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### Your links:

Members of the Assembly

Councils of the Assembly

Working bodies of the Assembly

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 2012:

- Law Ratifying the Agreement Regulating Railway Border Traffic between Republic of Macedonia and Republic of Kosovo
- Law Amending the Law on Health Care Insurance

### Delegation of the Assembly of the Republic of Macedonia in official visit to Australia



### USE THE POSSIBILITY OF THE ACCESSION DIALOGUE SAY "FRIENDS OF MACEDONIA"



MPs from the Foreign Policy Committee, Committee on European Issues, Joint Parliamentary Committee - EU and Republic of Macedonia, and the National Euro-Integration Council, had a joint meeting with MEPs Richard Howitt, Eduard Kukan and Alojz Peterle, who are also Members of the "Friends of Macedonia" informal support group in the European Parliament. The Foreign Policy Chair, Mr. Antonio Milososki, welcomed the guests, underlining that this visit is yet another proof of their friendship, commitment and preparedness to help the country on its Euro - integration path. Republic of Macedonia in 2012 will focus on three priority areas: reforms in the public administration, judiciary and dialogue with the media, stated Milososki. He also said

that if Macedonia does not get a date for negotiations during the Danish Presidency should use the opportunity of the high-level political dialogue with the European Commission, to formally or informally start the screening process of Chapters 23 and 24. MPs Silvana Boneva, Igor Ivanovski, and Lijana Popovska welcomed the EP Draft -Resolution on the Progress of the Republic of Macedonia for 2011, especially the recommendation for start of negotiations, the use of the adjective "Macedonian", and the respect of the decision by the International Court of Justice. They re-assured the MEPs that Macedonia will continue to work on finding solution to the name issue, but will at the same time continue with the implementation of the necessary reforms. MEP Howitt said some say the momentum for implementation of reforms may slow due to the lack of progress on the name issue, but he encouraged his hosts to continue and speed up the reforms, which eventually will create a more acceptable environment to overcome the obstacles on the name issue. MEP Kukan shared his experience when Slovakia was in the waiting room for two years before accession negotiations started, and called the hosts to use the pre-accession dialogue and to show that they are seriously prepared for membership. MEP Peterle expressed readiness to help Macedonia in the fulfillment of the goals, since Slovenia and Macedonia share similarities and emphasized the importance of the

parliamentary dimension, both in and outside the country as an important element for strengthening of the integration process.

MEPs had a meeting with President Veljanoski, where he informed them that the political dialog is being exercised and that all key relevant actors in the Republic of Macedonia are working toward the soonest integration of Macedonia into EU. The process of reforms is comprehended as a need to achieve the European standards and to raise the competitive power of our economy, stated Veljanoski. At the end, he expressed hope that the Decision from the International Court of Justice in Hague on the imposed name issue will create positive conditions for the European aspirations of the state.



### LITHUANIA'S MPS SUBMIT RESOLUTION TO THE COUNCIL FOR START OF NEGOTIATIONS WITH MACEDONIA

A Delegation from the Committee on European Affairs from the Parliament of Lithuania, headed by the Vice-President Vytautas Stankevicius had meetings with the Vice-President of the Assembly, Mr. Jani Makraduli, the Members of the Group for Cooperation with Baltic states, as well as with Members of the European Affairs and Foreign Policy Committee in the Assembly of the Republic of Macedonia. Mr. Stankevicius informed the Macedonian colleagues that on 24th January 2012, their Committee on European Affairs had a meeting with the European Council and submitted a resolution in which they set forth a proposal to the Danish Presidency for start of negotiations with Macedonia in June this year, and to work on solution on the name issue during EU accession negotiations. He underlined that the name dispute is from the past and that Republic of Macedonia does not have territorial claims to its southern neighbor, but also that it is not easy to

find a solution. Lithuania was long in the waiting room and did not enter in with the first wave, but nonetheless it used the time to work on reforms and we recommend you do the same and not to give up from reforms for EU membership", said members of the Lithuanian Delegation.

Vice-President Makraduli and the MPs from the Assembly of the Republic of Macedonia expressed an interest to learn from the European experience of their Lithuanian colleagues and that the geographical distance between the two states should not be an obstacle for intensive cooperation in many fields. The reason is the unique determination of all political parties and of majority of Macedonian citizens is membership in NATO and in the EU. The Government and Parliament are fully dedicated to the accomplishment of this goal, adopting the necessary reforms and that the Republic of Macedonia has no other alternative but membership

in NATO and in the EU for which they expressed hope that the recent decision by the International Court of Justice in Hague will be respected and that a way must be found to start negotiations for EU membership.



## JOINT MEETING OF THE NATIONAL COUNCIL FOR EUROPEAN INTEGRATION AND THE COMMITTEE ON EUROPEAN ISSUES



The National Euro-Integration Council and the Committee on European Issues held their joint meeting to discuss the National Program for Adoption of the Acquis (NPAA) - revision 2012. Ms. Teuta Arifi, Deputy Prime Minister for European Affairs presented the Program. In 2012 the focus remains on the strengthening of the rule of law and the public administration reform, as one of the most important challenges and preconditions in the process of accession to the EU, said Mr. Arifi. Regarding the activities of the Assembly of the Republic of Macedonia, the focus will be on securing the necessary conditions for ongoing political dialogue and high level of coordination, regular implementation of the provisions of the Law on the Assembly, as well as finalization of the establishment of the Parliamentary Institute. After an extensive debate, the National Council for European Integration and the Committee on European Issues adopted unanimously the Opinion on the adoption of the Acquis in 2012:

1. Recommend that the Assembly of the Republic of Macedonia and its working bodies should give priority to the review and adoption of the laws planned for adoption in the NPAA - revision 2012, listed in Annex 1;
2. Recommend that the working bodies of the Assembly of the Republic of Macedonia should review the NPAA - revision 2012, in the sections and chapters according to the area of competence of the working bodies;
3. In accordance with the adopted conclusions regarding the discussion on the Republic of Macedonia 2011 Progress Report, the National Council and the Committee on European Issues urge the working bodies of the Assembly of the Republic of Macedonia to monitor the implementation of the Action Plan for realization of the recommendations from the 2011 Progress Report, as well as of the NPAA;
4. Taking into consideration the Republic of Macedonia 2011 Progress Report of the European Commission, as well as the remarks regarding the work of the Assembly of the Republic of Macedonia, the Council and the Committee point to the need for the Assembly to continue with its work based on dialogue, which is one of the key priorities of the Accession Partnership;
5. In order to reach higher level of inclusiveness and transparency in the process of preparation and adoption of the laws from the NPAA in 2012, in the forthcoming period the National Council for European Integration will organize public debates on the proposals from Annex 2. In that direction, the Government of the Republic of Macedonia should secure regular practice of delivering the working texts of the laws from Annex 2 of this Opinion, in order for the Council to be able to provide serious analysis of the proposed laws and to give proposals, suggestions and recommendations;
6. The National Council for European Integration recom-

mends to the Government of the Republic of Macedonia to organize public debates and consultations with the interested parties during the preparations of the by-laws for important laws that are part of the NPAA, in accordance with the provisions of the Rules of Procedure of the Government of the Republic of Macedonia, for assessment of the impact of regulation with the aim better implementation of the laws in practice;

7. We welcome the realization of the Project IPA-TAP "Technical assistance to the Parliament" financed by the European Union. The general objective is to enhance the institutional capacity of the Parliament and to improve its transparency and responsibility before the citizens. The series of trainings intended for some of the Staff, as well as for the MP's, realized in the framework of the Project, is a good base for improvement of the knowledge and procedures for work. Additionally, they can help in the realization of the active role of the Parliament in the accession negotiations for European Union membership.

8. Having in mind the competences and the objectives of the National Council for European Integrations, it is important to continue to invest in the development of the human resources in the Parliament Staff, as well as of the employees in the Department for Support of the National Council for European Integrations, and to enable continued trainings about the EU for the purpose of development of their professional skills;

9. Call on all the factors in the society to give their active contribution in the process of harmonization of the legislation of the Republic of Macedonia with that of the European Union;

10. The Government of the Republic of Macedonia and the Assembly of the Republic of Macedonia shall be informed about the contents of this Opinion. In addition to that, this opinion should be published on the website of the Assembly of the Republic of Macedonia.

## STRUMICA CARNIVAL 2012



## PUBLIC DEBATE WITHIN THE "JUSTICE FOR CHILDREN" PROJECT

The Committee on Labour and Social Policy held a public debate in the Assembly of the Republic of Macedonia titled "The legislation on children in conflict with the law, children victims and children witnesses of crimes." The aim was to encourage a debate on improvement of the legal system in order to better protect the children. This is the first public debate organized by the Working Group, and supported by the UNICEF Office in Skopje and the Delegation of the European Union in Macedonia through the "Justice for Children" Project. The Group, composed of members of all Parliamentary Groups in the Assembly, was established in the framework of the Committee on Labour and Social Policy, in accordance with the Memorandum of Cooperation signed between the Assembly of the Republic of Macedonia and United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) on 20 November 2009.



At the end of the debate, the Committee proposed conclusions, which encourage amendments in the Law on Juvenile Justice, i.e. explicit provisions on presumption of innocence of the children, adoption of a by-law on development of a standardized methodology for assessment and monitoring of children in correctional facilities or in prisons, as well as by-law on disciplinary measures to be adopted by disciplinary council or a collective body, and central protocol/registry in the institutions. The Committee also called for clear definition of the competences of the Ministry of Justice and Ministry of Labor and Social Policy regarding education for children in correctional facilities, creation of a fund for compensation of children victims and free legal aid and allocation within each of these institutions of funds for implementation of the Law on Juvenile Justice on annual level.

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