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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 December 2012 / January 2013:

- Law Amending the Law on Asylum and Temporary Protection
- Law Amending the Law on Labour Register
- Law Amending the Law on Trade Companies
- Law Amending the Law on Mandatory Capital Funded Pension Insurance
- Law Amending the Law on Voluntary Capital Funded Pension Insurance
- Law Ratifying the Agreement with the Republic of Serbia on Legal Aid in Civil and Criminal Cases
- Law Amending the Law on Protection of the Environment
- Law On Student Standards
- Law on Medical Studies and Ongoing Professional Training of Medical Doctors

Macedonia presented at Istanbul fair



OFFICIAL VISIT OF THE JOINT PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEE TO THE GRAND NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF TURKEY



On initiative of the Co-Chairman of the Joint Parliamentary Committee Republic of Macedonia-European Union, Mr. Kenan Hasipi, a Delegation of the Committee paid an official visit to their colleagues in the Grand National Assembly of Turkey. Ms. Silvana Boneva, Mr. Aleksandar Spasenovski, Members of the Committee, and Ms. Dëshira Imeri, Deputy Member of the Committee, were part of the Delegation. The Macedonian parliamentarians met with Mr. Arif Demirkiran, Co-Chairman of the



Turkey-EU Joint Parliamentary Committee, and exchanged experiences regarding the work of the two committees that have the key role in the Euro-Integration process. They also discussed the challenges facing the Committees and the manner of communication with their colleagues from the European Parliament, the coordination and harmonization of the final recommendations and amendments, as well as other issues in the field of their work. Mr. Mehmet Tekelioğlu, Chairman of the Committee on EU Harmonisation informed the guests about the work of his Committee, pointing out that the experiences of both parliaments can help to overcome the obstacles in the Euro-Integration process. Both sides concluded the importance of having close and intensive contacts between the two Parliaments in order to exchange experiences and provide assistance and support in the crucial moments of the European integration.

During the visit, the Delegation met with Mr. Huseyin Burge, Chairman of the Parliamentary Friendship Group Turkey-Macedonia, and expressed satisfaction with the positive experiences from the cooperation in the past. Both sides underlined the importance of the close cooperation between the parliamentary groups, which strengthen the true friendship that exists between the states. The Deputy-Chairman Mr. Ismail Kasdemir, shared the belief that the contacts and cooperation will continue with the same positive dynamics and in the spirit of the excellent bilateral relations between the two countries. At the meeting with Mr. Ismail Safi, Head of the Delegation of the Turkish Parliament to the Parliamentary Assembly of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation (PABSEC) exchanged views regarding the fact that the Republic of Macedonia has for the past 20 years been invited to participate in the work of PABSEC, but unfortunately because of the well-known reasons regarding the dispute over the

name with Greece, it has never participated in the meetings of this Organization. Mr. Safi expressed hope that a positive solution will be found in near future and recommended further efforts by the Republic of Macedonia for full integration in the PABSEC structures.

PRESIDENT VELJANOSKI MEETS STEFANO SANNINO IN SKOPJE



At the meeting, the President of the Assembly of the Republic of Macedonia, Mr. Trajko Veljanoski, informed the Director-General for Enlargement at the European Commission, Mr. Stefano Sannino, on the unpleasant events from 24 December 2012, as well as on the facts, circumstances and events that happened prior to the aforementioned events. At the same time, President Veljanoski proposed measures and guidelines for strengthening of parliamentary capacities, regaining the trust and functioning of the Assembly in full capacity, aimed toward surpassing the political disagreements and strengthening the overall, joint, reform capacity of the Republic of Macedonia in the Euro-Integration process.

SERBIAN PRIME-MINISTER IVICA DACIC IN THE MACEDONIAN PARLIAMENT



During his official visit to the Republic of Macedonia, Serbian Prime-Minister Ivica Dacic met with the President Trajko Veljanoski and MPs from the Parliamentary Group for Cooperation with the Parliament of Serbia. The highly developed relations between the two states and nations, characterised with good neighbourly relations, security and stability on bilateral, regional and multilateral level, and the high degree of trust, without open or controversial issues were underlined at the meeting. The common future in the framework of the integration process in the European Union were emphasized, and the preparedness of the Assembly of the Republic of Macedonia to share the experiences from the process. President Veljanoski underlined that the bilateral cooperation is in the interest of the whole region and its Euro-Atlantic perspective. The economic cooperation with the Republic of Serbia as one of the greatest partners of the Republic of Macedonia should be further strengthened through joint projects to the benefit of both states, but also to the region, said President Veljanoski, underlining finalization of Corridor 10 in this context.

Prime Minister Dacic, expressing satisfaction from the visit, pointed out the development of good neighbourly relations as of great importance for the Republic of Serbia, especially the economic cooperation in the infrastructure, energy sector, agriculture and joint presentations on third markets. Regarding the EU perspective, Mr. Dacic noted that European integration of the two states is a significant factor that influences the dynamics of reforms in the two states, and regional stability in general. Both sides stated the status

of the ethnic communities, the Serbs in Macedonia and Macedonians in Serbia as very good and underlined that the relations between the communities will be cherished and developed in the future as well.

PUBLIC DEBATE FOR IMPROVED CARE AND TREATMENT OF PERSONS WITH HIV IN MACEDONIA

The Committee on Equal Opportunities of Women and Men and the Committee on Health Care of the Assembly of the Republic of Macedonia, together with the Interparliamentary HIV Group, in cooperation with the Health Care Education and Research Association (HERA), the Working Group of Persons Living with HIV "Stronger Together" and the National Democratic Institute (NDI), held a joint public debate in December on the topic "Improved Health Care and Treatment of Persons Living with HIV in the Republic of Macedonia." Representatives from the Ministry of Health Care, the National Coordinative Mechanism for HIV and Tuberculosis, National HIV/AIDS Committee of the Republic of Macedonia, UNDP, WHO, UNICEF and NGO's working on HIV policies, took part in the debate.

Conclusions were adopted at the end of the debate that welcomed the efforts of the institutions for maintaining relatively low level of prevalence of HIV infection, and encouraged the Government and the relevant state institutions to coordinate their activities in order to open the positive list of medications with the lowest possible prices for HIV medications. The also proposed to the Ministry of Health Care to establish a team working with the National Coordinator that would constantly monitor the HIV treatment and suggest activities that will overcome the obstacles in the administrative procedures in the transfer of medications from the Program to the Infective Diseases and Febrile Conditions. The participants suggested that the Clinic prepare and adopt a Protocol for HIV Treatment, including WHO and European Clinical AIDS Association recommendations that will provide sufficient options for second and third line therapy. At the end, they called all relevant institutions and NGO's working in this field, to continue and intensify the activities for prevention and early detection of HIV/AIDS, as well as for elimination of prejudice and the stigma among the population, and decided to meet again in six months and see the developments in this area.



VEVCANI CARNIVAL 2013



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