

**EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT**  
**DELEGATION TO THE EU- former YUGOSLAV REPUBLIC of**  
**MACEDONIA**  
**JOINT PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEE**

**Minutes**  
**of the meeting**

**on Tuesday, 23 January 2007**  
**BRUSSELS**

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4.	Briefings by: - <b>Ambassador Blerim REKA</b> , Mission of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia to the EU, on the situation in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and on its relations with the EU - <b>Mr Etienne DE-PERIER</b> , representing the European Commission, on the relations between the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and the EU  followed by an exchange of views.....	2
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24 January 2007/SN

Annexes:     - attendance list  
              - list of first speakers at the JPC meeting

The meeting opened at 9.10 with Mr HEGYI (2nd Vice-Chairman) in the chair.  
Excused: Mr VERNOLA, Mr WIERSMA, Mr KARATZAFERIS

1.

The draft agenda was adopted.

2.

Due to the fact that Mr PAPASTAMKOS was no longer a member of the delegation and had been replaced by Mr TRAKATELLIS (minutes of Plenary 18 January 2007), the delegation elected Mr TRAKATELLIS (official candidate of the EPP-ED Group) as Chairman by acclamation. Mr TRAKATELLIS took over the chair.

3.

The minutes were approved.

4.

The Chair gave the floor to Ambassador REKA of the Mission of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia to the EU, who briefed the delegation on the situation in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and on its relations with the EU. He highlighted that the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia had continued its efforts to implement all obligations of the SAA and the European Partnership Agreement, and had adopted a National Programme for the adoption of *acquis*. Touching on the ongoing negotiations on visa facilitation and readmission agreements, Ambassador REKA expressed his hope that these agreements would come into force by the end of 2007, and in this context he pointed to the critical role the EP played for that to become reality. He further raised the name issue and argued that the use of "Republic of Macedonia" in international relations during the last 16 years had confirmed that it did not pose any threat to Greece. Ambassador REKA additionally assured that the Government of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia was committed to improving the dialogue with the opposition parties, as well as to various reform activities in both the political and economic spheres, in order to achieve results that would create conditions for the European Council to decide on opening accession negotiations with the country by the end of 2007. The opening of accession negotiations was the top priority for the Government of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia this year.

Mr DE PERIER, representing the European Commission, briefed the delegation on the progress made by the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia since it gained candidate status in the end of 2005. He emphasized that the implementation of the SAA and the Ohrid Framework Agreement were crucial in the process towards EU integration. Mr DE PERIER further highlighted that the country was well advanced in having a functioning market economy and that substantial progress had been made in the electoral process, but that major challenges still remained in the implementation of judiciary and political reforms, and as regards the aligning of its legislation with EU *acquis*. He also noted that the pace of reform had slowed down in 2006 and that the country had to step up its reform efforts if accession negotiations were to open by the end of 2007.

During the exchange of views that followed Mr KUSSTATSCHER welcomed the progress made by the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, but emphasized that many things were still left to do. In this context he underlined the importance of holding two JPC meetings a year and regretted the poor participation by Members in the meeting. He further commented on the name issue, and highlighted that neither Mr DE PERIER nor Ambassador REKA had raised the issue of minority groups in their briefings.

Mr HEGYI agreed with Mr KUSSTATSCHER on the importance of holding two JPC meetings a year and further argued that the appointment of new members from Bulgaria and Romania in the delegation would most likely change the attitude towards the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia. On the other

hand he pointed out that the attitude towards enlargement in general had shifted after the negative outcome of the referendum on the Constitution for Europe in France and the Netherlands, and the recent accession of Bulgaria and Romania to the EU. In this context he underlined the importance of a better visa regime with the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia. Ms DRCAR MURRO echoed Mr HEGYI's opinion on the visa regime and expressed her hope of a fruitful debate in Skopje and that the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia would step up its reform efforts in 2007.

Mr DE PERIER made a short comment on the visa issue, stressing that the ongoing negotiations concerned facilitation of the visa regime and not the abolishment of the same, but that he hoped that an agreement could be enforced and implemented during the course of 2007.

**5.**

The Chair presented the Programme and the draft agenda for the JPC meeting in Skopje. He further commented on the low participation by Members in the meeting that was brought up by Mr KUSSTATSCHER, and stated that it was worth looking into if anything could be done to increase the involvement of MEPs in the JPC.

Concerning first speakers at the JPC meeting, see annex 2.

**6.**

There was no other business.

**7.**

The next EU-former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia JPC meeting was scheduled to take place on 29-30 January in Skopje.

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\* \*

The meeting closed at 9.45.

**DELTAGERLISTE/ANWESENHEITSLISTE/ΚΑΤΑΣΤΑΣΗ ΠΑΡΟΝΤΩΝ/RECORD  
OF ATTENDANCE/LISTA DE ASISTENCIA/LISTE DE PRESENCE/ELENCO DEI  
PRESENTI/PRESENTIELIJST/LISTA DE PRESENÇAS/LÄSNÄOLOLISTA/DELTAGARLISTA**

Til stede	Formandskabet/Vorstand/Προεδρείο/Bureau/Ufficio di Presidenza/Mesa/Puhemiehistö/J.L. Presidium: (*) TRAKATELLIS (P), HEGYI (VP)
Anwesend	Medlemmer/Mitglieder/Μέλη/Members/Diputados/Députés/Deputati/Leden/Deputados/jäsenet/
Παρόντες	Stedfortrædere/Stellvertreter/Αναπληρωτές/Substitutes/Suplentes/Suppléants/ Membri supplenti/Plaatsvervangers/Membros suplentes/Varajäsenet/Suppleanter: DRCAR MURKO, KUSSTATSCHER
Present	
Presentes	
Présents	
Presenti	
Aanwezig	
Läsna	
Närvarande	
Art. 147,7	
Art. 166,3	
Art. 162.6 Endv. Deltog/Weitere Teiln./ Συμμετείχαν επίσης/Also present Participaron igualmente/ Participaient également/ Hanno partecipato altresì/ Andere deelnemers/ Outros participantes/ Muut osallistujat/ Dessutom deltog	Ambassador Blerim REKA, Mission of FYROM to the EU Etienne DE PERRIER, representation of the Commission, pt. 4
(Dagsorden/Tagesordnung Pkt/Ημερήσια Διάταξη Σημεί/Point OJ/Punto OG/Agenda Punt/Ordem do dia- punto/punto orden del dia/ Esityslista Kohta/Föredragningslista punkt):	

\* (P) =Formand/Vorsitzender/Πρόεδρος/Chairman/Président/Presidente/Voorzitter/Presidente/Puhemies/Ordförande  
(VP) =Næstform./Stellv. Vorsitz./Αντιπρόεδρος/Vice-Chairman/Vice-Président/Vice-Présidente/Varapuhemies  
Ondervoorz./Vice-Pres./Vicepres/Vice ordförande.

Til stede den/Anwesend am/Παρόν στις/Present on/Présent le/Presente il/Aanwezig op/Presente em/Presente el/Läsna/Närvarande den.

- (1) 23.01.07  
(2)  
(3)

Efter indbydelse fra formanden/Auf Einladung d. Vorsitzenden/Με πρόσκληση του Προέδρου/At the invitation of the Chairman/Por invitación del presidente/Sur l'invitation du président/Su invito del presidente/Op uitnodiging van de voorzitter/A convite do presidente/Puhemiehen kutsusta/På ordförandens inbjudan:

Radet/Rat/Συμβούλιο/Council/Consejo/Conseil/Consiglio/Raad/Conselho/Neuvosto/Rådet: (\*)  
CLAES, DE PAULA

Kommissionen/Kommission/Επιτροπή/Commission/Comisión/Commissione/Commissie/Comissão/Komissio/  
Kommissionen: (\*)  
MANNAERTS

CESE: DEFAYE, P APAIOANOV

Repr. Perm. de Grece: IAKOVIDIS  
Repr. Perm. de Bulgarie: DULEVA

Andre deltagere/Andere Teilnehmer Επίσης Παρόντες/Also present Otros participantes/Autres participants/Altri partecipanti Andere aanwezigen/Outros participantes Muut osallistajat/Övriga deltagare		
Gruppernes sekretariat Sekretariat der Fraktionen Γραμματεία των Πολ. Ομάδων Secretariat political groups Secr. de los grupos políticos Secr. groupes politiques Segr. dei gruppi politici Secr. van de fracties Secr. dos grupos políticos Puolueryhmien sihteeristö Gruppernas sekretariat	PPE-DE PSE ALDE Verts/ALE GUE/NGL IND/DEM NI	DE CESARE DE CRAYEMAN, HARLEGNIES  AIVALIOTIS, GIOUTSOU
Cab. du Président		
Cab. du Secrétaire Général		
Generaldirektorat Generaldirektion Γενική Διεύθυνση Directorate-General Dirección general Direction générale Direzione generale Directoraat-generaal Direcção general Contrôle financier Service juridique Pääosasto Generaldirektorat	I II III IV V VI VII VIII	BERTON BÄRENSTRÖM
Udvalgssekretariatet Ausschußsekretariat Γραμματεία επιτροπής Committee secretariat Secretaria de la comisión Secrétariat de la commission Segretariato della commissione Commissiesecretariaat Secretaria de comissão Valiokunnan sihteeristö Utskottssekretariatet		OLSEN, PFITZNER
Assist./Βοηθός		d'AGOSTO

\*e/Membro/Lid/Membro/Jäsen/Ledamot

(F) = Tjenestemand/Beamter/Υπάλληλος/Official/Funcionario/Fonctionnaire/Funzionario/Ambtenaar/ F

**EU-FORMER YUGOSLAV REPUBLIC OF MACEDONIA**  
**JOINT PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEE**  
**3rd MEETING**  
**29 - 30 January 2007**  
**SKOPJE**

**List of First Speakers**

- item 4 : The internal political situation in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia following the general elections in 2006**  
*Mr Aleksandar SPASENOVSKI (Assembly)*
- item 5 : The process of economic reforms to fulfil the European criteria for EU membership**  
*Ms Vladanka AVIROVIC (Assembly)*  
*Mr Libor ROUCEK (Parliament)*
- item 6 : The process reforms in the fields of the judiciary, home affairs and state administration**  
*Ms Teuta ARIFI (Assembly)*  
*Ms Mojca DRCAR MURKO (Parliament)*
- item 7 : The regional cooperation after the signing of the Central European Free Trade Agreement (CEFTA 2006) and the Stability Pact in South Eastern Europe**  
*Mr Igor IVANOVSKI (Assembly)*  
*Mr Jan Marinus WIERSMA (Parliament)*
- item 8 : The visa regime**  
*Mr Silvana BONEVA (Assembly)*  
*Mr Jelko KACIN (Parliament)*
- item 9 : Evaluation of the CARDS Programme for 2006 and the preparation for a better use of the Instrument for Pre-Accession Assistance (IPA)**  
*Ms Elmaze SALMANI (Assembly)*  
*Mr Marcello VERNOLA (Parliament)*

- The JPC Secretariat - 22 January 2007/HO/LK