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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 November 2010:

- Law on Criminal Procedure;
- Law on amending the Law on Administrative Disputes;
- Law on amending the Law on Court Service;
- Law on amending the Law on the Judicial Council of the Republic of Macedonia;
- Law on amending the Law on Courts;
- Law on Census of the Population, Households and Dwellings in the Republic of Macedonia;
- Law on amending the Law on International Private Law;
- Law on amending the Law on Foreigners;
- Law on Food Safety.

Skopje marks Liberation Day 13 November



8th JPC EU-RM MEETING IN BRUSSELS

The 8th Meeting of the Joint Parliamentary Committee - EU and the Republic of Macedonia (JPC EU - RM) took place on 29 and 30 November 2010 in the



European Parliament in Brussels between MEPs and MPs from the Assembly of the Republic of Macedonia. MEPs and MPs had an opportunity to exchange

views with representatives of the Government of the Republic of Macedonia, the European Union and the European Commission on the relations between the Republic of Macedonia and the EU during the meeting, among which topics such as the recent development in the civil society, the participation of the citizens in the decision making process, the situation in the public administration, judiciary, the penitentiary system, combat against

fraud and corruption, transport corridors in Western Balkan and EU, management of the EU funds, economic and financial situation and the reforms taken by the Government to assume the obligations for membership in the European Union.

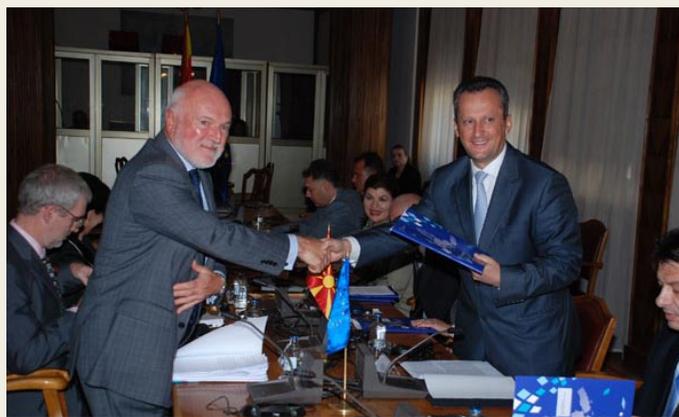
Final Recommendations were adopted at the end of the debate, where JPC asked for start of negotiations as soon as possible, after the repeated recommendation by the European Commission in its Progress Report this year. At the end of the Meeting, the two Co-Chairmen, Mr. Spasenovski and Mr. Chatzimarkakis held a brief press conference where the journalists had an opportunity to pose questions on the topics from the debates during the meeting.

■ JPC Recommendations

2010 PROGRESS REPORT OF THE REPUBLIC OF MACEDONIA PRESENTED IN THE ASSEMBLY

His Excellency, Mr. Erwan Fouere, traditionally presented the EC Progress Report on the Republic of Macedonia for 2010 in the Assembly of the Republic

of Macedonia in front of the President, Vice-Presidents of the Parliament, and Coordinators of the Parliamentary Groups. The Report was presented also in front of the relevant working bodies in charge of EU affairs in the Parliament: the Committee on European Issues, the Joint Parliamentary Committee EU- Republic of Macedonia, the National European Integration Council and the Foreign Affairs Committee.



"The Report is objective as previous reports were. It clearly underlines all positive changes done and objectively provides issues and areas on which we will have to pay larger attention in the future," said

President Veljanoski during the meeting. The Ambassador Erwan Fouere in his presentation highlighted what was said in Brussels, and that the country continues to meet the political and economic criteria and is ready for launching accession negotiations. The Vice Prime Minister for European Integration, Mr. Vasko Naumovski expressed appreciation for the European Commission's objective report and repeated the recommendation to start accession negotiations, pointing out that this report is a positive indicator that the country moves forward in the process of fulfilling the Copenhagen criteria and EU integration.

The Report was reviewed by the competent committees, where they discussed the remarks underlined in the report. On 15th November 2010, the Progress Report was reviewed on a plenary session.

VISIT OF A DELEGATION FROM THE ASSEMBLY TO THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT



Three women parliamentarians from the Committee on European Issues, Ms. Christina Runcheva, Ms. Ermira Mehmeti Devaja and Ms. Slavica Grkovska had meetings with Mr. Zoran Thaler, Rapporteur for Macedonia, Mr. Jorgo Chatzimarkakis, JPC Co-Chair, Ms. Ana Ibragic, Mr. Ivo Vajgl, and Mr. Michael Cramer, all MEPs in the European Parliament.

At the meetings, they discussed the recent developments in the Republic of Macedonia as well as the expected preparation of AFET of the Resolution on the Progress of Macedonia planned for adoption next year. The Rapporteur Mr. Thaler said that Macedonia, in the following months, needs to work on the implementation of remarks mentioned in the EC Progress Report. MEPs also raised the issue for finding of a compromise solution on the imposed problem by Greece on use of the constitutional name of Macedonia.

The women parliamentarians took part in the Joint Parliamentary Meeting named: "After the crisis: How Europe will answer to the future challenges?" At the meeting, the role of national parliaments related to significant European issues such as the economic crisis was underlined, especially after the adoption and the entry into force of the Lisbon Treaty, where national parliaments got increased competences, as direct representatives of the European citizens.

PARTICIPATION OF WOMEN IS IMPORTANT FOR THE WHOLE SOCIETY

Women Parliamentarians' Club from the Assembly of the Republic of Macedonia had a meeting with the Ambassador of the Kingdom of Netherlands and representatives of the Dutch Organization of Women Inc,

where they informed the guests for the activities and the significant achievements of the Women Parliamentarians' Club: legislative solutions for gender equality and promotion of the rights of women, their inclusion of the decision making process, as well as strengthening and broadening the democracy in all areas of the Macedonian society. The guests presented the activities of the Women Inc organization, whose aim is to provide overall participation of women in the Dutch society, implementation of economic independence; exercise the women rights, emancipation of parents, increased representation and diversity of women in the media, increased participation of women, especially mobility in the education and employment.

As a conclusion, they called for provision of resources to maintain the existing network, increase the quota of women both in the legislative and the executive power, and continue with the combat against poverty and improvement of the status of women in the society.



At the end of the meeting, it was underlined that the establishment of networks of this kind aims to increase the awareness and emancipation of women, but in order to provide emancipation, there is a need of support by men, as well as emancipation of men.

THE DREAM OF PLURAL PARLIAMENT- 20 YEARS AFTER

The 20th Anniversary of the First Parliamentary Elections was marked in the Assembly of the Republic of Macedonia on 11 November 2010. Mr. Jani Makraduli, President of the Board on the 20th Anniversary of the First Multi-party Elections chaired the event. He underlined that he is honoured to be among the MPs from the first parliamentary mandate of the Assembly of Republic of Macedonia and that these MPs are the heroes of their time.

The projection of the documentary video of the first

sessions of the Assembly of the Republic of Macedonia caused emotional reaction among the people present at the event. The marking of the Anniversary also included a debate: "The Dream for Plural Parliament- 20 years after" and planting of trees in the opened Park of Parliamentarism.



THE JPC CO-CHAIR SPASENOVSKI VISITS BRUSSELS

On the day of publication of the EC Progress Report, the JPC Co-Chair, Mr. Aleksandar Spasenovski, had two day meetings in the European Parliament in Brussels with the Macedonia's Rapporteur, Mr. Zoran Thaler, the JPC Co-Chair Mr. Jorgo Chatzimarkakis, and many MEPs members of the JPC, as well as other MEPs following the developments in the Republic of Macedonia.

The meetings of Spasenovski were held before the incoming JPC meeting scheduled for 29 and 30 November 2010 in Brussels. During the meetings, views were exchanged with the relevant European actors on the recommendation of the European Commission for start of negotiations for membership, as well as for the possibilities for a decision by the European Council for determining of a date for negotiations for membership to the Republic of Macedonia.



"PLANT FOR YOUR FUTURE" Tree Day in Macedonia



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