



Series of public discussions on the occasion of the European Commission's 2014 Progress Report for the Republic of Macedonia

On the occasion of receiving the 2014 EU Progress Report for the Republic of Macedonia, the Secretariat for European Affairs in order to achieve greater transparency and inclusiveness of the process, in cooperation with other state institutions for certain areas, has organized a series of consultation meetings and discussions with the civil society, academia, representatives of the media associations and organizations and the judiciary.

„We must be together to overcome the challenges. Only through partnership we can have progress“ - Besimi said, referring to the call for active participation and submission of proposals to the

SEA to address the EU Commission findings in the Report which will lead to achieve greater inclusiveness and transparency in the preparation of the revision of the NPAA.

In presenting the findings of the European Commission Report, the Deputy Prime Minister Besimi addressed the Assembly of the Republic of Macedonia at a joint session of the National European Integration Council and at the 34th meeting of the Working Committee for European Integration – WCEI.



Statements regarding the European Commission Progress Report for the Republic of Macedonia



Fatmir Besimi, PhD, Deputy Prime Minister of the Government of the Republic of Macedonia in charge of European Affairs:

„It is important that the Republic of Macedonia this year has also a recommendation to start negotiations with the European Union, which is important for the further implementation of the reform process.

This is another confirmation that the enlargement remains on the agenda of the European Union.

The suggestions given in the European Commission Report were taken with the utmost seriousness and we have continued immediately with the maximum commitment to the EU reform agenda, in order to show progress in the next period because it is in the interest of all our citizens.“



Mr. Aivo Orav, EU Ambassador to Macedonia:

„The key message that the European Commission is communicating with the Progress Report is that this is the moment. The whole region is moving rapidly towards Europe. The next step is in December at the European Council, so I say to everyone in the country, the Government, the opposition and the civil society, to use the time until then, so that we can see some progress.

We understand that waiting six years without opening negotiations may be frustrating. Still, this cannot be an excuse not to implement the necessary reforms.“



Mr. Ernesto Bellelli, Italian Ambassador in Macedonia:

„The EU Progress Report from October 2014 is a carefully defined assessment of what Macedonia has already done in the accession process and highlights the challenges that still stand on several key issues.

The document, which clearly draws the attention for solving the priority issues, is an important working tool, as it helps the Macedonian Government to take the necessary measures. It also confirms the commitment of the EU Commission to continue in the future its active participation in the process.

Italy strongly believes that the future of all Western Balkan countries is in the EU and therefore the Italian Presidency with the EU has identified the enlargement as a priority objective in the semester programme.“

National Strategic Document for IPA II Promoted

The Deputy Prime Minister in charge of European Affairs, Fatmir Besimi, PhD and the Ambassador of the European Union, Mr. Aivo Orav promoted the National Strategic Document for IPA II 2014-2020.

Also the Agreement on the Financing Programme for 2013 was signed in the framework of IPA I, Cross-Border Cooperation Programme between the Republic of Macedonia and the Republic of Greece.

With IPA 2, the Republic of Macedonia will be granted a total of €664.2 million (about €300 per capita) for the implementation of specific and strategic priorities in many areas.

The Agreement for financing, for the 2013 programming year under IPA I, the Cross-Border Cooperation Programme between Macedonia and Greece, enables the use of an additional €1.59 million.

Macedonia and Greece have already signed six such agreements that financed more than 50 active projects with a total budget of €11.4 million.

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New EU Programmes, New Opportunities for Macedonia



Presentation of EU programmes in cooperation with the Lattanzio Group and the Italian Embassy.



Presentation of the Union Programmes and Scholarships Gabriela Konevska – Trajkovska at the University St. Cyril and Methodius.

For the programming period 2014-2020, citizens of the Republic of Macedonia can participate in the following EU programmes:

Horizon 2020, Creative Europe, COSME, Erasmus+, Programme for Employment and Social Innovation, Europe for Citizens Programme, Health, Life+, Customs 2020, Fiscalis 2020 and others.

In order to achieve greater awareness and participation in the programmes of the Union, the Secretariat for European Affairs organises promotional events intended for students, universities and other entities that can actively participate in them.

‘The World we want in 2030’ – UN Day widely marked

On the occasion of United Nations Day, the Deputy Prime Minister Besimi stressed that the UN plays an important role in tackling the greatest challenges facing the world and the message that this organisation sent about the expectation for 2030 were: Macedonia in the EU! A world where there will be more equality and more opportunities. A world with more solidarity and more love. A world where we can live with more freedom and more peace!.

24 Oktober 2014

Eurocodes – delivering greater competitiveness for construction companies

The second workshop on capacity building for the preparation of National Annexes of Eurocodes in the Balkan Region was held in Skopje, organised by the Joint Research Centre of the European Commission. Macedonian construction companies will become more competitive and will have greater opportunities to participate in international projects after the implementation of Eurocodes –which are new standards in the construction sector within the European Union.

4 November 2014

EU News

- Parliament elects new European Commission
- European Commission: what Juncker's new team will be working on
- 2014 Enlargement package
- Overview – Instrument for Pre-accession Assistance
- EU leaders set climate, energy targets
- European Central Bank takes control as EU bank supervisor
- Poverty: Commission adopts Lithuanian programme to spend €77 million from Fund for European Aid to the Most Deprived
- European Commission adopts 'Partnership Agreement' with Croatia on using EU Structural and Investment Funds for growth and jobs in 2014-2020
- 2014 EU Prize for Literature – winners announced
- Denis Mukwege: winner of Sakharov Prize 2014

Did you know that?

- The EU is a leading wine producer
- From 19 January 2013, all driving licences issued by EU countries have the same format

International Days

- 10 November - World Science Day for Peace and Development
- 14 November - World Diabetes Day
- 16 November - International Day for Tolerance
- 20 November - Universal Children's Day
- 25 November - International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women