

### Your contacts:

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

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

### Your links:

Members of the Assembly

Councils of the Assembly

Working bodies of the Assembly

Joint Parliamentary Committee EU-RM

Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Ministry of Culture

### Macedonian legislation harmonized with the EU acquis in MAY 2015:

- Law Ratifying the Agreement between the Republic of Macedonia and the Slovak Republic for Social Insurance
- Law Ratifying the Agreement between the Republic of Macedonia and Hungary for Social Insurance and Social Security
- Law Ratifying the Convention of Joint Transit Procedure
- Law Ratifying the Convention for Simplifying the Formalities in Trade of Goods
- Law on Customs Measures for Protection of Intellectual Property Rights
- Law Ratifying the Agreement between the Republic of Macedonia and the European Union for participation of the Republic of Macedonia in the Union Civil Protection Mechanism

### 9 MAY, EUROPE DAY



## JPC CO-CHAIR ALOJZ PETERLE VISITS THE REPUBLIC OF MACEDONIA

The JPC - EU and the Republic of Macedonia Co-Chairs, Mr. Kenan Hasipi and Mr. Alojz Peterle had a short tête-à-tête meeting, where they exchanged views on the current political situation in the state as well as on the incoming JPC meeting. Mr. Peterle also met the Members of the Macedonian JPC Delegation, who expressed appreciation for the interest shown and the support to finding solution on the political crisis in Macedonia. Mr. Peterle pointed out that he expects political developments that would stabilize Macedonia and would enable full functioning of the Parliament, as well as support to the European perspective of Macedonia.



Parliamentarians exchanged views on the absence of the biggest opposition party from Parliament and for the events in Kumanovo, the name dispute and the role of parliamentarians in the political process. Mr. Peterle expressed hope that the demonstrated political will of all parties to return to the political dialogue in Macedonia with European mediation will show results. At the end, they wished for a sooner full functioning of the Joint Parliamentary Committee - EU and the Republic of Macedonia.



## CEI BRIDGE BETWEEN MACRO-REGIONS AND DIFFERENT STRATEGIES

Within the frames of the Macedonian Presidency with Central European Initiative (CEI), a meeting of the Parliamentary Committee was held in the Assembly of the Republic of Macedonia, chaired by the acting President and Head of the Macedonian CEI PD Delegation, Mr. Aleksandar Nikoloski. The topic of the meeting was "Relevance of EU Macro-Regional Strategies as an Opportunity for Cross-Border Cooperation among CEI Member States: the Role of Parliaments." At the beginning, Mr. Nikoloski expressed pleasure that the Republic of Macedonia is chairing with the CEI PD for the second time and is debating a topic that is important for the future development of the CEI region. The President of the Assembly of the Republic of Macedonia, Mr. Trajko Veljanoski, in his address as a keynote speaker, emphasized that the CEI Presidency will be focused on greater infrastructural connectivity in the region and that national parliaments and parliamentarians have to play their role in this process in the adoption of legislation and also in supervising activities undertaken by their governments to fulfill the envisaged objectives. The Vice-President of the Government in charge of Economic Affairs, Mr. Vladimir Peshevski, stated that EU integration of all countries from the Western Balkans is a main political priority of the Macedonian CEI Presidency and that development

of infrastructure, tourism, agriculture and culture are key economic priorities for the CEI region. Mr. Erik Csernovitz, CEI Deputy Secretary General, pointed out that CEI thanks to its geopolitical situation, represents a platform for European integration and a bridge between macro regions, and is ready to contribute to the implementation of each EU macro-regional strategy. He also underlined that the European perspective of its countries remains the CEI core mission.



## CEI BRIDGE BETWEEN MACRO-REGIONS AND DIFFERENT STRATEGIES

The Deputy-Foreign Affairs Minister, Ms. Dragana Kiprijanovska, pointed out that the organization of this meeting is an important indicator for the strategic determination of the Republic of Macedonia to continuously and actively maintain good neighborly relations and developing regional cooperation. The Vice-President of the Assembly and Chair of the Foreign Policy Committee, Mr. Antonijo Miloshoski, stated that the Republic of Macedonia fulfilled the criteria for joining of the Adriatic Ionian Strategy and that it will be a constructive partner in the region. He concluded that CEI will reach its maximum when all of its members, including Macedonia, will become part of the European Union.

The Italian Senator Lodovico Sonogo proposed a separate meeting of the General Committee on Economic Affairs to be organized on infrastructural policies, regional connectivity and economic development that will be hosted by the Italian Parliament in October this year.

**A Final Declaration was accepted after the meeting.**

## PRESIDENT VELJANOSKI ATTENDING SECOND SEECP PA SESSION

The President of the Assembly of the Republic of Macedonia attended the 2nd session of the SEECP Parliamentary Assembly in Tirana, Albania, with speakers and parliamentary delegations from 12 member-countries taking part to discuss and to adopt decisions for strengthening of the parliamentary cooperation. In his address in the second part of the session, President Veljanoski stated that SEECP has grown into an authentic voice of the region and that the Parliamentary Assembly is a new significant step forward in transforming the region into an area of peace, stability, good neighborly cooperation.



He emphasized that countries should continuously work on strengthening the stability of the region, and to achieve maximum democratization and transparency of the democratic models. Parliaments, as immediate representatives of the citizens play the crucial role to translate the European principles, standards and values in the daily lives of the citizens. Regarding the current political situation, Veljanoski stated that upon the finalization of the parliamentary elections in the Republic of Macedonia last year, the opposition decided not to participate in the work of the Assembly and that now there are ongoing negotiations assisted by mediators from the European Parliament to reach a real solution. At the end, he outlined that "the status – quo situation in the Euro – Atlantic integration creates frustrations and makes us vulnerable and subjected to destabilization attempts. When surpassing the challenges we are faced with, we need and expect regional solidarity, as well as support of the international community".

## PRESIDENT VELJANOSKI AT THE SPRING NATO PA SESSION

President Veljanoski was invited to take part at the Spring Session of the NATO Parliamentary Assembly and to address the gathering. In his speech, President Veljanoski said that today we can freely and proudly say that NATO as military and political alliance is the most successful union in the world history today, due to the universal acceptance of the values such as democracy, human rights and the rule of law by all member states of the alliance, as well as the cooperation and solidarity as its core values. NATO as Alliance of democracies needs to comprehend the necessity for enlargement. Macedonia has patiently waited for many years for the doors of the Alliance to be opened. "Regretfully, due to the disrespect of the international agreements in which the southern neighbor is obliged to not block the membership of the Republic of Macedonia in the international organizations, we are still standing in front of the gates of the Alliance. Learning from the past, strongly committed to the future, where we see ourselves as fully – fledged member, we continue to support the NATO Missions around the world" said President Veljanoski. At the end, he expressed his hope that in the period ahead, the friends will courageously find a way, model or solution for the Republic of Macedonia to sit at the same table with other NATO member states.



## LATVIAN DEFENCE MINISTER IN PARLIAMENT

The Members Committee on Defence and Security met the Latvian Defence Minister, Mr. Raimonds Vejonis in the Assembly of the Republic of Macedonia. The Committee Chair, Mr. Emil Dimitriev expressed pleasure to host the meeting especially having in mind the excellent relations between the two states on all levels. On parliamentary level, friendship groups have been established in both parliaments. Mr. Dimitriev informed the Latvian minister on the reforms made in the field of defense in Macedonia and the fulfillment of criteria for NATO membership. Minister Vejonis pointed out that Latvia, as a friend of Macedonia and also as a country chairing the EU Council Presidency, supports its aspirations for NATO and EU membership, as well as of all countries in the Western Balkans.



They all agreed that exchange of cadets between military schools and training of special military units shall strengthen the cooperation between the two states. The Latvian Minister emphasized that Macedonia is leader in the region in two areas, i.e. in the school for pilots and the polygon Krivolak. What remains as a challenge is the increase of the state budget for defense. The sooner integration in NATO and the EU will influence on the stability of the region, since Macedonia is territorially part of Europe and shares European values.

## THE SMALL MONTMARTRE OF BITOLA



JPC Committee - News from the Assembly of the Republic of Macedonia, No. 45, May 2015

Editorial Board: Marijana Opashinova Shundovska, Ana Kachakova, Kenan Hasipi, Dragan Antonov

*The contents of this newsletter do not necessarily represent the views of the publisher.*