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PRESIDENT VELJANOSKI PAYS OFFICIAL VISIT TO THE REPUBLIC OF TURKEY

The President of the Assembly of the Republic of Macedonia, Mr. Trajko Veljanoski, heading the Delegation comprised of MPs Kenan Hasipi, Ilija Dimovski and Rexhail Ismaili and Gazmend Aliji, paid an official visit to the Republic of Turkey where he met his colleague, the President of the Grand National Assembly of the Republic of Turkey, Mr. Jemil Çiçek. They expressed pleasure from the good relations between the two states, which are more than friendly and with well established cooperation between the two parliaments, exercised on the level of speakers and on parliamentary level. President Çiçek congratulated the President Veljanoski on his new mandate and expressed pleasure from the opportunity to continue the so far excellent cooperation. He also underlined that the Republic of Macedonia has the key role in the Balkans and that the Republic of Turkey supports the Republic of

Macedonia in the solution of the name dispute, as well as the aspirations for Membership in NATO and EU. The President Veljanoski expressed appreciation for the principal support received from the Republic of Turkey on the Euro - Atlantic path and stated that the regional cooperation is important, especially in the South East European Cooperation Process. The meeting also referred to the possibilities for economic cooperation and the importance of the foreign investments for building a more prosperous and stable society and region, as well as improvement of the living standards for the citizens. The President Veljanoski referred to the relations between the minorities of the two states and underlined that the Turkish Community in the Republic of Macedonia, through its active contribution in all areas, significantly contributes in the overall economic, cultural and democratic development of our state.



111TH ANNIVERSARY OF ILINDEN UPRISING AND 70TH ANNIVERSARY OF ASNOM MARKED



PRESIDENT VELJANOSKI MEETS PARLIAMENTARY GROUP FROM THE UK PARLIAMENT



The President Veljanoski had a meeting with the Delegation of the Parliament of the United Kingdom, Great Britain and Northern Ireland, comprised of the

Members of the Group for Cooperation with Macedonia: Karen Lumley, Stuart Andrew, Clive Betts and Gemma Doyle, as well as the Ambassador, H.E. Charles Edmund Garrett.

The interlocutors expressed pleasure from the meeting and concluded that this visit is another confirmation for the good relations and sincere friendship between the Republic of Macedonia and the United Kingdom, as well as willingness for future cooperation and support. President Veljanoski underlined the excellent cooperation and the previous meetings with official representatives of the United Kingdom and pleasure from the successfully implemented project "Strengthening the Parliament and Democracy".

He emphasized the serious preparedness from the Republic of Macedonia for membership and integration

as soon as possible, since it will result in higher economic prosperity and improvement of the situation for the citizens. Regarding the absence of the opposition in the Assembly, President Veljanoski expressed will to surpass all the disputes and a sincere wish for active participation of the opposition in the work of the Assembly. Ms. Lumley, as Chair of the Group for Cooperation with Macedonia, underlined that the Republic of Macedonia remains high on their agenda and expressed her pleasure from the participation of the Macedonian troops in the peacekeeping missions in Afghanistan.

Another topic of the meeting was the focus and the dedication on the economic development of the Republic of Macedonia, as well as the preparedness and the desire for finding a solution for the name issue.

PROGRAM AND PRIORITIES OF THE ITALIAN PRESIDENCY PRESENTED IN PARLIAMENT



At the first meeting in the new mandate this mandate of the Committee on European Affairs chaired by Ms. Ermira Mehmeti, presentation was made on the program and priorities of the Italian Presidency with the Council of the European Union. Due to the importance of the topic, the Members of the Foreign Policy Committee, the National European Integration Council and the Joint Parliamentary Committee RM – EU were invited at the Meeting. Also, the Vice Prime Minister on European Affairs of the Republic of Macedonia, Mr. Fatmir Besimi, the Head of the Delegation of the European Union to the Republic of Macedonia, Mr. Aivo Orav and the Ambassadors of the Member States of the European Union to the Republic of Macedonia were invited and attended the Meeting.

Regarding the topic, the Ambassador of the Republic of Italy in the Republic of Macedonia, H.E. Ernesto Masimo Bellelli, presented the Program and the Priorities, referring to the tasks in the framework of the three new Presidencies with EU, starting with Italy and followed by Latvia and Luxemburg. Br. Bellelli underlined that Italy brings back the enlargement of the Western Balkans on the agenda. Vice-President Besimi underlined the intention of the state to continue the reform processes, requested



by EU, aiming to receive date on opening accession negotiations as soon as possible.

The Vice President of the Assembly of the Republic of Macedonia and Chair of the Foreign Policy Committee, Mr. Antonijo Miloshoski, the Deputy Chair of the National European Integration Council, Mr. Ilija Dimovski, the Co-Chair of the Joint Parliamentary Committee RM – EU, Kenan Hasipi, the MPs: Artan Grubi, Nola Ismajlovska, Bekim Fazliu and Aleksandar Nikoloski, as well as the Representative in the National European Integration Council, Dimitar Minchev participated in the debate.

MP SILVANA BONEVA MEETS CDU/CSU RAPPORTEUR MR. THORSTEN FREI



The MP Silvana Boneva had a meeting with Mr. Thorsten Frei, Member of the Parliamentary Group of CDU/CSU in the German Bundestag and Member of the Foreign Policy and EU Affairs Committee, as well as Rapporteur of the Parliamentary Group of CDU/CSU for the Republic of Macedonia. In the introductory address, Ms. Boneva welcomed the visit of Mr. Frei as representative of the German Bundestag, which is recently after the First Conference of Western Balkans leaders held in Berlin, under the auspices of the German Chancellor, Ms Merkel.

The interest of the German Bundestag and the strengthened interest of the Chancellor Merkel for the Euro-Atlantic integrations of the Republic of Macedonia and the other countries in the Western Balkans are of exceptional importance and send a clear message that the region and the Republic of Macedonia are not set aside the EU agenda. It is confirmed by the fact that conferences of this kind will be held in the next 4 years, supported by strong financial assistance by the EU on infrastructural projects. Ms. Boneva emphasized that the imposed dispute over the name creates obstacles on the road of the Republic of Macedonia to the EU and NATO and increases Euro-skepticism among the citizens and also creates opportunities for development of radical structures in the state and the region. "This is the reason why we expect as soon as possible a start of negotiations for EU membership and a parallel process for finding a solution over the name dispute, which will be a proof that the Republic of

Macedonia goes in the right direction and sees its future as part of the European family. The citizens of the Republic of Macedonia believe in the European justice and expect that the verdict of the International Court in Hague which confirms the obligation of the Republic of Greece not to prevent the integration of the Republic of Macedonia in the Euro-Atlantic structures", said Ms. Boneva. Mr. Thorsten Frei expressed the support by the German Bundestag for the Euro-Atlantic efforts of the country and stated that that the Republic of Macedonia without any doubt should be part of NATO and EU as soon as possible, since it fulfills the criteria for membership, but should continue to implement the necessary reform processes.

MEETING THE DELEGATION OF THE PACE AD – HOC COMMISSION FOR MONITORING THE PRESIDENTIAL AND THE EARLY PARLIAMENTARY ELECTIONS

The Head of the Macedonian PACE Delegation, Mr. Aleksandar Nikoloski, and the Deputy-Member of the Delegation, Mr. Imer Aliu, had a meeting with a Delegation from the ad-hoc Committee for the observation of the presidential election and of the early parliamentary elections in the Republic of Macedonia, comprised of Mr. Stefan Schennach, Head of the ad hoc Committee and Mr. Robert Walter, Rapporteur for the post-monitoring dialogue with the Republic of Macedonia.

The focus at the meeting were the early parliamentary and the presidential election, the electoral process, the boycott of DUI on presidential elections in the Republic of Macedonia and of SDSM in Parliament, as well as the protests held due to the "Monstrum" case. It has been pointed out that there must be a political dialogue and that all issues should be resolved within the institutions. Inter-ethnic relations are a sensitive domain and should be cherished continuously in order to avoid problems. The Delegation expressed hope that the Macedonian Assembly will work in full capacity and that such circumstances will not affect the Euro-Integration process of the Republic of Macedonia.



SKOPJE PHOTO CONTEST 2014



JPCCommittee - News from the Assembly of the Republic of Macedonia, No. 40, July/August 2014

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