

Macedonian DIPLOMATIC BULLETIN



*“Our dream today is to stand under Europe’s sun together and equally with all other countries. We should not forget that **Macedonia’s sun, too, is a star** through which your vision for Europe is reflected,” Prime Minister Nikola Gruevski writes in the preface of the Macedonian edition of the book “Europa, our common home” by Jean Monet.*

RESOLUTELY TOWARDS THE EU

*Interview: Gabriela Konevska Trajkovska,
Deputy Prime Minister for European Integration*

THE EU’S 50th BIRTHDAY - A Success That Must Inspire Us for the Future

Ambassador Erwan FOUÉRÉ

Special Representative of the EU and Head of the Delegation of the EC



TOGETHER

In this year, when we mark the 50th anniversary of the formation of the European Union, the symbol “Together”, written in varicolored letters and in over 20 languages, sends a powerful message of sharing common values.

From the moment when the emperor of one of the most powerful countries in Europe was crowned in the capital city of the rival country, Europe definitely started to look for a formula for a common life. Since that moment 136 years ago, the relationship between these two countries has usually determined the fate of Europe. From sworn enemies, they became the driving force of the present-day European Union. Their joint vision for the future gave birth to the European Union, a community that comprises 27 countries today, under the motto: the European Union respects the cultural, religious, and lingual differences.

The resulting fundamental document of the European Union stresses the ideal: a free, respected, and one's own person. The Union promoted this ideal as a commitment that pertains to the EU member countries and as something that all close and distant neighbors of the European Union should aspire toward. Sharing common values, while at the same time respecting the differences, is still the foundation of the European Union and it is a precondition for all future members.

The fathers of the European Union decided 50 years ago that precisely unification of the former enemies, that is, the apple of discord and the clash of interests and national pride should be the foundation of future Europe. Time confirmed the greatness of this vision: huge progress opened up before Europe and accession to the European Union became the desired objective of the other European states. Macedonia and the countries from our region are not an exception. On the contrary, according to assessments from Brussels, the region is progressing in this direction.

What is the point of merger in our region, the point around which we will be able to build a common future following all the ordeals?

History has left this region many peoples, languages, and religions as heritage.

Macedonia, at the crossroads of the civilizations, abounds in differences and it served as an example of tolerance throughout the centuries. This is the value that Macedonia brings with it on its path to the European Union: to live together and build a common future. Diversity will be demonstrated in its full bloom precisely here, in the new political frame.

Throughout history, Europe's internal borders were frequently erased or shifted. Many young generations remained buried on foreign soil. No one asked nor listened to the wise minds and visionaries who promoted a united continent. But their messages slowly threaded their way through. They waited for conditions to be established when the ideal for the national state would start to make way for a community in which some traditional features of sovereignty would be entrusted to the care of common institutions. Managing of this community must involve observation of the ratio. This process is definitely not completed, just like the thinker Justus Lipsius envisaged 400 years ago. Today, his bronze statue greets every visitor in the palace of the Council of the European Union in Brussels, and it sends the message: ratio and reliance on the same are a precondition for us to build and augment common values, which are so picturesquely portrayed in the message “Together”.

Dimitar Belcev, Head of Sector at DEU

Srgjan Kerim Presented With Prestigious Albanian Award

Albanian President Alfred Moisiu presented to Dr. Srgjan Kerim, future Chairman of the 62nd Session of the General Assembly of the United Nations from Macedonia, one of the most prestigious Albanian awards, the Achievement Medal.

Macedonia's senior diplomat and former Foreign Minister was awarded for his grand contribution to diplomacy and the strengthening of integration, regional cooperation and stability in Southeast Europe. The same award was also presented to Bodo Hombach, Special Coordinator of the Stability Pact for Southeast Europe and Director General of the media group WAZ.



Ivica Bocevski – Spokesperson for the Government

Our colleague Ivica Bocevski has been assigned to face new challenges as spokesperson for the Government of the Republic of Macedonia. While we feel truly honored that one of us takes over such a responsible position, at the same time we have to accept that we “have lost” an extremely valuable member of our small team. In this regard we feel obliged to mention that Ivica is one of the “founding fathers” of both the Macedonian Diplomatic Bulletin and “Crossroads” – the Macedonian Foreign Policy Journal and his contribution to preparing, processing and “filling in” both of our products is truly tremendous and remarkable.

Although he has formally left our team, we will still count on his advice, assistance, know-how and commitment.

We wish Ivica fruitful work and a lot of success in the following weeks and months!

Editorial Board



We would like to give a warm welcome and wish a successful diplomatic mission in the Republic of Macedonia to the Ambassadors:

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Macedonian Diplomatic Bulletin, No. 6 / March 2007

Founded by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Macedonia.
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Published by:

MIC

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Consensus

2007 is yet another in the series of crucial years for the Republic of Macedonia, the Region, and this time round maybe for Europe too. It is very certain that this year will be crucial, in the true sense of the word, for our country, primarily regarding the attainment of its strategic objectives - full-fledged membership of the European Union and the North-Atlantic Alliance. It is an indisputable fact that we have never been closer to that decisive step ahead. The step that will produce plenty of arguments for our European and Euro-Atlantic friends in favor of reaching the long anticipated decisions for starting accession talks with Macedonia and for inviting the country to join NATO. The well-intentioned remarks from Brussels as to what is expected from a candidate country to do in the next few months may appear difficult to accomplish to some. However, it is attainable, we truly stand a chance and there is plenty of time to take it. It depends solely on us and on whether the political will can transform, through a renewed consensus, into concrete and measurable results.

It may seem paradoxical, yet facts show that the 27 EU member states, or the NATO member countries, find it more easily to reach a consensus over numerous and, very frequently, highly delicate issues. Thus, at the EU Summit in December 2006, a renewed consensus was reached over the enlargement policy rooted in the principles of consolidation, conditioning, and communication and the Union's capacity for admission of new members. The conclusions of the Summit reaffirmed the obligations that the EU undertook in regard to the countries already in the process of enlargement, as well in regard to the European perspective of the countries of the Western Balkans.

However, the realization of this European perspective takes yet another renewed consensus over the EU's Constitution and institutional reforms, which will, in fact, create the necessary conditions for admission of new members. Although arduous and serious discussions are being conducted concerning these issues, the EU's history produces many arguments for us to believe that the right solutions, which will enable unobstructed development of the processes of EU expansion, will be sought out.

In the year commemorating the 50th anniversary of the Treaty of Rome - a jubilee which the Republic of Macedonia, although being an EU candidate state member, feels as its own - we look forward to the consensus, not as a magical word that will solve problems, but as a political agreement in the service of the realization of the commitments to building a common European home.

Ambassador Jovan TEGOVSKI

Macedonia Marks 50th Anniversary of EU With Many Activities



EU Information Center in Skopje.

Macedonia marked the 50th anniversary of the formation of the EU with several activities. A Macedonian edition of the book "Europa, our common home" by Jean Monet, one of the EU founders, was promoted in MANU on 24th March. Prime Minister Nikola Gruevski opened the EU Information

Center on Makedonija Square in Skopje on 25th March as part of the Government's program and strategy for informing and communicating with the public during the EU integration process. The opening of this center was supported financially by the Norwegian Government. Macedonian Foreign Minister Antonio Milososki and Deputy Prime Minister for EU Integration Gabriela Konevska-Trajkovska also participated in the roundtable "The role of the Treaty of Rome in the unification of Europe - the past and the present", which was held in Ohrid.

The EU's 50th Birthday

- A Success That Must Inspire Us for the Future

Europe is marking the 50th anniversary of the Treaty of Rome which is seen as one of the fundamental milestones of today's European Union. With it we are celebrating 50 years of continuous unification and advancement of the European continent. If we look back to this period, we can only witness an impressive list of achievements as it has successfully established peace and generated economic and social progress, creating a Europe which has become a powerful example of how insurmountable problems can be overcome by nation states working together, given the political will and the right framework.

There are many vibrant images of this turbulent past to remind us of where we came from in case we forget - perhaps the most poignant is that of the famous Russian musician Mstislav Rostropovich sitting amid the rubble of the Berlin wall in November 1989 playing his cello - a victory celebration of human values over oppression.

Enlargement policy has made a vital contribution to the success of the European Union. Figures speak by themselves as the six founding Members of the European Communities which gathered in Rome in March 1957 have turned 27 at the beginning of 2007. The area of peace, stability and prosperity that the EU represents has successfully superseded the legacy of the Cold War and the division of the continent.

Enlargement has indeed proved to be one of the EU's most powerful policy tools. The pull of the EU has helped to transform Central and Eastern Europe into modern, well-functioning democracies. It now inspires far-reaching reforms in the Western Balkans and in Turkey. Economically, EU enlargement has helped to increase prosperity and competitiveness enabling the enlarged Union to respond better to the challenges of globalisation.

Politically, EU enlargement has consolidated democracy, human rights and stability across the continent. It has extended the frontiers of peace and the respect for the rule of law. By extending the frontiers of peace and security in a wider European family of nations and peoples, it is providing a beacon of hope and stability in an uncertain world. It is ensuring that never, never and never again must we allow oppression, conflict or the sound of gunfire resonate through these beautiful valleys. As a candidate country, the Republic of Macedonia* is an integral part of this process. By obtaining candidate status, the country and its people have demonstrated a strong spirit of determination and capacity to achieve and implement the many reforms required for EU membership.

To achieve that ultimate goal will require consistent effort and perseverance by the government and all the citizens united in this common purpose. The journey is long but a rewarding one. As a small nation with a rich, diverse cultural heritage and distinctive identity, it will take its place as an equal partner with the other nations and peoples of Europe, with pride and confidence in its future role as a member of the EU.

Ambassador Erwan FOUÉRE

Special Representative of the EU and Head of the Delegation of the EC

* In the original text the author is using the provisional reference for addressing the Republic of Macedonia as used by the EU.

President Crvenkovski: European Union is Magnificent Project of 20th Century

"This is a great day for Europe and the Republic of Macedonia as a country candidate. It is an honor to take part in the activities organized on the occasion of the 50th birthday of the European Union," President Branko Crvenkovski said in Brussels, where he participated in the symposium "The importance of European integration", at the invitation of Belgian King Albert II on 24th March.

The Macedonian president stressed that the European Union could be proclaimed the most magnificent project of the 20th century, without any doubt.



INTERVIEW WITH GABRIELA KONEVSKA TRAJKOVSKA, DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER
OF THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF MACEDONIA FOR EUROPEAN INTEGRATION

RESOLUTELY TOWARDS THE EU

- Mrs. Konevska Trajkovska, how do you see the climate in Macedonia as regards the consensus over the reforms crucial for the process of accession to the European Union?

- I think it's definitively clear that every country that applied for EU membership, every candidate country in particular, has to have a serious approach to this process. The Government of the Republic of Macedonia is putting this approach to practice. Your question implies that consensus is essential and you're absolutely right. It's fact that social consensus in Macedonia has already been achieved bearing in mind the political parties' platforms and the citizens' support. What has become evident of late is that the opposition parties in Macedonia easily resort to the strategy of underrating the Government's efforts. I believe this is a normal stage, which every political party having just recently lost power, goes through and during which its conditioned reflex is to blast or impede also processes beneficial to us all. A positive fact is that the political dialogue in Macedonia has been renewed with enormous efforts on the part of the Government and that the opposition parties agreed that we should expedite the process by way of a specific model of parliamentary work. In other words, we reached consensus over holding special parliamentary meetings for passing the laws being part of the agenda for adoption of the EU legislation. The Government has a serious approach to this matter, as evidenced by its work on the National Programme for Adoption of Acquis Communautaire, a document started during the previous Government's rule, which has now been improved and is soon to be adopted in a Government meeting. In short, the climate for consensus was not ideal in the first six months, but a positive thing is the citizens' support for both the process of joining the EU and the Government's reforms.

- The next stage in Macedonia's relations with the EU is the membership negotiations. How are the preparations for this critical stage on our way to the EU developing?

- We're making thorough preparations. The experience of the countries having already gone through this stage, of those with the freshest memory in particular, is very important in this process. The Secretariat for European Affairs has already held meetings and working sessions with officials from Bulgaria and Croatia, who have been or still are directly involved in the negotiating process. They conveyed their experience and recommendations. What's most important is that we established close cooperation with them, which will continue in the future too. Secondly, a certain number of people, not only from the Secretariat, but also from the other ministries, undergo basic training for negotiating skills in cooperation with and with assistance from Great Britain. We'll do all in our power to start the negotiations prepared. What follows then is the screening process, the preparation of the negotiating positions and the opening up of certain chapters. It's a process that tolerates no improvisation. The cooperation and the direct communication of

the Directorates General of the European Commission with the ministries intensified in both quality and frequency so that the number of people working on the European agenda rises. This is the development that we wish for.

- How far have the preparations for the Instrument for Pre-Accession Assistance (IPA) gone?

- All the stages and deadlines identified by the European Commission are being observed. The new institutions at the Ministry of Finance have been set up and the institution for IPA's fifth component, which is rural development, has been established. A few missions of the European Commissions have already visited Macedonia to check the progress and said they were pleased with what they found. I have to say that this is a lengthy process of accreditation of the new institutions by the EC, yet we are successfully gaining ground. I think it won't be too optimistic to say that Macedonia will be the first country of the candidate member states and the aspirant member states (to which IPA is available too, with only two components though) to strike a deal for realization of a certain project.

- You have launched a campaign to inform the public about the processes in the EU and the reforms in the country. Do you trust this is necessary given the public support standing at over 80 per cent?

- Absolutely necessary. It's true that we have a great support for joining the EU. This was the case in all the countries that joined the Union in 2004, yet the percentage tapered off later. We want to be proactive and in compliance with the EU plans for immediate communication with the public. We have to come out before the people and explain to all the social groups, the young in particular, not only the benefits of our EU membership, but also the responsibilities arising from it. For example, the campaign "Learning About the EU", within which we're to visit all, or about 400 schools, in Macedonia by 2010, has gone underway. Then there is the project "Going Local", within which we visit small towns organizing public discussions with representatives of the local government, the business community and the non-governmental organizations. To make a long story short, about 15 such projects aiming at specific target groups will soon begin. They are all part of the new Public Information and Communication Strategy. It is a vast scope of work for which we intend not to save energy.

- At the 50th anniversary of the Treaties of Rome, the EU is facing internal problems regarding its Constitution. Do you believe this would affect the enlargement process?

- I think that the leaders of the member states will not let the focus be diverted away from enlargement. It would be a mistake. Enlargement is one of the EU's most successful policies, because the vision of a united, progressive and democratic Europe stands behind it. The Balkans is an integral part of Europe and the leaders of the EU know it. A proof of it is the Summit in Thessaloniki, the conclusions of which explicitly emphasized the European perspective of the Balkan countries. Macedonia and we as a Government wish a faster process of integration. It's fact that the process of reform depends on us, but it's also fact that the EU has to demonstrate leadership in these times of dilemmas as to where the EU should be headed for. We can help them and make it easier for them by implementing reforms with vigor. The 50th anniversary of the Treaties of Rome is an occasion to recall the basic postulates of the EU, which are peace, cooperation and democracy, and that is where Macedonia is headed for too.

La Francophonie parmi nous



ORGANISATION
INTERNATIONALE DE
la francophonie®

*“La famille francophone - branche macédonienne au
quotidien: Centre Culturel français à Skopje”*

2006 - XI^e Sommet à Bucarest, 28-29 septembre,
Thème: «La Francophonie vers la société informationnelle
et du savoir par l'éducation pour tous»

2004 - Xe Sommet à Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso, 26-27
novembre, Thème: «La Francophonie, un espace solidaire
pour un développement durable»

2002 - IX^e Sommet à Beyrouth, Liban, 18-20 octobre,
prévu initialement en 2001 mais reporté d'un an à cause
de la crise internationale engendrée suite aux attentats du
11 septembre, Thème: «Le dialogue des cultures»

1999 - XIII^e Sommet à Moncton, Canada-Nouveau-
Brunswick, 3-5 septembre, Thème «La jeunesse»

1997 - VII^e Sommet à Hanoï, Viet Nam,
14-16 novembre, Thème «L'espace économique franco-
phone»

1995 - VI^e Sommet à Cotonou, Bénin, 2-4 décembre

1993 - Ve Sommet à Grand-Baie, Maurice, 16-18 octobre
Thème «L'unité dans la diversité»

1991 - IV^e Sommet à Paris, France, 19-21 novembre,

1989 - III^e Sommet à Dakar, Sénégal, 24-26 mai,

1987 - II^e Sommet à Québec, Canada, 2-4 septembre,

1986 - Premier «Sommet» de la Francophonie à Versailles,
France, 17-19 février

1970 - Signature par 21 pays le 20 mars à Niamey, Niger,
du traité instituant l'Agence de coopération culturelle et
technique, première Organisation intergouvernementale
francophone, sous l'impulsion des Présidents Léopold Sédar
Senghor, Hamani Diori, Habib Bourguiba et du Prince No-
rodom Sihanouk



MESSAGE DU
SECRÉTAIRE GÉNÉRAL
DE LA FRANCOPHONIE
M. ABDOU DIOUF
À L'OCCASION
DE LA JOURNÉE
INTERNATIONALE DE LA
FRANCOPHONIE 2007

Photo: Cyril Bailleul/OIF

«Vivre ensemble, différents»

C'est en ces termes que nous avons choisi de célébrer, ce 20 mars, la Journée internationale de la Francophonie. Car ces mots sont là pour nous rappeler tout ce qui nous rapproche, mais aussi tout ce qui nous sépare, pour nous rappeler ces différences précieuses qui font la diversité et la richesse de la communauté francophone, mais aussi ces différences intolérables qui fondent l'action de la Francophonie.

Que cette Journée soit l'occasion, pour tous, partout, sur les cinq continents, de fêter la langue française qui nous offre la chance formidable de communiquer par-delà les frontières et les océans, de nous rencontrer, d'entrecroiser nos cultures, nos traditions, nos imaginaires. Cette langue que nous avons en partage est à la fois une et plurielle, parce qu'elle appartient à tous les francophones, parce que tous les francophones la fécondent aux accents de leur propre langue et de leur propre culture. Que cette Journée soit donc l'occasion de voir s'exprimer avec éclat la littérature francophone, la chanson francophone, le cinéma francophone, la création francophone!

Que cette Journée soit l'occasion, également, de garder à l'esprit que la langue française nous rassemble pour servir ces valeurs que sont la solidarité, l'équité, la paix. Ayons à l'esprit que la Francophonie réunit des pays parmi les plus industrialisés et des pays parmi les moins avancés, qu'elle réunit des pays où tous ont accès à l'éducation, à la formation, aux technologies les plus modernes de l'information et de la communication et des pays où les enfants ne connaissent pas même le droit à l'alphabétisation, des pays en paix et des pays en situation de crise ou de conflit meurtrier. Et ce sont bien ces différences intolérables qui justifient notre volonté d'agir, et de dénoncer sans cesse!

Que cette Journée soit donc l'occasion pour les plus favorisés d'entre nous d'avoir une pensée pour les plus défavorisés.

Qu'elle soit l'occasion d'exprimer notre solidarité, notre amitié, notre fraternité!

Fêtons, ensemble, ce qui nous rapproche!

Vivons ensemble, solidaires, ce qui nous sépare!

Vivons et fêtons, ensemble, la Francophonie!

La Francophonie parmi nous

Supplément spécial réalisé par: Igor Popovski et Eli Bojadzieska-Ristovski

«Consciente de la diversité de ses membres, la Francophonie apporte à l'universel abstrait de la norme et du droit la richesse d'un universel concret, celui de l'échange dans le respect de l'Autre, afin que vivent et se déploient les cultures multiples de notre Humanité. Il ne s'agit pas seulement de préserver ces cultures en les figeant, mais de leur fournir les moyens de s'exprimer et de continuer à s'enrichir mutuellement, d'élargir notre compréhension du monde, en favorisant la circulation des idées et des livres, celle des hommes et de leur parole».

Ces mots, prononcés dans une occasion par Son Excellence Monsieur Abdou Diouf, Secrétaire général de la Francophonie, ne peuvent vous laisser indifférent. Evidemment, il faut tenir compte que cette solidarité et cette diversité ne sont pas l'affaire des seuls francophones. Or, il faut admettre que la Francophonie est la *spiritus movens* de cette idéologie.

Fondée sur le partage d'une langue et de valeurs communes, il est évident que grâce à son évolution, l'Organisation Internationale de la Francophonie est devenue une organisation internationale de plus en plus importante, par sa dimension politique plus accentuée et par la promotion marquante des valeurs et des principes présents, c'est à dire, la protection des droits de l'homme et des libertés fondamentales, l'Etat de droit, le respect et l'affirmation de la diversité culturelle et sa détermination initiale - la solidarité.

Cela permet une présence et une influence signifiante de la Francophonie dans la communauté internationale, qui ne sont pas limitée exclusivement à l'espace francophone. L'approche sérieuse de l'Organisation concernant les défis réels peut être aperçue à travers les activités entreprises et l'efficacité de ses instances, ce qui se reflétera par un renforcement dans son cadre institutionnel, par une reprise de sa stratégie future à long terme et par un pilier financier plus important.

L'esprit de la Francophonie continue à engendrer et à véhiculer de nouvelles idées dans la région de l'Europe du Sud-Est, et plus particulièrement dans notre pays. La Macédoine contemporaine soigne ses traditions francophones. Car, la Francophonie, c'est avant tout un défi. Un défi qui nous permet de continuer à découvrir les

beautés et les richesses de la langue française, tout en œuvrant à leur promotion dans la région de l'Europe du Sud-Est.

La République de Macédoine est un pays riche en histoire et d'une tradition culturelle diverse où la francophonie dans certains périodes a eu un rôle très important. Pays où les diversités se croisent et se soignent, symbolisant une inspiration forte contre toutes les exclusions et l'uniformité culturelle. Il y a très longtemps que ce pays a accepté l'idée que la liberté d'expression, la sauvegarde et le développement des différentes cultures, ainsi que l'expression en plusieurs langues, ont une grande importance dans la protection de la diversité de la richesse culturelle. Cette réflexion et cette expression en plusieurs langues, ne peut qu'enrichir la pensée et la culture politique. C'est pour cela que la Macédoine appartient sans aucun doute à la famille de la Francophonie et elle soigne ses traditions.

Historiquement, le français est la plus ancienne langue étrangère traditionnellement parlée en Macédoine. La tradition francophone en Macédoine perdure depuis plus d'un siècle et demi. L'ouverture du premier Consulat de France à Bitola date de la même époque que la fondation du Quai d'Orsay.

La langue française a toujours joué un rôle important dans la formation des élites macédoniennes. Les revues et journaux macédoniens publiés par le passé en français en sont la preuve. C'est la langue française qui a véhiculé les idées de liberté nationale, d'équité sociale, de construction d'un monde meilleur qui émanaient des universités françaises et des milieux francophones. Notre attachement à la Francophonie est en grande partie fondé sur le respect que suscite en nous cet immense trésor d'humanisme universel, répandu aux quatre coins du monde précisément par le biais de la langue française. La Macédoine a toujours su garder ses portes grand ouvertes aux hommes de culture et aux hommes d'affaires francophones.

Voici donc, en résumé, les racines historiques qui nourrissent le présent et le futur de ce pays, qui est aujourd'hui membre de plein droit de l'Organisation Internationale de la Francophonie, et rejoindra demain sa famille européenne, à laquelle il est affilié aussi bien sur le plan historique, que géographique et culturel.

La Macédoine dans la Francophonie - 20 mars 2007



Aujourd'hui la Macédoine célèbre une grande fête. La Journée Internationale de la Francophonie. Grande non seulement parce qu'elle réunit plus de 200 millions de locuteurs français sur les 5 continents mais aussi parce que cette année les Francophones envoient au monde un message fort: *Vivre ensemble, différents.*

Au Sommet de la Francophonie qui s'est tenu à Bucarest en Septembre dernier la Macédoine a obtenu la place qu'elle

mérite : membre de plein droit de l'Organisation internationale de la Francophonie qui réunit 68 pays et gouvernements qui ont le français en partage.

En s'intégrant à la grande famille francophone, la Macédoine relève plusieurs défis. Tout d'abord de perpétuer une tradition car la langue française qui est au cœur de cette grande famille est présente sur notre territoire depuis fort longtemps.

Elle relève le défi d'ouvrir une plus large possibilité aux jeunes générations d'apprendre cette langue qui par sa richesse et les valeurs européennes et universelles qu'elle véhicule, ouvre une fenêtre sur une partie importante du patrimoine culturel et scientifique de l'humanité.

Elle relève aussi le défi d'affirmer la langue française et de s'en servir dans les enceintes internationales et les contacts avec l'étranger.

Il est indéniable que l'adhésion de la Macédoine à l'OIF est aussi une opportunité.

Pour la Macédoine c'est une opportunité pour renforcer ses liens aussi bien avec les pays membres qui lui sont proches qu'avec ceux qui lui sont très éloignés. C'est aussi la possibilité d'affirmer son identité, son histoire, la richesse de son héritage culturel ainsi que toutes les valeurs de la société macédonienne d'aujourd'hui comme la paix, la démocratie, la tolérance, la solidarité. Dans le processus actuel de mondialisation, qui affecte les cultures considérées à tort comme petites, la Macédoine demeure soucieuse de la préservation de toutes ses valeurs et attend de l'OIF une activité renforcée dans ce sens sur le plan international.

L'opportunité pour l'OIF, c'est d'avoir parmi ses membres un pays comme la Macédoine qui apporte une valeur ajoutée incontestable et qui se reconnaît bien dans les principes qui fondent l'action de la Francophonie. Un pays avec une longue tradition, où l'on vit ensemble, différents, où la diversité est une grande richesse qui inspire le mode de vie au quotidien depuis des générations.

Saško STEFKOV

Ambassadeur, Coordinateur national pour la Francophonie de la République de Macédoine



Assemblée Nationale de la République de Macédoine, célébration de la Journée Internationale de la Francophonie.

La Macédoine partage la noble cause de la Francophonie



Notre monde d'aujourd'hui, confronté à de nombreuses menaces, nous appelle avec plus d'insistance que jamais, à réunir nos efforts pour affirmer la démocratie, les droits de l'homme et la diversité culturelle, sans oublier le développement durable, la lutte contre la pauvreté et toute source de conflits, ainsi que leur résolution pacifique. Tels sont les principes qui guident la Francophonie, tels sont aussi les principes qui guident la République de Macédoine.

L'engagement de la République de Macédoine au sein de la Francophonie, va de paire avec son processus d'intégration dans les structures européennes et euroatlantique. Mais il va plus loin encore : il offre à mon pays un cadre de coopération bilatérale avec les pays francophones, en dehors des frontières européennes, fondé sur le principe de solidarité, qui est un des postulats fondamentaux de la Francophonie.

Pour avoir été à plusieurs reprises député de l'Assemblée Nationale, je ne peux que me réjouir tout particulièrement de la participation des parlementaires macédoniens aux activités de l'Assemblée Parlementaire de la Francophonie. La Section francophone de l'Assemblée macédonienne a été constituée en janvier 2001 et depuis, n'a cessé de contribuer au renforcement de la dimension parlementaire, qui est un des piliers de l'espace francophone. La démocratie, l'Etat de droit, le respect des droits de l'homme, la promotion de la langue française et la diversité culturelle sont les objectifs principaux des parlementaires de 73 pays, repartis sur les cinq continents. Nous, les parlementaires macédoniens, partageons cette noble cause.

Faisant partie de la grande famille des pays du monde libre et démocratique, la République de Macédoine considère que l'avenir du monde repose sur les échanges constructifs entre les différentes civilisations et cultures. Conscients des menaces qui proviennent d'une uniformité culturelle, nous condamnons vigoureusement le détournement des différences culturelles en source potentiel de conflits. Mais nous savons qu'il existe une solution. C'est le Dialogue. La République de Macédoine, par sa propre expérience, confirme sa détermination de poursuivre sans relâche le développement du dialogue entre les différentes cultures et civilisations, d'autant plus que la diversité culturelle fait partie intégrante de la réalité macédonienne. Et tout Gouvernement doit y tenir compte.

L'année dernière, au Sommet de Bucarest, la République de Macédoine a été admise en qualité de membre de plein droit au sein de l'Organisation Internationale de la Francophonie. Mais, en 1997, au Sommet d'Hanoï, auquel j'ai eu l'honneur d'être présente, mon pays faisait ses débuts institutionnels dans le cadre de l'OIF. Depuis, la Francophonie, porteuse d'un système de valeurs communes, n'a cessé de se transformer afin de renforcer son rôle politique sur le plan international. Le monde actuel a besoin, plus que jamais, des messages de la Francophonie qui se résument dans ces merveilleux vers d'Yves Duteuil, consacrés à la langue française et que je me permets de paraphraser ici : Trouvons les mots qui nous manquent pour nous comprendre et la force de vivre en harmonie.

Dr Ilinka MITREVA,

Ancien Ministre des Affaires Etrangères

Présidente de la Section de la République de Macédoine à l'Assemblée parlementaire de la Francophonie

L'esprit francophone en Macédoine souffle dans la bonne direction



En septembre 2006, au sommet de Bucarest, la Macédoine a été admise en qualité de membre de plein droit au sein de l'Organisation Internationale de la Francophonie. Il s'agit là d'un développement majeur qui consacre la projection internationale du pays au sein d'une organisation regroupant 180 millions de francophones répartis sur un espace de solidarité de composé de 55 Etats et de 13 pays observateurs, présents sur tous les continents.

Aux côtés de ses partenaires, la Macédoine s'est engagée sur les grands

objectifs qui fondent le travail en commun de la grande famille de l'OIF : la diversité culturelle et linguistique, l'éducation et les nouvelles technologies au service du développement durable, le partage de valeurs communes mobilisées en faveur de la prévention des conflits et de la paix.

A l'occasion de la fête de la francophonie, célébrée le 20 mars, la commission nationale de la francophonie et ses partenaires institutionnels et de la société civile ont pris de nombreuses initiatives. Cette remarquable mobilisation au premier rang desquelles celle des hautes autorités de l'Etat, soulignent l'adhésion du pays aux valeurs de solidarité et de partage que chaque citoyen macédonien peut revendiquer et s'approprier. C'est cela « l'esprit » francophone et, en Macédoine, il souffle dans la bonne direction.

Forte de sa diversité, de sa culture, de son énergie, de sa relation à l'Europe, de sa jeunesse qui aspire à l'ouverture au monde, la Macédoine peut apporter beaucoup à la francophonie et participer ainsi avec ses partenaires à deux grands enjeux du XXIème siècle : le respect de la diversité culturelle et le renforcement du dialogue des civilisations.

Bernard VALERO

Ambassadeur de France à Skopje

Conférence littéraire de Pajo Avirovik

La rédaction du Bulletin Diplomatique saisit cette occasion pour saluer son rédacteur en Chef, M. Pajo Avirovik, lauréat du Prix Roman de l'année 2006 du journal "Utrinski vesnik", en lui souhaitant que le public français s'en réjouisse très prochainement...



Conférence littéraire « L'influence et la présence de Paris et de la France dans le roman "Dzahiz et les tueurs de chiens" » de Pajo Avirovik, Centre Culturel Français à Skopje, le 21 février 2007.

La Francophonie - une dialogue permanent de civilisations

Sous l'impulsion de trois chefs d'Etat africains, Léopold Sédar Senghor du Sénégal, Habib Bourguiba de Tunisie, Hamani Diori du Niger et du Prince Norodom Sihanouk du Cambodge, les représentants de 21 Etats et gouvernements ont signé à Niamey, le 20 mars 1970, la Convention portant création de l'Agence de coopération culturelle et technique (ACCT). Nouvelle organisation intergouvernementale fondée autour du partage d'une langue commune, le français, elle est chargée de promouvoir et de diffuser les cultures de ses membres et d'intensifier la coopération culturelle et technique entre eux. La convention de Niamey indique que l'ACCT doit être l'expression d'une nouvelle solidarité et un facteur supplémentaire de rapprochement des peuples par le dialogue permanent des civilisations

Depuis, le projet francophone a considérablement évolué. Néanmoins, la Francophonie:

- veille au renforcement du français comme outil de communication et vecteur culturel et, par extension, comme langue de communication internationale, d'enseignement et de support à un dynamisme intellectuel, scientifique et culturel novateur. Respectueuse de la diversité culturelle et linguistique, l'OIF favorise également le plurilinguisme au sein de l'espace francophone par le soutien aux langues partenaires parallèlement à la promotion du français.
- a joué un rôle de pionnier pour la reconnaissance de la diversité culturelle et le dialogue des cultures. Elle a décidé de se donner les moyens de faire face aux tendances uniformisatrices de la mondialisation et de favoriser le maintien et l'essor de la diversité culturelle et linguistique.
- entend apporter une contribution significative à la promotion de la paix, de la démocratie, et au soutien à l'Etat de droit et aux droits de l'Homme, en mettant l'accent sur la prévention.
- engagée à agir pour le développement durable, la Francophonie appuie l'amélioration de la gouvernance économique, le renforcement des capacités, la concertation et la recherche de stratégies communes dans les grandes négociations internationales. Cette mission est étroitement liée à la capacité des Etats à rendre compatibles leur intégration à l'économie mondiale et la lutte efficace contre la pauvreté, élément de leur stratégie nationale de développement durable.

L'Organisation internationale de la Francophonie regroupe aujourd'hui 55 Etats et gouvernements membres et 13 observateurs.



« Enveloppe et timbre issus en République de Macédoine à l'occasion de la Journée Internationale de la Francophonie »

DEU - NUCLEUS IN EUROPEAN INTEGRATION PROCESS

The Directorate for the European Union (DEU) at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Macedonia is celebrating its 11th birthday this year. Set up at the very beginning of 1996 immediately after the establishment of the diplomatic relations with the European Union, this is the nucleus of the present-day institutional infrastructure of the process of integration of the Republic of Macedonia with the European Union. Over the past 11 years, DEU was one of the crucial venues where the vision of the Republic of Macedonia as an integrated EU member state was translated into concrete activities that resulted into concluding the Stabilization and Association Agreement and receiving the status of a candidate country. DEU's contribution to the coordination of the process of Macedonia's Euro-integration also consisted of recruiting diplomats and providing them with comprehensive training for their service in the Macedonian Mission at the European Communities in Brussels.

In the first years of its establishment, the Sector had two departments, one for contractual relations and the other for the process of integration with the EU. It was then that the talks for concluding the Cooperation Agreement began, the political dialogue with the Union went underway, and the Republic of Macedonia became a member of the PHARE Program and a beneficiary of its multi-country programs, says Gordana Jankovska, senior diplomat at the Sector from its beginning. In that period, the EU began its regional approach to the countries of the Western Balkans, from the frames of which Macedonia worked very hard to get out and have its progress in coming closer to the EU appraised individually, primarily considering its internal stability, specifics as a state and achieved results.

Later on, the Department for Foreign Assistance Coordination – the foundation of today's Secretariat for European Affairs – was set up within the Government of the Republic of Macedonia. Our European friends and partners pointed to us at the time that the European integration, that is to say the EU membership, began as a foreign policy issue and gradually took the shape of an internal affair. That is exactly how it happened. The initial overlapping of the competencies of the Sector for the EU and the Department for Foreign Assistance regarding the coordination of the responsibilities of the country in its relations and cooperation with the EU was being overcome as Macedonia was stepping further and further into the Euro-integration process.

The organization of the Directorate for the EU today has been adjusted to the needs and challenges of the pre-accession process. The Directorate for the European Union is in charge of affairs related to the political dialogue and the development of the contractual relations with the

EU. It coordinates the cooperation with the institutions and bodies of the EU, follows the institutional development and reforms of the EU, the Union's foreign policy and its relations with the candidate countries, PSA countries and third countries. It also coordinates the communication with the Mission of the Republic of Macedonia at the EC and the EU-related communication with the embassies of the Republic of Macedonia in the EU member states, and participates in the work of certain commissions and bodies of the Government established with the aim of implementing the contractual relations with the EU.

The Directorate's work is organized into four departments:

- The Department for Contractual Relations is responsible for the realization of the contractual relations with the Union. It also prepares the meetings of the Stabilization and Association Council, which, on Macedonia's behalf, are chaired by the Minister of Foreign Affairs, as well as all the other meetings with the EU's institutions.

- The Department for the Process of Accession into the European Union coordinates the effectuation of the responsibilities of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs as regards the Action Plan for European Partnership and the National Program for the Adoption of the Acquis Communautaire, the communication with the institutions of the EU, and the cooperation with the member states and candidate countries in the process of accession, follows the institutional development and reforms of the EU, the enlargement process, etc.

- The Department for Common Foreign and Security Policy coordinates the process of Macedonia's observance of the common positions, declarations and statements of the EU concerning issues related to its international relations, coordinates the activities of the adoption of the acquis in the field of the Common Foreign and Security Policy and the European Security and Defense Policy, arranges meetings of the Working Group for the adoption of the acquis as regards the CFSP, etc.

- The Department for EU Policies follows the parliamentary cooperation and participates in the preparation of the meetings of the Joint Parliamentary Committee of the Republic of Macedonia and the EU, coordinates Macedonia's participation in the Stability Pact, follows the Process of Stabilization and Association and the EU's relations with the rest of the countries of the Process, etc.

DEU has always been characterized by team work and an air of friendship and cooperation with a lot of positive energy and enthusiasm, thanks to its senior diplomats' abundant life and professional experience and their younger colleagues' unquenchable energy and desire for proving themselves, says Agneza Rusi, director of the Directorate. This combination of experience and energy is a strong guarantee that DEU will continue providing crucial contribution to the process of Macedonia's accession into the EU, Rusi stresses.



DEU at MFA celebrates 11th birthday.



PAT COX: Macedonia Has Full and Unequivocal Support of International European Movement

The President of the International European Movement, Pat Cox, visited Skopje on 21 March on the occasion of 50th anniversary of the EU. His Excellency spoke about today's relevance of the Treaty of Rome in front of the diplomatic corps and Macedonian European Movement.

"The lessons of the Treaty of Rome treaty are relevant today to the EU and particularly to Macedonia's aspirations to be a full member

of the Union. This aspiration has the full and unequivocal support of the International European Movement," Mr. Cox told the Macedonian Diplomatic Bulletin.

Asked about the future Europe Union and its place in the world, Mr. Cox replied: "Given the rise of China, India, and eventually Brazil, there will be new powers in the 21st century. In that sense, Europe and the United States, in their own different ways, will note a relative decline.

Not that we go backwards, but others rise. And if we want to avoid the decline, we should find strength in one another in Europe, rather than be divided, small and separated from each other. A united European Union, which is a strong voice in the global affairs, will do good for the Europeans in this period. And if we hadn't had the European Union as our gift in the last 50 years, we would have needed to invent it for the realities of the 21st century."

JANSA CONSIDERS MACEDONIA A SERIOUS CANDIDATE FOR EU AND NATO

The PM of Slovenia, Janez Jansa, paid a two-day visit to Macedonia. During his stay in Skopje, Mr. Jansa met with Macedonian PM Nikola Gruevski, President Branko Crvenkoski and Parliament Speaker Ljubisa Georgievski.

At his meeting with PM Gruevski, Mr. Jansa hailed the Macedonian reform efforts over the past period, making it possible for Macedonia to be regarded as one of the most serious candidates for admission in the EU and NATO. He also recognized the recent attempts made by the Macedonian Government in fighting corruption and organized crime, and harmonizing the Macedonian law with the *acquis communautaire*. PM Gruevski on his part said that Macedonia continued pursuing its reform agenda including preparations for NATO membership and acquiring a date for starting membership talks with the EU, implementation of the Ohrid Framework Agreement, battle against organized crime and corruption, and reforms in the judiciary and economy.



Slovenia recognizes Macedonian reform efforts.

Mr. Jansa's visit to Macedonia was concluded as both PM's opened jointly the Macedonian-Slovenian business forum aimed at bringing together the business communities from both countries.

TURKISH FOREIGN MINISTER GUL VISITS MACEDONIA

Turkish FM and Deputy PM Abdullah Gul paid a one-day visit to Macedonia.

Mr. Gul and his Macedonian counterpart Antonio Milososki signed a memorandum of understanding on cooperation between the training centres of the Turkish and Macedonian foreign ministries and an agreement on environmental cooperation. Mr. Gul stated that the Turkish businessmen would be encouraged to invest in Macedonia.

The Macedonian FM said that the bilateral relations between Turkey and Macedonia were based on mutual respect and confidence and in this respect he highlighted the importance of boosting economic and commercial relations.

Mr. Milososki also hailed Turkey's continuous efforts and support for completing successfully the Macedonian bid for NATO membership. Both Ministers participated in the Macedonian-Turkish Business Council meeting. During his stay in Skopje, the Turkish FM was also received by President Branko Crvenkovski and PM Nikola Gruevski.



MFA Milososki and MFA Gul in Skopje.

MACEDONIA IN ESTONIA... WHY?... AND WHY NOT?!

Macedonia has chosen Estonia as the place for its first diplomatic representation in the Baltic region. This may seem to many an odd choice. Why Tallinn and not elsewhere in the neighbourhood? The decision is not a question of geography, but one of having friendly and developed relations with a country which offers much and from which we as a nation can learn. Additionally, the Estonians possess a sense of mission to help countries going through difficult transitional periods and show a genuine interest in the Balkans in general and Macedonia in particular. Finally, Estonia is sincerely keen on sharing its significant experience in many spheres of our interest.

Securing the continuation of Estonia's support for Macedonia's Euro-Atlantic integration is the core of my mandate here. Estonia is one of the staunchest supporters of the EU and NATO open door policy. This support is not *carte blanche*, but conditional upon our performance. The best way to help them help us is to properly do our homework. The Estonians feel the candidate countries should be treated tough, but fair. We are grateful to Estonia for having always maintained that past commitments and promises should be kept. As a country that was part of the last EU enlargement, they know well how the prospect of EU entry is a catalyst for undertaking necessary reforms. Fifty years after the signing of the Treaty of Rome, Estonia feels the new round of enlarge-

ment is "morally inevitable". She is aware that a Europe, whole and free, is the EU's best and cheapest investment in itself and that strong European and Transatlantic political and defence structures are the best guarantees of peace and prosperity of our people. The united European family of nations is a goal within our reach. By being actively engaged on the EU fringes in the promotion of democracy based on common values and market economy, Estonia has taken upon itself the role of a spiritual leader in strengthening the EU and NATO.

My second priority is the further improvement of the bilateral relations, especially the economic ties. Not many are aware that the economic reforms of the Macedonian Government have taken Estonia as a model. Macedonia can only profit from cooperating with this open, stable and rapidly developing economy with its 10 years of continuous growth. Both countries are interested in increasing the volume of trade and investment. Furthermore, Macedonia wants to emulate the Estonian path to success from labour- to knowledge-based economy: a balanced state budget, a stable convertible currency, liberal trade and investment laws, a liberal taxation system, level playing field for foreign investors, and a huge inflow of FDI. The competent and creative professionals and the nation's great enterprising spirit have been instrumental in creating a predictable economic environment, legal security and unbureaucratic state.

Finally, there is the need to cut and paste Estonia's success story in the IT sector. For example, Estonia is the most advanced in terms of telecommunications infrastructure in Central and Eastern Europe, Estonians pay parking and tram tickets with their mobile phones, and Estonian citizens vote in elections without leaving their homes. Estonia has an e-government, e-elections, e-society, E-Academy, electronic ID cards. All schools are connected to the Internet, tax declarations can be made electronically, cabinet meetings are paperless, government spending can be tracked on the net in real time, everyday banking is conducted via the Internet. Apart from making life simpler, this also helps streamline, professionalise and depoliticize the public administration and make it more open, transparent, accessible, and accountable.

I feel privileged to be the first Macedonian diplomat in Estonia, the home of this singing and patriotic nation. Serious, modest and reserved, the ordinary Estonian is also friendly, curious and witty. Estonians are sincere and do not praise without a reason. Level-headedness, good judgment and hard work are appreciated in this country – we could also learn something from it.

*Nenad Kolev, Minister Counselor,
Head of the Liaison Office of the Republic of
Macedonia in Tallinn*

Module 2 – Concrete Support for EU Integration

The Republic of Macedonia hosted Module 2 of the European Security and Defense Policy Training Program for the Stabilization and Association Process Countries in the period between 26 February and 2 March year 2007. Module 2 was organized by the Ministry of Defense of the Republic of Macedonia, in close coordination with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Macedonia and in cooperation with the Center for European Perspective from the Republic of Slovenia.

The seminar – which was dedicated to crisis management by the European Union, the civil and military capacities, civil and military coordination, the fight against terrorism, and the reforms in the security sector – was opened by Lazar Elenovski, Minister of Defense of the Republic of Macedonia. The participants at this seminar were welcomed by Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs Zoran Petrov, J. Puhar, political director in the Ministry of Defense of the Republic of Austria, and Denis Rizman, program director in the Center for European Perspective from the Republic of Slovenia.

The Training Program, which was initiated by Austria and supported by Germany, Hungary, and Slovenia, is aimed at acquainting cadre from Macedonia, Albania, Serbia, Montenegro, Croatia, and Bosnia-Herzegovina with the European security and defense policy, as an important part of the overall European identity.

Lectures by British Ambassador Dickson for Young Macedonian Diplomats

Robert Chatterton Dickson, ambassador of Great Britain to Macedonia, held two separate lectures for the young diplomats from the Macedonian Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The lectures were held in the British Embassy in Skopje.

The ambassador stressed the international priorities on which Great Britain's policy is based: reduction of the damage of international crime in Great Britain, prevention and resolving of conflicts through a strong international system, protection from global terrorism and weapons of mass destruction;

support for the British economy through expansion of the global economy; science and the power resources; dealing with migration; and fight against illegal migration.

The ambassador's lecture ended with a discussion with the young diplomats, who were interested about issues that concern the Republic of

Macedonia, Macedonia's diplomacy, the European perspectives, etc.

Lence Mitevaska-Avramova, director for diplomatic education in the MFA, expressed hope that such cooperation would continue in the future.

Lecture in Children's Parliament of Macedonia

Director for Diplomatic Education Lence Mitevaska-Avramova held a lecture entitled "Diplomacy – history, function, and the role of the diplomat", which was organized by the Children's Parliament of Macedonia – educational school for leaders of first and second degree.

A total of 90 representatives of a number of schools in Skopje attended this lecture. They were informed about the history of diplomacy, its characteristics and functions, as well as the rights, obligations, and profile of the modern diplomat. The diplomatic titles established with the Vienna Diplomatic Convention were also explained. The presentation also covered issues related to the organization and functioning of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the diplomatic and consular offices of the Republic of Macedonia abroad. Mitevaska-Avramova provided a special review on Ambassador Doctor Srgjan Kerim's candidature for the post chairman of the 62nd Session of the General Assembly of the United Nations.

The special interest that this lecture provoked among the young participants was confirmed in the discussion that followed the presentation, where questions related to the Republic of Macedonia's integration into NATO and the EU dominated.

Visas and the Young

Facilitation of the visa regime for Macedonian citizens will be the first step towards full liberalization of the visas between the European Union and Macedonia. This was the statement given by the European Commission (one of the Commission's recommendations) on 4 May year 2006. Macedonia has regulated the issue of readmission on a bilateral basis with most EU member countries (18). Macedonian citizens can obtain visas free of charge for only five EU member countries (Poland, the Czech Republic, Slovakia, Estonia, and Bulgaria).

In a certain way, visas prevent young people from Macedonia from seeing other countries, thus preventing them from gaining other experiences from the world that would benefit our society. It is very important for a young person from Macedonia (be they a student, researcher, journalist, or scientist) to partici-

participate in scholarly, cultural, or sport events that take place in the countries of the European Union, where young people acquire education, new experiences, knowledge, and contacts. Their participation in these events is a problem, because we fall among the countries that are on "the black Schengen list". The process for applying for a visa for some of the EU member countries is depressing and discouraging. My experience shows that one has to spend two or three hours per day in one week to complete all the documents and apply for a visa. On top of that, you have to wait and see whether your application for a visa was approved. We should also not forget the finances that have to be set aside for the procedure for applying and paying for the visa. Within one year, I participated in a few seminars and I had to apply for a visa in person for all countries to which I traveled. I could have participated in other international events, but I did not do so because of all the problems related to the visa regime. Let this be a small protest to those who invite us, as regards their countries' treatment of us with regards to the visa regime. To say it poetically, we are born with a congenital defect: we live in a country from which you cannot travel practically anywhere.

It is bad when young people from Macedonia, especially students, researchers, journalists, and young scholars, are faced with unnecessary difficulties and visa procedures. Therefore, liberalization of the visa procedures is necessary, as a first step toward full cancellation of the visas for Macedonian citizens.

Macedonia is speedily implementing the reforms recommended by Brussels and it has already established a corresponding administrative capacity. The new biometric passports made in accordance with the highest international security standards are expected to be issued shortly, with which "the homework" will be completed to a great extent. All that remains is to wait for "an approval".

Until then, the problem with the visas will be a strong obstacle to cooperation, especially between the young people from our country and the young people from the EU member countries. Thus, the European Union should liberalize the visa regime for the young people as soon as possible, and it should also consider full cancellation of the visas so that the Macedonian citizens could become part of the free circulation zone in Europe.

Bashkim Bakiu,

Center for Research and Policy Making, Skopje



Macedonia Participates in "Celebration of Cultures" in Ottawa

At the invitation of the organizer Ms. Shirley Schiavo, the Embassy of the Republic of Macedonia participated in the 10th jubilee exhibition "Celebration of Cultures", which took place on 14 March 2007 in one of the oldest and largest high education institutions in Ottawa - Algonquin College. Hundreds of people paid a visit to the spot where the exhibits of the Republic of Macedonia were presented.

In the course of this event, our country was presented through several advertising posters, the documentary movie "A Day in Macedonia" produced by the Broadcasting Council in 1999, a few books by Macedonian writers published by "Prosvetno delo" and the traditional Macedonian cuisine and wines.

Booklets promoting Macedonia's investment opportunities and tourism potentials were also included in this presentation. Among the stands of 35 countries from all over the world, our stand was located at the very center



Macedonian exhibits at manifestation in Ottawa.

of the hall, attracting a lot of interest.

In the realization of the presentation of the Macedonian Embassy in Ottawa at this event, it is worth noting the special contribution of Miss Ilina Basarovska, responsible for communication with the organizer and for preparing some of the national dishes, painter Dimce Isailovski (the First Secretary's spouse) who provided logistic help and arranged the Macedonian stand, and Mrs. Naseva (the Ambassador's spouse), who also cooked some of the national dishes.

Our representatives had numerous meetings, especially with their counterparts from Germany, Slovakia, Serbia, Panama, Sri Lanka, Malaysia, Greece, Kuwait, India, etc.

Foreign Ministry Donation for Schools in Mala Prespa, Albania

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Macedonia presented Edmond Temelko, newly elected mayor of the Pustec Municipality from the Macedonian Alliance for European Integration, with three personal computers and one printer on 16 March year 2007. These computers and printer are intended for the Municipality Office and the central elementary schools in the villages of Pustec and Dolna Gorica in Mala Prespa, Republic of Albania. This donation falls within the frames of the Macedonian Foreign Ministry's foreseen aid for the Macedonian national

minority in the neighboring countries.

Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs Zoran Petrov and Director for the Diaspora Sasko Todorovski held separate work meetings in the Albanian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Albanian Parliament, and the government Commission on Minorities the previous day, on 15 March year 2007.



Mayor Temelko, Deputy FM Petrov and Ambassador Mingova-Krepieva

FROM THE DIPLOMATIC DIARY:

AS THE LIGHTS GO OFF...

IVICA BOCEVSKI,
SPOKESPERSON OF THE GOVERNMENT
OF THE REPUBLIC OF MACEDONIA

Last year in September I joined the team in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs which took the responsibility of establishing the Public Diplomacy Department in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. There were only two of us in the Macedonian MFA – Pajo Avirovik and me, joined by four enthusiasts from the youngest generation of the aspiring Macedonian international relations academics.

Ever since then I had the privilege to be a part of this "mission impossible". It all began with envisioning the future. Our overall goal was, and still is, to create an inter-agency group for promoting Macedonia – promoting the culture of Macedonia, promoting Macedonia as a "heaven" for foreign direct investments, promoting Macedonia as a tourist destination, promoting Macedonia as a place to live and study and projecting the image of the new, democratic, globalized and confident Macedonia, ready to challenge the globe and to reestablish itself in the global community. Furthermore, we wanted to design products which will show the world that there is a small nation in the heart of Balkans that shares the culture, values, traditions, history, as well as the hopes and aspirations of the European citizens.

So, our first step towards this objective was to create the "Macedonian Diplomatic Bulletin" and "Crossroads" – the Journal of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The standards we set for ourselves were extremely high. Namely, we wanted to establish publications that will be the pride of our Ministry and our nation. Almost eight months afterwards I can say that we did it and we did it with flying colors. All these efforts would have been impossible without the assistance of the small class of creative and dedicated diplomats within our Ministry and the commitment of our partner MIC – Macedonian Information Centre. This endeavor totally consumed our time and our weekends and both of these products are an unimaginable combination of two extremely stubborn individuals. One of them obtained his professional education in the USA and the other one in France, one of them focuses on the global political economy and the other one on infinity of the global cultural horizons, one columnist and one novelist.

Therefore, I am going to miss the creative workshop in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and I really regret for leaving this office in the very moments when we are expanding our work and increasing the number of our products. I have no doubts that the PD department will continue the spearhead the attempts for reforming the Macedonian MFA and bringing it in the era of globalization.

In the second issue, exclusively for Crossroads, prominent EU officials, politicians and other distinguished authors debate the future of Europe, its EU constitutional treaty, experiences and enlargement. In addition, political leaders and scholars of the EU candidate member states write about their countries' challenges and experiences.

Interview with Javier Solana, EU High Representative for the Common Foreign and Security Policy.

