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### Your links:

Members of the Assembly

Councils of the Assembly

Working bodies of the Assembly

Republic of Macedonia on the way to the EU

Joint Parliamentary Committee EU-RM

The Assembly of the Republic of Macedonia and the EU

Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Ministry of Culture

### Macedonian legislation harmonized with the EU acquis in November 2013:

- Law Ratifying the Nairobi Treaty on Protection of the Olympic symbol;



Dear colleagues,

Dear friends,

While we are celebrating the Fourth Anniversary of the Newsletter this year, I am addressing you on behalf of the Delegation from the Assembly of the Republic of Macedonia and on my personal behalf with warm wishes for good health and many professional and personal successes in the year to come. We hope that in the past four years with our Newsletter, we have managed to keep you fully informed on the reform processes in the Assembly of the Republic of Macedonia on the road to EU membership.

What is worth mentioning as a retrospective of the year behind us is that Republic of Macedonia has completed the reforms envisaged by the High Level Accession Dia-

logue, carried out fair and competitive local elections, established the Inquiry Committee for 24th December events which issued a report with specific recommendations, political parties signed the Memorandum for Implementing the Strategic Goal for membership of the Republic of Macedonia in the EU, a determination that has been clearly and without any doubt, supported by all political parties and the citizens. Within the context of regional cooperation, during the Macedonian Chairmanship-in Office with the South-East European Cooperation Process (SEEC) at the Conference of Presidents of Parliaments held in Ohrid, a strong signal was sent that the process should be institutionalized and that it should become a strong parliamentary organization that will contribute for prosperity of the region and for joint action in the enlargement process.

All these steps have been reflected in the European Commission Progress Report and also in the European Parliament Resolution this year, both asking for recommendation for start of negotiations for membership.

This year we have also been witnesses of a very successful cooperation at our last JPC Meeting in Strasbourg, when we have unanimously adopted the Final Recommendations without any amendment by our colleagues MPs and MEPs. Together with our colleagues from the European Parliament as a great supporter of enlargement, we have jointly succeeded to agree on all issues and to demonstrate unity. Now it is up to the Council to bring a decision that all of us have been waiting for a while. On this road, I would like to count on your sincere support as colleagues MEPs and colleagues parliamentarians from national parliaments

of all EU member states.

Republic of Macedonia has been thoroughly completing the given tasks and responsibilities. The European Union should now make a step further and confirm the efforts made by the Republic of Macedonia for many years and decided for a date for opening of the European future for our citizens. The EU membership of the Republic of Macedonia in the European Union shall contribute to the stability and prosperity of the region and for all the citizens of the Republic of Macedonia.

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year

Sincerely,

Kenan HASIPI, JPC Co-Chair



### PRESIDENT VELJANOSKI PAYS OFFICIAL VISIT TO THE KINGDOM OF SPAIN



The President of the Assembly of the Republic of Macedonia, Mr. Trajko Veljanoski, paid official visit to the Kingdom of Spain. At the meeting with the Speaker of the Congress of Deputies, Mr. Jesús Posada Moreno and the members of the Congress Presidency, both interlocutors shared their belief that the meeting will be an impetus for promotion and intensification of the mutual parliamentary cooperation. Both Presidents expressed their willingness for cooperation on all levels, including Presidential level, as well as on Committee and on Friendship Groups level. The focus on the meeting was the Euro-Integration process of the Republic of Macedonia and the countries in the region. President Veljanoski emphasized that the position of Spain for the political and economic issues is of importance for the Republic of Macedonia. Mr. Posada underlined that the Republic of Macedonia and the countries in the region have the right to join the EU and to overcome the past, and the European states are obliged to help them in their Endeavour. He also commended on our close relations between the Republic of Macedonia and NATO and the participation

in Alliance missions.

At the meeting with the Speaker of the Senate, Mr. Pio Garcia-Escudero, President Veljanoski underlined that the Government is strongly engaged in the implementation of the reforms and attraction of foreign investments, as well as in the accession process in the European Union. The President Escudero expressed his pleasure from the good relations between the Republic of Macedonia and the Kingdom of Spain and underlined that Spain strongly and permanently supports the Republic of Macedonia, in both the integration in the EU and NATO. He also stated that the cooperation between the two states is not on satisfying level, that there is space for promotion, especially in the area of economy, since many Spanish companies express interest for investments in the Republic of Macedonia in the area of infrastructure and renewable energy. Mr. Escudero expressed pleasure from the mutual support of the Republic of Macedonia and the Kingdom of Spain in the framework of the international organizations, expressing his conviction that it will remain as such in the future.



## 8TH COSAP CONFERENCE IN SKOPJE



The 8th Conference of Committees on European Affairs/Integration of the states from the Stabilization and Association Process in South East Europe (COSAP) was held in the Assembly of the Republic of Macedonia. Mr. Hajrula Misini, Chair of the Committee on European Affairs of the Assembly of the Republic of Macedonia opened the Conference. In his opening remarks, Mr. Misini emphasized that the Conference is clear evidence that the interparliamentary cooperation of the countries from the region is progressing, which practically means realization of the recommendations of the Thessaloniki Agenda. COSAP Meeting is another opportunity for a clear message to the Union that our future is in the European family, where the countries belong geographically. „The interparliamentary cooperation should be a vital component of the European Integration Process and the inclusion of the parliaments is an expression of the democracy and the rule of law. The importance of strengthening the contacts with the national parliaments and the civil society, science workers, NGOs is of utmost importance, as well as the citizens, who should support this process” underlined Mr. Misini.

*At the end of the Conference, the **Final Statement** was adopted.*

## THE VISEGRAD GROUP - EXAMPLE FOR COOPERATION AND SUPPORT OF THE NEIGHBORS



The Coordinators of Parliamentary Groups in the Assembly of the Republic of Macedonia, Ms. Silvana Boneva, VMRO-DPMNE, Mr. Igor Ivanovski, SDSM, Mr. Nexhati Jakupi, DUI and Mr. Imer Aliu, DPA, met with a delegation from the Visegrad Group, comprised of the Political Directors of the Foreign Ministries of Hungary, Poland, Czech Republic and Slovakia and the Director of the International Visegrad Fund. The aim of their visit was to learn how to assist the Republic of Macedonia in its integration in NATO and EU and exchange information on the key reform priorities of our country, as well as on the name dispute and the bilateral relations with the neighbors. The Coordinators expressed gratitude for the support of the Visegrad Group for Macedonia's European and Euro-Atlantic

integration processes, commending the work of the Group which is an example of cooperation and support among neighbors. They asked the Visegrad countries to support the rule of international law and ask for parallel start of negotiations for EU membership and finding a mutually acceptable solution on the name issue, which will not harm the national, linguistic and cultural self-identification of the Macedonian people. The Visegrad Group delegation reaffirmed their support for Macedonia's accession to EU and NATO, as well as their readiness to share their own knowledge and experiences from the integration processes. Underlying the importance of continued reforms, they offered an open door for cooperation and transfer of professional expertise in this regard.

## SPIRIT OF WOMEN IN PARLIAMENTS: ADVANCING SOCIETY

The Vice-President of the Assembly of the Republic of Macedonia, Ms. Suzana Saliu and Ms. Cvetanka Ivanova, MP, participated at the Annual Summit organized by the European Parliament "Women in Parliaments -Global Forum." Women from more than 100 countries in the world participated at the event. They concluded that the spirit of women in parliaments helps the development of the society and the influence of the role of women in politics in the

modern world. Ms. Saliu and Ms. Cvetanovska took part in the Working Group "Let's work together in the fight against corruption" organized by the Transparency International. Ms.Saliu debated that for a successful combat against corruption, independent institutions are needed that have integrity, as well as persons with moral and professional integrity.



## "TREE DAY- PLANT YOUR FUTURE"



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