

### Your contacts:

Chairman of the EU-MK JPC: *k.hasipi@sobranie.mk*

Members: *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

### SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER 2014:

- Law on Prevention of Money Laundering and Financing of Terrorism
- Law on Amendment of the Law on Revision
- Law on Prevention and Protection of Family Violence
- Law Amending the Law on By-Products from Animal Origin
- Law on Obligatory Oil Reserves
- Law on Protection and Welfare of Animals
- Law Ratifying the Law Amending the Agreement of Social Insurance between the Republic of Macedonia and Republic of Slovenia
- Law Ratifying the Law between the Republic of Macedonia and Republic of Italy on Social Security

## PRESIDENT VELJANOSKI AT THE EUROPEAN CONFERENCE OF SPEAKERS IN OSLO

The President of the Assembly of the Republic of Macedonia, Mr. Trajko Veljanoski, attended the European Conference of Speakers in Oslo, where he took part in the debate on the "Majority and opposition - striking a balance in democracy". President Veljanoski underlined that the opposition is a necessity in a democratic society and that the Republic of Macedonia as a young democracy in these 23 years worked hard to implement the best examples and practices from older, experienced and democratically proved states. Such examples include the appointment of one of the three Vice- Presidents of the Assembly from the opposition, as well as appointment of several Committee Chairpersons. In this context, he mentioned the fact that during the sessions dedicated to parliamentary questions, the opposition MPs have the

right to pose twice as many questions than the MPs from parliamentary majority and that MPs from the opposition participate in all coordinative meetings and the meetings of the Presidency where the dynamics of the work of the Assembly is adopted. All these and many other mechanisms and practices are introduced to valorize the need for existence of the opposition and existence of a balance between the opposition and majority. President Veljanoski concluded that capability of the opposition to offer political alternatives for the decisions of the government and the representatives of the majority is needed and that in the democratic society, opposition should be seen as a possibility for political changes through democratic means, thus providing active contribution in the political pluralism.



## PRESIDENT VELJANOSKI MEETS IVICA DAČIĆ

President Veljanoski had a meeting with the First Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Serbia, Mr. Ivica Dačić. The interlocutors discussed the current affairs in the region and the developments in their states as well, and expressed wish for integration of both countries in the EU as soon as possible. The joint session of the two governments and the Agreement on the Conditions for Travelling of the Citizens of Both States were underlined as positive examples of friendship.

The meeting was finalized with the statements of openness and preparedness for regional cooperation and progress between the two states.



## VICE- PRESIDENT MILOSHOSKI MEETS DG ENLARGEMENT REPRESENTATIVES



The Vice President of the Assembly of the Republic of Macedonia, Mr. Antonijo Miloshoski, had a meeting with a Delegation from the DG Neighborhood and Enlargement negotiations, headed by Mr. David Cullen. The visit of the delegation was realized prior to the publishing of the Progress Report announced for 8 October. In this context, the Vice President Miloshoski expressed hope that the new Commissioner Johannes Hann will commit himself for the Republic of Macedonia.

He informed the delegation on the current affairs in the Parliament and in the state related also to the absence of the opposition in the Assembly, expressing hope to overcome the situation. Also, the meeting focused on the Draft – Decision on Amendment of the Constitution of the Republic of Macedonia in many areas, as well as to the IPA Funds. The meeting was an opportunity for the team of experts to be directly acquainted with the developments in the state and for deepening of the mutual cooperation.

In that context, she referred to the supervisory debate for the percentage of used IPA I funds as a positive example for other states in the region, which was organized by the Committee on European Issues last year, as a good example for parliamentary supervision on the Government in this field. Ms. Nora Ismajloska, Member of the Committee on European Issues, took part in the session dedicated to the promotion of the COSAP meetings, as a platform for exchange of view on Euro-integration processes with the countries in the region, emphasizing that COSAP meetings can significantly contribute to a faster and better fulfillment of the necessary criteria for EU membership and for promotion of joint regional interests of the participant states in the EU.



## TRANSPARENCY OF MEDIA OWNERSHIP CONFERENCE IN SKOPJE

At the Regional Conference dedicated to the Transparency of Media Ownership and Prevention of Media Concentration held in Skopje, representatives from the Committee on Transport, Communications and Environment took part at the event that was organized within the Council of Europe Project for Promoting Freedom of Expression and Information and Freedom of the Media in South-East Europe, financed by the Norwegian Government. Mr. Jean-François Furnémont, former chairman of EPRA and former Director General at Belgium regulatory authority talked about the challenges in the new media environment. Mr. Bernd Malzani from the German regulatory authority



shared his experiences and practices from the implementation of measures that prevent media concentration and protect competition on media markets. Mr. Peggy Valcke,



Professor of Law at KU Leuven Faculty of Law presented his opinion on the media ownership and media concentration, and Ms. Biljana Petkovska from the Macedonian Institut on Media reflected on the integrity of media and journalism, citing conclusions and recommendations from the research made by the SEE Media Observatory. Representatives from the civil society also took part in the debate.

## 2014 CHILDREN'S WEEK



## MANAKI FILM FESTIVAL 2014



JPC Committee - News from the Assembly of the Republic of Macedonia, No. 41, September/October 2014

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.