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Republic of Macedonia on the way to the EU

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Macedonian legislation harmonized with the EU acquis in March 2011:

- Law on International Restrictive Measures

World's 4th Largest Holocaust Memorial Center Opened in Macedonia



PROMOTION OF THE BROCHURE "LET US MEET EUROPE"



meet Europe" in front of the "Cyril and Methodius" primary school pupils.

Mr. Naumovski emphasized that the brochure, adapted to the primary school age, will provide insight to the youngest through games, drawings and photos, to the EU values, benefits of the living in the common European family, where Macedonia aims to join. "We are firmly convinced that the citizens of the Republic of Macedonia have a clear vision that their state should be part of EU. There is no dilemma that the case will be the same with the Republic of Macedonia as with all states from Central and Eastern Europe

The Vice-President of the Government of the Republic of Macedonia in charge for EU Affairs, Mr. Vasko Naumovski, the Head of the Delegation of the European Union, Ambassador Peter Sorensen and the Co-Chair of the Joint Parliamentary Committee EU-Republic of Macedonia, Mr. Aleksandar Spasenovski jointly presented the brochure "Let's

which, after becoming EU member states, have gone through a process of economic progress, increase of foreign investments and the living standards of its citizens, and decrease of the rate of unemployment" said Mr. Naumovski.

The JPC Co-Chair Spasenovski, pointed out that the integration of Macedonia in the European Union is the

main strategic goal of the Macedonian society as a whole, as well as of all political parties. He underlined that the Assembly of the Republic of Macedonia will continue to be one of the main pillars on the road towards Macedonia's full membership in the Union.

Ambassador Sorensen said that he is giving his full support, according to him, to a really good project, since EU consists of group of states sharing common values and such projects are the real ones. The children are the future of Macedonia and hence it is very important that they are well-acquainted with these values.



MEETING OF PRESIDENT VELJANOSKI WITH KOSOVO PRESIDENT PACOLLI

The relations between the Republic of Macedonia and the Republic of Kosovo are very good and are progressing well. This was highlighted at the meeting between the President of the Assembly of the Republic of Macedonia, Mr. Trajko Veljanoski and the President of the Republic of Kosovo, Mr. Behgjet Pacolli. "Good neighbourly relations are among the priorities of the Republic of Macedonia's foreign policy, which are also to the benefit of both countries, strengthening the stability of the whole region and its Euro-Atlantic future", said President Veljanoski. Considering the important role of the parliaments in the EU and NATO integration processes, the Assembly of the Republic of Macedonia is prepared to share all its experience with the colleagues from the Parliament of Kosovo and to assist the accomplishment of Kosovo's Euro-Atlantic agenda. The President Veljanoski referred as well to the situation of the Gorani people, ethnic Macedonians with



Islamic religion living in Kosovo. "I expect that on the census of the population in Kosovo, respecting the European standards, these people will express their ethnic belonging freely", underlined Mr. Veljanoski.

The President of the Republic of Kosovo, Mr. Behgjet

Pacolli, expressed pleasure from the visit to the Republic of Macedonia and stated that the people of Kosovo see the Republic of Macedonia as their sincere friend. "We will never forget that the Republic of Macedonia received over 300 000 refugees and that was sincerely a noble act. It is important that, as neighbours, we have mutual respect and we discuss for our future, that is the Euro- Atlantic integration. This is why we appreciate the assistance from your side in the accomplishment of our determination and I sincerely appreciate your preparedness to share your experience with the Parliament of the Republic of Kosovo and this will certainly be a benefit for us", stated Mr. Pacolli. He underlined that he personally knows and appreciates Gorani people and that the consensus will be strictly in accordance with the European standards, which means that the citizens will be able to express their national belonging freely.

THE REPUBLIC OF MACEDONIA BELONGS IN THE EURO-ATLANTIC STRUCTURES



“Hungary provides its full support of the Euro-integrations of the Republic of Macedonia and the Republic of Macedonia belong in the Euro-Atlantic structures”, stated the Delegation from the Foreign Policy Committee of the Parliament of the Republic of Hungary at the meeting with the Chair, Ms. Teuta Arifi, and the members of the Foreign Policy Committee of the Assembly of the Republic of Macedonia.

Ms. Teuta Arifi expressed pleasure for this visit during the Hungarian Presidency, since this visit is considered as a support for the Euro-Atlantic ambitions of our country. She referred to three points: the internal political situation, which is in pre-election atmosphere; the European Integration as an important priority of the Macedonian citizens, which is being prolonged because of the name issue with Greece; as well as the situation of the Western Balkan, whose only solution is the European integration. Ms. Arifi expressed appreciation for the use of the constitutional name of the Republic of Macedonia by the Republic of Hungary in the international relations.

Mr. Mihaj Bala agreed that the final stability of the wider region is the Euro-Atlantic perspective and expressed conviction that the Republic of Macedonia has the support on its European path from all Hungarian parties. He emphasized that our country did a lot in fulfilling the required criteria and has achieved significant progress, but also, that it needs to be prepared for marathon negotiations as a hard process. Mr. Bala expressed hope that the enlargement policy of the EU will cover the region as well.

JOINT MEETING WITH MEP SANDRA KALNIETE

The MEP Sandra Kalniete, coming in Macedonia to present her book, within the frames of her visit, had a joint meeting with the relevant bodies in the Assembly in charge for EU affairs as well as with MPs from the agriculture committee. Ms. Kalniete was quite happy to be among colleagues in Macedonia and share her experiences, since she said many things connect our two countries, especially the fact they are both small states. She welcomed the recent adoption of the Resolution on the 2010 Progress Report for the Republic of Macedonia by AFET in the European Parliament, calls for start of

negotiations and invites the High Representative and the Commissioner responsible for Enlargement in the name issue process, having in mind the Union's experience in solving bilateral issues among the countries before their EU membership. Ms. Kalniete expressed hope that Republic of Macedonia will start the negotiations in 2012, which will require internal consensus among all political factors in the state. As a representative of the Committee on Agriculture in the European Parliament, she mentioned that 35% of the EU Budget goes for agriculture, and when negotiations start, Macedonia will need experienced experts in the field to agree on the tiniest details in the Agriculture Chapter.

The JPC Co-Chair Aleksandar Spasenovski, stated that Republic of Macedonia and Republic of Latvia share many similarities due to the fact that both of them are democratic states with previous socialist order, and states with clearly expressed European perspective desired by their citizens. Mr. Spasenovski pointed to the open name dispute which hinders the Euro-Integration process of the Republic of Macedonia and the start of the negotiations, which puts Macedonia in a situation to accomplish the state interest for EU membership, but also to protect its national identity, language and constitutional name. He mentioned his positive experiences with his colleagues MEPs in the JPC and emphasized that the European Parliament has demonstrated to be the biggest supporter of the Republic of Macedonia and the enlargement process. Regarding the agriculture, he said that Macedonia invested a great deal in the last couple of years by allocating significant amount of budget resources for subsidies to the farmers and by making reforms in the agricultural sector, trying to make it a profitable branch in future.

Ms. Kalniete, after the exchange of views with her colleagues parliamentarians, concluded that membership in the EU strengthens the culture and the language of a nation, by becoming official language of the Union and thus strengthening values and the dignity, and EU membership also gradually improves the standard of all citizens. To accomplish this strategic goal, Ms. Kalniete underlined that Macedonia needs a good dialogue on international plan, and internal dialogue in the spirit of European values.



Strumica Carnival 2011



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