

# EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

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*Committee on Foreign Affairs*

**2007/0147(CNS)**

4.10.2007

## **OPINION**

of the Committee on Foreign Affairs

for the Committee on Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs

on the proposal for a Council decision concerning the conclusion of the Agreement between the European Community and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia on readmission  
(COM(2007)0432 – C6-0300/2007 – 2007/0147(CNS))

Draftsperson: Erik Meijer

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## SHORT JUSTIFICATION

The Committee on Foreign Affairs welcomes the conclusion of the agreement on readmission between the European Community and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, which has been negotiated in parallel to the visa facilitation agreement.

The agreement enables both partners to strengthen cooperation in the field of migration management, and particularly in the fight against illegal immigration, creating legally binding rules in the readmission procedures.

The agreement will have wide-ranging implications for border management in the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia. In order to meet fully the obligations arising from it, the country will have to boost considerably its capacities in the area of border control, border administration and border policing. It is of the utmost importance to ensure that the readmission procedures fully respect the rights and duties arising from international law in the field of human rights and the protection of asylum seekers and refugees.

Efforts to comply with the obligations will put a strain on the country's financial and human resources. For that reason, additional funds from the Pre-Accession Instrument should be provided in order to facilitate this process as much as possible, in the form of both financial support and technical assistance and transfer of know-how. This should be supplemented by Member States' activities, particularly the activities of Member States bordering on the region. EU Member States could assist by sharing their expertise in the area of border control and migration management. After all, it is in the interests of the European Union to support full and speedy implementation of the agreement.

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The Committee on Foreign Affairs calls on the Committee on Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs, as the committee responsible, to propose approval of the Commission proposal.

## PROCEDURE

<b>Title</b>	Agreement on readmission between the EC and the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia on readmission
<b>References</b>	COM(2007)0432 - C6-0300/2007 - 2007/0147(CNS)
<b>Committee responsible</b>	LIBE
<b>Opinion by</b> Date announced in plenary	AFET 24.9.2007
<b>Drafts(wo)man</b> Date appointed	Erik Meijer 12.9.2007
<b>Discussed in committee</b>	3.10.2007
<b>Date adopted</b>	3.10.2007
<b>Result of final vote</b>	+: 19 -: 4 0: 0
<b>Members present for the final vote</b>	Vittorio Agnoletto, Christopher Beazley, Monika Beňová, Michael Gahler, Jas Gawronski, Alfred Gomolka, Richard Howitt, Anna Ibrisagic, Vytautas Landsbergis, Willy Meyer Pleite, Samuli Pohjamo, Libor Rouček, Katrin Saks, Jacek Saryusz-Wolski, Gitte Seeberg, Ari Vatanen, Josef Zieleniec
<b>Substitute(s) present for the final vote</b>	Árpád Duka-Zólyomi, Gisela Kallenbach, Erik Meijer, Rihards Pīks, Csaba Sándor Tabajdi, Marcello Vernola