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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 March 2010:

- Law on Veterinary Medicine Products - **adopted**
- Law Amending the Law on Nature Protection - **adopted**
- Law Amending the Law on Ambient Air Quality - **adopted**
- Law Amending the Law on Customs Tariff - **adopted**
- Law Amending the Company Law - **adopted**

### MEETING OF PRESIDENT VELJANOSKI WITH THE PRESIDENT OF THE SLOVENIAN PARLIAMENT, DR. PAVEL GANTAR

At the beginning of the meeting both sides underlined that the relations between the Republic of Macedonia and the Republic of Slovenia are good and friendly. There are no open issues between the two countries, which provides an opportunity for intensification of the bilateral relations on all levels - said Mr. Trajko Veljanoski.

Expressing appreciation for the consistent support provided by the Republic of Slovenia in the realization of the strategic goal of the Republic of Macedonia, the Euro-Atlantic integration, Mr. Veljanoski pointed out the recent report adopted by the European Parliament, which clearly states that the Republic of Macedonia should receive the date for opening negotiations in a reasonable timeframe.

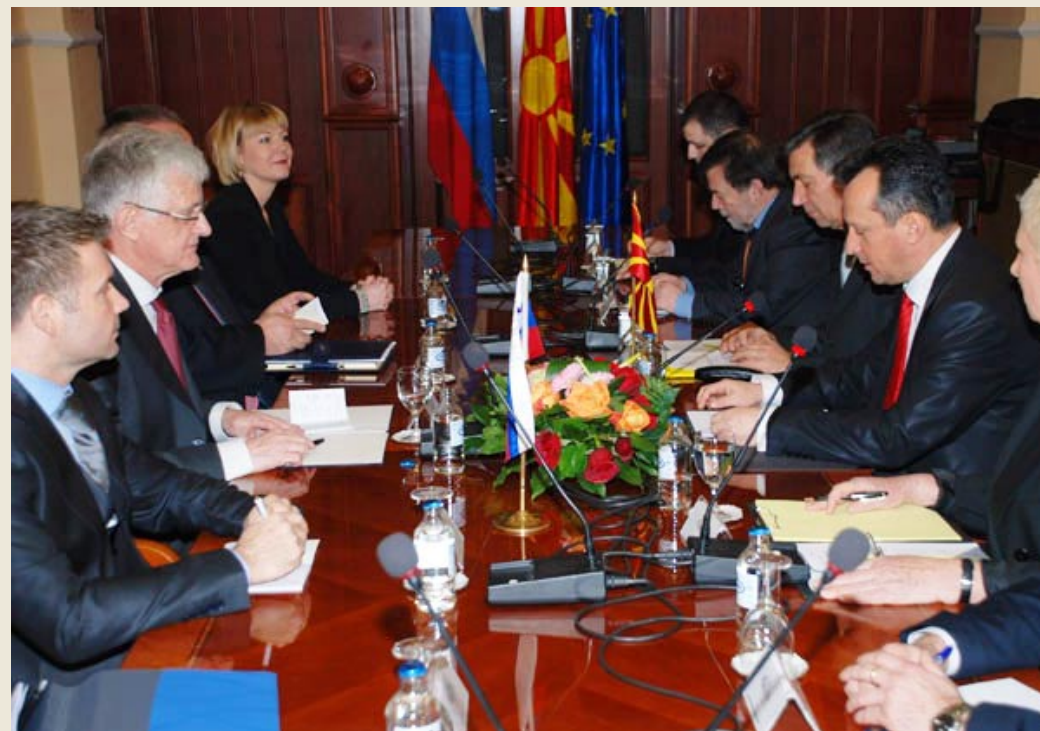
The President Veljanoski added that the national parliaments have a very important and responsible role in the stage of negotiations and opening of the chapters, and that this is an opportunity for intensification of the cooperation between the two countries. During the discussion both Presidents underlined that the regional cooperation is important, and expressed their satisfaction from its current developments. Parliamentary democracy provides a strong impetus in this regard, pointed out Mr. Veljanoski.

The President of the Slovenian Parliament Dr. Pavel Gantar said that for Slovenia,

Macedonia is a European state and that he personally is impressed with the progress that the country has achieved and with its contribution in the NATO peacekeeping missions. He pointed out that there is no obstacle for Macedonia to be a full NATO member-state or to start the negotiations with the EU. "Certainly, the name issue with neighbouring Greece exists, but this bilateral

issue should not affect the Euro-Atlantic integration of the Republic of Macedonia. This is why Slovenia will continue to support Macedonia in its process of Euro-Atlantic integration".

The Slovenian Parliament, with all its capacities, is prepared to provide assistance to the Republic of Macedonia, said President Gantar.





## Resolution on Climate Change adopted in Parliament



The Assembly of the Republic of Macedonia, at its session held on 1 March 2010 adopted a Resolution on Climate Change, proposed by a group of parliamentarians headed by Ms. Slavica Grkovska Loskova, JPC Vice-Chair and also Coordinator of the Women Parliamentarians' Club in the Parliament. Following the conclusions of the Copenhagen Summit, and the information for the climate change in the Republic of Macedonia based on comparative analysis for a period of 30 years, the initiative to debate this issue has been raised by the Women Parliamentarians' Club, who organized a public debate with representatives from the Ministry on Environment and representatives of the NGO sector to discuss the activities that need to be taken by the Republic of Macedonia to reduce the harmful consequences from the global climate change. The participants in the debate agreed that the Republic of Macedonia should focus on activities for finding renewable energy resources, investments in energy efficiency, energy saving, increase of the green field investments, production of healthy food, increase the regional cooperation with the neighboring

countries on this matter, and decrease the VAT for isolation materials from 18 to 5%. In the adopted Resolution, the Assembly of the Republic of Macedonia called for coordinated activities between the Assembly, the Government and other state institutions and cooperation with the interested non-governmental associations and organizations related to mitigation of the effects from climate change, and pointed to the need that the Government should submit annual reports to the Assembly on the measures undertaken in order to adjust to and decrease the effects from the climate change. The Assembly also considered as necessary to continue undertaking measures for informing the relevant international institutions and organizations about the effects of climate change in the Republic of Macedonia, and to take action for more adequate presentation of the problem on international level. With this Resolution, the Assembly of the Republic of Macedonia expressed willingness for the measures stipulated therein to be one of its priorities in the decision-making process.

### ■ Adopted Resolution

## Delegation from the Assembly took part at the European Parliament Seminar on "Budgetary Competences of the Parliaments"



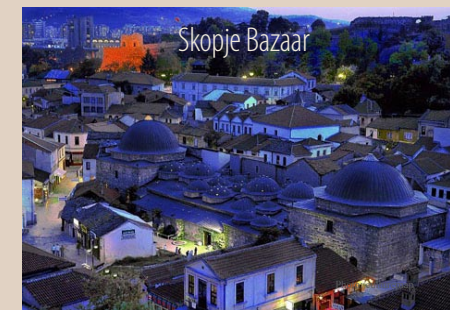
The Directorate on Relations with the Parliaments from the Western Balkan countries organized a Seminar for MPs and officials from the Parliaments of the Western Balkan countries on the topic "Budgetary Competences of the Parliaments" on 23 and 24 March 2010 in the European Parliament in Brussels. A Delegation from the Assembly of the Republic of Macedonia comprised of the MPs Jovan Manasijevski, Oliver Derkovski, Mile Andonov and Hisen Xhemaili participated at the Seminar.

Mr. Goran Ferm, Member of the European Committee on Budgets, opened the seminar with a presentation of the competences, challenges and changes for the European Parliament after the ratification of the Lisbon Treaty in context of the budget procedure. The Commissioner on Financial Programming and Budget, Mr. Janusz

Lewandowski, on the meeting in the European Commission contributed with the presentation on the multiannual budgetary framework and its limitations for each fiscal year. Mr. Jean-Pierre AUDY, MEP and Vice-Chair of the Committee on Budgetary Control discussed the competences of the European Parliament and the procedure of parliamentary budgetary oversight.

Mr. Jovan Manasijevski, MP, had a presentation on the parliamentary budget oversight, where he underlined the priorities for providing constitutional position of the State Audit Institute, for strengthening the relation between the Assembly of the Republic of Macedonia and the State Audit Institute as well as the need for establishing the Committee on Public Accounts in the Assembly of the Republic of Macedonia.

## OLD BAZZARS IN MACEDONIA



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