

### Your contacts:

Chairman of the EU-MK JPC: [a.spasenovski@sobranie.mk](mailto:a.spasenovski@sobranie.mk)

Members: [jpc@sobranie.mk](mailto:jpc@sobranie.mk)

### Your links:

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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 January 2011:

- Law on Ratification of the Agreement between the Government of the Republic of Macedonia and the Government of the Republic of Croatia on cooperation in protection in the event of natural and technological disasters
- Law on Ratification of the Agreement between the Government of the Republic of Macedonia and the Government of the Republic of Slovenia on cooperation in the area of protection against natural and other disasters

### First Constitutive Session of the Assembly of the Republic of Macedonia



This January marks the 20th Anniversary from the first constitutive session of the Assembly of the Republic of Macedonia since its independence. On that occasion, President Trajko Veljanoski addressed the audience in the plenary hall, two decades since the first session in the first multiparty legislative house. Today, the Republic of Macedonia is a unitary state of the Macedonian nation, and at

the same time it is the homeland of all its citizens. "As a multicultural and muticonfessional society we are creating the conditions where all the citizens, whether Macedonian, Albanian, Roma, Serb, Vlach, Bosnian or member of some other ethnicity, feels that the Republic of Macedonia is their homeland in which on one hand they will enjoy all the human rights and freedoms, preserving, developing and expressing their ethnic, cultural or linguistic identity", underlined President Veljanoski.

Since the independence, Republic of Macedonia has been determined to become a full member of the European Union and NATO, aware that the membership in the European Union imposes a lot of work and profound reforms in all areas of the social life in general. Today, the Republic of Macedonia is a candidate country for EU membership and received recommendation for opening the accession negotiations by the European Commission. All this demonstrates that the country is working hard on the fulfillment of the obligations. "Unfortunately, in these 20 years the only obstacle in the accomplishment of our commitment for membership in the EU and NATO

is the absurd dispute imposed by our Southern neighbor, regarding our constitutional name. In this context, allow me to remind you that in July 1992 the parliamentarians adopted a Declaration rejecting the Conclusions of the Lisbon Summit of the EU Member States, which demanded elimination of the word Macedonia from the name of our country. The citizens of the Republic of Macedonia have survived various ordeals, occupations and most unjust attempts for denunciation of their own national and cultural identity. This particular historic experience gives me the right to believe that this time, the negotiations process led under the auspices of the United Nations will result in a lasting solution which will not interfere with the national, cultural and linguistic identity of the Macedonian nation", emphasized President Veljanoski. At the end, the President congratulated the MPs from the first parliamentary composition on their courage to seize the significance of the historic moment and to courageously finalize the centuries old idea and determination for creation of a sovereign and democratic Macedonia. Today, the Republic of Macedonia is reality!

### PRIORITIES OF THE HUNGARIAN PRESIDENCY WITH THE EUROPEAN COUNCIL PRESENTED IN THE MACEDONIAN ASSEMBLY



At a joint meeting of the relevant bodies in charge of EU integration, the Program and the Priorities for the Work of the Presidency of the Republic of Hungary with the Council of the European Union were presented in the

Assembly of the Republic of Macedonia. Hungarian Ambassador Kekesi presented the Program of the Presidency with the slogan: "Strong Europe with a Human Touch". Regarding Macedonia, the Ambassador pointed out that "Hungary will support the efforts of the Government of the Republic of Macedonia to join the Union in accordance with the Conclusions from the European Council. In this regard, Hungary is prepared to assist the negotiations and to be actively included if all sides require that. We support the negotiations under the auspices of UN".

The JPC Co-Chair, Mr. Aleksandar Spasenovski, welcomed the first Hungarian Presidency with the Council of the EU in times when the European Union is faced with two major challenges: dealing with the internal economic crisis and continuing with the enlargement process. Regarding the priorities of the presidency, Spasenovski emphasized that Macedonia finds its place in the last priority of enlargement. Hungary expresses

readiness if the member states decide on a start of negotiations with Macedonia, to make the necessary arrangements as Chair of the European Council, to finally untie the knot in the dispute with Greece and to eliminate the obstacle on a date for negotiations. If this does not happen during the Hungarian Presidency, a question is raised how to maintain and to speed up the dynamics for reforms in a situation when the name dispute is not solved, and for whom do we make reforms: for Macedonia or for Brussels? Spasenovski underlined that the Assembly will continue to promote the spirit of consensus in practice, both between the position-opposition, as well as among Macedonians, Albanians, Turks, Roma, Serbs, Bosniaks, as well as to adopt EU laws on fast track. In that sense, the Joint Parliamentary Committee - Republic of Macedonia and the European Union is the biggest supporter of Macedonia and the EU enlargement process.

## DELEGATION ON REMEMBRANCE OF THE HOLOCAUST VISITS THE MACEDONIAN ASSEMBLY



The International Working Group for Cooperation in Education, Remembrance and Research of the Holocaust had a meeting with the Parliamentary Group for Cooperation with the Parliament of the State of Israel. The visit is part of a wider program of activities of the Government of the Republic of Macedonia for Remembering of the Holocaust Memorial Day in Macedonia.

The Parliamentary Chair Pavle Trajanov expressed pleasure for the meeting and welcomed and supported the activities of the International Working Group, drawing attention to the fact that the Republic of Macedonia is dedicated and continuously works on the issues connected with the status of the Jews in our country. Republic of Macedonia officially requested status of observer in the Working Group, which will provide exchange of experiences from the more advanced states in this area and at the same time will contribute to the achievement of the Group goals. The participants expressed pleasure from the continuous and intense progress of the relations and cooperation between these two states and agreed that the biggest investment of a society is the investment in international understanding, tolerance and mutual respect. The decision of the Republic of Macedonia for joining this Group and building understanding between the future generations is a message which can be spread wider in the Balkans.

## INTER-COMMUNITY RELATIONS COMMITTEE MEETS REPRESENTATIVES FROM CSSP PROJECT FOR MACEDONIA

The Chairman of the Inter-Community Relations Committee, Mr. Xhevat Ademi, had a meeting with the German Non-profit Organization Christian Schwarz-Schilling, which immediately works on the CSSP Project for Macedonia. The Chairman Ademi welcomed the guests and informed them of the work of the committee. He also explained achieve-

ments gained in the three months, namely adoption of Conclusions for Integrated Education in the Republic of Macedonia and the Conclusions for the Decade of Roma in the Republic of Macedonia.

The guests informed the Mr. Ademi that, in cooperation with UNESCO, UNICEF and UNDP, they will organize a seminar on the occasion of the 10th Anniversary from the signing of the Ohrid Framework Agreement titled "Strengthening the Dialogue Among the Ethnic Communities in Macedonia" from 14 February to 11 March 2011. They also suggested that one of the meetings of the Committee is held in Bujanovac and assisted by the Honorary Chair, Mr. Christian Schwarz-Schilling on the Roma in Bujanovac. The suggestion was accepted by the Chairman. At the end, Mr. Ademi welcomed the support and expressed appreciation for the continuous cooperation, and also underlined that these meetings and participation in the activities should continue in the future.

## NPAA 2011 PRESENTED IN THE NATIONAL EUROPEAN INTEGRATION COUNCIL



The National European Integration Council reviewed the National Program on the Adoption of the Acquis (NPAA) - Revision 2011. H.E. Ferenc Kekeshi, Ambassador of the Republic of Hungary to the Republic of Macedonia, H.E. Dariush Carol Bahura, Ambassador of the Republic of Poland to the Republic of Macedonia, Ms. Marina Kurte, Representative of the EU Office to the Republic of Macedonia attended the Meeting.

Mr. Vasko Naumovski, Vice Prime Minister of the Republic of Macedonia in charge for European Issues presented the NPAA. This is fourth revision of the NPAA and it was adopted by the Government of the Republic of Macedonia on 28 December 2010. Ms. Radmila Shekerinska, Chair of the National European Integration Council, Mr. Petar Pop Arsov, Mr. Aleksandar Spasenovski and Ms. Flora Kadriu, MPs and Members of the National European Integration

Council, as well as Mr. Dimitar Minchev, Member of the Council and Representative of the Cabinet of the President of the Republic of Macedonia and Mr. Aleksandar Krzalovski, Representative from the Civil Platform of the Republic of Macedonia participated in the debate. The National European Integration Council concluded that the remarks from the debate on the NPAA will be submitted to the Government of the Republic of Macedonia.

NPAA is a comprehensive long-term document following the structure of the Copenhagen and Madrid criteria, that defines the dynamic of the adoption of the Acquis Communautaire, strategic guidelines, policies, reforms, structures, resources and deadlines to be realised by the Republic of Macedonia to fulfil the requirements for European Union membership. It establishes detailed plans and time tables for approximation of the national legislation with the EU Acquis communautaire and determines the competent institutions and authorities for preparation and implementation thereof.

## MARKING THE GLOBAL CAMPAIGN "PEARLS OF WISDOM"

On the occasion of the global campaign to prevent cervical cancer "Pearls of Wisdom", the Women Parliamentarians' Club held a meeting with the association for combating cancer "Borka". As member of the the European Cervical Cancer Association (ECCA), during the European week for prevention of cervical cancer, from 24-31 January 2011, the association "Borka" organized many campaigns throughout the country. This educational campaign follows the global campaign "Pearls of Wisdom 2011" that raises the awareness of cervical cancer and how it can be prevented.

The participants at the meeting welcomed this kind of initiatives that deal with the problems of women, and thanked the association "Borka" for reaching all part of the county, even distant rural areas, to educate women about prevention of cervical cancer.



## Snowy Macedonia



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

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