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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 September 2012:

- Law Amending the Law on Advocacy
- Law Amending the Law on Interior
- Law Amending the Law on Interception of Communications
- Law Amending the Law on Environment
- Law Amending the Law on Vehicles
- Law Amending the Law on Employment and Insurance Against Unemployment

INDEPENDENCE DAY



HLAD DIALOGUE IS A SUCCESS STORY



The Commissioner Stefan Fule, before attending the HLAD meeting in Skopje, had a meeting with MPs working on EU Affairs in the Assembly of the Republic of Macedonia. In the introductory address, Mrs. Radmila Sekerinska, Chair of the National Council for Euro-Integration welcomed the Commissioner and stated that the National Council has been working efficiently, reaching consensus on all issues that have been topics for a debate in the Council. "The activities of the Council have been undertaken with only one goal - to give contribution to the Euro-Integration process of the country, to constructively add to the accomplishment of the strategic goal of the Republic of Macedonia for membership in the EU. The high Level Accession Dialogue (HLAD) proved to be a good instrument not

only until the start of the negotiations, but also for making reforms in the state. Despite the challenges and the crises, there is unity for success by all political parties", said Mrs. Shekerinska.

Commissioner Fule welcomed the MPs, expressing gratitude for the always substantial and live debate when meeting him before each HLAD meeting. He also welcomed the role of the Council which should promote inclusiveness and unity in the state, things that are essential ingredients for the accession process. HLAD brought good results that initiated huge reforms in crucial areas, such as freedom of the expression, rule of law and fundamental rights, reform in the public administration, electoral reform and strengthening of the market economy. The third round of HLAD is very important since it offers possibility

to see what has been done and it is a direct link between the incoming Progress Report and the recommendation in the Report and the decision of member states in the European Council in December. HLAD is based on ownership and inclusive dialogue with the society, and its aim is to send a positive message to Brussels for the integration process of the state. HLAD is a success story, said Commissioner Fule.

Mrs. Silvana Boneva, Vice-President of National Council stated that more of 140 measures have been undertaken by the Government and the Parliament and despite the turbulences, the reform agenda came to the forefront in the state. Mr. Aleksandar Nikolovski, Vice-Chair of the Foreign Policy Committee, welcomed the reforms under HLAD and called for respect of the Hague decision and for dignity regarding the adjective

"Macedonian". Mr. Andrej Petrov, Vice Co-Chair of JPC, asked for a date for start of negotiations for EU membership. Mr. Misini, Chair of the EU Affairs Committee, welcomed all HLAD measures, especially the implementation of the Ohrid Framework Agreement. Mr. Ziadin Sela said that his party DPA, will be a watch-dog for the state not to turn away from the EU integration process. Mrs. Tanja Hafner, representative of the NGOs called for greater inclusion of the society in HLAD and later on in the negotiations for membership. Mr. Naser Selmani, representative of the journalists, welcomed the progress made in the legislation related to libel and defamation in the Government and expressed expectation that once adopted; the legislation will improve the situation in the field of freedom of expression and the media.



PRESIDENT VELJANOSKI AT THE CONFERENCE OF PRESIDENTS IN STRASBOURG



President of the Assembly of the Republic of Macedonia, Mr. Trajko Veljanoski, attended the Conference of Presidents that took place in the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe in Strasbourg from 20-21 September 2012. President Veljanoski took part in the debate on the Future of the European Court of Human Rights – role of national parliaments and on the topic Is representative democracy in crisis? Challenges for national parliaments. Regarding the role of national parliaments in the future of the European Court of Human Rights, President Veljanoski, stated that the process of changes and promotion of the system for protection of human rights urgently puts the position and the role of the national parliaments on the agenda, since they are institutions where the culture of the rule of the law is being built. For a multiethnic, multireligious and multicultural states as the Republic of Macedonia, the protection of the rights of ethnic communities is an important indicator for the level of democracy, as well as for the level of harmonization with the European standards and values. The equality of ethnic communities in Macedonia is deeply embodied in the Constitution and its legal order, implementing the Ohrid Framework Agreement, as one of the main pillars for development of democracy, and an important element for internal as well as regional security and cooperation.

President Veljanoski supported the initiatives in PACE for a new, additional Protocol of the European Convention for Protection of the Rights of Minorities and reminded that some member states have not fully implemented the decisions from the Court of Human Rights and do not respect the reports and recommendations from ECRI, the CE Commissioner of Human Rights, the UN Special Rapporteur, and other international organizations regarding the recognition, preservation and development of the rights and freedoms of the national minorities.

Regarding the representative democracy and the challenges for national parliaments, President Veljanoski underlined that the essence of democracy lies in the participation, competence and competitiveness in the election of political representatives, but also in their responsibility before the electorate. He recalled Abraham Lincoln's saying that democracy is "rule of the people, by the people, for the people", which in conditions of parliamentary democracy will mean "rule of national representatives", but harmonized with the will of the people. In this context, President Veljanoski said that politicians should all hear every remark to safeguard the advantages of this kind of political community, so that it may further on fulfill citizens' expectations and interests. There must be respective level of fruitful political dialogue, and this level must be preserved, with a tendency of building true, not artificial parliamentary debate, said President Veljanoski.

PUBLIC DEBATE IN THE NATIONAL EURO-INTEGRATION COUNCIL ON THE LAW ON POLICE



The National Euro-Integration Council held a public debate to hear the view of the experts regarding the Draft-Law Amending the Law on Police. The adoption was envisaged in the National Program for the Adoption of the Acquis (NPAA) Revision 2012. Deputy-Minister of Interior, Mr. Xhelal Bajrami presented the amendments in the incoming law, which regulates police affairs, the organization of police forces, and the rights and obligations of police officers in the Ministry of Interior that are not regulated in the Law on Interior.

The amendments are crucial for efficient functioning of the police in the fight against the crime. The law is also harmonized with the Law on Criminal Procedure. In the preparation of the text, comparative experiences of the Croatian police and the police structures of several EU member states have been taken into consideration.

The Draft-Law has been prepared in cooperation with the Public Prosecutor's Office, the Protection of Personal Data Directorate, as well as with university professors and experts in this field. There has been a live debate on the law at the meeting, with participation of representatives of the Human Rights Institute, Helsinki Committee, university professors, the Office of the Ombudsman and the Open Society Foundation. They stated that this is a very important law and requires a deeper debate and deliberation, in order to specify clearly the provisions of the law that are related to the protection of human rights and freedoms.

NATIONAL ACTION PLAN ON IMPLEMENTATION OF UN SECURITY COUNCIL RESOLUTION 1325

The Committee on Equal Opportunities of Women and Men of the Assembly of the Republic of Macedonia" held a public debate on the Draft-National Action Plan for Implementation of the UN Security Council Resolution 1325. MPs, representatives of local municipality committees on equal opportunities of women and men, international and non-governmental organizations took part in the debate. The participants have been informed about the only woman working in a peace-keeping mission, Mrs. Julijana Trajkovic, from the Ministry of Interior, which shared her experiences with the audience.

The debate resulted with adoption of the conclusions. The Committee on Equal Opportunities of Women and Men supported the adoption of the National Action Plan for Implementation of the UN Security Council Resolution 1325 and addressed several suggestions to the Working Group that an MP from the Committee on Equal Opportunities of Women and Men from the Assembly of the Republic of Macedonia takes part in the work of the inter-ministerial group. They also called for increased number of women in mediation, prevention and management of conflicts in the state and the region in general.



ICFF MANAKI BROTHERS – BITOLA

CATHERINE DENEUVE



CHRISTIAN BERGER



THIRD HALF MAIN ACTORS



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