



## MONTHLY PROGRESS BRIEF ON THE EUROPEAN INTEGRATION PROCESS OF THE REPUBLIC OF MACEDONIA FOR DECEMBER, 2009

8.01.2010

### I. POLITICAL CRITERIA

In the area of Democracy and Rule of Law:

#### **Assembly**

Within the framework of strengthening the political dialogue in the democratic institutions, the members of the Mandatory-Immunity Committee, during the previous three months intensively worked on the amendments to the Rules of Procedure of the Assembly of the Republic of Macedonia in line with the recommendations from the Venice Commission. The final concept on the amendments to the Rules of Procedure will be submitted to the coordinators of the political parties for confirmation. The deadline for the final adoption of the amendments, in line with the conclusion of the Assembly when adopting the Law on the Assembly of the Republic of Macedonia, is during the course of January 2010.

4 new employments were allocated in order to strengthen the capacity of the Assembly's Committee on the relations between the communities.

#### **Improvement of the election process**

The four working groups for implementation of the recommendation from OSCE/ODIHR on the recent presidential and local elections during the course of October and November, meeting once per week, worked on drafting of action plans in regard to the OSCE/ODIHR and Venice Commission findings. The working groups submitted the action plans to the Supervisory Committee for Implementation of the Recommendations from OSCE/ODIHR chaired by the Deputy Prime Minister in charge of EU Affairs. The Committee confirmed that the working groups prepared the Action plans in line with the OSCE/ODIHR recommendations. The draft-Actions were further consulted with the political parties on 4th December 2009. The work on this matter will continue during the first quarter of 2010.

#### **Decentralisation**

On the 1st of December, the Ministry of Education and Science, Ministry of Local Self-Government, OSCE, ZELS and the Center for institutional development organized a closing vent for the Project "Support to the municipalities in the local management of the education". The project lasted four months and in its course three workshops have been organised for capacity building of the advisors for education in the municipalities. In the



frames of the project the document with recommendations was prepared aimed for the central and local government.

### **Improvement of judicial system reform**

In order to establish consistent employment system of graduated candidates from the Academy for Training of Judges and Public Prosecutors within the judicial institutions, the Ministry of Justice prepared the amendments to the Law on Courts and the Law on Academy for Training of Judges and Public Prosecutors. The amendments to the laws will enter government procedure in the first half of January 2010.

With regard to the Administrative Court, during November 2009, the procedure for the 20 work posts has been completed in line with NPAA 2009. In view of the Appellate Court in Gostivar, the procedure for all 5 posts has been completed as foreseen in the 2009 NPAA.

The Law on Administrative Procedure is in government procedure.

### **Implementation of the law in the area of anticorruption**

Based on the Protocol for cooperation for the prevention and repression of corruption and conflict of interests, the State Commission for Prevention of Corruption on 7.12.2009 enabled the Office for Prevention of Money Laundering and Financing of Terrorism to access the database of assets declarations of elected and appointed officials. By this the Office shall have a thorough, easy and fast approach to data for the needs of its competence.

State Commission for Prevention of Corruption, in accordance with the amendments to the Law on Prevention of Conflict of Interests, on the session held on 1.12.2009 adopted the Rulebook on the form and the content of the form of the Statement of Interests, with the form as a constituent part.

The State Commission for Prevention in cooperation with the General Secretariat of the Government on 24.12.2009 held the first workshop for the application of the institute Statement for Interests for the responsible persons in the institutions (HR Units/Sectors) for collecting the statements from the employees.

SCPC and UNDP marked the International Anti-Corruption Day (9 December) by promotion of the Manuals for prevention of corruption and conflict of interests, UN Convention against corruption and free access to public information. Furthermore a roundtable was held on the topic "Fight against corruption – challenges and possibilities of the investigative journalism."



**In the area of Respect of human rights and the rights of non-majority communities:**

The employment procedure of a legal representative/ mediator for treatment of complaints against unequal treatment within the Sector for Equal Opportunities in accordance with NPAA was completed. The legal representative/ mediator started his work as of this month.

Under the motto “Life as a safe adventure” a campaign for prevention of maltreatment of children/people with intellectual disorder started, the purpose of which is to raise the awareness on the importance of early detection of the cases of domestic violence, and to strengthen the organisations of people with intellectual disorder by stimulating their activities in combating child abuse. Also this campaign should help detecting the problems of people with intellectual disorder.

In direction of advancing children's rights a State Council for Prevention of Juvenile Crime was established.

On the 20th year anniversary of the Convention on Children Rights, the National Commission for Children Rights published 3 brochures designed for three age groups of children (pre-school education, elementary and secondary education) on the languages on which the education is conducted in RM (Macedonian, Albanian, Serbian and Turkish). All disciplinary proceedings initiated against the employees in Demir Kapija for ill-treatment of patients are completed. 24 persons were punished with fines amounting from 5% to 15% of the salary for a period from 1 to 6 months, depending on the severity of the offense. Also, 18 persons received warnings.

In accordance with the Strategy on Equal representation and the Action Plan for implementing the Strategy, 10 civil servants employed in the SIOFA will be transferred to the local units of the Public Prosecution Office of RM.

In the area of further advancement and protection of minority rights an Advisory Body consisting of deputy ministers of the four relevant ministers (Ministry of Labour and Social Policy, Ministry of Health, Ministry of Transport and Communications and Ministry of Education and Science) and the Secretariat for European Affairs was established by the Minister without portfolio in order to improve the implementation of the Roma Decade and Strategy.

With the aim of continuing the fight against prejudices, stereotypes, racial hatred and respecting diversity, the Republic of Macedonia signed the Regional Strategy for intercultural dialogue.

The second phase of the Project “Social Inclusion of marginalised groups from Roma community” started. The project covers regulating residency, citizenship and possession of ID documents for the Roma people. The results of the first phase are showing good



cooperation between the civil society, the authorities and the international community. The focus during second phase will be in Skopje, Tetovo, Stip, Bitola I Kumanovo, where the Roma population is concentrated.

Grammar of Roma language and Roma-Macedonian and Macedonian-Roma dictionary were promoted.

## II ECONOMIC CRITERIA

On 24 December the Parliament of the Republic of Macedonia adopted the 2010 Budget, according to which revenues are planned to Denar 143,257 million, and expenditures are planned to Denar 153,720 billion. Deficit is projected at 2.5% of GDP, amounting to Denar 10,460 billion. There is an increase at the revenues by 3.4%, and 2.8% increase of expenditures. Government projection for 2010 is that GDP growth will account for 2%, and annual inflation rate is planned at maximum 2%.

The Budget is development oriented, realistic and with an improved structure. Increase of funds is envisaged at subsidies by 10.9%, at social transfers by 1.8% and capital expenditures will increase by 16.2%. Denar 21,285 billion is envisaged for education, Denar 19,756 billion for health, Denar 49,920 billion for social care and child protection, Denar 18,983 billion for infrastructure and economic development and Denar 7,490 billion for agriculture.

The Budget envisages no increase of public administration salaries, and strict discipline will be in place regarding employment in the public sector. Expenditures related to salaries will be lower by 2.8%, while funds for goods and services will be decreased by 9.8%. Budget deficit will be financed from both domestic and external sources, whereby domestic borrowing will be by 11% lower compared to 2009. It is projected at Denar 3,898 billion. External borrowing is planned from World Bank and EBRD for infrastructure projects, agreed budget support from World Bank in the amount of US\$ 30 million, as well as from other sources.

On 15 December the World Bank approved US\$ 30 million development loan to the Government of the Republic of Macedonia as budget support for economic reforms and development policies. These funds are allocated as support for the reforms aimed at strengthening social protection system and health reforms, strengthening financial sector stability and improving execution of public expenditures.

Agreement on economic cooperation between Macedonia and Kosovo was signed in December 2009 in Skopje. The agreement sets solid basis for boosting the cooperation between the two countries in the spheres of energy, infrastructure, transport, agriculture, construction, tourism, environment etc. Kosovo is a significant trade partner for Macedonia. This is the first bilateral agreement in the area of economy between the Governments of the two countries after the official establishment of diplomatic relations between Macedonia and Kosovo.



In the same respect, the Turkish- Macedonian business forum convened in Istanbul, encouraged the opportunities for investments and aimed towards extending the bilateral trade volume.

The 7th International Trade fair of finance and business opportunities took place this month. The fair contributed towards the modernization of the financial system by mutually sharing knowledge and experience and served as good fora for development of the financial sector and presentation of the companies` portfolio.

### III. ASSUMING THE OBLIGATION OF THE EU MEMBERSHIP

#### 3.01. FREE MOVEMENT OF GOODS

The Strategy on implementation of the acquis for the relevant horizontal organisations (standardisation, accreditation, and metrology and market surveillance) was adopted by the Government of Republic of Macedonia on 1st of December 2009.

##### STANDARDISATION

Agreements for bilateral cooperation and for adoption of German standards were concluded by the Standardisation Institute of Republic of Macedonia (ISRM) and the German Institute for Standardisation (DIN).

The first newsletter for standardisation and a catalogue of about 10850 adopted Macedonian standards were published by the Standardisation Institute in December. Also a new and dynamic website of the Institute was put in function.

In the course of December the Standardisation Institute has adopted about 600 standards, thus increasing the number of adopted standards until 01.01.2010 on 11400.

##### METROLOGY

A TAIEX Workshop on control of the net content of pre-packaged products (IM 34224 ) was held from 14-16 December 2009. The aim of the workshop, was to familiarise the producers of pre-packaged products with the laws and bylaws covering metrological issues of pre-packed products, in particular with the recently adopted "Rulebook on the manner and procedure for carrying out metrological supervision requirements that pre-packed products should meet in terms of quantities, method of marking the quantity and marked deviations from the allowable amount and the list of nominal quantities of pre-packed products ("Official Gazette of RM Br.83/2009), which is in line with the European legislation.

##### Harmonization of legislation

The Rulebook for measuring instruments, transposing MI Directive (2004/22/EEC) entered in the final stage before the adoption.



### **3.02. FREE MOVEMENT OF WORKERS**

The amendments of the Law on Employment and Work of Foreigners aiming at further facilitation of the conditions for employment of foreigners in December 2009 entered in Governmental procedure. These amendments will simplify the necessary documentation needed when applying for personal work permit for self-employment. Furthermore, they will allow the work permit for first employment to be issued for a one-year period, thus providing family reunion in the case of first employment for foreign worker in the Republic of Macedonia.

From December 2009 expert assistance is used by an international consultant (in the frames of the SPIL Project) for drafting the Law on Payment of Pensions and Pension Benefits from the Compulsory fully Funded Pension Insurance, transposing the Regulation 32004R0883.

### **3.06 COMPANY LAW**

The Rulebook for accounting management was submitted to the Secretariat of Legislation on 29.12.2009. Integral parts of this Rulebook are the International Financial Reporting Standards.

The Rulebook on the form and content of annual accounts of banks and other financial institutions is prepared and was submitted for authorization by the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Finance on 30.12.2009.

### **3.07 INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY LAW**

From 7 to 9 December in Skopje TAIEX was held regarding Draft Law on copyright and related rights. The aim was to review EC comments on the law and the provisions on collective management, the distinction between misdemeanours and criminal defences and on the competences of the inspection bodies.

From 8-11 December, representatives from the State Office for Industrial Property participated at the meeting of the Administrative Council held in Munich European Patent Organisation.

On December 11 in landfill Drisla the fifth public destruction of seized products that infringe intellectual property rights was conducted... During the action 46.369 pirated DVDs and CDs, 4.171 counterfeit boxes of cigarettes; 544 bottles of alcohol; minor quantities of seed material and four fake banknotes of 100 (hundred) euros were destroyed.



On December 23, State Office for Industrial Property held the “Patent of the Year” for sixteenth time. On this event despite the graining of Patent of the Year, World Exhibition of Inventions IENA 2009 awards were given to the Macedonian inventors. Coordination Body for Intellectual Property in December conducted two coordinated actions on 18 entities (9 natural persons and 8 legal entities). Coordinated actions were conducted in cities Kumanovo and Tetovo. In this campaign a total of 34. 648 pieces (10 computers which used unlicensed software of Microsoft, 1350 pieces of counterfeit garments that violated rights of industrial property, 22.094 litres of antifreeze fake Polar, 6.000 labels and 5.194 bottles and caps and one machine used for antifreeze bottles filling were seized.

The State Market Inspectorate submitted 11 applications for misdemeanour procedures. Ministry of Interior initiated 14 criminal procedures, the Public Revenue Office made 2 decisions to ban the work of 2 entities of 30 days duration.

### **3.08 COMPETITION**

In the course of December, the Commission for protection of competition (CPC) adopted 4 decisions in the area of antitrust (2 decisions for abuse of dominant position, 1 decision on concentration and 1 on prohibited agreement).

Within the framework of the project “Strengthening of the administrative capacity of the Commission for protection of competition for enforcement of antitrust and state aid legislation” financed by the British Embassy in Skopje, in-house seminars for employees of the CPC regarding horizontal agreements and concentration were held and 14th and 15th.

In the area of state aid, the CPC adopted one decision.

On 11th of December 2009 in Brussels, TAIEX workshop on “Regional Aid -Special Economic Zones” was held. The representative from the Commission for protection of competition presented the national Law on Technological and Industrial Development Zones as an example for functional regional aid scheme aligned with *acquis* in the field of state aid.

Regarding the awareness raising in the framework of the project “Strengthening of the administrative capacity of the Commission for protection of competition for enforcement of antitrust and state aid legislation” on 22nd of December one seminar “EU State Aid Regime – Best practices” was held for state aid providers.

Furthermore on 21st in-house seminar for the employees in the State Aid Department of the CPC was held.

Two participants for the CPC attended the OECD workshop “Competition policy in regulated sectors: the aviation industry” in Budapest on 1-4 December for antitrust and state aid in the air transport sector.



### **3.09 FINANCIAL SERVICES**

Within the REPARIS project has a counselling about 7 new draft bylaws for accounting and financial report of insurance companies has been held.

### **3.10 INFORMATION SOCIETY AND MEDIA**

Amendments to the Law on Broadcasting Activity were adopted. These amendments abolish the provision that introduced the possibility of instigating liquidation procedure against the Public Service Broadcaster.

A working group was established by the Ministry of Transport and Communications to analyse the acts regulating construction and thus remove the obstacles the telecom industry is facing with in respect to prospective infrastructure investments.

### **3.11 AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT**

Regarding Agriculture and Rural Development, the Civil Servants Agency published the announcement for employment of the 11 persons in the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Economy in the LPIS (Lend Parcel Identification System). Furthermore, The Law on Organic Agricultural Production has been adopted and published in the Official Gazette No. 146/2009. This law is transposing measures CELEX No.32007R0834 & 32008R0889, as well as 32008R1254

### **3.12 FOOD SAFETY, VETERINARY AND PHYTOSANITARY POLICY**

The Decision Amending the Decision on prohibition of import in the Republic of Macedonia of live animals, products, raw materials and by-products of animal origin, for the purpose of preventing the entry of Transmissible Spongiform Encefalophatia was published in the Official Gazette No. 150/2009. With this Decision further transposition of the measure CELEX No.32001R0999 has been made.

Furthermore, the Rulebook on the form, contents and manner of recordkeeping of animal by-products kept by natural persons and legal entities which send, transport and receive animal by-products has been adopted and published in the Official Gazette No. 152/2009. This Rulebook is ensuring further alignment of the national legislation with the measure CELEX No. 32002R1774.

The Rulebook on the method of collection and safe disposal of animal by-products and the technical conditions of the facility, equipment and staff to be met by legal entities that collect and safely dispose animal by-products, as well as the technical conditions to be met by the means of transport of animal by-products. has been adopted and published in the Official Gazette No. 157/2009. This Rulebook is further transposing measure CELEX No. 32002R1774, 32005R0093 and 32005R0092



Also, the Rulebook on special requirements relating to facilities, technical equipment and to the procedure and conditions for performing appropriate activities to be met by processing facilities for category-3 materials and on special requirements for processed animal proteins and other processed products that may be used as animal feed has been adopted and published in the Official Gazette No. 152/2009. This Rulebook is further transposing measures CELEX No. 32002R1774 and 32005R0079.

Finally, the Rulebook on the manner of application processing and detailed documentation, as well as data for grading the record of plant protection products and the necessary data, documents and re-registration procedure of plant protection products has been adopted and published in the Official Gazette No. 147/2009. This Rulebook is further transposing measure CELEX No. 31991L0414

### **3.14 TRANSPORT POLICY**

In the road transport, the Law on working time, compulsory rest periods of the mobile workers and drivers in the road transport and record devices in the road transport has been adopted. The Law envisages the conditions for introduction of the digital tachographs in the vehicles for international road transport and is fully aligned with the EU social acquis in the road transport.

The Law amending the Law on transport of dangerous goods in road and railway transport has been adopted. The Law aims at further transposition of the Directive 1994/63/EC on the control of volatile organic compound (VOC) emissions resulting from the storage of petrol and its distribution from terminals to service stations.

The Law amending the Law on road transport safety has been adopted. The Law clarifies certain safety rules and prescribes more severe fines for the violators of the Law in the road transport for purposes of increasing the road safety.

In the railway area TAIEX expert mission took place in Skopje for revising and completing the draft texts on the Law on development of railways and the Law on railway safety. It was agreed that the issues on the Agency for regulating the market for railway services should be integrated in the Law on development of railways. The package of Laws shall be submitted to the Government during January 2010.

The date for conducting a TAIEX expert mission on the amendments to the Law on Aviation is confirmed. It will take place from 11-15.01.2010 in Skopje, upon which, the Law amending the Law on Aviation shall be submitted to all relevant institutions for opinion. The deadline for adoption of the Law is April 2010, according to the revised NPAA 2010-2012.

The National Program for trainings for safeguarding against acts of unlawful interference is adopted by the Government on 23.11.2009.



A Decision has been adopted by the Government on 22.12.2009 for determining the amount of the loan for the Project for improving the civil aviation and the manner of repayment by the JSC with one shareholder-the state- air navigation service provider, as well as the amount of the loan to be repaid by the user of the airport infrastructure to the air navigation service provider (JSC with one shareholder-the state).

Also, the Decision has been adopted by the Government on 22.12.2009 determining the part of the fee for safeguarding against acts of unlawful interference and the part of the fee for use of the airport infrastructure.

The new Acts for organization and systematization of the Agency for Civil Aviation has been adopted in December 2009.

The Government has adopted the Law amending the Law on Inland Waterway Navigation. The Law aims at further alignment with the Directive 2006/87/EC laying down technical requirements for inland waterway vessels. The Law shall also be a legal basis for adoption of two bylaws which will fully transpose the EU measures in this area.

### **3.15 ENERGY**

In the field of internal energy market, during December 2009, the Energy Regulatory Commission of the Republic of Macedonia brought the following bylaws:

- Rulebook on the conditions for supply with electricity;
- Rulebook on the conditions for supply with thermal energy;
- Tariff system for sale of thermal energy;
- Rulebook on the manner and conditions for regulating prices for transmission, distribution and supply of natural gas;
- Rulebook on the manner and conditions for regulating prices of geothermal energy.

In December 2009, several decisions were adopted. 1:

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- 2 Decisions for highest selling prices for different oil derivates on every fourteen-days period in accordance with the Methodology for establishment of the prices for different oil derivates 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 approving the regulated maximum revenue for year 2010 for performing regulated energy activity generation of electricity to AD TEC NEGOTINO, Negotino;
  - Decision for approving the regulated maximum revenue and price for performing regulated energy activity generation of electricity to AD ELEKTRANI NA MAKEDONIJA (AD ELEM) – Skopje, for year 2010;
  - Decision for approving the base revenue for years 2009, 2010 and 2011, regulated maximum revenue for years 2009 and 2010 and price for year 2010 for performing regulated energy activities transmission of electricity, operation of the power system and organization and operation of the electricity market to the Power System Operator of Macedonia, AD MEPSO - Skopje;



The Energy Regulatory Commission held a preparatory session on the Grid Code for distribution of electricity of AD ELEM – Skopje. The Grid Code for distribution of electricity of AD ELEM – Skopje will be approved by the Energy Regulatory Commission in January 2010.

The Rules for the Electricity Market were delivered for approval by AD MEPSO to the Energy Regulatory Commission, while their adoption is foreseen for the first quarter of 2010.

On 16th of December 2009 the Financial plan of the Energy Regulatory Commission for 2010 was approved by the Assembly of the Republic of Macedonia.

The signed contract for the IPA Twinning project for institutional strengthening of the Energy Regulatory Commission was approved by the European Commission on 15th of December 2009. The IPA Twinning project will officially start on 1st of January 2010 with duration of 18 months.

In the field of energy efficiency, the Ministry of Economy received the first draft of the updated Strategy for Energy Efficiency of the Republic of Macedonia in December 2009. The technical support for updating of the Strategy is provided by USAID. The strategy should be subject to public debate in early 2010.

In December 2009 the Ministry of Economy adopted the Rulebook amending the Rulebook on energy efficiency of construction facilities (Official Gazette of the Republic of Macedonia No.154/09) . The implementation of the rulebook will start from 1st of January 2011.

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- Decision for approving the regulated maximum revenue and price for year 2010 for performing regulated energy activity operation of the electricity distribution system and distribution of electricity to EVN MACEDONIA - Skopje;
  - Decision for approving the regulated maximum revenue and price for year 2010 for performing energy activity retail electricity supply to tariff customers to EVN MACEDONIA - Skopje;
  - Decision for approving the base revenue for years 2009, 2010 and 2011, regulated maximum revenue for years 2009 and 2010 and price for year 2010 for performing regulated energy activity operation of the electricity distribution system and distribution of electricity, and regulated maximum revenue and price for year 2010 for performing energy activity retail electricity supply to tariff customers to AD ELEM – ENERGETIKA – Skopje;
  - Decision for approving the regulated maximum revenue for generation and distribution of thermal energy for heating and tariff rates for the regulated period to Toplifikacija AD – Skopje;
  - Decision for approving the regulated maximum revenue and tariff rates for year 2010 for performing energy activity supply of thermal energy for heating to Snaabduvanje CENTAR DOOEL – Skopje;
  - Decision for approving the regulated maximum revenue and tariff rates for year 2010 for performing energy activity supply of thermal energy for heating to Snaabduvanje ZAPAD DOOEL – Skopje;
  - Decision for approving the regulated maximum revenue and tariff rates for year 2010 for performing energy activity supply of thermal energy for heating to Snaabduvanje ISTOK DOOEL – Skopje;
  - Decision for approving the regulated maximum revenue for generation, distribution and supply of thermal energy for heating and tariff rates for year 2010 to Skopje Sever AD – Skopje;
  - Decision for issuing license for performing energy activity trade with electricity to the company ENERGY HOLDING SKOPJE DOOEL import-export Skopje;



In the field of radiation protection and nuclear safety, 6 licenses for practices with ionizing radiation have been issued and 50 inspections have been performed, during December 2009.

In December 2009 the following rulebooks were published in the Official Gazette of the Republic of Macedonia No.157/09:

- Rulebook on the content of the Radiation Protection Program. Emergency Plan, Quality Assurance Program and Safety Control Program and
- Rulebook on the form and the content of the template of the application for license, the form and the content of the license, as well as the procedure for issuing of the license.

In December 2009 Memorandum of Cooperation between the Radiation Safety Directorate and the Protection and Rescue Directorate was signed.

On 21.12.2009, regarding the Study on gasification in the Republic of Macedonia, the 2nd Report of the Study was presented.

### **3.17. EMU**

The National Bank of Republic of Macedonia reduced the weighted average interest rate for 0.5%, from 9% to 8,5%. Maintaining the price stability in the economy will continue to be the main objective of the monetary policy for 2010.

### **3.18. STATISTICS**

In the State Statistical Office (SSO), within the frame of the National Programme for Adoption of the acquis for 2009, the SSO realised the employment of 10 new persons and 2 persons from the existing staff were redistributed. Also, on the basis of the Framework Agreement 6 persons were transferred from the General Secretariat.

Regarding quality management the final version of the Strategy for quality management at the SSO, 2010 – 2012, was adopted by the Executive Board.

After completion of the testing phase of the application for collecting reference metadata (conceptual metadata, methodological metadata and quality metadata) according to the recommended Euro SDMX Structure, data entry phase for 6 statistical surveys started. An output form for presenting the reference metadata for different statistical surveys is created and is ready for implementation.

The IT system for updating the annual programme for conducting statistical surveys is revised and the Code list of statistical surveys that is the core part of the system is harmonized with the structure of the Eurostat Statistical Compendium.

Data entry for the conducted full - scale survey on waste from industry was finished.



According to the Commission Regulation (EC) No 20/2009, within the framework of the Labour Force Survey, 2010, an ad hoc module "Reconciliation between work and family life" was included. During December, 2009, the questionnaire and the methodological notes for the interviewers were prepared and training for the interviewers was carried out.

In the Ministry of Labour and Social Policy (MLSP), the Ministry of Labour and Social Policy brought a decision on formation of a Working group on ESSPROS.

### **3.21 TEN**

On the 30th of November the fourth regional meeting for negotiations of the Treaty on Establishing a Transport Community took place in Brussels. The Macedonian delegation headed by the State Secretary of the Ministry of Transport and Communications as a chief negotiator took active part and the positions and comments of the Republic of Macedonia were presented by the negotiation team. The latest version of the Treaty was sent on 21st of December.

The Fourth SEETO Ministerial conference for development of the Core Regional Transport Network took place in Zagreb on December 3rd, 2009. The Macedonian delegation was headed by the Minister of Transport and Communications, who delivered a speech on the regional road safety. Also, the recommendations from the Project for implementation of soft t - Priority Axis 1 - C measures for road safety auditing and railway reform were endorsed by the participating countries.

The revision of the Operation contract for the IPA Regional Development component (transport section) and the contract for sub delegation of competences for the IPA Regional Development component completion of Corridor 10 to the level of a highway is ongoing.

Having in mind the Decision of the government to award the design, construction and functioning of Corridor 8 to a concessionaire, currently a document on reallocation of the financial means from measure 2.2 to 2.1 is being prepared.

Under the eligible activities of measure 2.1 a new project on Rehabilitation and upgrading of Railway station Skopje was identified, in accordance with the EU technical standards.

Preparation of tender documentation for the railway project financed from measure 2.1 from the OPRD 2007 – 2009, as well as preparation of ToR for supervision for construction of Construction of section Demir Kapija – Smokvica are ongoing.

### **3.22 REGIONAL POLICY AND COORDINATION OF STRUCTURAL INSTRUMENTS**

#### **Institutional Framework**



During December 2009, the Roadmap for extended decentralized implementation system (EDIS) for IPA Component III – Regional Development was drafted. The objective of the roadmap is to outline the steps of the process and to set the benchmarks and requirements to be met in order the Republic of Macedonia to achieve the decentralized management without ex-ante controls by the Commission. In this context the intention of the Republic of Macedonia in the mid term period is to waive the ex-ante controls from the current Operational Structures (OS). Therefore the waive of ex-ante controls is related to the CFCD as a lead body in the OS for the contracting, tendering and payments and the Line Ministries as bodies responsible for technical aspects of the implementation of IPA projects. In long term perspective, the objective is to strengthen the Line Ministries and to transfer all the responsibilities and tasks from the CFCD to Line Ministries.

In the area of national regional policy implementation, Regional centers continued with their activities and regular sessions of Planning Regions Development Councils have been held.

The South-west planning region started to implement “Integrated database project” for the region, in order to rationalize access to vital information for future project preparation. The Council of the East planning region has decided to implement the “Enrichment the content and tourist facilities” project, with total amount of 35 000 euros, co financed by GTZ.

The Center has also developed Action Plan determining activities that are planned to be realized for the establishment of Inter municipal public company with timeframe for its implementation and communicated to the MEPP, related with the implementation of “Integrated regional solid waste management project” under IPA Regional development component.

National Council for Balanced Regional Development, composed of seven Ministries, presidents of Regional Development Councils and the President of Local Self Government Units Association, held its session on 7th of December 2009. On the session, Draft Decision for financing project proposals for development of planning regions, areas with specific development needs and the rural areas, has been approved, in order national funds for balanced regional development to be implemented.

Draft Action Plan for implementation of the Strategy for regional development has been prepared and will be subject of inter-institutional consultations.

#### Programming

The Operating Structure for Regional Development has prepared Proposal for modification of the Operation Programme for Regional Development (2007-2009) for the



period 2010-2011 with adding new financial allocation for 2010 (EUR 30.9 mil.) and for 2011 (EUR 35 mil.) which are already adopted with the Multy-Annual Indicative Financial Framework for 2010-2012 and extending the scope of the activities eligible for funding in the area of transport and environment. The Proposal shall be submitted to the DG REGIO for adoption in the beginning of 2010.

The process of modification of the Operation Programme for Human Resources Development is ongoing. New financial allocation is added for 2010 (EUR 8, 4 mil.) and for 2011 (EUR 8,8 mil.), with the extension of the existing activities and programming of new activities and indicators in the scope of the existing priority axis and measures in the Operational Programme.

Project Pipeline for the projects to be funded under IPA Component III – Regional development is under preparation. In this regard, Ministry of Transport and Communications and Ministry of Environment and Physical Planning in the field of their operation have made assessment of the readiness of the projects, for funding under IPA in the programming of period 2010-2011.

#### Monitoring and Evaluation

On 10 December, 2009, the first official Sectoral Monitoring Committee (SMC) for IPA Component IV, Operational Programme Human Resources Development (OP HRD) was held. During the meeting the following topics were discussed: State of play of the OIS – (summary); Proposal for re – allocation; Procurement Plan for Component IV; State of play of OPHRD– (revision); Draft Evaluation Plan and Timetable for the Interim Evaluation; Selection procedure for the representatives of the Civil Society and the Social Partners.

Regarding the reallocation, reallocation of EUR 1,741,176 from Measure 1.3 to Measure 1.1, Measure 1.2 and Measure 1.4 is proposed which shall enable full absorption of the financial allocations foreseen under PA 1 in the initial implementation of the OPHRD. The proposed reallocation of funds will contribute to achieving the objectives set in the OPHRD in terms of reducing unemployment and social inclusion of disadvantaged groups.

In order to enable effective and efficient implementation of IPA projects, representatives from the Delegation of the European Union and National Authorities supported by the Framework consultant has prepared technical specification for establishment of Management Information system (MIS). According to the Action plan for establishment of MIS, the software shall be purchased by the mid of 2010 and after that with customization it will be adjusted to the beneficiaries needs.

#### Financial Management and Control



The European Commission has transferred pre-financing in the amount of 30% of the financial allocation for the first three years in the Operational Programme for Regional Development in the National Fund foreign currency account.

On 16 December 2009, the Financial Agreement concerning the multi- Annual Operational Programme for Component IV – Human Resources Development was signed between the Deputy Prime Minister for European Affairs of the Government of the Republic of Macedonia and National IPA Coordinator and the Ambassador of the European Union in the Republic of Macedonia.

In order to enable effective and efficient implementation of IPA funds allocated in the framework of IPA Component III and IV, NAO in coordination with NF, CFCD and Line ministries has undertaken all necessary activities in the process of budget preparation, in order to ensure the funds for national co-financing.

### **3.24 JUSTICE, FREEDOM AND SECURITY**

#### Migration

The Government adopted the Action Plan on implementation of the Resolution on Migration Policy of Republic of Macedonia for the period 2009-2014. The determined measures and activities with fiscal implications are systematized in five areas: Visa regime; Diaspora policy; Residence, employment and integration of refugees and foreigners; Asylum; Illegal migration.

The Programs for integration of persons returned based on readmission agreements entered the governmental procedure. The document comprises measures regarding realization of the rights of above mentioned persons, in the following specific areas: health care, education, social-economic assistance and access to the necessary identification documents in the Republic of Macedonia.

#### Asylum

The amendments to the Law on Asylum and Temporary Protection were adopted ("Official Gazette of RM" No.149/09). The amendments refer to further harmonisation of the Law with the Council Directive 2004/83/EC of 29 April 2004, as well as with the Council Directive on minimum standards on procedures in Member States for granting and withdrawing refugee status, adopted on 1 December 2005 (2005/85/EC).

The Unit for Asylum within the Ministry of Interior adopted a Training plan for the employees of the Unit.

#### Police cooperation and fight against organised crime

The first negotiation meeting on concluding Operative and Strategic Agreement for cooperation between Republic of Macedonia and EUROPOL, took place in the period 14-18.12.2009. The basic issues on the forms of cooperation were determined, such as: exchange of information (classified and non-classified), personal data and their adequate protection, exchange of liaison officers.



On 03.12.2009 the Agreement on police cooperation between Republic of Macedonia and Kosovo was signed. The Agreement determines the cooperation between the two countries in several areas including: fight against terrorism and organized crime, illegal trafficking in human beings and drugs, witness protection, stolen vehicles, computer crime etc.

The 9th session of the expert meeting in the scope of the twinning program between the MoI of Republic of Macedonia and MoI of the German Federal State Brandenburg took place in the reporting period.

Within the framework of the Project “Technical assistance on strengthening the capacities of the parties included in the fight against trafficking in human beings”, training for police officers took place in the Training centre. The aim of the training was improving the techniques for identification and profiling of victims of human trafficking and smuggling of migrants. As of 01.07.2009 in the Training centre, 8 basic trainings for 280 police officers in total have been completed.

### **3.26 EDUCATION AND CULTURE**

#### **Education and training**

Amendments to the Laws on Primary and Secondary education concerning schools' self-evaluation and evaluation, and introduction of external assessment of students were prepared and are currently in parliament procedure.

#### **Community programmes:**

##### Life Long learning programme (LLL)

11 general LLP info days were organized in the course of November and the first half of December in 10 different cities in the country and Skopje, in the frames of which all sectoral programmes of LLL were presented.

##### eTwinning

An eTwinning seminar in Skopje was held on the 12 December 2009. The preparation of a National eTwinning portal is underway. It will provide relevant and useful information regarding the participation of the Macedonian schools in eTwinning projects, examples of good practice, and it will support the potential eTwinners for their registration in eTwinning. As up to 22nd of December 2009, 85 Macedonian schools and 125 teachers have been registered on eTwinning and are already participating in more than 90 international eTwinning projects.

##### Youth in action (YiA)

Seven general YiA info days were organized in the course of November and the first half of December in 6 different cities in the country as well as in Skopje.



All actions of the YiA programme were presented. Also examples of positive practices of other beneficiaries from the participant's countries were presented.

### 3.27 ENVIRONMENT

In the area of the horizontal legislation, the process of inter-sectoral consultations with all competent institutions, including the Assembly of the Republic of Macedonia, upon the text of the Draft Strategy for Sustainable Development of the Republic of Macedonia was successfully finalised. In December 2009 the Strategy entered in the phase of Governmental procedure for adoption.

The Ministry Environment and Physical Planning undertook activities for improvement of the co-operation with other state administrative bodies, local self-government units and non-governmental organisations, by hosting meetings on 24th of November 2009 and 14 of December 2009.

The Ministry of Environment and Physical Planning organised the following 5 EIA trainings for representatives of the Local-self Government Units (LSGUs) and NGOs: on 14th of December 2009 for the representatives of the 10 municipalities in Skopje in the Association of LSGUs – Skopje;

- on 15th of December 2009 for the Vardar, North-East, parts of Skopje and Polog Planning Regions in the Association of LSGUs – Skopje;
- on 21st of December 2009 for the representatives of the Eastern and South-East Planning Region in Strumica;
- on 22nd of December 2009 for the representatives of the Pelagonija, South-West and part of the Polog Planning Region in Mavrovo;
- on 24th of December 2009 for the NGOs representatives in Skopje.

Representatives of the Republic of Macedonia participated on the UN Climate Change Conference from 7th – 18th of December 2009 in Copenhagen, where the President of the Republic of Macedonia highlighted that the country supports the EU positions on the climate policy.

In the area of civil protection the Law on Ratification of the Memorandum of Understanding for the Institutional Framework on the Disaster Prevention and Preparedness Initiative for South Eastern Europe was adopted (“Official Gazette of the Republic of Macedonia” No.150/2009).

In the field of air quality, the process of further alignment of the national legislation with the EU acquis on air quality continued with adoption of 3 rulebooks:

- Rulebook on the methodology for monitoring the ambient air quality (“Official Gazette of the Republic of Macedonia” No. 138/2009) and it further transposes the



following EU measures: 31999L0030, 32000L0069, 32004L0107, 31996L0062, 32002L0003, 32008L0050, 32004D0224, 31997D0101, 32001D0752;

- Rulebook on the content and the manner of delivery of data and information on the status of ambient air quality management (“Official Gazette of the Republic of Macedonia” No. 138/2009) and it further transposes the following EU measures: 32002L0003, 32004L0107, 31999L0030, 32000L0069, 32008L0050;
- 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 (awaits its publishing in the Official Gazette of the Republic of Macedonia)

In the area of waste management, the Law on Management of Packaging and Packaging Waste was adopted by the Parliament of the Republic of Macedonia on 29th of December 2009. This law transposes the following EU measures: 31994L0062, 32004L0012, 31997D0129, 31999D0177 and 32001D0171.

Regarding water quality, the Government set up the National Council for Waters (“Official Gazette of the Republic of Macedonia” No. 149/2009). This Council, established according to the Law on Waters (“Official Gazette of the Republic of Macedonia” Nos. 87/2008, 6/2009) is consultative body to the Government on water management issues and measures for protection and improvement of the water regime in the country. Additionally, the following 5 rulebooks that further transpose the EU Water Framework Directive 2000/60/EC were adopted:

- Rulebook on the contents and manner of compiling information and cartographic indicators of water monitoring activities, detailed programmes and plans of water management at river basins and sub-basins (“Official Gazette of the Republic of Macedonia” No.148/2009);
- Rulebook on the methodology for river basin assessment (“Official Gazette of the Republic of Macedonia” No.148/2009);
- Rulebook on the contents and manner of drafting the Programme of Measures (“Official Gazette of the Republic of Macedonia” No.148/2009);
- Rulebook on methodology of the detailed contents, manner and procedure of drafting, revising and updating the Water Master Plan of the Republic of Macedonia (“Official Gazette of the Republic of Macedonia” No.148/2009);
- Rulebook on the contents and manner of drafting river basin management plans (“Official Gazette of the Republic of Macedonia” No.148/2009).

In the area of nature protection, an Action Plan on Establishment of NATURA 2000 Network in the Republic of Macedonia was prepared after the lessons learn on the TAIEX workshop on NATURA that took place on 26-27th of November 2009 in Skopje. The Plan is currently at governmental procedure for adoption.



Regarding chemicals the Government of the Republic of Macedonia on 1st of December 2009 established the Inter-Sectoral Body for Chemicals in accordance with the Law on Chemicals. This body will provide inter-sectoral cooperation, monitoring of the implementation of the Law on Chemicals, recommendations for amendments of this Law and for strengthening of the capacities on national and local level, as well as the capacities of the industry for chemicals management.

As far as the GMO 2 bylaws were adopted:

Rulebook on contents of information necessary for implementation of risk assessment as a result of deliberate release of GMO in environment as appropriate to the nature of the introduced organism and environment ("Official Gazette of the Republic of Macedonia" No.148/2009)

Rulebook on the contents of the Contingency Plan (awaits its publishing in the Official Gazette of the Republic of Macedonia)

### **3.28 CONSUMER AND HEALTH PROTECTION**

The Programme for securing expenditure funds for patients treated with dialysis, securing medicines for transplantations and securing citostatics, insulin, growth hormone and treating patients with haemophilia in the Republic of Macedonia has been adopted and published in the Official Gazette No. 151/2009

### **3.29. CUSTOMS UNION**

The Decision on alignment and amendment of the Customs Tariff (Official Gazette of the Republic of Macedonia no. 155 of 24th December 2009) was adopted in December 2009. The Decision entered into force on the eight day of its publishing and shall apply as from 01st January 2009. The Customs Tariff is integral part of the Law on Customs Tariff and it is aligned with the undertaken obligations arising from the accession of the Republic of Macedonia to the World Trade Organisation, as well as with the amendments to the European Union Combined Nomenclature.

In the period 1 January – 25 December 2009, the Customs Administration has collected a total of MKD 38.469 million (about EUR 631 million) of total revenues from import duties, being by 24% less compared to the same period in 2008, when a total of MKD 50.398 million (about EUR 826 million) were collected.

The Customs Administration of the Republic of Macedonia, in association with the UN Economic Commission for Europe, USAID – Business Environment Project and the CEFTA 2006 Secretariat, organised a Conference on the Macedonian experience with the Single Window System for issuance of licenses for import, export and transit-EXIM, which was held on 1st and 2nd December 2009 in Skopje.



The Conference was attended by representatives from Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Macedonia, Moldova, Kosovo, Serbia, Turkey, Croatia, Montenegro, the Swedish Customs, the UN Economic Commission for Europe, the World Customs Organisation, the European Commission, USAID (Project for business environment and e-government). The adopted Recommendations at the Conference encouraged introduction of national Single Windows (in the countries that participated at the Conference) and their interconnection, as one of the first steps towards trade data harmonisation according to the international standards. The participants accepted the recommendation that the next step towards trade facilitation in the region should be the introduction of electronic data exchange especially among the customs services, thus contributing to promotion and strengthening the regional initiative in the field of standardisation, harmonisation and electronic data exchange as well as trade facilitation, greater competitiveness and economic development.

The Sixth Donor Coordination Meeting in customs matters was held on 07th December 2009 at the premises of the Customs Administration, whereby all existing and potential donors reviewed the progress and achievements through the realization of foreign projects and activities. This meeting is continuation of the practice established in line with the efforts and commitments that the foreign assistance is well coordinated, overlaps avoided, and the assistance best used.

Workshop on Quality control and strengthening of the capacity of the Services for surveillance of the holders of authorizations, organised within the Programme for Technical Assistance of the Customs Administration of the Kingdom of Netherlands was held on 14th - 16th December 2009.

To the end of further familiarisation of the public with the activities of the Customs Administration in the area of modernisation and trade facilitation, on 21st December 2009, the Customs Administration of the Republic of Macedonia made presentation to the business community in Bitola, in the organization of the Advisory Body (Customs Administration, the Association of the independent truck transporters - MAKAMTRANS, SIZ "Makedonija soobrakaj", A.M.E.R.I.T., Group of the International Freight forwarders, Association of the chamber of Commerce, American Chamber of Commerce in Macedonia and the Chamber of Commerce).

### **3.31. CFSP**

The Government adopted a Decision on deployment of members of the Army of Republic of Macedonia to participate in EU operation EUFOR, ALTHEA in Bosnia and Herzegovina. According the decision, a medical team consisted of ten members of the Army, one officer-legal adviser and one lieutenant for preventive medicine, have been deployed for a period of six months.



### **3.32 FINANCIAL CONTROL**

Draft strategy for Public Internal Financial Control (PIFC) has been prepared for the period 2010 – 2012. Activities in the strategy were designed for strengthening and improving the system of PIFC. According to the procedure, first the strategy should be communicated with the relevant ministries and eventually adopted by the Government in the upcoming period. Additionally, appropriate training plan was prepared aiming at improving administrative capacity for conducting PIFC.

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### **IPA AND BILATERAL ASSISTANCE RELATED ISSUES**

The Sector for coordination of EU funds and other foreign assistance has implemented all activities envisaged with the Strategic plan of the Secretariat for European Affairs. Particular accent was given to activities for preparation, implementation and monitoring of IPA, as well as successful completion of the DIS process and signing of relevant Financial Agreements.

Activities for strengthening of communication and cooperation with bilateral partners have continued. Several important projects have been initiated and successfully launched, aimed at supporting the EU Accession process and economic and social development.

This material lists some of the more important activities of the Sector for coordination of EU funds and other foreign assistance in the reporting period.

#### **IPA process**

The EC decisions for conferral of management of EU funds to national structures speak of raising credibility of the Republic of Macedonia. After visa-liberalization, this is additional signal that EU considers Republic of Macedonia as serious partner and future member of the family.

In December 2009, three Financial Agreements were signed, with more than EUR 23 mil. made available under IPA funds to Republic of Macedonia.

*Signed Financial Agreement for IPA Operational Programme for Human Resource Development*



On 16th December 2009, the Deputy Prime Minister and National IPA Coordinator, Dr. Vasko Naumovski and H.E. Head of EU Mission Erwan Fouere have signed the Financial Agreement for Operational programme for Human Resource Development (IPA Component IV). The total funding for the programme period 2007 – 2009 amounts to EUR 19.1 mil., allocated for projects in the areas of employment, social inclusion and education.

In the implementation of this Programme, the Government of the Republic of Macedonia expects full involvement and participation of the Civil Society Organizations, as well as other partners and organizations. These funds shall contribute not only to improvement of the social aspects of the daily living, but also to enhancement of the education system. This, as the main goal of the Republic of Macedonia, as future member of the EU is full participation in the European Lisbon Agenda 2020.

*Signed Financial Agreement for IPA Programmes for Cross-border Cooperation with Greece and Albania*

On the 16th December 2009, the Deputy Prime Minister and National IPA Coordinator, Dr. Vasko Naumovski and H.E. Head of EU Mission Erwan Fouere have signed the Financial Agreements for IPA Programmes for Cross-border Cooperation with Greece and Albania for 2008.

The priorities of both programmes are improvement of the living standards, reduction of unemployment, contribution to the local economies and support to local infrastructure investments. For this purpose a total of EUR 2.3 mil have been allocated (EUR 1 mil. for Albania programme and EUR 1.3 mil for Greece programme).

Implementation of common projects for cross-border cooperation (economy, tourism, culture, etc.) shall contribute to further improvement of relations with the both neighbouring countries. These funds shall be utilized by municipalities, companies and Civil Society Organizations.

*EC Decision for conferral of management of EU funds for Rural Development (IPA Component 5)*

The Deputy Prime Minister and National IPA Coordinator Dr. Vasko Naumovski, the Deputy Prime Minister in charge of Economic Affairs, Vladimir Pesevski, the Minister for Agriculture, Forestry and Water Economy, Ljupco Dimovski, and the Director of the Agency for Financial Support of Agriculture and Rural Development, Toni Dimovski, on the press conference held on 22nd December 2009 have informed on the European



Commission decision for obtaining accreditation for full decentralised management with the EU funds from the fifth IPA Component – Rural Development.

The decision for use of EU funds for agriculture and rural development is particularly significant since it will supplement the strong government efforts for support of the agricultural sector through continuous and historically highest levels of subsidies. This decision is recognition of the capacity and maturity of the national institutions for EU funds management according to the EC rules and mechanisms for financial management.

The total funds for the fifth IPA component for the period 2007-2013 amount to approximately EUR 87.5 mil., whereas for the period 2007 – 2010 the funds amount to EUR 31.5 mil. The Government of the Republic of Macedonia invests EUR 10.5 mil. with own national co-financing for the period 2007-2010.

Announcement of first call for farmers' application within IPARD Programme 2007 – 2010

The first call for farmers' applications was announced 23rd December 2009. The objectives of the IPARD programme include the following: improvement of market efficiency and implementation of the EU standards; preparatory activities for implementation of the agricultural and environmental measures, as well as local strategies for rural development and promotion of rural economies development. This programme will cover investments in agricultural economies, investments in processing and marketing of agricultural products, as well as diversification and development of economy.

*Completed mission of DG Regional policy (IPA Component 3)*

Delegation from DG Regional policy visited Republic of Macedonia in the period of 25th – 27th November. The purpose of the mission was to discuss with national authorities the progress in implementation of the Operational Programme for Regional Development 2007 – 2009, as well as to provide an assessment of the draft – platform for revision of the Programme for the period 2010 – 2011.

Within the mission, coordinative meetings on two major projects from the Programme 2007 – 2009 were held: Project for Completion of Corridor X and Project for construction of WWTP Prilep. The forth Sectoral Monitoring Committee (first official, after conferral of management) was held on the 26th November.

*Finalisation of programming of IPA Operational Programme TAIB 2010*



The Secretariat for European Affairs has presented the draft Operational Programme for TAIB 2010 to the donor community and Civil Society organizations, in the total amount of EUR 36.3 mil.

The presentation was held on the 17th November 2009, at the premises of EU Mission in Skopje. The final Operational programme shall be submitted to EC for approval in January 2010.

### **Bilateral project cooperation**

Activities for strengthening of communication and cooperation with bilateral partners have continued. Several important projects have been initiated and successfully launched, aimed at supporting the EU Accession process and economic and social development.

Prepared and submitted package of infrastructure project for ORIO Programme (Kingdom of Netherlands)

The Secretariat for European Affairs has submitted the package of infrastructure projects within ORIO Programme (funded by the Government of the Kingdom of Netherlands) on 16th November 2009.

The package consists of projects for reconstruction of education, water supply and sewage network facilities as well as modernization of university level institutions. The assessment of the applications is in progress, by the Dutch institutions.

Signed Agreement for implementation of the Integrated Database for Aliens (MoI and Embassy of Kingdom of Norway)

The Minister of Interior Gordana Jankulovska and H.E. Ambassador of Kingdom of Norway Kjetil Paulsen have signed the Agreement for implementation of the Project for Integrated database for aliens on the 18th November 2009. The project is vital part of the roadmap for visa liberalization and brings Macedonia closer to the standards and conditions of the Schengen system.

The project is co-financed by both Governments in total value of EUR 1.4 mil. It comes as result of the efforts invested by the National Aid Coordinator Vasko Naumovski and the Secretariat for European Affairs. It is expected that the cooperation with Kingdom of Norway continues in this field in the future.

Completed negotiations of the new bilateral cooperation Agreement with Republic of Austria



The Secretariat for European Affairs and Austrian Development Agency have completed negotiations for the new bilateral cooperation Agreement. The draft text of the Agreement is put for final approval by the Government of the Republic of Macedonia.

## **PREPARATION OF THE NATIONAL VERSION OF ACQUIS COMMUNAUTAIRE**

### Coordination of the process of translation

In December 2009, the Sector for preparation of the national version of acquis communautaire has coordinated the translation into Macedonian language of 79 EU acts or approximately 353 pages of the Official Gazette of the European Union, 3 Macedonian legislation acts or approximately 38 pages of the Official Gazette of the Republic of Macedonia as well as one other act of importance for the EU accession process.

### Revision and terminology

The Sector for preparation of the national version of acquis communautaire has performed language revision of 15 European legal acts or approximately 102 pages of the Official Gazette of the European Union.

The Sector for preparation of the national version of acquis communautaire has also finished the language revision of the book “Europe from A do Z” translated into Macedonian language which was published in December 2009.

## **TRAINING IN EUROPEAN AFFAIRS ACTIVITIES**

Within the established cooperation with Ireland, in the period 14-18.12.2009, the SEA in cooperation with the Irish Institute for Public Administration had organized training for trainers from the Macedonian administration. This is the third and the last module in series of trainings related to the establishing of the in-house training service within SEA. The overall purpose of the activity is to strengthen the capacity of the Macedonian administration. The target group was civil servants – trainers, who had been extensively trained in specific domains, and through the three modules they were enabled to provide training and facilitation. With this last module in particular, they were exposed to training in respect to establishing the needs for training within the civil service, the creation and conducting of TNA, creation of plan and curricula and the process of evaluation of the events and delivered training.

With this event, the annual programme for cooperation with Ireland had been concluded. This cooperation runs since 2007, and until now about 100 civil servants had benefited from a variety of trainings and capacity building activities.

## **PUBLIC INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION ACTIVITIES**

The activities for public information and communication included regular update of SEA website with around 20 published news and 6433 hits registered.



The public information campaigns “Learning about EU” and “Going Local” continued to be implemented. Within the campaign “Learning about EU” several primary and secondary schools were visited while within the campaign “Going Local” the municipalities of Negotino, Gostivar and Chair were visited. The ministers in the Government of the Republic of Macedonia and the ambassadors of the EU member states actively participated in the realisation of the campaigns.

The MK-EU Info Centre continued with its regular activities with around 70 visits of citizens and 90 issued books.