



*SPECIAL SUPPLEMENT:  
The legacy and mission of Ss. Cyril and Methodius  
evoked and cherished in the Holy See for the 40th time.*

# *Macedonian* DIPLOMATIC BULLETIN



*The participants in the Ohrid Summit of Central Europe Heads of State delivered a message for additional efforts for stability and prosperity of the region and called for resumption of the enlargement process as inevitable ingredient for the completion of democratic, stable and safe United Europe.*

*MACEDONIA AND UNITED STATES CONFIRM  
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*Interview with H.E. Ms. Amira Arnon,  
Ambassador of the State of Israel to the Republic of Macedonia*



MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS  
REPUBLIC OF MACEDONIA

No. 15 / May 2008

*MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS MARKS ITS DAY*

Dear readers,

When in 2005 my dear colleague and friend Pajo Avirovik told me about the idea of publishing a monthly diplomatic bulletin that would address the more significant aspects of the foreign policy of the Republic of Macedonia and the work of the Macedonian Ministry of Foreign Affairs I felt greatly pleased that this important segment of the public diplomacy would become a Macedonian reality. Knowing his dedication to work and his professional and committed engagement throughout his diplomatic career I had no doubts that, despite all difficulties from the organizational point of view that usually appear in the implementation of such projects, Avirovik was the right man for the job. A year later I was afforded the opportunity to become a member of the editorial board of this publication, thus making personal contribution in this regard.

Our colleague, the first editor of this publication, left in early May to tackle a new challenge - the opening of the Liaison Office of the Republic of Macedonia in the State of Israel. On behalf of all the members of the editorial board, our associates and readers, I would like to wish him all the best in his career and to thank him greatly for everything he did to help this publication grow.

As a new editor of the Bulletin, I hope that relying on the experience of the present and the enthusiasm of the new associates and editorial board members, we will continue successfully to walk the traced-out path of attaining the primary goals of this magazine and above all to pay due attention to all issues relating to the daily activities of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Macedonian foreign policy in a simple, modern and concise way. Giving our colleagues, not only from the Ministry, but also from the diplomatic corps in the Republic of Macedonia, the possibility to air their professional viewpoints on certain matters through their articles remains our top priority. The Macedonian Diplomatic Bulletin stays open for cooperation with other institutions and individuals, whose work is closely related to diplomacy. Its improvement and expansion with new contents and columns continues to be our higher goal, while your suggestions, ideas and criticisms are always welcome.

I believe that in this way, our dear readers, the Monthly Diplomatic Bulletin will still catch your interest, be an added value to our everyday diplomatic life, and make a modest contribution in these crucial times for the Republic of Macedonia, standing at the gateway of NATO and the European Union, to the transformation of its strategic commitments into reality.

  
Zvonimir Popovik, Editor

## Macedonia stays on path toward NATO-EU membership

The Republic of Macedonia stays firmly committed to walking successfully its path to full-fledged membership of NATO and the European Union, said Macedonian President Branko Crvenkovski in his speech at the meeting of the heads of state and government of the South East European Co-operation Process (SEECP) countries that took place in Pomorie, Republic of Bulgaria, on 20-21 May 2008.

President Crvenkovski believes that the integration of new countries does not diminish the necessity of establishing regional relations and cooperation.

"I am deeply convinced that for the countries of the region there is no alternative to the European and Euro-Atlantic integration," he said.

After the end of the Forum, President Crvenkovski said he had an informal meeting with Greek Prime Minister Karamanlis and Foreign Minister Bakoyannis and was assured by them that they also wanted a reasonable and fair settlement of the difference over the constitutional name of our country.

"We hope that this time round what was said was also meant," Crvenkovski said.

Within the framework of the parliamentary cooperation of the SEECP countries, the 7th conference of the parliament speakers, attended also by Macedonian Parliament Speaker Ljubisa Georgievski, was held in Sofia, Bulgaria, in mid April.

## 9 May, Day of Europe, marked in Macedonia

The Day of Europe, 9th May, was marked in Macedonia with a series of activities, which were organized by the European Commission Delegation and the Secretariat for European Affairs of the Government of the Republic of Macedonia in cooperation with the European Movement of Macedonia.

EU Ambassador to Macedonia Erwan Fouere stated that the activities organized on the occasion of the Day of Europe would have a human dimension with the aim of bringing the EU integration process closer to the citizens.

"The European Day of the Entrepreneur" was also marked in Skopje within the frames of the celebration of the Day of Europe. Macedonian Prime Minister Nikola Gruevski, EU Ambassador Erwan Fouere, and Skopje Mayor Trifun Kostovski addressed those present. The activities for marking the Day of Europe started on 29 April with the opening of the European corner in the Braka Miladinovci library in Skopje.

## Visa regime to Australia lifted

The Government of the Republic of Macedonia decided on 13 May 2008 to lift the visa regime for Australian citizens. Its decision came into force on 23 May 2008 and is in line with the efforts for further harmonization of the Macedonian visa regime to the EU and to third countries in the pre-accession period and will not only simplify the procedure for entrance and stay in Macedonia of many Australian citizens with Macedonian origin, but will also have a positive effect for further strengthening of the bilateral relations between the Republic of Macedonia and Australia.



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## TURKISH PRESIDENT PAYS OFFICIAL VISIT TO MACEDONIA

Turkish President Abdullah Gul paid an official visit to the Republic of Macedonia on 1-4 May 2008. As a special guest he took part in the 15<sup>th</sup> Summit of the Presidents of Central European Countries in Ohrid.

Apart from meeting his host, President Branko Crvenkovski, President Gul also met with Prime Minister Nikola Gruevski and had an informal meeting with outgoing Parliament Speaker Ljubisa Georgievski.



Presidents Crvenkovski and Gul said the relations between the two countries were excellent and stressed the need for further promotion of the economic ties by raising the level of Turkish investments in the Republic of Macedonia.

Macedonia has a huge strategic importance as a center of the Balkans. We support its bid for joining NATO. Although the country met the criteria, it was not extended an invitation. I am confident that in a short time a solution will be found and the Republic of Macedonia will become a NATO member state, President Gul underscored.

Macedonia and Turkey have a part of the history in common and what is even more important they share identical commitments for the future, President Crvenkovski said. He extended gratitude to his Turkish counterpart for the strong and unwavering support for Macedonia's bid to join the Alliance, emphasizing the significance of the Turkish ethnic community and the citizens of Macedonia with Turkish provenance as a "bridge of friendship" between the two countries.

The Turkish President visited a few cultural and historical monuments in Resen, Bitola, and Skopje, including the Mustafa Kemal Atatürk memorial room. He also met with representatives of the Turkish community in Macedonia and laid the foundations of the Turkish Ambassador's new residence.

## MACEDONIAN GOVERNMENT ABLE TO FULFILL ALL ROADMAP CRITERIA

Michael Leigh, Director General of the European Commission's Enlargement Directorate General, handed over to the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Macedonia, Antonio Milososki, the Roadmap on Visa Liberalization in Brussels on 8 May 2008. The Roadmap identifies four sets of issues to be covered by the dialogue: document security, illegal migration, public order and security, as well as external relations and fundamental rights linked to the movement of persons.

Minister Milososki assessed as positive the supportive approach of the majority EU member countries regarding the visa liberalization.

"The Government is able to meet all Roadmap criteria. It depends on the EU when the political decision is taken. We are ready," he said.

European Commission Vice President Jacques Barrot, in charge of Justice, Freedom and Security, welcomed the handing over of the Roadmap and said this document was certainly another step towards EU integration.

## STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP CONFIRMED

The Republic of Macedonia and the United States signed a Declaration for strategic partnership and cooperation, which reaffirms the commitment to development and deepening of the partnership relations between the two countries. This document was signed by Macedonian Foreign Minister Antonio Milososki and US Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice in Washington on 7 May.

With this declaration, the United States reiterated its support for the principles of sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Republic of Macedonia, guaranteeing its unitary character within its current borders. The document states that strategic partnership implies more intensive civil and military cooperation at a higher level, including joint training and military drills.

"This agreement is a very strong sign of the enduring cooperation and friendship between Macedonia and the United States. The United States strongly supports the accession of Macedonia to NATO. We hope that that will happen very, very soon, because Macedonia deserves to be a member of NATO. We very much look forward to the day when Macedonia serves side by side with Americans as members of NATO, just like they serve side by side today," US Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice said after the signing of the document.

Foreign Minister Milososki assessed this declaration as a historic step in the relations between the two countries.

"This is a very important event for Macedonia. We consider the United States a credible partner and ally, and Macedonia will remain a reliable partner of the United States in our efforts to achieve our common goals by sharing our common values. We have proven, once again, that we are prepared to continue with our reforms, to continue with our strong partnership," Milososki underlined.



The Republic of Macedonia has already made evident progress in all areas relevant for the EU visa liberalization: accelerated justice system and home affairs reforms in accordance with the European standards, uncompromising fight against corruption, integrated border management and successful fight against illegal migration, human trafficking and organized crime, biometric passports, IDs and driving licenses in line with European standards, building of a Visa Information System by the best practices of the Schengen countries and having a horizontal Readmission Agreement with the EU in place.

In accordance with the EU procedures, the European Commission will propose at an appropriate moment to the EU Council to lift the visa regime for Macedonian citizens. Upon consulting the European Parliament the Council will decide acting by qualified majority. Macedonia expects this decision to be taken following the first EC report on the implementation of the Roadmap by the end of 2008.

Interview with H.E. Ms. Amira Arnon,  
Ambassador of the State of Israel to the Republic of Macedonia

## ISRAEL AND MACEDONIA HAVE MANY SHARED CHARACTERISTICS



*Her Excellency Ms. Amira Arnon is an Israeli career diplomat. She is an international relations and political science graduate of Hebrew University and the Military College for National Defense and took a Master's Degree in Political Science (National Defense) from Haifa University. She has served at Israel's Ministry of Foreign Affairs ever since 1970.*

*Ms. Arnon was appointed Ambassador of the State of Israel to Macedonia in March 2007.*

### **Your Excellency, how do you evaluate the current relations between Macedonia and Israel and their future cooperation?**

First of all I would like to say that I am very proud to be the Ambassador of the State of Israel to the Republic of Macedonia and have the opportunity to witness the process of your country's growth into a modern democratic society. The Republic of Macedonia is facing all the challenges of today and is fighting with success for its place "under the sun" headed by a young and motivated Government dedicated to work for further prosperity of the country. The relations between the two countries are excellent. In this regard, I would like to extend gratitude to the Government of the Republic of Macedonia for its decision to recognize the right of the members of the Jewish Community, victims of the Holocaust, to restitution of their property. That is an exceptional move that shows the attitude of the Republic of Macedonia toward the Jewish Community.

**The Government of the Republic of Macedonia decided to establish a Liaison Office as a transitional step towards establishment of an Embassy in the State of Israel. Given that this is the first time that Macedonia will have a permanent diplomatic representation to Israel, would**

### **you agree that this step is likely to promote the ties between the two countries?**

Of course we are grateful to the Republic of Macedonia for its decision to open up a Liaison Office in Israel headed by Mr. Pajo Avirovik. I want to stress that this is an outstanding moment for the promotion of our relations, which should be made full use of. There are truly no drawbacks to an intensive development of the relations in all areas. A few Israeli investments are already present in Macedonia and the interest of the business circles in the country for taking advantage of the present possibilities is on the rise. Israel is looking favorably at the process of integration of the Republic of Macedonia with the European Union and we expect that the impediments to your integration into NATO would also be removed very soon. Israel and Macedonia have many shared characteristics. They are both comparatively small countries, which have been forced from the very beginning to fight numerous challenges and they are doing it with success.

**Your Excellency, the State of Israel celebrates the 60th anniversary of its creation this year, so could you please share with us the achievements of the past 60 years?**

Over the past 60 years, in spite of all the wars Israel was forced to fight for its sur-

vival, the country managed to grow into a safe island for all Jews, as the best guarantee that the Holocaust will never again be repeated. At the same time, we built a modern, democratic and prosperous country. As you know, Israel has no natural resources, but has outstanding human potential, highly developed technology, and top know how in many areas, from agriculture to medicine. Our art achievements are also of world class. In a word, what Israel has accomplished over the past 60 years can be referred to as genuine miracle.

### **Finally, do you find Macedonia an interesting tourist destination and are there any possibilities for tapping the potential in this field?**

I am very pleased that the direct charter line between Tel Aviv and Ohrid, which I will use to come to Macedonia in the second week of June, started functioning. As you know, this line will work until the end of the summer and all flights are booked. This is very important in helping the people of the two countries come closer together. The Israelis, by the way, love to travel and their impressions of Macedonia are wonderful. I hope that in the future we may start considering opening a regular line as well.

# *Macedonian* DIPLOMATIC BULLETIN



## MACEDONIAN DELEGATION MEETS POPE BENEDICT XVI IN VATICAN

*I am deeply grateful for this visit, which is both an act of reverence of Ss. Cyril and Methodius and a sign of the friendly relations between your country and the Catholic Church.*

*I would like these relations to deepen even further, said Pope Benedict XVI at his meeting with the Macedonian delegation.*

# MACEDONIA HONORING ST. CYRIL

With a series of events the Republic of Macedonia commemorated the Day of the Slavic Educators, Ss. Cyril and Methodius, for the 40th time. This year too the central event traditionally took place in Rome and Vatican on 22-25 May 2008.

The Macedonian delegation made up of high-ranking state and church officials was headed by Prime Minister Nikola Gruevski and also included Foreign Minister Antonio Milososki, Culture Minister Arifhikmet Xhemali, Macedonian Church Archbishop Stefan, the Head of the Catholic Church in Macedonia, Skopje Bishop and Apostolic Exarch Kiro Stojanov, etc.

"I genuinely hope that your country will continue on the path of harmony and fraternity, continuously striving to follow, with firm dedication, the example of the holy brothers from Thessaloniki. They are patrons of Europe. Through their apostolic work and missionary passion, they became 'bridges' that connect the East and the West," the Pope said after receiving the Macedonian state delegation led by Prime Minister Nikola Gruevski. "I am deeply grateful for this visit, which is both an act of reverence of Ss. Cyril and Methodius and a sign of the friendly relations between your country and the Catholic Church. I would like these relations to deepen even further," Pope Benedict XVI stressed at the audience.

The event began on 22 May with the exhibition of national costumes and jewelry from the Republic of Macedonia, which are part of the permanent exhibition at the Museum of Macedonia. The exhibition was opened by Culture Minister Arifhikmet Xhemali at the Italian Ministry of Culture. At the opening ceremony of the exhibition, which lasted through 30 May, there were representatives of the diplomatic corps in Rome and representatives of Italian state institutions. In this part of the program, Archbishop Stefan promoted the book "40th Paying of Homage to St. Cyril, the Philosopher in Rome" and the women's chamber choir "St. Zlata Meglenska" held a concert of spiritual and traditional music.

On 24 May Prime Minister Gruevski had separate meetings with Pope Benedict XVI and Monsignor Dominique Mamberti, Vatican's Secretary for Relations with States. The Macedonia delegation of state and church officials then had an audience with the Pope.

After the audience Archbishop Stefan and the other Macedonian church officials held a service at the grave of St. Cyril at the Basilica of San Clemente. The Prime Minister accompanied by the two ministers and two ambassadors laid a wreath of flowers and paid tribute to the saint. Archbishop Stefan also held a sermon at the grave of St. Cyril, thus putting an end to the service.

Within the framework of the cultural part of the event, the project of the Government

of the Republic of Macedonia - Year of the Macedonian Language - was promoted and on that occasion Prime Minister Gruevski

"The Pope and I talked about the most topical issue in Macedonia at the moment. He was especially interested about the problem with the name and our path toward integration into NATO and the EU. Of course, we had and we still have support from the Vatican," Prime Minister Nikola Gruevski said following the meeting with Pope Benedict XVI and Monsignor Dominique Mamberti, Secretary for Relations with States of the Holy See.

"He has understanding for our problems and he will help in any way that he can," Gruevski stressed.

addressed the gathering talking about the significance of the Macedonian language.

Professor Nullo Minissi from Università degli studi di Napoli L'Orientale talked about the originality of the Macedonian language, while actors Georgi Jolevski and Laura Pazzola interpreted texts from the Macedonian literary legacy in Macedonian and Italian respectively. The film "Macedonian Language in the Global World" was then shown and the evening ended with a performance of Macedonian and Italian songs by Macedonian lead opera singer Boris Trajanov, accompanied on piano by Darko Marinov.



"We cannot give up our identity, culture, and literacy because these are the most important preconditions for a prosperous and continuous future of every people. There is no administrative mechanism for erasing the memory of who and what you are. There is no substitute for the identity. Thus, we will enter the European Union as Macedonians and only as Macedonians," Prime Minister Nikola Gruevski, patron of the program "Year of the Macedonian language", stressed at the ceremony held in the Italian Ministry of Culture in Rome.

"Even though one NATO and EU member country is impeding our Euro-Atlantic integration, we are firmly committed to joining these institutions with dignity, as a nation whose culture and language are one of the pillars of European civilization," Prime Minister Gruevski stressed.

## SS. CYRIL AND METHODIUS HOLIDAY MARKED BY MACEDONIAN EMBASSIES

Besides the marking of the Ss. Cyril and Methodius holiday in Rome, this holiday was also marked, with appropriate ceremonies, by the Macedonian diplomatic and consular missions and the representatives of the Macedonian national minority in a number of countries throughout the world.

Within the frames of the event Days of Slavic Literacy and Culture, a delegation of the Macedonian Embassy in the **Russian Federation**, led by Macedonian Ambassador Zlatko Lecevski, laid flowers on the Ss. Cyril and Methodius monument on Slavyanskaya Square in the center of Moscow on 24 May. Following the prayer held by Russian Patriarch Alexey II, Ambassador Lecevski was invested with the order "Unification", dedicated to the 60th anniversary of the founding of the United Nations Organization.

On 26 May the female group of the folkdance and folksongs ensemble "Tanec" performed at the Temple of Christ the Savior in Moscow. They performed five bridal dances from various parts of Macedonia, with which they fascinated the sizeable audience. The concert was attended by Macedonian diplomats and renowned director Ivan Popovski, Macedonian ambassador of culture to the Russian Federation.



Ambassador Lecevski receiving the recognition.

Also, three events were held in Moscow between 16 and 20 May, marking "The Year of the Macedonian language in Russia". Macedonian Ambassador Lecevski, academician Doctor Blaze Ristevski, and Professor Doctor Ilija Velev, as well as notable Russian academicians, professors, and representatives of the Moscow House of Nationalities, Lomonosov Moscow State University, and the Russian Academy of Sciences, all participated in these events. The film "The Macedonian language in the global world" was screened during these events. The bilingual edition of Rina Usikova's report "The contemporary standard Macedonian language as a subject of Balkan and Slavic studies" and the first Russian translation of Petre M. Andreevski's novel "Pirej" were also presented at these events. Representatives

of the Macedonian Embassy in the Russian Federation also participated in an international symposium that was held in Moscow on 30 May. A delegation of the Macedonian Culture Ministry, which included Bishop Petar, academician Gane Todorovski, and poet Bratislav Taskovski, took part in the cultural event "Days of Slavic Literacy and Culture", which was held in the Russian city of Tver between 20 and 27 May this year.

In the **United States of America**, Marjan Pop Angelov, Counselor in the Macedonian Embassy in Washington, addressed the numerous guests who attended the ceremony in the Ss. Cyril and Methodius Church in Chicago. The program was enriched with a performance by a Macedonian folkdance group from New Jersey. The 27th anniversary of the patronage of the Macedonian orthodox church in this city that carries the name of the Slavic educators was also marked with this ceremony.

In **Germany**, the ceremony was held in the city of Ellwangen. Macedonian Ambassador to Germany H.E. Gjorgji Filipov laid flowers on the memorial plaque of St. Methodius. European Metropolitan Pimen officiated in the St. Vitus Basilica on behalf of the Macedonian Orthodox Church. A woodcarving exhibition of Bitola woodcarver Jane Krsteski was opened, and the cultural club "Ilinden" from Krivogastani held a performance. An all-Macedonian gathering was also organized, with a rich cultural program and a tournament in small football, with participation of teams of the Macedonian church communities in Germany and England.

The Macedonian cultural association "Ss. Cyril and Methodius" from Kranj, **Slovenia**, organized a number of events, like: an exhibition of artist Brigita Pozegar Mulej; a tournament in lightning chess; a theater play; evenings of Macedonian film; a concert of Macedonian folklore groups in Slovenia; a quiz of knowledge for the children who attend Macedonian language and Macedonian culture classes; and the 16th May tournament in small football with teams of the Macedonian cultural associations from Slovenia. A literary convention called "On the carousel of cultures" was organized by the Macedonian cultural association "Makedonija" from Ljubljana. The cultural event "Slovenia and



The Macedonian delegation in front of the monument to Ss. Cyril and Methodius in Moscow.

Macedonia" was held in Polhov Gradec, where the life and work of Saints Cyril and Methodius were presented.

The Macedonian associations in **Croatia** marked the Day of Ss. Cyril and Methodius with numerous events in Rijeka, Split, and Zadar. These events included presentations of eminent Croatian professors, classical music concerts, and theater plays by the Macedonian theater from Bitola.

A delegation of the Macedonian Embassy in **Serbia**, led by Ambassador Aleksandar Vasilevski, laid flowers on the Ss. Cyril and Methodius monument in Belgrade. The Macedonian ambassador also held a speech in Novi Sad on the significance of the Macedonian language. This event was organized by the Association of citizens of the Macedonian national minority in the south Backa region "Cyril and Methodius".

The Macedonian Embassy in **Albania**, in cooperation with the Macedonian Language Department at the Faculty of Foreign Languages in Tirana, helped organize the cultural event "Cultural week of the Macedonian language".

Macedonian Ambassador to **Ukraine** Ilija Isajlovski also laid flowers at the Ss. Cyril and Methodius monument in Kiev. Isajlovski held a lecture at the Kiev Slavic University on Ss. Cyril and Methodius's role as founders of Slavic literacy.

### MACEDONIAN AMBASSADOR KAJTAZI DECORATED

H.E. Bartolomej Kajtazi, ambassador of the Republic of Macedonia to the Holy See, received on 9 May year 2008 the decoration "Grand Cross of the Order of Pius IX". Monsignor Fortunatus Nwachukwu, head of protocol at the Vatican Secretariat of State, bestowed this order on behalf of Pope Benedict XVI. With the conferring of this order, tribute was paid to both the Republic of Macedonia and the Macedonian ambassador.

Well-known Macedonian-language expert Doctor Goran Kalogjera, Professor and Vice-Rector of the Rijeka University, external associate of the Macedonian Academy of Sciences and Arts, and activist of the Macedonian associations in the Republic of Croatia, was invested with "The Order of Merit of Macedonia" at a ceremony held in the "Ss. Cyril and Methodius" University in Skopje on 24 May. This acclaimed honor, conferred in recognition of Kalogjera's exceptional contribution to establishing and boosting scientific and cultural cooperation between Macedonia and Croatia, was bestowed by the President of the Republic of Macedonia, Branko Crvenkovski.



## I THREW A COIN AGAIN



I am standing at St. Peter's Square (if this is the way to say it), in Europe's smallest country, where the largest church in the whole Christian world is. And I pray. For what? It doesn't matter. It is perhaps better to say that I am taking time to pull my self together before the shock I am about to experience when I come to stand in front of Michelangelo's Pietà. I am somewhat unable to overcome the stress.

The master piece of the Baroque, Fontana di Trevi, seems to me as a palace made of water and statues. In the heart of it stands Neptune on his chariot pulled by two sea horses, each guided by a Triton. Above him, carved according to legends, is a beauty

showing the thirsty soldiers the spring that feeds the fountain with water. No witness of this splendor leaves the site without making a wish and throwing a coin into the water over their shoulder. This act, according to another legend that Beatrice told me, makes the leaving visitor a promise that they will return to Rome.

This was my fourth time ... and I threw a coin again...

The scene in Fellini's *La Dolce Vita* in which actress Anita Ekberg steps into the fountain is also part of the Roman legends...

My visits of the Eternal City have always been part of the protocol activities relating to the ceremony of paying homage to Slavic Educator St. Cyril's gravesite that Macedonian delegations made up of high-ranking state and church officials perform every year. This paying of homage to the Saint has always been accompanied by an audience with the chief of the Roman Catholic Church, the Pope. The same happened this year too.

In May of 2008 at Ciampino airport I waited for the little plane with the Macedonian flag bringing Prime Minister Nikola Gruevski and Foreign Minister Antonio Milososki. The previous day I was at the other Roman airport, Fiumicino, to welcome Culture Minister Arifhikmet Xhemali, the head of the Macedonian Church, His Holiness Archbishop Stefan, Metropolitans Timotej and Kliment, Catholic Bishop Kiro Stojanov, the women's chamber choir "St. Zlata Meglenska", opera singer Boris Trajanov, actor Georgi Jolevski, etc.

This May too we were all together again, as one, as a delegation of the country whose existence some try to dispute. In this act, two poetics clash, the fear of the vain ignorants, who are turning not the certainty of their ignorance, but the certainty of the others' knowledge into a problem. The former, because of their might, have always imposed onto the small and economically afflicted nations the Oedipus complex toward their own culture.

Our Ambassador to the Holy See, as a good host, presented us with a pleasant surprise – a visit to the Museums of Vatican. In order to enter them there should be an entrance. I experienced the entrance to the Vatican Museums as the least representative of all places where art resides. Yet once you cross the monumental gate of the 16<sup>th</sup> century in the northern section of the papal city your

initial disappointment, as your expectation has not been met, is quickly forgotten. Once you've seen the Library, you embark on a tour of a total of 1,400 rooms and chapels, situated on two floors, or 42,000 sq. meters (almost a tenth of the entire territory of Vatican), or 7 km of walk for 2 million tourists a year. Strange numbers uttered by our tourist guide, who, by the way, said he was a Vatican security officer and one of the 280 employees of this state, as many as 120 of whom are guards. Oops... I wondered what it would be like if our policeman had to explain Michelangelo... Explain who?

Here at the Museums, all roads lead to the Sistine Chapel. In its antechamber Michelangelo set his *The Last Judgment*. How magical these old men with muscular bodies all look. There is obviously a message here. I got it. But a member of our delegation will never get that. He apologized for having to leave the Museums, because... Did he really have to explain his lack of interest in culture... Or...

And while in Venice time has stopped, in Rome it fossilizes in successive layers. In Rome, you will never find, as in Paris, broad perspectives, avenues that end somewhere in the distance, with a square. In Rome, with few exceptions, things come into sight in only a few steps, suddenly, at the very end of a narrow alley, unexpectedly. As a collision with a stage backdrop when the curtain goes up... Campo dei Fiori... the flower market... the charming Largo Febo... Piazza Navona, in the passage between two buildings, as an open gate. A true opera of stone and water. Suddenly as the rain stopped the sun took a good angle pouring crimson over the nearby facades. Beatrice lit a cigarette. The flame of her match perfectly fitted in with the purple facades.

The citizens of Rome today are obsessed with their cell phones and the sound of the Pronto vespa is coming from all sides. True madness. In front of me, on one of the days when homage was paid to the Macedonian Saint, in Via della Minerva, a high-pitched voice cursed mankind and the planet to the seventh generation back. When I came to the man, his cell phone was in his hand, connected to his head with two wires penetrating his ears.

All kinds of melodies from the telefonino and this Pronto disrupt the silence in St. Peter's Basilica.

*Petar Jovanovski, Ambassador  
Chief of Protocol at the MFA*

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# MACEDONIA PROUD HOST OF OHRID SUMMIT 2008

Following the flawless organization of last year's EAPS Summit held at the shores of Lake Ohrid, the Republic of Macedonia once again showed its capacity to host huge political gatherings in a genuinely organized manner. Macedonia was privileged to be the host of the 15th Meeting of Presidents of Central European States, which was described as the "greatest" political event ever held in the Republic of Macedonia. The two-day Summit, which took place in the ancient city of Ohrid on 2-3 May 2008, gathered representatives of 19 countries, the majority of which represented by Presidents, to discuss the future of the region, EU enlargement challenges and further integration, possibilities for increasing economic competitiveness, energy perspectives and challenges, etc. The participants, following an intensive debate and numerous bilateral meetings at the sidelines of the Summit, adopted meeting conclusions stating that all international actors should employ additional efforts for stability and prosperity of the region as a functional component of Europe and that the resumption of the enlargement process was inevitable for the completion of United Europe, democratic, stable, safe and without new lines of division. The meeting participants also concluded that stable energy supply was a prerequisite for national, regional and EU economic growth. The esteemed guests also had the opportunity to be introduced to the beauties of the exquisite lakeside resort of Ohrid.



Summit participants at Plaosnik.

## PM Gruevski: Central European countries are proven friends of Macedonia

"The challenges of the 21st century can be conquered only through mutual and organised efforts. Most of the issues, like economic prosperity and energy stability, are issues that we can respond to mutually," Macedonian Prime Minister Nikola Gruevski stressed in his address at the Ohrid Summit 2008.

"We demonstrated and we are demonstrating firm commitment to European and Euro-Atlantic integration. The policy of blockade of our southern neighbour, which prevented Macedonia from being extended a deserved invitation for accession to NATO and which threatens to do the same thing as regards Macedonia's integration into the EU, blocks the realisation of the interests, principles, and values of NATO and the EU. We see the European Union as a family of different nations that work together, where the interest of each nation is respected and where cooperation is based on solidarity. Macedonia wants to enrich this community of values with its rich cultural, language, and national identity," Gruevski stated.

## Slovenian President Türk: Macedonia deserves support

"Slovenia is presiding over the European Union and much of our effort is devoted to the issues of the future European Union and its enlargement.

The European Union has to expand if it wishes to succeed. It will succeed as a global player if it includes the countries that are candidates at present. These countries are not only in need of membership in the European Union, but they are also needed by the European Union.

Macedonia, which has had the status of a candidate country since December 2005, has received a great deal of support. I am sure that this support will continue to flow in during the process of membership negotiations. Macedonia deserves support and will have support in the future," stressed the Slovenian President Danilo Türk at the 15th Meeting of Presidents of Central European States.



## President Crvenkovski: Only united in EU can we face globalization challenges easier

"The Southeastern European countries are increasingly combining their efforts to design and build modern transport, telecommunications, and energy cross-border infrastructure. These joint endeavors significantly advance our regional cooperation, which is a prerequisite for our consequent successful functioning on the broader European market.

The energy interdependency trends will strengthen in the forthcoming period, presenting us all with the imperative need to formulate solutions aimed at maintaining long-term energy stability and economic development.

Our highest national interest and priority is to participate in the design of a broader regional and European approach in search of an answer to these complex challenges. The Republic of Macedonia is fully prepared to participate in future joint projects with other countries.

Europe is a common economic area and market, but Europe is also a community of states and nations that believe in the same values," Macedonian President Branko Crvenkovski stated, among other things, in his address.

## MACEDONIAN GOVERNMENT AND FRENCH COMPANY MONTUPET SIGN MEMORANDUM ON COOPERATION

Macedonian Prime Minister Nikola Gruevski and Marc Majus, executive managing director of the French company Montupet, signed a Memorandum on Cooperation

in the head office of this company in Laigneville, near Paris, on 28 May this year. This is the first French Greenfield investment in the Republic of Macedonia and it is valued 60 million euros.

"A total of 500 people will be employed in the first stage of this project and this number will be doubled in 3-4 years, as will the investment", Prime Minister Gruevski said. He stressed that 70-100 million euros would be realized annually from import of products. Montupet decided to invest in Macedonia due to the favorable economic conditions, tax facilitation, and the professional staff. "The factory's construction should be completed next year, followed by production

of prototypes. The commercial sale of car parts is to start in year 2010", Majus stated.

This factory, which will be located in the Bunardzik Free Economic Zone, will produce engine cylinders for the brand Ford, sold at German, British and other markets. This investment was realized after a year-and-a-half negotiations by Macedonian Minister for Foreign Investments Vele Samak. Samak stated that this investment would open new jobs and it will also help draw other foreign investments.

Minister for Foreign Investments Vele Samak and Macedonian Finance Minister Trajko Slavevski also attended the signing of this memorandum.



## Ministry of Foreign Affairs marks its Day

By delivering a speech on the Macedonian foreign policy objectives and priorities in front of a broad audience composed of past and present colleagues, diplomats, staffers and partners of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Foreign Minister Milososki marked 29 April, the day chosen as the MFA's Day. Minister Milososki congratulated Zulfi Ismaili from the Directorate for International Law for his Young Diplomat of the Year recognition. This flattering acknowledgment goes for his dedication and tireless efforts to bring Macedonian legislation in line with the international and European legal standards.

On this occasion, a special recognition was also extended to the Macedonian Information Centre (MIC), a longstanding partner of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs for its utter professionalism and vast contribution to all past and present joint initiatives.



The MIC Director receiving the recognition.

## Ambassador Tegovski designated to eminent international post

At the proposal of the Macedonian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ambassador Jovan Tegovski was designated Special Envoy of the RCC Secretary General for Relations with the Presidency of the EU Council. This decision was made by Hido Biscevic, Secretary General of the Regional Cooperation Council (RCC), and it was confirmed at the Summit of the South East European Cooperation Process (SEEC) in Pomorje, Bulgaria, on 21 May. Ambassador Tegovski's designation to this eminent international post represents huge recognition for the Republic of Macedonia's proactive and constructive role in the development and advancement of regional cooperation. Special Envoy Tegovski will perform his duties in Brussels, and his mandate will last two years.

Ambassador Tegovski, a career diplomat, performed a number of significant functions, including the posts ambassador of the Republic of Macedonia to the EU, NATO, Belgium, the Netherlands, and Luxembourg; State Secretary at the Macedonian Ministry of Foreign Affairs; and State Counsellor and National Coordinator of the Republic of Macedonia for the Stability Pact of SEE.

INTERVIEW WITH MR. ZULFI ISMAILI, DIRECTORATE FOR INTERNATIONAL LAW

## Great honor and additional motive for best possible results

*To be the most successful young diplomat of the year is great recognition, as well as a responsibility for working even harder at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Was your choice of going into diplomacy accidental or something you desired and accomplished?*

– Being declared the most successful young diplomat is a great honor to me, as well as an additional motive to always do my best in the future. My choice to become a diplomat was both accidental and desired. I have to say that I have always had interest in diplomacy, especially international public law, which makes my job a lot easier.

*You received the recognition for your outstanding dedication to work. Is your youth making you also more creative in fulfilling your everyday responsibilities at the Directorate for International Law?*

– My dedication to work arises from my desire to learn as much as possible. My work at the Directorate for International Law gives me the chance of acquiring all sorts of experience from the field of international law daily.

I always try to finish my work responsibilities on time and above all with quality. I always analyze my tasks in detail before dealing with them. The advantage my youth gives me is perhaps the ability to use the Internet, which is today the basic tool, without which, in my view, efficient diplomacy is hard to imagine.

My achievements are also very much a result of the excellent teamwork we have at the Directorate and I can say that my colleagues from the Directorate are to be credited for part of my recognition.

*You are also very much committed to your diplomatic education. You recently attended a training course in Rome. What are your ambitions as a diplomat?*

– During my two years at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, I participated in several international conferences and international law meetings. The experience I acquired from taking part in such events is invaluable for me. In May this year I attended a diplomatic training course in Rome, which was a very positive experience especially in view of the fact that the Italian diplomacy is just as fascinating as it is old. Starting from early July I will also have the opportunity to take part in a 2-month diplomatic course at the Diplomatic Academy of Vienna.

At the moment I am focused on perfecting my diplomatic knowledge as much as I can and the rest will come in time.



## Koninginnedag – Queen’s Official Birthday Marked in Skopje

Skopje, the capital of the Republic of Macedonia, joined the festivities of Koninginnedag, the Queen’s Official Birthday. Through the all-day event which took place on 29 April, many participants, ministers, government officials, local government representatives, and diplomats inter alia supported the initiative of the Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands to paste the Dutch bicycle experience and hence refresh the bicycle memory and tradition of Skopje. The Orange day was crowned later in the evening with a cocktail party organized in the Skopje City Museum, which was followed by the tunes of the Macedonian cult band Foltin, inter alia.



## National Day of the Kingdom of Norway

The Embassy of the Kingdom of Norway hosted a reception celebrating 17th of May, Norway’s National Day. On this occasion, H.E. Carl Schiøtz Wibye, Ambassador of the Kingdom of Norway to the Republic of Macedonia, delivered a speech on the significance of this day.



## 15<sup>th</sup> March - National Holiday of Hungary

On the occasion of 15th March, National Day of Hungary, H.E. Mr. Ferenc Kékesi,



Ambassador of the Republic of Hungary to the Republic of Macedonia, delivered a speech at the Museum of Modern Art. The event was followed by a modern art performance with acts of Viktor Vazareli.

## National Day of Greece

H.E. Mrs. Alexandra Papadopoulou, Head of the Mission of the Hellenic Republic in Skopje, hosted a reception on the occasion of 25th March, National Day of Greece. The event was enriched by the presence of Macedonian Minister for Foreign Affairs Antonio Milososki, who attended the reception together with other high-ranking guests.



## National Day of the Republic of Bulgaria

The Embassy of the Republic of Bulgaria in the Republic of Macedonia marked the National Day of the Republic of Bulgaria with a formal reception and program in the Aleksandar Palas Hotel on 3rd March. Addressing the numerous guests and representatives of the diplomatic corps in Macedonia, H.E. Mr. Miho Mihov, Ambassador of the Republic of Bulgaria to the Republic of Macedonia, stressed the significance of this holiday to the Bulgarian people. The speech was followed by a performance by musicians from Bulgaria.



## National Day of the Republic of Poland

H.E. Mr. Dariusz Karol Bachura, Ambassador of the Republic of Poland to the Republic of Macedonia, hosted a cocktail event on the occasion of Poland’s Constitu-

tion Day. Glorifying this particular event in the history of Poland, the hosts received numerous guests at the St. Pantelejmon restaurant in Skopje on 7th May. Previously, on 17th April, the Polish Embassy in Skopje organized a concert of religious songs at the Catholic Church in Skopje.



*We would like to wish a successful diplomatic mission to our colleagues:*

PAJO AVIROVIK,  
*Minister Plenipotentiary*  
Head of the Liaison Office of the Republic of Macedonia in Tel Aviv, State of Israel

ALEKSANDAR MALOVSKI,  
*Attaché*  
Liaison Office of the Republic of Macedonia in Tel Aviv, State of Israel

NIKOLCO NIKOLOVSKI,  
*Attaché*  
Embassy of the Republic of Macedonia in Prague, Czech Republic

And to thank H.E. Mr. Taner KARAKAS, Ambassador of the Republic of Turkey to the Republic of Macedonia for his completed diplomatic mission in the Republic of Macedonia, wishing him success in his future career.

MDB wishes a warm welcome and successful work to the new members of the editorial board: Vladimir EFREMOVSKI, Head of the Sector for Public Diplomacy and Analytical Research, Zuko RIZVANSKI, Head of the Department for Coordination of Promotional Activities, and Dana KIROSKA, Junior Associate. We believe and hope that the blend of the new members’ diplomatic experience, research capacity and youth will be in the service of their successful contribution to the new MDB issues.

## MACEDONIAN ARTISTS PROMOTED IN PARIS

A total of 107 Macedonian artists presented 110 works at an exhibition that was held in the gallery of the Cité Internationale des Arts in Paris on 14 May. The exhibition was organized by the Macedonian Fine Artists' Association. The guests were greeted by Macedonian Ambassador to Paris Jon Ivanovski and former Ambassador Jordan Plevnes. Former French consul to Macedonia Benton Wiley and Philippe Desgouttes, former director of the French Cultural Center in Skopje, also visited the exhibition. The host Simone Bruno welcomed the friends from Macedonia, while Sidney Peyroles, Director of the Cité Internationale des Arts, spoke about the need for exchange of creative works between France and Macedonia.

A few days after the opening of this exhibition, on 17 May, Zanina Mircevska's play "Esperanza" (Hope) was performed in the chambers of "The House of Europe and the Orient", with translation by Maria Bezanovska. With their performance in the play "Esperanza", which was staged by Laurence Février, the 12 actors promoted this Macedonian theater play in a spontaneous and wonderful manner, thus enabling Macedonia to be present in the cultural events in Paris that evening in May.

## THIRD DIPLOMATIC FOOTBALL TOURNAMENT

The diplomats showed that they can dribble, kick, and even score effective goals just like the world's best football players, at the third diplomatic football tournament that was held on the F.C. Rabotnicki Stadium in the City Park in Skopje on 30 and 31 May. This tournament was organized by the Macedonian Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

The diplomatic missions of Germany, Turkey, Italy, Austria, Switzerland, Hungary, Bosnia-Herzegovina, OSCE, and the Macedonian Ministry of Foreign Affairs all took part in this tournament. The tournament was won by Bosnia-Herzegovina, which beat the OSCE football team 3:1 in the final.

Gold medals shone on the chests of the winners in yellow and blue jerseys, while the Traveling Cup left the Ukrainian Embassy, winner of the previous diplomatic tournament, and found its place in a glass case in the Embassy of Bosnia-Herzegovina in Macedonia. The first team of the Macedonian Ministry of Foreign Affairs won third place, while the award for fair play went to the Embassy of Hungary.

Even though there was a lot of sport passion and desire for triumph in the matches, the results were not important. Socializing, recreation, and popularization of sport as a healthy way of living were the chief motto of this football happening.

The Football Federation of Macedonia and the Embassies of Austria and Switzerland helped organize the tournament, while the pharmaceutical company Alkaloid Skopje was general sponsor of the tournament.



## LOOKING BACK AT A YEAR AND A HALF

*By Vasko Grkov, Director of the Political Bilateral Directorate at the MFA*



When I was appointed to the position of State Counselor, director for non-European countries, at the beginning of 2007, I knew I was facing the challenge of finding a way to promote bilateral relations with countries that were geographically more distant and with which, apart from rare contacts on the margins of certain multilateral events, we did not have much communication. Of course, even before we had had excellent relations with countries like the United States, Canada, India, China, and the Russian Federation, but the aim of the Government was to promote Macedonia even further and to strengthen its position on the global political and economic stage.

It is a fact that earlier Macedonia's diplomatic efforts were aimed at achieving the foreign policy priority of joining NATO and the EU. Being a small country with an insufficient diplomatic capacity to cover more complex or more global issues, we did not emphasize our relations with non-European countries, aside from those few that I mentioned before. There was evidently considerable room for improvement, which however was impossible given that Macedonia did not have embassies in most of these countries and did not cover them on a non-residential basis. And we did not expect those countries to come to us and initiate concrete projects. We had to reach out to them, which is exactly what we did.

Together with my team, I started several initiatives with countries with which we believed we had to have better economic cooperation, and from which we expected more investments. I invited the ambassadors of those countries covering us from the neighboring states, visited several of them and used those contacts and meetings to promote initiatives for signing bilateral agreements, exchange of official high-level visits, mutual support and cooperation in the multilateral sphere, promotion of the Macedonian economy and investment possibilities, introduction and improvement of a political dialog and establishment of diplomatic relations with those countries with whom we did not have any. And guess what, it worked! We raised the number of countries with whom we have established diplomatic relations and the number of those that recognize our constitutional name (Canada's case being the most famous and most quoted by the media), started an open political dialog through regular political consultations with more than thirty countries (Japan, Indonesia, Malaysia, and Israel among others), entered more than a hundred bilateral agreements, some of them being already signed or ratified, abolished visas with several countries and organized, together with other institutions, promotion of the economic and trade cooperation with the most important countries worldwide. In addition, we promoted ourselves as contributors on a global scale and, what is even better, we improved our relations with the so called "big players".

And today, looking back at this year and a half, I am proud of what we have achieved as a team and as a country and on a more personal note I am very happy that through this process I have made many friends from many countries. I have no doubt that the process my associates and I began will continue in the future.