

IPA Press Conference – Macedonia on the same level as Croatia and Turkey in terms of IPA absorption funds



By the end of 2013 a total of 37.3 percent of the EU instrument for Pre-accession Assistance (IPA) funds allocated to Macedonia for 2007-2013 had been used, Deputy Prime Minister for European Affairs Fatmir Besimi said at a joint press conference with the Head of EU Delegation in Skopje Aivo Orav at which they presented the status of IPA implementation. A comparative analysis of the European Commission shows that in terms of IPA funds absorption, Macedonia is on the same level as Croatia and Turkey

30 January 2014

Signing of Memorandums of Understanding with Universities in RM



The Deputy Prime Minister for European Affairs, Fatmir Besimi, PhD, signed a Memorandum of Understanding with six universities of the Republic of Macedonia. This Memorandum foresees mutual research projects, debates, scholarships for state and public servants on the area of European Studies in Macedonia and abroad, internships in the Secretariat for European Affairs and other activities which will deepen cooperation between SEA and universities *29 January 2014*

Visit to Spain

During the official visit to Spain Besimi met the President of the Spanish Senate, Pio Garcia Escudero, the Minister of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation, Jose Manuel Garcia-Margallo and Marfill and the President of the Congress of Deputies, Jesus Maria Posada Moreno, during which he noted that it is important for Macedonia to have the support of Spain and other member countries of the EU which will help the further progress of the country in the Euro-Atlantic integration.



23 January 2014



Meeting with Stefan Füle



Deputy Prime Minister Besimi and Minister of Foreign Affairs Popovski met the Commissioner for Enlargement of the EU, Mr. Stefan Füle and the Rapporteur for Macedonia in the European Parliament Richard Howitt, where they discussed the possibilities for continuing the High Level Accession Dialogue.

22 January 2014

Award Jean Monnet 2013



Ms Marija Bikovska – Best amateur photography



Mr Erol Rizaov – Best journalistic article



Mr Boris Grdanovski – Best professional photography

EU/IPA Institutional Visits



Working visits to the Ministry of Local Self-Government regarding the latest information about every aspect of usage of IPA funds within Component 2 and specifically the open announcement for Cross Border Cooperation between the Republic of Macedonia and the Republic of Kosovo.

further implementation of the reforms in the judiciary system and the undertaking of the next steps towards the realisation of the criteria set by the European Union was emphasised. 10 and 13 January 2014

In the Ministry of Justice,



Successful IPA-CBC Project

'Central Heating TELETERM'

Lowering of heating costs for households, business and public utilities, as well as informing the citizens and the exchanging of experiences with partners from the Republic of Greece, along with the preparation of a technical study through which the capacities of potential users of the central heating system will be defined.



Progress in the fulfilment of priorities for European integration

The Assembly of the Republic of Macedonia adopted the amendments to the Law on Media and Law on Audio and Audiovisual Media Services on 22nd January,

implementing the requirements of the Association of Journalists in that way. The changes primarily refer to the exclusion of electronic publications or web portals and any restriction on the content in the media that should be in accordance with the practice of the European Court of Human Rights is predicted, and in the Council of the Agency for Audio and Audiovisual Media Services is foreseen to have one member of journalists' associations MAN and ZNM.

After a previously achieved consensus of the political parties, the Assembly of the Republic of Macedonia adopted the amendments to the Electoral Code, through which the further separation of the state from the political parties is done, a fixed limit on the amount of donations from legal entities is confirmed, the voting rights achievement for members of the election boards for diaspora are regulated, the provisions which refer to the media coverage of campaigns have been additionally regulated and the deadlines for making judicial decisions on complaints filed by the Agency for Media are defined.

The Law on Administrative Servants and the Law on Public Servants have proceeded in the assembly procedure. These reform laws are expected to provide increased effectiveness and efficiency for the civil and public administration, higher quality service and increased availability to citizens, independence, objectivity and impartiality, and zero tolerance on corruption.

The Operational Plan for Active Employment Programmes and Measures for 2014 has been adopted, where the young population is identified as a priority group.

The pre-accession economic programme for the period 2014-2016 was adopted in January, through which the Republic of Macedonia is preparing for gradual integration into the multilateral economic and fiscal supervision in the context of Economic and Monetary Union (EMU) and European Strategy 2020. The programme presents the most important macroeconomic projections for the country and explains the key structural reforms that will be taken into consideration towards the European integration.

The Government has adopted the Law on Data Use from the Public Sector, the aim of which is to comply with national legislation, with the Directive of the European Parliament and the Council of the European Union for reuse of public sector information.

The Rules of Procedure for the Chapter 23 Judiciary and Fundamental Rights was Presented



The Rules of Procedure will help the working group responsible for the Chapter on Judiciary and Fundamental Rights to perform its responsibilities related to fulfilling the membership criteria under this chapter in a more effective and efficient manner. In this respect it will enable the members of the working group to have better coordination in the process of harmonisation with EU legislation and finally to set a model for other working/negotiating groups for the remaining chapters. This activity was completed by the Secretariat for European Affairs in cooperation with the Konrad Adenauer and Development Association initiatives.

24 January 2014

Did you know?

The EU, with its half a billion inhabitants, accounts for 7% of the world population.

Europe is a world leader in environmental technologies. This global market is forecast to triple by 2030.

European carbon dioxide emissions (8.2 tonnes per capita) are less than half of the emissions per capita of the US (19.3 tonnes per capita), Australia (17.7 tonnes per capita) and Canada (16.9 tonnes per capita).

EU News

- Riga and Umea European Capitals of Culture for 2014
- 2014 European Year for Reconciling Work and Family Life
- Commission unveils first EU Anti-Corruption Report

Important dates of February

- February 4 - World Cancer Day
- February 13 - World Radio Day
- February 20 - World Day of Social Justice
- February 21 - International Mother Language Day