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Members of the Assembly

Councils of the Assembly

Working bodies of the Assembly

Joint Parliamentary Committee EU -RNM

Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Ministry of Culture

MACEDONIAN LEGISLATION HARMONIZED WITH THE EU ACQUIS IN JUNE - JULY 2021:

- Law on Lobbying
- Law Amending the Law on Air Quality
- Law Amending the Law on Compulsory Oil Reserves
- Law on Management of Electrical and Electronic Equipment and Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment
- Law on Management with Batteries and Accumulators and Wasted Batteries and Accumulators
- Law Amending the Law on Public Procurements in the field of Defense and Security
- Law Amending the Law on Citizenship of the Republic of Macedonia

MEETING WITH SHADOW RAPPOREUR SAGARTZ

The Joint Parliamentary Committee Co-Chair Bilal Kasami met with the MEP and Shadow Rapporteur for the country from the EPP in the European Parliament. Mr. Kasami pointed out that exchange of view with MEPs is always useful and informed him on the current developments in the EU integration process. He mentioned that the reform process will continue since it is of priority for the citizens, but a clear time-frame for the start of negotiations would definitely speed-up the necessary reforms further. Regarding the open issue with Bulgaria, Mr. Kasami stated that if bilateral issues blur the European perspective of the North Macedonia, this will also become a problem for the Union, since it must make a difference about bilateral issues and what is of importance for the Union. MEP Sagartz expressed satisfaction that the country sees no other alternative but the membership in the EU and that from an Austrian point of view, the position is clear that all 6 Western Balkan countries have European perspective. In relation to the Republic of North Macedonia, he made a point that EU should fulfill its commitments in order to maintain its credibility. The negotiations are a process that lasts for some time, and what is needed now is a starting point. When speaking about relations with Bulgaria, he considered that is of importance that both countries have a joint future in the EU. Sagartz also met Committee on European Affairs Chair Ademi and the National European Integration Council Chair Nikoloski.



VICE-PRESIDENT ZENDELI MEETING SWEDISH COLLEAGUES

The Steering Board for Democratic Development with the Swedish Parliament held an online meeting with MPs from the Assembly, led by Mr. Fadil Zendeli, Vice-President of the Assembly and Ms. Lotta Johnsson. The discussion was focused on the role of the position and opposition in the parliament as a main tool for functional democracy and the fair balance between their legitimate interests to avoid simple majorization. It was later developed into different workshops between the MPs from the two parliaments. Experts from the Venice Commission also took part in the debate. The conclusion was that these experiences will be positively implemented in the work of the Assembly of the Republic of North Macedonia.



SLOVENIAN PRESIDENCY PRIORITIES DEBATED IN PARLIAMENT

The Committee on European Issues and the National Council for European Integration held a joint session on which the Slovenian Presidency priorities were outlined by the Ambassador H.E. Milan Predan. Both Chairs Aber Ademi and Aleksandar Nikolovski welcomed the Slovenian continuous support to the enlargement process. Ademi expressed disappointment that the country still stands in front of the EU doors and hope that this situation will be soon overcome. Ambassador Predan made clear that the Western Balkans and their integration in the EU will remain high on their agenda and that the key issue in the Macedonian European path is how to reach a solution for the open issue with Sofia, in the spirit of political will and pragmatic approach. He also pointed out that our country as being a transit to migrants is important for the EU security. Economic recovery, cyber security and climate change were also enlisted as Slovenian priorities during their Presidency. The EU Ambassador David Geer expressed support as this is the only viable alternative to the region. MFA Bujar Osmani stressed the maximum engagement for the open issue with Bulgaria, based on European values and in the spirit of good neighborly relations, since the region is the EU missing part. SEA State Secretary Kalinka Gaber stated the importance of the perception for this region and the future of Europe to be heard. The common responsibility is to work on open issues, but there are red lines that can not be crossed. Despite the disappointment among the citizens for the delay, the country remains committed to the reform process, was the conclusion by Ms. Gaber. The JPC Co-Chair Kasami also took part in the debate, welcoming the Presidency priorities to which the Union should pay attention, but also by candidate countries since these are common issues of mutual interest. He welcomed the Conference on the Future of Europe as a possibility for each institution to reset and promote its mode of work. Mr. Kasami especially welcome the uniting character of the JPC with colleagues from the European Parliament, in the spirit of consensus that is present for more than a decade in the committee. expressed hope that the obstacle on our EU path will soon be removed At the end, he for our start of negotiations.



JEAN MONNET PREPARATORY MEETINGS

MEPs in charge for the Jean Monnet Dialogue Andreas Schieder, Marion Walsmann and Ilhan Kyuchyuk held preparatory meetings with the leadership of the Assembly, the President and Coordinators of Parliamentary Groups, among which also the Representative from the BESA Party, Kastriot Rexhepi, where they stated the continuous and strong commitment to the process.



MEETING WITH THE PORTUGESE COLLEAGUE

The Chair of the European Affairs Committee Ademi met online with his counterpart in the Portugese Parliament, Mr. Luis Capoulas Santos. Ademi expressed gratitude for the efforts made during their Presidency for the enlargement process and their support for the start of negotiations both for North Macedonia and Albania. Santos confirmed their state position that Western Balkans is part of Europe and that the enlargement process is also part of the Conference on the Future of Europe.



4TH WORKSHOP ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CODE OF ETHICS

The Committee on Rules of Procedure, Mandatory and Immunity Issues organized the 4th Workshop for establishment of institutional mechanisms for monitoring of the implementation of the Code of Ethics for the MPs of the Assembly of the Republic of North Macedonia. Participants discussed comparative international practices for implementation of Code of Ethics and concluded that the institutional structure of those monitoring its implementation should be included in the new Rules of Procedure of the Parliament.



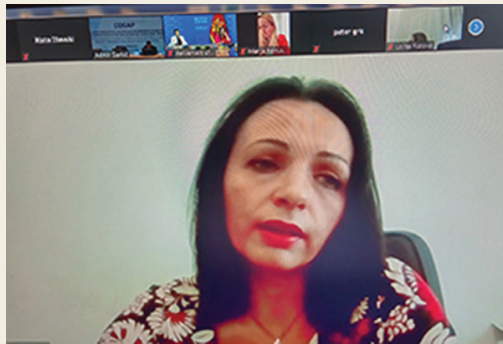
FIRST SESSION OF NEIC

The National Euro-Integration Council held its first session discussing the Plan of activities and the European perspectives of the state. Vice-President of the Government in charge of European Issues Nikola Dimitrov addressed the audience, pointing out that the state fulfilled the required criteria and we are the best prepared country for start of negotiations. Elimination of obstacles requires qualitative and sustainable solution that will not touch upon identity issues and will be an investment for friendly relations based on mutual trust. He concluded that the reform agenda will continue and that the negotiation team was revised according to the Eu new methodology criteria. The NEIC Chair Nikoloski emphasized that all political parties in the Parliament should actively participate and create a climate for constructive work in the EU integration process and that the reforms in the field of rule of law, reform of public administration, reforms in the security sector, the economy, and environment remain key priorities. The NEIC Vice-Chair Sonja Mirakovska stated that EU membership is a strategic goal and that negotiations should start without further delay, having in mind the complexity of the process and the fulfilment of the reforms. She feared that if such exceptions become a rule, they may affect the EU credibility and the promises given to the candidate countries. Participants also debate the importance of political will in the process, the need for reporting on the status of reform implementation and the institutional preparedness, the respect of the use of EU flag in the legislative procedure, as well as on the use of financial instruments of the Union. At the end of the meeting, Conclusions were adopted by the members of NEIC.



17TH COSAP CONFERENCE

Ms. Arta Billali Zendeli, Vice-Chair of the European Affairs Committee and members took part at the 17 Conference of parliamentary committees for EU integration of SEE countries (COSAP) that was held online hosted in Sarajevo. Parliamentarians discussed the enlargement process through regional cooperation, the priorities of the Slovenian Presidency and the status of aspirant countries. At the end, they welcomed the priority of the Presidency for a credible and safe Europe, capable to provide security and stability in its neighborhood.



ONLINE MEETING WITH THE AUSTRIAN FRIENDSHIP GROUP

The Chair of the Parliamentary Group for Cooperation with the Austrian Parliament had an online meeting with his colleague Stephanie Krisper from the Austrian National Council. They discussed information on current developments in both parliaments. Ademi expressed disappointment for the outcome of the EC June Summit and hope that after elections in Bulgaria, the dialogue will be re-established.



Ms. Krisper stressed that Republic of Austria will continue to work on a stable European perspective for the countries in the region, including the Republic of North Macedonia. In that context, she proposed a cooperation on issues of common interest in the forthcoming months.



ACTIVITIES OF THE PRESIDENT

PRESPA DIALOGUE HELD IN OHRID

The President of the Assembly of the Republic of North Macedonia took part at the Prespa Dialogue Conference, organized in Ohrid, the city symbolizing the signing of both the Framework and the Prespa Agreement. Their implementation strengthened our internal cohesion and secured our Euro-Atlantic future. The Prespa Agreement demonstrated that our country is prepared for a constructive cooperation with the neighbors that also contributed to the regional and global security, protecting the democratic values across the world. President Xhaferi outlined the visible political, economic, infrastructural and other results achieved with the implementation of the agreement, and he called for increased parliamentary cooperation in the period to come. The Ohrid Framework Agreement maintaining the ethnic balance in adoption of decisions with consensus, also proved to be a successful model that can be followed by other states in the region. He concluded with a hope that the Agreement signed with the Republic of Bulgaria will also prove to be a model, too and with a positive reflection the First Inter-Governmental Conference will be held to mark the start of our negotiation process.



MEETING WITH MEPS FROM THE JEAN MONNET DIALOGUE

The President Xhaferi met MEPs in charge for the Jean Monnet Dialogue Andreas Schieder, Marion Walsmann and Ilhan Kyuchyuk. They discussed the progress made with the harmonization on the amendments of the Rules of Procedure and the ongoing political consultations for the next round of the dialogue. MEPs stressed that despite pandemics, the Jean Monnet Dialogue maintains continuity of meetings and expressed hope that the next round will enable meeting with a physical presence of parliamentarians. They all voiced their unconditional support for the country's opening of accession negotiations for EU membership.



ITALIAN SUPPORT FOR THE EU INTEGRATION

President Xhaferi met with Mr. Benedetto Della Vedova, Italian Deputy MFA who paid official visit to the country. He outlined the excellent parliamentary cooperation and the support of the Italian Parliament with the adoption of Resolutions expressing clear support to the EU integration process. Mr. Della Vedova referred to the intensive activities of Italian institutions to provide a date for start of negotiations, since the Government position is bilateral issues should not influence the integration process and that in the process of the Conference on the Future of Europe youth representatives from the region should take part as well.



MARKING SREBRENICA ANNIVERSARY

President Xhaferi met with a Delegation of former and current MPs to mark the Srebrenica genocide anniversary. This comes as a follow up of the 2010 Declaration adopted by the Assembly, supporting 2009 EP Resolution on Srebrenica and its commitment to regularly mark 11th of July- the Day of Remembrance of Srebrenica Genocide by sending a delegation to Bosnia and Herzegovina, but due to the current restrictions, the day was marked in the Assembly.



30TH ANNIVERSARY INDEPENDENCE



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