

# Macedonian DIPLOMATIC BULLETIN



*Within the celebration of the Day of the MFA, on the same day (29 April 2007) at the MPs' Club, the second issue of the foreign policy periodical "Crossroads" was promoted, with a panel discussion on the topic "Quo vadis Europa".*



MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS  
REPUBLIC OF MACEDONIA  
No. 7 / April 2007

## MACEDONIA SUCCEEDS IN FACILITATING VISA REGIME

*Interview with Savo Sibirovski, Director for Consular Affairs  
at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs*

## MANY HAPPY RETURNS OF THE DAY!

*Ambassador Ljupco Arsovski*

## THE DAY OF THE MFA – A CONTRIBUTION TO THE FUTURE

This year for the first time we set up the Day of the Macedonian Ministry of Foreign Affairs – 29 April. On this day in 1969, the Bureau for Foreign Relations, which can be considered a precursor of today's Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Macedonia, was established.

The fact that we chose the day when the Bureau for Foreign Relations was established in times in which our country existed in different national and social frames shows that we find the continuity of the service important. We are aware that nothing begins and ends with us. Also, we do not want to forget those who were the first, whether known and unknown, in the early stages of the Macedonian struggle for affirmation and statehood, and who promoted with their work the truth about Macedonia before the international public. Acknowledging the achievements of all the generations of Macedonian diplomats, I would like to say that I was particularly happy to see our retired employees, people who made an immeasurable contribution to the creation of the Macedonian diplomatic service, taking active part in the celebration of the Day of the MFA.

The Day of the MFA is an exceptional opportunity to remind ourselves of who we are, where we come from and where we are headed for. Recalling the past, we want this day of ours - the Day of the MFA – to be a kind of a contribution to the future. In a time when our country is going through the critical stages of its path toward full integration with the European and Euro-Atlantic structures, it is truly encouraging to know that people committed to their profession and prepared for successful dealing with the challenges set before us by the strategic priorities of our foreign policy work in the Macedonian diplomatic service, which is on the frontline of this process. Diplomacy is by all means undergoing a process of perpetual changes, while staff renewal imposes itself as an imperative of the time. This emphasizes even more the need for continuous promotion of professionalism, engagement, initiative and efficiency in doing one's job. Bearing in mind these principles, on the very Day of the MFA, for the first time this year we introduced a token, yet significant award, Young Diplomat of the Year, by which we want to demonstrate that in diplomacy, as well as in any other profession, quality is a visible and measurable value. We want to set the stage for a kind of self-selection of top diplomats, who will bear the brunt of the service in the coming years, exclusively based on merit. We also want to send a message to all those making their first steps in diplomacy that the key to success in their careers lies in their own hands.

The Ministry at the head of which I stand is a fusion of youth and experience. If I may allow myself a personal impression, I would say that it is exciting to work with people whose years of working experience exceed my age and at the same time to partake in the process of creating and launching new generations who are to be the mainstays of the Macedonian diplomacy in the united Europe. The Day of the MFA is a day of all of us, from the youngest to the eldest, from the attaché to the Minister. Therefore, let this day be a contribution to our joint rejoicing at the future successes of the Macedonian diplomacy.

*Antonio Milososki, Minister of Foreign Affairs*

## Ministerial Conference on Iraq

Macedonian Foreign Minister Antonio Milososki participated in the Ministerial Conference on Iraq, which took place in Sharm el Sheikh, Egypt, on 3 May. The objective of the gathering was extending support for the initiative for mobilization of international assistance for conducting comprehensive reforms in Iraq aimed at improving the country's political, security, economic and social situation over the next five years. Over fifty delegations attended the conference, which was declared open by Iraqi Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki, UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon and Egyptian Foreign Minister Ahmed Aboul Gheit.

Minister Milososki emphasized in his address the need for international solidarity in these extremely important times for Iraq. He also laid stress on Macedonia's support for Iraq in the security sector and added that Macedonia would consider other possibilities of contributing to the implementation of the Compact.



*Milososki and Rice at Conference in Egypt.*

## Visit of Deputy Minister Petrov to Republic of Bulgaria

Deputy Minister Zoran Petrov headed a delegation of the Macedonian Ministry of Foreign Affairs to an official visit to the Republic of Bulgaria on 24 and 25 April this year. In addition to the working meeting held with Bulgarian Deputy Minister Lyubomir Kucukov, the two deputy ministers also laid flowers on the grave of revolutionary Jane Sandanski near the Rozen Monastery, in the name of the strengthening of the good neighborly relations. Former Macedonian President Boris Trajkovski and Bulgarian President Purvanov also laid flowers on Sandanski's grave in November year 2002.



Petrov also met with Bulgarian Assembly Chairman Luben Kornezov in Sofia. He visited the Macedonian Culture Center and he laid flowers on the graves of revolutionary Gjorce Petrov and reformer Krste Petkov Misirkov.


### Macedonian Diplomatic Bulletin, No. 7 / April 2007

Founded by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Macedonia.  
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Photo: Dragan Todorovski

Published by: 

MACEDONIAN INFORMATION CENTRE

Translation: Aleksandra Ilievska, Aleksandra Noveska

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www.micnews.com.mk



# CELEBRATION OF THE DAY OF THE MFA AND PROMOTION OF THE SECOND ISSUE OF "CROSSROADS"

For the first time in its existence, this year Macedonian diplomacy celebrated its day – 29 April. This intentionally chosen date marks nearly 50 years of continuity in the diplomatic service of the Republic of Macedonia and its institutional transformation from Bureau for Foreign Relations to its present form – Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

On this occasion, at the premiere observance of this Day at the MPs' Club, before present colleagues of all generations of Macedonian diplomacy, the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Mr. Antonio Milososki, under whose auspices were all the activities, delivered a brief speech.

Pointing out that Macedonian diplomacy consisted of people who are dedicated to their profession, Minister Milososki emphasized that the reminiscence of the past served the purpose of marking the Day of the MFA in a spirit that would be an idiosyncratic investment for the future. It is in this spirit that the award Young Diplomat of the Year has been established – an award presented for special achievements in the diplomatic engagement, dedication to the work, professional and cooperative attitude, assiduousness and results attained.

The honor of being the first persons presented with the Young Diplomat of the Year Award was shared by our colleagues Eli Bojadzieska Ristovski (from the Directorate for Bilateral Relations with European Countries) and Bojana Spasoska (from the Directorate for General Affairs).

On the same occasion, Foreign Minister Milososki opened the photographic exhibition by Dragan Todorovski entitled "The Macedonian Foreign Policy in Photographs", which will be on view in the Hall of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and will be open for visitors.

Within the celebration of the Day of the MFA, on the same day (29 April 2007) at the MPs' Club, the second issue of the foreign policy periodical "Crossroads" was promoted, with a panel discussion on the topic "Quo vadis Europa". Gabriela Konevska Trajkovska, Deputy Prime Minister of the Republic of Macedonia, Eduard Kukan, former Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Slovak Republic, Achille Albonetti, editor of the Italian



foreign policy magazine "Affari Esteri", Dimitar Mircev, former Ambassador and Dean of the Faculty of Political Sciences and International Relations at the FON University in Skopje, and Abdulmenaf Bedzeti, former Minister in the Government of the Republic of Macedonia and professor at the USEE in Tetovo, all took part in the discussion.

At the promotion, an introductory speech was delivered by Foreign Minister Antonio Milososki, who presented the second issue of "Crossroads" and underlined that it was the result of a new concept of practice in Macedonian diplomacy, through the so-called Public Diplomacy. Minister Milososki pointed out that "Crossroads" and the organization of such debates demonstrated that our country had the capacity and the will to debate on the most contentious issues raised on the international political scene, and that it was an active participant in and contributor to the debate on the development of the Union and international relations overall.





INTERVIEW WITH SAVO SIBINOVSKI, DIRECTOR FOR CONSULAR AFFAIRS AT THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS

## MACEDONIA SUCCEEDS IN FACILITATING VISA REGIME

Interview

**The Directorate for Consular Affairs and you were directly involved in the talks between Macedonia and the European Commission over the visa regime facilitation. What are the benefits for the Macedonian citizens?**

1. Three round of talks for concluding the agreements on visa regime facilitation and on readmission of persons residing without authorization in an EU member state were conducted over the past few months. At the last round of talks held on 12 April 2007 in Brussels, the text of the two agreements was harmonized and initialed. Our delegation, which negotiated facilitation of the very rigid EU regime to Macedonia, tried to win certain crucial and visible alleviations, which the citizens of the Republic of Macedonia could truly feel in practice in the future. In this regard, the aforementioned agreement provides for substantial reduction of the documents proving the goal of one's trip, while for a few categories of Macedonian citizens issuance of multiple-entrance visas with a validity period of up to five years was negotiated. In addition, free visas will be issued for 18 categories of citizens, which encompass a considerable portion of the Macedonian population. However, the most important is that in the preamble, that is the joint declaration, which is an integral part of the agreement, Macedonia's candidate country status is emphasized and it is pointed out that the visa alleviations will represent a transitional stage toward introducing a visa free regime between the Republic of Macedonia and the EU member states.

**In parallel with this, other activities for fulfilling the conditions for visa regime facilitation between Macedonia and the EU have been being taken at the Macedonian Ministry of Foreign Affairs.**

2. One of the preconditions for full liberalization of the visa regime between the EU and Macedonia is of course the imple-

mentation of the reforms relating to asylum, migrations and visas. In this context, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs passed new regulations on using diplomatic and official passports and new regulations on visas over the past few months. Based on the first regulations, we have dramatically cut the number of this type of passports, and with the second regulations we gave the visas a new design with the required protective marks and new visa stickers, which are in full compliance with the EU standards.

Furthermore, activities are being taken to establish a new Visa Center at the MFA. They are all expected to be over by the end of this year so that in January 2008 the Center may become operative and connected to the Interior Ministry, the major border crossings and later to all the Macedonian embassies and consulates issuing visas.

**What is the present situation of our consulates abroad and what are the priorities in this area?**

3. In its network of embassies and consulates, the Republic of Macedonia has only four consulates general, in Toronto, Detroit, Istanbul and Thessaloniki. Considering how huge the Macedonian diaspora is, we are doubtlessly in pressing need of opening new consulates, which, in addition to extending consular services and cooperating with the diaspora, will also be obliged to present Macedonia's economic potentials and investment opportunities.

In my opinion, in the coming period Macedonia will have to provide funds for opening new consulates, primarily in Melbourne (where the largest Macedonian emigration community lives), as well as in a few other world centers, such as New York, Milan and Munich.

**How is the Directorate for Consular Affairs functioning at the moment and what is its staff potential?**

4. Under the new systematization, the Directorate for Consular Affairs consists of a Sector for Consular Affairs and a Visa Center. One of the gravest problems we face is the fact that we are understaffed. Currently we have 20 employees doing their best to perform their highly demanding and complex duties with quality and on time. I expect this problem to be assuaged by the end of the year by taking on new colleagues who will be working at the MFA's soon-to-be-established Visa Center.

For the sake of improving the quality of the service, over the past few months, the Directorate for Consular Affairs prepared a Civic Journal, in which the services for our citizens are described and people are afforded the possibility of airing their own opinions and suggestions. In addition, a special window, where people will be able to directly file requests and take out certain documents will soon be opened. A direct phone line for making inquiries about consular matters has been set up as well, all of which is in the service of providing the Macedonian citizens with quality and timely consular services.

# Parliamentary Diplomacy



## PARLIAMENTARY DIPLOMACY **DOORS WIDE OPEN**

*by Emil Krsteski*

### PARLIAMENTARY DIPLOMACY FOR BETTER IMAGE OF MACEDONIA ABROAD

*Interview with Flora Kadriu – chairwoman of the Macedonian  
parliamentary Committee on Foreign Policy*





Although it may appear to us at first glance that the Parliament of the Republic of Macedonia is mostly focused on debating and resolving internal political issues and problems of the country, its structure and action reveal that it takes a lot of activities relating to Macedonia's foreign policy too. In fact, in the international political communication and in the international cooperation in general, parliamentary

diplomacy is becoming ever more present and significant. It has already turned into an unavoidable and essential part of the whole administrative and political machinery of every country, including the execution of its foreign policy.

Parliamentary diplomacy is much more open, more easily acceptable and, I should say, more flexible compared with the forms and mechanisms of the government sectors dealing with foreign policy. At an international parliamentary gathering or at a regular parliamentary session of an international organization, parliamentarians may air diverse political, economic, security and other issues troubling a country, good examples of cooperation may be tabled, open issues in the relations between two or more countries may be raised, more complex theses relating to a whole region may be proposed, etc. Such an air may be created at bilateral meetings of parliamentarians too. The pronounced openness and directness does not diminish at all the role and importance of parliamentary diplomacy, as well as its real function in the accomplishment of a country's foreign policy goals.

The Macedonian Parliament, for example, is involved in the broader international parliamentary activities through the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU), through the summits of speakers of parliaments held at the United Nations in New York in alternate years, and since recently through the annual conferences of speakers of parliaments of the EU member states and aspirant countries. The fact that almost all international organizations have a parliamentary part, in which delegations of the national parliaments of the member states of the respective organizations, institutions or conferences participate, puts the functioning and significance of parliamentary democracy into a broader perspective. Such is the case of the EU, NATO, the Council of Europe, the OSCE, etc. There is also a parliamentary dimension to the cooperation in the Mediterranean, the region of Southeast Europe, the Stability Pact, La Francophonie, and other regional organizations and initiatives.

How does parliamentary diplomacy operate at our Parliament and how does our Parliament realize parliamentary diplomacy?

Within the framework of the Parliament there are parliamentary groups for bilateral parliamentary cooperation with 42 countries of the world. Each has a president and six members and their objective is promoting parliamentary bilateral cooperation through contacts and visits of parliamentarians who are members of these groups, which exists in almost all the parliaments of the world. The Parliament also establishes parliamentary delegations (a total of nine) to the international organizations, which have regular sessions of their parliamentary assemblies, at which Macedonia's foreign policy interests are promoted and pursued and its national



## INDISPENSABLE TOOL

Parliamentary diplomacy for the Republic of Macedonia is an indispensable tool in the era of globalization for achieving its strategic goals. It must be developed aggressively, achieved by the previous Parliamentary

session, and broadened as soon as possible by the current Parliamentary seating.

The importance of Parliamentary diplomacy is underscored by the two most important challenges that face Macedonia: full NATO membership, and the beginning of negotiations with the European Union, culminating with the ascension into the EU. While the Membership Action Plan (MAP) for NATO and the Stabilization and Association Agreement, plus the Integration Strategy for the EU are under the supervision of NATO's and EU's Council and Commission respectively,

both processes are determined by the Executive and Legislative branches of government of the Member States.

So far the country has achieved substantial advances in the completion of its integration tasks for both multilateral entities, but the final decision is, nevertheless, in the hands of the parliaments of the Member States. First by supporting the decision to invite Macedonia to commence the process, and then by ratifying the signing of the Membership Treaty with the Republic, in other words, by ratifying its membership.

Parallel to this, both NATO and the EU have very active parliamentary Assemblies, with growing importance in the process of decision-making, mainly when inclusion of new members is at stake.

Baring in mind this decisive importance of the Parliaments of the Member states, together with the parliamentary bodies of NATO and the EU, the previous session of the Assembly of Macedonia played a very active role in the country's diplomacy. It's delegation in NATO's Parliamentary Assembly not only managed to eliminate Mac-

edonia from the agenda of the Assembly as a generator of crises, but it was notably active in the solution of the problems and challenges NATO faced. For instance, the crisis management in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo, Nagorno Karabakh, Afghanistan and the Middle East, and others; then the transatlantic dialogue and many others.

After achieving its candidacy status, the Parliament of Macedonia promptly joined the COSAC, the committee of EU's parliamentary commissions of the Member States and participated in its sessions; delegations of MPs participated at sessions of the EU Parliament with notable success.

Nevertheless the most important achievement are the bilateral contacts with all of Europe's parliaments, the Parliament of Canada and the US Congress. This dynamic activity on a partnership basis provided the advancements that we have today: the imminent invitation to join NATO and the Candidate status for the EU.

*Slobodan Casule, former Minister of Foreign Affairs and former MP*

# DIPLOMAT AND PARLIAMENTARIAN

## – words in service of state interests –

identity and welfare are protected. These interests are also considered at the Parliament, at the regular meetings of its Committee on Foreign Policy and its Committee on European Affairs, while the parliamentarians' international activities are coordinated and supplemented by the Parliament's Sector for International Cooperation, which keeps regular communication and cooperation with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs too.

In retrospect, on a number of occasions it was our parliamentary democracy that broke the way through the ice in raising and resolving certain, not so simple, issues. Let me remind you of only a few more recent moments related to our parliamentary diplomacy. First, it is the activities of the Parliament concerning Macedonia's application for membership of and approximation to the EU and NATO. As a result of its activities in regard to Macedonia's constitutional name, the German Bundestag and the British Parliament adopted resolutions on its use and the Italian Parliament is soon expected to follow suit. It is also worth noting the Parliament's initiative regarding Corridor 8, about whose realization, almost seven years ago, a Declaration was signed by the speakers of the parliaments of Italy, Albania, Macedonia and Bulgaria, whereas the regular meetings of the speakers of the parliaments of the countries of, what is known as, the Adriatic Group, Albania, Croatia and Macedonia, are a useful initiative in synchronizing their activities for NATO membership.

In adopting and ratifying numerous agreements, resolutions and documents defining the relations with a particular country or organization, a broad debate may be opened at the Parliament. This is how it has been so far and this shows that parliamentary debates in a way supplement and complete the execution of Macedonia's foreign policy. In fact, the open and comprehensive parliamentary discussions are a way to reexamine the decisions brought in the domain of the foreign policy too. And this is a highly developed democratic form affording the citizens of the Republic of Macedonia the opportunity to make a direct contribution to this important area of the political action.

*(The author is a foreign policy counselor at the Parliament of the Republic of Macedonia)*

I am in Strasbourg, in the Council of Europe. The April session of the Parliamentary Assembly of this, the oldest European political organization, is currently in progress. As one of the members of the Macedonian delegation, we are debating the accession of a new member country: Montenegro. The work continues in commissions and at plenary sessions, and we discuss the situation with the human rights and democracy in Europe. We ratify resolutions and recommendations, we adopt reports on various issues, and we agree on our future activities. We also meet within the frames of the political groups. The socialist group also held a seminar on the topic "The future of socialism in Europe".

This is one of the types of parliamentary diplomacy that I was asked to write a column about just before my departure for Strasbourg.

I spent three and a half years of my 33 years in diplomacy in Strasbourg. I also wrote the book "Macedonia and the Council of Europe 1990-1996", as a testimony of the time when Macedonia fought for recognition and accession to the Council of Europe and the other international organizations.

But let's return to parliamentary diplomacy. As former diplomat and current parliamentarian, I actively participate in the Macedonian assembly Committee on Foreign Policy and the Committee on European Issues. I am also a member of a number of delegations in the European organizations and the groups for cooperation between the Macedonian Assembly and the parliaments of the other countries.

How does this type of diplomacy function in practice? There are a number of forms of foreign-policy activities of the parliamentarians. Theoretically, this means participation in meetings, conferences, visits abroad, talks with associates abroad or when they visit the country, and other activities with the aim of lobbying for the country, informing the associates about the situation, and asking them to help the Republic of Macedonia achieve its objectives regarding integration into NATO and the EU. This also means maintaining contact with our colleagues from the other countries' parliaments within the frames of delegations of the Macedonian assembly work groups and the groups for cooperation with various countries. Permanent delegations of the Macedonian Assembly participate in the work of the parliamentary assemblies of the

Council of Europe, OSCE, NATO, CEI, IPU, ZEU, the Francophonie, and so forth.

The relations with the EU at a parliamentary level are assessed at meetings of the Mixed Parliamentary Committee. The Committee on European Issues participates

in the meetings of KOSAK, a form of meetings among the chairpersons of these committees from the EU member countries and the candidate countries. A similar type of meetings is also held among the chairpersons of these committees from the Southeastern European countries (KOSAP).

What is the objective and content of parliamentary diplomacy? The aim of parliamentary diplomacy, just like classical diplomacy, is development of the relations and cooperation with the other countries and international organizations. The content is conditional upon the objective. The meetings among the parliamentarians are usually organized much easier and quicker, and the talks are much more relaxed. One can frequently hear, "You parliamentarians are much more relaxed in expressing your positions before the parliamentarians and politicians from other countries." This is absolutely true. Parliamentarians think much more freely and they are not strictly tied to the policy of a certain country's government. But this does not mean that they should not represent their country's interests. On the contrary. Despite the fact that they are more comfortable and more relaxed in their talks due to the fact that they, as individuals elected by the people, do not suit the Government and the President, the only motive of their functioning should be their country's interests. Sometimes the parliamentarians from the opposition criticize the Government before foreign representatives, but this is just part of democracy and the political battle. Of course, the important thing is to always be moderate. Besides, words bind, and this applies to both diplomats and parliamentarians.



*Blagoj Zasov, former ambassador and parliamentarian in the Macedonian Assembly*

# PARLIAMENTARY DIPLOMACY FOR BETTER IMAGE OF MACEDONIA ABROAD

*Interview with Flora Kadriu – chairwoman of the Macedonian parliamentary Committee on Foreign Policy*

*Ms. Flora Kadriu is chairwoman of the Macedonian parliamentary Committee on Foreign Policy. She is a kind and communicative person, a drama actress by profession. We talked with her about the challenges and priorities of Macedonia's foreign policy and the practicing of the principle of parliamentary diplomacy within the frames of the Macedonian Assembly.*

**Ms. Kadriu, how do you as chairwoman of the Macedonian parliamentary Committee on Foreign Policy assess this committee's role in shaping foreign policy?**

This committee's political activities are based on the state's general policy on membership in NATO and the EU. This strategic objective is supported by a large majority of the citizens of the Republic of Macedonia. I, as chairwoman of this committee, believe that this body's role is very important and comprehensive. It includes activities such as maintaining personal and professional contacts with foreign politicians, maintaining and strengthening the friendly contacts with the countries from the region, and establishing relations with countries with which we have had no vital cooperation so far. Another important activity of this committee is stimulating emigrants (regardless of their religious, ethnic, or national belonging) to preserve and promote the cultural gains.

**Does the Macedonian Assembly fully accept "parliamentary diplomacy" and is it implemented daily?**

Macedonia aspires to be a democratic society. Development of parliamentary democracy and parliamentary diplomacy is very important in democratic countries. Precisely the contacts with our colleagues from the other parliaments contribute toward strengthening of the relations among the countries at all levels and in all spheres, exchange of views and ideas, and raising of various initiatives that contribute toward affirmation of the Republic of Macedonia abroad. We always insist on intensifying the contacts with the other committees and friendship groups at the level of assembly chairpersons, thus enabling the cooperation to continue and develop at a higher level.

**Besides being chairwoman of this committee, you are also a member of a few delegations and parliamentary groups for cooperation. To what extent do these bodies' activities contribute toward promotion of Macedonia's foreign policy and its bilateral and multilateral relations?**

That is true. I am a member of a few delegations, like the OSCE delegation and the IPU (Inter-Parliamentary Union) delegation, and parliamentary groups for cooperation. I am chairwoman of the parliamentary group for cooperation with Denmark and I am a member of a few other such bodies. They contribute toward promotion of Macedonia's foreign policy and strengthening of the Republic of Macedonia's bilateral and multilateral relations with other countries and international institutions. We participate in various seminars and conferences within the frames of such cooperation, which contribute greatly toward better acquainting and establishing of friendly relations with our colleagues abroad, which automatically leads toward establishing of future official meetings. Although I have relatively modest experience, I have established many contacts with relevant political figures from abroad. As a result of my

acquaintance with Lamberto Dini, chairman of the Committee on Foreign Policy at the Italian Senate, and the chairman of the parliamentary Committee of Foreign Policy, I was invited by Macedonian Foreign Minister Antonio Milososki to be part of the official delegation during his visit to the Republic of Italy. These contacts will definitely contribute toward strengthening Macedonia's positions with regard to its Euro-Atlantic aspirations. I should also stress that, as a result of such communication, we also have productive cooperation with Solomon Pasi, chairman of the



Committee on Foreign Policy at the Bulgarian Parliament. As a result of this, a delegation of the Committee on Foreign Policy visited Bulgaria, where we were received at the highest level. We also met with Bulgarian Assembly Chairman Pirinski, Bulgarian Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Ivailo Kalfin, former Bulgarian President Zelu Zelev, and former Bulgarian Prime Minister Simeon Saxoburgotski. I proposed to Salomon Pasi during our talks that the Bulgarian Assembly (following the example of the US Congress) adopt a declaration on support for the Adriatic Group (Macedonia, Croatia, and Albania) for membership in NATO. Within the frames of such contacts, I also got acquainted with the chairman of the Committee on Foreign Policy from Malta, who invited us to an official visit. Expansion of Macedonia's cooperation with other countries is extremely important. We also have fruitful cooperation with the Republic of Slovenia, which is a big supporter of the Republic of Macedonia. Considering the fact that Portugal will assume presidency of the European Union as of 1 June year 2007, I also established contact with the chairperson of the Committee on Foreign Policy from Portugal. We expect their delegation to visit Macedonia in September this year.

**You speak a few foreign languages. To what extent does this fact alleviate your role as "lobbyist" in the communication with your foreign colleagues?**

Besides my mother tongue - the Albanian language - and the Macedonian language, I also speak fluent Turkish, Greek, English, Serbian, and Croatian. I completely agree with the old saying, "The more languages you speak the more you are worth". Thus, I can safely say that knowledge of foreign languages contributes greatly toward better lobbying and easier establishing of personal and professional contacts in the other countries. Some time ago I participated in an international conference in Helsinki, where I managed to hold a very successful meeting with my colleague from Turkey Mr. Mehmet Dulger. My knowledge of the Turkish languages enabled swift and easy communication with Mr. Dulger. A similar situation occurred during a big gathering in Berlin, where my knowledge of a language was once again a starting basis for successful communication and cooperation with Mr. Prec Zogaj, chairman of the parliamentary Committee on Foreign Policy from Albania.

## ADDITIONAL U.S. SUPPORT FOR MACEDONIA'S NATO ASPIRATIONS

On 10 April U.S. President George W. Bush signed the NATO Freedom Consolidation Act of 2007 after the legislation was previously endorsed by the U.S. Senate as well as by the House of Representatives. We can openly assume that the Act represents strong and unambiguous support for Macedonia's bid for NATO membership expressed by its major political and military ally. The law designates Macedonia as well as Albania, Croatia, Georgia, and Ukraine as eligible countries to receive military assistance under the NATO Participation Act of 1994. In this way Macedonia and the other four countries joined the states that received (in 1996, 1998 and 2002) such support before their accession to NATO. Hence, the 2007 Act should be regarded as reaffirmation of the continued endorsement of the NATO expansion on behalf of the U.S. as it urges for quick and timely admission of those countries in the Alliance. We can also say that the law is a logical follow-up to the 2006 Riga NATO Summit where the leaders of the 26-member Alliance declared unanimously and unequivocally their intention to extend membership invitations at their next summit in 2008 to candidates that have successfully met democratic and military qualifications. The NATO Freedom Consolidation Act of 2007 was first introduced in February by Senator Richard Lugar, the top Republican on the Senate Foreign Relations Committee. In his statement, Lugar praised specifically Macedonia, Albania and Croatia, which have participated since 2002 in NATO's Membership Action Plan and have signed the U.S. - Adriatic Charter in 2003, for the progress they have made on a series of democratic, economic, and military reforms required before joining the Alliance. However, the NATO Freedom Consolidation Act of 2007 besides the constitutional name of our country entails also the abbreviation (put in brackets) of the provisional reference for addressing the Republic of Macedonia within the United Nations. It seems that for the Macedonian public, such a sensitive issue is as important and impressive as the actual meaning of the law itself. Exactly for this reason (although our disappointment because of the usage of the provisional reference could be fully justified) we tend to underestimate the great significance of this piece of legislative, representing the successive act of approval of Macedonia's NATO aspirations conveyed to us by our mightiest and most influential ally. As the U.S. rarely changes its policy and position, especially when a vital and security issue of one of their allies is concerned, we can be entirely assured that the U.S. recognition of Macedonia's constitutional name, which took place in 2004, is not endangered. This was immediately confirmed by a number of senior Washington officials too. Additionally one has to compare the current "enlargement fatigue" within the EU with the "open doors" policy reinforced by NATO during its Summit in Riga in order to be able to understand the large "window of opportunity" provided for by the NATO Freedom Consolidation Act of 2007 in regard to Macedonia's bid for Alliance membership. The Republic of Macedonia is working hard to complete the required reforms and has a great chance to receive the invitation for NATO membership next year, thus becoming finally an indispensable part of the "community of common values", achieving its major foreign policy goal, and contributing to the lasting stability of this part of the European continent. This is why the NATO Freedom Consolidation Act of 2007 is the right step in the right direction and in the most appropriate moment for the Republic of Macedonia and the region. I would like the other member states of the Alliance to share the United States' approach.

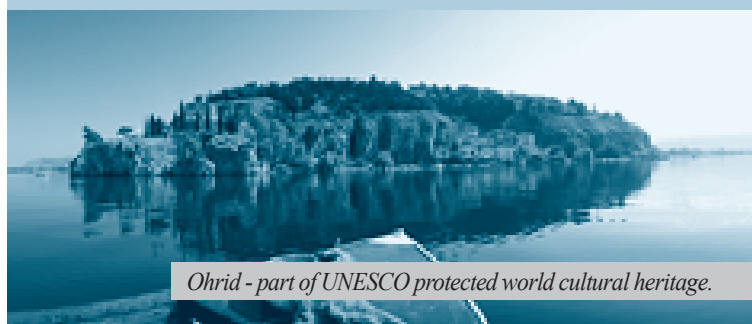
*Ambassador Aleksandar TAVCIOVSKI,  
Director for Analysis and Research at the MFA*



## PREPARATIONS FOR EAPC FORUM IN OHRID ENTER FINAL PHASE

The Government of the Republic of Macedonia has begun to implement the Memorandum of Understanding signed with NATO Team in March. The Memorandum refers to the organisation of the Euro-Atlantic Partnership Council (EAPC) forum in Ohrid, due to take place on June 28-29. Thus, the last stage of implementation of the project was launched. For this purpose a coordinative inter-ministerial body compatible to the structures of NATO team in Brussels was established. This body is co-ordinated by Minister without Portfolio Adnan Kahil, and it is composed of the ministers of foreign affairs and defence, as well as representatives of ministries of interior, transport and communications, and other governmental bodies. According to Minister Kahil the preparations goes along the previously agreed schedule. He emphasised unprecedented significance of this event for the Republic of Macedonia and informed that during Ohrid EAPC Forum, the economic issues will be discussed in addition to security-related affairs and problems.

The coordinative body has also announced nominating the spokesperson for the organisation committee of the Ohrid Forum, as well as launching of special web site promoting the event.



*Ohrid - part of UNESCO protected world cultural heritage.*

## MACEDONIA JOINS NATO JUBILEE FESTIVITIES

Following the jubilee, 58 years of signature of the North Atlantic Treaty establishing NATO/OTAN, the Minister of Foreign Affairs H.E Antonio Milososki hosted a reception for the members of the diplomatic core. By hosting this event at the Parliamentarians Club, the Republic of Macedonia has joined the NATO member states in their jubilee celebrations. On the occasion, the Minister of Foreign Affairs Antonio Milososki have addressed the audience by delivering a short speech highlighting his beliefs that next year, the Republic of Macedonia will celebrate this jubilee as a country invited to join NATO as its full-fledged member state. Afterwards the MFA Milososki joined the event dedicated to this anniversary organized by the Macedonian Euro-Atlantic Club.



*MFA Milososki and US Ambassador Milovanovic.*

## CZECH PM: ECONOMIC REFORMS IN MACEDONIA ARE IMPRESSIVE

Czech Prime Minister Mirek TopolaneK, after meeting with Macedonian Prime Minister in Prague, assessed Macedonia's economic reforms as being impressive. At a joint press conference with Gruevski, TopolaneK emphasized that Czech investors showed interest for Macedonia. Evaluating that economic reforms were making headway, PM Gruevski said he hoped Macedonia, together with several countries from the region, would become one of the most attractive investment destinations.

- We intensively work to improve of the overall business climate in the country and to create favorable conditions for investors. The government focuses on the fight against organized crime and corruption as well as on the full implementation of the Ohrid Framework Agreement, Gruevski said emphasizing that Macedonia has a stable political and economic situation.

The relations between Macedonia and the Czech Republic are good, but there is still room for boosting the economic cooperation, the Prime Ministers of the two countries (Nikola Gruevski and Mirek TopolaneK) assessed.

Gruevski and TopolaneK discussed the economic reforms in Macedonia, the activities for faster admission to NATO and the EU, the visa regime liberalization and the Kosovo issue. PM Gruevski informed TopolaneK that the Macedonian Government decided this year to open an embassy in the Czech Republic. The Czech Republic is a very important country for us and we must not allow not having an embassy there, Gruevski said.



PM TopolaneK and PM Gruevski.

TopolaneK said that he expected Macedonia to receive an invitation to join the Alliance at the NATO Summit in Bucharest next year and, after the report of the European Commission in November 2007, a concrete date for starting EU negotiations.

- The EU and NATO must send a strong signal to the Western Balkan countries and to define the concrete deadlines for their accession with which they will show that these countries are not forgotten, TopolaneK said. After entering the Schengen zone, TopolaneK said, the Czech Republic would apply all visa facilitation measures to Macedonian citizens.

Macedonia and the Czech Republic support Martti Ahtisaari's plan for resolving the Kosovo issue, both Prime Ministers said. TopolaneK highly assessed the participation of the Macedonian troops in the peacekeeping missions in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Macedonian government delegation including PM Nikola Gruevski, Deputy PMs Zoran Stavreski and Imer Aliu as well as FM Antonio Milososki, was received by the President of the Czech Republic, Vaclav Klaus.

## POLITICAL CONSULTATIONS WITH QATAR

A five-member Qatar delegation led by Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs Saif Mugaddam Al Buainain visited the Republic of Macedonia.

This visit was held within the frames of the forthcoming Third Political Consultations between the Ministries of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Macedonia and Qatar, which will be hosted by Macedonian Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs Zoran Petrov.

The Qatar delegation and the Macedonian officials exchanged views at their political consultations and meetings regarding the possibilities for enhancing the overall relations between the two countries. Special accent was put on strengthening of the cooperation in the spheres of economy and trade, exchange of experiences in the spheres of medicine, education, science, industry, and tourism, engaging of Macedonian construction firms in Qatar and the region, and drawing Qatar investments to the Republic of Macedonia.

The Qatar delegation was also received by Macedonian Minister of Foreign Affairs Antonio Milososki.



## TWO-DAY SUMMIT OF SEE HEADS OF STATE

The cooperation of the Balkan countries is a prerequisite for a long-term energy stability of the countries of Southeast Europe, said the heads of state of the countries of the region at the Summit of the Countries of South-East Europe, which took place in Ohrid on 21 April under the motto "Long-Term Energy Stability - Prerequisite for Economic Development".

Macedonian President Branko Crvenkovski and his counterparts from Croatia, Montenegro, Serbia and Albania, Stjepan Mesic, Filip

Vujanovic, Boris Tadic and Alfred Moisiu, as well as the Vice-President of Bulgaria, Angel Marin, and the President of the Presidency of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Nebojsa Radmanovic discussed the situation in the power sector, the increased need for energy and particularly the need for investments in this sector in the countries of the region. Estimates are that it would take about 30,000 billion euros to cover the increased needs for energy.

The Summit of the Countries of South-East Europe assembled the heads of state of the countries of the region for the second time following last year's conference held in Karadjordjevo, Republic of Serbia.

These meetings of the SEE countries are particularly important, because they make it possible for the countries of the Balkans to take part in the activities of the international community aimed at increasing energy efficiency as a prerequisite for economic growth and environmental protection. President Crvenkovski's Office stressed that the conference in Ohrid raised a burning issue, going beyond national and regional borders and playing a crucial role in the region's prosperity. After the Summit on Energy ended, a declaration signed by all the participants was adopted.



# BENCHMARK FOR ENCOURAGING ENTHUSIASM AND DEDICATION

By Edvard Mitevski

The award “Young Diplomat of the Year” presented for the first time this year on the Day of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs was the occasion for the interview with this year’s winners of the award, Eli Bojadzieska Ristovski and Bojana Spasoska.

Eli Bojadzieska Ristovski began her career at the Protocol and served for a certain period of time at the Minister’s Office too. She is currently on assignment at the Directorate for Bilateral Relations with the European Countries. In addition, a new, highly important diplomatic challenge, awaits her, which, however, will be discussed on another occasion. The editorial board of the Macedonian Diplomatic Bulletin was quite excited at the news of her nomination considering that Eli has been its member and MDB active contributor since the first issue. By the way, fate wanted Eli Bojadzieska Ristovski to win this award only a few days before her wedding ceremony marking the beginning of a new stage in her life.

Bojana Spasoska works at the Directorate for Organizational Affairs. International law and politics is her expertise. Working on her MA thesis at the Faculty of Law in Skopje, she trusts that endurance on the path of the diplomatic career is the recipe that every young diplomat should stay committed to.

We conducted the interview with these two charming young ladies at one of the cafes in Skopje.

## 1. Diplomacy – an intentional or accidental choice?

**Eli:** Those who know me will confirm that one of my principal characteristics is to think out and plan beforehand what I am about to embark on, whether in my professional or private life. Adventure and diplomacy usually do not go hand in hand. Perhaps I accidentally became aware that diplomacy was my choice, but coming to this realization was only a matter of time. In my case, diplomacy came as a consequence of a few reasons: family reasons thanks to my stay in Paris, professional or educational reasons through the political science and vastness of knowledge theory offers, and personal reasons through the interest and challenge that this extremely attractive profession brings. It is a rare privilege to work for your own country and defend its positions on a daily basis. To be able to do this, I have to keep myself constantly updated. Yet the job is quite dynamic too, which perfectly complements my character.

**Bojana:** After graduating from the Faculty of Law in Skopje, I asked myself what next. I decided to continue my education and enrolled at post-graduate studies at the International Law and International Politics Department, realizing that the focus of my interest in terms my professional ambitions went well beyond the narrow frames of the national law. The profession I secretly craved was diplomacy and I was lucky enough to be afforded the chance of joining the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

## 2. Work responsibilities - ambitions/engagements at the MFA?

**Eli:** The work at the MFA at whatever position requires initiative and creativity. I try to break free from certain clichés, always bringing in something new and leaving a mark of my own in this way. My everyday work engagements arise from my present position at the MFA of Counselor/Second Secretary at the Department for Western Europe - Directorate for Bilateral Relations with the European Countries, also known as Desk Officer responsible for France, Belgium, the Netherlands and Luxembourg. I have been filling this post for half a year with the basic task of monitoring and contributing to the development of the bilateral relations with these European countries. In this regard, the specific feature of my position is the everyday use of the French language. I believe that the relations of the Republic of Macedonia with the French Republic and the Benelux countries have to be continuously upgraded and bettered and it is precisely in this area that I see my engagement in the long run. As a true professional, in the short run I will accept the challenge of



another engagement at the MFA or some of the Macedonian embassies and consulates too.

**Bojana:** I work at the Directorate for Organizational Affairs and deal with matters such as human resources management and legal and administrative affairs. I still trust that this is one of the best positions for starting a career, which from this point on should pick its own path. I will not be modest and will say that I am well acquainted with the area I cover and I think that some future engagement will be a challenge to me.

## 3. A young diplomat of the year - the “weight” of the award’s significance?

**Eli:** This is an exceptional honor and outstanding recognition of my work and I am very much satisfied because of the trust invested in me. I am truly pleased to have the privilege to receive the first award Young Diplomat of the Year. My principles of work include dedication, professionalism and trust and whatever the “weight” of the award’s significance, it will not affect the balance of my principles. I hold that the award established this year will become a true benchmark for promotion of enthusiasm and invention and for measuring the young diplomats’ results. I would like to take this opportunity to extend also a formal gratitude to the Senior Staff of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs for the presented award.

**Bojana:** Above all, this is a flattering and eminent award, but in the essence of it is the respect for the efforts and energy I invest in every working responsibility. I am proud, because this is a pioneer award and I am glad that it was my colleague Eli Bojadzieska Ristovski and me that started this tradition. The “weight” of the award is an impetus for my future professional engagement.

## 4. What next? Some of the embassies?

**Eli:** It will be unnatural or unusual for a diplomat (especially a “Young Diplomat of the Year”) to say they do not see themselves in some of the embassies or consulates of the Republic of Macedonia. The difference between the embassies and consulates on the one hand and the “head of office” on the other resembles the situation in football. Strategy is built on the bench, but action happens on the field. I believe that time is working to my advantage and that very soon I will have the chance to experience a diplomat’s life “on the field”.

**Bojana:** I believe the diplomatic career has a serious and gradual trajectory and it would be irresponsible and greedy to wish this as an ensuing step, because only hard work and experience can take us to the craved goals. Everything other than that is but a personal aspiration.

## Recognition by US Embassy for Foreign Ministry Spokeswoman Shpresa Jusufi

The US Embassy honored Shpresa Jusufi, spokeswoman of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, with the recognition most successful woman. State Counselor Jusufi received a diploma from US Ambassador Gillian Milovanovic for "exceptional achievements in the sphere of foreign policy and for the successes as leader and female-inspirer of all women in Macedonia who strive to be leaders in their spheres".

Besides the spokeswoman of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, seven other women from various professions were also honored with the recognition most successful woman.



"This is an important recognition for me, especially because it comes from the embassy of an important country like the United States. It is a great satisfaction when you receive recognition for your efforts and results in your work. This award is also proof that there are professionals in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs who are prepared to

tackle the biggest challenges in foreign policy and diplomacy," Jusufi said after receiving the award.

## Chinese Donation to Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Antonio Milososki, minister of foreign affairs of the Republic of Macedonia, and Dong Chunfeng, ambassador of the People's Republic of China, signed a document on donation of office equipment to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

This donation of the Chinese Government valued at approximately 500,000 euros is further confirmation of the excellent bilateral relations between these two countries. The office equipment donated by the People's Republic of China – most of which is already in operation – will be of great significance for strengthening of the technical capacity of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs so that it can successfully complete its daily tasks.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs expressed readiness for comprehensive cooperation, as well as an interest to affirm and intensify the traditional friendly relations and contacts between China and Macedonia.

## Dac, The Invincible

Dragan Petkovski, better known among his colleagues in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs as Dac, once again demonstrated his invincibility on the tennis courts. The Macedonian Diplomatic Bulletin already wrote about his triumph in the singles competition of the Diplomatic Tennis Tournament in Australia. There is no new news from Canberra: Dac also won the men's doubles competition of the fall diplomatic tournament and he won second place in the competition in mixed doubles. When it comes to the Macedonian consul, there is no visa for the next round of the diplomatic tournament.



His colleagues and fans of tennis in Canberra probably wonder when the mandate of Consul Dragan Petkovski-The Invincible expires. Hm, not before he scores a hat trick.

## MANY HAPPY RETURNS OF THE DAY!



The Day of the Macedonian Diplomacy, or, more accurately, of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Macedonia has been finally established.

To speak about the Macedonian diplomacy in such a small space is not a simple thing to do for many reasons.

Since the days after liberation to the day of independence and proclamation of Macedonia as a sovereign state, numerous Macedonian functionaries filled diverse senior positions in the diplomatic service of the former Federation.

However, the Macedonian diplomatic service had its own House in the Republic. A House that went through transformations in terms of both its area of work and competencies and its designations.

That House established itself in Macedonia's state system slowly and firmly. With a sense of pride, I recall the first government body, the Bureau for Foreign Relations, which then became a Secretariat for Foreign Relations. With a new concept, it later grew into a Republic Committee for International Relations, whose ranks included economic experts, and later still into a Republic Secretariat for International Relations. I remember Teni, Bace, Dzoni, Cokre, Vasko, Vanco, Tomislav, Naum, Ljuben, Branko, Nane, Ahil as only a few in the line of Macedonian diplomats who, after serving in Chicago, Toronto, Sydney, Melbourne, Thessaloniki, Istanbul, Warsaw, Bratislava, Stockholm, Sofia... returned to their House in Macedonia conveying their experience to the young staff determined to master this craft. Thus, Jordan, Miomir, Liljana, Blagoj, Ljupco, Viktor, Dragan, Lence, left for Stockholm, Pert, Cairo, Benghazi, Thessaloniki, Athens, Ulan Bator, Lion, Cleveland and returned to their House in Macedonia, which meanwhile grew and developed. They all together kept making a contribution through thousands of pages of meticulously processed text on the Macedonian emigration and on the rights of the Macedonians, who as a minority still live in the neighboring countries, took care of many fates and helped protect the interests of Macedonian citizens and legal entities abroad. They helped Macedonian governments build and expand bridges of cooperation with a great many federal republics, administrative units and regions the world over, promoting Macedonia's cultural, historical and particularly economic values.

It will be this House to bear the heavy burden of Macedonia's promotion as an independent and sovereign state. The lasting struggle for Macedonia's international recognition and continuous international activity for affirmation of our constitutional name - Republic of Macedonia - was and still is conducted by the elder and younger diplomats alike. A huge number of Macedonian diplomats from the federal Ministry took active part in the further development of the new Ministry of Foreign Affairs, which in 1991 started organizing the network of embassies and consulates abroad too.

The House is still in the making.

Experience is appreciated, while the young brought new ideas, some of which have already been realized.... Public diplomacy, economic multilateral cooperation, establishment of a diplomatic academy, strengthening the present staff of the embassies and consulates with distinguished honorary consuls, giving economy precedence... New challenges keep emerging, yet I have no doubts that the House will succeed in dealing with them all.

Many happy returns of the Day.

*Ambassador Ljupco Arsovski*