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Committee on the Honouring of Obligations and Commitments by Member States of the Council of Europe (Monitoring Committee)

Post-monitoring dialogue with "the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia"^{1 2}

Information note on the fact-finding visit by the Chair of the Committee (2-5 November 2008)

Rapporteur: Mr Serhiy HOLOVATY, Ukraine, Alliance of Liberal Democrats of Europe

¹ In this document, the term «Macedonia» is used for descriptive purposes and for readers' convenience, without prejudice to the Assembly's position on the name of the state.

² This information note has been made public by decision of the Monitoring Committee dated 19 November 2008.

I. INTRODUCTION

1. In my capacity as Chair of the Monitoring Committee, I travelled to Skopje on 2-5 November 2008, within the framework of the post-monitoring dialogue. My primary task was to collect information about the developments since the presentation of the last memorandum on post-monitoring dialogue by my predecessor, Mr Eduard Lintner, in January 2008³, and prepare an updated document. I also studied the post-electoral situation and the implementation of the recommendations of the Assembly's Ad Hoc Committee on the observation of the 1 and 15 June (partial re-run) parliamentary elections and of the Chair of the Ad Hoc Committee contained in the Memorandum on the post-electoral mission.

2. My visit took place in an interesting domestic and international political context: on the domestic political front, the new Government of Prime Minister Nikola Gruevski was celebrating its first 100 days in office, and, on the international front, the European Commission presented its progress report on 5 November 2008⁴, while I was still in Skopje.

3. I am grateful to the Macedonian parliamentary delegation and to all officials I met for having found time to meet me at this particularly busy moment in the country's political life. Only two of the full range of planned meetings could not take place: the Prime Minister and the President of the country were prevented from meeting me due to a very busy working agenda on 3 and 4 November. I hope to be able to meet them on the occasion of one of my future visits to Skopje.

4. In the margins of my official programme, I met the representatives of the diplomatic community and heads of the missions of key international organisations accredited in Skopje. In this connection, I am grateful to the Ambassador of Sweden, Mr Lars Fredén, who organised a briefing meeting for me with the Ambassadors and senior representatives of diplomatic missions of a number of Council of Europe member states, in his capacity as representative of the country which holds the chairmanship in the Committee of Ministers. I also wish to thank Ambassador Erwan Fouéré, Special Representative of the European Union and Head of the Delegation of the European Commission in Skopje, Ambassador Giorgi Radicati, Head of the OSCE Spillover Monitor Mission in Skopje, and the UNDP Resident Co-ordinator, Mrs Maria Luisa Silva Mejias, for their very useful input in my report.

5. I also received a valuable contribution from the representatives of NGOs and minority communities, whom I met separately, with the assistance of the staff of the Council of Europe Information Office in Skopje.

6. One of the main conclusions of my visit to Skopje was that, while moving steadily along the path of the implementation of the Assembly recommendations contained in Resolution 1213 (2000), the Macedonian authorities were faced with serious challenges in a number of areas linked to the functioning of democratic institutions and pluralist democracy, the rule of law and human rights. All this requires a thorough analysis of the facts, laws and bylaws as well as actions of key stakeholders. I shall therefore prepare a comprehensive report about the recent political and legislative developments and the implementation of accession commitments at a later stage, taking into account all available information, as well as contributions from other expert bodies of the Organisation. For the time being, I shall limit myself to summarising a number of key findings from my visit, as well as suggesting some steps forward which would enhance the co-operation between the Macedonian authorities and the Assembly in the framework of the post-monitoring dialogue.

II. PLURALIST DEMOCRACY AND THE FUNCTIONING OF THE PARLIAMENT

7. The ending of the boycott of the Parliament by the opposition is to be welcomed. However, I gained the impression from my discussions with the representatives of all parliamentary opposition forces and NGO activists that the rights of the opposition have yet to be fully guaranteed.

8. Firstly, immediately after the election and while the two main opposition parties - the Social Democratic Union of Macedonia (SDSM) and the Democratic Party of Albanians (DPA) - were boycotting the Parliament, the ruling majority adopted a large number of laws (more than 170) under urgent procedure in just a couple of days.

³ AS/Mon (2007) 12 rev 2 of 24 January 2008

⁴ SEC(2008) 2695 final, 5 November 2008

http://ec.europa.eu/enlargement/press_corner/key-documents/reports_nov_2008_en.htm

All these laws had been presented by the “technical” outgoing government. I was told by the representatives of the majority that the adoption of these laws was necessary to fulfil the requirements of the European Union.

9. Secondly, and most importantly, the Parliament adopted new Rules of Procedure during the same period, without any debate and in the absence of the representatives of the opposition. While I acknowledge that the new Rules of Procedure were indeed necessary to streamline the debates and prevent political actors from abusing the parliamentary procedure by constant boycotts and obstructionist tactics, I consider that the adoption of the new Rules in the absence of the opposition is a serious error which undermines pluralist democracy.

10. I equally find it unacceptable in a pluralist democratic society that crucial laws (including those required by the Ohrid Framework Agreement which were to be adopted with the qualified so-called “Badinter” majority⁵, such as the law on the use of the Albanian language) were presented by the outgoing government and voted without the participation of the opposition. The adoption of these laws was a bad example of parliamentary democracy. **In the spirit of pluralism, I call on the majority coalition to allow the opposition parties to table amendments to these laws and to hold a democratic debate.**

11. I was told that the new Rules of Procedure of the Parliament provide for an increased protection of the rights of the opposition. The new Rules were developed with support from the Slovenian Parliament and the Bundestag. The new Rules limit the speaking time, and allow the opposition to suggest items to be put on the agenda, which the Speaker of the Parliament is obliged to include in the agenda of the first subsequent sitting of the Parliament.

12. That being said, I was told by the representatives of the opposition that the practical implementation of these new protective provisions remained problematic and that the powers of the Speaker of the Parliament were too broad and enabled him, in practice, to block the initiatives of the opposition. As the Rules of Procedure were adopted without the participation of the opposition, I tend to believe that there may be a degree of credibility in the arguments of the representatives of the opposition. On the other hand, I have no reason to believe that the arguments put forward by the majority are not valid because I was informed, from other sources, that the new Rules of Procedure were based on good practices from other Council of Europe member states and provide a solid basis for a modern and transparent parliamentary debate. In order to make a comprehensive and impartial expert assessment of the Rules of Procedure, **I suggest that our Committee asks the Assembly to make a legal appraisal of the Rules, within the framework of the parliamentary co-operation programme and in co-operation with the Venice Commission.**

13. On a positive note, I welcome the fact that the leaders of all political groups in the Parliament agreed to hold co-ordination meetings at the beginning of every week. Discussions between key political stakeholders should help establish a climate of trust and confidence between the majority and the opposition. I hope that this practice will lead to the normalisation of the democratic debate among individual MPs in the Parliament hall. That said, co-ordination between the group leaders should not be abused. “*Politbureau*-style” politics have no place in a modern and democratic parliament.

III. IMPLEMENTATION OF THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE AD HOC COMMITTEE ON THE OBSERVATION OF THE PARLIAMENTARY ELECTION OF 1 AND 15 JUNE (PARTIAL RE-RUN)

14. According to the International Election Observation Mission, which included an Assembly delegation, the international standards were not met in the 1 June 2008 parliamentary elections. The observers noted that, while, technically, the elections were well organised in the greater part of the country, a sizeable proportion of the electorate was deprived of the right to express its will freely due to the irresponsible, violent and destructive actions of activists of the two major Albanian parties. Subsequently, our Assembly addressed a number of recommendations to the Macedonian authorities in the report of the Ad Hoc Committee on the observation of the election⁶ and in the memorandum by the Chair of the Ad Hoc Committee on the post-electoral mission⁷. I was informed that the authorities have recently taken a number of steps to implement the recommendations of the

⁵ The “Badinter” principle stipulates that constitutional amendments resulting from the Ohrid Agreement, laws concerning minority rights, and the law on local self-government cannot be approved by the Macedonian parliament without a qualified majority of two-thirds of votes, within which there must be “a majority of votes of representatives claiming to belong to the communities not in the majority in the population of Macedonia”.

⁶ Doc. 11647 of 23 June 2008.

⁷ AS/BUR/AHMK (2008) 6 of 21 July 2008

Assembly's Ad Hoc Committee. On 18 September, the Government shared with all political parties a draft proposal on amendments to the Electoral Code, which was drafted by the Ministry of Justice. In addition to the amendments to the Electoral Code prepared in 2007 with the support from ODIHR, the Venice Commission and the civil society, the new draft included new measures dealing with electoral irregularities, electoral campaign financing and voters' lists. The draft proposal also contained provisions for the inclusion of Diaspora voting and the assignment of reserved seats to the five smaller minorities' parties (Ethnic Turks, Roma, Serbs, Bosnians and Vlachs).

15. On 29 October, the Parliament adopted the amendments to the Electoral Code. Their key features are three-fold:

- the threshold for the second round of the presidential elections will be decreased from 50% to 40%;
- diaspora voting will be introduced in the 2012 parliamentary elections and the 2014 presidential elections. Three seats will be reserved for the Diaspora;
- the composition of the State Electoral Commission (SEC) will be changed: the President will be nominated by the opposition and the SEC will be formed of four members from the ruling parties and three from the opposition.

16. By and large, the amendments are believed to be in line with the recommendations contained in the OSCE/ODIHR final report on the 1 and 15 June parliamentary elections. In addition, all political stakeholders agreed to schedule the 2009 presidential and local elections for 29 March.

17. Given the importance of the forthcoming presidential elections and taking into account the fact that both the Venice Commission and the OSCE/ODHIR have made detailed recommendations on amendments to the electoral legislation in the past, **I consider that our Committee should ask the Venice Commission to make an assessment of the revised Electoral Code.** I also suggest that the experts of the Venice Commission should look not only into the provisions of the legislation as such, but also into the possible effects of new amendments on electoral practice. I am concerned by the statements of some political stakeholders to the effect that the SEC should be composed anew in December 2008 in the context of the implementation of the new Electoral Code. I am of the opinion that changes to the composition of the SEC, just three months before major nation-wide elections (presidential and local), are not advisable, since this could be interpreted as an attempt to manipulate electoral arrangements in the interests of some political forces. **I would like to know the Venice Commission's opinion on this issue.**

18. I also note that the proposal of the majority political party (VMRO-DPNME) to introduce up to 10 reserved seats for minorities which represent less than 20% of the country's population was not included in the set of amendments to the Electoral Code. It was explained to me that this issue deserves a more thorough examination. I welcome this approach. The issue of political representation of minorities is delicate and, therefore, should be resolved through open and transparent dialogue between all stakeholders (and not only between key political parties). **I therefore call upon the authorities to promptly launch consultations on this matter, making full use of the expert advice of the Venice Commission, in order to prepare the necessary amendments for the next parliamentary election.**

IV. IMPLEMENTATION OF THE OHRID FRAMEWORK AGREEMENT

19. I learned from my meeting with the Deputy Prime Minister responsible for the implementation of the Ohrid Framework Agreement (OFA), Mr Abdilakim Ademi, that the adoption of the legislation relating to OFA was progressing. In particular, the recent adoption of the law on the use of the Albanian language was a major step in this respect. However, this law was adopted under urgent procedure, when the major opposition party (SDSM) and the numerically second ethnic Albanian party (DPA) were boycotting the Parliament. Consequently, the DPA representatives claim that this law does not satisfy all the interests of the Albanian community. In this context, I cannot help but reiterate my previous appeal to the majority coalition to give effective possibility to the opposition to table amendments on the laws adopted under urgent procedure, in the spirit of democratic pluralism.

20. The implementation of OFA in practice progresses smoothly. There are several municipalities where languages of minorities representing less than 20% of the country's population were introduced in official use (e.g. the municipality of Gostivar officially uses the Macedonian, Albanian and Turkish languages). Cultural and ethnic associations of all minority groups have been established. A Turkish national theatre is being built in

Skopje. The authorities are supporting programmes aiming at providing education in the mother tongue of the minorities.

21. Currently, a special focus is being given to the equitable representation of minority representatives in civil service. A competition for some 570 posts reserved for minority representatives was recently opened.

22. A proposal to establish an Agency for Human and Minority Rights was recently adopted to enhance the protection of those minorities which represent less than 20% of the country's population. That being said, the Agency cannot function in practice, as the necessary budgetary allocations have not yet been approved. **I therefore call on the authorities to provide sufficient financial, human and material resources to the Agency for Human and Minority Rights, so as to enable it to perform its functions effectively.**

23. I nevertheless gained the impression that the full implementation of the OFA has yet to be achieved. I listened attentively to the concerns of the representatives of the minorities which represent less than 20% of the population. It seemed to me that they sometimes feel that their rights are not sufficiently guaranteed. In particular, I was informed of cases of hidden discrimination (especially, in the field of employment), "segregation" in the access to education and violations of the right to freedom of religion.

24. **I advised the representatives of the minority communities to refer their problems and complaints directly to the Deputy Prime Minister responsible for the implementation of the OFA.** For my part, I will follow closely the issue of the protection of the rights of national minorities in the course of the preparation of my report, making full use, where appropriate, of all available information from the Council of Europe's specific monitoring bodies (in particular, the Advisory Committee of the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities and the European Commission against Racism and Intolerance).

V. THE REFORM OF THE JUDICIARY

25. I learned from my meeting with the Minister of Justice, Mr Mihaljo Manevski, that substantial progress had been made in the reform of the judiciary. In the past two years, some 60 laws relating to the reform of the judiciary have been adopted. Some 15 laws were adopted in the first 100 days in office of the new government, including a very important law on legal aid. According to court statistics, the number of unresolved cases dropped by 13% and that of resolved cases increased by 60%. The granting of new competences to notary offices (in the field of inheritance) and bailiffs (for the execution of final court decisions) has considerably relieved the workload of the courts of law.

26. The Academy of Judges and Prosecutors provides initial and in-service training to judges and prosecutors, including on the case-law of the European Court of Human Rights.

27. I learned from the President of the Supreme Court, Mr Jovo Vangelovski, that the judiciary is still facing problems with regard to delays in legal proceedings. This problem appears to be of a systemic character, as it transpires that appeal courts, acting in second instance proceedings, simply send cases back to first instance courts, in the event of factual mistakes or inappropriate application of the law, instead of taking the decision themselves, as is the case in other legal systems. This practice of "delayed justice" is not in line with the right to a fair trial, as defined in the European Convention on Human Rights and the case-law of the Strasbourg Court.

28. I was informed that, according to recently adopted amendments to the procedural codes, appeal courts can annul lower courts' decisions and send them back for a new hearing only once. In addition, special committees have been created within the Supreme Court to deal with cases of "delayed justice" in first and second instance courts under an extraordinary appeal procedure. I shall carefully study these measures and their practical impact. I wish to stress, however, that such measures can only be a solution for the short-term. **A systematic revision of the entire judicial procedure appears to be necessary in order to streamline the appeal mechanism and enable the Supreme Court to concentrate on issues which correspond to its primary function in the judicial hierarchy.**

VI. HUMAN RIGHTS

a) The activities of the Ombudsperson

29. I congratulated Mr Ixhet Memeti, the Ombudsperson of the Republic, on the success of his activities. Mr Memeti provided me with extensive information about his activities in writing. I shall pay due attention to his activity reports for 2006 and 2007 in the preparation of my report.

30. I learned from my discussion that key complaints addressed to him concerned certain administrative activities performed by the courts of law (e.g. certification of documents), the work of the police, labour relations, urban planning and property. Mr Memeti gave me concrete examples of cases where he acted upon the complaints of citizens. I was particularly shocked by cases of police violence. As will be seen in Section b) below, this problem is of a systemic nature and the rules and regulations governing control over the activities of the police must be brought in line with European standards.

31. With respect to the institutional role of the Ombudsperson's Office, Mr Memeti informed me of the need to amend the law on the Ombudsperson in several respects. In particular, he referred to the necessity of increasing the Ombudsperson's financial independence, of improving the powers of the Ombudsperson in the prevention of discrimination, as well as of introducing specific sanctions for the non-execution of the Ombudsperson's decisions. **I expect the authorities to take these issues into account in the process of further development of the legislation on the functioning of the Ombudsperson.**

b) Implementation of the recommendations of the Committee on the Prevention of Torture and Inhuman and Degrading Treatment (CPT)

32. My fact-finding visit coincided with the publication of the report by the Committee on the Prevention of Torture and Inhuman and Degrading Treatment on the visit it carried out to "the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia" from 30 June to 3 July 2008⁸. The conclusions of the report are extremely alarming. In particular, the CPT noted that:

"Ten years after it first visited "the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia", the quality of the CPT's relationship with the national authorities remains, in many respects, profoundly unsatisfactory. Firstly, the Committee cannot rely on the information provided to it by the national authorities. Yet the provision of reliable information represents the bedrock for cooperation. Secondly, no visible improvements have been made to the situation, in the light of the CPT's numerous recommendations. The stark conclusion is that the national authorities do not appear to take seriously their fundamental obligation to provide protection for persons deprived of their liberty."

33. In my meetings with the Minister of Justice and the officials responsible for the prison system as well as with the Minister of the Interior and the staff of the Police, I expressed my grave concern by the serious shortcomings in the co-operation between the Macedonian authorities and the Council of Europe in areas covered by the CPT.

34. I shall, of course, study carefully the response of the Government to the CPT report, as well as any additional information the authorities may wish to provide to me in writing. **In particular, I would appreciate receiving concrete and detailed information about the measures which are being taken to implement the CPT's recommendations with respect to prisons conditions. Equally, I would like to receive detailed explanations about the functioning of the Sector of Internal Control and Professional Standards (including the most up-to-date statistics and concrete examples of recently investigated cases). Finally, I wish to receive additional information about the legal basis for the operation of the so-called "ALPHA" Special Mobile Police Unit, as well as about the rules governing their work.**

35. I expect the authorities to pay due attention to the implementation of CPT's recommendations and that the conclusions of the Committee in its forthcoming reports will be more positive.

⁸ Report to the Government of "the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia" on the visit to "the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia" carried out by the European Committee for the Prevention of Torture and Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (CPT). CPT/Inf (2008) 31. 4 November 2008.

VII. PRELIMINARY CONCLUSIONS AND NEXT STEPS

36. Eight years after the adoption of Resolution 1213 (2000) on the honouring of obligations and commitments by “the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia”, the country still appears to be facing a number of challenges in the implementation of Assembly recommendations in the context of the post-monitoring dialogue. Some of the problems identified are of a systemic nature and require serious reforms on the part of the authorities.

37. In addition, in the last couple of years, new challenges relating to the functioning of democratic institutions have emerged. Although the quality of the dialogue between the key political stakeholders appears to be improving after the recent parliamentary election, the strengthening of pluralist democracy will require not only legislative measures, but also constructive dialogue between the majority and the opposition, which is currently hampered by a climate of distrust and mutual accusations.

38. All domestic and international stakeholders agree that the parliamentary elections of 1 and 15 June (partial re-run) were a bad example of the democratic process. Therefore, the 2009 presidential and local elections will be a crucial test for the country’s democracy.

39. From my discussions, I gained the impression that the authorities have learnt lessons from the mistakes made and are in the process of implementing the recommendations of the Assembly’s Ad Hoc Committee. In this context, I consider that the Macedonian authorities should work constructively with the Council of Europe, and our Assembly in particular, in the preparation and observation of the forthcoming presidential and local elections. For this purpose, **I recommend that the following actions be taken:**

- the Assembly and the Council of Europe’s Congress of Local and Regional Authorities should be invited in due course to observe the 2009 presidential and local elections respectively;
- the authorities should closely collaborate with the Venice Commission in the assessment of the possible effects of the recently adopted amendments to the Election Code, with a view to eliminating all shortcomings of the electoral process which had flawed the June 2008 parliamentary elections;
- our Assembly should recommend that the Macedonian authorities and the Committee of Ministers should develop targeted co-operation activities aiming at preparing the 2009 elections;
- our Assembly should deploy in due time significant pre-election and election observation missions for the 2009 presidential election.

APPENDIX

Programme of the fact-finding visit to Skopje (2-5 November 2008)

Mr Serhiy HOLOVATY, Chairman of the Monitoring Committee
Mr Artemy KARPENKO, Co-secretary of the Monitoring Committee

Sunday, 2 November 2008

- 15.30 Arrival of the delegation to Skopje
17.00 Meeting with Human Rights NGO activists

Monday, 3 November 2008

- 08.15 Briefing with the representatives of the diplomatic community
09.30-10.30 Meetings with Mr Oliver ŠAMBEVSKI, Head of the Delegation to PACE, and members of the Delegation

Present:

- Ms Ermira MEHMETI, member
- Mr Igor IVANOVSKI, member
- Mr Zoran PETRESKI, substitute member
- Mr Andrej ŽERNOVSKI, substitute member
- Mr Nikola TODOROVSKI, state advisor for international cooperation and secretary of the delegation

- 11.10-12.10 Meeting with Mr Xevat ADEMI, Chairperson of the Committee for Relations among the Communities, and with the members of the committee

Present:

- Mr Živko PEJKOVSKI, member
- Mr Goran PETROV, member
- Ms Cena MATEVSKA, member
- Mr Vasko ŠUTAROV, member
- Ms Katerina DIMESKA, member
- Mr Nikola KJURČIEV, member
- Mr Mende DINEVSKI, member
- Mr Xevat ADEMI, member
- Ms Teuta ARIFI, member
- Mr Fazli VELIU, member
- Mr Xhemail JASHARI, member
- Mr Kenan HASIPI, member
- Ms Anita KIPARIZOVSKA-KRSTESKA, member
- Mr Amdi BAJRAM, member
- Mr Ivan STOILKOVIC, member
- Mr Avdija PEPIC, member
- Mr Liman AVDIU, state advisor for international cooperation
- Ms Lindita JASHARI, advisor to the committee

- 12.15-13.15 Meeting with Mr Aleksandar SPASENOVSKI, Deputy Chairperson of the Committee on Constitutional Issues, and with the members of the committee

Present:

- Mr Zoran PETRESKI, member
- Ms Blagorodna DULIK, member

- Ms Nadica TANCEVA-TULIEVA, member
- Mr Darko DIMITRIESKI, member
- Ms Jagotka IVANOVSKI, member
- Mr Savo SAVESKI, member
- Mr Vele GJORGIEVSKI, member
- Mr Pavle TRAJANOV, member
- Ms Ermira MEHMETI, member
- Mr Tahir HANI, member
- Mr Vulnet AMETI, member
- Mr Vlado BUCKOVSKI, member
- Mr Stojan ANDOV, member
- Mr Tito PETKOVSKI, member
- Ms Cvetanka IVANOVA, member
- Ms Snezana GUSEVA, state advisor on political system

13.25-14.25 Meeting with Ms Radmila SEKERINSKA, Chairperson of the National Council for European Integration, and with the members of the council

Present:

- Ms Silvana BONEVA, Vice-Chairperson
- Mr Aleksandar NIKOLOVSKI, member
- Mr Kenan HASIPI, member
- Mr Andrej ZERNOVSKI, member
- Mr Tito PETKOVSKI, member
- Mr Xhevat ADEMI, member
- Mr Petar POP-ARSOV, member
- Ms Teuta ARIFI, member
- Mr Aleksandar SPASENOVSKI, member
- Mr Ivica BOCEVSKI, member
- Ms Natasa SAVOVA-SALKOVSKA, member
- Mr Saso STEFKOV, member
- Mr Vlado KAMBOVSKI, member
- Mr Koce TRAJANOVSKI, member
- Mr Robert POPOVSKI, member
- Mr Nikola TODOROVSKI, state advisor for international cooperation
- Ms Ankica KRSTEVSKA, state advisor for international cooperation
- Ms Slavjanka PETROVSKI, junior assistant

14.30-15.40 Working lunch hosted Mr Oliver ŠAMBEVSKI, Head of the Delegation to PACE

Present:

- Mr Oliver SAMBEVSKI
- Mr Andrej ZERNOVSKI
- Mr Nikola TODOROVSKI

Meetings with the leaders of political party groups in the Assembly

15.45-16.15 Meeting with Mr Ali AHMETI, Leader of DUI

16.20-16.50 Meeting with Mr Zoran ZAEV, acting Leader of SDSM

16.55-17.25 Meeting with Mr Imer ALIU, Secretary General of the DPA

17.30-18.00 Meeting with Mr Jovan MANASIJEVSKI, Leader of LDP

18.10-18.40 Meeting with H.E. Mr Trajko VELJANOSKI, President of the Assembly

20.30 Dinner with the representatives of international organisations accredited in Skopje

Present:

- Ambassador Erwan Fouéré, Special Representative of the European Union, Head of the Delegation of the European Commission
- Ambassador Giorgio Radicati, Head of the OSCE Spillover Monitor Mission to Skopje
- Ms Maria Luisa Silva Mejias, UN Resident Co-ordinator, UNDP Resident Representative

Tuesday, 4 November 2008

09.00-09.45 Meeting with Mr Antonijo MILOŠOSKI, Minister of Foreign Affairs

10.00-10.45 Meeting with Mr Mihaljo MANEVSKI, Minister of Justice

Present:

Officials of the Ministry of Justice responsible for reforms of the judicial system

11.00-11.45 Meeting with Mr Ixhet MEMETI, Ombudsman

12.00-12.45 Meeting with Mr Ljupco SVRGOVSKI, Public Prosecutor

13.00-13.45 Meeting with Ms Gordana JANKULOSKA, Minister of Interior

Present:

Officials responsible for the police

14.00-14.45 Meeting with Mr Jovo VANGELOVSKI, President of the Supreme Court

14.55-16.10 Lunch hosted by Mr Petar POP-ARSOV, Chairperson of the European Affairs Committee

Present:

- 2 members of the Committee
- Mr Oliver SAMBEVSKI
- Ms Liljana PETRESKA, advisor to the European Affairs Committee

16.20-17.05 Meeting with Mr Musa XHAFERI, Minister of Local Self-Government

17.15-18.00 Meeting with Mr Abdilakim ADEMI, Deputy Prime Minister

18.00-18.45 Meeting with Ms Mirjana DIMOVSKA, Chairperson of the State Commission for Prevention of Corruption, and the members

20.00-21.15 Dinner hosted by Mr Oliver SAMBEVSKI, Head of the Delegation to PACE, and members

Present:

- Ms Ermira MEHMETI, member
- Mr Igor IVANOVSKI, member
- Mr Zoran PETRESKI, substitute member
- Mr Andrej ŽERNOVSKI, substitute member
- Mr Nikola TODOROVSKI, state advisor for international cooperation and secretary of the Delegation

Wednesday, 5 November 2008

- 09.55-10.40 Meeting with Mr Zoran STEFANOSKI, President of the Broadcasting Council
- 10.50-12.00 Meeting with the representatives of the minority communities
- 12.30-13.00 Meeting with Mr Ivica BOCEVSKI, Deputy Prime Minister