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## OPENING OF THE 10TH CONFERENCE OF THE SEECP PRESIDENTS OF PARLIAMENTS

The 10th Jubilee Conference of Presidents of Parliaments from the SEECP countries, took place in Ohrid, Republic of Macedonia in the framework of the Macedonian Chairmanship of the process. President Veljanoski opened the gathering and welcomed the participants, expressing pleasure from the progress made in the 16 years since the beginning as an informal meeting which today has grown into a continuous and mature process. The interest and support for the work of the parliaments in order to achieve peace, security, stability, solidarity and good-neighbourly cooperation has been recognized on European level, the proof of which was the presence of the Acting President of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly Mr. Wolfgang Grossruck, the Vice President of the European Parliament Mr. László Surján, and the Secretary General of the Regional Cooperation Council Mr. Goran Svilanović. President Veljanoski underlined that in parliaments in the transitional and post-transitional societies need greater support from the public and the media, as well as greater respect from the relevant political parties in order to realize their crucial role in the democratic life of the countries with legitimacy. There is no doubt that within the EU there is a relatively clear political consensus that Europe has responsibility towards the region and its integration in



facing the key challenges of enlargement such as respect of the rule of law, resolving the bilateral issues, and addressing the economic problems. Ultimate goal of the accession, for candidate and spirant countries, as well as for the EU member states, is transformation of their economies into sustainable market economies, integrated in the common market. President Veljanoski emphasized that national parliaments have an important role in all these processes. They should also be active participants in the completion of this process. In that sense, mutual cooperation between the national parliaments in facing all the global and regional economic challenges, having in mind their nature of interconnection, is necessary

and more than welcome, concluded President Veljanoski.

The Conference resulted in adoption of several documents, after three years debate, for establishment of a SEECP Parliamentary Assembly that will act as an umbrella for reaching synergy in the regional initiatives for cooperation and promote and monitor the goals and priorities of the rotating SEECP Presidency and the Regional Cooperation Council. It will also act as an institutional structure for transformation of political declarations and decisions in specific projects and programs and aim to strengthen parliamentary diplomatic activities with other regional, European and international organizations, initiatives and foundations.

the EU. However, for the EU, the enlargement is no longer its "grand project", said President Veljanoski. Enlargement is a long-term and strategic concept that cannot be evaluated on the bases of short-term results. For the SEE countries, joining the EU is still the only way forward that will secure stability and prosperity in the future, despite the fact that the surrounding countries are suffering from the impact of the global economic crisis. The national parliaments of the SEECP participating states should, with support of the European Parliament, undertake continuous efforts for keeping the momentum of the reforms and of the enlargement process. Maintaining the tempo of the reforms and enlargement actually represents both sides of the coin, and it is important for

## MEETING WITH VICE PRESIDENT OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT, MR. LÁSZLÓ SURJÁN

The President of the Assembly of the Republic of Macedonia, Mr. Trajko Veljanoski had a meeting with the Vice-President of the European Parliament, Mr. László Surján. At the meeting, President Veljanoski underlined that the Republic of Macedonia is strongly interested to continue giving fresh political impulses for dialogue, and in making joint efforts of the colleagues MEPs and MPs of the

Assembly of the Republic of Macedonia, to constructively contribute in the European Integration process. He underlined that the engagement of the Rapporteur for the Republic of Macedonia to the European Parliament, Mr. Richard Howitt is highly appreciated and assists the overall process of European aspirations of the Republic of Macedonia.



10TH JUBILEE CONFERENCE  
26-28 MAY 2013, OHRID



## Macedonia and Romania - Dialogue on Partnership and Mutual Respect

The President Veljanoski also had a bilateral meeting with the Speaker of the House of Representatives of Romania, Mr. Valeriu Stefan Zgonea. Mr. Zgonea underlined the positive impressions for the Conference and expressed confidence that the next Conference of Presidents of Parliament which will be held in

Romania will bring further progress. Both Presidents underlined that the Republic of Macedonia and Romania have constructive and open political dialogue, based on partnership and mutual respect. They expressed will for future meetings and meetings between the Parliamentary Groups of the House of Representatives

of Romania and the Assembly of the Republic of Macedonia. They also discussed the situation with the minorities in Macedonia and in Romania and the Vlachs in the Republic of Macedonia. Both interlocutors expressed their pleasure from the situation in this area.



## Macedonia and Serbia Are Prepared to Start Accession Negotiations

At the 10th Conference of Presidents of SEECP Parliaments President Veljanoski met the President of the Serbian Parliament, Mr. Nebojša Stefanović. At the meeting, both Presidents confirmed the successful cooperation on highest level of official delegations, as well as visits of MP Groups and Committees that contribute in

the exchange of experience for the Euro-Integration processes and future perspectives of the region. The President of the Serbian Parliament underlined that Serbia and Macedonia are prepared for opening accession negotiation with EU, and that the economic cooperation between the two states should be intensified.



## Bulgaria Supports Euro-Integration Goals of Macedonia

President Veljanoski had a meeting with the President of the National Assembly of the Republic of Bulgaria, Mr. Mihail Mikov. At the meeting, they discussed the good neighbourly relations. President Veljanoski underlined that Macedonia wants to maintain the continuity of the meetings at the highest level, as well as on level of representatives of the institutions, in order to

strengthen the mutual respect and support. In this context, a realization of mutual visits is expected. Both Presidents also discussed to the economic cooperation and construction of Corridor 8, which is important for the two states, but also for the entire region. The President of the National Parliament of the Republic of Bulgaria, Mr. Mikov underlined the support from the

Republic of Bulgaria in the achievement of the European Integration goals of the Republic of Macedonia. The Presidents of the Parliaments of the Republic of Macedonia, Bulgaria, Albania and Italy decided to jointly address the President of the European Parliament, Mr. Martin Shultz, so that Corridor 8 can become part of the EU mid-term projections 2014-2020.



## Traditional Friendship and Active Cooperation - Macedonia and Turkey

The President Veljanoski also had a bilateral meeting with the President of the Grand National Assembly of the Republic of Turkey, Mr. Cemil Cicek. At the friendly meeting, both Presidents underlined that the Republic of Macedonia and the Republic of Turkey have regular and successful cooperation, especially between the

Parliaments of the two states. They also expressed satisfaction from the overall Macedonian-Turkish political relations at highest possible level, which are characterised with the spirit of traditional friendship, mutual understanding, tolerance and active cooperation. President Veljanoski expressed appreciation for the participa-

tion of the Turkish delegation at the Conference and underlined that it will provide many positive conclusions of great importance for the whole region and wider. Other topic of discussion at the meeting was the cooperation in the economy and the possibilities for intensification of other types of mutual and regional cooperation.



## Increased Cooperation in Future - Macedonia and Bosnia and Herzegovina

At the meeting with the Deputy Chairman of the House of Representatives of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Mr. Milorad Zivkovic, both interlocutors agreed that the parliamentary cooperation in the past period is not at the desired level and that a meeting at highest parliamentary level has not been realized for a longer period. In this context both sides agreed on the realization of mu-

tual official visits in near future. Deputy Chairman of the House of Representatives of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Mr. Milorad Zivkovic informed Mr. Veljanoski on the internal events in Bosnia and Herzegovina, as well as the problems and challenges the country are facing with in the European integration process.



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