



СОБРАНИЕ НА РЕПУБЛИКА СЕВЕРНА МАКЕДОНИЈА



HISTORY OF PARLIAMENTARISM IN MACEDONIA

According to the Constitution, adopted on November 17, 1991, the country is a republic with parliamentary democracy and division of state powers into legislative, executive and judicial. The Assembly of the Republic of North Macedonia is a representative body of the citizens and a legislative branch of power. The Assembly is unicameral and it can be composed of 120 to 140 members of the Assembly. Members of the Assembly are elected on general and direct elections by secret ballot and their mandate lasts for 4 years.

Krusevo Republic in 1903 and ASNOM in 1944 laid the historical foundation of the Assembly, and it continued to develop with the National Assembly of NRM in 1946 and the Assembly of SRM in 1963 and 1974.

The most important historic events and dates that characterize the modern development of the Macedonian parliamentarism are presented below.

2 AUGUST 1903

The Ilinden Uprising started in order to liberate the people from the Ottoman rule. On August 3, after the liberation of the city of Krusevo, the constitution of the new revolutionary-democratic national rule was initiated; and this, in historiography, is known as the Krusevo Republic, which lasted for 10 days. In order to elect the governing bodies in a democratic manner, an Assembly which consisted of the 60 most prominent citizens was convened; they were representing all national groups in the town of Krusevo (ethnic Macedonians, Albanians and Vlachs), and this served as a kind of a representative-parliamentary body. The Assembly elected a six-member interim executive government. The progressive democratic ideas of the revolutionaries, desires for cohabitation, equality among nationalities, brotherly concord and unity against the Ottoman despotism are incarnated in the Manifesto of the Krusevo Republic. The Manifesto of the Krusevo Republic is one of the most important documents in the history of the country's national liberation movement. Although the Krusevo Republic lasted for only ten days, it has a prominent place in our history because it is a symbol of the nation-building aspiration of the Macedonian people and the foundation of the Macedonian statehood.

2 AUGUST 1944

The first session of ASNOM (Anti-fascist Assembly for National Liberation of Macedonia) took place at the St. Prohor Pciniski monastery.

The Macedonian people achieved its national liberty, by participating in the Second World War and the National Liberation War against fascism, and created its own state on the first session of ASNOM.

Nine legislative acts were adopted at the First session of ASNOM, four of which were of state-forming character. These acts laid the foundations of the country, as a federal state within the Democratic Federal Yugoslavia. The Democratic Federal Macedonia was solemnly constituted on this session. ASNOM was constituted as a supreme legislative and an executive representative body of people and a supreme body of government in Democratic Federal Macedonia. The Presidium of ASNOM was established as a holder of the executive as well as the legislative competencies that were realized between the plenary sessions of ASNOM.

The Declaration of ASNOM on the Fundamental Rights of the Citizen was adopted, according to which "all citizens of the federal Macedonian state were equal in front of the laws

regardless of their nationality, race and creed". The Macedonian national language was introduced as an official language of the country, and August 2 was proclaimed as a national and state holiday of the Macedonian nation and the Macedonian country, as a symbol of all its struggles for liberation from centuries-long tyranny and of the creation of free and independent state.

In honor of the two major events that happened on the day of Ilinden, which laid the foundations of the Macedonian statehood and sovereignty, August 2 is proclaimed also as a national holiday of the Republic of North Macedonia – The Day of the Republic.



ASNOM Presidium headed by Metodija Andonov Cento

14-16 APRIL 1945

At the third session, ASNOM was renamed in National Assembly of Democratic Federal Macedonia. The most important state-legal act that was adopted on this session was the act on formation of the first government, as an executive body of the Democratic Federal Macedonia (in March, 1946 it was renamed into People's Republic of Macedonia). This was a completion of the constitutive process of the national rule as well as an affirmation of the state and national sovereignty of the Macedonian people.

31 DECEMBER 1946

The Constitutional Assembly of the People's Republic of Macedonia, elected at free elections by direct secret ballot, adopted the first Constitution of the People's Republic of Macedonia. This Constitution is of major historic and political importance for the Macedonian people. The People's Republic of Macedonia was defined as a national state with a republican model of government, and it was united with the other Yugoslav people and their national republics: People's Republic of Serbia, People's Republic of Montenegro, People's Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina, People's Republic of Croatia and People's Republic of Slovenia, in one common federal state - Federal People's Republic of Yugoslavia (in 1963 it was renamed into Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia). According to the Constitution, the parliamentary organization of the government was the basic principle to organize the government, i.e. unity of government principle. The National Assembly represented the national sovereignty and it was a supreme governing body in the Republic, and it was the only holder of the legislative branch of power. The National Assembly of the People's Republic of Macedonia was elected by citizens on general, equal and direct elections by a secret ballot for a period of four years.

The National Assembly, which was renamed into Assembly of the Socialist Republic of Macedonia in 1963, became the highest governing body until the country gained its independence from

SFR Yugoslavia in 1991. The unity of government principle, i.e. the parliamentary system was the basic principle of organized government in the Republic, while the extent of its power, as well as the organization and structure of the Assembly underwent changes (changes were specified in the Constitutional Law on the Foundations of the Social and Political System and Governing Bodies of the People's Republic of Macedonia from 1952, the Constitution of Socialist Republic of Macedonia from 1963 and the Constitution of Socialist Republic of Macedonia from 1974). Namely, during this period, the Assembly was unicameral, bicameral, tricameral and even five cameral. The mandate of the representatives in the Assembly was imperative (there was a possibility to dismiss the representatives), while the manner of their election underwent changes from a direct elections system to a complex delegate system, as a system of indirect constitution of the Assembly.

20 SEPTEMBER 1990

The Assembly of the Socialist Republic Macedonia adopted 25 amendments to the 1974 Constitution, which led to radical changes in the social-economic and political system. This marked the beginning of the transition of the state towards the future parliamentary system and the creation of a sovereign and independent state. The constitutional amendments, among others, introduced ownership and political pluralism and restructuring of the main institutions in the country (the Assembly became unicameral, the Executive Council became Government, and instead of the collective presidium, the function of a President of the Republic was introduced for the first time). The system of delegates was abolished, and the members of the Assembly of Socialist Republic Macedonia were elected by citizens on direct elections and by a secret ballot. Candidates for members of the Assembly were nominated by citizens, political organizations and other forms of organization and association. One month later, the Assembly adopted the Law on Elections and Dismissal of Members of the Assembly and Councilors, which was the last step in the preparations for the first democratic and multiparty elections.

11 NOVEMBER 1990

The first free democratic multiparty parliamentary elections were held in the Socialist Republic Macedonia. The Elections were held according to the majoritarian electoral model, whereas the territory of the country was divided in 120 electoral districts. 18 political parties and 43 independent candidates took part in these elections. 120 MPs were elected in the Assembly of the Socialist Republic of Macedonia. This election of representatives from different parties and political options introduced the parliamentary system with pluralistic democracy in the country.

8 JANUARY 1991

The first multiparty Assembly of the Socialist Republic of Macedonia was constituted which was composed of members of 9 political parties and 3 independent candidates. In accordance with the provisions of the interim Rules of Procedure, the session was chaired by the oldest member of the Assembly, and then Stojan Andov was elected as the President of the Assembly of Socialist Republic Macedonia. The first multiparty Assembly directed its activities towards adoption of the necessary state-building acts and documents, which clearly expressed the centuries-long aspiration of the Macedonian people to create a sovereign and independent state. This Assembly elected the first President and the first

Government of the Republic, announced the independence referendum and adopted the Constitution and the country's anthem and flag.

25 JANUARY 1991

At one of the first sessions, members of the Assembly adopted the Declaration of Sovereignty of the Socialist Republic of Macedonia, which stipulated the sovereignty of the Socialist Republic of Macedonia in accordance with the constitutional determinations for independence and territorial integrity, as well as the right of the Macedonian nation to self-determination, including the right to separation. This Declaration was the basis for the adoption of the first democratic Constitution several months later.

27 JANUARY 1991

Kiro Gligorov was elected as the first president of the Socialist Republic Macedonia on a session of the Assembly.

20 MARCH 1991

The Assembly elected the first Government of the SR Macedonia (called Expert Government), headed by Nikola Kljusev, PhD.

7 JUNE 1991

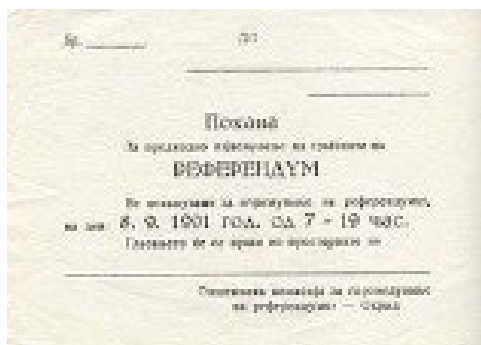
The Assembly of the Socialist Republic Macedonia adopted 4 amendments to the Constitution, including the amendment to delete the attribute "Socialist" in front of the name of the country.

6 AUGUST 1991

The Assembly adopted the Decision for announcing the referendum on which the citizens were to decide on a sovereign and independent state. The Decision specified the question which the citizens were supposed to answer at the referendum: "Please state if you are for sovereign and independent state of Macedonia with the right to join a future union of sovereign states of Yugoslavia?"

8 SEPTEMBER 1991

The Referendum on sovereignty and independence was held. 95,09% of the citizens who voted gave positive answer to the referendum, or 72,16% of the total number of citizens with voting right. On that occasion, September 8 was declared as a state holiday – Independence Day.



Invitation for referendum

17 SEPTEMBER 1991

The Assembly adopted a declaration to verify the referendum results for the constitution of the Republic of Macedonia as a sovereign and independent state. The Declaration underlined that the citizens, in a democratic manner wrote a new page in the centuries-long history of efforts to make an independent and sovereign state. This Declaration is an official decision of the Assembly to constitute a sovereign and independent state, given the fact that citizen's expressed desire at the referendum was not of a decisive, but only of a consultative character.

17 NOVEMBER 1991

The Assembly proclaimed the Constitution as the highest legal act of the state, which served as the completion of the long historic process of building a sovereign, independent, democratic and social state of the Macedonian people. The adoption of the Constitution marked the beginning of the creation of the new constitutional order and establishment of the country as a parliamentary democracy. The Constitution from 1991 is the first constitution that regulates the principle of division of braches of power as a fundamental value of the constitutional order (previous constitutions recognized the principle of parliamentary rule or unity of government principle). According to the Constitution, the country has a legislative, an executive and a judicial branch of power. The holder of the legislative branch of power is the Assembly of the Republic of North Macedonia, which is a unicameral representative body of citizens, composed of 120 to 140 members (the exact number of members is specified by law; until 2008, it was 120, and then the number of members was increased to 123, whereby 3 members are elected by citizens who are temporarily staying abroad for work or other reasons; with the changes in 2015, the election of these three MPs is conditioned with the win of a minimum number of votes, which corresponds to the minimum number of votes needed to win mandate in the constituencies from the territory of the country). Members of the Assembly are elected on general, direct and free elections by a secret ballot for a period of four years. Since the adoption of the Constitution, the Assembly has adopted a total of 36 amendments which are an integral part of the Constitution (1992, 1998, 2001, 2003, 2005, 2009, 2011 and 2019).



Proclamation of the Constitution from 1991 in the Assembly

19 DECEMBER 1991

The Assembly adopted the Declaration for International Recognition of the Republic of Macedonia as a Sovereign and Independent Country. Based on this Declaration, the country became a member of almost all relevant international organizations and, with which still maintains active and successful cooperation: UN (April 1993), WTO (1993), OSCE (1995), Council of Europe (1995), CEFTA (2006) and other. The country is a candidate for membership in the European Union (since 2005) and NATO.

14 FEBRUARY 1992

The Law on Defense was adopted. According to this law, the Armed Forces (the Army) have the responsibility to defend the country.

26 APRIL 1992

The Assembly adopted the Law on Monetary Unit of the Republic of Macedonia, whereby the monetary independence was declared and the national currency, the Denar, was introduced.

29 JULY 1992

The Decision for membership of the country in the United Nations Organization was adopted.

11 AUGUST 1992

The Assembly adopted the flag and the anthem of the country.

16 AND 30 OCTOBER 1994

The first parliamentary elections, after the country gained independence, were held. The first direct presidential elections were held at the same time. The parliamentary elections were held according to the same electoral model applied in 1990 (parliamentary elections in 1998 were held according to the combined electoral model, while the proportional model is applied since 2002).

16 NOVEMBER 2001

As a result of the Ohrid Framework Agreement, signed on August 13, 2001, the Assembly adopted significant changes and amendments to the Constitution, both in its Preamble and in a number of provisions in its normative part. These amendments introduced essential changes in the constitutional-legal system of the country with the purpose to enhance processes of internal integration of all ethnic communities without assimilation and creation of base for long-term interethnic stability.

11 JANUARY 2019

With the adoption of the constitutional amendments in the Assembly, the name of the country was changed to the Republic of North Macedonia, while the title of the Assembly was changed to Assembly of the Republic of North Macedonia.



ПРОГРАМА ЗА ПАРЛАМЕНТАРНА ПОДДРШКА
PROGRAMI PËR MBËSHËTETJE PARLAMENTARE
PARLIAMENT SUPPORT PROGRAMME



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Swiss Agency for Development
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IMPLEMENTED BY:



This publication was prepared by the Parliamentary Institute as part of the Parliamentary Support Program (PSP), which is supported by the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC) through the Embassy of the Swiss Confederation in the Republic of North Macedonia.

The PSP is implemented by the National Democratic Institute (NDI), the Institute for Democracy "Societas Civilis" - Skopje (IDSCS) and the Center for Change Management (CCM). The content of the publication does not reflect the SDC's views.

August, 2022