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Joint Parliamentary Committee EU-RM

Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Ministry of Culture

Macedonian legislation harmonized with the EU acquis in

JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2015:

- Law Amending the Law on Judicial Council of the Republic of Macedonia
- Law on the Council for Verification of Facts and Initiation of Proceedings for Accountability of Judges
- Law on the Higher Education Institutions and Personnel in Pre-School, Primary and Secondary Education
- Law on Academy of Teachers
- Law Amending the Law on Secondary Education
- Law Amending the Law on Higher Education
- Law Amending the Law on Primary Education

MEETING WITH COMMISSIONER JOHANNES HAHN

The President of the Assembly of the Republic of Macedonia, Mr. Trajko Veljanoski had a Meeting with the Commissioner for Enlargement and European Neighbourhood Policy, Mr. Johannes Hahn. President Veljanoski expressed appreciation for the visit and underlined that these meetings are an excellent opportunity for exchange of opinions, especially regarding fulfillment of one of the priorities of the state, the integration in the EU. Commissioner Hahn stated that his visit is aimed to emphasize the interest of the EU and its institutions for a surpassing of current misunderstandings on political level as soon as possible, and that the European Parliament is ready to assist with its external mediation if this would contribute to overcome the current situation. President Veljanoski pointed out that if a joint meeting of Macedonian political parties is held together with the European sister parties, the process of gradual regain of trust will begin, which is a basis for further dialogue and surpassing of misunderstandings. The interlocutors agreed that the work of the Assembly and its contribution in the functioning of the state is of utmost importance, thus the need for it to work in full capacity. President Veljanoski once again expressed hope that the opposition will accept to return and to constructively participate in the work of the Assembly. Commissioner Hahn agreed that in a mature democratic society, the debate should be held in the Parliament, since the parliamentary

stand is the best instrument for expressing ones opinions and views. He underlined that he expects all political parties to contribute in bringing the different opinions closer and hope that the opposition will join the work of the Assembly. At the end, they expressed hope that today's meetings of the Commissioner with all stakeholders will be a motivating impetus for the improvement of the political climate in the state.



SERBIAN PRIME MINISTER VUČIĆ IN MACEDONIAN PARLIAMENT

Serbian Prime Minister Aleksandar Vučić informed President Veljanoski on the joint session of the governments of Republic of Macedonia and Republic of Serbia, when several bilateral agreements in different areas were signed to contribute in the improvement of the economic cooperation, which is of exceptional importance for the two states and their citizens. President Veljanoski expressed pleasure that these meetings are a confirmation of the good bilateral communication cherished between the two states.

The interlocutors underlined that the both states should jointly work to accomplish their priority goals - the integration in the European Union. Deputy - Prime Ministers of the Republic of Serbia and Vice - Presidents, PG Coordinators and MPs of the Assembly of the Republic of Macedonia, also attended this meeting.



GERMANY IS NUMBER ONE TRADE PARTNER OF MACEDONIA



A Delegation of the Parliamentary Group for Cooperation with South East Europe from the German Bundestag headed by Mr. Peter Weiss met jointly with the Parliamentary Group for Cooperation with the Parliament of the Federal Republic of Germany, the Foreign Policy Committee and the Committee on European Affairs from the Assembly of the Republic of Macedonia. The Chair of the Parliamentary Group, Mr. Antonio Miloshoski, welcomed the guests and underlined the pleasure from the demonstrated interest and the visit, as well as hope that it is not only fruitful for the bilateral relations between Germany and Macedonia, but also for our Euro – Atlantic aspirations. Ms. Nora Aliti, Deputy Chair of the Committee on European Affairs also stated that Macedonia cherishes the friendly relations with Germany. The Chair of the Parliamentary Group for Cooperation with South East Europe from the Bundestag, Mr. Weiss, expressed pleasure from the meeting as a continuation of the task to cherish the friendly relations towards South East Europe and Macedonia and promote the European integration processes. The interlocutors exchanged opinions on the current political developments, the boycott of the Assembly by the opposition, the European integration path of Macedonia, as well as on the name issue. In regard with the economic cooperation, investments are important since Germany is the number one trade partner of Macedonia.

INTEGRATION SHOULD NOT BE SEEN AS ENLARGEMENT BUT AS COMPLETION OF THE EUROPEAN FAMILY

The President of the National Assembly of the Republic of Serbia, Ms. Maja Gojković, met President Veljanoski upon her official visit to the Republic of Macedonia. Presi-

dent Veljanoski congratulated Serbia on the candidate status for EU membership, underlining the importance of the regional cooperation for accomplishment of the joint goal for European integration. Ms. Gojković pointed to the importance of the parliamentary cooperation on all levels, especially when motivated by joint and constructive goals. "The European integration of Western Balkan should not be seen as enlargement, but as completion of the European family, stated Ms. Gojković. The importance of Macedonian and Serbian minority and their positive contribution in the social life in both states were also discussed at the meeting.



JOINT DEFENCE IN THE FIGHT AGAINST TERRORISM

The Committee on Defence and Security of the Assembly of the Republic of Macedonia had a meeting with Ms. Mimi Kodeli, Minister of Defence of the Republic of Albania. The Chair of the Committee, Mr. Emil Dimitriev opened the meeting and underlined that Macedonia and Albania are two neighbouring and friendly states, with good relations and joint engagement in the area



of defence. He reminded of the Macedonian main strategic priorities that are membership in NATO and in EU, and even though Macedonia is not part of the Alliance, it participates in many peacekeeping missions. Mr. Dimitriev expressed expectation that the cooperation with our western neighbour will continue and will be intensified in future. Ms. Kodeli showed openness of Albania to share experience that would facilitate the path towards Macedonia's membership in the biggest security organization. She was clear that as witnesses of the current developments in France, Ukraine and many other states, a joint agenda is needed and initiatives and projects in the fight against the global terrorism, since each state regardless of the fact whether it is or not a NATO Member, is not immune to the terrorist phenomenon. Hence, a joint defence is needed in this senseless war to secure peace and security for current and future generations.

UNRESERVED SUPPORT FOR NATO AND EU MEMBERSHIP



The Parliamentary Group for Cooperation with the Parliament of the Republic of Albania had a meeting with Mr. Ilir Meta, President of the Assembly of the Republic of Albania. The Chairman Ibraimi welcomed President Meta characterizing the relations between the two neighbouring states as good and friendly, connected through the Albanian community in Macedonia and the Macedonian Community in Albania. He also informed the guests on the boycott of the opposition, the implementation of the Ohrid Framework Agreement, and the proposed constitutional amendments. President Meta called for a more intensified cooperation between parliamentary groups and for joint projects, such as the construction of the railway connection between Albania and Macedonia on Corridor 8. He also reiterated the continuous and unreserved support of Albania for membership of Macedonia in NATO and EU.

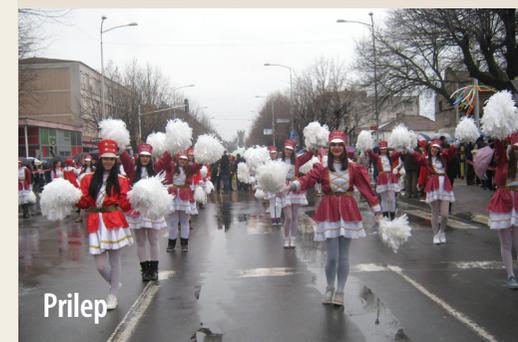
CARNIVALS' SEASON IN MACEDONIA



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