



MONTHLY PROGRESS BRIEF ON THE EUROPEAN INTEGRATION PROCESS OF THE REPUBLIC OF MACEDONIA FOR FEBRUARY, 2010

15.03.2010

I. POLITICAL CRITERIA

In the area of Democracy and Rule of Law the following activities can be reported:

Assembly of the Republic of Macedonia

In December 2009 the Budgetary Council held session on which the Strategy for development of the Assembly for 2010-2013 was adopted.

Moreover it was decided that working group is established, composed of state councillors from the Assembly, in charge to prepare the draft-version of the strategic priorities for 2010 (strategic targets with concrete activities and deadlines for implementation of the activities). The Council indicates the need for setting strategic goals and priorities that will ensure greater transparency of the Assembly.

The Committee for European affairs held 3 sessions and discussed 23 laws related to the Euro-integration process of the country.

The National Council on Euro-integration during the course of February organised two (2) public debates on laws deriving from NPAA 2010, as a result of the taken responsibility for organising public hearings for the laws requiring high level of consensus. The draft-Law for associations and foundations and the draft-Law for public servants were debated.

With the establishment of the Parliamentary Institute of the Assembly of the Republic of Macedonia, within the Memorandum for cooperation with the Swiss Agency for Development, the members of the Assembly will have the opportunity to receive neutral and researched analysis on the legislative acts during the parliamentary debate.

The Assembly made all the necessary preparatory work for the signing of the Memorandum. The Management Board was established for coordination of the activities for the work of Institute, composed of the coordinators of all political parties in the Assembly, representative of the Swiss Agency for Cooperation and Development, the General Secretary of the Assembly and the Chief of Cabinet of the President of the Assembly. The Management Board is chaired by the representative of the parliamentary opposition Mr. Makraduli (Vice-President of the Assembly). The services of the Assembly secured space of 190 m² for the new employees of the Institute. An Architecture Plan was enacted for reconstruction and equipment of the envisaged premises of the Institute.



According to the provision 20, 21, 22 and 23 of the Law on the Assembly of the Republic of Macedonia, the first supervisory debate was held on the 18th of February 2010 on the subject "Implementation of the Agreement between the Government of the country receiver and the Government of the country provider - on the commercial, technical and related assistance". The debate was attended by the American Congressman Mr. Pomeroy and the Ambassador of the USA in the Republic of Macedonia. The supervisory debate is directly related to the implementation of the Law regarding the parliamentary supervisory role on the executive.

In line to the Law on the Assembly of the Republic of Macedonia, since the beginning of 2010, the Assembly initiated hiring of assistants to the work of the parliamentary groups (the financial implications for this provision of the Law were envisaged in the Budget of the Assembly for 2010). According to the Decision of the Budgetary Council of the Assembly, the Assembly will hire 19 assistants and they will be distributed in line with the criteria defined in the Law. The procedure is ongoing, and by the end of February 12 assistants were hired (out of 19).

The Memorandum for Cooperation for this particular project was signed on 17 February 2010 between the Assembly of the Republic of Macedonia and the Swiss Agency for Cooperation and Development. This is the final phase of this project and it is expected to be finalised by the end of 2012. The project involves the members of the Assembly, the citizens and the municipalities. The main target of the project is to enable access for the citizens to their representatives in the Assembly by stimulating them to suggest legal acts and other relevant proposals in the regional offices for contacts. By the end of the project, the Assembly anticipates to integrate the network of offices for contact with the citizens within the Service of the Assembly.

Improvement of the election process

The four thematic Working Groups established by the Steering Committee for addressing the findings in the OSCE/ODIHR report on the Presidential and Local elections 2009 continued with their regular activities in discussing the issues under their competence. The Working Group which reviews the alleged cases of intimidation is finalising its activities and it will soon propose concrete measures and activities to address the recommendations in the OSCE/ODIHR election report.

Government

According to the established practice for holding regular monthly meetings of different EU coordinative structures, the 15 session of the *Working committee for European integration* was held on 24.02.2010. In addition, in line with the Rules of procedure of the WCEI the first meeting of the *Subcommittee of WCEI for preparation of NPAA and negotiations positions* held its first meeting on 10.02.2010. The level of realisation of all



NPAA activities is regularly discussed. Until now, out of 106 laws planned for 2010, the Government has adopted 43 laws.

Anti-Corruption policy

The State Commission for Prevention of corruption supported by TAIEX organised regional workshop on 8-9 of February 2010 on the conflict of interest and asset declarations.

SCPC prepared a document on the status of implementation of the Strategy for Public Relations (February 2009-february 2010) according to which the SCPC realised the following:

- SCPC held 10 press conferences
- SCPC on its web site published 42 information for corruption cases and conflict of interest, information on the property condition for elected and appointed officials etc.
- According to the signed protocol here are certain improvements in the efficiency of the procedure and actions, especially the cooperation with the State Attorney (ex. termination of the tenancy for usage of the rural land property of the Republic of Macedonia).
- On the 12 November 2009 SCPC held the debate on the topic: Political influence in the education”

(Data on declarations of conflicts of interest and cases of conflict of interest are given in Annex_Conflict of interest, while data regarding declaration of assets are presented in Annex_declaration of assets; For the implementation of special investigative measures during the first two months in 2010 please see Annex 1_implementation of SIM)

Reform of the Public Administration

The Law on Public Servants entered Parliamentary procedure (first reading). On 24 February the National Council for Euro-Integration organised a public debate.

In February, 16 public announcement for 63 civil servants have been published.

Six disciplinary procedures were initiated (5 procedures in the central government and one in the local self-government).As a ground for initiation of disciplinary procedures for establishing disciplinary liability of civil servants, 8 violations of the official duty are pointed out:

- failure to perform or conscienceless, impolite, untimely or negligent performance of official duties (4 violations)
- refusing to perform the official tasks pertaining to the job he/she is assigned to or refusing orders given by the minister, or the head of the body referred to in Article 3 paragraph (2), or by a managerial civil servant (3 violations)
- Abusing the status or overstepping the authority when performing official tasks (1 violations)

The Second Instance Commission of the CSA on complaints and objections from civil servants reviewed 29 complaints, out of which 4 are accepted, 24 are refused and one is



rejected. 8 complaints were submitted against decisions on transfer, 5 against decisions for termination of employment; 12 against decisions for selection and 4 against decisions for disciplinary measures.

The Government adopted the Report on the results from the Citizens' Charter evaluation forms (for the fourth quarter of the 2009) and decided on the content of the new form.

The Law on Inspection Surveillance is in parliamentary procedure. The Law regulates the procedure for conducting the inspection surveillance by the state inspectorates on central and local level.

Reform of the police

A working group headed by the Minister of Interior and comprised of representatives both from the ministry and the international community (ICITAP and OSCE) was established. The group shall supervise the proper implementation of the Law on internal affairs. Within this group several sub-groups responsible for monitoring the enforcement of the secondary legislation were established and they are currently working on the development of indicators for measuring the progress made in the implementation of the legislation. In this respect, the indicators for the implementation of the Rulebook on training and the Strategy for training were determined.

In all Sectors for internal affairs, except for the SIA in Skopje, by the end of February, working meetings related to further familiarization of MoI's employees with the provisions of the Law on Internal Affairs were held, encompassing around 4000 employees. This campaign is conducted by a team comprised of 5 assistant directors of the Bureau for Public Security.

In cooperation with the US Government and ICITAP, several trainings related to establishing higher standards in human resources management will be conducted in the forthcoming period. A total of 30 police officers are foreseen to be trained. On 08.02.2010 the first training entitled "The importance of human resources for successful organisation" was conducted.

The deadline for applications for commanders of police stations in Gazi Baba, Prilep, Radovish, Makedonski Brod and Centar was closed and the procedure for their selection is ongoing.

The assistant minister of the Sector for internal control and police standard (SICPS) held meetings with the heads of all organizational departments within the Ministry of interior regarding the implementation of the article 128 from the Law of internal affairs. In addition, during the regular controls carried out by the SICPS, among other things, a control for the proper implementation of the above- mentioned article is being conducted.

Improvement of judicial system (see Chapter 23-Judiciary)

Respect of human rights and the rights of non-majority communities



The Draft –Law for ratification the Protocol 14 bis of the ECHR entered the Parliamentary procedure. The Protocol 14 bis is limited on the procedural measures contained in Protocol 14, which will accelerate the processing of the cases at the European court of human rights.

The Law for associations and foundations entered the Parliamentary procedure. Public debate was organised by the National European Integration Council.

The second-instance government commissions continued to response to the Ombudsman instructions. In the period October - December 2009 from total of 246 complaints, 209 were processed and for 32 the procedure is ongoing.

In the area of inter-ethnic relations, the UN joint Programme on enhancing inter-ethnic community dialogue and collaboration was presented. The programme is funded by the Spanish Government and it will be implemented in the next 3 years by the SIOFA and the Ministry of education and science; Ministry of Culture; Ministry of local self-government; ZELS; the municipalities of Struga, Kicevo and Kumanovo and varied members of civil society. The aim of the Programme is to promote tolerant, trustful and confident society that values its own diversity. A number of legal, regulatory, institutional and non-formal activities are foreseen in that direction.

The Law on prevention and protection against discrimination entered the Parliamentary procedure. The Law is in the first reading phase.

In cooperation with the British Council, a Programme for training of trainers in the area of antidiscrimination was prepared. It will embrace representatives from the public administration and the local self-government. The training will be held by foreign expert before the end of March.

National Conference debate on the Report on the progress of implementation of the Roma Decade and Strategy was held on 26.02.2010. The findings from the research in the 4 priority areas and recommendations for improving the effectiveness and efficiency of the Decade and strategy as a public policy aimed at improving the situation of Roma were presented.

The Multidisciplinary Protocol for treatment of homeless children was adopted by the Government. The purpose of the Protocol is providing unified, standardised and unique way for treatment of children from street/street children in order to improve their protection and life quality.

In direction of successful preparation of the National Strategy for fight against poverty and social exclusion, National coordinative body for monitoring the preparation and the implementation of the Strategy was established.

Analysis of the compatibility of the national legislation with the European Convention of children rights was prepared. The analysis will identify the further legislative action for improved implementation of the Convention.



The national campaign for fight against domestic violence was realised during the course of the month.

Analysis of the implementation of the Law on juvenile justice is prepared and it's in the inter-ministerial procedure. The analysis will serve as a basis for the envisaged amendments of the Law on juvenile justice in order to ensure better implementation. The recommendations are related to taking measures for establishment of municipal councils for prevention of juvenile offences and providing funds for supporting the implementation of the State Council for preventing Juvenile offences Programme.

The Law amending the Law of execution of sanctions is in Parliamentary procedure.

The Programme for financing the reconstruction of the penitentiary institutions and the educational-correctional centers for year 2010 was adopted (Official gazette 20/2010).

Regional issues and international obligations

Concerning the *bilateral relations with the neighboring countries*, the official visit of the Macedonian Foreign Minister to *Albania* (8 February 2010) confirmed the progressive intensification of the overall bilateral cooperation, particularly in the field of economy, and the importance of strengthening the mutual cooperation for further infrastructure development. During the visit, Protocol for cooperation between the Ministries of Foreign Affairs of the two countries was signed, as well as Protocol for cooperation between their diplomatic academies.

The bilateral political contacts with *Greece* continued. The Macedonian Foreign Minister and the Greek Alternate Foreign Minister met on 28 January, in London, on the margins of the Afghanistan Conference. The bilateral difference over the name was discussed, including the forthcoming visit of the UN mediator to the two countries, as well as the initiatives launched by the Macedonian side for advancement of bilateral relations, such as raising the level of bilateral diplomatic representation and concluding an Agreement on avoidance of double taxation.

The UN mediator visited both Macedonia and Greece, after a longer break, at the end of February, in an effort to intensify the talks for overcoming the bilateral *name difference*. Macedonian side remains fully committed to the intensification of the UN mediated talks and to the continuation of its pro-active and constructive approach, offering ideas and proposals for overcoming the name difference in accordance with the relevant UN resolutions, with a view to finding a mutually acceptable solution that will not harm the national, linguistic and cultural self-identification of either the Macedonian or the Greek people. Macedonia also remains firmly committed to the strengthening of bilateral contacts and cooperation with Greece.

As regards *regional cooperation*, Macedonia fully supported the *Prespa Park* initiative of Greece, and became a contracting party to the trilateral Agreement for protection and sustainable development of the Prespa Park that was concluded on 2 February in the



town of Pili (Greece) by the ministers of environment of Macedonia, Greece and Albania. The agreement aims to regulate the obligations for protection and management of the Prespa Lake region. According to the agreement a trilateral Committee and a permanent secretariat will be established.

Macedonia took over, for the second time, the annual rotating presidency of the *SEE Energy Community*. The priorities of the Macedonian presidency are related to the development of the regional energy market, providing security of supplies, efficiency and alignment of the legal framework, determination of obligatory percents of renewable energy sources, development of oil dimension within the Energy Community, etc.

This year Macedonia also took over the presidency of two regional initiatives: SEE Disaster Preparedness and Prevention Initiative (DPPI) and the South East Information and Communication Technology Forum (SEICT).

Macedonia also continues its active participation in the activities of SEECP, RCC, CEI and SECI.

II ECONOMIC CRITERIA

The Government collected EUR 24 mil issuing six-month treasury bills on auction with interest rate of 5%. This is decline of 0.25 percentage points the compared to last auction representing improved perception for the prospects of the domestic economy.

Central Bank of the Republic of Macedonia decreased Central Bank bills interest rate by 0.5 percentage points thus decreasing to 7.5%.

Republic of Macedonia continued to present its investment and export opportunities by organising Macedonia-Czech business forum held in Prague. Approximately 20 Macedonian and 40 Czech entrepreneurs, mainly from the energy, construction, food industry, environment and IT sector, attended the forum. Subject of discussion was how to intensify cooperation, realise projects and to jointly promote products on third markets. Prior to the forum, an agreement for economic and industrial cooperation was signed, which would further encourage business relations between the two countries.

ELEM (Macedonian Power Plants) joint-stock company and power distributor EVN Macedonia, under the auspices of the Deputy Prime Minister for Economic Affairs, Vladimir Pesevski and Minister of Economy Fatmir Besimi, signed a protocol and two contracts, regulating relations between the two companies. Additionnaly, the contracts are result of improved cooperation and progress in resolvment of the feud between both sides.

The Public Procurement Bureau announced the launch of a new system that integrates the e-Procurement system with a software solution developed by the Public



Procurement Bureau for publishing contract information and notifications. This system enables the contracting authorities and the business community to electronically carry out and participate in public procurement procedures, in a transparent manner. In addition, it gives the public an insight on how public funds are spent. This is one-stop-shop for public procurement in Macedonia, improving the efficiency and transparency of the public procurement system in the country.

On the session held on 23 February the Government decided to reduce and adjust the level of the penalties for violation of laws by business entities, in order to meet the requirements raised by the business community. The intention of the Government is to adjust the level of the fines with the types of offences, which will lead to more appropriate enforcement and collection of fines.

III. ASSUMING THE OBLIGATION OF THE EU MEMBERSHIP

3.01. FREE MOVEMENT OF GOODS

3.1.2 HORIZONTAL MEASURES

STANDARDISATION

The Institute for Standardisation of the Republic of Macedonia (ISRM) has worked intensively on the fulfilment of the 9 criteria for full membership in CEN and CENELEC. The Institute for Standardisation of the Republic of Macedonia (ISRM) issued the Monthly Bulletin for February 2010 on its web page.

ACREDITATION

The *Programme for operation of the Institute for accreditation of the Republic of Macedonia (IARM) for 2010*, delivered by the Council of IARM, was adopted by the government. The Institute for accreditation of the Republic of Macedonia actively and continuously participate in the operating of the European co - operation for Accreditation (EA)

METROLOGY

Harmonisation of legislation

In February 2010, „Rulebook on measuring instruments“ (“Official Gazette of the Republic of Macedonia” No.17/10) was adopted, thus ensuring alignment with the Directive on measuring instruments (MID) 2004/22/EC. With the transposition of the directive, the old regulations for 33 types of measuring instruments are repealed (technical legislation for those measuring instruments was adopted before the independence of Republic of Macedonia and does not follows the development of the



technique in the field of metrology, which are reported as a barrier to entry into legal status of certain categories of measuring instruments and use of modular approach in the assessment of their compliance). On the other hand, the domestic producers of measuring instruments, by applying the provisions of this rulebook, will acquire the necessary competitiveness for placing their products in the EU, in meeting the requirements provided for in the new harmonized technical regulations.

Since 2006, Bureau of Metrology is an associate - member to the Regional European Association for Metrology (EURAMET). In February 2010, Bureau of Metrology applied for acquiring full membership in the European Association of National metrological institutes, which means recognition of competence and fulfillment of the criteria laid down in acts of EURAMET.

On February 24th 2010, the Bureau for Metrology in collaboration with the State Market Inspectorate organised “Workshop for inspection precious metals articles and inspection of measuring instruments”. The workshop was held at the premises of the Bureau of Metrology. The purpose of this workshop was to introduce, as well as to coordinate activities between DPI and Bureau of Metrology, in terms of metrological inspection and supervision of measuring instruments and precious metals articles, specifically with the markings and seals used for verification of measuring instruments, contents of the certificate for verification of measuring instruments, the time frame for periodic verification for certain categories of measuring instruments, supervision on the hallmarks of precious metals articles etc.

3.1.3 OLD APPROACH PRODUCTS LEGISLATION MOTOR VEHICLES

In February 2010, three Rulebooks were adopted:

- Rulebook for motor vehicle mass and size parameters (“Official Gazette of the Republic of Macedonia” No.21/10); and
- Rulebook for single approval of motor vehicles (“Official Gazette of the Republic of Macedonia” No.16/10).

3.1.5 PROCEDURAL MEASURES

Alignment with the Directive 2008/51/EC amending Council Directive 91/477/EEC on control of the acquisition and possession of weapons has been provided with the adoption of the Law on Weapon Sealing and Marking (“Official Gazette of the Republic of Macedonia” No.25/10).



3.02. FREE MOVEMENT OF WORKERS

The Law on Ratification of the Agreement between the Republic of Macedonia and Canada on Social Insurance was adopted and published in Official Gazette. (Official Gazette of the Republic of Macedonia No.19/2010).

The Law on Ratification of the Agreement between the Republic of Macedonia and Australia on Social Insurance was adopted and published in Official Gazette. (Official Gazette of the Republic of Macedonia No.19/2010).

3.04. FREE MOVEMENT OF CAPITAL

3.04.3 PREVENTION OF MONEY LAUNDERING AND FINANCING OF TERRORISM

The Law amending the Law on prevention of money laundering is in parliamentary procedure. The Directorate for prevention of money laundering and financing of terrorism has signed a Memoranda for cooperation with competent unit from the Kingdom of Norway.

3.06 COMPANY LAW

The Law Amending the Company Law, aligning with the Directive 32005L0056 on cross-border mergers of limited liability companies, entered in parliamentary procedure.

The Institute of Chartered Auditors of the Republic of Macedonia has finished the process of translation of the International Standards on Auditing (ISAs), which, by the end of March 2010, will be published in the Official Gazette of the Republic of Macedonia by the Ministry of Finance.

3.07 INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY LAW

The Law on Ratification of the Vienna Agreement Establishing an International Classification of the Figurative Elements of Marks and the Law on Ratification of the Trademark Law Treaty were adopted by the Parliament and published in Official Gazette. (Official Gazette of the Republic of Macedonia No.19/2010).

The procedure for drafting the Law on Copyright and Related Rights is ongoing.

The web site of the Ministry of Culture is continuously improved and updated with information on activities for raising the public awareness for the copyright and related rights.

The preparations are in final phase for providing access to the State Office of Industrial Property databases.

Reviewed version of the Action Plan for Implementation of the Strategy for Intellectual Property is drafted and currently is in inter-institutional consultations.

As part of the program for permanent professional development of judges and public prosecutors, the Academy for judges and public prosecutors during February 2010



organized 3 specialised trainings on the topic "Criminal Law Protection of Industrial Property" with 20 training classes and participation of a total number of 79 participants including 42 judges, 31 prosecutors, 3 associates from the courts and 3 associates from the prosecution. The trainings were performed regionally, in the areas of the appellate courts in Skopje, Gostivar and Bitola.

The operational program for the work of the Coordination Body for Intellectual Property was adopted in February. During this month the Coordination Body for Intellectual Property conducted two coordinated actions on 20 entities (6 natural persons and 14 legal entities). In this actions a total of 889 pieces were seized, out of which 170 pieces for breach of copyright and related rights (120 CDs and DVDs and 50 books), and 719 pieces infringing the industrial property rights (jeans DIESEL, G-STAR, DOLCE GABANA, VERSACI, ARMANI, HUGOBOSS, LEVIS).

The State Market Inspectorate submitted 15 applications for misdemeanour procedures while the Ministry of Interior filled 8 criminal charges. The coordinated actions were conducted in Skopje and Kumanovo.

In order to prevent piracy the Ministry of Interior on 26th February carried out one control in the area of Makedonska Kamenica. In this action 1.189 CD's were seized from three natural persons. Criminal procedures will be initiated against the perpetrators for criminal act "infringement of copyright and related rights".

In the period 01-05 February, representatives from the State Office for Industrial Property participated in an Administrative Council in Munich.

From 15-17 February in Skopje, under the IPA project, training was organised for the State Market Inspectorate and the Customs Administration, where one representative from the State Office for Industrial Property took part.

3.09 FINANCIAL SERVICES

The Law Amending the Law on Fast Money Transfer has entered into Parliamentary procedure, thus ensuring further alignment with the Directive 32007L0064. As well, amendments to the Law refer to the reduction of funds necessary for the operation of the companies for swift money transfer from EUR 100,000 to EUR 20,000.

The Law amending the Law on Securities has entered into Parliamentary procedure and it's directed towards harmonisation with Directive 31997L0009 on investor-compensation schemes and Directive 32007L0044 relating to the rules and criteria for acquiring and increasing of the participation within the financial sector. Moreover, the foreseen amendments shall entail part of the recommendations from the Assessment Mission (2007) regarding the issues related to financial services in the Republic of Macedonia. These amendments regulate the establishment of an Investor Compensation Fund and the Guarantee Fund in case of non-settlement of securities transactions.



3.10 INFORMATION SOCIETY AND MEDIA

Within “the world on a hand” project, 5 new internet clubs were opened in Kratovo, Shtip, Makedonski Brod, Krushevo and Sveti Nikole.

Also, the Ministry of Information Society works on bylaws on the Law on electronic management. The implementation of the project on “Free wireless access internet points (wireless hotspots) in the rural areas” was started. Implementation of the e-Gov system on document management in the government institutions is ongoing and the training of the administrators was completed. An internet forum was created for preparation of technical documents on public procurement for the Ministry of Information Society. Under the “computer for every pupil” project, currently laptops are being distributed to the teachers in the primary and secondary schools and for the pupils from 1st -3rd grade.

3.12 FOOD SAFETY, VETERINARY AND PHYTOSANITARY POLICY

In the period of 8-12 February a TAIEX expert mission on the repartition of the competencies of the responsible authorities for chapter 12 – food safety, veterinary and phytosanitary policy was held. The aim of the mission was to get precise information on the current condition regarding the repartition of competencies in the Republic of Macedonia and to assist the drafting of a document that will regulate the competencies of various inspectorates and bodies responsible for food safety, veterinary and phytosanitary policy according to EU legislation and MS experiences.

The Law on food safety is in the parliamentary procedure.

3.14 TRANSPORT POLICY

The **Law on Railway system and Law on Railway safety** have been approved by the Government and they are currently in Parliamentary procedure. The laws aim at further alignment with the railway acquis and they incorporate the latest recommendations from the assessment mission on railway held in November 2009.

The new text of the draft **Law amending the Law on Aviation** has been submitted to the Government on 19.02.2010 upon including relevant comments obtained during the consultation phase.

Also, in the field of air transport, the Rulebook amending and consolidating the rulebook on specific requirements for construction and modifications of aircraft, engine, propeller and equipment, technical control of construction and development of technical and technological documentation, type certification, procedures and method for determination of aircraft airworthiness, as well as form, content, record and procedure



for issuing, renewal, reissuing and modification of the production certificate, type certificate, airworthiness certificate, noise certificate and gas emissions certificate, has been published in the Official Gazette of Republic of Macedonia No.21/2010.

In the road transport, the Decree on the measures for categorisation of the public roads, their marks and amortization has been adopted and published in the Official Gazette of Republic of Macedonia No.13/2010. In addition, professional training of the safety advisers for transport of dangerous goods has been conducted.

During February, the following preparatory activities for implementation of the digital tachograph have been realised:

- An official nomination for responsible institution for implementation of the digital tachograph has been sent to the Secretariat of the AETR in Geneva, which is the Ministry of Transport and Communications.
- The final draft of the National policy for implementation of the digital tachograph in the vehicles has been prepared and sent for 1st reading in the JRS Italy. After the consultation process, the National policy for implementation of the digital tachograph in the vehicles will be adopted by the Government.

3.15 ENERGY

Security of supply

The Ministry of Economy announced public tender for granting the water concession for production of electricity from 36 Small Hydro-power plants, on 15 of February 2010.

In the Directorate for mandatory oil and oil derivatives reserves, 3 persons have been employed for the following positions: Head of Department for Legal and General Affairs, HR Adviser and Stocks Oil Derivatives Control Adviser,

Internal market

In the field of internal market, the following rulebooks have been published:

- The Grid Code for Distribution of Electricity to the company AD ELEM – Skopje (Energetika) (Official Gazette of the Republic of Macedonia no. 23/2010)
- Tariff system for electricity (Official Gazette of the Republic of Macedonia no 13/2010)
- Rulebook on the manner, conditions and procedure for disputes resolution between the companies and users of energy activities, as well as the compensation of the costs for resolving the dispute (Official Gazette of the Republic of Macedonia no 13/2010).

In February 2010, the Energy Regulatory Commission of the Republic of Macedonia brought the following decisions:

- 2 Decisions for highest selling prices for different oil derivatives on every fourteen-days period in accordance with the Methodology for establishment of the prices for different oil derivatives as prescribed by the Annex D of the Agreement for purchase and sale of



- shares and for concession of the Oil Refinery AD “OKTA” – Skopje, signed between the Government of the Republic of Macedonia and the share hold company “EL.P.E.T. - Balkanike” as a strategic investor;
- Decision for approval the using of feed-in tariffs for sale of electricity produced from small hydro power plant to the company MHE Letnicki Izvori DOO Skopje;
 - Resolution for approval of the Grid Code for Distribution of Electricity to the company AD ELEM – Skopje (Energetika).

The IPA Twinning Project for Institutional Strengthening of the Energy Regulatory Commission, as well as the IPA Project for Technical Assistance of the Energy Regulatory Commission is being implemented. ERC took part in the Steering Committee meetings which have been held on 3.02 and 25.02.2010, accordingly.

In February 2010, Energy Regulatory Commission participated on the following events:

- ERRRA Training Course “Introduction to Electricity Market”, held in Budapest, Hungary;
- 13th ECRB Gas Working Group meeting, held in Vienna, Austria;
- Expert Workshop on “Meeting the European energy challenges using non-fossil fuel technologies”, held in Zagreb, Croatia.

Energy Efficiency

On February 17, 2010 Energy Agency has launched the Project “Enabling the Environment for Introducing Energy Efficiency in Buildings in the Republic of Macedonia”. This project is financed by ADA-Austrian Development Cooperation, SECO (Swiss State Secretariat for Economic Affairs) and Ministry of Economy of the Republic of Macedonia. The following goals will be achieved trough the project: strengthening of the capacity of Macedonian Energy Agency, preparing of a Rulebook for energy efficiency in the building sector, creation an enabling environment for the implementation of energy efficiency regulation, demonstration of energy efficiency on one public building pilot project and creating academic platform on energy efficiency in buildings. The duration of the project will be 34 months.

In February 2010 the Minister of Economy has made a Decision for selection of an Agency for carrying out of Campaign for arising the public awareness and education for saving electricity. This campaign is financed by the budget of the Ministry of Economy as well as with financial contribution of JSC ELEM and JSC MEPSO.

In February, the National Action Plan for Energy Efficiency of the Republic of Macedonia (NEEAP) for the period 2009-2016 was prepared with technical support of USAID. In accordance with obligations, the Ministry of Economy sent the draft to the Energy Community Secretariat and it was presented on the 8th Energy Efficiency Task Force meeting, on February 23, 2010.

Also, GTZ and the Energy Community organised a workshop launching a new sub project of GTZ ORF - E" Capacity Building for Monitoring, Verification and Evaluation Systems of Energy Policies in SEE in terms of EU accession process", which was held on February



22, 2010 in the Energy Community Secretariat. This workshop also was attended by the Ministry of Economy representative.

On February 25, 2010 the Ministry of economy received the draft of updated Strategy for Energy Efficiency of the Republic of Macedonia by USAID.

Radiation safety

During February 2010, 8 licences for practices with ionizing radiation have been issued and 30 inspections have been performed.

The Rulebook on the form and the content of the template of the notification of the ionizing radiation sources, as well as the procedure of the notification of radiation protection source is published in the Official Gazette of the Republic of Macedonia No. 16/10.

On 1-2 February 2010, representatives from the Directorate participated on “Regional Planning and Coordination Meeting” in Vienna, Austria within the framework of the IAEA Regional project “Strengthening National Infrastructures for the control of Radiation Sources”

On 4 February 2010, a representative from the Directorate participated on Technical seminar: “Management of liquid radioactive effluents arising from medical establishments in EU member states and candidate countries” in Brussels, Belgium.

3. 18. STATISTICS

In the State Statistical Office (SSO) of the Republic of Macedonia, during February 2010, the following activities were conducted:

- The regular assessment of the SSO progress in the last year was reported through Eurostat SMIS+ database.
- EU funded project Technical Assistance for the State Statistical Office which runs under IPA Programme 2007 was launched on 1st of February and the Inception report was prepared with joint efforts of the project team leader, the SSO component leaders and the key experts responsible for the respective components.
- Staff Satisfaction Survey data were processed and the first results prepared.
- SSO hosted a Sub-regional workshop on gender statistics, organised in cooperation with UNECE, SSO, UNDP and the World Bank, attended by representatives from 7 countries of the region. The objective of the workshop was discussing on the topics: gender statistics advocacy, measuring violence against women and development of national training plans on gender statistics.



- The Operative Plan of activities for preparation, organization and realization of the Census of Population, Households and Dwellings, 2011 was prepared.
- The indices for industrial production from 2005 to 2009 were recalculated with new weighting coefficients and new structure according to PRODCOM 2008 and NACE Rev.2. Now, the recalculated data are being analysed.
- For improvements of experimental calculation related to allocation of financial intermediation indirectly measured (Regulation 448), a mission was held with participants from the SSO and the NBRM. Currently, organization of the data from the NBRM is expected in order to complete the series.

3.19 SOCIAL POLICY AND EMPLOYMENT

3.19.1 Labour Law

In February, a seminar was organised about Convention number 181 of the International Labour Organization (ILO) for the private employment agencies, where the good practices and experiences between private and public employment agencies were presented too. The aim of the seminar was acquaintance with the content and goals of the Convention; awareness of the possibilities for its ratification, the situation of the national legislation and its application in relation with the agencies for temporal employments; and experiences from the cooperation between the Macedonian Agency for Employment and the agencies for temporal employments.

The Draft Law amending the Law on employment and insurance in case of unemployment is in the Parliamentary procedure for 1st reading. The changes in the Law are in line with the alignments with the EU legislation, according to the recommendations of the international experts within the Twining project “review of the national labour legislation”.

The Draft Law amending the Law on working relations is in the Parliamentary procedure. The changes refer to the amount of remuneration in case of temporal exclusion of the worker, because of break of the working obligations and working order or criminal appeal.

According to the recommendations of the international experts and established timeframe for harmonization of the national labour legislation, preparations started for amending the Law on working relations and transposition of the planned Directives.

The Draft Law amending the Law on foreigners is in the Parliamentary procedure on 2nd reading.

The Draft Law amending the Law on salaries and other payments of elected and appointed persons in the Republic of Macedonia is in the 1st reading at the Parliament. These changes would enable payment of salaries of the elected and appointed persons



covered with the Law, within the planned budget and according to the intended raise of the salaries for 2010, as designed in the Law.

3.19.2 Health and Safety at Work

The final text of the Rulebook on protection of safety and health of workers from the risks related to exposure to chemical substances was prepared during February. This Rulebook transposes the following 4 Directives from the area of health and safety at work: Directives 98/24/EC, 2000/39/EC, 91/322/EEC, 2006/15/EC. Within the process of preparation of this Rulebook, cooperation is made with relevant representatives from the public institutions, social partners and NGOs. The Rulebook is sent to the Secretariat for legislation of the Government of RM for opinion and afterward will be published in the Official Journal of RM.

The final yearly reports of the State Labour Inspectorate are prepared, for the working activities in 2009. These reports contain the number of inspections (regular inspections and inspections upon citizens requests), as well as established irregularities and undertaken measures.

Web application for the State Labour Inspectorate is in the process of preparation, that will allow connection between the local offices and the central Inspectorate, as well as interconnection with other relevant institutions. Additionally, there is an ongoing process for delivering hardware equipment for the Inspectorate.

3.19.3 Social Dialogue

The Ministry of Labour and Social Policy (MLSP) in cooperation with the International Labour Organisation (ILO), organised number of trainings, seminars and workshops with the aim of capacity building of the social partners.

MLSP, as a partner in the implementation of the TEMPUS IV Project for design and implementation of national frame of qualifications (together with the Ministry for Education and Science, 5 Macedonian Universities and 3 EU Universities), organised separate meeting for the social partners, providing detail information of the project's aims, partners and activities that are completed and are to take place. Within the project, a workshop was organised too, where all involved partners participated, including the social partners.

At the end of February, the second meeting of the Joint Consultative Committee of Civil Society of RM and EU took place. Reports on the situation with the economic and social rights in EU and RM were presented, as well as reports on the progress of RM in the process of EU integration. Participants in the meeting were members of the trade unions and employers, members of the Macedonian Government, Delegation of the EU in Macedonia, and European Economic Council.

In relation with the obligations deriving from the Law amending the Law on working relations (Official Journal of RM number 130/09) connected with the new criteria for representativeness of the social partners, the Government of RM established



Commission for determination of representative trade unions and employers associations.

3.19.4 Employment Policy and ESF

The Operative Plan for active programmes and measures for employment 2010 is prepared, based on the experience of the implementation of different types of measures, strategic documents, priorities and goals and available funds. The Operative Plan defines different types of programmes focused on diverse target groups, the amount and type of financial support, authorised institution for implementation of the activities within separate programmes, etc.

One day training was organised to evaluate the efficiency of the employment programmes, for the institutions involved in the implementation of the programmes for self-employment, where special methodology was discussed too.

Evaluation of the received proposals for the twinning project “Support for preparation of the country for management of the European Social Fund through implementation of the IPA Component - Development of Human Resources” took place. Draft version is prepared of the Communication action plan for component 4, and will be placed on review and adoption from the Sectoral committee for following IPA component 4.

3.19.5 Social Inclusion

The Government adopted the National Strategy for equalizing the rights of the people with disabilities 2010-2018. The Strategy represents a Plan for numerous activities originating from the principles of the Convention for the rights of people with disabilities, adopted by the United Nation. A working group comprised of participants from different ministries and NGOs was established, in order to prepare analysis on the legal and financial implications from the ratification of the Convention, as well as to propose timeframe for adjustment of the national legislation with the Convention.

MLSP signed agreement with the Institute for human rights “Ludvig Bolcman” for cooperation in implementation of the two-years project “Social inclusion and human rights in RM”, funded by the Austrian development agency. This project aims to implement the Strategy for reduction of poverty and social exclusion at national and local level, and will support creation of national and local network to combat poverty and social exclusion. The network will comprise civil associations with experience in this field; preparation of local action plans will be supported and their connection with the strategic plans at national level will follow. Pilot projects at local level in 8 municipalities are envisaged as well as activities to get in line with the 2010 European year for fight against poverty and social exclusion.

Multidisciplinary Protocol for treatment of street children in RM is prepared and adopted, and provides standardized and single method of treatment with street children. This method would serve as a mechanism for re-socialization of the street children and their integration in the society.



Open call for mentors of Roma students in the secondary education is open. There is ongoing selection process of both mentors and students that are to be involved in the process.

A Working is established to prepare description of the working tasks of health mediators (Roma) that are to be engaged in performing health education and mediation among Roma population and health institutions.

3.19.6 Social Protection

The Public institution – Institute for social services prepared basic lists for evidence of users of social services. These lists will contribute to the creation of database with indicators based on social risks.

The Institute prepared Programme for work of the juvenile disciplinary center. This will help in implementation of the Law on juvenile justice, especially in the part of preventive measures and provision of adequate treatment for children with social risk.

The following Rulebooks are prepared: Rulebook on the criteria for selection of adoption family, type and number of users that can be adopted by one adoption family and the types of services for social protection that are given to the adopted person; Rulebook on the procedures for usage of the right of financial compensation to a person that until the age of 18 had a status of a child without parents and parental care. These Rulebooks are sent to the Secretariat for legislation for opinion and afterwards will be published in the Official Journal.

In the begging of February 2010, the implementation started of the project “Spa climate recreation for pensioners during 2010”. This opportunity is open to 10.000 pensioners and includes 6 full board days, spa therapy and complete medical care. This service is implemented in the spa centers with which the Ministry of Labour and Social Policy signed agreements for 2010. The project will last until the end of November 2010.

3.19.7 Antidiscrimination and equal opportunities

The Draft Law on prevention and protection against discrimination is in the Parliamentary procedure (first reading). Three public debates focusing on the Law on prevention and protection against discrimination were organized by the coalition Macedonia without discrimination and the Parliament’s Standing Committee for protection of citizens’ freedoms and rights, in order to discuss on the certain aspects of the Draft Law.

Within the project for gender budgeting, prepared analysis “Gender – budget analysis of the policies for employment and social protection in Macedonia” was presented during round table.

The Sector for equal opportunities in MLSP, promoted a research focusing on the “Analysis of the relevant legal acts and citizens’ diaries for overcoming unequal treatment and access of Roma, especially Roma-women, to the public institutions services in RM”.



3.21 TEN

The Government of the Republic of Macedonia adopted Information regarding the multilateral meeting on road transport, as well as for the fourth round of technical negotiations for the Treaty establishing Transport Community held on 17.11.2009 and 30.11.2009 accordingly. Pending the technical negotiations, the Government took official position to nominate Republic of Macedonia to host the seat of the future Permanent Secretariat to be established under the Treaty. The official notification to the European Commission is underway.

IPA component 3

Request for modification of the Operational Program for Regional Development has been transmitted to the European Commission, DG Regional Policy.

The tender dossier for supervision of the construction of the new motorway section Demir Kapija- Smokvica, as part of the Corridor X, has been submitted to the CFCD.

From the OPRD priority axis 2, the following have been submitted to the EC for approval:

- Operational identification sheet (OIS) for the measure 2.1 A (preparation of project studies and documentation for the railway lines along Corridor X and branch Corridor X.
- Operational identification sheet (OIS) for the measure 2.1 B (rehabilitation and upgrading of the railway station in Skopje according to the EU technical standards)

In addition, OIS for the measure 4.3 "Preparation of studies for development of strategic multimodal transport nodes has been sent to the Commission for approval.

Furthermore, Terms of Reference have been prepared and sent to CFCD for the measure 2.1, while Terms of Reference and tender documentation have been prepared for the measure 4.3 and sent to CFCD and Delegation of the EU in Skopje.

Also, activities are undergoing for preparation of main design for the motorway construction of the Corridor X project.

3.22 REGIONAL POLICY AND COORDINATION OF STRUCTURAL INSTRUMENTS

In the area of strengthening of the administrative capacities following activities have been undertaken:

Within the Operating Structures for IPA Components II, III and IV, the Ministry of Labour and Social Policy is the only institution where the IPA structures for implementation of IPA Components I and IV differ in composition of employees.

In this regard, in February 2010 the IPA structure responsible for the technical implementation of the projects in MLSP financed under IPA Component IV prepared the **Workload Analysis for 2010**, as well as the corresponding **Recruitment Plan**. These



documents were submitted to CFCD and are being improved according to CFCD comments.

In the IPA structure in the Ministry of Labour and Social Policy, the recruitment procedure for Advisor for programming of IPA Component IV and Advisor for monitoring of projects under IPA Components I and IV was completed in February 2010. In addition, one employee attended three day training in EU skills organized by SEA.

Programming

Request for modification of the Operational Program for Regional Development has been transmitted to the European Commission, DG Regional Policy.

In the period 17th-19th February, 2010 a technical meeting was organized with representatives from the DG Employment, European Commission for revision of the Operational Programme for Human Resource Development, 2007-2013, and IPA Component IV. The revision is expected to be made by modifying existing or adding new activities within the already existing measures as to incorporate the financial allocations 2010-2011. The formal proposal of the revised Operational Programme should be sent by the Strategic Coordinator to DG Employment mid April, 2010. In the meantime a coordinative meeting is planned with the SC in the beginning of March.

Operational identification sheets for measures 2.1 a, 2.2 b and 4.3 have been prepared and send to the European Commission.

Monitoring and evaluation

Tentative time frame was scheduled for the Second Official Sectoral Monitoring Committee for IPA Component IV, to be held during the last week of March. Having in mind that the last Committee was held in December, 2009, the need to organize the second Committee meeting in March, 2010 has arisen due to the high priority of taking decision by the SMC members on the proposal for Revision of the Operational Programme for Human Resource Development, 2007-2013 as to incorporate the financial allocations 2010-2011.

3.23 JUDICIARY AND FUNDAMENTAL RIGHTS

3.23.1 JUDICIARY

The Judicial Council of RM continued with its regular sessions on the selection and dismissal of the judges according to the Law for Judicial Council. As of 17.02.2010, 174 judges and 23 court presidents (14 of them from the candidates of the Academy) were selected, thus reaching 658 judges in the courts on the whole territory of the country.

63 procedures, of which 54 for unprofessional and unethical performance of the judicial duties and 7 disciplinary procedures were enacted, hence resulting with 28 dismissed judges for unprofessional and unethical performance, 6 judges submitted resignation by



own request, and for 40 judges termination of the duty is determined due to fulfillment of conditions for retirement.

The Judicial Council started drafting its Annual report for 2009 in accordance with the Law on Judicial Council. The final version of the Report will be published during the course of March 2010.

According to the Law on the Council of Public Prosecutors, the Council prepared its Annual report for the work of the Council of Public Prosecutors for 2009.

The Judicial Budgetary Council (JBC) started drafting its regular Annual report for 2009 and the final version will be published during the course of March 2010.

On 21.01, a working group was established for preparation of an analysis of the idea to set a fixed percentage of GDP for financing of the judiciary. USAID consultant is being selected for the preparation of the analysis.

The documentation for announcement of tender for selection of consultant on the Capital Investments Plan for the Judiciary was prepared by the JBC and the World Bank office in the Ministry of Justice.

The Annual report on the activities in 2009 was prepared by the Administrative Court and sent to the Ministry of Justice for a consideration.

Analysis on the implementation of the Law on misdemeanors was prepared, and will serve as a basis for the upcoming amendments to the existing Law

Regarding the improvement of the judicial infrastructure, within the project on legal and judicial implementation and institutional support by the World Bank, complete renovation was conducted on 10 buildings of the Basic courts in the country: *BC Tetovo, BC Veles, BC Struga, BC Ohrid, BC Shtip, BC Strumica, BC Prilep, BC Gostivar, and BC Kochani*. All of the buildings were equipped with new furniture, the necessary office equipment and video surveillance systems. The complete project documentation was prepared and the Decision on the location was secured, as well as the Decision for approval for construction was issued for the new building of the Criminal Court in Skopje (total area of 8.826 m²). The tender procedure for the project is ongoing (in cooperation with the World Bank). The project also includes a component on the strengthening of the institutional capacity and the improvement of the IT infrastructure in the courts.

3.23.3 FUNDAMENTAL RIGHTS

On 28.02.2010 the European day for personal data protection was marked. The Directorate for personal data protection organised open day for the citizens in order to inform them about their rights in this area and to raise the public awareness on protection of personal data. Recommendations and advices for protection of the personal data in a few specific areas (health care, video surveillance and Internet) were presented.

During this month the following documents were enacted by the Directorate:

- Action plan for trainings of the employees of the Directorate



- Action plan for training of trainers and controllers for personal data - strategic document which consists the preparatory activities that should be implemented in order priority areas for training to be identified; the implementation of the trainings and the preparation of reports for the conducted training
- A comment of the Law on protection of personal data
- Analyses of the need of amending the Law on personal data protection – the purpose of amending the Law is ensuring further compliance with the EU and national legislation regarding the procedure for performing inspection supervision; procedure for determining infringement of privacy; processing of personal data by video surveillance and treatment of specific categories of personal data.

At the end of February a working group was formed and started working on the draft text for the Law amending the Law on personal data protection.

3.24 JUSTICE, FREEDOM AND SECURITY

Asylum

The „Rulebook on the criteria and manner of providing an appropriate accommodation facility or financial support for accommodation facilities for recognized refugee” has been prepared and is in inter-ministerial procedure.

Visa policy

Regarding the planned amendments to the Law on Foreigners and the amendments to the Rulebook on the manner of issuance, cancellation, annulment of visas, the working group has started with the analyzes of the Visa Code. As a result the amendments that should be undertaken will be determined.

Police cooperation and fight against organised crime

The facility which should be used as Reception centre for victims of human trafficking has been provided. The procedure for transferring the ownership of the facility to the Ministry of Labour and Social Policy, is in governmental procedure.

Regarding the implementation of the Action Plan on small and light weapon, the working group is currently drafting the amendments to the Law on weapon, and the process of drafting the amendments to the regulation for weapon in Republic of Macedonia and to the Law on security of persons and property are ongoing.

Police cooperation and fight against organised crime

IPA 2008 Grant Contract Police cooperation: Fight against organised crime, in particular illicit drug trafficking, and the prevention of terrorism was awarded to the Criminal Intelligence Service of the Federal Ministry of the Interior of Austria in partnership with



the Federal Criminal Intelligence Service of Germany. Republic of Macedonia is among the beneficiary countries.

The overall objective is to improve and enhance both strategic and operational regional and international law enforcement cooperation capacities within the region as well as between the Beneficiaries and the EU Member States. More specifically the project aims to improve cross-border intelligence collection systems and exchange, criminal intelligence capacities of financial intelligence units; enhance and further develop more effective strategies and instruments on the trail, freezing and confiscation of terrorist assets and organised crime-related proceeds; strengthen and consolidate international law enforcement coordination units (so called ILECU).

Fight against terrorism

The amendments to the Law on fight against money laundering and financing terrorism are in parliamentary procedure.

The Law on ratification of the International Convention for the Protection of all Persons from Enforced Disappearances is in inter-ministerial consultations.

The text of the Operative Agreement for cooperation between EUROPOL and the Republic of Macedonia has been agreed and is in procedure of adoption by the competent authorities: the Steering Committee of EUROPOL, The Joint Supervisory Body, the Council of Ministers of the EU.

Fight against drugs

The Memorandum for cooperation between the Ministry of Education of Republic of Macedonia and the Embassy of Netherlands in Republic of Macedonia was signed. The cooperation envisages preventive activities in “pilot” schools and preparation of Preventive Programs.

Counterfeiting of the Euro

The text of the “Rulebook on determining the manner of registration of forged euros and the manner of acting when detecting the forged euro”, has been prepared and the process of inter-ministerial consultations has finished. The Rulebook will be adopted after the adoption of the Law of National Bank of the Republic of Macedonia.

The Organised Crime Department within MoI started analyzes regarding preparation of the “Rulebook on methodology of detecting and documenting falsified money”.

3.25 SCIENCE AND RESEARCH

In respect to Research policy, the Rulebook amending the Rulebook on the procedure and closer criteria for financing the annual programs for scientific research activity of the scientific research subjects (OJ_RM_149/2009) and Rulebook amending the Rulebook



on the procedure and manner of financing the scientific research projects and programs (OJ_RM_149/2009) were adopted. The Ministry published a call for financing scientific research projects that was closed for submitting project proposals on the 15th of February.

Under the cooperation with UNESCO, call for project proposals was published (UNESCO program for 2010 – 2011) and in February 12 project proposals were submitted: 3 projects on science, 3 on education and 1 on ecology were selected and submitted to the National UNESCO Committee for further consideration.

Framework programs

Several info days were organised in the previous period:

- 16th of February - “How to prepare a good project proposal in the area of ICT priorities”, with focus on the academic public and Small and Medium enterprises
- 16th of February, an info day aimed at increasing participation of the private sector in the FP 7 was organized
- 18th of February- a workshop was organized on how to prepare a successful collaborative project under the SWOT Chemistry food project, at the Chemistry institute (Faculty of mathematics and natural sciences)
- 19th of February, presentation of all programs coordinated by MoES, including the FP 7 was organized for representatives from universities

European Research Area

In the frames of the WBCINCO NET Plus project and SEE ERA NET plus, several activities are underway: 190 project proposals were submitted within the SEE ERA NET plus, out of which Republic of Macedonia participates in 80. After the evaluation process, in, 75 projects entered the second phase, out of which RM participates in 28. The second part within the SEE ERA NET project was realised. The call for projects, for submitting a complete scientific – research project proposal was published. The call is open until March 2010.

Bilateral cooperation:

- Czech Republic - signing of cooperation agreement in the area of Education, Youth and Sport of the is in final stage
- Republic of Bulgaria – under the cooperation agreement a call for co- financing joint projects in the area of science and technology was opened and 49 applications were submitted
- Austria- under the cooperation program a call for joint projects is currently open

The number of faculties participating in COST actions increased in the reported period and HR measures were undertaken for improving the activities under COST. The framework agreement for cooperation for the period until 2015 with MAAE is finalised. The Ministry of Education and Science, by the means of a public call selected candidates



for scholarships and summer school participation organizes by CERN. One project proposal was submitted for co - financing under the EUREKA program, in the area of medical equipment, as a joint activity of a private company and the Faculty of Electrical Engineering and Information Technologies, and is currently under expert's evaluation.

3.26 EDUCATION AND CULTURE

Primary and secondary education

Analyses of the existing gymnasium and art secondary education systems is being realised as part of the preparation activities for creation of Concept for gymnasium education.

Institutional strengthening

With the aim of widening the network of high schools the procedure for opening 5 new high schools has started in the municipalities of Zupa, Mavrorvo I Rostuse, Lipokovo and Kumanovo, proposals were prepared and submitted to the Government for adoption, as for the municipality Vrapciste, a formal request was submitted and Commission was established for determining the conditions required for opening the new school.

The activities for approving grants for 246 primary schools as part of the Project for modernisation of education are ongoing and consultation with 60 % of the schools was held. Also, concerning the activity of the project related to distribution of free of charge school books to the schools, plan has been made for delivering trainings to the teachers on filling out the applications needed for distribution of the schoolbooks. The trainings started on the 19th of February and will be held until the 5th of March.

One of the activities within the Project for modernization of education is the design of a data base for the primary and secondary education. The application software is consisted of two components: Human Resource Management (HMS) and EMIS. The application software for HMS was installed and testing was preformed in the course of February.

Vocational education and training

Institutional strengthening

In the frames the USAID World learning project trainings for the employees of the centre were delivered on leadership – team development and planning . With the support of the British Council project – Employment skills, a draft of the Protocol for social partnership in the area of VET was prepared. Also within this project, five consultative meetings were held with the social partners in order for their representatives to be trained on Preparation of standards for occupations.

Implementing activities

Logistic support was provided for the activities of the Project “Evaluation of four year vocational education” supported by ETF: preparing a questionnaire for evaluation of the



reformed 4 year education, delivering the questionnaire to 70 vocational schools and submitting the filled questionnaires to the research team.

The CVET representatives participated in the working groups formed for answering the Questionnaire from CEDEFOP, in consultation with relevant stakeholders.

A working group was established in charge of coordinating activities aimed at awareness rising of the importance of VET for the socio economic development of the country and the role of the VET centre. Promotional material for CVET was designed, published and distributed.

Working group was established on preparation of the 5 - year Strategy and action plan for development of CVET.

A working group was established for development of a strategy for social partnership and partnership with different institutions at national and international level.

The Centre participated in the preparation of the Operational plan for active labour market measures for employment for 2010, a document coordinated by the Employment agency and the Ministry of Labour and Social Policy. The analyses of the vocational education for occupations (two year) and the vocational qualification (three years) are currently being conducted. Statistical data base for the two and three year education was prepared on the basis of questioners answered by 40 VET schools.

In the reported period Working groups are working on preparation of 6 new curricula for the second year for the profile of nutritionist technician vocation, 4 curricula for the third year of baker, 5 curricula for the second year of agro - management technician.

Also, analyses are underway on the level of equipment of the schools for two and three year VET education. The curricula for the four year VET were published in electronic form on the CVET web site.

The designing of the web site of the Centre for adult education has started.

Submission of applications for the Third call for proposals within the IVth phase of TEMPUS is underway.

Call for submitting applications, for the Erasmus Mundus – External Cooperation Window was published and the deadline is 30th of April. The deadline for the published call for Erasmus Mundus –Western Balkan Window is also 30th of April.

The approved projects for scholarships for study visits during the summer semester in the Republic of Macedonia and from our country to the member countries of CEEPUS are being realized.

The drafts of the Working programs for the Life long learning and Youth in Action programs are in the final faze of approval by DG Education and Culture.

The process of creation of Local Youth strategies in ten municipalities is ongoing.



3.27 ENVIRONMENT

In the area of **Horizontal legislation**, the following undertaken activities aimed at strengthening the administrative capacities in environmental issues took place:

- Second ECENA national training on inspections planning and frequency as well as inspections on nature in municipality of Veles on 4-5.02.2010, where all state inspectors for environment in the country and representatives of the Directorate for Environment participated;
- Second ECENA Exchange Programme on 25-26.02.2010 in Zagreb, Croatia, where 4 representatives from Macedonia took part (the State Environmental Inspectorate, Directorate for Environment and 2 state environmental inspectors). Participants focused on exchange of experiences and best practises from previous training activities in 2008-2009 regarding implementation of the recommendations on minimum criteria, directives on industrial pollution, national trainings and participation on other networks such as IMPEL, TFS etc;
- Meeting on Easy Tool for developing software for inspections planning, as continuation of the Project „Doing the Right Things“ within IMPEL network cluster on better regulation, on 25-26.02.2010 in Keln, Germany;

The number of vehicles of the State Environmental Inspectorate has been increased by 2.

Guide for the citizens on the structures and jurisdictions of MEPP was prepared and published within the project “Assessment of the potential for good governance in the Republic of Macedonia” (Open Society Institute with cooperation of the General Secretariat of the Government of the Republic of Macedonia).

Public debate on EIA Study for the project “Wind farm – Sveti Nikole” took place on 16.02.2010 in Sveti Nikole.

Further transposition of the EU measures 31996L0062 and 32000L0060 was achieved with the adopted Rulebook on the grounds of the forecasting system and the procedures for forecasting the quality of air, waters and soil (“Official Gazette of the Republic of Macedonia” No. 22/2010).

The capacities of the Hydro-meteorological Directorate were strengthened by participation on:

- Meeting within the Project Centre for draught management in South- Eastern Europe (1-5.02.2010 in Budapest, Hungary);
- 15-th Session of the Climatology Commission (15-25.02.2010 Antalya, Turkey);
- Expert mission of the Austrian Central Institute for Meteorology and Geodynamics (ZAMG) in the Directorate for Hydrometeorological Affairs (25-



26.02.2010) for assessing the technical and personnel capacities of Directorate for implementation of the METEOALARM;

1 automatic monitoring station for the needs of the construction of the cargo airport was installed in Stip and it is fully operational.

The capacities of the Protection and Rescue Directorate, were strengthened with:

- Course on decreasing the risks from catastrophes (06-11.02.2010, Croatia);
- Ministerial conference (17.02.2010 in Belgrade, Serbia) on proposal for establishing Regional Training Centre in extraordinary situations in Nis, Serbia, that would also be logistical base for coordination of the assistance in natural and other disasters in the whole region of the South-Eastern Europe;
- The team of the Protection and Rescue Directorate for underwater de-mining, successfully completed the project for cleaning the Ohrid Lake from unexploded lethal mines (funded by the International Guardian Fund and the US Government) and removed and destroyed 3126 mines with total weight of 7.293 kg;
- 2 new teams for rapid response established and the total number is 47 out of the foreseen 64;

Regarding **air quality**, the following laws and bylaws were adopted:

- Law on Ratification of the Protocol to the 1979 Convention on Long-range Transboundary Air Pollution on Long-term Financing of the Cooperative Programme for Monitoring and Evaluation of the Long-range Transmission of Air Pollutants in Europe (EMEP) ("Official Gazette of the Republic of Macedonia" No. 24/2010);
- Law on Ratification of the Protocol to the 1979 Convention on Long-Range Transboundary Air Pollution on the Reduction of Sulphur Emissions or their Transboundary Fluxes by at least 30% ("Official Gazette of the Republic of Macedonia" No. 24/2010);
- Law on Ratification of the Protocol to the 1979 Convention on Long-Range Transboundary Air Pollution on the Control of Emissions of Nitrogen Oxides or their Transboundary Fluxes ("Official Gazette of the Republic of Macedonia" No. 24/2010);
- Law on Ratification of the Protocol to 1979 Convention on Long-Range Transboundary Air Pollution on the Control of Emissions of Volatile Organic Compounds (VOCs) or their Transboundary Fluxes ("Official Gazette of the Republic of Macedonia" No. 24/2010);
- Law on Ratification of the Protocol to the 1979 Convention on Long-Range Transboundary Air Pollution on Further Reduction of Sulphur Emissions ("Official Gazette of the Republic of Macedonia" No. 24/2010);



- Rulebook on the quantities of the upper limits-ceilings of the polluting substances emissions for the purpose of determining projections for certain time period that are addressing the decreasing of the quantities of the polluting substances emissions on annual basis (“Official Gazette of the Republic of Macedonia” No. 2/2010) with which EU measure 32001L0081 was further transposed.

In the area of **waste management**, the Government of the Republic of Macedonia adopted Decision for initiating procedure for awarding concession for financing, projection, construction and management with regional landfill for solid waste in the South Eastern Region (“Official Gazette of the Republic of Macedonia” No. 26/2010), according to which the procedure for awarding concession will be competitive dialogue, the public call for participation will be national and international and the procedure for selection will be carried out by Commission for awarding the concession established by the Minister for Environment and Physical Planning.

In respect of **nature protection**, round table on the Draft Law on Nature Protection took place in February, organised by the Ministry for Environment and Physical Planning (MEPP) and UNDP/GEF support. Deputies from the National Parliament, MEPP, Ministry for Agriculture, Forestry and Water Economy, UNDP, National Parks Pelister, Galicica and Mavrovo, ZELS, Faculty for Forestry, NGOs and media took part.

Workshop on building the capacities and fostering cross-border cooperation for nature protection in the South-Eastern European countries within Balkan Green Belt, took place on 26-28.02.2010 in National Park Mavrovo. The workshop was organised by IUCN, DEM and MEPP.

In the area of **Industrial Pollution Prevention and Control (IPPC)**, the following activities took place: workshop on the role of the institutions in chemical management on 18-19.02.2010 in Bitola; workshop on water monitoring on 15-18.02.2010 in Tirana, Albania and workshop on Safety Report on 5-11.02.2010 in Belgrade, Serbia.

Regarding GMO, the First National Report on implementation of the Cartagena Protocol for biosafety within the Convention on Biological Diversity was prepared.

3.28 CONSUMER AND HEALTH PROTECTION

3.28.1 Consumer Protection

Working group is established with representatives from the Ministry of economy, State market inspectorate, Ministry of health, State sanitary and health inspectorate and Organisation for consumer protection which started preparing the Rulebook for children toys which should be passed in June 2010. The Directive 32009L0048 for the safety of toys will be transposed in the Rulebook.



On 16 February, session is held by the Council for consumer protection for considering the activities for realisation in 2010 by the ministries-institutions included in the Program for protection of consumers for the period 2009-2010.

3.28.2 Health Protection

The following acts were adopted and published in the Official gazette of the Republic of Macedonia:

1. Rulebook on the type, manner and content of the labels on blood and blood components Official Gazette No 15/10
2. Program for systematic check up for pupils and students in Republic of Macedonia for 2010 Official Gazette No. 20/10
3. Program on Active health Care of Mother and Child in Republic of Macedonia for 2010 Official Gazette No 20/10
4. Program for providing health insurance and health care for the citizens without insurance for 2010 Official Gazette No 20/10
5. Program for control of brucellosis in Republic of Macedonia for 2010 Official Gazette No 20/10
6. Program on Organisation and Enhancement of Blood Donation in Republic of Macedonia for 2010 Official Gazette No 20/10
7. Program for early detection of cancer in Republic of Macedonia for 2010
8. Program for Health protection of persons with dependencies in Republic of Macedonia for 2010 Official Gazette No 20/10
9. Program for Health Care of people with mental disorders for 2010 Official Gazette No 20/10

3.29. CUSTOMS UNION

The Macedonian ICT Chamber of Commerce – MASIT, organised an official contest of IT solutions and awarded those with exceptional achievements in this field. The first prize of the panel for best public sector solution went to the Single Window System for import, export and transit licenses and tariff quota – **EXIM**. The System was implemented under the government Project for introduction of a Single Window and One-Stop Shop, coordinated by the Customs Administration and supported by USAID. The awarded system was developed by the company **ULTRA** from Skopje. Besides the Customs Administration, 15 other government agencies use the EXIM system, competent for the procedures of application and granting of licenses in cross-border movement of goods and the business community involved in the foreign trade of the Republic of Macedonia. With this award, the EXIM system is entitled to participate at the International WITSA 2010 Global ICT Excellence Awards, which has been scheduled for 26th May within the World Congress on Information Technology 2010 in Amsterdam, the Netherlands.



A meeting of the Executive Committee of the Macedonian – Serbian Business Council and representatives of the Customs Administrations, the inspection authorities and the economic operators of the Republic of Macedonia and the Republic of Serbia took place on 19th February 2010 at the border crossing Tabanovce. The reforms undertaken by the two customs services aiming at simplification of the customs formalities, introduction of electronic working environment, application of new technologies and methods (such as risk analysis etc.), direct dialogue and consultations with stakeholders, as well as the bilateral cooperation between two Customs Services greatly contribute to trade facilitation and better economic environment. The representatives of the economic operators gave their favorable opinions on the progress, the increased efficiency, the efforts made for improvement of the customs operations, the good coordination of the customs services, particularly at this border crossing, as well as the new infrastructure on both sides of the border.

On the occasion of the 1st Anniversary of the establishment of the Advisory Council – a forum for establishment and enhancement of the mutual cooperation and partnership with the private sector aiming at trade security and facilitation, a formal ceremony took place on 02nd February 2010 at the Customs Administration. The event was attended by Members of the Advisory Council: the Customs Administration, the Economic Chamber of the Republic of Macedonia, the Macedonian Chambers of Commerce, The Economic Chamber of North-west Macedonia, the American Chamber of Commerce in Macedonia, the Association of International Road Transport Operators - AMERIT, Association of Transporters - MAKAMTRANS and Association of International Freight Forwarding Agencies, as well as businessmen and representatives of the media. The ceremony was an opportunity to present the Report of the activities of the Advisory Council and the results achieved within last year.

In addition, on the occasion of the International Customs Day – 26th January, six representatives of the Customs Administration of the Republic of Macedonia and four economic operators were presented with Certificates of Merit from the Secretary General of the World Customs Administration for their efforts to implement, improve and strengthen the “Customs-Business Partnership.

Following the ceremony, a regular working meeting of all Members of the Advisory Council was held. The agenda covered many issues being in interest of the participants: creation of the third phase of Single Window System (EXIM) and its upgrading by adding documents which are not yet included and which are required in trade procedures and issued by government agencies. The Business Associations need to ask their members for information on the types of documents for which they would need to apply through the EXIM in future. The present were informed of the Draft Amendments to the Customs Code and the Law on Customs Tariff, as well as the Draft Amendments to the Guidelines for Guarantees Required in Transit Procedures to Secure the Customs Debt.



Additional meeting of the Advisory Council took place on 16th February 2010 at the Customs Administration. Besides the regular members, this meeting was attended by representatives of the Ministry of Finance and the Cabinet of the Vice President of the Government of the Republic of Macedonia, responsible for economic affairs. This meeting was called at short notice with an agenda to inform the business community about the draft amendments to the Customs Code and the Customs Tariff Law.

In addition, the members reviewed the implementation of the measures of the Government of the Republic of Macedonia within Phase 2 of the Regulatory Guillotine, the realization of the project activities. They also discussed the plan for implementation of the third phase of the EXIM system by including larger number of licenses/authorizations/approvals, for which the business community would apply and receive them electronically, the use of the application for inward processing, the procedure for renewal of the authorizations for simplified procedures etc.

Continuing the efforts to strengthen the partnership with the business community, the Customs Administration of the Republic of Macedonia delivered presentations on simplified procedures. On 15th, 17th and 19th February 2010, customs officials from the Regional Customs Houses Stip, Bitola and Kumanovo held presentations for the business community of the region, covering the following topics:

- Origin of goods;
- Authorised exporter;
- Simplified procedure – local import customs clearance;
- Simplified procedure – local export customs clearance;
- Simplified procedure – Authorised consignee;
- Simplified procedure – Authorised consignor;

The presentations were attended by representatives of the local companies, having the Regional Customs Houses in Stip, Bitola and Kumanovo as competent for customs formalities. The aim of these presentations is to inform the companies about the possibilities for use of simplified procedures, the benefits from their use and how to obtain an authorization for a certain simplified procedure. The use of simplified procedures enables creation of more efficient business processes and building a partnership with the Customs Administration.

Pursuant Article 6 (1) of the Law on the Customs Administration (Official Gazette of the Republic of Macedonia no. 46/04, 81/05, 107/07 and 103/08) and the Decision for the determination of criteria for selection of best border and inland Customs Offices no. 02-21390/2 of 05.08.2008 and 02-803/1 of 13.01.2009), each quarter of the year the Director General of the Customs Administration passes a decision for selection of the best border and best inland customs office.



The assessment of the activities realized at the borders within the period October-December 2009, resulted in selection of the Customs Office Tabanovce-Highway (Customs House Kumanovo) that was evaluated as a Customs Office with best performances. The best inland Customs Offices for this period are the Customs Office Terminal Import and the Customs Office Blace within the Regional Customs House Skopje.

The selection of the Customs Offices is made in conformity with item 10 of the Decision for determination of criterion for selection of the best Inland Customs Office and best Border Customs Office no. 02-21390/2 of 5 August 2008. The selection procedure is done on grounds of the fixed criteria: total number of documents / customs officials, total number of detected offences and criminal acts / customs officials and total amount of customs duties collected / customs officials. The assessment was done on grounds of the submitted Reports for the period October – December 2009.

3.31 FOREIGN SECURITY AND DEFENSE POLICY

The Assembly of the Republic of Macedonia adopted the Declaration on Support of the European Parliament Resolution for Srebrenica from 15 January 2009 ('Official Gazette of Republic of Macedonia' No. 16/10).

State Secretary of the Ministry of Defense participated at the Informal meeting of Ministers of Defense in Troika format on 24-25 February in Palma de Mallorca.

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WORKING BODIES UNDER SAA

The sixth meeting of the Subcommittee on Transport, Environment, Energy and Regional Development was held on 12.02.2010 in Brussels. Two side technical meetings were held on 11.02.2010 within the scope of the Subcommittee: for Regional policy and for Road safety, digital tachograph and eco-tax.

The Macedonian delegation headed by the Deputy Minister of Economy presented the overall progress made in the areas of transport, environment, energy, trans-European



networks and regional policy and coordination of structural instruments, whereas the EC informed on the latest updates on the new acquis in these areas.

EC confirmed and welcomed the progress of the Republic of Macedonia in the aligning with the heavy acquis in the respective chapters, and reiterated the need for strengthening the administrative capacities for enforcement of the legislation.

IPA AND BILATERAL ASSISTANCE RELATED ISSUES

In the period between 16-19 February, the institutions in the Republic of Macedonia were subject of a final audit mission for accreditation of Component 1- **Transition Assistance and Institution Building**. The final audit report is to be expected towards the end of May 2010, creating the necessary preconditions for a Commission's decision for conferral of management powers until the first half of 2010.

The activities within the **CBC component** likewise advanced in the course of February. In this respect, the technical consultations with the relevant institutions for the programme with Republic of Greece intensified, thereby enabling the publishing of the first call in the very near future. The process of evaluation of the received applications under the first call from the programme with the Republic of Albania has commenced, as has the process of programming of a CBC programme with Kosovo.

With regards to the components **rural development** and **human resource development**, following the receipt of management powers, the activities throughout February were predominantly focused towards the elaborations of revised OP, which take into account the financial allocations for the years 2010 and 2011.

Finally, with regards to the **rural development** component, on 19th February the Government, through the National IPA Coordinator, signed the Multi-annual financial agreement for the years 2007-2010, in the amount of 31, 5 million euros, which enables the first direct payments from the IPARD funds to the projects which will be successfully approved from the first public open call (active until 17th March).

Activities with bilateral cooperation partners have continued in the reporting period. The first call for proposal for the ORIO Programme in 2010 has been launched. Internal consultations on the draft Programming document 2010 (bilateral cooperation with Norway) have been completed and the document is sent for further consultations with the donor. The Secretariat for European Affairs has initiated procedure for identification of priority areas for bilateral cooperation with Republic of Slovenia 2010.



TRAINING IN EUROPEAN AFFAIRS ACTIVITIES

Capacity building measures addressing the needs of Macedonian administration are continuously conducted by the government and in cooperation with the donors. In the month of February two training sessions were organized: EU negotiation skills and The Art of Lobbying the EU. EU negotiation skills seminar, conducted in Skopje 22-24.02.2010, implemented in cooperation between the government of the Republic of Macedonia and the Irish Institute for Public Administration. 20 participants, heads of working groups of the NPAA, had the opportunity to participate in a simulation exercise of negotiations with the EU institutions. The second training in The Art of Lobbying the EU, supported by The Brussels Office and the Government of Sweden, was held in Skopje 25-26.02.2010, and had provided the participants from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Prime Minister's Office and the SEA with the unique opportunity to actively acquire knowledge on the ways of doing business in Brussels, lobbying routes and techniques as well as creation of lobby strategy.

PUBLIC INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION ACTIVITIES

The SEA website was regularly updated with EU-related news and 6249 hits were registered. SEA also published public competition for journalists for article/TV coverage on EU-related topics that focus on the European Union or the EU integration of the Republic of Macedonia. The competition is opened until 1 August 2010. The two public information campaigns "Learning about the EU" and "Going Local" continued to be implemented. The MK-EU Info Centre continued with its regular activities.