğlu, who stated that the priorities of the Macedonian Chairmanship largely coincide with those that he is promoting as President of the PACE, which was followed by a welcoming address by Trajko Veljanoski, President of the Assembly of the Republic of Macedonia. In his address, President Veljanoski said that the well known words in 1946 of the grand statesman and European Winston Churchill "We must genuinely create Europe came true today." 20 years ago issues such as hu-

man rights and freedoms, parliamentary democracy, market economy were taboo for all of us on the other side of the iron curtain". By saying this, he reminded that the consistent respect of the principles of human rights, parliamentary democracy, solidarity and respect of others, of those different from us, is the basis on which the CE was created 61 years ago, but also the basis for the future of every country.

The Macedonian Foreign Minister Milososki presented the Macedonian Chairmanship priorities which will focus on the reform of the European Court of Human Rights, effectiveness of the European Convention on Human Rights, strengthening the principle of subsidiarity by substantively integrating the Convention in the national legal systems, implementing gender equality standards and mechanisms, fighting corruption, ensuring social cohesion; strengthening intercultural and inter-religious dialogue; integration of national minorities and improving youth participation in the democratic and political processes of the South East Europe.



■ [Assembly website documents](#)

ROMANIAN DELEGATIONS VISIT MACEDONIA



This month two Delegations from the Republic of Romania paid their official visit to the Republic of Macedonia. President Veljanoski had a meeting with the President of Romania Traian Băsescu, and a Delegation from the Foreign Policy Committee (FPC) from the Romanian Senate had meetings with various committees in the Assembly of the Republic of Macedonia.

During his meeting with President Băsescu, President Veljanoski welcomed the level of parliamentary cooperation between the two states and showed appreciation for the Romania's support of our Euro-Atlantic aspirations. President Băsescu noted the increasing importance of parliamentary diplomacy and reaffirmed the unconditional support for our NATO and EU membership, expecting that on the incoming June Council Macedonia will obtain a date for opening of negotiations and will become full-fledged member of NATO on the next NATO Summit. "Republic of Romania will always be friend of the Republic of Macedonia", said Mr. Băsescu.

The FPC Delegation from the Romanian Senate



headed by the Chairman Mr. Titus Korlacean, had a meeting with their homologues from the FPC of the Assembly of the Republic of Macedonia. The Romanian Delegation underlined that both internal reforms and support from foreign friends are important elements for accession of the Republic of Macedonia in the EU. The FPC host chair, Ms. Teuta Arifi, stated that the EU is the country's priority and that the Republic of Macedonia is expecting that Romania as a country which is considered to be part of our region, to show sense for support and assistance. At the end, the two committees expressed their hope that the cooperation between the two countries will continue with the same intensity in future.

BULGARIAN FOREIGN MINISTER MLADENOV IN THE MACEDONIAN ASSEMBLY



During his official visit in the Republic of Macedonia, Bulgarian Minister Nikolaj Mladenov had a meeting with President Veljanoski and the MPs from the Parliamentary Group of the Assembly for Cooperation with the Republic of Bulgaria. President Veljanoski pointed out that as responsible politicians we should continue to work on elimination of some historic prejudice and stereotypes and that we should start from our mutual interests. The highly developed relations between the two states on all levels are to the benefit of both states, but also to the benefit of stability of the region in general; the economic cooperation leaves space for increased dynamics and should thus contribute to the achievement of this goal.

The Bulgarian Minister underlined the highly developed cooperation between the two parliaments which significantly contributes for the overall bilateral relations, and the commitment to deepen these

relations demonstrated through the full support of the Republic of Bulgaria to Macedonia's Euro-Atlantic perspective. "One country cannot benefit or prospect over another, and that is why we truly like to see Macedonia as Member of EU and NATO since you have deserved it", said Minister Mladenov.

"EUROPE - 60 YEARS AFTER THE SCHUMAN DECLARATION - ROAD OF MACEDONIA TOWARDS THE EU"



This year's Open Day Parliament enabled many people to see how democracy works in Macedonia. Several activities were organized in the chamber, among which, in cooperation with the European Movement in the Republic of Macedonia (EMRM), the public debate on Macedonia's road to the EU, in light of the 60th anniversary of the Schuman Declaration, a historical day that gave birth to the today's existence of the European Union.

The debate was moderated by Ms. Mileva Gjurovska, President of EMRM, Mr. Rafiz Aliti, Vice-President of the Parliament and JPC EU- RM Vice Co-Chair and Mr. Petar Pop Arsov, Chair of the Committee on European Issues. Representatives from the French Embassy, EU Mission in Macedonia, as well as MPs, university professors, students and representatives of the NGO's also took part in the debate.

The participants expressed their views on the development of the European Union over the years and the benefits from EU integration to the candidate countries, as well as the benefits for the EU from all past enlargements. The civil society was interested to hear the position of the politicians for the integration of Macedonia in the EU, who re-confirmed their dedication to make every effort and solve all remaining obstacles, in order to bring Macedonia in the European family of nations.

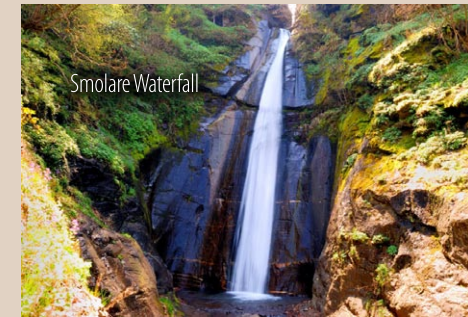
Exploring Macedonia



Megalithic Observatory Kokino



Stone Town Kuklica



Smolare Waterfall

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