



Delegation to the EU-former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia Joint Parliamentary Committee

D-MK_PV(2018)0912_01

MINUTES

of the meeting of 12 September 2018, 17.00-18.00
Strasbourg

The meeting opened at 17.00 on Tuesday, 12 September 2018, with Alojz Peterle (Chair) presiding.

The Chair welcomed participating Members and guests and explained that the aim of the meeting was to have an exchange of views on the developments in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia since the last delegation meeting, as well as to prepare for the 15th JPC scheduled on 19-20 September in Skopje.

1. Adoption of the draft agenda

Agenda was adopted without changes.

2. Approval of minutes of the meeting of 29 January 2018 (PE619.903v01-00)

Minutes were approved without changes.

3. Exchange of views on the political situation in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia with

- **Ambassador Agneza RUSI POPOVSKA**, Mission of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia to the EU

Ambassador thanked the EP for its continuous support for the accession process and for allowing the PM Zaev to address the plenary on the following day. Ambassador started her presentation by underlining the importance of the September 30 referendum on the name issue, “a historic crossroad as important as the independence referendum in the 90s”. Recent high-level visits reinforced citizens’ trust in the importance of the country to the EU. Regarding the accession reforms, current focus is on the judiciary, intelligence and security sector and the public administration reform. Screening of the Chapter 23 should start in the end of September. Ambassador finished her speech by appealing on MEPs to continue engaging in the Balkans and underlined the importance of the EU for the region as well as calling on the EU to acknowledge its own strategic role there.

- **Mr Ivo VAJGL**, EP *rapporteur* on the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia

The rapporteur concurred that support of the international community was extremely important and welcomed all the high-level visits taking place (including the visit of the High Representative Federica Mogherini planned on 13 September 2018). He hailed the encouraging new situation prevailing in the country and the region due to historic agreements reached with Greece and Bulgaria. Rapporteur Vajgl briefly presented the state of play of his report and underlined that 224 amendments tabled were much less than in previous years and this was mainly due to more constructive approach of MEPs.

- **Mr David CULLEN**, Head of Unit for the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Kosovo, DG NEAR

Mr David Cullen explained that the European Commission had been consistently critical in all those years with a view to help the country progress on its EU integration path. He therefore saluted progress made in the year before and especially underlined the extraordinary progress on good neighbourly relations. He also expressed satisfaction that despite overwhelming focus on the referendum the government had not stopped working on the priority reforms, which needed to be continued and accelerated.

The **debate** focused on the possible outcomes of the referendum. Ambassador stressed that last official polls forecasting only 45% turnout were concluded before all the high-level visits took place and expressed expectation that next polls would show higher turnout and trust of citizens. A question related to economy was also raised ("0% growth in 2017"). Ambassador replicated that newest figures let the government expect a 3% growth by the end of the year.

4. Preparation for the 15th Meeting of the EU-former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia Joint Parliamentary Committee in Skopje on 19-20 September 2018

The Chair briefly presented the draft agenda and draft programme of the JPC and called Members to inform the secretariat on which agenda items they would like to be first speakers. He also reminded that the joint text of draft recommendations, prepared by both Co-Chairs, was circulated to all JPC Members with a deadline for amendments on Thursday 13 September eob (end of business). After this deadline it would be not possible to incorporate amendments in the voting list.

5. Any other business

No other business was discussed.

6. Date and place of the next meeting

15th EU-former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia JPC, 19-20 September 2019, Skopje.

The meeting closed at 18.00.

**/LISTA DE ASISTENCIA/PREZEN NÍ LISTINA/DELTAGERLISTE/
 ANWESENHEITSLISTE/KOHALOLIJATE NIMEKIRI/ /RECORD OF ATTENDANCE/
 LISTE DE PRÉSENCE/POPIS NAZO NIH/ELENCO DI PRESENZA/APMEKL JUMU RE ISTRS/DALYVI S RAŠAS/
 JELENLÉTI ÍV/RE ISTRU TA' ATTENDENZA/PRESENTIELIJST/LISTA OBECNO CI/LISTA DE PRESENÇAS/
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Alojz Peterle
/Diputados/Poslanci/Medlemmer/Mitglieder/Parlamendiliikmed/ /Members/Députés/Zastupnici/Deputati/Deput ti/Nariai/ Képviselek/Membri/Leden/Posłowie/Deputados/Deputa i/Jäsenet/Ledamöter
Michael Cramer, Isabella De Monte, Marijana Petir
/Suplentes/Náhradníci/Stedfortrædere/Stellvertreter/Asendusliikmed/ /Substitutes/Suppléants/Zamjenici/ Supplenti/Aizst ģ ji/Pavadojantysnariai/Pótagok/Sostituti/Plaatsvervangers/Zast pcy/Membros suplentes/Suplean i/Náhradníci/ Namestniki/Varajäsenet/Suppleanter

200 (2)	
206 (3)	
Ivo Vaigl	
53 (8) (/Punto del orden del día/Bod po adu jednaní (OJ)/Punkt på dagsordenen/Tagesordnungspunkt/ Päevakorra punkt/ μ μ /Agenda item/Point OJ/To ka dnevnoĝ reda/Punto all'ordine del giorno/Darba k rt bas punkts/Darbotvark s punktās/Napirendi pont/Punt A enda/Agendapunt/Punkt porz dku dziennego/Ponto OD/Punct de pe ordinea de zi/Bod programu schôdze/To ka UL/Esityslistan kohta/Föredragningslista punkt)	
Agneza Rusi Popovska, Ambassador , Mission of the FYROM	3
Ivo Vaigl, EP Rapporteur on the FYROM	3
David Cullen, HoU for the FYROM, Kosovo, DG NEAR	3

/Observadores/Pozorovateľ/Observatører/Beobachter/Vaatlejad/ Osservatori/Nov rot ji/Steb tojai/Megfigyel k/Osservatori/Waarnemers/Obserwatorzy/Observadores/Observatori/Pozorovatelja/ Opazovalci/Tarkkailijat/Observatörer	/Observers/Observateurs/Promatritsi/ Osservatori/Nov rot ji/Steb tojai/Megfigyel k/Osservatori/Waarnemers/Obserwatorzy/Observadores/Observatori/Pozorovatelja/ Opazovalci/Tarkkailijat/Observatörer

/Por invitación del presidente/Na pozvání předsedy/Efter indbydelse fra formanden/Auf Einladung des Vorsitzenden/Esimehe kutsel/ Na poziv predsjednika/Su invito del presidente/P c priekšs d t ja uzaicin juma/Pirmininkui pakvietus/Az elnök meghívására/ Fuq stedina ta -Chairman'/Op uitnodiging van de voorzitter/Na zaproszenie Przewodniczego/A convite do Presidente/La invita ia pre edintelui/Na pozvanie predsedu/Na povabilo predsednika/Puheenjohtajan kutsusta/På ordförandens inbjudan

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Nicolas Leveine	
/Servicio Europeo de Acción Exterior/Evropská služba pro vnější činnost/ EU-Udenrigstjenesten/Europäischer Auswärtiger Dienst/Euroopa välisteenistus/ External Action service/Service européen pour l'action extérieure/Evropska služba za vanjsko djelovanje/Servizio europeo per l'azione esterna/Eiropas ārējais darbs dienests/Europolos išorės veiksmų tarnyba/Európai Kültügyi Szolgálat/Servizz Ewropew għall-Azzjoni Esterna/Europese dienst voor extern optreden/Europejska Służba Działania Zewnętrznych/Serviço Europeu para a Acção Externa/ Serviciul european pentru acțiune externă/Európska služba pre vonkajšiu činnosť/Evropska služba za zunanje delovanje/Euroopan ulkosuhdehallinto/Europeiska avdelningen för yttre åtgärder (*)	
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PPE	Olivier Le Saec
S&D	Jorgen Siil
ECR	
ALDE	
Verts/ALE	
GUE/NGL	Charalampos Kontonis
EFDD	
ENF	
NI	

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Tatiana Mrazikova	
/Asistente/Asistent/Assistent/Assistentz/ /Assistant/Assistente/Pal gs/Pad j jas/Assisztens/Asystent/Pomo nik/ Avustaja/Assistenten	
Cristina Chiorean	

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