



European Parliament

Jean Monnet dialogue

Conclusions from the Third Jean Monnet Dialogue with the Sobranie, Skopje, 31 January - 1 February 2020

We, the Leadership, coordinators and representatives of the parliamentary parties in the Sobranie, met for a third time in the format of the Jean Monnet Dialogue for peace and democracy, in Skopje on 31 January and 1 February 2020. We concluded that the dialogue has been a key instrument of consensus building in our work throughout the current legislative term, helping to promote and drive the EU integration process, by carrying out the necessary reforms, including institutional reforms of the Sobranie.

We started the Dialogue process in Ohrid, in May 2018. The First Jean Monnet Dialogue resulted into the adoption of the Code of Ethics, with an overwhelming cross-party majority in the plenary of the Sobranie. The Second JMD addressed the topic of the reform of the Rules of Procedure, another key recommendation from the European Commission's report and, in addition, we started our discussions on the strategic issue of the institutional independence of the Sobranie.

The Sobranie has also delivered on the independence of human resources by amending the Law on the National Assembly as adopted in January 2020. The Assembly's secretariat has also shown its key role in delivering on reforms by completing the EU Common Assessment Framework. This represents another critical accomplishment in strengthening the public administration during the current legislative term.

Through the Jean Monnet Dialogue process we have demonstrated our commitment to pursuing strategic reforms for the citizens and by adopting a new spirit of parliamentary dialogue we have achieved concrete results to strengthen the Assembly at this critical moment on the country's EU membership path. We believe that the country deserves to open accession negotiations with the EU. In this regard we thank the European Parliament for its unwavering support and the successful outcome of the European Parliament - Western Balkan Speakers' Summit held in Brussels on 28 of January 2020. We encourage the European Parliament to ensure its continuity in supporting the Western Balkan countries.

We also welcome the European Parliament's proposal to include the parliaments of the region in the Conference on the Future of Europe in order to ensure our citizens voices are included on this important strategic reflection in our common future. We look forward to the new enlargement methodology. The Parliament is ready to play a greater role and the next Sobranie, building upon our legacy, is well placed to lead the EU Reform Agenda using all its democratic legitimacy, scrutiny and legislative powers.

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With the third Dialogue, we agreed on most key aspects of the reform of the Rules of Procedure and confirmed our continuous commitment to strengthening democratic processes. We set our political differences aside to consolidate our work on the Rules of Procedure. We leave an important legacy for the new legislature in the form of the agreed text of the amendments to the Rules of Procedure which is annexed to this document as an integral part of the conclusions of the third Jean Monnet Dialogue.

Rules of Procedure reform

The reform of the Rules of Procedure is important to strengthening the role of the Sobranie, in underpinning the EU integration process and in delivering results for the citizens of the country. After the extensive work done by the Working Group on Reforms in consolidating all the proposals coming from the political groups, as well as the expert recommendations of the Secretariat, an agreement was reached on most of the content amending the Rules of Procedure.

We have all committed to propose the amendments to the Rules of Procedure annexed to these conclusions to the new Sobranie, once it is composed after the April 12 parliamentary elections and after we agree on all of the open issues.

The agreed reforms include inter alia the following key areas:

- The Rules concerning the constitutive session, establishment, functioning and work of parliamentary groups before the dissolution of our term.
- Strengthening of accountability of Government through reform of Question Time rules
- Public hearings and debates
- Budgetary procedure
- New Parliamentary Calendar
- Rules on agenda setting
- Defining procedures on EU flagged laws
- Procedures for appointment of Parliamentary leadership and higher administrative management

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Finally, we agreed to continue our dialogue on the implementation of the EU and institutional reform agenda as well as wider topics of mutual interest to the Leadership, Coordinators and representatives of the parliamentary parties in the new term of the Sobranie.

We are committed to ensuring that consensus is maintained in these key areas including by reestablishing the Working Group on the Reform of the Sobranie after the elections and setting





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up new regular rounds of meetings in the Jean Monnet Dialogue format with the European Parliament.

Signed

H.E. Mr Talat XHAFERI, Speaker of the Parliament

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Mr Goran MISOVSKI, Vice-President of the Parliament

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