

Your contacts:

Chairman of the EU-MK JPC: S.Mirakovska@sobranie.mk
Members: jpc@sobranie.mk

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MACEDONIAN LEGISLATION HARMONIZED WITH THE EU ACQUIS IN OCTOBER/NOVEMBER/ DECEMBER 2023:

- Law Amending the Law on revision of the Instrument for Pre-Accession Assistance (IPA)
- Law on advisory system in agriculture and rural development
- Law on game and hunting
- Law on the Register of Mandatory Social Insurance
- Law Amending the Law on the Development Bank of North Macedonia
- Law Amending the Law on Excise Taxes
- Law on the resolution of banks
- Law on the system for the assessment of persons with disabilities
- Law Amending the Law on Food Safety



4TH JEAN MONNET DIALOGUE IN BAZOCHES-SUR-GUYONNES, FRANCE

The Dialogue took place after the adoption of the Rules of Procedure by the Assembly, that will start to be implemented in the next parliamentary mandate. The entire leadership of the Assembly, including coordinators of the parliamentary groups and parliamentary parties' representatives, that took part as participants throughout the years in this process, consensually adopted a set of conclusions at this meeting together with MEPs facilitators from the European side. The existence of commitment to continue working across political spectrum in the in the interest of the citizens of North Macedonia and towards the successful conclusion of the EU accession process,

as well as that a strong parliament is a democratic pillar of the society and a forum with clear rules where decisions are taken following debates and the exchange of best ideas. At the end of the meeting, [joint conclusions](#) were adopted, among which participants called on the European Parliament to consider giving observer status to Sobranie MPs in the European Parliament and opening a liaison office of the Sobranie in the European Parliament with a view of enhancing closer cooperation and information exchange between the two institutions.



22ND JPC EU-NORTH MACEDONIA MEETING IN STRASBOURG

The European Union-North Macedonia Joint Parliamentary Committee held its 22nd meeting in Strasbourg on 22-23 November 2023. The meeting was chaired jointly by Mr Andreas Schieder (MEP, Austria) and Ms Sonja Mirakovska (NSDP, North Macedonia). During the meeting, both MPs from the Assembly of the Republic of North Macedonia and the European Parliament debated on fundamental rights, judiciary and fight against corruption, good neighbourly relations and regional cooperation, media and civil society, environmental issues and economic crisis and on the latest developments in the Jean Monnet Dialogue. The meeting was a good opportunity for parliamentarians across the political spectrum in the two houses to exchange views and present their opinion on the aforementioned topics. At the end of the meeting, they adopted [joint Recommendations](#), in which they shared their strong belief that EU membership represents a long-term investment in peace, democracy, prosperity, security and stability in Europe and has a significant transformative power and contributes to democratic consolidation. Also, for maintenance of credibility of this process, they asked that the EU should determine 2030 as the deadline for membership of the country. The screening process was welcomed and the high level of alignment



with the EU legislation, and efforts were encouraged for a constructive inter-party dialogue to reduce polarization, in order to proceed with the negotiations and benefit from the current momentum in the enlargement process. The country was praised for its constructive role in the region, and its role as a model for the peaceful resolution of bilateral disputes through dialogue and mutual understanding; in that sense, they underlined the implementation of bilateral agreements in good faith and by all sides, including with and Greece and Bulgaria.

RULE OF LAW AND RPA ROADMAPS DEBATED IN THE ASSEMBLY

The Committee for European Affairs and the National Council for European Integration held a joint session today to discuss the draft roadmaps for the rule of law and for the reform of public administration, with the Vice-President of the Government in charge of EU affairs Maricikj. The president of NSEI, Aleksandar Nikoloski, assessed that the growth plan proposed by the EU for the countries of the Western Balkans is a good mechanism and that the country should use those funds to achieve



greater economic growth, by raising the level of exports, digitalization, implementing a green agenda and other tools that are essentially related to the rule of law. According to Nikoloski, the state, in that direction, should correct the file regarding the fight against crime and corruption. The President of CEA, Arber Ademi, on the other hand, welcomed the positive evaluation by Brussels of our level of compliance with European legislation. The roadmap for the rule of law, as previously explained by Vice Prime Minister Maricic, includes key reforms in Chapter 23 – justice and fundamental rights and Chapter 24 – justice, freedom and security. An accompanying document to this Roadmap is the Action Plan dedicated to protecting the rights of members of minorities or communities, among others, in the field of non-discrimination, fight against hate speech, education. The basis for the preparation of the Roadmap for Public Administration Reform, Maricic explained, is the Public Administration Reform Strategy 2023-2030 and it covers four priority areas: policy development and coordination, public service and human resources management, responsibility, accountability and transparency. and service delivery and digital transformation. The foreseen measures, as he said, aim at a depoliticized, efficient, effective and responsible public administration, which provides high-quality policies and easily accessible services for citizens and business entities that are based on European principles and values and contributes to sustainable economic growth, governance of law, social cohesion and welfare.

EXITION SILVER THRACE PROMOTED BY PRESIDENTS OF PARLIAMENTS FROM BULGARIA AND NORTH MACEDONIA IN SKOPJE



BULGARIAN PRESIDENT ZHELYASKOV VISITS SKOPJE

The President of the Assembly of the Republic of North Macedonia, Talat Xhaferi, met with the President of the National Assembly of the Republic of Bulgaria, Rosen Zhelyazkov in Skopje. President Xhaferi emphasized the importance of positive attitude for meetings and visits to continue in the future. It was pledged that the tone of communication that is not in line with the required level should stop, first of all, for the sake of improving the bilateral relations between the two countries, as well as for the sake of the membership of the Republic of North Macedonia in the European Union. Members of the Bulgarian community in the Republic of North Macedonia, should be a bridge that will connect the two countries in the future. President Zhelyazkov thanked for the hospitality and confirmed that Bulgaria supports the European path of the Republic of North Macedonia. The importance for the implementation of the Agreement on Friendship, Good Neighborliness and Cooperation was underlined. He pointed out the importance of preventing the spread of hate speech and for joint action to create empathy between peoples. He emphasized that real statesmen must think and act for the benefit of future generations in both countries and not like politicians who only think about the next elections. The two interlocutors agreed that the economic cooperation between the two countries is very important, as well as the infrastructural connection and the intensification of parliamentary cooperation with a focus on cooperation in relation to European issues.



BUNDESTAG VICE-PRESIDENT OZOGUS IN PARLIAMENT

At today's meeting with the Vice President of the German Bundestag, Aydan Ozoguz, President Talat Xhaferi stated the strong German support especially on our path to European integration. The cooperation under the IPS program of the Bundestag giving young professionals from North Macedonia a chance for a 5-month paid internship in an office of a German MP, was positively assessed and reassured it will continue in future. At the meeting, opinions were also exchanged about the representation and perception of young people in politics, as well as gender representation and balance, that is, the participation of women in politics, and she was positively surprised by our legal regulation of this issue, which exceeds and is above the European average.



EXITION SILVER THRACE PROMOTED BY PRESIDENTS OF PARLIAMENTS FROM BULGARIA AND NORTH MACEDONIA IN SKOPJE



WORKING MEETING WITH DCAF DIRECTOR CHUARD

President Xhaferi held a working meeting with the Director of the Geneva Center for Security Sector Governance (DCAF), Ambassador Nathalie Chuard. Mrs. Cvetanka Ivanova, Secretary General of the Assembly and representatives of DCAF were present at the meeting. They discussed the achievements in the mutual cooperation, and the Intelligence and Security Sector Reform Program. Regarding the role and contribution of DCAF for the construction and operationalization of the Protected Room in the Parliament, President Xhaferi expressed satisfaction that the processes are ongoing, and with the construction of such a Room, conditions are created for conducting classified meetings of the committees for supervision. President Xhaferi also informed about the selection process for the Civil Oversight Council, and the amendments to the Law on Interception of Communications, which enables smooth functioning of the Council. Ambassador Chuard, underlined DCAF's satisfaction with the excellent cooperation so far. DCAF is particularly encouraged by the fact that the deputies with the legal amendments enabled not only conditions but also financial means for the work of the members of this Council. The interlocutors expressed commitment and confidence that the cooperation with DCAF will continue in the future, bearing in mind the good foundations that were laid during the implementation of the Memorandum of Cooperation signed in 2021.



CZECH SUPPORT FOR THE EU INTEGRATION

A Delegation of the Committee for EU Affairs of the Parliament of the Czech Republic, led by Mr. Vladislav Vilimec, President of the Committee. The Delegation met President Talat Xhaferi, Members of the EU Affairs Committee and the Parliamentary Group for Cooperation with the Parliament of the Czech Republic. Bilateral relations between the two countries characterized by traditional friendship and cooperation with permanent political dialogue and mutual cooperation were confirmed at the meetings. The increased engagement of the EU in the region and support to our preparations for EU membership, including that of the Czech Republic were welcomed. The Czech side emphasized that the Republic of North Macedonia made very difficult decisions to integrate the country into the Euro-Atlantic and European family and that the Czech Republic will continue to provide support for full European integration in the future.

EXITION SILVER THRACE PROMOTED BY PRESIDENTS OF PARLIAMENTS FROM BULGARIA AND NORTH MACEDONIA IN SKOPJE





UKRAINIAN MPS VISIT THE ASSEMBLY

The Chair of the Parliamentary Group for Cooperation with the Parliament of Ukraine Jovan Mitrevski and the member Bobi Mojsovski, met with their colleagues from the Verkhovna Rada, Nikita Poturaev, Arthur Herasymov, accompanied by the Ambassador of Ukraine Larysa Dir. Mitreski emphasized that the Macedonian and Ukrainian people have similar destinies and that as a country we will continue to provide assistance, within its possibilities, to the just struggle of Ukraine in defense of its sovereignty and territorial integrity. In this context, he mentioned the Declaration of the Assembly from March 2022, the military aid, and the support we provide through the International Crimean Platform. The guests from Ukraine thanked for all the help from our country, and recognized the successful work of our country as the Chair and organizer of the OSCE Ministerial Council in Skopje. Regarding the war in Ukraine, they pointed out that Russia's strategy is always to oppose the democratization and prosperity of other countries and it does this with open or hybrid war, therefore a joint opposition to Russia's intentions is needed. In the end, the interlocutors agreed to maintain contacts, to expand and advance the relations between the two countries.

PUBLIC DEBATE IN THE COMMITTEE ON EU AFFAIRS

Strengthening the principle of the rule of law and non-selective justice, consistent respect for the principle of separation of powers, strengthening the supervisory function of the Parliament, reform of political parties, strengthening of state institutions and the civil sector, greater transparency in decision-making, are the main goals that the state should aim for in order to ensure governance that will serve democracy and citizens. These postulates were emphasized as key by most of the speakers at the public debate in the European Affairs Committee, within the framework of the preparation of the National Development Strategy. As a result, four priorities have been identified in the area of rule of law and good governance: consistent application of the principle of separation of powers and effective parliamentary control; transparent and efficient public sector, digitization of public services, access to public information and the right of civil control; zero corruption, legal certainty and non-selective justice and effective protection of basic human freedoms and rights.



EXHIBITION SILVER THRACE PROMOTED BY PRESIDENTS OF PARLIAMENTS FROM BULGARIA AND NORTH MACEDONIA IN SKOPJE



SWEDISH RIKSDAG DELEGATION IN THE ASSEMBLY

The Delegation from the Swedish Riksdag, within the framework of the long-term cooperation program with the Assembly of the Republic of North Macedonia, had a working meeting their counterparts in Skopje. The focus topics were fight against corruption and the EU integration process. Corruption was debated as one of the most pressing problems faced by Macedonian society at every level. Abuse of office, something that bothers the citizens and makes them have distrust in the judiciary, but such distrust also occurs in the judges themselves and prosecutors, who face political and business pressures were mentioned during the discussion. The risk of corruption is everywhere, and in order to overcome it, one should work with knowledge, values, resources, joint cooperation, trust, rule of law, as a basic criterion for entering the EU. Regarding the EU integration process, the National European Integration Council was debated as a model constituted after the example of Croatia, which had a similar body in the period before the start of negotiations with the EU. Dying this process, it is important, that there is a will for enlargement in the EU and that the parties represented in the parliament see European integration as a strategic goal in their statutes.



IPPG FOR ROMA RIGHTS MEETS CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANIZATIONS

The Inter-Party Parliamentary Group (IPPG) for support of Roma rights, their inclusion and integration in the Republic of North Macedonia, with the support of the National Democratic Institute (NDI), the Parliamentary Support Program supported by the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation, held a working meeting with representatives from the civil sector. Challenges and needs faced by the Roma and other smaller communities in terms of education, health, employment, housing and human rights were discussed at the meeting. In that direction, the IPPG is committed to cooperation with civil society organizations and their participation in the legislative process. The MPs are ready to contribute to overcoming the problems and contribute to representing the needs of the Roma, through dialogue and other initiatives.



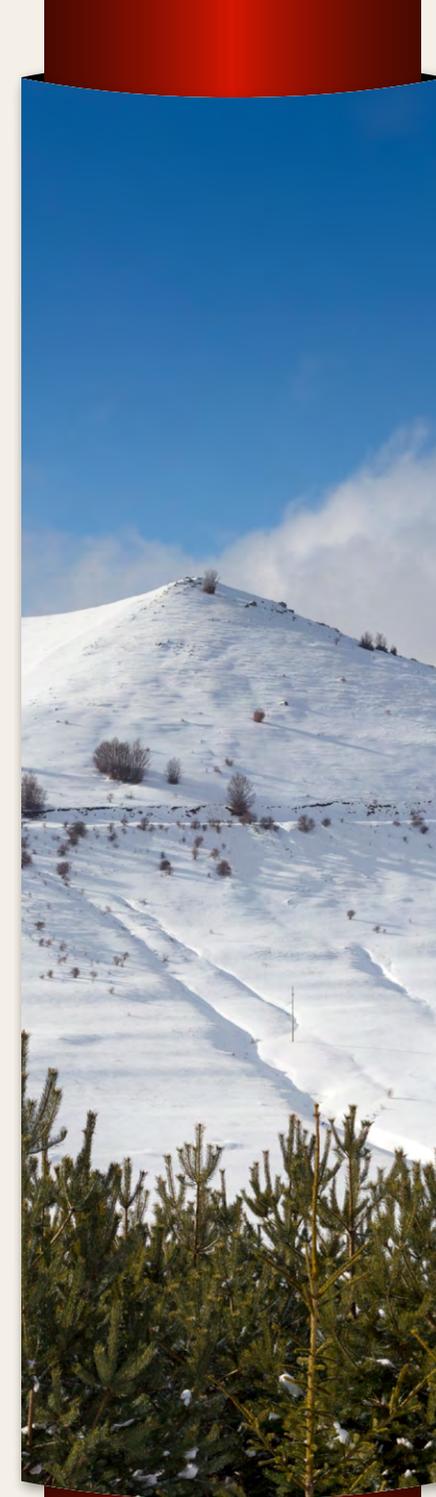


PUBLIC DEBATE FOR INNOVATIVE AND COMPETITIVE ECONOMY

The Economic Affairs Committee, jointly with the Financing and Budget Committee held a public hearing on the topic of innovative and competitive economy. During the debate, participants stated the improvement in innovation in the last 15 years; still, only 0.3% of GDP is allocated to research and development, in contrast to developed countries where more than 2% of GDP is allocated on this issue. Also, there is an increase in wages in conditions where there is no increase in productivity and competitiveness, which can cause negative effects and increase inflation. Domestic companies should be more involved as suppliers of foreign companies operating in the Republic of North Macedonia and should be jointly involved in projects for research and development of new products. The Parliament is continuously involved in the development of the National Development Strategy to contribute to the development of the Macedonian economy. It is necessary to implement structural reforms that will enable higher rates of economic growth. In the future, the development of the economy should be based on increasing the knowledge and skills of employees, environmental protection, integration in the international economy and reduction of the informal economy. The development of innovation and technology centers, entrepreneurship, creation of a domestic business sector with increased exports - are some of the prerequisites for the long-term development of the Macedonian economy.

GREEN PARLIAMENTARY GROUP MEETS CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANIZATIONS

Members of the informal green parliamentary group held a meeting with representatives of civil society organizations from Western Balkan countries, within the SMART Balkans project to exchange experiences on corruption risks in the environment. MPs emphasized that in the work of the group, special attention is paid to projects that will contribute to a better living environment and better health of the citizens. Several proposals have been initiated to introduce new laws or amend existing ones such as the Animal Welfare Law, supporting the Criminal Code which first proposed criminal sanctions for causing ecocide. CSOs were of an opinion that in order to improve the conditions in the environment, it is necessary to upgrade the capacity of the Environmental Protection Inspectorate, to have proper law implementation, to increase budget funds in this area and to increase citizens' awareness of the need for a better living environment. The practice of adopting laws related to environmental protection after a shortened procedure, instead of holding public hearings attended by experts who will contribute to better legal solutions, was negatively assessed. One of the key things that should be done is stopping the process of legalization of illegally built buildings. Experts pointed out that polluted air also affects soil and water pollution and has negative consequences for the health of citizens. It is necessary to build closed landfills for waste recycling, as well as to increase gasification of cities in order to reduce air pollution and improve the environment.



20TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE INTER-COMMUNITY RELATIONS COMMITTEE

The Inter-Community Relations Committee solemnly marked the 20th anniversary, the aspiration to build a modern state with multi-ethnic diversity. The Chair Arbana Pasholi spoke on the inter-ethnic coexistence as a priority for ensuring peace, in which ethical values such as respect, responsibility, empathy and reconciliation remain essential. Vice-President of the Assembly, Husni Ismaili, welcoming the event as a joint success of all parliamentary mandates. Members debated on the successful model of our country of diversity, which is a treasure we should be proud of and cherish. Identity differences should be respected and passed on to future generations, the dignity of each individual should be respected, because interculturalism requires responsibility from everyone. After 20 years, the Community Relations Committee remains committed to the functional issues of creating a just state, better democracy and greater prosperity for all citizens.



GENDER ISSUES START FROM THE POLITICAL PARTIES



The Women MPs Club exchanged views with representatives from the International Federation for Electoral Systems (IFES) on gender representation in elections and political averages in North Macedonia. Gender equality is a theme that runs through all project activities, with the main goal of encouraging equal gender representation and participation in elections and political elections. Recommendations were presented with an appeal for greater budgetary control of women's sections by introducing a special budget line; introduction of internal gender quotas; modification of the key for the distribution of public funding to further equalize the conditions of participation between political parties; developing inclusion strategies to increase the level of acceptability and recruitment of women candidates in rural and remote/isolated areas; establishing or strengthening existing internal monitoring mechanisms for research on gender participation and gender equality; introducing the "patent system" or "vertical parity" approach in the candidate lists; eliminating the serious lack of women in the Government and in high nominated positions; and developing a counter-strategy to mitigate insults and hate speech on social networks through increased use of positive support messages by female politicians. After the presentation, women MPs were unanimous regarding the problems and the next challenges they face in relation to these issues.



VIDEO MEETING OF ADEMI AND THE ITALIAN COUNTERPARTS



The Chair of the Committee for European Affairs, Arber Ademi, held a video meeting with Alessandro Giglio Vigna, Chair of the Committee on EU Policies and Giulio Tremonti, Chair of the Committee on Foreign Affairs, as well as with the members from both committees. They informed him about the joint session, on which they reviewed and debated four important resolutions regarding Italy's support for the EU enlargement process towards the countries of the Western Balkans. Ademi thanked Italy for its principled positions and overall support for the European integration process and informed the interlocutors to the current developments in the country, which is before the formation of a technical government on the eve of the parliamentary and presidential elections, and on the European road it faces a veto from Bulgaria, which demands a change to the Constitution. Regarding the relations with Italy, he emphasized that we have a good cooperation, which can certainly be upgraded. The Italian Chairs expressed their country's full support for North Macedonia, stressing that Italy can provide assistance in relation to EU accession by strengthening overall cooperation.

6TH PLENARY SESSION OF THE NATIONAL CONVENTION EU-MK

The Chair of the Commission for European Affairs, Arber Ademi, and the Vice-Chair of the National Council for European Integration, Sonja Mirakovska, took part at 6th Plenary Session of the National Convention EU-MK. National Convention for the European Union (NKEU MK) has been acting as a platform for leading a structured dialogue on issues related to several chapters of the negotiation framework for EU membership for six years. In his speech, Ademi, indicated that the Committee for European Affairs has intensive cooperation with the National Convention and that it is important to continue the practice of holding consultative meetings. North Macedonia's path to the Union is filled with extremely difficult challenges, but he emphasized that there has never been a lack of strategic clarity around our primary foreign policy priority for membership. He added that reforms in the sphere of the rule of law should always be the result of a broad political, but no less important, expert and social consensus. Mirakovska, in her address emphasized that further steps are necessary to continue the negotiations and to take advantage of the current momentum in the enlargement process. She added that it is necessary for all parliamentary political parties to work constructively and in the spirit of consensus on reforms related to the EU. In addition to the official panel, two more thematic panels were held that referred to the Rule of Law as a fundamental value of the EU and as a fundamental pillar for the functioning of modern parliamentary democracies. These panels discussed the future steps in the EU integra-

tion process with special reference to Cluster 1, where the concrete steps (roadmaps) of the competent institutions for implementing the legislation were highlighted. The audience of these panels, apart from the speakers, panelists and members of the working groups of NKEU MK, were also MPs, representatives of the academic environment, judges, expert prosecutors from the region, as well as representatives of diplomatic missions.



NORTH MACEDONIA AND ALBANIA SHARE COMMON GOALS AND INTERESTS

A Delegation from the Foreign Policy Committee led by the Chair Mimi Kohdéli paid an official visit to the Republic of North Macedonia. The two countries are building excellent bilateral relations, with intense political dialogue and cooperation in a significant number of areas of mutual interest. They also share common goals and interests on the foreign policy level, namely membership in the EU, cooperation within NATO, as well as the deepening of regional cooperation. Ms Kohdéli emphasized that further democratization of all countries from the Western Balkans is needed, in order for the entire region to become part of the EU. The Chair Miloshoski, introduced the guests to the current developments in the country, which is before the formation of a technical government on the eve of the parliamentary and presidential elections, and on the European road is facing a veto from Bulgaria, which demands a change of the Constitution. Regarding relations with Albania, he said that we have good cooperation, which can be upgraded with more infrastructure projects, tourism, economy and other fields of mutual interest. The numerous agreements signed within the framework of the Open Balkans Initiative are also of great importance, and the realization of the obligations assumed by these agreements remains common priority.



FRENCH SUPPORT FOR THE WESTERN BALKANS

The Chair of the Committee for European Affairs, Arber Ademi, had a meeting with René Troccaz, Special Envoy for the Western Balkans of the French Republic and Matthieu Abgrall from the French Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs. Referring to the progress of our country towards the EU, Ademi emphasized that we must not miss this unique chance that we have, and therefore we should cast our vote for Europe, while expressing gratitude for the principled support and commitment of France to our European integration. The interlocutors agreed that the acceleration of the European integration processes is in the interest of the political, security and economic stability of the entire region, and that accession and, ultimately, membership in the EU will contribute to a faster economic and social development of the region, as well as a more functional democracy and rule of law.





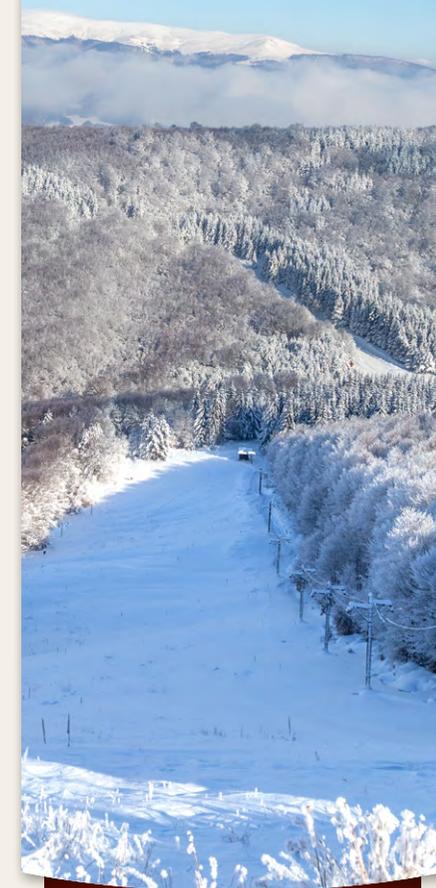
PUBLIC OPINION ON EU INTEGRATION

The Chairs of the Committee for European Affairs, Arber Ademi, and of the National Council for European Integration, Aleksandar Nikolovski, participated at an event where the analysis of the public opinion on the accession of North Macedonia to the EU in 2023 was presented, organized by the Institute for Democracy in the premises of the EU Delegation in Skopje. The analysis shows that the support for the accession of the country in the EU, compared to previous years, has a decreasing trend and this year is 60%. The event was opened by the director of the Konrad Adenauer Foundation Daniel Brown and the Deputy Ambassador of the Federal Republic of Germany in our country Otto Graf, the representatives of the Institute for Democracy, the director, Marko Troshanski and Zoran Nechev.

REGISTER YOUR ORGANIZATION APP IS NOW OPERATIONAL

The web application "Register of Organizations" was presented before the leadership in the Parliament. This tool aims to digitize the work of parliamentary services in the area of cooperation with civil society organizations registered according to the Law on Associations and Foundations.

This application was prepared within the framework of the Parliamentary Support Program (PSP), which is supported by the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC) through the Swiss Embassy in the Republic of North Macedonia. The PSP is implemented by the National Democratic Institute (NDI), Institute for Democracy "Societas Civilis" - Skopje (IDSCS) and the Center for Change Management (CMP).



LAUNCH OF THE PARLIAMENTARY TV STUDIO

The opening of the studio is a long-term idea that is now being fully functional with the aim to raise the level of transparency of the legislature, and the citizens will have a complete picture of the work of the deputies. It has been done under the "Parliamentary Support Program", supported by the Swiss Confederation in the first phase. The next stage in the incoming years will be focused on institutional reform, as a basis for a stronger legislative framework and human resources; political dialogue, with the aim of encouraging consensus and an inclusive decision-making process; integrity of political parties, in the direction of ethical decision-making and responsibility in the political sphere; strengthening the legislative and supervisory function of the Parliament; transparency and responsibility for strengthening democracy. The project, which will last until September 2027, is implemented by the National Democratic Institute, the Center for Change Management and the Societas Civilis Institute for Democracy with institutional partnerships with the Swiss Federal Assembly, the European Parliament, the Estonian Rigikogu, the German Bundestag and the Partnership for Open authority (POV).



MAIN BENEFITS FROM THE BERLIN PROCESS



The Chair of the Committee for European Affairs Arber Ademi, participated in a panel discussion dedicated to the benefits of the Berlin process for North Macedonia, organized by the Institute for Democracy. Ademi gave an opening address at the first panel dedicated to the benefits of the Berlin process in the area of the common regional market with a focus on roaming, while emphasizing that he stands for the political benefits from this process, in terms of developing regional cooperation and the EU perspective for the region. In that direction, he informed about the October summit in Tirana and the establishment of a parliamentary dimension of the Berlin process. Referring to the common regional market, he emphasized that it will move the region towards the EU's single market and will put the countries of the Western Balkans on the map of global investors. With that, Ademi said, new jobs will be created, a greater selection of products at lower prices and an opportunity for people to work throughout the Region. As benefits of the Berlin process, Ademi indicated the signed three so-called Mobility agreements: Agreement on recognition of academic qualifications, Agreement on recognition of professional qualifications and Agreement on free travel of citizens from the Western Balkans with ID cards. The German ambassador to North Macedonia, Petra Drexler, also addressed the Conference.



CHILDREN TOOK OVER THE PARLIAMENT

To hear the voice of children and young people and for them to be actively involved in the decision-making process for their needs" - this is the message that was sent by the event "Children take over the Parliament", organized by the Parliament and UNICEF, on the occasion of the World Children's Day. The children-deputies from the parliamentary rostrum asked the people's representatives to find concrete solutions faster and more thoroughly for the challenges in education, mental health, in encouraging youth activities in the municipalities and appropriate encouragement of youth policies. They believe that young people from both rural and urban areas should be actively involved in the decision-making process. In the Conclusions on the state of mental health of children and young people, the children asked for raising social awareness and more information in schools and among parents; pedagogical promotion of teachers and the

hiring of more professionals in every school and the introduction of mandatory mental health classes in the curriculum. They asked for a permanent support line for children and youth and provision of a family psychologist for the youth. In the area of participation of children and young people in policy making, they concluded that there is a need for amendments to the Law on Youth Participation and Youth Policies, with which every educational institution will be obliged to familiarize students with all ways of youth organization and will be fully implemented. In that direction, they pledged to establish a youth office in the Parliament. Also, the children concluded that the law on secondary education needs to be harmonized, which will require each school to form a youth organization/student parliament. They also demanded an increase in the percentage allocated from the gross domestic product for projects aimed at young people.



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Editorial Board: Marijana Opashinova Shundovska, Sonja Mirakovska and Sasho Zashov (Evropa 92)

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jpc@sobranie.mk



www.sobranie.mk

JPC