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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”

Information note by the rapporteur on his fact-finding visit to Skopje (2-3 December 2013)

Rapporteur: Mr Robert WALTER, United Kingdom, European Democrat Group

¹ Document declassified by the Monitoring Committee at its meeting on 7 April 2014.

I. Introduction

1. In June 2013, further to the presentation of my report on the post-monitoring dialogue with “the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia”, the Parliamentary Assembly encouraged the rapporteur to pay frequent visits to the country in order to support and evaluate the process of fulfilment of obligations and commitments in the post-monitoring dialogue. Pursuant to the adoption of Resolution 1949 (2013) and Recommendation 2022 (2013), I decided to travel back to Skopje on 2-3 December 2013².

2. The aim of this visit was to collect information about the latest developments and have constructive discussions on the implementation of the adopted resolution and recommendation, and possible co-operation programmes with the Council of Europe. After my visit, I welcomed the open attitude of the Macedonian authorities³. In this respect, I would like to express my warm thanks to the Macedonian delegation, its chairperson Mr Aleksandar Nikoloski and the Macedonian authorities for their co-operation and hospitality. I had a series of high-level meetings, including with the Mr Gjorge Ivanov, President of the Republic, H.E. Mr Trajko Veljanoski, Speaker of the Parliament, Ms Gordana Jankuloska, Minister of the Interior, Mr Blerim Bexheti, Minister of Justice, Mr Ivo Ivanoski, Minister of Information Society and Administration, Mr Tahir Hani, Minister of Local Self-Government, parliamentarians, as well as the Ombudsman of the Republic, and representatives of the media and the civil society.

3. I would also like to underline that I had a very positive contact with the Head of the OSCE Mission, Ambassador Ralph Breth, and the Political Advisor at the EU delegation, Ms Petra Andersson-Erhardy. It is essential that we co-operate with the international organisations that are working in the field, as this is how we can best identify the added-value that the Council of Europe could provide when launching partnership programmes. I also noted, during my meetings with various stakeholders, that the European integration process remains a pull factor and creates consensus among all communities and all political forces. I believe it is therefore important that our co-operation strengthens the efforts undertaken by the Macedonian authorities to join the European Union.

4. As the challenges faced by Macedonia⁴ have been recently presented at length, I would like to focus this information note on the salient developments since June 2013, as well as possible ways to pursue our co-operation with the Macedonian authorities.

II. Recent developments

i. Political situation since June 2013

5. After the political crisis that erupted on 24 December 2012 in the parliament during the budgetary discussions - which led to the eviction of the opposition and journalists - the 1 March 2013 Agreement was signed under the auspices of the European Commission and led to the establishment of a Committee of Inquiry. The Committee began work in mid-June and agreed a report on 26 August 2013⁵ which recommended reforms to parliamentary procedures, a code of ethics for MPs, parliamentary security arrangements and treatment of journalists. The Speaker of the Parliament then created a cross-party working group of the Assembly in charge of implementing the recommendations, with the participation of all political groups, except the Albanian opposition party DPA. The 1 March 2013 Agreement also included the drafting of a cross-party Memorandum of Understanding confirming support for the Euro-Atlantic integration agenda, which was signed on 16 September 2013.

6. When the working group was close to reaching an agreement, the opposition party SDSM decided to quit it, following the arrest and pre-trial detention of Mr Sipovic, an SDSM member and Head of the municipal council of Skopje Centar. This municipality was won by the opposition during the March 2013 local elections. Mr Sipovic was arrested on fraud claims. The opposition considered this arrest to be politically motivated, after the launch of investigations into the much debated Skopje 2014 project by the Municipality of Skopje Centar, the presentation of audit reports in August 2013 and the drafting of a second report. As the opposition had only a one vote majority in the municipal council of Skopje Centar; the arrest of Mr Sipovic hampered its functioning

² See programme in Appendix II.

³ See Appendix I.

⁴ The use in the text of the term ‘Macedonia’ is for descriptive purposes and the convenience of the reader. It does not prejudge the position of the Assembly on the question of the name of the state and does not reflect the position of the Council of Europe.

⁵ Earlier in July, the inquiry committee failed to adopt the much-expected report on the 24 December 2012 events. The main parties did not agree on the conclusions. As a consequence, the Chairperson of the Committee, Prof. Davitkoski, decided to resign.

and the launch of further investigations. As a sign of protest, the opposition decided to withdraw from the working group in charge of implementing the 1 March 2013 agreement, pending the release of Mr Sipovic.

7. I expressed my disappointment that this working group could not complete its work and submit a draft decision to the parliament that would have improved the working conditions of parliamentarians. As a consequence, the parliament's rules of procedure, as amended in February 2013, with limited discussions on budgetary amendments, could not be amended and improved. I called on the main opposition party to re-consider its position, which would enable this group to finish its work.

8. Another disputed issue related to the work of the Lustration commission. The term in office of its current 11 members expired on 15 January 2014. As I explained in my previous report, the lustration process is highly controversial and the law in force has been challenged by the Constitutional Court, on the basis of the advice of the Venice Commission. A case, lodged by the former President of the Constitutional Court, is currently pending at the European Court of Human Rights.⁶ The opposition complained that the process is politicised. The Social Democrats told me during my visit that they were considering blocking the designation of new members that requires in the first voting round a two-thirds majority in parliament. A simple majority however is sufficient in the second round.

9. Presidential elections are scheduled for March 2014. At the time of my visit, no candidate had been declared. Issues that might possibly be raised during the election campaign include the implementation of the Ohrid Framework Agreement (OFA) and interethnic relationships; the economy; and EU and NATO integration. There was also strong speculation that early parliamentary elections might be organised on the same day.

10. Concerning the aspiration of Macedonia to join the European Union, the High-Level Accession Dialogue, launched in March 2012, continued. *Pro memoria*, it focuses on five key areas: protecting freedom of expression in the media, strengthening the rule of law and fundamental rights, reforming public administration, electoral reform, and developing the market economy. In its 2013 progress report⁷, the European Commission recommended for the fifth time opening of the accession negotiations. However, there was no progress on the name issue, and no decision of the December 2013 the European Council to launch the accession negotiation. We shall see whether any progress can be achieved in the coming months, under the Greek chairmanship of the EU, and with the perspective of the upcoming elections for the European Parliament in May 2014, which might stall the situation. The name issue was especially emphasised by the President of the Republic.

III. Current issues and possible ways to enhance co-operation with the Council of Europe

11. I was informed about the co-operation established between the Macedonian authorities and the Council of Europe, notably with EU funding. Macedonia takes part in several bilateral, regional or multilateral programmes, which can be summed up as follows :

Scope of the programme	Title	Duration	Funding
Bilateral	Capacity Building of the Law Enforcement Agencies for Appropriate Treatment of Detained and Sentenced Persons	01/12/2012-30/11/2014	€ 2 100 000, EU/CoE
Regional	Inclusive education	01/01/2013-30/11/2015	€ 5 165 650, EU/CoE
	Ljubljana Process II - Rehabilitating our Common Heritage	19/05/2011-18/07/2014	€ 500 042, EU/CoE
	Promoting Human Rights and Minority Protection in South East Europe	30/11/2011-29/11/2014	€ 3 600 000, EU/CoE
	Promoting freedom of expression and information and freedom of the media in South-East Europe	1/09/2013 - 02/02/2015	€ 1 000 045, Norway
Multilateral	Intercultural mediation for Roma communities (ROMED programme)	06/07/2011-31/03/2014	€ 3 000 000, EU/CoE

⁶ See *Ivanovski v. "the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia"*, Case no. 29908/11, communicated 27 November 2012. The former President of the Constitutional Court alleges that the proceedings brought against him (so-called "lustration proceedings") for being an informant of the former secret police were unfair. He also complains about the impact of those proceedings on his reputation, personal dignity and integrity and that he is still being registered as a collaborator without his knowledge or acceptance. The Court will have to decide whether Articles 6 (right to a fair trial), 8 (right to respect for private and family life) and 13 (right to an effective remedy) have been violated.

⁷ SWD(2013) 413 final, EC 2013 Progress report, 16 October 2013.

12. I had the opportunity to visit the premises of the programmes on “Capacity Building of the Law Enforcement Agencies for Appropriate Treatment of Detained and Sentenced Persons” and to learn more about the state of progress. I appreciated the efforts deployed by the authorities and the Council of Europe to launch this project, which is a good example of how Macedonia can move from monitoring to co-operation with our Organisation.

13. During my meetings, I stressed that, with the adoption of Recommendation 2022 (2013), the Parliamentary Assembly expected the Council of Europe to strengthen its co-operation with Macedonia. On 24 October 2013, the Committee of Ministers⁸ welcomed “the Parliamentary Assembly’s recommendation to intensify cooperation activities in “the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia” and tasked “the Secretariat to prepare, in close consultation with the authorities, proposals for enhanced co-operation in priority areas, including that of the implementation of the 2001 Ohrid Framework Agreement, thus contributing to the country’s European integration process.” This was a positive sign and I hope that an integrated, well-structured and tailor-made co-operation programme will be launched in 2014. I would like to address some issues we discussed during my visits in the light of the resolution and recommendation adopted by the Assembly.

i. Functioning of democratic institutions

14. The implementation of the 1 March 2013 agreement and the withdrawal of the opposition from the working group show that relations between the majority and the opposition remain difficult and hamper the decision-making process. The parliament still needs to foster a constructive atmosphere, conducive to dialogue, and enhance the capacity of the opposition by revising its rules of procedure.

15. At local level, capacity-building should be strengthened. As the decentralisation process continues, emphasis should be given to the training of local government staff and political leadership.

16. Politicisation of public life, both along political and ethnic lines, remains an issue. The Ombudsman, Mr Memeti, indicated that his office had identified many cases of violations of rights based on ethnicity or political affiliation. A number of complaints were lodged after the local elections; many local employees complained about being dismissed, and violations of their social rights.

17. The Minister of Information Society and Administration, Mr Ivanoski, informed me about the adoption of a law on the public administration, which had been under preparation for two years. He explained that the new law on public service and public administration staff should introduce a 100% merit-based system, a new procedure to recruit civil servants from the minority communities in public administration⁹, improve the administration by a 360° appraisal procedure, including by citizens, the use of performance criteria to make the staff more competitive, the drafting of a new job classifications system with a view to promoting a more transparent, professional and client-oriented administration. The Minister estimated that it would take three years to fully implement this new recruitment and appraisal procedure. But for the time being, there was no data related to the number of persons employed in the public administration.

18. The Minister informed me that Macedonia is preparing a law to further pursue its efforts to put in place an open government.

ii. Functioning of the judiciary

19. In my last report, I already stressed that the perception of selective justice undermined the confidence of the people in their judiciary system. According to the Minister of Justice, this perception is explained by the polarisation of society, the role played by some politicians trying to protect persons involved in legal procedures, and the role played by media. He underlined that the judiciary and the prosecutor office also have a responsibility not to create divisions among ethnic or religious lines.

20. The issue of pre-trial detention was raised during my visit, in particular by Mr Memeti, Ombudsman (see below). According to the Minister of Justice, pre-trial detention only concerned 5% of cases, and they were decided upon on a legal basis.

21. The Minister of Justice highlighted the progress made by Macedonia to improve the judiciary. The electoral code and the criminal code were currently being debated in parliament. Implementation of the new

⁸ See [Doc. 13347](#), reply to Recommendation 2022 (2013) adopted at the 1182nd meeting of the Ministers’ Deputies (24 October 2013).

⁹ This was previously done by the SIOFA.

criminal procedure code had begun¹⁰, and more measures had been taken, including approbation of the judicial rulebook, revision of the judiciary card, harmonisation of the processing of criminal cases to avoid the perception of a preferential justice in certain cases, etc. The Minister stressed the importance of the expertise and funds provided by the European institutions to achieve these results.

22. The prevalence of corruption remains a serious concern and should be addressed thoroughly. The European Commission noted that too many prosecutions fail to reach the judgment and sentencing stage, or take too long to do so due to repeated re-trials. The country still needed to demonstrate tangible results in the reduction and deterrence of corruption in practice.¹¹ Parliamentarians also have a leading role to play in the fight against corruption. I therefore welcome the active participation of the Macedonian parliament in the seminar on “*Mechanisms available to national parliaments to counter corruption*”, organised by the PACE in Belgrade on 2 December 2013.

23. In particular the issue of funding of political parties remains insufficiently addressed, even though the Law on Financing of Political Parties and the Election Code were further amended with a view to addressing GRECO and ODIHR recommendations. However, the understaffing of the anti-corruption bodies¹² remains a problem. I would also encourage the Macedonian authorities to address the issue of the misuse of administrative resources in the electoral process, in the light of the recent report adopted by the Venice Commission¹³, to find ways to avoid a similar situation in future elections.

iii. Electoral process

24. During my visit, I was informed that the electoral code, which remains a bone of contention between the majority and the opposition, was being amended. Two working groups, composed of representatives from the relevant authorities and civil society, assisted by OSCE/ODIHR experts, have been working on the electoral legislation and the voters' lists.¹⁴ Following the resignation of the Head of the Central Electoral Commission, Mr Nikola Rilkoski, from the SDSM, was elected as the new Head of the CEC on 22 November 2013 by the parliament.

25. During my meeting with the Parliamentary Committee on Political System and Relations among the Communities, I strongly urged the parliament to seek advice from the Venice Commission prior to the adoption of the amendments, ensuring that all recommendations previously made by the OSCE and the Venice Commission be taken on board¹⁵. I was informed by media reports that the parliament started to review the amendments to the Electoral Code on 16 January 2014. Again, I encourage the Macedonian authorities to seek an opinion from the Venice Commission, in order to strengthen the legal framework. Further information on the substance of the amendments is expected from the authorities.

26. The implementation of the legal framework on political party funding remains deficient. The lack of transparency and accountability of political parties for breaches of the legislation on party funding remains a concern. The EC considered in October 2013 that, despite legislative amendments, limited action has been taken as regards measures to inform political parties about their reporting obligations. Therefore a more streamlined and proactive supervision and sanctioning system is needed.¹⁶

iv. Media

27. The situation of media continues to remain an area of concern. During my visit, the arrest of the journalist Mr Tomislav Kezarovski, who allegedly revealed the identity of a protected witness, had stirred a lot of debate and suspicion about attempts to curtail the freedom of the media. Mr Kerazovski had been sentenced to four-and-a-half years in jail. Following international pressure, he was released to house arrest by decision of the court on 6 November 2013. He awaits the final verdict of the Court of Appeal. I met the representative of the

¹⁰ The new criminal procedure code will strengthen the role of the public prosecutor, establish a judicial police, streamline the investigation phase and introduce new investigative techniques.

¹¹ SWD(2013) 413 final, p. 11.

¹² The European Commission indicated that the State Commission for the Prevention of Corruption (SCPC) and the Anti-Corruption Unit of the Ministry of the Interior remain inadequately staffed and funded (6 out of 18 planned posts in the Anti-Corruption Unit are still vacant). The State Audit Office (SAO) is also understaffed and underfunded in the light of its new functions of financial supervision of political parties and election campaigns. SWD(2013) 413 final, p. 11.

¹³ Report on the misuse of administrative resources during electoral processes adopted by the Venice Commission at its 97th Plenary Session (Venice, 6-7 December 2013) [CDL-AD\(2013\)033-e](#).

¹⁴ SWD(2013) 413 final, p. 6.

¹⁵ See notably the opinion ([CDL-AD\(2013\)020](#)) on the Electoral Code adopted by the Parliament of “the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia” of 13 November 2012 adopted by the Venice Commission adopted on 13 June 2013.

¹⁶ SWD(2013) 413 final, p. 42.

Association of Journalists (ZNM), who is defending this case and I also discussed the case with Mr Ivanoski, Minister of Information Society and Administration, as well as with Ms Jankuloska, Minister of the Interior, who explained that Mr Kezarovski had been prosecuted for violating the law, not for his journalistic activities, and that he should be entitled to a fair trial, based on facts, and not pressure. This case raises a number of questions, and we shall continue to follow it.

28. Mr Ivanoski informed me about the drafting of new laws on media and on audio-visual media services. The draft laws have been prepared in consultation with the European Union and the Council of Europe, expertise of which was considered helpful. The two associations of journalists had also been consulted. These laws were eventually adopted on 27 December 2013. According to the Minister, these laws would propose to create a professional radio and TV broadcaster, enhance pluralism, and open the media to market economy. The switch to digitalised media should also take place in 2014. He expected these new laws to reduce polarisation of the media, encourage more self-regulation and protect journalists.

29. However, the journalists and representatives of the civil society I met were very concerned about the draft media laws in preparation. They considered that the new media law would serve to further curb freedom of the media. I believe that this matter should be further examined and discussed by the authorities, the associations of journalists and the Council of Europe to assess the content and impact of these new laws.

30. As already mentioned in my report, self-regulation of the media, professional standards and the code of ethics for journalists should be strengthened. The working environment should also be improved, and the issue of transparency of media ownership, economic pressures exerted on journalists and media owners, government advertising in the media, and self-censorship further have to be addressed. While some journalists praised the training received for investigative journalism, they expressed concern that no media would be ready to publish such investigative articles. Concerning self-regulation, I was informed by the Association of Journalists (ZNM) that a press council should be set up in December 2013.

v. Promoting multiethnic co-operation

31. The interethnic situation remains tense. As the Council of Europe Commissioner for Human Rights, Mr Nils Muižnieks rightly put it, “bridging interethnic divisions should be a top priority in “the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia”. We had limited information about the further implementation of the Ohrid Framework Agreement (OFA) as, unfortunately, I was not able to meet the Deputy Prime Minister in charge of the OFA, and to the follow-up given by the authorities to the report on the review of the implementation of the OFA, which was published on 11 April 2013. From the discussions and meetings I held, I had the feeling that the two communities are talking *at* each other, and not *to* each other.

32. I had a very informative meeting with Mr Tahir Hani, Minister of Local Self-Government, on possible ways to overcome the gaps and mutual fears between the Macedonian and Albanian communities. While his ministry has limited resources, Mr Hani outlined the following proposals to promote cohesive economic and social development of the country: strengthening the capacity and role of the local authorities; promotion of inter-municipal co-operation; full implementation of the law on regional development¹⁷, further decentralisation of public institutions (in particular in the field of culture, social labour policies, education and health institutions) to implement the OFA, progress the use of the Albanian language (including for the Speaker and Vice-Speakers of the parliament) and promote a professional approach within the Albanian community to create a critical mass of professional civil servants.

33. Minister Hani stressed that the OFA provided an adequate framework for creating the pre-conditions for ensuring successful cohabitation. He considered that more investment should be made to overcome prejudice. He suggested encouraging political leaders to address all communities, to foster common projects (through twinings of municipalities of different ethnic compositions), to promote integrated education, to think over common national symbols with ownership from both communities. He also underlined that all communities should understand that the OFA is, ultimately, benefiting all communities. In this respect, he mentioned the promotion of the cultural rights of the Macedonian minority in the Western part of Macedonia.

34. There were repeated concerns about the lack of equitable representation of the smaller communities, including the Roma.

¹⁷ The Minister indicated that only 0.02% of the State budget, instead of the 1% foreseen by the Law was allocated to regional development projects.

vi. *Promotion of human rights*

a. *The ombudsman institution*

35. According to the latest data, the Office processed 5,220 complaints in 2012, mostly relating to consumer rights, judiciary, labour relations, pensions and disability insurance, property rights and social rights. A violation of the law was found in 1356 cases (about 25%) and 1043 interventions of the ombudsman were accepted.¹⁸ The parliament appointed seven deputy ombudspersons in 2013 for an eight-year term, six of whom head the respective regional offices of the Ombudsman outside Skopje. I noted with interest that a Roma deputy Ombudsperson was appointed for the first time.¹⁹

36. The Ombudsman is acting as the National Preventive Mechanism under the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture. In this respect, the Ombudsman shared his concern about the work of the judiciary, the recourse to pre-trial detention, the conditions in prison. Generally speaking, he requested more resources to fight corruption based on ethnicity or political affiliation, to step up the dissemination of information to promote human rights. Staff should be better trained and qualified to analyse the overall situation in the country, investigate and produce better quality reports. The Ombudsman also considered that the law on the ombudsman should be upgraded.

b. *The situation of the Roma community: the issue of the visa*

37. In the context of relations with the EU, we discussed the issue of “bogus asylum seekers” with the Minister of the Interior in the light of the research paper published by the Commissioner of Human Rights on “the right to leave a country”. I discussed the issue with Ms Jankuloska, Minister of the Interior, who explained that those who were not able to leave the country had failed to produce the evidence required to benefit from the EU visa liberalisation. She stressed that no one was prevented from leaving the country, and there was no ethnic profiling by the authorities to register people according to their ethnicity. She added that those who abuse the visa free regime were subject to legal procedures which could lead to the confiscation of their passport, upon the decision of a court. This discussion took place at a time when the EU decided to introduce a mechanism that would allow the EU to suspend temporarily visa-free travel with a third country in a fast-track procedure if there was a surge in unfounded asylum claims.

IV. Conclusions

38. My visit to Skopje was an excellent opportunity to discuss the implementation of Resolution 1949 (2013) and take stock of the progress accomplished by Macedonia these past months.

39. At the same time, I could discuss, with the authorities, Recommendation 2022 (2013) adopted by the Assembly in June 2013, and the subsequent reply of the Committee of Ministers which, I believe, is a positive move to work closer with Macedonia. This should allow the country to take advantage of the expertise and the added-value of the Council of Europe to pursue its EU-oriented reform process and to reach Council of Europe standards. I hope that the Council of Europe, in co-operation with the European Union, will be in a position to work out, together with the Macedonian authorities, an integrated partnership project in 2014, which should embrace all stakeholders. Special attention should be paid to strengthening the capacity of the civil sector and foster participation of young people in European programmes.

40. For the time being, there is limited, though growing, co-operation with the Council of Europe. The launch of the Council of Europe project on “Capacity Building of the Law Enforcement Agencies for Appropriate Treatment of Detained and Sentenced Persons” is promising and should pave the way to design new programmes with the Macedonian authorities. I also welcome the inclusion of Macedonia in four regional or multilateral joint Council of Europe/European Union projects, as well as the active participation of the Macedonian parliament in seminars organised by the Parliamentary Assembly.

41. In the context of Macedonia’s aspirations to join the EU, the Council of Europe’s expertise will be a useful tool to advance work on the judiciary and fundamental rights, justice, freedom and security issues that will be addressed in the Chapters 23 and 24 of the accession negotiations when they are launched, and also ensuring compliance with the standards developed by the Council of Europe. The Parliamentary Assembly remains supportive of this process.

¹⁸ Annual report of the ombudsman 2012, www.ombudsman.mk.

¹⁹ SWD(2013) 413 final.

42. For my part, I hope to continue the constructive co-operation established with the Macedonian authorities. I intend to carry out a new fact-finding visit after the presidential elections in April, which the Assembly is likely to observe, and seek the authorisation of the Committee to pursue this dialogue.

APPENDIX I

PACE rapporteur in Skopje welcomes open approach, urges continued dialogue on working of parliament

PACE rapporteur Robert Walter (United Kingdom, EDG), ending a two-day visit to Skopje, has welcomed the constructive and open attitude of the authorities of “the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia” in discussing the Assembly’s latest proposals for strengthening the rule of law, democracy and human rights in the country.

“The Macedonian authorities face a number of challenges, and we had a chance to review the issues where progress is still needed,” said Mr Walter, who is PACE’s rapporteur on post-monitoring dialogue with Skopje. “I believe that greater co-operation with the Council of Europe could help the country to draw closer to the Council’s democratic standards, aiding it on the path to European integration, while also enabling it to meet the diverse expectations of the public.”

He added: “However, I am also disappointed by the suspension of the work of the parliamentary working group responsible for implementing the 1 March 2013 agreement between the major political parties, which ended the 2012 political stand-off. The working group was close to reaching an agreement, which would have improved the work of parliament. I therefore call on the main opposition party to re-consider its position, which would enable this group to finish its work.”

APPENDIX II

Programme of the fact-finding visit to Skopje (2-3 December 2013)

Mr Robert WALTER, member of Parliament

Ms Sylvie AFFHOLDER, Secretary of the Monitoring Committee of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe

Monday, 2 December 2013*Arrival of the members of the delegation*

10:00-10:30 Meeting with H.E. Mr Gjorge IVANOV, President of the Republic

10:40-11:10 Meeting with H.E. Mr Trajko VELJANOSKI, Speaker of the Parliament, in presence of Mr Aleksandar NIKOLOSKI, Head of the Delegation of "the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia" to the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe

11:15-11:45 Meeting with Ms Silvana BONEVA, Coordinator of VMRO-DPMNE (Internal Macedonian Revolutionary Organization – Democratic Party for Macedonian National Unity)

11:50-12:20 Meeting with Mr Nexhati JAKUPI, Coordinator of DUI (Democratic Union for Integration)

12:25-12:55 Meeting with Mr Igor IVANOVSKI, Coordinator of SDSM (Social Democratic Union of Macedonia) and Mr Goran MISOVKI, Coordinator of NSDP (New Social-Democratic Party)

13:00-13:30 Meeting with Mr Imer ALIU, Coordinator of DPA (Democratic Party of Albanians)

13:30-15:00 Working lunch with Mr Aleksandar NIKOLOSKI, Head of the Delegation of "the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia" to the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, and members

- Ms Ermira MEHMETI, member
- Mr Igor IVANOVSKI, member
- Mr Aleksandar SPASENOVSKI, substitute member
- Ms Sonja MIRAKOVSKA, substitute member
- Mr Imer ALIU, substitute member
- Ms Marija STEFANOVA, co-secretary of the Delegation
- Mr Ivan PETRUSEVSKI, member of the Secretariat of the Delegation

15:00-16:30 Meeting with Ms Svetlana JAKIMOVSKA, Vice-Chairperson of the Parliamentary Committee on Political System and Relations among the Communities

With the participation of:

- Mr Ilija DIMOVSKI
- Ms Silvana BONEVA
- Mr Antonijo MILOSOSKI
- Mr Kenan HASIPI
- Mr Aleksandar NIKOLOSKI
- Ms Ana PAVLOVSKA DANEVA
- Ms Vesna BENDEVSKA
- Mr Erdogan SARAC
- Mr Mevmet DZEMAJLOVSKI
- Ms Ermira MEHMETI
- Mr Dzevat ADEMI
- Mr Orhan IBRAIMI

20:00 Working dinner with Ambassador Ralph BRETH, Head of the OSCE Mission, and Ms Petra ANDERSSON-ERHARDY, Political Advisor at the EU Delegation

Tuesday, 3 December 2013

- 09:00-10:00 Meeting with Mr Ixhet MEMETI, Ombudsman of the Republic
- 11:05-11:35 Meeting with Mr Ivo IVANOVSKI, Minister of Information Society and Administration
- 11:40-12:10 Meeting with Ms Gordana JANKULOVSKA, Minister of Interior
- 12:20-13:50 Working lunch with Mr Tahir HANI, Minister of Local Self-Government
- 14:15-14:45 Meeting with Mr Blerim BEXHETI, Minister of Justice
- 16:00-16:50 Meeting with NGO representatives:
Mr Xhabir DERALLA, NGO Civil
Ms Uranija PIROVSKA, Executive Director of Helsinki Committee Skopje
Ms Margarita TSATSA-NIKOLOVSKA, President of the Institute for Human Rights
- 16:50-17:30 Meeting with Mr Naser SELMANI, President Association of journalists ZNM, and Mr Dragan SEKULOVSKI, Executive Director
- 18:00 Meeting with Ms Christine WINTERBURN, Deputy Ambassador of the United Kingdom

Departure of the members of the delegation