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New Year's address of
President Veljanoski to the
Parliamentary Staff Service



SUPPORT TO MACEDONIA'S EURO-ATLANTIC INTEGRATION

The President of the Czech Republic Chamber of Deputies, Mr. Jan Hamáček, paid official visit to the Republic of Macedonia. At the meeting with the President of the Assembly of the Republic of Macedonia, Mr. Trajko Veljanoski, Mr. Hamáček confirmed the continuous support for the Macedonian Euro-Atlantic integration and expressed openness for cooperation and experience sharing. President Hamáček also pointed out that this visit provides the opportunity to discuss and help the Republic of Macedonia to face current migration problems. President Veljanoski stated that the bilateral visits are yet another proof for the good bilateral relations and the excellent parliamentary cooperation between the two states, and expressed gratitude for the unconditional support by the Czech Republic for membership of the Republic of Macedonia in the EU and NATO. Regarding migrant crisis, President Veljanoski pointed out that the state invests huge efforts, both financial and human resources, to provide humanitarian treatment for the refugees respecting international standards. Both collocutors concluded that the migrant crisis could be solved only by a full engagement of the EU institutions



and all its member states.

President Hamáček and the Members of the Delegation met with the President, Mr. Petre Shilegov, and the Members of Parliamentary Group from the Assembly of the Republic of Macedonia for Cooperation with the Parliament of the Czech Republic. They exchanged views for the current cooperation between the two parliaments and the possibilities for future cooperation, as well as on current migration crisis and the Euro-Integration process.

CEI PD PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY IN SKOPJE

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Within the frames of the Macedonian Presidency with the CEI Parliamentary Dimension, a meeting of the Parliamentary Assembly was held in the Assembly of the Republic of Macedonia, chaired by the acting President and Head of the Macedonian CEI PD Delegation, Ms. Julianna Siljanovska. The topics of the meeting were: "Migration crisis as global problem and challenge: How realistic is only a regional solution? (Europe, CEI and Western Balkans)" and "Inter-connectivity in the EU context of the CEI region." At the beginning, Ms. Siljanovska underlined that

despite numerous regional initiatives in the region, CEI manages to maintain and fulfil its priorities and to give support to its members on their path towards EU integration.

The President of the Assembly of the Republic of Macedonia, Mr. Trajko Veljanoski, pointed out that recent events have proved once again that only through regional cooperation on a higher institutional level, we can solve our common problems. Solidarity is a principle on which modern Europe is based and we should not for-

get that peace and security are indivisible categories, said President Veljanoski. The CEI Alternate Secretary General, Ms. Margot Klestil - Loeffler, stated that we are in exceptionally difficult times for Europe faced with a number of challenges. However, CEI continuously follows traditional values regarding newly emerging challenges and possibilities that CEI Member States face with.

The Minister of Interior of the Republic of Macedonia, Mr. Oliver Spasovski, elaborated that the state is faced with a wave of refugees unseen before, having in mind

that more than half a million refugees passed through the state this year. The migrant crisis is managed highly ethical and professionally, and with respect of international law. The coming of winter brings greater responsibilities and the state will try to response the challenges only for short-term shelter of those in need. Cooperation with neighboring and EU member states is crucial in coping with this problem, said Minister Spasovski. EU Affairs Committee Chair, Ms. Ermira Mehmeti, referring to the migrant crisis, stated that the Republic of Macedonia successfully coped with a number of migrant crises in the 90-ties. As initiator of the first public debate on migrant crisis, Ms. Mehmeti underlined that the phenomenon is concerning and that the state does it utmost to help the refugees and migrants on their way to the final destination, and the EU should provide financial support to the Republic of Macedonia. At the end of the meeting, a **Final Declaration** was adopted.



PUBLIC DEBATES OF THE NATIONAL EURO-INTEGRATION COUNCIL

The National Euro-Integration Council organized two public debates with representatives of the civil society regarding the European Energy Framework and the Urgent Reform Priorities. The current National Energy Development Strategy, as well as the new energy strategy drafted by the Macedonian Academy of Science and Arts was debated at the first public debate. The representative from the Center of Research and Information on Environment Eko Svest presented an analysis on the possible scenarios for the accession in the EU seen from the energy perspective, including emissions and other EU and international standards. Representatives from the Center of Energy Efficiency, the Macedonian Center for European Education, Front 21/42, AMAN, and the Energy Agency of the Republic of Macedonia also took part in the debate.

At the public debate on the Urgent Reform Priorities, the Vice-President of the Government in charge of EU Affairs, Mr. Fatmir Besimi, emphasized that the Government is working on implementation of the recommendations contained in the Urgent Reform Priorities that are a pre-condition for organizing early parliamentary elections in April 2016. MPs. As well as participants from the civil society, such as the Research Center for Civil Society, the Macedonian Center for European Integration, the Foundation Open Society for Macedonia, the NGO Info Center and the Institute for Democracy "Societas Civilis" expressed their views on the rule of law and judiciary, parliamentary oversight on interception of communication, regulatory and other oversight bodies, electoral reform, anti-corruption policies, depolarization of public administration, freedom of expression, and the recommendations of the Committee for inquiry of 24th December 2012 events.

EUROPEAN JUDICIARY - EU MEMBERSHIP PRE-CONDITION

The EU Affairs Committee of the Assembly of the Republic of Macedonia organized a public debate on the ways to come to a European judiciary. The Chair of the Committee, Ms. Ermira Mehmeti, stated that the aim of the public debate is to exchange views between parliamentarians, representatives of the judiciary, government and the non-governmental organizations on the greater independence and professionalism in the judiciary and its implementation of European standards.

The Vice-President of the Government in charge of EU Affairs, Mr. Fatmir Besimi, the Minister of Justice, Mr. Adnan Jashari, as well as the principal of the Academy of Judges and Public Prosecutors, Ms. Aneta Arnaudovska had introductory addresses which informed the participants that a new Strategy 2016-2020 was prepared, as well as an Action Plan for Reforms in the Judiciary, in accordance with EU acquis, EU best practices and regional experiences. MPs Lidija Dimova, Orhan Ibraimi, Daniela Rangelova, Liljana Popovska, Kenan Hasipi, as well as the President of the Public Prosecutors Council, and Ms. Malinka Jordanova Ristevska from EPI took part in the debate, pointing out that an independent and unbiased judiciary is one of the fundamental pillars of the rule of law and of a functional democracy, which is a key pre-condition for accession of the country in the European Union.



NEW YEARS EVE
SKOPJE 2016



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