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MACEDONIAN LEGISLATION HARMONIZED WITH THE EU ACQUIS IN JUNE 2023:

- Law Amending the Law on Financial Discipline
- Law on by-products of animal origin
- Law Ratifying the Agreement between the European Union and the Republic of North Macedonia for participation of the country in the Union's Customs Program for Cooperation in the Field of Customs
- Law on Academy of Judges and Public Prosecutors



JEAN MONNET DIALOGUE PREPARATORY SESSION

On June 20 and 21, three MEPs visited the Assembly of North Macedonia in Skopje. The purpose of the mission was to evaluate the progress made on the amendments to the Rules of Procedure and to make preparations for the next round of the Jean Monnet Dialogue, in the fall. The MEPs co-facilitators Andreas Schieder, Marion Walsmann and Ilhan Kyuchyuk met the President of the Assembly, Talat Xhaferi, Vice-Presidents Goran Misovski and Husni Ismaili, as well as Coordinators of Parliamentary Groups and other members of the Working Group. President Xhaferi and the three MEPs Schieder, Walsmann and Kyuchyuk jointly expressed their satisfaction with the near completion of the process of amending the Rules of Procedure, thanks to the commitment of all participants in the dialogue. The leadership of the Assembly and the representatives of the parliamentary groups agreed that the amendments to the Rules of Procedure should be finalized and adopted as soon as possible, so that the Assembly can become more efficient, transparent and effective, fulfilling the aspirations of the citizens. towards EU membership. President Xhaferi and MEPs also agreed that the next round of the Jean Monnet Dialogue could be held in the autumn, at Jean Monnet's house in Bazoches, France.



MEETING OF PRESIDENT XHAFERI WITH THE PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF SLOVENIA MUSAR



President Talat Xhaferi, met with the President of the Republic of Slovenia, Natasha Pirc Musar, who paid an official visit to the country. Excellent three-decade bilateral relations between the two countries and the dynamics of meetings at all levels were re-confirmed at the meeting. The support and gratitude of the Republic of Slovenia as a long-term partner and ally of our Euro-Atlantic integrations and a significant contributor of help at times when we really need it was especially emphasized. Congratulations were sent for the election of the Republic of Slovenia as a non-permanent member of the United Nations Security Council for the period 2024-2025 and the possibility of a greater presence of small countries and their contribution to finding solutions to current challenges in the world. President Xhaferi informed his interlocutor about the current preparations for the constitutional amendments and the screening process, as well as about the current activities to help and support Ukraine as part of the obligations of our membership in NATO. President Pirc-Musar, expressing gratitude for the warm welcome in the Assembly, clearly indicated that the place of the Republic of North Macedonia is in the EU and that Slovenian support on that path and after EU membership will continue with undiminished intensity as before. She expressed her understanding of the developments in the regional context and the concessions the country had to make for NATO membership and for the start of negotiations with the EU. In that context, she pointed out that, although the EU accession process brings many challenges, for which Slovenia has its own experience, it is important to take advantage of the moment and make statesmanship decisions that will bring benefits to future generations. President Pirc-Musar addressed Members of Parliament at a plenary session, emphasizing that this is the right moment to speed up the country's EU integration process.

NORLEN - XHAFERI: THE ACCESSION IS BENEFIT FOR THE FUTURE, NOT RETURN TO THE PAST



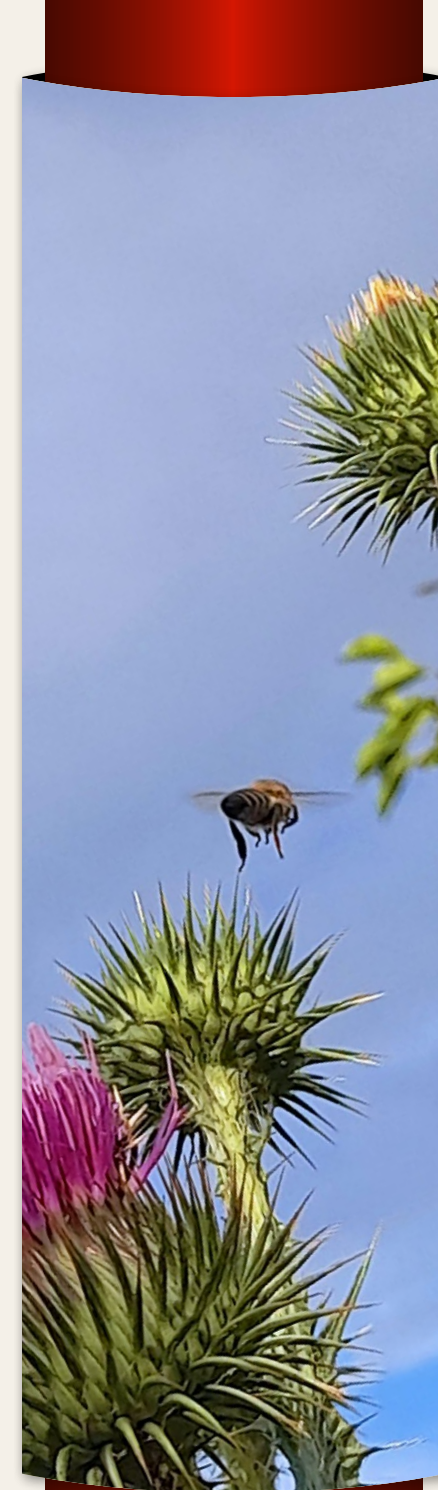
Within the framework of the Conference on Democracy in Europe held in Stockholm, the Kingdom of Sweden, President Talat Xhaferi and the delegation consisting of MPs Nikola Micevski, Sonja Mirakovska and Remzi Mehmedi, met with the President of the Swedish Parliament, Andreas Norlen. President Norlen underlined that Sweden highly values the fact that the Assembly was among the first Parliaments to ratify Sweden's NATO membership protocol. Regarding EU integrations, President Norlen noted: "I am a spokesperson against the bilateralization of accession processes in international relations, because accession should be based on the degree of fulfillment of membership conditions, not on a return to the past." President Xhaferi referred to the current events in the Assembly, and focused on the constitutional amendments that should be adopted. He emphasized that "At the moment we do not have a consensus on amending the Constitution, but we are making efforts every day to find a consensus with the opposition, for the sake of future generations, not for the sake of the political status."

MEETING OF VICE-PRESIDENT MISOVSKI WITH A DELEGATION FROM THE FRENCH NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

The Vice President of the Assembly Goran Misovski today had a meeting with the Delegation of the Friendship Group from the National Assembly of the French Republic led by MP Liliana Tanguy, Chair of the Group. The delegation included MPs Bertrand Sor, Arthur Delaporte, Vincent Seitlinger and Marine Hamelet, accompanied by H.E. d. Cyrile Baumgartner, Ambassador of the French Republic in the Republic of North Macedonia. The President of the Parliamentary Group for Cooperation with the Parliament of the French Republic, Mr. Aleksandar Nikoloski and the Secretary General of the Assembly, Mrs. Cvetanka Ivanova, attended the meeting. Wishing them a warm welcome to the country on behalf of the President of the Assembly and the deputies, Vice President Misovski especially welcomed the reaffirmed French commitment through the Strategy for European Integration in the Western Balkans, which unequivocally confirms the strategic orientation for full membership of our countries in the European Union. Tanguy expressed clear support and assistance for the course of negotiations according to the new enlargement methodology. Nikoloski emphasized that the support of the French Republic should continue and bilateral cooperation should be enriched, especially in the field of defense and by increasing French investments in the country. Secretary General Ivanova welcomed the cooperation between the services of the two parliaments, highlighting the interest of parliamentary officials in learning the French language, with the hope that the cooperation so far in the field of European integration through the TAIEX instrument will continue in the following period.



The Delegation held a joint meeting with the President of the Committee for European Affairs, Arber Ademi, the President of the National Council for European Integration, Aleksandar Nikoloski and with Nenad Kocić, First Vice-President of the Francophonie Section of the Assembly of the Republic of North Macedonia. Ademi explained that the screening with the EC is taking place at a satisfactory level from an expert, technical point of view, and our people are up to the task. He added that there is no deviation from what is outlined in the negotiation framework, that is, with the completion of the constitutional amendments, the opening of the first chapter should begin. The biggest challenge, which we are now facing, are the constitutional amendments, on which, he pointed out, the different parties in the Assembly have different views. But, despite the differences, everyone has a common goal of joining the Union. Kocić said that the French Republic is one of our most important partners towards our very long and difficult path to full membership in the European Union. "The countries from the Western Balkans remain not joined in the EU. That process took too long and creates frustrations for all of us. Today it is more important than ever to promote the values of democratic governance. Those who promote conflict should be made to fail, because we are a small region where cultures and traditions are completely intertwined and there are real opportunities to create positive energy. The Balkans has a lot to offer, it extends a hand of friendship to its neighbors and allies. I believe that our conflicts will become our lessons and will not be repeated," stressed Kocić.



USE THE MOMENTUM AND WORK FOR THE FUTURE OF THE STATE

President Talat Xhaferi met with the Deputy-Marshals of the Polish Sejm, Ryszard Terlecki. Xhaferi welcomed the continuous support that Poland gives to our country.

He acknowledged Poland's role in the aggression against Ukraine, noting that the Republic of North Macedonia adopted a Declaration condemning Russian aggression; introduced sanctions against Russia and continuously provides the necessary support to Ukraine. Terlecki emphasized that recently the integration in the European Union has stagnated, not because of the aspirant countries but because of the European Union itself. Considering the current situation, he continued, the integration process should be accelerated, and he called on North Macedonia to take advantage of the moment and not miss this opportunity, because it is about the future of the country.

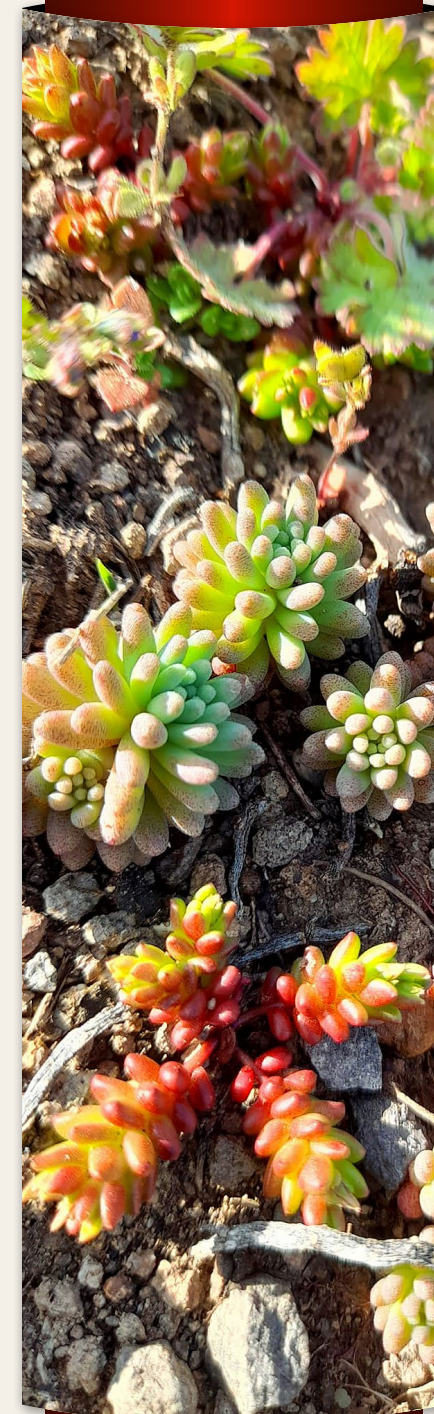


DANISH DEPUTY SPEAKER HONGE MEETING COLLEAGUES IN THE ASSEMBLY



The Deputy-Speaker of the Presidium of the Danish Parliament, Karstin Honge, as part of his visit to the country, Honge met with the Vice President of the Assembly Goran Misovski, with the coordinator of the Parliamentary Group of VMRO-DPMNE Nikola Micevski, with the MP of Besa Fadil Zendeli and with members of the Committee for European Affairs. Regarding the European integration process, Honge noted that Denmark's position is that the Western Balkans are welcome in the EU, for which, as he said, language or identity should not be a problem, but the criteria in the area of human rights protection should be achieved, as well as on democracy and the rule of law. Misovski said that the country became a member of NATO after overcoming the long-standing problem with Greece about the name issue, but that it is now facing the problem with Bulgaria pending the opening of the chapters of negotiations with the EU, which requires constitutional amendments. At the meeting with MPs from VMRO-DPMNE, Group Coordinator Micevski informed the Danish MP about the positions of VMRO-DPMNE in relation to the current political situation in the country, pointing out that the party is still waiting for an answer to two proposals made by the party. MP Fadil Zendeli, on the other hand, said that our country faces internal but also external challenges. At the meeting, the problems and the dispute with Bulgaria were discussed, Zendeli believes that the blockade is unnecessary and should be resolved for the sake of the path to the EU. At the meeting of the Committee on European Affairs,

opinions were shared regarding the European integration process in a particularly significant period when the 30th anniversary of the Copenhagen criteria is being celebrated. The Committee President, Arber Ademi, expressed gratitude for the continued support of the expansion of the European Union with the countries of the Western Balkans.



REGIONAL CONFERENCE FOR THE PROMOTION OF GENDER EQUALITY



The representation of women in the parliaments in the region, as well as in the overall political processes, their role in the promotion of human rights, the adoption and effective implementation of laws on gender equality and the need to involve male MPs in the promotion of equality were the topics of the regional conference held in Skopje, with members of parliament from the region's parliaments, representatives of international and civil society organizations, independent experts and practitioners debate. President Xhaferi, who addressed the audience emphasized that the Parliament brought several important innovations, among which he particularly emphasized gender-responsive budgeting. The average representation of women in the Assembly of North Macedonia, incredibly is currently above the average with 42.5 percent of women parliamentarians. Lolita Ristova, President of the Club of Women Deputies, said that the number of women in parliaments and political leaders in general is increasing, gender quotas and other affirmative measures for women's political participation are being introduced and improved. Blagica Lasovska, Vice-president of the Club said that this body in the Parliament, established in 2003, is an example of how cooperation can be done, despite the various political options represented in the Parliament, if there is a will and desire for it. "The result of 20 years of activity of the Club of Deputies is 51 women parliamentarians among a total of 120 members of the Parliament, which is more than the legally stipulated minimum," said Lasovska.



ELECTRICITY IS THE MAIN DRIVER OF EUROPE AND THE WHOLE WORLD

A delegation of the Commission on Economy, Agriculture and Transport from the Parliament of the Czech Republic met today with the members of the Committee on Economic Issues of the Assembly of the Republic of North Macedonia. At the meeting, topics for overcoming the challenges in the energy sector were discussed. The Committee President Dime Velkovski said that in the last three months of the year, around 60 new megawatts of electricity have been produced with the new photovoltaics. With new legal provisions, the formation of energy communities that will be able to produce electricity on their own has been made possible. For that purpose, Velkovski said that the energy fund to support the development of energy efficiency projects currently amounts to five million euros. The Czech President of the Commission Miroslav Plevni, emphasized that energy topics are very important because electricity is the main driver of Europe, but also of the whole world. He informed that the Czech Republic continuously solves energy challenges. In that regard, he mentioned that the Czech Republic is no longer dependent on Russian gas, as it has begun to rely on other renewable energy sources. At the meeting, experiences were also shared on overcoming the challenges with the storage of electricity produced by photovoltaics.



DIVERSITY HAS ALWAYS BEEN OUR COUNTRY'S FEATURE

The Committee for Relations between Communities marked 25 years since the entry into force of the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities of the Council of Europe, which started a new era in Europe in the field of protection policies and effective participation in public life of national minorities. The Republic of North Macedonia is among the first signatories of the Framework Convention, back in 1996, and this quarter-century anniversary is an opportunity to reaffirm our country's commitment to building policies to respect the rights of communities. The session was opened by Arbana Pasholi, President of the Committee for Relations between Communities, who emphasized that the Assembly is the home of all citizens, and that it is moral and institutional obligation to guarantee the multidimensional well-being of all citizens by guaranteeing individual and collective rights, as well as functional coexistence as a result of community governance. State President Stevo Pendarovski emphasizes that not only as a signatory country to the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities, but also with our Constitution as the highest legal act, we are obliged to fully respect the rights of ethnic communities, among which the most important are the right to freely express, cultivate and develop their ethnic, cultural, linguistic and religious identity and national peculiarities, the right to establish cultural and artistic institutions and the right to teach in their language at all levels of education. President of the Assembly Talat Xhaferi, emphasized that the state has the responsibility to ensure equal access to the rights of minorities, because in this way it will encourage the feeling of trust, loyalty, greater responsibility and love in the country. EU Ambassador Geer said that the Framework Convention is a document adopted by the Council of Europe to ensure security and peace on the Old Continent, and according to it, care should be taken that each signatory country takes all measures and respects minorities. He characterized the multi-ethnic differences as wealth and said that discrimination should not be allowed. Participants called for creation of policies with specific measures and programs in, concluding that diversity has always been and is a characteristic of our country.



WORKING MEETING OF THE COMMISSION FOR EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES FOR WOMEN AND MEN WITH MUNICIPAL COMMISSIONS



The Commission for Equal Opportunities for Women and Men of the Assembly of the Republic of North Macedonia held a working meeting with the Municipal Commissions for Equal Opportunities for Men and Women. After the extensive discussions of the deputies and the representatives of the local commissions for equal opportunities for women and men of the municipalities, conclusions were reached at the meeting for strengthening the cooperation, by holding quarterly working meetings, adopting a memorandum of cooperation between the local commissions and with the Committee for equal opportunities for women and men in the Assembly, deepening of cooperation with relevant non-governmental organizations and other activities aimed at improving the work of commissions and municipalities.



JPCCommittee - News from the Assembly of the Republic of North Macedonia, No. 75, June 2023

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