



MACEDONIAN

DIPLOMATIC BULLETIN



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PRIME MINISTER GRUEVSKI ATTENDS SUMMIT OF CHINA AND CENTRAL AND EASTERN EUROPEAN COUNTRIES



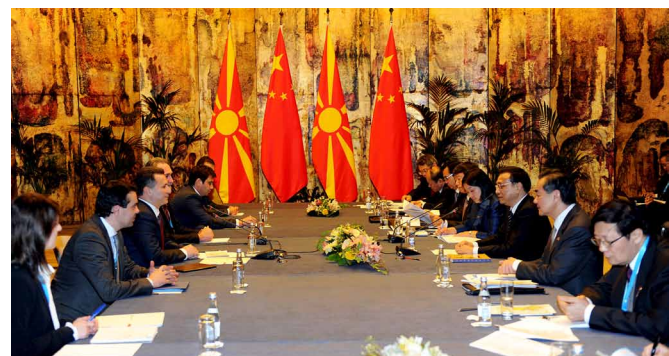
Prime Minister Nikola Gruevski together with a government team paid a visit to Romania on 25 and 26 November where he participated in the Summit of Heads of Government of China and the Central and Eastern European Countries and held a number of bilateral meetings. The most important of them was the tête-à-tête meeting with Romanian Prime Minister Victor Ponta, at which the promotion of the political dialogue between the two countries, the intensification of their mutual relations, and the Euro-Atlantic integration of the Republic of Macedonia were discussed. The possibility of promoting the economic and trade cooperation and intensifying investments was also tabled. A number of separate meetings with business owners from the automobile industry, tourism and construction, as well as with representatives of the Macedonian community in Romania were also held.

Prime Minister Gruevski stressed in his address that the summit was a good opportunity to consider the possibilities for economic cooperation and an example for many countries dedicated to reforms. Speaking about the importance of the cooperation between the CEI (Central European Initiative) countries and China, the Macedonian prime minister emphasized that Macedonia was one of the first countries using the benefits of the investment fund of 10 billion dollars that the Chinese Government announced in

Warsaw last year considering that the Republic of Macedonia and the People's Republic of China signed an agreement on economic and technical cooperation in the field of infrastructure for construction of the highways from Miladinovci to Stip and from Kicevo to Ohrid.

At his meeting with Macedonian Prime Minister Gruevski, Li Keqiang, the Prime Minister of the People's Republic of China, said that his country was an active supporter of Macedonia and expressed hope that the economic potentials for cooperation would be fully tapped. In sign of gratitude for the friendly relations, Prime Minister Gruevski gave him a book on Confucius translated into the Macedonian language.

On the sidelines of the summit, Prime Minister Gruevski held bilateral meetings with Andrus Ansip, Prime Minister of Estonia, and Donald Tusk, Prime Minister of Poland, and held separate informal meetings with Algirdas Butkevicius, Prime Minister of Lithuania, Viktor Orbán, Prime Minister of Hungary, Plamen Oresharski, Prime Minister of Bulgaria, and Ivica Dacic, Prime Minister of Serbia.



ALBANIAN PRIME MINISTER RAMA VISITS MACEDONIA



Invited by his Macedonian counterpart Nikola Gruevski, Albanian Prime Minister Edi Rama paid an official visit to the Repub-

lic of Macedonia on 5 and 6 November. During his visit, the first one since he officially took office in September, Mr. Rama also met Macedonian President Gorge Ivanov, Parliament Speaker Trajko Veljanoski, and the Chairmen of BDI and PDSH, Ali Ahmeti and Menduh Thaci respectively.

The two prime ministers tabled at their meeting a number of issues of shared interest including the promotion of political and economic cooperation, the implementation of major infrastructure projects, as well as the European and Euro-Atlantic integration of the region as a strategic commitment of both countries.

The positive development in political relations resulting in a continuous and fruitful political dialogue was confirmed at Prime Minister Rama's meeting with President Ivanov, while parliamentary cooperation was in the focus of Mr. Rama's meeting with Speaker Veljanoski.

MACEDONIA JOINS UN HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL

On 12 November 2013, the Republic of Macedonia was elected member of the United Nations Human Rights Council for the period between 1 January 2014 and 31 December 2016.

The Council is a key UN body promoting human rights across the world and setting new standards in the field. A hundred

and seventy-seven of a total of 193 UN member states voted for Macedonia's candidacy at the UN General Assembly. This election represents Macedonia's first membership of one of the most prestigious UN bodies and recognition of its achievements in promoting and protecting human rights.

MINISTER POPOSKI ADDRESSES PARLIAMENTARY FOREIGN AFFAIRS COMMITTEE



Macedonian Foreign Minister Nikola Poposki informed in his address before the Foreign Affairs Committee of the Parliament of the Republic of Macedonia on 15 November on Macedonia's most important foreign policy achievements in 2013 and outlined the principle activities in 2014.

The Macedonian diplomacy, Minister Poposki emphasized, committed itself actively to meeting the strategic foreign policy goals and priorities of being extended a NATO membership

invitation, being set a date for opening accession negotiations with the European Union, resolving the name issue, and conducting reinforced economic and public diplomacy. In this regard, he stressed that Macedonia's Chairmanship of the South-East European Cooperation Process and the Adriatic Charter, as well as Macedonia's membership of one of the most important UN bodies, the Human Rights Council, from 2014 to 2016, proved to be a special impetus to the plan for attainment of these priorities.

In his address to the MPs, Minister Poposki addressed the bilateral relations with the neighbors and the active engagement in the regional initiatives, the bilateral relations with the European and non-European countries, the multilateral activities of the Macedonian diplomacy, and the operations of the Institute for Geostrategic Research and Foreign Policy and the Diplomatic Academy.

He also highlighted the need for promoting communication and cooperation with the Macedonian minority in the neighboring countries and with the Macedonian diaspora in the world in general and primarily the need for protecting the Macedonian citizens' interests.

PM GRUEVSKI PAYS OFFICIAL VISIT TO SLOVENIA

A government delegation led by Prime Minister Nikola Gruevski paid a one-day official visit to the Republic of Slovenia on 13 November and held a number of bilateral meetings with Slovenia's top leadership. The government delegation also included Foreign Minister Nikola Poposki, Transport Minister Mile Janakieski and Education Minister Spiro Ristovski.

Slovenia remains a staunch supporter of Macedonia's European integration. Relations between our two countries are excellent, drawing upon a longtime constructive cooperation and mutual support, said Prime Minister Nikola Gruevski and his Slovenian counterpart Alenka Bratušek at their meeting in Brdo pri Kranju.

In the course of the official visit, a plenary meeting of the delegations led by Prime Ministers Gruevski and Bratušek also took place. A Memorandum of Cooperation pertaining to the field of sport was signed at the end of the session.

Foreign Minister Poposki held a bilateral meeting with the State Secretary at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Slovenia.

Prime Minister Gruevski and Slovene President Borut Pahor confirmed at their meeting in Ljubljana the excellent bilateral



relations and announced closer cooperation in tourism, sport and agriculture.

According to Slovenian Parliament Speaker Janko Veber, Slovenia remains to be a steadfast supporter of Macedonia in its European integration. He also expressed readiness to visit Macedonia with Slovenian businessmen willing to make investments in the country.

SPEAKER VELJANOSKI VISITS SPAIN

Trajko Veljanoski, Speaker of the Parliament of the Republic of Macedonia, paid a one-day working visit to the Kingdom of Spain on 26-27 November and met Jesús María Posada Moreno, President of the Spanish

Congress of Deputies, and Pío García-Escudero, President of the Spanish Senate.

Within the framework of his visit, Speaker Veljanoski also met the president and members of the Joint

Committee of the Two Houses for European Affairs and the Foreign Affairs Committee of the Congress of Spain, and attended the plenary session of the Spanish Congress.

MINISTER POPOSKI VISITS FRENCH REPUBLIC



In the course of his one-day working visit to the French Republic on 25 November, Nikola Poposki, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Macedonia, met his French counterpart Laurent Fabius, Senator Alain Richard, Special Representative of the French Minister of Foreign Affairs on economic diplomacy, and Jean-Dominique Giuliani, Chairman of the Robert Schumann Foundation.

At the meeting with his host, French Foreign Minister Fabius, Minister Poposki informed on Macedonia's commitment to meeting European agenda responsibilities, implementing economic reforms and promoting good neighborly relations and regional cooperation. Minister Fabius emphasized France's active involvement in the Balkans with the aim of facilitating the process of European integration. The two interlocutors welcomed on that occasion the positive trend of relations between the two countries.

During his visit to France, Minister Poposki was also interviewed for the prestigious French newspaper *Liberation*.

MINISTER POPOSKI PAYS WORKING VISIT TO CANADA



Foreign Minister Nikola Poposki paid a working visit to Ottawa, Toronto and Halifax, Canada, on 19-23 November. The goal of his visit was promoting political communication and cooperation between the two friendly countries and garnering support for the process of Euro-Atlantic integration of the Republic of Macedonia.

In Ottawa, Minister Poposki held a meeting with his Canadian counterpart John Baird, Peter MacKay, Minister of Justice and Attorney General of Canada, Noël Kinsella, Speaker of the Senate of Canada, and representatives of the Canada-Macedonia Parliamentary Friendship Group.

He also met representatives of the Canadian business community, visited Carleton University and the prestigious Norman Paterson School of International Affairs and held a meeting with representatives of the Macedonian International

Movement for Human Rights, United Macedonians of Canada and the United Macedonian Diaspora.

During his stay in Toronto, Minister Poposki addressed the reception hosted by the organization United Macedonians at the Saint Clement of Ohrid cathedral church.

In Halifax, he took part in the international security forum and held multiple bilateral meetings with ministers and security experts from Canada, Germany, Denmark and Slovenia, and also met Canadian Justice Minister Peter MacKay, Defense Minister Robert Nicholson, and NATO Deputy Secretary General Alexander Vershbow.

The Macedonian integration into international organizations, the negotiations for promotion and protection of investments and the possibilities for facilitating the visa regime between the two countries were tabled at Minister Poposki's meetings with Canadian Foreign Minister John Baird and Chris Alexander, Minister of Citizenship and Immigration.



MINISTER POPOSKI PAYS WORKING VISIT TO BRUSSELS

Foreign Minister Nikola Poposki paid a working visit to the European Parliament and the European Commission in Brussels on 27-28 October. All talks centered on issues of the European agenda and the accession process in the context of the EC Report on Macedonia's progress 2013 and the draft resolution of the European Parliament submitted by Rapporteur Richard Howitt.

At the European Parliament, Minister Poposki had separate meetings with Richard Howitt, the Rapporteur for Macedonia, and MEPs Eduard Kukan and Charles Tannock, shadow rapporteurs for Macedonia. He stressed on that occasion the good cooperation with the European

Parliament and the significance of the support that this institution gave to the process of European integration of the Republic of Macedonia. Minister Poposki also informed on the activities in the key areas to be in the focus of the government reforms in the coming period. The MEPs on their part reaffirmed the support for the European integration of the Republic of Macedonia and for an immediate start of membership negotiations.

Minister Poposki also addressed the members of the Working Group for the Western Balkans at the EP Foreign Affairs Committee, speaking about certain current issues of the process of Macedonia's European integration.

The MEPs reiterated their support for immediate opening of accession talks with the Republic of Macedonia and emphasized the need for the country to start delivering tangible results in conducting reforms in key areas and in promoting good neighborly relations.

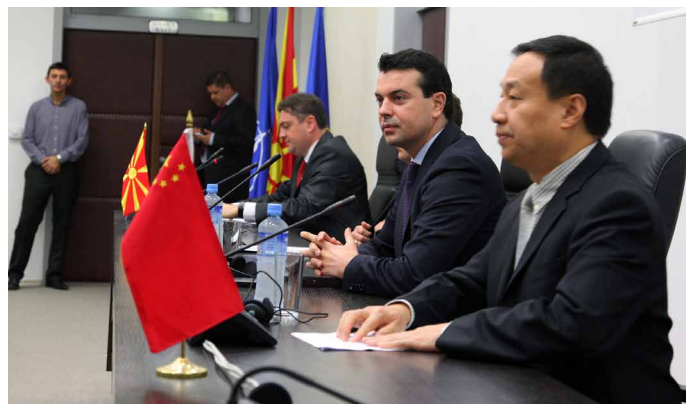
At the European Commission, Minister Poposki had a meeting with Christian Danielsson, Director General for Enlargement at the EC. The two officials tabled the expectations concerning the enlargement-related conclusions to be passed at the forthcoming summit of the European Council in December.

DEBATE ON CHINA'S ECONOMIC STRATEGY TO CENTRAL AND EASTERN EUROPEAN COUNTRIES HELD AT MFA GEOSTRATEGIC RESEARCH AND FOREIGN POLICY INSTITUTE

The Geostrategic Research and Foreign Policy Institute of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs organized a debate on the subject “The Economic Strategy of the People’s Republic of China Toward the Central and Eastern European Countries – An Opportunity for Strategic Partnership with the Republic of Macedonia” on 5 November 2013.

Foreign Minister Nikola Poposki laid stress in his address on the wholehearted support from the People’s Republic of China for the Republic of Macedonia. The recognition of our country under its constitutional name, the cooperation on a number of projects and the selfless technical assistance from China to our citizens are the best proof of the country’s commitment to us. “Before us is a sea of opportunities that our ship of friendship is able to cross over,” Minister Poposki said.

Cui Zhiwei, the Chinese Ambassador to Macedonia, confirmed the constructive cooperation between the two countries and the



uninterrupted trend of excellent bilateral relations over the course of the past twenty years since the establishment of diplomatic relations between the two countries.

INITIATIVE FOR STRENGTHENING EU ACCESSION CAPACITIES OF WESTERN BALKAN MINISTRIES OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS LAUNCHED IN SKOPJE

The regional project initiative entitled “Strengthening the EU Accession Process Capacities of the Ministries of Foreign Affairs of the Western Balkan Countries” was launched at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Macedonia on 14 and 15 November 2013. Commenced at the proposal of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Macedonia, the initiative is supported by the German Government via the German Fund for International Cooperation (Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit GmbH).

Staff from the Ministries of Foreign Affairs of the EU candidate member states and potential candidate member states from the Balkans attended the 2-day workshop, which was opened by Macedonian Foreign Minister Nikola Poposki and Gudrun Elisabeth Steinacker, Ambassador of the Federal Republic of Germany. The principle aim of the project is strengthening expert cooperation and dialogue between the Ministries of Foreign Affairs in the area of European integration by way of sharing



experience, good practices, training courses, interactive seminars, and using expertise from the European Union member states.

MFA STRENGTHENING CAPACITIES WITH BRITISH SUPPORT

The project for strengthening the capacities of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs by way of organizing training courses at which the Ministry’s own trainers will be groomed for the needs of the Diplomatic Academy was implemented from 18 to 27 November based on the Memorandum of Cooperation signed between the Ministries of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Macedonia and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland signed in Skopje in July this year, in cooperation with the UK Embassy in the Republic of Macedonia and the Center for Political and Diplomatic Studies of Great Britain.

The training courses are held by Dr. John Hemery, director of the Center, and Jeremy Hill, a career diplomat and former UK ambassador having served in a number of countries around the world.

Zoran Petrov, Macedonian Deputy Foreign Minister, said in his keynote speech he was very much pleased with the project and stressed the positive trend of relations between the two countries, underlining his conviction that in the coming period even more successful and fruitful cooperation in all fields of shared interest was expected.

EUROPE BETWEEN VALUES AND CHALLENGES – 20 YEARS OF ESTABLISHING MACEDONIAN PANEUROPEAN UNION



On the occasion of the 20th anniversary of establishing the Macedonia Paneuropean Union, Macedonian President Gjorge Ivanov, who was also a sponsor of the event, hosted a reception on 1 November. He addressed the guests saying that the recommendation for opening accession negotiations between Macedonia and the EU was a message to the Union to remain loyal to its Paneuropean roots. He was also presented with a certificate of appreciation for his personal and political support for the Mace-

donian Paneuropean Union in the bid of integrating the Republic of Macedonia into the European Union. President Ivanov on his part presented the Boris Trajkovski Award to Walburga Habsburg Douglas, while Georg Habsburg received the award on her behalf.

The Macedonian Paneuropean Union and the Ohrid Institute for Economic Strategies and International Affairs of Skopje organized an international conference entitled “Europe Between the Values and the Challenges” at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs on 2 November, also attended by Alain Terrenoire, President of the International Paneuropean Union, MEPs Doris Pack and Davor Stier, Ambassador Georg von Habsburg, and a few dozen members of the International Paneuropean Union.

Macedonian Prime Minister Nikola Gruevski was the guest of honor at the event and said on that occasion that the Republic of Macedonia and the whole Balkans were an integral part of the vision of free and united Europe living in peace, emphasizing that the European unification without the Balkans was simply impossible.

Speaking at the panel entitled “Honoring International Law and Responsibilities – a Necessity for Europe,” he stressed Macedonia’s gratitude for the principled support of the Paneuropean Union and its insistence that Macedonia’s EU integration process should be unblocked immediately.

MINISTER POPOSKI MEETS CHAMBERS OF COMMERCE OFFICIALS

Foreign Minister Nikola Poposki held a working meeting on 12 November with the top officials of the Chambers of Commerce of the Republic of Macedonia, organized by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in cooperation with the Agency for Foreign Investments and Export Promotion. In this way, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs aims to detect new destinations and initiatives for economic cooperation on a global scale in close cooperation with the Macedonian business sector.

In his address before the representatives of the Chambers of Commerce, Minister Poposki explained that diplomats with economic orientation would be assigned to the countries in which the Republic of Macedonia does not have diplomatic offices and that in coordination with the business community they would be probing the ground and seek out new possibilities for economic cooperation. He stressed thereby that the diplomatic missions and consular posts of the Republic of Macedonia were still at the disposal of all interested export-



oriented companies in attaining their business objectives by way of offering logistic support.

INTRODUCTION TO DIPLOMATIC SERVICE BY DRAGAN JANJATOV PROMOTED

The Diplomatic Academy Directorate and the Diplomatic Club organized the promotion of the book *Introduction to Diplomatic Service* by Dragan Janjatov, a seasoned diplomat, having served in Moscow and Ulan Bator, and author of a number of volumes and opinion pieces on diplomacy and foreign policy, at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs on 12 November.

Savo Sibinovski, Director of the Diplomatic Academy Directorate, delivered a keynote speech, while Professor Trajan Bendevski and Ambassador Viktor Gaber expounded on the volume.



FROM MY ANGLE

ELENA VERIZNIKOVA,
Macedonian Language Scholar from Russia

MACEDONIAN LANGUAGE HAS BEEN THE ESSENCE OF MY LIFE FOR 33 YEARS

On reaching a certain age, people stop looking forward to their birthdays. However, half a century is a long enough period and a good occasion to pause, recapitulate the past, rethink life and what the best part of it is and pose the question of “what we have done so far and what we need to do in the future.”

It so happened that Macedonia and the study of the Macedonian language have become the essential part of my life. They have been the hub of my existence for thirty-three years. Many of the people that are important and dear to me are either Macedonians or Macedonian language scholars. And therefore I will take this opportunity to talk about the studies of the Macedonian language in Moscow and our family of Macedonian language scholars united by our love of this country that we all feel as our second homeland.

I do not know if love is being learned yet I do know that it is being passed on. The most important member of our family, our Great Mother, who taught us to love Macedonia or passed her love on to us, is by all means Rina Usikova, professor, doctor of philosophy, and member of the Macedonian Academy of Sciences and Arts (MANU). The Macedonian language studies in Moscow owe their existence to her perseverance as a woman and a scholar and to her courage. This year Professor Rina turned 80 and as always she is an inspiration and example to the new generations of students.

At the initiative of her mentor in 1960, Rina Usikova began her study of the Macedonian language and in 1965 she defended her dissertation on the morphology of the noun in the Macedonian language, the first such dissertation in the Soviet Union and as far as I know in the world as well. Her mentor, Samuil Borisovich Bernstein, made the entry on the Macedonian language as a separate South Slavic language in the 37th volume of the Great Soviet Encyclopedia as early as 1938. The Macedonian Language and Literature Department chaired by Rina Usikova was opened at the Faculty of Philology of the Moscow State University in 1975 and a Macedonian group has since been formed every five years without any interruptions. Eight generations of Macedonian language and literature scholars have so far graduated.

It was no coincidence that I mentioned the perseverance and courage of Professor Rina. Being a Macedonian language scholar was not always easy. For example, she wrote her “Grammar of the Macedonian Language” in Russia back in 1980 yet for political reasons it was published as late as 2003.

Speaking about the achievements of the Macedonian language science, we need to mention the lexicographic works. The Macedo-

nian-Russian Dictionary, redacted by Nikita Tolstoy and compiled by Dime Tolovski and Vladislav Illich-Svitych, a brilliant scholar who unfortunately left us tragically and too soon, came out in Moscow in 1963. A new Macedonian-Russian Dictionary, compiled by Rina Usikova, Zoya Shanova, a Macedonian language scholar from Saint Petersburg, and Professor Usikova’s students, Marina Povarnyicina and Elena Veriznikova, was published forty years later.

I should also mention Professor Ala Sheshken, who teaches Macedonian Literature at our Department. A few years ago, she defended her doctoral dissertation and published a monograph on the Macedonian literature in the 20th century. Also, she was appointed an external member of the Macedonian Academy of Sciences and Arts in 2006.

If you ask me how I feel whenever the Macedonian language is denied, I can only say that it hurts me just as much as it hurts the Macedonians, perhaps even more, because seeing the person you love being insulted hurts more than being insulted yourself. However, just as evil breeds evil, so love breeds love. After graduation, my colleague Marina Povarnyicina started working at Perm State University and opened there a Macedonian Language Department. In addition to Moscow, Saint Petersburg and Voronezh, Perm has since become one more center of the Macedonian language study in Russia. The Department is now chaired with success by Natalia Boronikova. A month ago in Perm, Natalia and I published a textbook for advanced students based on the Macedonian film material. Currently we are working together on a dictionary of the Macedonian exclamations and onomatopoeias. The next edition of the traditional Russian-Macedonian scholarly conference should be held in this Ural city as well.

The Macedonian language study is gaining ground in Moscow, too. Aside from the Moscow State University, a few years ago I started teaching the language at the Saint Tikhon’s Orthodox University of Humanities as well. The interest is huge. A large group of students of this university had the opportunity to attend the seminar in Ohrid this year. On their return, they said: “Now we understand why you love Macedonia so much.”

When I was a student, my Professor Rina was the same age as I am now. I hope that thirty years from now, some of my students is going to write for your Bulletin telling you that Macedonia was the greatest happiness that could have happened to her. Do you think thirty years is a long time? I saw the land I dreamed of thirty years ago. It was yesterday!

KRSTE MISIRKOV MACEDONIAN LANGUAGE INSTITUTE CELEBRATES 60TH ANNIVERSARY

The 60th anniversary of the establishment of the Krste Misirkov Macedonian Language Institute at the Ss Cyril and Methodius University of Skopje was celebrated at the Institute's offices on 20 November. Macedonian President Gjorge Ivanov was sponsor of the event and stressed on that occasion that the Macedonian language faced challenges, some of which were old and local and others modern and global.

"As a state, we are determined to protect and promote the Macedonian language and the Macedonian literature as part of the world cultural heritage. The Macedonian Language Institute plays an important role in this regard," he said.

President Ivanov also presented the Krste Misirkov Institute with the Charter of the Republic of Macedonia for the achieved results in the area of research and protection of the Macedonian language, thus making significant contribution to the progress of the Macedonian science and to the promotion of the Macedonian language and culture around the world.

As part of the activities marking the jubilee, a 2-day international conference titled "The Macedonian Language Study Between



Tradition and Modern Challenges" attended by numerous scholars, including Elena Veriznikova, a Macedonian language scholar from Russia, was also held.

IN THE PRESS

"The EU needs Macedonia because it is a European country and it has always been, and there are no reasons for the country to be in the situation it is now. The Paneuropean Union supports Macedonian wholeheartedly. We need Macedonia inside the European Union and we should all be together and work together as European countries. We should work hard to make Europe stronger and capable of achieving what it needs," said **Alain Terrenoire, President of the International Paneuropean Union**, on 2 November 2013.

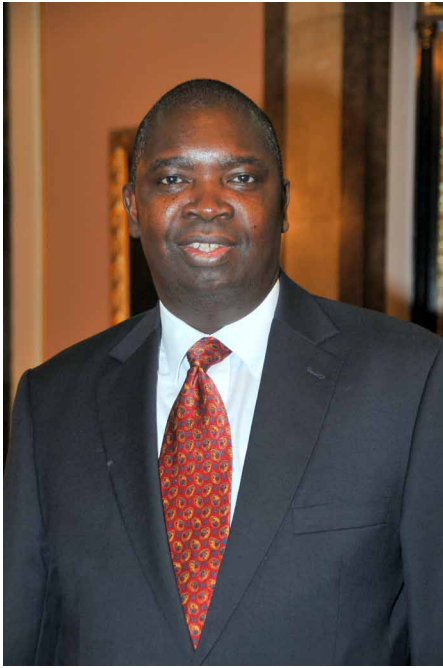
"Albania is interested in intensive relations with the neighbors in the case of Macedonia in all areas. We are ready to open up new paths of cooperation and promote economic cooperation with concrete ideas and projects for common growth," said **Edi Rama, Prime Minister of the Republic of Albania**, on 6 November 2013.

"The EU needs to change dramatically its attitude toward Macedonia because the European Commission has been issuing positive recommendations for a few years in a row and the European Council has been saying no. Macedonia is the first country of the Western Balkans that started European integration and is a good example for interethnic cooperation in the region," said **Mirolsav Lajčák, Minister of**

Foreign Affairs of the Slovak Republic, on 6 November 2013.

"Montenegro and Macedonia should simultaneously become NATO member states. These countries go together not because they depend on one another but because they should both be members of the Alliance," said **Daniel Serwer, political analyst from Washington and expert on the Balkans**, on 10 November 2013.

"The possibilities before Macedonia are great. It can move toward the European Union and depending on the legal norms it may become a NATO member state almost immediately after a solution to the name issue is found," said **Jonathan Moore, Director of the Office of South Central European Affairs at the US Department of State**, on 26 November 2013.



*H.E. Mr. Toko DIJAKENGA SERAO,
Ambassador of the Republic of Angola
to the Republic of Macedonia*

Your Excellency, twenty years since establishing diplomatic ties between the Republic of Macedonia and the Republic of Angola has recently been marked. How do you assess the past two decades?

The twenty-year history of diplomatic ties, despite being very modest in terms of bilateral cooperation, can be considered stable and promising so you can accentuate its dynamics and monetize this historic capital of friendly relations between the two countries.

The willingness of the government of Macedonia, which we greatly appreciate and feel grateful for, to cooperate with Angola in an area of great interest and importance to the Angolan government, such as the training of technical staff, offering two scholarships, is a sign of the possibility for our cooperation to intensify.

Yet, regarding the scholarships offer, the only part missing by Angola is sending Angolan students, and I am convinced that will be forthcoming.

Another key element that took a long time to happen and that I consider as a prelude to all other subsequent activities was the presentation of Credentials on 21 May 2013.

ANGOLAN BUSINESSMEN NEED TO LEARN MORE ABOUT MACEDONIAN INVESTMENT INCENTIVES

Starting from this base, with a little creativity and incisiveness on both sides, especially in the area of economy, conditions are created to act in accordance with the needs that each party has and the possibilities that each party offers.

The Republic of Macedonia appreciates Angola's principled support and use of its constitutional name and is fully dedicated to promoting bilateral relations. Yet, there is a general impression that cooperation in all fields is modest considering nourishing friendly relations began two decades ago. In your view, what are the measures needed to enhance the overall cooperation between the two countries?

Regarding the measures that should be taken to overcome this modest state in which we find ourselves, I believe that before taking any other step our two peoples should get to know each other better. Now that our country won peace and is socially stable, we invite entrepreneurs from the Republic of Macedonia to visit our country in order to understand better its potentials. The Macedonian entrepreneurs, for example, can visit the International Fair of Luanda (FILDA), a major national economic exhibition, which takes place every year, where entrepreneurs from all areas, from small to large industries, can exhibit and sell their products and can also communicate with Angolan entrepreneurs interested in establishing business partnerships. Another step they can take is learning more about the current laws with regard to foreign investment that can be found at the National Institute for Foreign Investment, and about the ways in which

they can take advantage of the business opportunities that our country offers.

Economically speaking, the Republic of Macedonia is becoming a desired and attractive destination for foreign investors and is a leader in doing business in the South-East European region. What are the possibilities for more intensive economic cooperation and what is the interest of companies from the Republic of Angola in making direct investments in the Republic of Macedonia?

I believe that this process can begin, that means to elicit interest from companies in the Republic of Angola in direct investment in the Republic of Macedonia. It is essential that the Angolan businessmen know the areas in which they can invest, the business guidebook of Macedonia. This guidebook can be delivered to the Embassy and we will make sure it is promoted in Angola. This is an option.

Culture represents the fundamental value of every society drawing nations closer. Are there any plans to promote cooperation in the fields of culture, education, and sport?

Angola has several annual events such as FESTI SUMBE, the annual music festival in which foreign musicians also take part. It is time to display the music of Macedonia on the African continent. There are also several art exhibitions of African sculpture and fashion and contemporary clothes that could avail for cultural exchanges that are necessary. Macedonia, in turn, could include Angola

whenever it organizes international events of the above nature. I believe that Angola will participate willingly. We have very good football, basketball and handball teams, which could be useful for organizing periodic friendly matches with Macedonian teams. Another option is for the Republic of Macedonia to be available for Angolan teams doing different modalities of pre-competition stages in this region before major international sporting events. Therefore, national institutions of the two countries can develop some cultural, artistic and sports activities through the exchange of artists, musicians and sports teams.

Your Excellency, what are your impressions of the Republic of Macedonia

and its natural attractions and what do you think of the possibilities for closer cooperation in the field of tourism?

The Republic of Macedonia is a European state with a cultural heritage where many European countries see themselves, if I'm not mistaken. And I am impressed by the construction of the statues in tribute to Macedonia's national heroes and warriors. Macedonia is the country of Saint Clement of Ohrid, the Slavic Orthodox bishop (840-916), writer and historian, and father of the Cyrillic alphabet, in honor of which the University of Saint Clement was established in the idyllic resort town of Ohrid, which was a center of theological studies and is considered an architectural pearl of the ninth century. According to

the Macedonian archaeologists, this is also the oldest university in Europe, surpassing by more than a century and a half the Italian Bologna University, founded in 1088, and the oldest in use in Europe. I also know that the archaeological ruins of the University of Saint Clement located on the hill of Plaošnik are a tourist attraction. Moreover, tourists visit the old town in the summer and bathe in the clear waters of the lake. And through it all, the city of Ohrid and the lake are classified as world heritage by UNESCO. Therefore, a country that has all these cultural and civilization values, all this history, is not a country to be left out of the tourist map of Angolans. It is a matter of promotion in Angola. Invite the Angolans and they will be very delighted and culturally enriched.

MDB would like to extend a warm welcome and wish a successful diplomatic mission in the Republic of Macedonia to

H.E. Ms. Dušanka DIVJAK TOMIĆ, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of Serbia

H.E. Mr. Makoto TAKETOSHI, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Japan, resident in Vienna

H.E. Mr. Nurbah RUSTEMOV, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of Kazakhstan, resident in Budapest

and to thank

H.E. Mrs. Helena STUDDERT, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Australia, resident in Belgrade

H.E. Mr. Arben ÇEJKU, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of Albania

H.E. Mr. Washington Luis Pereira-de-SOUSA NETO, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Federative Republic of Brazil, resident in Sofia

for their completed diplomatic mission in the Republic of Macedonia.

**RABIH ABOU-KHALIL AT BITOLA
WORLD MUSIC
FESTIVAL**

Under the auspices of the Ministry of Culture and with support from the French Alliance of Bitola and the French Institute of Skopje, the 5th World Music Festival took place at the Center of Culture in Bitola on 9 November.

Macedonian and foreign musicians, including Penelope X, Nikola Kodzobasija, Branislav Nikolov, Goce Jovanoski, Pece Trajkovski, Goce Stefkovski and Dzijan Emin, as well as Rabih Abou-Khalil, one of the greatest names in the world of jazz music, and his Mediterranean Quintet, performed at the festival.

THE CAVE CHURCHES OF MACEDONIA



In the territory of the Republic of Macedonia, which has been the crossroads between the cultured West and the mystical Orient throughout history, over 50 cave churches have been registered. Most of them are to be found along the shores of Lake Ohrid and Lake Prespa, in the lower valleys of the Babuna and the Crna Reka, as well as in eastern Macedonia. They are St Marko and St Lazar on Lake Tikves, St Arhangel Mihail, St Spas, the Church dedicated to the Ascension of the Holy Mother of Good, St Erazmo, and St Bogorodica (Holy Mother of God) of Pestani near Ohrid, St Spas and St Evla near Resen, the Monks' Cave and Crkvice in the municipality of Caska and many others.

Macedonia is rich in churches, monasteries, and curative waters and icons.

The diversity of more than 155 completely preserved monasteries and about 90 that are in a different stage of ruin for not being able to defy the tooth of time, are evidence enough that in this territory there lived people whose history was full of creation, art and spirituality. Some of these monasteries and churches have been put in the category of archeological sites thus being protected by the law.

The blend of a cave and a church is truly peculiar and fascinating to both speleologists studying caves and archeologists studying all manmade traces. They are particularly interesting to art historians and to all those studying the ancient cultures. As a rare phenomenon with their artistic and historical value, they manage to draw the attention of the world public as well.

It was the natural caves sometimes ensconced high up the mountain rocks that were most commonly turned into cave churches. If necessary, they were additionally separated with walls built of crashed stones. Lodgings were added to some of them later. A lot of monk seclusions also fall in the category of cave churches.

The beginnings of the cave fresco painting have been dated to the 9th century, while the first cave frescos that can be closely identified based on the traces that the anonymous masters left on them were created in the 13th and the 14th centuries. Those fresco painters belonged more or less to the typical painting schools in the territory of the Balkans of the time and it is for this reason that the frescos in some of the cave churches are similar to the frescos painted in the best known monasteries in Macedonia. There are almost no written records about these monuments of human creation though. Also, studying, analyzing and preserving them today is difficult because of their location on inaccessible terrains.

Nevertheless, the cave frescos that have been studied and analyzed so far reveal that they have been painted by people who were masters of their craft and who turned the scenes of the Holy Scripture into timeless works of art.

Bearing all this in mind, the rising interest of foreign tourists in Macedonia who visit the country just to see the cave churches as a truly rare cultural heritage and silent witnesses of Macedonia's medieval culture and art is no surprise.



RADE SILJAN RECEIVES HUNGARIAN LITERATURE AWARD

Macedonian writer Rade Siljan, has been presented with the Hungarian literature award named after Géza Gárdonyi, one of the grandest names of the Hungarian literature. Siljan received the award from writer László Simon, member of the Hun-

garian Parliament and Chairman of the Parliamentary Committee on Culture and Media. A selection of Siljan's poetry entitled "Mirror of the Centuries" translated in Hungarian was published by the Ab-Art publishing house of Pecuj, Hungary.

RECIPIENTS OF ST KLIMENT OHRIDSKI NATIONAL AWARD ANNOUNCED

Recipients of the St Kliment Ohridski National Award 2013 are prima ballerina Aleksandra Mijalkova for her achievements in the field of culture and art, Professor Adzi Fida for his achievements in the field of education, and Prof. Dr. Nikola Jankulovski, a digestive surgeon, and Prim. Dr. Kote Tasevski, an endodontist, for their achievements in the field of medicine.



EUROPEAN LITERATURE PRIZE 2013 PRESENTED TO LIDIJA DIMKOVSKA

At a gala ceremony in Brussels on 26 November, Macedonian writer Lidija Dimkovska was presented with the Literature Prize of the European Union for her novel "Backup Life," which won the Stale Popov Best Novel Award 2012 of the Macedonian Writers' Associations in February 2013.

Dimkovska has so far authored a number of literary works that have been translated into English, German, Slovenian,

Polish, Slovak, Bulgarian and Romanian and for which she has won a number of international awards, including the German Hubert Burda Poetry Award, and the Romanian literature prizes Poesis and Tudor Arghezi, and was nominated for the German Berlin Bridge Prize.

DRAGAN SPASOV DAC RECEIVES PETRE PRICKO LIFE ACHIEVEMENTS AWARD

Actor Dragan Spasov Dac is this year's winner of the Petre Prlicko Life Achievements Award presented by the Municipality of Veles, the Jordan Hadzi Konstantinov-Dzinot National Theater and the Association of Theater Artists "Dzinot."

The award was introduced in 2006 and has since been presented to Blagoja Spirkovski Dzumerko, Emil Ruben, Petar Mircevski, Blagoja Corevski, Meto Jovanovski, Boris Corevski and Petar Temelkovski.

MACEDONIAN OPERA AND BALLET STAGES RELIEF CONCERT IN JAKARTA FOR TYPHOON HAIYAN VICTIMS

Vesna Gjinovska-Ilkova, Gjorgji Cuckovski and Vladimir Sazdovski, renowned Macedonian soloists with international careers, performed with the orchestra of the Macedonian Opera and Ballet at the most prestigious concert halls in Jakarta, Indonesia, on 13 to 15 November. Conducted by Noorman Widjaja, a true friend and associate of the Macedonian Opera and Ballet, working for the Opera in Nurnberg, Germany, the Macedonian Opera and Ballet Orchestra performed pieces by Verdi, Puccini, Bizet, Massenet and Mozart. The funds raised at the concert were for the victims of the Typhoon Haiyan in the Philippines.

The concert also marked the 20th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between the Republic of Macedonia and Indonesia.



SKOMRAHI 2013

With the performance of *The Persecution and Assassination of Jean-Paul Marat* by Peter Weiss, a production of the students of the Faculty of Dramatic Arts in Skopje, the 22nd Skomrahi, the international meeting of students of the faculties and academies of dramatic arts, opened in Skopje on 9 November 2013.

Students from the Faculty of Art of Cetinje, the University of Audiovisual Arts ESRA of Skopje, the Arturo Acting School of Cologne, the Academy of Dramatic Arts of Zagreb, the Faculty of Art of Pristina and the Academy of Theater, Radio, Film and Television of Ljubljana took part in this year's Skomrahi.

MATICA MAKEDONSKA LIBRARY IN LJUBLJANA OPENED

For the purpose of promoting the Macedonian language, culture, history and tradition, Matica makedonska in cooperation with the Macedonian Cultural Association "Makedonija" of Ljubljana

created and opened a library with an abundant choice of Macedonian volumes from all areas of life.

PREHISTORIC LADIES OF MACEDONIA EXHIBITION OPENS IN SOFIA

With support from the Ministry of Culture of Macedonia, the archeological exhibition "Prehistoric Ladies of Macedonia," in the course of which 94 women figures from the time of the Neolithic and Eneolithic uncovered on many sites across Macedonia were on display, opened at the Macedonian Cultural

and Information center in Sofia, Bulgaria, on 7 November.

The best known of these exhibits, especially in the scholarly literature, are the figurines called the Magna Mater or the Great Mother – a symbol of the home, fertility and family, discovered only in the territory of Macedonia.

CETKAR PERFORMS AT MACEDONIAN EMBASSY IN WASHINGTON ON THANKSGIVING DAY

Jazz musician Vladimir Cetkar staged a concert at the Embassy of the Republic of Macedonia in Washington DC, attended by government officials, the former US ambassadors to Macedonia, Laurence Butler and Philip Reeker, and representatives of the diplomatic corps and the Macedonian community in the USA. The concert was staged on the occasion of

Thanksgiving and in honor of the 20th anniversary of establishing diplomatic ties between Macedonia and the USA.

In December 1993, the USA appointed Victor Comras head of the first US diplomatic mission to Macedonia, a few months before it officially recognized the Republic of Macedonia.

POETRY BY TODOR CALOVSKI PRESENTED TO INDIAN READERS

Poems and bio-bibliography of Todor Calovski, the eminent Macedonian poet, were featured in the latest issue of *The Enchanting Verses*, an Indian poetry magazine published in the English language

and focusing primarily on contemporary world poetry. The magazine's editor in chief is Sonnet Mondal, one of the best known Indian poets of the younger generation, while a guest editor of this issue was Melisa

Studdard, an award-winning poetess of the USA. Macedonian poet and literary critic Jovica Tasevski Eternijan is the editor consultant from Macedonia.

KANCESKA-MILEVSKA AT SLAVIC CULTURES FORUM IN CETINJE

Culture Minister Elizabeta Kanceska-Milevska attended the meeting of the ministers of culture of the member states of the international foundation Forum of Slavic Cultures that took place in Cetinje, Montenegro, on 11 November. In the capacity of President of the Forum's Managing Board, Minister Kanceska-Milevska opened

the traveling exhibition "The History of Slavic Capitals Through Archival Materials" at which 13 capitals of Slavic countries were presented through photographs and written documents.

Within the framework of the event commemorating the 20th anniversary of the birth of Petar Petrović Njegoš, a Mon-

tenegrin poet and bishop, the forum participants donated volumes of the edition "A Hundred Slavic Novels," a project to which Macedonia has also contributed anthologies of Macedonia writers translated into English, to the Đurđe Crnojević National Library of Montenegro.



BUILDING OUR COMMON EUROPEAN HOUSE: LESS BRICKS, MORE BRAINS AND JOINING HANDS

“If there was one thing you could change in Macedonia, what would that be?” – a visiting Dutch student asked me last week. Good question - not easy to answer though.

In current times of austerity, we have to constantly demonstrate to our tax payers the value for money of having diplomats abroad, including in Macedonia. Do we make a difference, and is our “footprint” on the ground big enough to justify the investment? The Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs, confronted with a 25% cut on its missions budget, decided not to close any embassies, but instead to task our missions to become the “most modern foreign service worldwide by 2016.” This now is our daily struggle: how to make a meaningful difference and generate tangible added value with ever decreasing human and financial resources. The magic words from The Hague: be smart - less bricks, more brains, more bites. Do more with less.

To live up to the challenge, we have to focus, limit ourselves to our core task, and build strategic partnerships. Our single focus is to assist Macedonia in consolidating its European integration. Our core task is to connect, build bridges between Dutch and Macedonian institutions, companies, civil society and citizens. As a relatively small player, however, we can only be effective if we cooperate and divide labour with key partners: other foreign representations in Macedonia; Dutch embassies in the region; Dutch and international companies, organisations and agencies; and the Embassy of the Republic of Macedonia in The Hague.

DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION EVOLVES INTO PARTNERSHIP IN TWO DECADES

It is one of those rare days in The Hague when the sun is shining, illuminating this elegant city that has become my second home in the last four years. Today, I am about to have an important hearing with the Committee for European Affairs in the Dutch Parliament following the Dutch Government endorsement of the EC’s recommendation, for the fifth time, that accession negotiations be opened with Macedonia. In line with the strict and fair approach to EU enlargement, I expect rigorous questions and an open debate. The Dutch support does not come easily, but it is thus all the more valuable.

Juggling priorities, I put my economic diplomacy hat to meet a company and one tour-operator back at the Embassy. Following the two business forums we co-hosted last week with the Rotterdam Chamber of Commerce and Greenport Venlo respectively, and the forthcoming Tourism Fair in Utrecht, there is an increasing role for the Embassy in this respect: facilitate the plans of the company to expand in Macedonia and support the efforts of the tour-operator to further increase the number of Dutch tourists experiencing Macedonia that has multiplied by seven times in the last four years.

Before going to Schiphol for a brief “at the gate” meeting with Macedonian Foreign Minister Poposki, who makes a short stop in Amsterdam on his way to the OSCE Ministerial in Kiev – a perfect opportunity given the meeting there with his Dutch counterpart

Particularly this embassy-to-embassy partnership seems unique and did not pass unnoticed in the Netherlands. Sharing information, initiatives and contacts from the two ends of the axis allows us to respond better and faster to the needs of our authorities, citizens and companies.

“I wish all embassies cooperated this way: that would save us a lot of double work,” we learnt from the Rotterdam Chamber of Commerce, which hosted the latest road show of Deputy Prime Minister Stavreski to the Netherlands. With a clear understanding of common goals and interests, there is no need to compete. More Dutch investments in Macedonia is good for both our economies; sharing knowledge and experience between Dutch and Macedonian companies, organisations and citizens furthers our integration into a single European house. I would like to believe that by connecting companies and citizens from both countries, by demonstrating best practices and sharing success stories, I encourage them to see and seize the opportunities that exist. If there were one thing I could change it would be that.



*H.E. Mrs. Marriët SCHUURMAN,
Ambassador of the
Kingdom of the Netherlands to the
Republic of Macedonia*



Minister Timmermans scheduled for tomorrow – I have just enough time to attend a reception at the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons, the guardian of the global ban on chemical weapons about to receive the prestigious Nobel Peace Prize 2013.

Driving back from North to South Holland, there is a moment to reflect. This December, we mark 20 years since the establishment of bilateral relations between Macedonia and the Netherlands. While in the first phase relations were dominated by the development cooperation, the noble legacy of Max van der Stoep, and other Dutch contributions to the Macedonian democracy, the friendship between the two countries has since evolved into a partnership based on common goals and interests, a partnership between a founding member state and a future member state of both the EU and NATO. I conclude the day by making the customary phone call to my colleague Ambassador Schuurman in Skopje. The practice of close coordination and joining forces between the two embassies proves to be a powerful tool in the bilateral cooperation between Macedonia and the Netherlands.

*H.E. Mr. Nikola DIMITROV,
Ambassador of the Republic of Macedonia to the Kingdom of the Netherlands*