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Mr Aleksander SPASENOVSKI and **Mr Jorgo CHATZIMARKAKIS**, Co-Chairmen of the Joint Parliamentary Committee, opened the meeting, welcomed the participants introduced the respective delegations.

Mr SPASENOVSKI expressed his pleasure to see a bigger group of MEPs in the Joint Parliamentary Committee (JPC). He remarked that this was the first JPC meeting following the elections in the European Parliament and he expressed his hope that they would manage the change in the composition of the JPC to convey the enthusiasm and constructiveness presented by the former composition of the JPC and the Committee would maintain the friendly note in the former discussions.

Mr CHATZIMARKAKIS highlighted the importance of this meeting not only because of the timing of the meeting but also because of the participation of Mr Štefan FÜLE, European Commissioner in charge of Enlargement and European Neighbourhood Policy in the JPC meeting. He remarked that participation of a Commissioner in the JPC meeting, which had happened very rarely, indicated the importance of the parliamentary work and that the Commission joined and understood the special momentum that the JCP platform had. He expressed the satisfaction of the EU about the progress that FYROM recorded so far and willingness of the EU to support the FYROM on its path to the EU.

1. Adoption of the draft agenda

The draft agenda was adopted.

2. Approval of the minutes of the 6th meeting of the EU-Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia Joint Parliamentary Committee on 31 March 2009 in Brussels.

The minutes of the 6th meeting of the EU-Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia Joint Parliamentary Committee on 31 March 2009 in Brussels were approved.

3. Exchange of views with representatives of the Government of the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, the Presidency in Office of the Council of the European Union and the European Commission on the relations between the European Union and the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia

Mr Vasko NAUMOVSKI, Deputy Prime Minister of the FYROM in charge of EU integration, welcomed the adoption of the resolution on the 2009 Progress Report of the FYROM and in particular the recommendation of the European Parliament for starting negotiations between the EU and the FYROM in March 2010. He expressed that the European Parliament was well aware of the significance of the start of the negotiations and assured the JPC Members that the FYROM government would seriously consider all recommendations stemming from this meeting and would proceed with implementing them as part of the overall accession process. He stated that the relationship between the FYROM- EU was being led according the lines of the Stabilization and Association Agreement (SAA) for 17 years as well as through the sectoral committees; the FYROM as the first signatory of this type of an agreement fully aligned itself with the provisions of the Agreement as part of the conditions for being prepared to start negotiations for partnership with the European Union and thereby showed that it had the necessary capacity to carry out the obligations stemming from the accession process; Parliamentary cooperation was considered as an important mechanism for improving the mutual relations and understanding in the negotiation process. He expressed that the European Parliament has an important effect in the enlargement process and reiterated his confidence in that JPC would give its clear support for starting the negotiation process

without further delay. The presence of Mr FÜLE at the JPC was important to establish and intensify the cooperation with the new Commission. FYROM was very content about the intensive dialogue established at various levels between the EU and FYROM following the adoption of the progress report. The EU membership was widely supported by the population and as a consequence the government had stepped up its efforts with focus on priorities from the Accession Partnership. Working groups had been established in December 2009 to formulate the national positions and to facilitate coordination of the different chapters. He expressed his hope that the negotiations would start by the time of the next JPC.

Mr. Antonio MILOSOKI, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the FYROM, stated that EU process would support the quest for stability, economic development and integration in the FYROM. He emphasized on solidarity as one of the principles lies at the essence of the EU and expressed his belief that this solidarity principle would also apply in the case of FYROM and EU relations through reciprocal support and contributions on both parties' benefits. In accordance with the solidarity principle, he expressed that FYROM was ready to contribute Greece to get its way out of the economic crises that it underwent, and hence he expressed his hope that Greece would also help FYROM to join and help the entire region to be part of Europe. FYROM was fully prepared to continue with bilateral and direct negotiations with Greece on the name issue, where at the rest of the issues like economics and tourism everything went normal. FYROM conveyed four more initiatives to Greece with a view to increase the bilateral cooperation and contribute to the atmosphere of discussions on the issue of constitutional name of the FYROM. The first initiative was to open one more cross border check point between FYROM and Greece. The second initiative was to build one railway connection between Nicolic and Tessaloniki on the request of a Greek businessman (making aluminium) who needed it in order to cut costs. Further an agreement was being prepared in cooperation with Greece to avoid double taxation. The two states would also upgrade the country representations to embassies in both capitals in order to strengthen the bilateral relations.

Mr Erwan FOUÉRE, the special envoy of the EU and the head the EU mission to the FYROM, said that the JPC process was important in terms of encouraging the reform process in FYROM and ensuring that the progress achieved by FYROM was recognised by the EU. He pointed out the significant progress recorded in the reform process and bilateral cooperation between EU and FYROM in issues such visa liberalization and benchmarks for opening negotiations. He underlined that interaction between two parliaments would contribute to the reconciliation process in the Balkan region. Some priorities that JPC should have addressed were 1) to resolve the name issue, 2) to strengthen regular political dialogue between the EU and FYROM in every level and also at leadership level 3) to increase the involvement of the civil society in the decision making process with an inclusive approach. He also stressed the importance of implementing the Ohrid Framework Agreement for ensuring cooperation and political stability.

Ms Alexandra CAS GRANJE, Director of DG Enlargement-B of the EU, stressed the importance of the visa liberalisation as a tangible result of integration efforts made by the FYROM and a proof of the excellent work done by the authorities. She also pointed out some remaining challenges ahead of accession. Starting with the political criteria, Commission had identified three issues to be addressed: strengthening political dialogue, continuous effort to fully implement the Ohrid Framework Agreement and improving inter-ethnic relations. She stressed that political dialogue needed to be strengthened under the roof of the Parliament at all levels; the implementation of the law of parliament was welcomed and further measures needed to be taken like setting up parliamentary institute,

establishment of the practice of oversight hearings and strengthening of the coordination between political parties and adoption of some amendments on the parliament rule in a spirit of consensus. About public administration, additional steps needed to be taken to assure transparency and professionalism, and full respect on the provision of the spirit of law of the civil servants, dialogue between the public institutions needed to be improved and independent judiciary system was needed in order to ensure the rule of law. Regarding the economic criteria FYROM progressed towards a market economy and should work on reducing the structural weaknesses. She stressed the need for sound macro-economic management and active labour market measures to restore growth and reduce the high unemployment level (34%) in the country. The competitiveness of the economy should be improved though attracting higher and more foreign direct investment. She emphasized that improving the legal framework and effectiveness of the judiciary were the key factors to increase the competitiveness and to attract foreign direct investment. The Commission would continue to support the country in addressing these challenges through regular dialogue and financial cooperation. There were still many gaps in the implementation of acquis in many areas like energy, social policy and employment. She mentioned that the Commission and the Parliament recommended opening the accession negotiations and it was now at the Council of Europe to decide about it.

4. Overview of the situation of the judicial system and the functioning of public administration: assessment of the reforms needed

Ms. Slavica GRKOVSKA LOSKOVA, Vice-Chair of the Delegation (SDSM), gave an overview of the reforms related to the judicial system. The FYROM had passed certain laws about judicial and court tax, accelerating the court procedures and introduced a new automated system for improving the information system in the management of cases. Some constitutional and legal changes were introduced; notwithstanding there was still a lag in the rule of law. Although the FYROM issued the laws related to provide just and legal procedures for the election of judges based on merit, the judiciary promotions were still under political influence and there was a lack of implementation of legislation. There had been spectacular arrests and lawsuits to fight against corruption and organized crimes, but the number of actual court proceedings showed a different picture. Nepotism was a widespread case in the judiciary appointments and there seemed to be lack of political will to change this system. The public prosecutors did not take necessary actions towards the crimes committed by the heads of state institutions. She stressed that professional and party-free judiciary was essential for the development of FYROM. Different from the other laws issued related to the accession preparations, the law on civil servants had been adopted without consensus among the political parties in the Parliament and this was considered as an abuse of trust. General perception about the public administration was that it was over-sized and the public salaries alone accounted to 20% of the national budget. She expressed that the size of the public administration should be diminished as suggested also by the Commission and it should be only at the service of the citizens not political party needs. There had been several cases with teachers not having their contracts renewed since they were not part of the party in power and were replaced by persons with inadequate education. She added that same things also happened in other public institutions. She concluded that reforms in the judiciary and public administration were huge challenges for FYROM and great political will and international support was needed for this end.

Mr Martin KASTLER, MEP-PPE, touched upon three points: 1) the cooperation between FYROM and the international criminal court was excellent, 2) police reform -the police law had been adopted but reform was still needed in cooperation in specialized areas like organized crime, drugs smuggling and trafficking), education and appointment

of the officers. 3) the importance of involving citizens with fair rules and transparency and the importance of avoiding conflicts of interests and nepotism.

Mr GEORGIEFF said that FYROM had been ruled by one party system for 50 years, which made it inefficient and corrupt. 120 members of the parliament belonged to one party, 80% of the judges and public prosecutors, ambassadors and many public administration officers also chosen from among ranks of the same party group. So the judiciary system was build upon these social and political circumstances. He emphasized that building a new system could not be done always with the same people. He acknowledged that judiciary system in FYROM had improved in the recent years especially viewing diminishing level of backlog of lawsuits. The situation of judiciary system was concern for both FYROM public and the EU, so change should not be resisted. He mentioned that certain level of political influence could be the case as we were all political persons and it was normal that political parties might have had some preferences as was the case in some other countries. The difference in FYROM was that all of the judiciary was chosen under the influence by one political party.

Mr Michael CRAMER, MEP- Verts/ALE, said judges in Berlin the judges had to be elected with 2/3 majority in order to create bigger consensus, a system that had proved to be very useful in establishing trust for the judiciary. In electing a supreme judge pluralism was very important. It was not just an issue of getting approval of majority as it could be abused. He suggested that having a threshold in selecting judges was a better option.

Mr Milan ZVER, MEP-PPE, in response to the arguments about being ruled by one party for 50 years, raised the argument that if the political elite had not changed and the transition was run by old nomenclature then this was much worse situation. So to start the negotiations would be an effective solution to achieve a better organization and to solve this monopolistic government problem.

Ms. GRKOVSKA LOSKOVA said that it was unacceptable to appoint judges on political grounds. The excuse could not be that for 50 years one party elected judges and now the other party would replace them with its own, just because of the way they had been allegedly appointed before. This trend must stop and an impartial and independent judiciary system should be restored for the interest of FYROM and for the sake of democracy.

Mr KASTLER suggested FYROM to have a look at the German way of electing judges (percentages system) in order to reflect political pluralism.

5. Overview on inter-ethnic relations in the FYROM

Mr. Rafiz ALITI, Vice-Chair of the FYROM Delegation, noted that some progress made on the issue, and especially improvements regarding equitable representation for ethnic communities and implementation of the law on languages, especially albanian, as well as encouraging ethnic integration in education. There were further initiatives to encourage the implementation of the law on languages at local level with a special emphasis on the use of languages of smaller ethnic communities. In order to strengthen interethnic integration, strategies were prepared to integrate children from various ethnic communities and to enhance the cooperation between the inter-ethnic relations committee within the assembly of the FYROM and municipal committees for interethnic relations. Municipal committees had been set up in most of the places where it was compulsory by law. With a view to observe equitable representation principle, the law on civil servants contained an annual target for employing members of the non-majority

communities. Nevertheless, there was still need for equitable representation of Albanian people in public administration. In order to strengthen the capacity of the secretariat for implementing the Framework Agreement, 1303 civil servants were employed in 2009, further 1600 civil servants were envisaged to be employed in 2010-funded by the K-5 program. A special emphasis would be put on the employment from the Roma and Turkish communities which were seriously underrepresented. Funds had been allocated for establishing a single data collection system for the entire public administration for assuring equitable representation. Furthermore a new strategy was passed on the communication and building awareness regarding the implementation of the Framework Agreement. An agency was set up for protecting and promoting the interests of members of the communities representing less than 20% of the population. There would further be projects to integrate marginalised Roma population into society and the investments concentrating on city centres with a large Roma population focusing on employment, health care, housing, infrastructure and education. There would be a program in order to improve the integration of Roma children into schools, and distribution of scholarships for Roma children.

Mr SPASENOVSKI, mentioned that inter-ethnic community issue was one of the leading issues that FYROM should resolve. Although some serious steps had been taken, there were still some issues need to be resolved. Eventhough FYROM fully integrates into Europe this topic should be managed on an ongoing basis and requests of the ethnic communities needs to be accomodated.

Mr Evgeni KIRILOV, MEP-S&D, emphasized that the intercommunity relations issue was the most critical issue in this process and it was not easy to solve. Proportional representation issue in administration could not be achieved yet. He acknowledged that this was a longterm target and could not be solved overnight. He pointed out there were differences among the political parties regarding the project called Skopje 2014. The ethnic communities issue had raised tension not only within the country but also with the neighbouring countries therefore these subtle issue should be solved in dialogue with all the concerned parities. If the process concentrates on one community then it would create problems. He pointed out that there were a lot of issues in the Ohrid Agreement still remain to be implemented. Although some confidence building was achieved already, the projects should not be introduced for short-term internal political reasons but with a spirit to find a peacefull solution in the long-run.

Mr ZVER expressed his appreciation of the improved strategy for the Roma population in FYROM and suggested to exchange some good practices in Slovenia on this issue.

Mr. Ivan STOILJKOVIC, MP (DPSM), expressed his content regarding the establishment of the agency for protecting the rights of ethnic communities and hopes about seeing this agency fully operational in the following preiod. He also emphasized the importance to improve the election process to include minorities. Building relations between the ethnic communities was a complex process and required sincerety by leaders of political parties and policymakers.

Ms. Sonja MIRAKOVSKA, MP (NSDP) also emphasized the importance of sincerity in the policy making process. She noted that the 2014 project did not serve building good interethnic relations and that the Government should return to the right track in its approach.

Mr. Aleksandar NIKOLOVSKI, MP (VMRO-DPMNE) thought the 2014 critique was exaggerated and stressed the importance of the local implementation of the Ohrid Framework Agreement.

6. The situation in the economy and the reforms made by the FYROM Government in order to fulfil EU membership obligations.

Ms. Vladanka AVIROVIC, MP (SPM), pointed out the devastating effects of the current economic crisis on the FYROM as a small and open market economy. In 2006, 2007 and 2008 FYROM achieved to have a GDP growth rate over 5.5%. But the recent global crisis affected the overall efforts on economic growth and economic wellbeing in the FYROM and the growth rate was recorded as -1.4% in 2009. She emphasized the importance to assess whether FYROM effectively dealt with the devastating effects of the crisis with the least possible damages in important sectors such as the metal processing sector and textile industry which were export oriented sectors. It was important to see whether the FYROM succeeded the structural reforms report introduced in 2006 and 2007, and to bring the economy to a bearable level of development. Commission welcomed the maintenance of the level of microeconomic stability and the external debt, the level of the budget deficit and inflation at a stable level and favourably assessed the negative GDP growth level. According to the 2009 business report of the World Bank, FYROM ranked as 32. among 183 countries, which ranked far much better than 60+ positions it had in the previous years which also meant that reforms undertaken were giving their results. Projections for 2010 were 2% growth in GDP, 2% for the inflation. FYROM was strictly abiding by the WTO rules and standards. The budget deficit was 2.8% and public debt was projected to be around 30% (currently 36%) of the GDP, which were within the frames of the EU standards. There were further efforts to reduce unemployment.

Mr Georgios TOUSSAS, MEP-GUE/NGL, attracted the attention to exacerbating situation of the working class in FYROM. He pointed out that it was important whether the four freedoms had been achieved in FYROM and whether reforms had been done in an expedited fashion and implemented properly and whether these steps were taken at the expense of the working class. The measures prescribed by the European Commission to overcome the crises were often seen as one sided and put the workers in a position to pay for the solutions to the crises. So the Member States and candidate states needed to take this into account. Although the pre-accession times could be difficult, the problems should have been dealt with in the correct fashion. He emphasized that those who produce had to have the means of production in their own possession and they should be able to take advantage of what they produce. They had a very consistent stand and did not agree with the EU that it took off the 7th JPC and its results.

7. Environmental Policies and Transport Infrastructure

A participant mentioned that there was a legislation in the European acquis about the management of water supplies which would solve the problems regarding the Vardar River and the application of this legislation was postponed for 4 years. He asked the reason of this postponement.

(The meeting was adjourned and resumed the following day. The environment topic was dealt with after the session on the adoption of the recommendations.)

Ms POPOVSKA mentioned that in the recent years FYROM had made progress on many issues but there were still many tasks to be done. Parliament was working hard for aligning the FYROM legislation with the acquis. FYROM adopted number of national strategy documents about environmental investments, sustainable development, institutional development and improving environmental capacity for the period 2009-
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2014. FYROM kept developing cross-border cooperation in the area of environment with neighbouring countries such as with Albania about the joint management of resources of the lake of Ohrid river basin and with Albania and Greece on Prespa region. In the coming period FYROM would try to approximate itself to the EU policies on environment by 1) strengthening the administrative structures and efficient environment management 2) close cooperation between the local authorities for more efficient implementation of the plans and measures 3) integrating environmental aspects in various sectors 4) increasing capital investment in the environment to ensure greater quality of services and the protection of the environment and human health. They had also been adopting measures regarding waste management on the regional level. Regarding water management, they were having projects about building water supply, switch, collection, purification, treatment and waste management systems. Concerning transport structure, in 2008 FYROM government signed a concession agreement with a Turkish company called TAF for a period of 20 years to improve and build airports. About the agreement for establishing a transport community for the western Balkan region, they expect more joint activities in the following period and expect to sign the agreement in the first half of 2010. They had further projects ongoing for internal and transborder roads and highways such as Corridor-8 and 10. They had also projects on railroad but to a limited level. Intensifying the transportation in FYROM and the region meant intensifying the economic and inter-human cooperation in the region. Public transport issue was also concern in FYROM and there were lots of issues to be addressed for achieving a quality and environment friendly public transport. He informed that currently the FYROM Parliament accepted a resolution about climate change initiated by the Women MP Club referring to the Copenhagen Conference. He expressed that environment issue had been a marginalized issue before but now it turned into a priority issue in the government agenda. The tourism issue also began to be taken from environmental perspective as well.

Mr CRAMER expressed that the benchmarks (20% more energy efficiency, 20% less energy consumption, 20% renewable energy) set by the Parliament for FYROM about environment were not found ambitious enough by the Greens. Transport issue was of utmost importance regarding environmental concerns. Urban and industrial areas were the main pollution creating areas. There were many investments in Europe to increase the energy efficiency and alleviate pollution, however some investments in other sectors like transport cancels out these efforts. In urban areas like Skopja, transport was responsible for 70% of the emissions, therefore the way we deal with transport issues in urban areas had to change. He expressed that 60% of transport investments were going to roads, very little amount was going to railways, 0.9% was going to bicycles. So bicycle usage could be encouraged more. He emphasized that trans-european networks for the EU could only be financed if the member states put forward their own projects and ideas for the investments. He mentioned about "Iron Curtain Trail" (cycle path) connecting Russia, East and south European countries and mentioned that it would be important in increasing the human and cultural connection and tourism in the area. Likewise, he suggested that FYROM also should bring its own transportation projects regarding tourism and connecting cultures to receive co-financing from the EU.

Mr CHATZIMARKAKIS pointed out the road safety issue viewing the high death rates on the highways in FYROM. He invited people to join an event called FIE European traffic education to be held in Skopja in September 2010 which aims to educate children and young drivers to inform and improve their safe driving skills.

8. Management of EU funds, with a particular view to the Instrument for Pre-Accession Assistance (IPA)

Mr. Emilijan STANKOVIC, MP (SDSM), gave some brief information about the developments regarding IPA funds. FYROM formed a team on the administration and carrying out this project. FYROM got the accreditation for the 3rd, 4th and 5th components of IPA and about to get the 1st component. Regarding the 2nd component FYROM did not submit a request for accreditation. Accreditations were a major concern for FYROM as it was confirmation that the country had the necessary administrative capacity to take over full control and management of EU funds. They were starting new decentralized implementation. The state would be more involved in all phases of project implementation starting from defining needs, preparation of project documentation, carrying out the project as well as follow up and evaluation. Decentralized system would allow FYROM to address its priorities in a better way, to improve the mechanisms and procedures for project implementation by engaging competent domestic experts. As for the projects foreseen by IPA regarding the fulfillment of political criteria, FYROM had undertaken certain activities. As part of the 1st component they also had a project for capacity building of the administration of the FYROM which was due to start in 2010 and end in 2011. This project would help building up capacities for negotiation teams for FYROM, enriching the Parliamentary library and improving the transparency of the assembly in front of the citizens by allowing and improving the access to Parliamentary web page. With regard to economic criteria, IPA projects aimed at enhancing the capacities of the ministry of finance especially macroeconomics by constructing databases in the central bank and state statistical bureau and the commission on protection of competitiveness. Regarding the capacities to undertake the obligations stemming from the EU membership, IPA projects would be aimed at strengthening the capacities of regulators such as the broadcasting council, the agency for electronic telecommunications and other regulatory bodies, which would increase their transparency. Trainings were also held for improving the capacities for the implementation of agricultural policy, food safety, veterinary and phytosanitary policy, transport and improving the capacities of the relevant institutions related to energy and environment policies. With a view to improve cross-border cooperation, projects would be launched between Bulgaria, Albania and Greece to improve cooperation especially among border municipalities with a focus on economic development, tourism, environment, social cohesion and quality of life in cross-border areas. About the development of human resources, after having received the accreditation the projects would be launched focusing on employment, attracting and keeping people on the work places, integrating young unemployed people, women and other unemployed in the labour market, decreasing gray economy, investment in human capital, availability to good quality of education for all ethnic communities, development of vocational education, lifelong learning, support for the process of social inclusion of the vulnerable groups and integration of minorities. Regarding the 5th component -development of the agriculture- the first calls had already come forth right after the accreditation was awarded. The measures would be aimed at developing rural areas, modernization and introduction of new technology in the agricultural production especially in the areas that lag below the standards of the EU.

Mr KASTLER raised the concerns about anti-corruption and restoring well functioning judiciary system by improving the judicial training. He mentioned that some funds could be arranged from the CARDS for the education of students to be civil servants in the judiciary, networking of electronic media in the service of judges and prosecutors; and technical assistance for example by exchanging experts from the EU member states with FYROM.

9. Consideration and adoption of the Recommendations of the Joint Parliamentary Committee

The Draft Declaration and Recommendations and the tabled amendments were presented and considered. The Chair announced that all amendments had been tabled by the EP Delegation and none by the Macedonian Delegation. He then presented them one by one:

Paragraph 1: One amendment refers to the Thessaloniki Agenda, and aims to avoid repeating twice the mention of the 2003 Summit.

Paragraph 2A: It refers to the process of European integration according to the Copenhagen criteria and other criteria: why should other criteria be mentioned if the accession is governed by the Copenhagen criteria?

Paragraph 3: There was an amendment by **Mr THALER** aiming at stressing that the country should intensify its efforts to prepare for EU accession;

Paragraph 7: One of the participants from a party in opposition in FYROM parliament pointed out the importance of strengthening the rights of the opposition in the FYROM parliament. She mentioned that the rules of procedure regarding this issue were previously adopted only by the parliamentary majority at the time when the opposition was not in the parliament. However later on an agreement was reached at the Parliament that parties would together work on the European agenda and accordingly a law was adopted in September 2009 on this issue. As a part of this agreement, previous rules of procedure were also going to change until the end of 2009. However as this issue was not dealt yet. She expressed that they insist on this issue to be part of the Recommendations.

Paragraph 12:

Mr CRAMER pointed out that sexual orientation and non-discrimination law had been included in the first draft of Recommendations but however it was cancelled from the recommendations at the last minute. He insisted that Recommendations should refer to sexual-orientation issue. He expressed that if FYROM does not adopt a non-discriminatory approach to sexual orientation issue and adopt relevant legislation, they would not be able to join the EU.

Mr SPASENOVSKI insisted on sticking to the current wording on the grounds that the framework directive for employment, which was mentioned in the amendment and adopted in the resolution of the European Parliament, was already accepted and transferred to the FYROM legal system. FYROM had its own law on employment and issues related to anti-discrimination including sexual orientation were mentioned there. Therefore there was no necessity to mention this framework directive there. FYROM Parliament was already discussing a new law on non-discrimination. He noted that the law concentrated on 10-11 categories of discrimination by name and, though sexual orientation words were not mentioned, it also covers sexual orientation issue.

Mr CRAMER once more challenged the issue and asked why only the sexual orientation and non-discrimination laws were erased from the first draft while the rest of the wording stayed the same. He mentioned that this issue had been agreed to be discussed in FYROM in the European Parliament before. But now on the contrary this issue was being cancelled in the recommendations. He also mentioned that if there were laws about this issue in FYROM then there was no harm in repeating them here as well.

Mr CHATZIMARKAKIS also reminded that the part related to women was also erased from the draft. He suggested taking the wording of Mr Cramer as a basis naming the numbers of the regulation but not the titles.

Mr CRAMER rejected the suggestion and expressed that he wanted the sexual orientation to be mentioned in the Recommendations.

Ms. Liljana POPOVSKA mentioned that she was a member of the body of anti-discrimination, agreed with Mr Cramer and mentioned the Parliament would make amendments on this issue according to European legislations and their committee agreed to effort to have sexual orientation mentioned in the law. About the removal of the mention of women from the draft of Recommendations, she mentioned that even though this expression did not take place in the draft, the women position had tremendously improved in the FYROM society. However, she noted that improving the position of women in political life at local level should be an issue to be focused on further.

Mr CHATZIMARKAKIS mentioned that according to the JPC rules since there was no majority supporting Mr Cramer's amendment, the amendment was not accepted. But he also mentioned Mr Cramer had every other means to raise his point in other platforms.

Paragraph 22:

Mr CRAMER mentioned that FYROM had not recorded a progress in the public transportation issue. He pointed out that railway transport was important for environmental protection and this issue was ignored in FYROM. So emphasis was put on these matters in the Recommendation.

Amendments to the paragraph regarding the graveyards of the soldiers

(Mr KIRILOV requested a paragraph to enter into the Recommendations about the graveyards)

Mr SPASENOVSKI expressed that there were plenty of other channels to solve this small problem so this problem should not be part of the official talks between Bulgarian and FYROM government but should be dealt on other platforms. On the other hand he mentioned that this was a bilateral problem between FYROM and Bulgaria therefore was not connected to FYROM's EU integration process.

Mr CHATZIMARKAKIS put amendment to voting and by majority the amendment was declined.

Mr TOUSSAS mentioned that he would vote against the whole text of the Recommendations, according to the GUE/NGL group's position who had been against the Thaler Resolution adopted by the European Parliament on 10 February 2010.

At the end, the Recommendations were adopted by majority with 2 abstentions and 1 vote against.

10. Any other business

No further issues were raised.

11. Date and place of the 8th meeting of the EU- Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia Joint Parliamentary Committee

It was decided to hold the next meeting in Brussels in Autumn 2010 after the publication of the Progress Report.

ΠΡИСΥΣΤΒΗВ ЛИСТ/LISTA DE ASISTENCIA/PREZENČNÍ LISTINA/DELTAGERLISTE/
ANWESENHEITSLISTE/KOHALOLIJATE NIMEKIRI/KATAΣΤΑΣΗ ΠΑΡΟΝΤΩΝ/RECORD OF ATTENDANCE/
LISTE DE PRÉSENCE/ELENCO DI PRESENZA/APMEKLĒJUMU REĢISTRSDALYVIŲ SĄRAŠAS/JELENĹTI ÍV/
REGISTRU TA' ATTENDENZA/PRESENTIELLIST/LISTA OBECNOŠCI/LISTA DE PRESENÇAS/LISTĂ DE
PREZENŢĂ/ PREZENČNÁ LISTINA/SEZNAM NAVZOČIH/LÄSNÄOLOLISTA/DELTAGARLISTA

Бюро/Mesa/Předsednictvo/Formandskabet/Vorstand/Juhatus/Προεδρείο/Bureau/Ufficiodipresidenza/Prezidijs/Biuras/Elnökség/ Prezydium/Birou/Predsednictvo/Predsedstvo/Puheenjohtajisto/Presidiet (*)	
Mr Jorgo CHATZIMARKAKIS <i>Chairman</i>	
Членове/Diputados/Poslanci/Medlemmer/Mitglieder/Parlamendiliikmed/Μέλη/Members/Députés/Deputati/Deputāti/Nariai/Képvisezők/ Membri/Leden/Posłowie/Deputados/Deputați/Jäsenet/Ledamöter	
Mr Georges BACH, Mr Martin KASTLER, Mr Milan ZVER, Mr Michael CRAMER	
Заместници/Suplentes/Náhradníci/Stedfortrædere/Stellvertreter/Asendusliikmed/Αναπληρωτές/Substitutes/Suppléants/Supplenti/ Aizstājēji/Pavaduojantysnariai/Póttagok/Sostituti/Plaatsvervangers/Zastępcy/Membrossuplentes/Supleanți/Náhradníci/Namestniki/ Varajäsenet/Suppleanter	
Mr Evgeni KIRILOV, Mr Georgios TOUSSAS, Mr Zoran THALER	
Секретариат на политическите групи/Secretaría de los Grupos políticos/Sekretariát politických skupin/Gruppenes sekretariat/ Sekretariat der Fraktionen/Fraktsioonide sekretariaat/Γραμματεία των Πολιτικών Ομάδων/Secretariats of political groups/Secrétariat des groupes politiques/Segreteria gruppi politici/Politisko grupu sekretariāts/Frakciju sekretoriai/Képvisezőcsoportok titkársága/Sekretarjat gruppi politici/Fractiesecretariaten/Sekretariat Grup Politycznych/Secr. dos grupos políticos/Secretariate grupuri politice/Sekretariát politických skupin/Sekretariat političnih skupin/Poliittisten ryhmien sihteeristö/Gruppenas sekretariat	
PPE S&D ALDE ECR Verts/ALE GUE/NGL EFD NI	Mr Marek HANIBAL Mr Ciprian MATEI
Генерална дирекция/Dirección General/Generální ředitelství/Generaldirektorat/Generaldirektion/Peadirektoraat/Γενική Διεύθυνση/ Directorate-General/Direction générale/Direzione generale/Generāldirektorāts/Generalinis direktoratas/Főigazgatóság/Direktorat Generali/Direktoraten-generaal/Dyrekcja Generalna/Direcção-Geral/Direcții Generale/Generálne riaditeľstvo/Generalni direktorat/ Pääosasto/Generaldirektorat	
DG PRES DG IPOL DG EXPO DG COMM DG PERS DG INLO DG TRAD DG INTE DG FINS DG ITEC	## ## Mr Ciril STOKELJ Director Regions ## ## ## ## ## ## ## ##

<p>Секретариат на комисията/Secretaría de la comisión/Sekretariát výboru/Udvalgssekretariatet/Ausschusssekretariat/Komisjoni sekretariaat/Γραμματεία επιτροπής/Committee secretariat/Secrétariat de la commission/Segreteria della commissione/Komitejas sekretariāts/Komitato sekretoriatas/A bizottság titkársága/Sekretarjat tal-kumitat/Commissiesecretariaat/Sekretariat komisji/Sekretariado da comissão/Sekretariat comisie/Sekretariat odbora/Valiokunnan sihteeristö/Utskottssekretariatet</p>
<p>Mr Thomas GRUNERT Ms Sabina MAZZI-ZISSIS</p>
<p>Сътрудник/Asistente/Asistent/Assistent/Assistenz/Βοηθός/Assistant/Assistente/Palīgs/Padējējas/Assisztens/Asystent/Pomočnik/Avustaja/Assistenten</p>
<p>Ms Cesarina DALL'OZZO Ms Milda GALUBICKAITE</p>

- * (P) =
 Председател/Presidente/Předseda/Formand/Vorsitzender/Esimees/Πρόεδρος/Chair(wo)man/Président/Priekšsēdētājs/Pirmininkas/ Elnök/Chairman'/Voorzitter/Przewodniczący/Preşedinte/Predseda/Predsednik/Puheenjohtaja/Ordförande
- (VP) = Заместник-председател/Vicepresidente/Místopředseda/Næstformand/Stellvertretender
 Vorsitzender/Aseesimees/Αντιπρόεδρος/ Vice-Chair(wo)man/Vice-Président/Priekšsēdētāja vietnieks/Pirmininko pavaduotojas/Alelnök/Víci'Chairman'/Ondervoorzitter/ Wiceprzewodniczący/Vice-
 Presidente/Vicepreşedinte/Podpredseda/Podpredsednik/Varapuheenjohtaja/Vice ordförande
- (M) = Член/Miembro/Člen/Medlem./Mitglied/Parlamendiliige/Μέλος/Member/Membre/Membro/Deputāts/Narys/Képviselő/Membri/Lid/Członek/Membro/Membri/Člen/Poslanec/Jäsen/Ledamot
- (F) = Длъжностно
 лице/Funcionario/Úředník/Tjenestemand/Beamter/Ametnik/Υπάλληλος/Official/Fonctionnaire/Funzionario/Ierēdnis/Pareigūnas/Tisztviselő/Ufficjal/Ambtenaar/Urządник/Funcionário/Funcionar/Úradnik/Uradnik/Virkamies/Tjänsteman

**FORMER YUGOSLAV REPUBLIC OF MACEDONIA DELEGATION TO THE
JOINT PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEE**

7TH MEETING

SKOPJE, 18-19 FEBRUARY 2010

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

**Delegation from the Assembly of the Republic of Macedonia to the JPC
RM-EU**

Co-Chair:

- Mr. Aleksandar Spasenovski, MP, Chair of the Delegation (VMRO-DPMNE)

Vice Co-Chairs :

- Mr. Rafiz Aliti, MP, Vice-Chair of the Delegation (DUI)
- Ms. Slavica Grkovska Loskova, Vice-Chair of the Delegation (SDSM)

Members:

- Ms. Silvana Boneva, MP, (VMRO-DPMNE)
- Mr. Ilija Kitanovski, MP, (VMRO-DPMNE)
- Ms. Vladanka Avirovic, MP, (SPM)
- Mr. Ivan Stoilkovic, MP, (DPSM)
- Mr. Aleksandar Nikoloki, MP, (VMRO-DPMNE)
- Ms. Liljana Popovska, MP, (DRM)
- Ms. Teuta Arifi, MP, (DUI)
- Mr. Tome Cingovski, MP, (SDSM)
- Mr. Emilijan Stankovic, MP, (SDSM)
- Ms. Sonja Mirakovska, MP, (NSDP)
- Ms Sadije Iljazi, MP, (DPA)

Secretariat of the Assembly of the Republic of Macedonia:

- Mr. Liman Avdiu, State Advisor for International Cooperation
- Ms. Lidija Karakamceva, Head of the International Cooperation Department
- Ms. Ana Kachakova, Deputy-Head of the International Cooperation Department
- Mr. Rexhep Prekopuca, Head of the Unit for Bilateral Relations
- Ms. Marijana Opasinova, Multilateral Cooperation Advisor

- Ms. Daniela Lumakovska, Protocol Officer
- Ms. Jasminka Velickovska, Protocol Officer
- Mr. Fatmir Jakupi, Assistant for International Cooperation

Government of the Republic of Macedonia

Secretariat for European Affairs:

- Mr. Vasko Naumovski, Deputy-President of the Government of the Republic of Macedonia

Ministry of Foreign Affairs:

- Mr. Antonio Milosoki, Minister of Foreign Affairs
- Mr. Blerim Reka, Ambassador in the EU Mission of the Republic of Macedonia in Brussels
- Ms. Agneza Rusi, State Advisor, EU Directorate in the Ministry
- Mr. Toni Pavloski, Minister Counsellor, EU Directorate in the Ministry
- Ms. Jasminka Risteska, EU Directorate in the Ministry.