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NATO – Bucharest and Beyond

Conference of the of foreign affairs and Defense Committees chairpersons of parliaments from the NATO member countries, Adriatic group countries and PFP countries of the region 17-19 February, Skopje, Republic of Macedonia

Between the period of 17th and 19th of February the "NATO – Bucharest and Beyond" conference was held, organized by the **OHRID Institute for Economic Strategies and International Affairs** and the **Assembly of Republic of Macedonia**.

The conference was organized for the

Chairpersons and representatives of the Foreign Affairs and Defense Committees from the NATO member countries, Adriatic group countries and the PFP countries of the region as well. The conference was opened by the President of the Defense and Security Committee of Republic of Macedonia Mr. Vladimir Gjorcev, followed by welcome address by the President of the Parliament of Republic of Macedonia Mr. Ljubisa Georgievski, the President of the Government Mr. Nikola Gruevski, the Ambassador of Macedonia in USA H.E. Mr. Zoran Jolevski, H.E. Mr. Alain Brian Bergant, Ambassador of Republic of Slovenia in Macedonia, contact Embassy NATO, and Mrs. Flora Kadriu, President of the Foreign Affairs Committee. The first session of the Conference, "NATO in the new global security environment (fight against terrorism)" was moderated by the Founder and President of the Project on Transitional Democracies Mr. Bruce Jackson, and as distinguished speakers on this particular session were Mr. Antonio Milososki, Mr. Bob Simmons and Mr. Ian Brzezinski. On the second session "NATO's role in Securing the South – Eastern Europe and Beyond" one of the hosts, Mr. Vladimir Gjorcev was the moderator, whereas keynote speakers on this topic were Mr. Solomon Passy, Chairman of the Foreign Affairs Committee of the Parliament of the Republic of Bulgaria and Mr. Ilijas Halimi, Deputy Minister of Defense of the Republic of Macedonia. The third session "Lessons Learned – On NATO's Doorstep, Successful Last Steps" was led by Mr. Ian Brzezinski, Former US Deputy Defense Secretary, and as keynote speakers on this session were introduced Mr. Bruce Jackson, Mr. Stanislav Vidovic and Mr. Jan Hamacek.



НАТО - БУКУРЕШТ И ПОТОА

Конференција на претседателите на комитетите за надворешни работи и одбрана на земјите членки на НАТО, земјите од Јадранскиот регион и земјите од партнерството со евро-атлантскиот регион 17-19 Фебруари 2008, Скопје, Македонија

NATO - BUCHAREST AND BEYOND

Conference of the Parliamentary Committees for Foreign Affairs and Defense of the NATO, AJ and PFP countries of the region February 17-19, 2008, Skopje, Macedonia



The fourth session "The Role of the Parliamentarian Committees for Foreign Affairs and Defense in the Implementation of NATO Goals and Policy" was a kind of conclusion and embodied the crucial meaning of the conference. Moderator on this part of the conference was the Vice President of the Assembly of the Republic of Macedonia and the Head of Delegation to NATO Parliamentary Assembly Mr. Besim Dogani, whereas as

keynote speakers were Mr. Anton Anderlic, Chairman of the Committee of Defense of the Slovenian Parliament, Mr. Murat Merdzan, Chairman of the Foreign Affairs Committee of the Parliament of Turkey and Mr. Zsolt Nemeth, Chairman of the Foreign Affairs and Hungarian Minority Abroad Committee. The conference aroused many fruitful discussions regarding the NATO Integration of the Adriatic group, the support of the NATO member countries was clearly expressed, and as recommendation the member countries shared their experience thus indicating the road which Macedonia, Albania and Croatia should follow and use for more success in the NATO integration process.

Many attitudes and believes were stated regarding the invitation for membership of the three countries, which were inferred as fast contract ratification for official membership by the National Parliaments. A confirmation for Macedonia fulfilling all given criteria for membership in NATO gave Mr. Bob Simmons, NATO Deputy Assistant Secretary General for Security, Cooperation and Partnership. Mr. Bruce Jackson, one of the moderators and keynote speakers on the conference, shared the



same opinion as Mr. Bob Simmons and added that Macedonia is prepared to get the invitation for joining the Alliance. One of the messages shared on the Conference was that through the NATO integration of the Adriatic group of countries, the other countries from the region would accept the note that the West Balkan has a Euro Atlantic perspective. The discussion led referred to adjustment of national legislations in accordance to NATO membership requirements; development of parliamentary mechanisms and practices for effective democratic control of armed forces; dialogue among parliamentarians on major foreign relations and defense and security issues; parliamentary awareness and understanding of key security issues and NATO policies; greater transparency of NATO policies.

The conference "NATO –Bucharest and Beyond" was made and organized in a crucial moment for Macedonia, in the moment when the support of the other member countries is the most needed, and on the road when all criteria are getting fulfilled and all reforms implemented. The guests on the conference were more than satisfied

of the roused debate and the Macedonian hospitality, thus expressing the support and confidence in Republic of Macedonia.

No matter of the political residing, all Members of the Parliament of Republic of Macedonia present on the conference, shared same ideas, aspirations, and showed that they can work together to ensure Macedonia's stability with secure Euro Atlantic future.

This conference was made possible by the generous support of the Royal Norwegian Embassy, the Embassy of the Kingdom of Netherlands and IRI-Slovakia; who supported the efforts of the OHRID Institute.



As part of the conference the OHRID Institute organized a traditional Macedonian dinner, where the participants of the conference and the guests of the OHRID Institute could enjoy the Macedonian ambience, folklore and the traditional specialties of the Macedonian cuisine.



Promotion of the Albanian language edition of the book

“Europe’s Next Frontiers “by the EU Commissioner for Enlargement D-r Olli Rehn



On 6th of March 2008, the **OHRID Institute for Economic Strategies and International Affairs**, held the promotion of the **Albanian language edition of the book "Europe's Next Frontiers" by the EU Commissioner for Enlargement D-r Olli Rehn**. The promotion was held in the business centre premises of the SEE University in Tetovo, which is built under a sponsorship of the European Union. Publisher of the Albanian language edition, as well as of the Macedonian language edition is the OHRID Institute.

There was a huge public attendance, and the rector of the University Mr. Alajdin Abazi, the Ambassador of the Republic of Macedonia in Brussels, the distinguished Member of the Board of the OHRID Institute Mrs. Adelina Marku, and the author of the book, EU Commissioner D-r Olli Rehn addressed the public with speeches and thoughts. Among the distinguished guests at the promotion, there were representatives from the Government of the Republic of Macedonia, Ambassadors and the Representative of the EU in Macedonia Mr. Ervan Fuere. Mr. Rehn had interesting performance in which he highlighted the motive for writing the book which is stressed in the headline as well, the enlargement of the Europe's frontiers. In correlation with the book in which Mr. Rehn gave detailed elaborations on the particular issue, he mentioned Macedonia as well, regarding the name issue, the already started reforms and progress. Mr. Rehn expressed his gratitude to the OHRID Institute for publishing his book, not only in Macedonian but in Albanian language as well. Mrs. Adelina Marku the representative from the OHRID Institute, as well as the initiator for publishing the Albanian language edition had an impressive speech. In her address she expressed that with the presence of D-r Rehn in this promotion the message for noble coexistence of the citizens in this country is conveyed. The mutual communication and respect, as she said, have to bring closer the citizens of Macedonia as well as through their history and their same goal, but at the same time through the respect towards the language and the cultural identity. D-r Rehn was positive towards the public, managed to answer all questions, which most of them referred to the Kosovo issue.

The goal of the OHRID Institute was accomplished, as Mrs. Marku mentioned, the present students had the opportunity to hear and ask questions directly to Mr. Rehn, and for a moment to feel the grandness of D-r Rehn, whereas they themselves will feel grand too.

On 8th of February 2007, the OHRID Institute for Economic Strategies and International Affairs published the Macedonian version of the book "Europe's Next Frontiers" by D-r Olli Rehn. The Publishing of the Albanian version of the book presents a continuation of one well created tradition and also possibility for promotion of the book among the Albanian population in Macedonia and abroad. In this perspective the OHRID Institute will distribute the Albanian language edition to Kosovo, Pristina, for the University's and academic's necessities, so as for the necessities of the schools in Macedonia.



The fifth Report of the Leadership Monitoring Project presented

The **OHRID Institute for Economic Strategies and International Affairs** held the presentation of the results of the Leadership Monitoring Project, a project implemented by the OHRID Institute and financially supported by the Balkan Trust for Democracy.

The **Leadership Monitoring Project** includes ongoing monitoring of the day-to-day work of the Government, benchmarking it against its campaign promises and reporting the findings to the citizens. The Reports aim to provide the general public with an overall picture about the planned and realized reforms of the new Government, through monitoring based on performance, using constructive and comparison analyses in 11 areas of the public life: **fiscal and monetary policy, trade and industrial policy, financial and pension system, knowledge economy, education, agriculture, foreign affairs, internal affairs, health, transport and communications, and sport.**



This Report presents the closure of all analyses about the work of the Government, monitored and analyzed by the experts of the OHRID Institute in the period of one and a half year. The presentation was held in hotel Holiday Inn on 21-st of March 2008. The presentation was held in front of a hundred numbered audiences, consisted of intellectuals, professors, representatives from the Embassies in republic of Macedonia, as well as friends of the OHRID Institute. The event was covered by all media houses in Republic of Macedonia.



Presentation of the poll “Transparency of the government and the local institutions” conducted 25-28 February 2008



Poll Results Transparency of the Government and Public Institutions

March 2008 (Skopje) – As a part of the **Leadership Monitoring Project**, the **OHRID Institute for Economics Strategies and International Affairs** conducted a phone survey of the public opinion referring the citizen’s perception and attitudes towards the accessibility of the official records of the Government and the local municipalities. The survey was conducted in the period from 25-28 of February 2007, performed on national level with inclusion of all relevant

demographic variables (gender, age, education, income, ethnicity, regions, rural and urban areas and profession) with a representative sample of 615 respondents.

The survey of the OHRID Institute for Economic Strategies and International Affairs reveals a number of interesting developments among citizens of Macedonia regarding their opinion about the transparency in the work of the Government and the local institutions. The most important findings are:

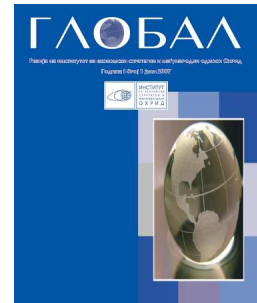
- About **the perception of the public on the transparency of the Government and local institutions**, it can be concluded that most of the Macedonian citizens generally consider that the work of the Government and the local municipalities is somewhat transparent (27.6% against 25.5%). In addition to this, larger is the number of respondents that think the Government is very transparent contrasted with the local institutions (21.3% against 17. 7%).
- Regarding the question on **the importance of the public access to Governmental documents and information for good governance**, high percent of the population (49.3%) believe that the public access

to Governmental documents and information is very important for good governance. Additional (19.8%) consider that this particular issue has certain value.

- According the answers of the question whether the **respondents would or would not like to attend the work of the municipal council and the Government**, it can be concluded that the citizens are a bit more interested to attend the work of the municipal council than the Government (48.3% against 49.6%). This could be due to the fact that the local institutions are dealing with the most burning and everyday situation issues, in which the citizens are most interested in.
- When asked about **their interest in the various activities of the Government and the local municipalities**, people answer differently. While the interests are generally high for both, people are a bit more interested in the work of the local institutions, than in the work of the Government. Although (30.7%) are very interested in the work of the local institutions against (37.1%) very interested in the work of the Government, even (34.3%) are somewhat interested in the work of the local institutions while (31.7%) are those somewhat interested in the work of the Government. The answers of not interested are similar for both.
- Concerning **the source from where people get the information for both the work of the Government and the local institutions**, it can be concluded that the majority of people receives information through national televisions (79.2%), small number of the respondents through newspapers and only few of the respondents through radio, internet or other sources.
- **If the respondents ever seek any official document from the Government or the local institutions**, so as **if they have received the needed one**, it can be seen that the majority of citizens were not in need for some official documents (83.9%), but half of those who had need, did not receive any information (33.3%), or they have only partially received help (23.7%) by the authorized.
- Regarding the question **about the governmental documents and their availability for the public, should they be open for the citizens or they should be protected by the Government**, (48.9%) from the citizens consider that the Government should protect the documents while (43.6%) consider that the records should be public.
- Finally, on **whether the governmental sessions and the court trials should or should not be broadcasted in public**, (65%) answered positive regarding the broadcasting of the governmental sessions, whereas (51.5%) for the court trial broadcasting. This is mainly due to the interest for the work of these institutions and partial accessibility to the official documents and transcripts.

The second issue of the magazine "GLOBAL" published

The OHRID Institute published the second issue of the magazine "GLOBAL", a magazine referring political and economical issues. The goal of this magazine is to become an intellectual voice on the current issues of international economics and economic policy based on comprehensive and in-depth analyses, with a primary focus on Macedonia. Emphasis is placed on identifying key issues at the time - spanning international trade, international finance, the environment, energy, the integration of regional economies and other issues - in order to furnish ideas and proposals to contribute positively to the policy debate in the country and the region. "GLOBAL" is dedicated to publishing the highest quality research in any field of economics and politics, without prejudice to the methodology or to the analytical techniques used.



The second issue of the magazine "GLOBAL" prevails with young authors from Republic of Macedonia and abroad as well. Besides promoting young intellectuals, the second issue of the magazine "GLOBAL" involves proved and well known professors, intellectuals acting in different life areas.

The Project Political dialogue 2007 finished

Report on the forums "Macedonia on the doorstep to the EU and the NATO -the joint responsibility of all political parties

The Project Political dialogue 2007 is completed and finalized with the last forum "Macedonia on the doorstep to the EU and the NATO – the joint responsibility of all political parties". In addition follows a short Report about the discussions led and the topics elaborated on the roundtables.

Macedonia in the last 8 years has made an impressive way forward in its strategic aim and ambition to become member of the Euro-Atlantic structures and is very near in reaching this goal. Since December 2005 the country is candidate of the European Union and is eager to start negotiations for the accession as soon as possible and at the same time is expecting also an invitation to the NATO. The above mentioned aim unites an overwhelming majority of the population; it is shared by all ethnic communities and supported by all significant political parties.



The OHRID Institute for Economic Strategies and International Affairs within the framework of the Project “Political Dialogue 2007” has organised four regional round tables under the name “**Macedonia on the doorstep to the EU and the NATO-the joint responsibility of all political parties**”.

The discussions which were undertaken on this all party forums were: a raise of the Parliamentary work, a political dialogue between parties, NGOs, citizens, a political culture of taking the arguments of citizens and competitors serious, new structures of the political parties, the internal democracy in the parties, the opening of the parties for the citizens, better transparency of political decision-making processes inside the parties, the participation of the citizens in the parties, parties as service organisation for the citizens, awareness for gender issues and participation of women. On these forums there were representatives from all political parties, international experts from the political foundations which are active in Macedonia like IRI, NDI, Konrad Adenauer Stiftung, Friedrich Ebert Stiftung, national experts, Macedonian members of Parliament, representatives from the Macedonian government and a representative of the Norwegian party.



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Publisher: OHRID Institute for Economic Strategies and International Affairs

Executive Director: Biljana Janeva

Ul. Dimitrije Tucovic 24,
1000 Skopje
Republic of Macedonia

Telephone/Fax: +389 2 322 44 57

info@oi.org.mk
www.oi.org.mk
