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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 February 2011:

- Energy Law
- Law amending the Law on e-commerce
- Law amending the Law on working hours, mandatory vacations to mobile workers and drivers in road traffic and recording devices in road traffic
- Law on interoperability in railway system
- Law on ratification of the Agreement on social insurance between Republic of Macedonia and Montenegro
- Law amending the Company Law
- Law amending the Law on consumer protection

139 anniversary from the birth of Macedonian revolutionary Goce Delcev



SPECIAL MEETING OF THE COMMITTEE ON RELATIONS AMONG THE COMMUNITIES



The meeting was convened to discuss the incident at the Kale Fortress in Skopje and its effect on the inter-ethnic and inter-religious relations in the Republic of Macedonia. Highest level politicians participated in the debate, as President of the Assembly Trajko Veljanoski, the Minister of Interior Gordana Jankulovska, the Ombudsman Ixhet Memeti, the Chairperson of the Committee for relations among the Religious Communities and Religious Groups Ms. Valentina Božinovska, representatives of the Delegation European Union to the Republic of Macedonia, representatives of the OSCE Mission in Skopje, the Embassy of the USA in Skopje, NATO Liaison Office in Skopje, as well as many MPs attended the Meeting. Based on the debate, the Committee adopted the following:

Conclusions

1. The Committee on Relations among the Communities expresses its deep concern about the incident at the Kale Fortress in Skopje that resulted in increased tensions among the ethnic communities in the Republic of Macedonia. The members of the Committee on Relations among the Communities, having in mind their constitutional and legal competences, their rights and obligations, emphasize the importance of further development and promotion of the multi-ethnic and inter-confessional understanding among the citizens of the Republic of Macedonia.

2. The Members of the Committee on Relations among the Communities condemn this incident and call on higher level of responsibility, restraint, reason, pouring oil on troubled waters and peaceful protection of the multi-ethnic respect.

3. The Members of the Committee on Relations among the Communities are convinced that the institutions of the system have the capacity to resolve this sensitive issue, with the aim of ensuring stability and democratic future of the Republic of Macedonia.

4. The Committee points out that the cultural heritage of the Kale Fortress in Skopje that originates from various periods, and because of that it is an expression of the different civilizational values, is a common cultural heritage that belongs to all the communities and to all the citizens of our common state, and represents a symbol of unity and not a symbol of divisions.

5. The Committee is convinced that all the issues regarding the construction taking place on the Kale Fortress in Skopje and the other sensitive issues of this type have to be resolved only in a coordinated manner, with open political dialogue of all persons involved within the institutions of the system, with public debates and with mutual respect of the values of all the ethnic communities in the Republic of Macedonia.

6. The members of the Committee on Relations among the Communities consider that the promotion of the culture and cultural heritage of all the ethnic communities should continue to be developed jointly, because the multi-cultural and multi-confessional character of the society is an important pillar of the democratic environment and of the stability in the Republic of Macedonia.

7. The Committee is convinced that this type of sensitive issues will not be used by any of the political parties, NGOs or citizens for other political goals.

8. The members of the Committee on Relations among the Communities urge all the political parties, the bodies of the state administration, the media, the religious communities, the Non-Governmental sector and the citizens to address the situation in a peaceful manner and in the spirit of reconciliation, as well as to refrain from any activity that might increase the tensions; and to approach all the issues related to the multi-ethnic and multi-confessional relations in the Republic of Macedonia in a sensible manner and with high level of responsibility.

9. These Conclusions shall be forwarded to the President of the Assembly of the Republic of Macedonia, the Ministry of Internal Affairs, the Ministry of Culture, the Ombudsman, the representatives of the Delegation of the European Union to the Republic of Macedonia, the representatives of the OSCE Mission in Skopje, the representatives of the Embassy of the United States of America in Skopje, the NATO Liaison Office in Skopje, the Committee for Relations with the Religious Communities and Religious Groups, the Agency for Implementation of the Rights of the Communities.

THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT STRONG SUPPORTER OF THE REPUBLIC OF MACEDONIA IN THE EU INTEGRATION PROCESS



The National European Integration Council, together with the Committee on European Issues, Foreign Policy Committee and the Joint Parliamentary Committee - Republic of Macedonia and the European Union held a joint session with Mr. Eduard Kukan, MEP and shadow rapporteur for the Republic of Macedonia from the EPP Group and former Foreign Affairs Minister of the Republic of Slovakia.

In his introductory address, Ms. Silvana Boneva, Vice-Chair of the Council, expressed gratitude for the continuous support of the European People's Party for the EU integration process of the Republic of Macedonia, as well as for the personal commitment of Mr. Kukan as MEP and shadow rapporteur in the Party. Ms. Boneva welcomed the establishment of the informal group "Friends of Macedonia" in the European Parliament, where Mr. Kukan is also a member, with a hope that this group will encourage open and strong support to the Republic of Macedonia in the European Parliament and to the efforts to determine the earliest possible date to start negotiations for determining of a date for a sooner start of negotiations for membership.

In his address, Mr. Kukan expressed pleasure for the meeting in the Assembly and presented the activities of the European Parliament, the procedures regarding the Resolution on the Progress Report of the Republic of Macedonia for 2010. He conveyed the message from the European Parliament that they are looking forward to the moment when they will be able to welcome Macedonia into the European family of nations.

THE LISBON TREATY TRANSLATED IN MACEDONIAN LANGUAGE

The Vice Prime-Minister for European Issues, Mr. Vasko Naumovski and EU Ambassador Erwan Fouere promoted the Lisbon Treaty translated for the first time in Maceonian

language, and published by the Secretariat for European Issues in the Government of the Republic of Macedonia.

"This edition is of particular importance for Macedonia which has been working hard to obtain a status for a member state in the European Union and hence, the translation of the Treaty has the aim to inform the citizens on the basic principles of this Treaty, as well as to contribute to our rapprochement to the Union and the functioning of its institutions towards the Macedonian citizens," said Vice Prime Minister Naumovski."

Promoting the Treaty, the EU Ambassador Fouere pointed out that the Treaty is a significant step that marks the process of integration in the European Union, at the same time increasing the capacity of the EU in this process, by absorbing more member states. And we have been repeating for a long time that the map of Europe will be incomplete without the Balkan countries."

The translation of the Lisbon Treaty has been done in cooperation with the Konrad Adenauer Stiftung.

MACEDONIAN PARLIAMENTARY DELEGATION VISITED LITHUANIA AND LATVIA



A Delegation from the Parliamentary Group for Cooperation with the Parliaments from the Baltic States: Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania visited this month the parliaments of Latvia and Lithuania.

At the first meeting in the Lithuanian Parliament, the Chairs of the MP Groups signed the Joint Statement, which welcomed the establishment of the relations and the exchange of opinions between the Assembly of the Republic of Macedonia and the Parliament of Lithuania, as well as the promotion of the parliamentary cooperation in areas of common interest.

The return visit to Latvia was a continuation of the successful cooperation with the parliament of this friendly country. The Delegation had a meeting with the Members of the MP Group for Cooperation with the Parliament of the Republic of Macedonia, with the Members of the Foreign Policy Com-

mittee, Committee on Human Rights; the Minister on Foreign Affairs, the Deputy-Minister on Ecology and Regional Development as well as with the city architect of Riga. The discussions were on the present affairs in both countries, where Latvian colleagues MPs expressed their support to the aspirations of the Republic of Macedonia for fully-fledged membership in the Euro-Atlantic structures.

MR. PETAR POP ARSOV PARTICIPATED AT THE COSAC MEETING IN BUDAPEST



The Chairman of the Committee on European Issues of the Assembly of the Republic of Macedonia, Mr. Petar Pop Arsov, participated at the Conference of the European Affairs Committees of the EU member states - COSAC, which was held in Budapest, Republic of Hungary, on 10-11 February 2011.

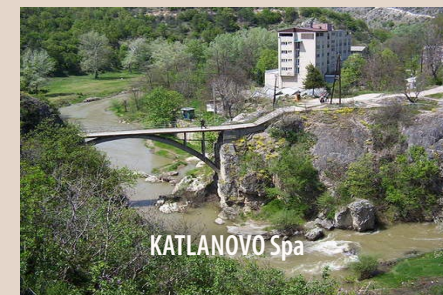
In his introductory address, the Speaker of the Hungarian Parliament, Mr. Laszlo Kover, presented the future activities of the Hungarian Parliament, as well as the joint activities with the European Union Troika during the Program of the Hungarian Presidency. The MFA of Hungary, Mr. Janos Martonyi, underlined that the Hungarian Presidency is committed to strong and economically developed Europe, which shall overcome the economic crises with its developed institutions, strong policies and economy. Mr. Martonyi also said that the enlargement process remains to be a priority for the European Union during the Hungarian Presidency. Mr. Maros Sefcovic, Vice-President of the European Commission on Inter-Institutional Relations and Administration, elaborated the 2011 Work Programme of the European Commission and outlined the possibilities for participation of the national parliaments in the drafting of the programme.

The Chairman of the Committee on European Affairs, Mr. Pop Arsov, had contacts with several counterparts from the EU member states and discussed the issues concerning the European Union, as well as the opportunities for continuation of the Euro-Integration processes of the Republic of Macedonia.

Thermal Spas in Macedonia



DEBAR'S Spa Capa



KATLANOVO Spa



NEGORCI Spa

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