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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 June 2010:

- Law Amending the Law on Public Transport - **adopted**



Day of the Macedonian flag

PRESIDENT TRAJKO VELJANOSKI ADDRESSES THE EUROPEAN CONFERENCE OF PRESIDENTS OF PARLIAMENTS



The conference, organised jointly by the House of Representatives of the Republic of Cyprus and the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council Of Europe (PACE) on 11 and 12 June 2010, gathered some 300 participants. The main focus was on the rights and responsibilities of the opposition in a parliament and the role of national parliaments in

implementing the principle of non-discrimination.

President Veljanovski, on behalf of the Macedonian Chairmanship 2010, addressed the participants at the event underlying that each parliament can have a real opposition in parliament, not just a decorative one, only with truly fair and democratic elections and in this regard, the Assembly fully reflects the will of the citizens. In relation to the rights of the opposition, President Veljanovski mentioned one of the posts of Vice-Presidents and of several important parliamentary committees and other bodies given to the opposition, as well as the regular weekly coordinations among the coordinators of political groups, Vice-Presidents and the President of the Assembly of the Republic of Macedonia and Representative of the Government, where usually by consensus, they agree on the dynamics of the overall work of the Assembly. Speaking on discrimina-

tion, President Veljanovski stated that our responsibility as parliaments does not end with the adoption of laws, especially in this sensitive area. The scrutiny role of the parliaments is also important, especially if we have in mind that discrimination on any ground can be very subtle. That is why parliaments should strengthen the cooperation with the NGO sector, the Ombudsman and other institutions, but also to learn from other states. We should remember that the discrimination often arises from the stereotypes and prejudices. I believe that you will all agree that we cannot fight prejudice with laws alone, but that we have to build a political culture which starts in our home and in the education system. This means building a system of values which will be based on the fact that we are all equal and that we are all human; a system of values which will result in mutual respect, said President Veljanovski.

MEETING OF JPC CO-CHAIR ALEKSANDAR SPASENOVSKI WITH EPP GROUP CHAIRMAN JOSEPH DAUL



In the framework of his visit to the Republic of Macedonia, the Chairman of the EPP Group in the European Parliament, Mr. Joseph Daul, had a meeting with the Co-Chairman of the Joint Parliamentary Committee RM-EU, Mr. Aleksandar Spasenovski. The Chairman of the Committee on European Issues, Mr. Petar Pop-Arsov, also took part at the meeting.

Mr. Spasenovski informed his interlocutor for the organization and manner of work of the JPC RM- EU and the activities realized within the frames of the official meetings held twice a year, as well as on the regular contacts initiated by the two Co-Chairs, between Macedonian MPs and MEPs during the EP plenary sessions in Brussels or in Strasbourg. The overall activities of the Assembly were discussed, and in this framework the work of the JPC RM-EU: the cooperation between the Assembly and the European Parliament, the perspectives of the Republic of Macedonia for EU membership, the fulfillment of the remaining obligations, as well as the possibilities for accelerating the accession process of the Republic of Macedonia.

Due to past experiences when bilateral topics dominated over the real issues at the JPC meetings, Mr. Spasenovski asked Mr. Daul to commit within the EPP Group that topics related to the EU integration

process of the Republic of Macedonia should prevail on the JPC meetings, despite bilateral challenges that states have outside the EU process.

Mr. Spasenovski also suggested the possibility for strengthening of bilateral contacts on informal meetings organized by the EPP Group between Macedonian MPs and EPP Group MEPs coming from Macedonia's neighboring states, enabling parliamentarians on both sides through dialogue and exchange of opinions, to get to know each other better and to discuss on issues of mutual importance. The idea has been supported by Mr. Daul, who expressed his strong commitment for organizing such meetings in the period to come. In the end of the meeting, it was concluded that the established contacts between the Assembly of the Republic of Macedonia and the European Parliament should be intensified and deepened in the future.

MEETING OF THE NATIONAL EUROPEAN INTEGRATION COUNCIL WITH MR. DAVID LIDINGTON

The National European Integration Council had a meeting with Mr. David Lidington, Minister on Europe from the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.



Ms. Radmila Shekerinska, Chairman of the National European Integration Council, Mr. Petar Pop-Arsov, Chairman of the Committee on European Issues, Mr. Dimitar Mirchev, Representative from the Cabinet of the President of the Republic of Macedonia, Mr. Sasho Stevkov, Representative of the Cabinet of the Prime Minister of the Republic of Macedonia, Mr. Tome Kolev, Representative of the Catholic Church, Ms. Mimosa Shumkovska - Veljanovska Representative of the Jewish Community in the Republic of Macedonia and Mr. Zivko Mitrevski, President of the Syndicates of the Republic of Macedonia attended this meeting.

Mr. Lidington was informed on the work and composition of the National European Integration Council and it was underlined that last year the Republic of Macedonia received a recommendation on opening accession negotiations, but did not receive a date for opening negotiations. The Republic of Macedonia is doing everything to start the accession negotiations, but the bilateral issue has been imposed as a key factor. It was also underlined that the Republic of Macedonia has a candidate state status for the past 5 years, without any indication for receiving timelines for its integration. Mr. David Lidington, Minister on Europe from the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland underlined that the British Government is firmly committed to see the Republic of Macedonia approaching towards NATO and EU.



the Republic of Macedonia in every aspect, and in this direction to its Euro-integration process. President Klaus, visiting the Republic of Macedonia for the first time as a President of the Czech Republic, seized the opportunity and expressed gratitude for the invitation. He underlined that his presence is a sign of the good Czech-Macedonian relations and underlined that the Membership in EU is the only alternative, since there is no other integration but the integration in the European Union. In the end of the meeting, the Chairman, Mr. Pop Arsov, on behalf of the Members of the Assembly of the Republic of Macedonia, conveyed greetings to the new mandate of the Czech Parliament, wishing successful cooperation as the one developed so far.



nia is making, among others, the efficient implementation of the adopted reforms in the field of public administration, judiciary, combat against crime and corruption and on finding mutually acceptable solution to the bilateral dispute on the name issue, with the aim of integration in the NATO and the EU as soon as possible.

“The role of the parliament is crucial on the road to EU and NATO, since the parliament is the locomotor for overcoming the existing problems”, said Mr. Ronchi. He also emphasized that this visit is a concrete sign for the support of the Republic of Italy given to the Republic of Macedonia and expressed hope that besides the cooperation on governmental and parliamentary level, the economic cooperation between the two states can also be strengthened in the future.

BECOMING A MEMBER STATE OF EU IS THE ONLY ALTERNATIVE

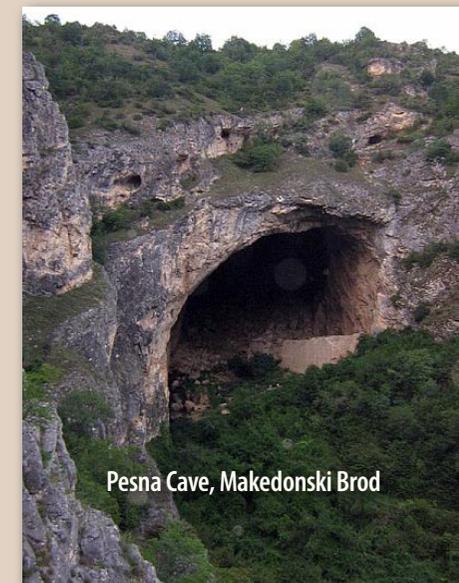
The Chairman of the Committee on European Issues, Mr. Petar Pop Arsov, Vice-Presidents of the Assembly of the Republic of Macedonia, Ms. Svetlana Jakimovska and Mr. Rafis Aliti, and many MPs, had a meeting with the President of the Czech Republic, Mr. Vaclav Klaus.

Mr. Petar Pop Arsov, in his introductory address, underlined the great appreciation for the continuous and open support which the Czech Republic is providing to

THE ROLE OF THE PARLIAMENT CRUCIAL ON THE ROAD TOWARDS THE EU

The Chairperson and the members of the Committee on European Issues had a meeting with Mr. Andrea Ronchi, Minister for European Policies of the Republic of Italy. Mr. Pop Arsov, Chairperson of the Committee, thanked the members of the Italian Delegation for the continuous support of the Republic of Italy to the Republic of Macedonia by recognizing its constitutional name. He informed also on the reforms the Republic of Macedo-

Speleological Objects in Macedonia



Pesna Cave, Makedonski Brod



Vrelo Cave, Matka

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