



**LIETUVOS RESPUBLIKOS SEIMO  
EUROPOS REIKALŲ KOMITETAS  
SEIMAS OF THE REPUBLIC OF LITHUANIA  
COMMITTEE ON EUROPEAN AFFAIRS**

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Ms Eva KJER HANSEN  
Chairwoman of the European Affairs Committee  
Folketing  
Denmark

19 April 2012  
S-2012-3113

**Ref.: opening of the EU accession negotiations with the FYROM**

I would like to inform you that Chairmen of the Committees on European Affairs of the Baltic States (Lithuania, Latvia, and Estonia) have recently reached common agreement on the statement regarding the opening of the European Union accession negotiations with the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia.

We believe that the existing differences concerning the name of Macedonia should not obstruct or interfere with the beginning of the EU accession negotiations. The work in the Council towards common agreement of all the EU Member States should be continued. Therefore, Chairmen of the Committees on European Affairs of the Baltic States invite the Danish EU Presidency to include the matter of EU accession negotiations with the FYROM in the agenda, and seek positive decision in the Council.

I would appreciate it if you could inform the relevant Government officials about our statement.

Looking forward to seeing you at the COSAC meeting,

Sincerely yours,

Mr. Česlovas Vytautas Stankevičius  
Deputy Speaker of the Seimas  
Chairman of the Committee

**MEETING STATEMENT  
ON THE OPENING OF THE EUROPEAN UNION ACCESSION NEGOTIATIONS WITH  
THE FORMER YUGOSLAV REPUBLIC OF MACEDONIA**

**Riga, 26 March 2012**

- *Note* that the European Council decided to grant candidate country status to the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia on 15-16 December 2005, and the initial recommendation of the European Commission to start the EU accession negotiations was issued on 14 October 2009;
- *Emphasize* that the EU institutions have on several occasions welcomed the progress made by the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia in key reforms area, and that the country fulfils its commitments under the Stabilisation and Association Agreement signed on 9 April 2001;
- *Note* that the international election observers – the OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (OSCE/ODIHR), the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly (OSCE PA), and the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (PACE), have concluded that June 2011 parliamentary elections in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia were competitive, transparent, and well-administered throughout the country;
- *Stress* that the European Commission, on 12 October 2011, reiterated to the Council its recommendation that accession negotiations should be opened with the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia;
- *Appreciate* the progress achieved by the Polish EU Presidency, and *note* Council conclusions on 5 December 2011 that the Council is ready to return to the matter during the next Presidency;
- *Believe* that the existing difference between the Parties in question about the name of the candidate country should not obstruct or interfere with the beginning of the EU accession negotiations, and to be resolved by separate negotiations in good faith pursuant to the United Nations Security Council resolution 817 (1993), and Interim Accord of 13 September 1995; every mutually accepted solution on the name issue, under the auspices of the United Nations, should be supported and welcomed;
- *Invite* the Danish EU Presidency to include the matter of the EU accession negotiations with the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia in the EU agenda, and seek positive decision in the Council in June 2012.

*Adopted by the representatives of the Committees on European Affairs of Riigikogu of the Republic of Estonia, Seimas of the Republic of Lithuania, Saeima of the Republic of Latvia.*