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Ministry of Foreign Affairs

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## EU AMBASSADOR AIVO ORAV PRESENTS PROGRESS REPORT ON MACEDONIA TO PARLIAMENT SPEAKER VELJANOSKI



Dear colleagues,

Dear friends,

It is with special satisfaction the fact that for six years, we have been sending you information, on a monthly basis, for the Euro-integration processes of the Assembly of the Republic of Macedonia, with a hope that in these past years we have succeeded to inform you properly on the activities related to our EU accession process.

This year we have been faced with many challenges. The political crisis in the country had a negative effect on the implementation of EU related reforms, but according to the agreed in June and July this years, and in good faith, I sincerely hope that in the period to come, the agreed will be implemented and that the country will continue to move forward on its Euro-integration path.

I am using this opportunity to sincerely and cordially thank the MEPs from European Parliament which even

in times of political crisis, have been with us all the time supporting our efforts to find outcome and to continue with the envisaged European reforms. Our cooperation with the European Parliament can serve as an example, since with our colleagues in the Joint Parliamentary Committee, in the spirit of consensus, we have managed to adopt many conclusions that have been always appropriately reflected in the European institutions documents.

Dear colleagues,

The Republic of Macedonia is currently faced with another serious crisis with unseen dimension so far, that is the refugee crisis. There is a danger that the Balkan corridor becomes a labyrinth in which migrants and refugees may be stuck. We are expecting a fast action from the EU, with specific results for the states concerned in the Western Balkans, among which also the Republic of

Macedonia. The forthcoming months are of exceptional importance not for our internal consolidation only, but also for the relations with the EU. The integration in the EU and NATO remains all-party, ethnic and religious priority. The implementation of the political agreement and the reforms, as well as the degree of assistance by the EU for the refugees, will have a significant impact on this path and a role in the final outcome of this processes. I sincerely hope that the EU and NATO Member States will finally stand behind the Republic of Macedonia and will open the way for its full Euro-Atlantic integration.

Allow me, on behalf of the Delegation from the Assembly of the Republic of Macedonia and on my personal behalf, to wish you a successful and a Happy New Year 2016 in all spheres.

Sincerely,

*Kenan HASIPI, JPC EU-RM Co-Chair*

## 13TH JPC MEETING IN SKOPJE

The 13th JPC Meeting - European Union and the Republic of Macedonia was held in the Assembly of the Republic of Macedonia, chaired by Mr. Kenan Hasipi and Mr. Alojz Peterle. Mr. Fatmir Besimi, Vice-President of the Government in charge of EU Affairs, Mr. Nikola Poposki, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Mr. Aivo Orav, Ambassador and Head of the EU Delegation in the Republic of Macedonia exchanged views on recent developments with MPs and MEPs from both parliaments, with a particular focus on Implementation of the 2 June and 15 July agreements and the targets of the High Level Accession Dialogue, i.e. Rule of Law, judiciary reform and fight against corruption, Electoral reform and forthcoming parliamentary elections, Freedom of media, Inter-community dialogue. They also discussed the migration crisis: the challenges, management and possible consequences.

The Co-Chair Hasipi pointed out that with the return of the opposition in parliament, the JPC is completed and all conditions for having JPC meetings are fulfilled.

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Co-Chair Peterle stated that his presence is to give support to the EU accession process of the Republic of Macedonia, the implementation of the political agreement and the necessary reforms in order to maintain the EC conditioned positive recommendation. He underlined that the political dialogue should continue and to

be implemented gradually in this spirit. At the end of the meeting, **Final Recommendations** were adopted.



## PUBLIC DEBATE ON EU ENLARGEMENT STRATEGY

The National Euro-Integration Council held a public debate on the EU Enlargement Strategy. The aim was to exchange views on this mid-term strategic document, which encompasses the mandate of the European Commission and the new method of reporting on countries' annual progress. Members of EU Affairs, Foreign Policy Committee, JPC-EU and RM, NGOs, Embassy representatives were present at the meeting. Vice-President of the Government in charge of EU Affairs, Mr. Fatmir Besimi, stated that despite the challenges that EU is currently facing with, enlargement process continues to be on the EU agenda and that recommendations in the EC Progress Report for the Republic of Macedonia have been taken into account in the Action Plan for Implementation of Urgent Reform Priorities. In the debate, participants underlined that the EU Enlargement Strategy places the countries in the region in a system of comparison, but individual approach and individual assessment remains essential. The key areas in which the European



Commission expects progress by the Republic of Macedonia are: reforms in the judiciary and public administration, legislation implementation, full implementation of the recommendation in the Urgent Reform Priorities, transparency and implementation of the budget, and decisive steps to be taken in finding solution to the name issue.

## STRENGTHENING OF THE SEECF PROCESS AS A LEADING POLITICAL FORMAT FOR COOPERATION IN THE REGION



The Vice-President of the Assembly of the Republic of Macedonia, Mr. Antonijo Miloshoski, took part at the International Conference titled: „SEECF Parliamentary Assembly - regional synergies, strategic cooperation and parliamentary diplomacy“ in Sofia, Republic of Bulgaria. The Conference was chaired by Ms. Tsetska Tsacheva, President of the Bulgaria's National Assembly in the frames of the Bulgarian Parliamentary Presidency with the process and presented

the priorities in including continuation of the institutionalization of the SEECF PA, deepening of the cooperation with the European Parliament and greater involvement of young people in political life. The Bulgarian Deputy-MFA, Ms. Valentin Poryazov, referred to the goals and activities of the Bulgarian Presidency 2015-2016 titled: “SEECF - 20 years a key to cooperation in the region” aimed to strengthening of the role of the process, as a leading political format for regional cooperation, factor of stability, security and prosperity of the region. The Presidency will focus on three main areas of cooperation: 1) transport, energy and infrastructure, 2) freedom of media and expression, and 3) migration and influx of refugees. 13 Member States from SEECF national parliaments took part in the event, as well as representatives of regional parliamentary assemblies, NGOs and academic institutions.

## MACEDONIA AN AMAZING COUNTRY FOR ADVENTURE SPORTS



Paragliding Macedonia



Horse Riding



Ski and Snowboard

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