



Your contacts:

Chairman of the EU-MK JPC: a.spasenovski@sobranie.mk

Members: jpc@sobranie.mk

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*We wish you a Merry Christmas
and a Happy New Year*



colleagues from the Macedonian Parliamentary Delegation in the Joint Parliamentary Committee and on my personal behalf, I am cordially wishing you a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year holidays. Our hope is that next year we will achieve even more goals that we have been committed to, and that we work on in our personal and professional sphere.

Marking the 1st anniversary of the publication of the JPC Newsletter gives additional importance to this month. I am confident that the aim to publish this information bulletin and to continuously provide information on the significant activities in the Macedonian legislative house related to the Euro-Integration activities is justified. With past 11 editions of the Newsletter, I trust that we have brought closer to you this significant segment of the overall Macedonian politics. Aware of the value of information, I consider that the publication of our monthly bulletin is a step that is welcomed by all

The fact that the Newsletter is regularly distributed to many e-mail addresses in Macedonia, in the European Union and in the parliaments of EU member states, and that is at the same time available on our parliamentary website, speaks enough for the establishment of its role as one of the possible sources of information on the Macedonian legislation. We will

Dear friends,

The end of 2010 is approaching. In this time, when we are making an evaluation of the past achievements, but especially in a time when each one of us spends his or her time with their family, on behalf of my

1st Anniversary of the JPC Newsletter

HAPPY AND BLESSED FROM GOD CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR HOLIDAYS

try to include the experiences we have obtained in the past year, as well as the positive reactions from our readers in the next editions of this bulletin, by which I sincerely hope we will increase its quality and effectiveness.

Summarizing the past year, I may state with pleasure that as Joint Parliamentary Committee we have managed to achieve part of our goals we have jointly set before us. We have held two JPC meetings: one at the beginning of the year in Skopje and the second at the end of the year in Brussels. At the first meeting, we have been hosts of more than 20 MEPs, which for the first time in our common history, have visited Macedonia in such a great number, as well as of the newly-elected Commissioner on Enlargement, Mr. Štefan Füle who addressed the members of the JPC in the Assembly of the Republic of Macedonia. At the second JPC meeting in Brussels, I believe we have managed to rise above the problems and to send a positive message to the public. In the meantime, with the Co-Chair of the JPC, Mr. Jorgo Chatzimarkakis, and the EP Rapporteur on Macedonia, Mr. Zoran Thaler, as well as with the other members of the JPC, we had an opportunity to promote and enhance the relations between the Republic of Macedonia and the European Union.

Also, we, as Members of the Macedonian Parliament, had the honor to be hosts of our colleagues MEPs. The contacts with the Office of the European Union in the Republic of Macedonia, headed by H.E. Erwan Fouéré, have also been increased and deepened with many meetings and events we have organized or we have attended.

Furthermore, we have organized a public debate in our Assembly on the International Day for Safer Internet, where we have adopted conclusions and recommended to the Assembly to vote on a Decla-

ration for Safer Internet. The Declaration has been unanimously voted and supported by all MPs from all political parties. In this way, we have set up the legal framework for protection of children from harmful content on the Internet to their wellbeing, according to the European standards.

Generally speaking, as an Assembly, in the past year we had an objective to make a step further in the harmonization of the Macedonian legislation with the EU acquis. Of course, challenges still remain that have to be overcome. I am convinced that only through an increased engagement of the institutions of the system, the central part being the Assembly, but also with a support from our European friends, we can climb the European hills that we are faced with as a society and as a nation.

Dear friends

In the past 12 months our joint work brought closer the Republic of Macedonia to the European Union and strengthened our good relations. We have a reason and we should be proud of our efforts to deepen our mutual cooperation. Keeping the positive momentum, we continue further on, knowing that in the year to come new obstacles will face us, but also new opportunities. I sincerely hope that we shall overcome the first easily, and that we shall fully take advantage of the latter.

Allow me to close by wishing you a Happy and blessed Christmas and New Year holidays.

Sincerely,

Aleksandar SPASENOVSKI,

Head of the Delegation of the JPC - RM and EU

Parliamentary events marking the 2010



President Veljanoski meets the Archbishop and Ecumenical Patriarch, His All Holiness Bartholomew.



The EU Commissioner Mr. Štefan Füle Addresses the 7th JPC Meeting.



JPC Vice Co-Chair Grkovska holds public Debate on Gender Policies in the EU.



2010 Progress Report of the Republic of Macedonia presented in the Assembly.



Public Debate on the Occasion of the European Day on Safer Internet.



PACE Standing Committee Meeting in the Assembly under the Macedonian Chairmanship with the Council of Ministers of the Council of Europe 2010.



Vice-President Aljiti meets Delegation from German Bundestag.



Committee on EU Issues meets President of the Czech Republic.



National European Integration Council meets Spanish Foreign Minister.

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JPC

Christmas in Macedonia



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Editorial Board: Aleksandar Spasenovski, Susannah Gjorceva, Marijana Opatinova, Dragan Antonov

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