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MACEDONIAN LEGISLATION HARMONIZED WITH THE EU ACQUIS IN JUNE-JULY 2016:

- Law Amending the Law on Organic Agricultural Production
- Law Ratifying the Convention on Common Transit Procedure (consolidated version)

FAREWELL MEETING OF THE PRESIDENT VELJANOSKI AND THE HEAD OF THE DELEGATION OF THE EU, H.E. AVO ORAV



PRESIDENT VELJANOSKI AT THE SEECP PA IN SOFIA

On 11th June 2016, the President of the Assembly of the Republic of Macedonia, Mr. Trajko Veljanoski, attended the SEECP PA Third Plenary Session in Sofia



titled: "20 Years South East European Cooperation Process: the region of new realities and shared perspectives." In his address at the plenary, Mr. Veljanoski underlined that SEECP as the oldest regional initiative and being an authentic voice of the region, has led to greater unity, reconciliation and return of the trust. Through the years, it grew into a significant forum of political and diplomatic dialogue, which involves all South East European states. The establishment of the Parliamentary Assembly brought a qualitative new phase in deepening the parliamentary cooperation in the South East Europe. The envisaged establishment of a Permanent Secretariat will fortify the cooperation between the national parliaments of the participants even further, as well as the cooperation with the European Parliament and other international parliaments. Mr. Veljanoski stated that today, the citizens, businessmen, artists, athletes and young people practice good neighborly relations and cooperation on a daily basis. "We, as parliamentarians, must surpass everything that hinders the development of the regional cooperation, and to move from "Balkan" to "Nordic" mentality, with most developed forms of mutual understanding and support, in direction of promotion of the good neighborly relations," concluded Veljanoski.

BILATERAL MEETINGS OF PRESIDENT VELJANOSKI AT THE MARGINS OF THE SEECP PA SESSION



Mr. Veljanoski had a bilateral meeting with his Bulgarian colleague, Mrs. Tsetska Tsacheva, where they exchanged views on the current developments in both states. Mr. Veljanoski pointed out that good neighborly relations are of

particular importance for the stability of the region and for a sooner integration of the Republic of Macedonia in the European Union, which is of mutual interest for both states. Regarding the political situation in the Republic of Macedonia, they both agreed that differences should be solved in a joint manner and through a constructive dialogue.

The Slovenian colleague, Mr. Milan Brglez, expressed appreciation for the support Slovenia gives to the Republic of Macedonia in regard with the Euro – Atlantic integration of the state. Mr. Brglez underlined the successful handling of migrant crisis by the Republic of Macedonia



and stopping the migrant wave, which was of great assistance for Slovenia.

At the meeting with the colleague from Kosovo, Mr. Kadri Veseli, the interlocutors exchanged views on possibilities for strengthening the economic cooperation, improvement of the road



infrastructure that connects the two states and the development of the good neighborly relations. President Veljanoski underlined that the Assembly of the Republic of Macedonia is at disposal to share the experience regarding the Euro – Atlantic process.

SLOVAK PRESIDENCY PRIORITIES PRESENTED IN PARLIAMENT



The Committee on European Issues held a session dedicated to the presentation of the Slovak Presidency Priorities with the Council of the EU. The Ambassador, Mr. Martin Bezak, pointed out that the Slovak Republic will focus on four segments in the program: Economically Strong Europe, Modern Single Market, Sustainable Migration and Asylum Policies and Globally Connected Europe, and that three mutually inter-connected principles will have priority: reaching visible results, overcoming fragmentation and focus on citizens to deliver concrete results and regain the trust in the joint European project. Regarding the EU integration process of the Republic of Macedonia, he emphasized the importance of the implementation of the Prizno Agreement and the organization of credible elections.

SWEDISH EXPERIENCES OF GREAT BENEFIT FOR MACEDONIA



The Deputy Speaker of the Swedish Riksdag, Mrs. Esabelle Dingizian, paid official visit to the Republic of Macedonia. At the meeting with the Vice-President of the Assembly of the Republic of Macedonia, Mr. Antonijo Miloshoski, they discussed the possibilities for deepening the bilateral relations, the current developments in the EU and the migrant crisis.

Ms. Dingizian also had a meeting with the Parliamen-

tary Group for Cooperation with the Swedish Riksdag. The Chair Blagoja Despotovski expressed gratitude for the use of constitutional name of the Republic of Macedonia and that the Macedonian citizens living in Sweden should serve as a bridge for cooperation between the two states. The interlocutors concluded that the exchange of experiences with a highly developed state such as Sweden would be of great



benefit for the Republic of Macedonia. Ms. Dingizian outlined that the cooperation is needed, since we are living in a global world in which we are all connected and dependent from each other. She has proudly stated that Sweden has the first feminine government, as a result of long-years of work and that the representation of women in the Riksdag is more than 40%. The Macedonian colleagues informed her that in the new parliamentary mandate, the Macedonian Parliament will have minimum 40% representation of women.

At the meeting with the Committee on Equal Opportunities for Women and Men, the Chair Daniela Rangelova welcomed the initiatives for bilateral cooperation, especially those in the domain of gender equality. Ms. Rangelova expressed gratitude for the Swedish advocacy for the enlargement policy of Western Balkans in the EU and the support on this path to the Republic of Macedonia, especially during its Presidency in 2009 and the given recommendations for start of negotiations. Ms. Dingizian stated that when it comes to problems of women, they should be part of the solution and that gender equality should be part of peace creation. Both sides concluded that strengthening of the economic and the educational power of women is essential, as well as the support to all trends and challenges regarding gender equality.



CZECH PARLIAMENTARY DELEGATION IN MACEDONIA



A Delegation from the Defence Committee of the Chamber of Deputies of the Czech Republic headed by the Chair, Mr. Roman Vana, paid an official visit to the Republic of Macedonia. The host Chair, Mr. Sasho Akjimoski, underlined that he sees this visit as an opportunity for exchange of views regarding the issues in the field of police and defense and the current challenges in Europe regarding the migrant crisis and as well as the process of EU enlargement. Both sides concluded that the bilateral relations between the two states are on a high level. The Macedonian side expressed gratitude for the use of the constitutional name by the Czech Republic and for the support to the Republic of Macedonia regarding its Euro-Integration path, as well as for the sent police assistance to the southern border of Macedonia during the refugee crisis. Mr. Roman Vana welcomed the way Macedonia is handling the migration crisis and pointed to the importance of security of Western Balkans as security for all Europe.

At the meeting with the Group for Cooperation with the Czech Parliament, the Chair Mr. Petre Shilegov informed the guests regarding the current political crisis, Macedonia's Euro-Integration path and the bilateral dispute with Greece. Mr. Roman Vana gave full support of the Czech Republic for Macedonia's EU integration and expressed pleasure for the excellent cooperation of the police forces of the two states patrolling at the Macedonian border with Greece, and proposed an idea for a joint exercise of Macedonian and Czech police officers in the Czech Republic. He called Macedonia a brave country standing firmly on EU borders from both sides defending Europe.



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