

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

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 May 2012:

- Law Amending the Law on Quality of Ambient Air

24 May - Saints Cyril and Methodius Day



Statue of Cyril and Methodius in Skopje



Mr. Štefan Füle, Commissioner for Enlargement and European Neighborhood Policy, met with President Veljanoski and members of the Committee on European Issues, the Foreign Policy Committee, the JPC EU-Republic of Macedonia and the National Council for European Integration, before the start of the second High Level Accession Dialogue (HLAD) meeting held on 7 May 2012 in Skopje. President Veljanoski reminded that in the three consecutive EC progress reports and the recommendations for start of negotiations mentioned there in, the work of the Assembly has been positively assessed as one of the key institutions in the

COMMISSIONER FÜLE IN PARLIAMENT BEFORE THE START OF HLAD

EU integration process of the Republic of Macedonia. "This is as a result of the firm determination of all our MPs and all Parliamentary Groups for membership in the EU. We are making the reforms not because this is requested by Brussels, but because we are aware that this is for the benefit of our citizens and the state to be fully compatible and competitive with other member states when we'll become fully fledged EU member state", said President Veljanoski. Regarding the HLAD, President Veljanoski said that this new form of negotiations will change the feeling that Macedonia is in a kind of "quarantine" and that the Assembly will continue with the reform process. EU Affairs Chair, Mr. Hajrula Misini, stated that MPs have crucial role in the assessment and examination of the EU acquis on the life of the citizens, the business community and the future of the citizens. The JPC Co-Chair, Mr. Kenan Hasipi emphasized that with the start of HLAD, JPC Committee will be a significant political subject that will provide fresh political impetus to the overall parliamentary and state dialogue between the Republic of Macedonia and the European Union. He also underlined that HLAD is a bridge until Macedonia receives date for negotiations and instrument to continue with the reforms, despite the blockades on our road to EU integration. Commissioner Füle pointed out that the European Commission is ready to support Macedonia in the EU integration



process by giving guidelines regarding the HLAD activities related to the reforms in the public administration, freedom of the media, electoral reforms, strengthening of inter-ethnic relations and the market economy. The Roadmap adopted by the Government outlines the activities with deadlines to be taken within the HLAD until September 2012. In this context, he mentioned the importance of the political dialogue in the Assembly in the process of adoption of laws and their implementation. At the end, he concluded that the enlargement policy of the European Union remains a priority for the European Union.

DENMARK STRONGLY SUPPORTS THE ENLARGEMENT PROCESS

The chairpersons of the Committee on European Issues, the Foreign Policy Committee, the Joint Parliamentary Committee EU-Republic of Macedonia, the Parliamentary Group for Cooperation with the Parliament of the Kingdom of Denmark of the Assembly of the Republic of Macedonia and the National Council for European Integration had a joint meeting with the Danish Minister for European Affairs Mr. Nicolai Wammen. The meeting was an excellent opportunity for the Danish Minister to obtain information on the activities related to the EU integration process of the Parliament, having in mind

the fact that Denmark is the country currently holding the EU Presidency, and which strongly supports the enlargement process. Mr. Wammen expressed satisfaction for the progress made and the will to implement the necessary reforms in the following months by the Macedonian authorities. He also said that the high-level accession dialogue with the EU and the guidelines are important, and although it cannot be a substitute for accession negotiations, it is a step forward. He added that Denmark will continue to support the enlargement process and Macedonia on its road to the EU.



THE ACCESSION OF MACEDONIA AND TURKEY IN THE EU IS IN THE INTEREST OF THE COUNTRIES, THE BALKANS AND EUROPE



Mr. Cemil Çiçek, Speaker of the Grand National Assembly of Turkey paid official visit to the Macedonian Parliament. "Bilateral relations between the two states are more than friendly, and in this framework, the parliamentary cooperation is especially important", underlined the President of the Assembly of the Republic of Macedonia, Mr. Trajko Veljanoski. Emphasising the consistent policy of the Republic of Turkey, the President Veljanoski expressed his appreciation for the support provided by the Republic of Turkey, especially for our membership in NATO. Considering that the Republic of Macedonia takes over the South East European Cooperation Process (SEEC) from July this year, both Parliaments can jointly contribute in the stability, the economic development and the Euro-Atlantic Integration of the region. Mr. Çiçek, stated Republic of Macedonia has been and will be an important partner and friend



in all areas for the Republic of Turkey, especially since it contributes to the stability of the region, and because of its active contribution in the peacekeeping missions in Iraq and Afghanistan. That is why, Turkey, will continue to support Macedonia for its NATO membership.

At the meeting with the Macedonian Parliamentary Group for Cooperation, the Chairman Mr. Kenan Hasipi said that the visit is a proof of the successful cooperation between the two parliaments and states. Both sides emphasized the increased interest of the Turkish business community to invest in Macedonia and the intensification of the economic cooperation and the interest of the tourists from Turkey, because of the large number of cultural and historical monuments from the Ottoman period and the involvement of Turkey in their restoration. Mr. Çiçek said that Macedonia is a hospitable and friendly country and that the members of the Turkish Delegation feels at home here. He also said that when the other countries had doubts, Turkey recognized Macedonia under its constitutional name, and that each country that can contribute to the strengthening of the EU, should become an EU member.

AUSTRIAN PRESIDENT OF THE NATIONAL COUNCIL IN THE MACEDONIAN PARLIAMENT

President of the National Council of the Republic of Austria, Ms. Barbara Prammer paid official visit to the Republic of Macedonia. At the meeting with President Veljanoski, President Prammer underlined the role of the parliaments in the development of the overall bilateral relations and that the Republic of Austria, and its Parliament, fully support the Republic of Macedonia in the process of European Integration. The United Europe project can only be successful with the integration of the Republic of Macedonia and all the countries from the region. Therefore, the Austrian position is that issue with the constitutional name cannot be related with the opening of the accession negotiation with EU, i.e. these processes should go in parallel. President Veljanoski informed his colleague on the focus of the Parliament at the moment: the Euro-Atlantic Integration of the Republic of Macedonia and the implementation of the EU adopted laws. "The fact that we are on the good track was confirmed by the Commissioner Füle during his recent visit of this Assembly", said President Veljanoski. At the meeting, Ms. Prammer officially invited the Mr. Veljanoski to visit the Republic of Austria. The President Veljanoski accepted this invitation with pleasure.

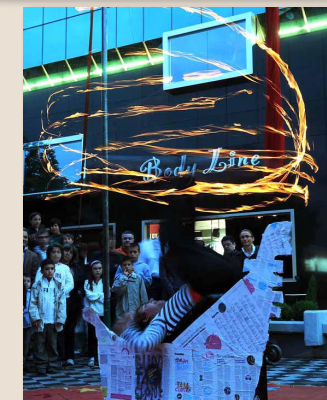
Ms. Prammer also had a meeting with the Members



of the Committee on Relations Among Communities. The Deputy Chairperson of the Committee, Ms. Marinela Tuseva, emphasized that with its work, the Committee has demonstrated responsibility in realization of the rights of members of the national communities, thus contributing to the development of the multicultural and multiethnic dimension of the Macedonian society, as well as to the strengthening of the parliamentary democracy in the country. Members of the Committee expressed appreciation for the support Austria is giving to the Republic of Macedonia, and that said that they expect that the position of the Committee will be strengthened in the future. Ms. Barbara Prammer talked about the positive examples in the Republic of Austria regarding the realization of the individual and collective rights of the ethnic communities, in line with the Law on Ethnic Communities that is being regularly amended and updated. At the end of the meeting Ms. Tuseva thanked Ms. Barbara Prammer for the support and interest for the situation in the country, as well as for her visit to the Parliament and the meeting with the members of the Committee.



Seventh International Festival BUSKERFEST 2012-SKOPJE



JPC Committee - News from the Assembly of the Republic of Macedonia, No. 22, May 2012

The JPC Newsletter is published by the Assembly of the Republic of Macedonia, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Macedonia (www.mfa.gov.mk) and Macedonian Information Centre (www.micnews.com.mk).

Editorial Board: Kenan Hasipi, Susannah Gjorceva, Marijana Opašinova Šundovska and Dragan Antonov.

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