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Joint Parliamentary Committee EU -RNM

Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Ministry of Culture

### MACEDONIAN LEGISLATION HARMONIZED WITH THE EU ACQUIS IN JUNE 2022:

- Law on Prevention of Money Laundering and Financing of Terrorism

## 19<sup>TH</sup> JPC MEETING IN SKOPJE

The 19th Joint Parliamentary Committee – EU and North Macedonia Meeting took place in Skopje, on 28 June 2022 in the Assembly of the Republic of North Macedonia, under the joint chairmanship of Ms. Sonja Mirakovska and Mr. Andreas Schieder, Co-Chairs of the Committee. In their opening statements, Ms. Mirakovska pointed out that North Macedonia is committed and calls for full respect of the shared European values and human dignity, calling for fast reaction of the European institutions for start of negotiations, while Ms. Schieder welcomed the required reforms made, sharing his understanding for the country's red lines position. The Deputy-Prime Minister in charge of EU affairs Marichikj stated the government full commitment to implementation of the reforms and maintenance of EU course, calling for valorization of the country's past efforts. EU Ambassador Geer underlined the interest of all for start of negotiations and that the Union remains a faithful supporter of North Macedonia on its path towards full membership. EP Standing Rapporteur Kyuchyuk said that the current situation is a triple loose for North Macedonia, Bulgaria and the EU; the stake is high and this is a time for a visionary approach, friendship and making decisions. The meeting ended with an adoption of **Recommendations**, in which parliamentarians from the Assembly and the European Parliament expressed their disappointed that the EU leaders, at the June 2022 Council meeting, again could not deliver on its promises and achieve progress on starting accession negotiations with North Macedonia, having in mind the continued commitment to the implementation of reforms by the country's authorities despite the challenges and the fact that the country continues to demonstrate the best democratic transition record across the Western Balkans, emphasizing that the delay in the official start of the accession negotiations is having a negative impact on EU credibility and is producing significant decrease in support for the EU integration process among the general population in the country. They took note of the current position of the Government of the Republic of North Macedonia for acceptance of the negotiation framework with



pure formulation of the Macedonian language, clear protection of the Macedonian identity, treatment of historical issues outside of the framework and start of negotiations before the procedure for constitutional changes, that according to the Government should represent a basis for beginning of the EU accession negotiations. At the end, they welcomed the ongoing talks between the governments of North Macedonia and Bulgaria to overcome the outstanding impediments to the start of accession negotiation, underlining that the Treaty of Friendship, Good Neighbourliness and Cooperation represents a good base for settling differences and should be implemented consistently and in good faith, in accordance with European values, encouraging both governments to solve their cultural-historical dispute separately from the accession process and to immediately allow the organisation of the first Intergovernmental Conference, as North Macedonia has fulfilled all official criteria;

## PRESIDENT XHAFERI AT THE PRESPA FORUM DIALOGUE

The President of the Assembly of the Republic of North Macedonia Talat Xhaferi was invited as a speaker in one of the panels dedicated to Ukraine of the Prespa Forum Dialogue organized by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of North Macedonia. He expressed the support of the institutions, citizens and on his personal behalf to the Ukrainian authorities and its people, condemning the aggression of the Russian Federation. He spoke about the steps and reforms the country has taken to achieve the strategic goals for NATO and EU membership, referring in particular to the 17 years after the country obtained EU candidate status. President Xhaferi rhetorically asked "Quo vadis Europa hodie?" about the bilateral issues as precondition for opening of accession negotiations, having in mind the concept of the EU founding fathers in France and Germany to reconcile and build the European continent on the premise of peace, security and stability.

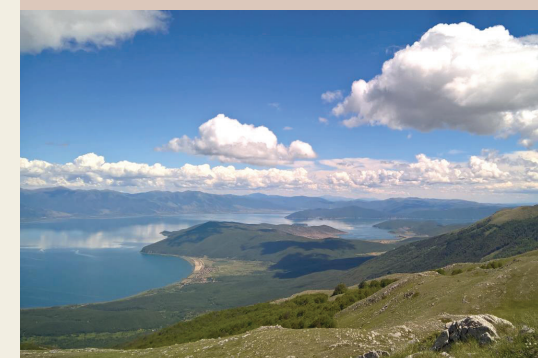


## FINNISH PRIME-MINISTER MEETS PRESIDENT XHAFERI

President Talat Xhaferi met the Ms. Sanna Marin, Prime-Minister of the Republic of Finland, who paid a visit to the country. The support of Finland to our EU integration process and the shared values, as well as the interest for promotion of the cooperation in various fields have been discussed during the meeting. President Xhaferi confirmed the support of the Republic of North Macedonia for membership of Finland in NATO and the readiness for a speedy ratification of the Accession Protocol. Ms. Marin praised the country's commitment for implementation of the reforms necessary for start of accession negotiations, offering the Finnish support on this path.



## LAKE PRESPA NORTH MACEDONIA



## MEETING WITH THE ITALIAN SPEAKER IN ROME

President Talat Xhaferi met with his counterpart Roberto Fico in the House of Representatives in Rome. Views were exchanged on the current bilateral cooperation and the possibilities for a more dynamic parliamentary cooperation that will open a new chapter in the mutual relations between the two parliaments. President Xhaferi welcomed in particular the exceptional and continuous Italian support for the European agenda of the country, expressing hope that our efforts for joining of the European family will finally become reality. President Fico emphasized the importance of the development of the bilateral relations that will be further strengthened with the Protocol for Cooperation. The document was signed at the end of the meeting by the two speakers. The Protocol envisages cooperation on all parliamentary levels between politicians and services of the two parliaments, as a tool for exchange of parliamentary practice experiences, including issues on the EU integration process.



## LAKE PRESPA NORTH MACEDONIA



## CROATIAN FOREIGN MINISTER IN PARLIAMENT

President Talat Xhaferi met the Croatian Minister of Foreign Affairs Gordan Radman in the Assembly of the Republic of North Macedonia, who paid an official visit of the country. President Xhaferi expressed gratitude for the Croatian support on our European path, informing his guest on the current developments in the state and the steps taken in this regard by the relevant state institutions. Mr. Radman stated that the start of negotiations for the Republic of North Macedonia and the Republic of Albania is in the interest of the European Union and it will positively influence on the whole region. He expressed regret that it took so long for these processes to take place. The collocutors talked as well about the Berlin process and the Open Balkan initiative as well as about the commitments for further strengthening of the regional economic cooperation and the promotion of freedom of people and goods.

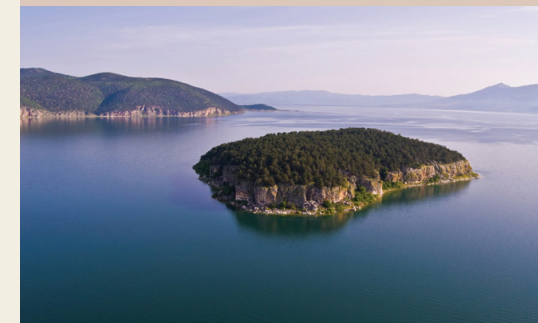


## 18<sup>TH</sup> COSAP CONFERENCE HELD IN OHRID

The Committee on European Issues of the Assembly of the Republic of North Macedonia hosted the 18th Conference of Parliamentary Committees for European Issues of countries in the South East European Stabilization and Association Process (COSAP) in Ohrid, the Republic of North Macedonia. Delegations from parliamentary committees on European integration and issues from Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro, as well as members from the Grand National Assembly of the Republic of Turkey and the Parliament of Kosovo as observers, took part at the Conference. The host Arber Ademi, President of the Committee on European Affairs while opening the event, underlined that regional cooperation is important for development of political, economic and cultural relations between the states and that the regional common market is a catalyst for deeper economic integration that will lead to the future EU common market. Participants outlined the importance for continuation and dynamization of the enlargement process, having in mind the different geopolitical and geostrategic interests in the Balkans and beyond, since the region has no other alternative but membership in the Union.



## LAKE PRESPA NORTH MACEDONIA



## VIRTUAL MEETING WITH UKRAINIAN COLLEAGUES

The President of the Parliamentary Group from the Assembly of the Republic of North Macedonia Jovan Mitreski and the members Arta Bilali Zendeli met virtually with their counterparts in the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine, Valerij Zub, Maksim Perebijnis, Marina Nikitina and Lada Bulah. Mitreski voiced the firm, unconditional and resolute support and solidarity for Ukraine, its institutions and people and welcomed the efforts of the Ukrainian parliamentarians to continue and represent the interests of their voters. He informed them of the sanctions taken by the Republic of North Macedonia towards the Russian Federation, the assistance offered to the Ukrainian refugees in the state and the visit of state politicians to Ukraine. He offered the parliamentary expertise for the process European integration of Ukraine. The Ukrainian Co-Chair Zub expressed gratitude for the realization of the meeting and informed his colleagues on the current military, social, economic and human situation in Ukraine. He pointed out that they are fighting for sovereignty and territorial integrity of the country, but also for peace and security in Europe and the democratic world. His appeal was for the fast end of the war and that it is important that Russia is fully isolated from all forms of life and international organizations. Members expressed hope that their next meeting will be realized with physical presence in North Macedonia or Ukraine.



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