



**EMBASSY OF THE REPUBLIC OF MACEDONIA  
COPENHAGEN**

**MODTAGET  
LEDELSESSEKRETARIATET**

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The Embassy of the Republic of Macedonia in Copenhagen presents its compliments to the Parliament of the Kingdom of Denmark - Folketinget and has the honour to enclose the original letter from the President of the Assembly of the Republic of Macedonia, H.E. Mr. Trajko Veljanoski, addressed to the President of the Parliament of the Kingdom of Denmark, H.E. Mr. Thor Pedersen.

The Embassy of the Republic of Macedonia avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the Parliament of the Kingdom of Denmark - Folketinget the assurances of its highest consideration.

Copenhagen August 28, 2008



Parliament of the Kingdom of Denmark  
Folketinget

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**REPUBLIC OF MACEDONIA  
ASSEMBLY OF THE  
REPUBLIC OF MACEDONIA  
P R E S I D E N T**

*courtesy translation*

Skopje, 14 August 2008

*Your Excellency,*

Conveying to you the assurances of my highest consideration, allow me to address you for a matter of exceptional importance for the Republic of Macedonia as a multi-ethnic and democratic country, which is sincerely and unreservedly dedicated to a full implementation of the international norms and human right standards, including the rights of the members of minorities, a proof of that being our established model of multi-ethnic and multi-confessional coexistence.

The civil associations of children refugees and other citizens expelled from Greece, in 2004 addressed the Standing Inquiry Committee for the Protection of Freedoms and Rights of Citizens of the Assembly of the Republic of Macedonia. In the past years, the Committee analysed in details the indications in the mentioned petition and their ultimate request, that the Assembly of the Republic of Macedonia takes and declares its position before the domestic and international public.

As a result of the agreed positions, the Standing Inquiry Committee and 11 Members of the Assembly of the Republic of Macedonia from all political parties submitted on 14 December 2007 to the President of the Assembly of the Republic of Macedonia a *Draft Resolution on the Refugees in the Military Actions in the Republic of Greece During the Civil War and the Second World War*.

The newly established Parliament, constituted on 21 July 2008, is expected to consider and adopt with general support the submitted Resolution in the nearest future, after which its content will be made available to you.

**H.E Mr. THOR PEDERSEN  
PRESIDENT OF THE FOLKETING**

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The issue on the conditions of the members of the Macedonian minority in Greece, which has not been recognized by the state, as well as the problem of citizenship and property of the persons of Macedonian ethnic origin born in Greece, has been for a long time on the agenda of the international governmental and non-governmental organisations.

The Greek authorities dispute the identity of the Macedonians, which is a direct violation of the international law in respect of basic human rights and freedoms. For decades now, Greece has pursued an assimilatory policy by banning free expression of their national identity followed by systematic measures for banning the use of the Macedonian language in education and public communication and exercise of their culture, changing toponyms by a state decree, banning organised action and punishing Macedonian activists, which is a violation of the provisions of the European Convention on Human Rights and the Framework Convention on the Protection of National Minorities, Greece being a signatory to both documents. In general, the members of the Macedonian minority in Greece are subject to a strong, decades long discriminatory policy, which leads to extinction of the Macedonian identity in Greece.

*Distinguished Mr. Pedersen,*

The position of the European Commission against Racism and Intolerance has provided evidence to the need to raise this issue - in its third report on Greece, the organisation makes an analysis of the situation of the Macedonian community in this country and “encourages the Greek authorities to continue the efforts for promotion of the situation of the members of the minority groups, including the Macedonian community.” Furthermore, ECRI “strongly recommends that Greek authorities start up a dialogue with the Macedonian representatives in order to reach a solution for the tensions between this group and the authorities.”

Our expectations are that Greece, as a Member-State of the EU and NATO (organisations founded on democracy, rule of law and universal respect and protection of human rights and freedoms for all) and as a contracting party of the fundamental instruments for human rights, shall start a dialogue that will lead to accomplishment of the ECRI recommendations, which will provide an impetus for a further promotion of good-neighborly relations between the two countries and would have positive implications on the situation in the region as a whole, its stabilisation, prosperity and accession in the EU and NATO. In a time when the principles of democracy and fundamental human rights and freedoms are *condicio sine qua non*, building up friendship and future on the tragedy of a population is a step that diverts from the values in which we commonly believe.

Looking forward to your commitment and engagement related to this issue, please accept the assurances of my highest consideration.

Sincerely,

***Trajko Veljanoski***