



**MKAS** - Newsletter



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## **Macedonia in March 2007**

**Gruevski agreed to meet Ahmeti in presence of international community representatives;**

**Crvenkovski and Gruevski failed to reach an agreement on Ambassadors;**

**Macedonia will host NATO Security Forum in June;**

**Macedonian Foreign Ministry sends Note of Protest to Greece;**

**EU Information centre opened in Skopje;**

***Brief Info***



## GRUEVSKI AGREED TO MEET AHMETI IN PRESENCE OF INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY REPRESENTATIVES



The Government is prepared to accept a list of laws which would be ratified with double-majority model and agreed to restructure the Parliamentary Committee on Relations between Communities. Prime Minister Nikola Gruevski also agreed to meet BDI<sup>1</sup> leader Ali Ahmeti in presence of the representatives of the international community. PDSH<sup>2</sup> Deputy Chairman Menduh Thaci and NSDP<sup>3</sup> leader Tito Petkovski supported Gruevski in his intent to meet with the opposition and discuss about their demands. NSDP leader Tito Petkovski confirmed that the Government is prepared to make a compromise. He said that it is expected that the coalition partners also will discuss the BDI's possible inclusion into the Government only if, as he stated, this is a precondition for unblocking the political dialogue in the country. Petkovski said that NSDP also agrees to discuss BDI's other demands, like social benefits i.e. pensions for the disabled persons and families of the killed members of the former ONA as well as preparing a list of laws which would be ratified with the double-majority principle.



## CRVENKOVSKI AND GRUEVSKI FAILED TO REACH AN AGREEMENT ON AMBASSADORS



The talks on appointing new ambassadors reached a deadlock since the President Branko Crvenkovski and Prime Minister Nikola Gruevski failed to harmonize their positions on the candidates. The President and the Prime Minister came out with opposite views on the joint meeting, on which was also present Foreign Minister Antonio Milososki.

"My suggestion for a compromise in the current situation would be that the professionals from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs should replace the Ambassadors who have to returned to Macedonia. This is also in accordance with the new Law on Foreign Affairs, which specifies that two-thirds of the ambassadors should be professional diplomats", Crvenkovski stated. Government sources unofficially said that Crvenkovski presented a position, which they interpreted as classic blackmail and hypocrisy. They said that the President set a condition for the Government to accept one of his candidates for Ambassadors: Vlado Buckovski as Ambassador to NATO in Brussels or Stevo Pendarovski as Ambassador to London. In return he would accept the Government's candidates for ambassadors. If this proposal is not acceptable, Crvenkovski proposed that only professional diplomats from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs should be appointed for new ambassadors.

<sup>1</sup> BDI stands for Democratic Union for Integration (Bashkimi Demokratik për Integrim)

<sup>2</sup> PDSH stands for Democratic Party of Albanians (Partia Demokratike Shqiptare)

<sup>3</sup> NSDP stands for New Social-Democratic Party



## MACEDONIA TO HOST NATO SECURITY FORUM IN JUNE



A Memorandum on the technical details for the organizing NATO Security Forum in Ohrid in June this year, will be signed by the Minister without Portfolio Adnan Kjahil and Berndt Getze, Director of the Department for organizing ministerial meetings and summits of NATO. The forum will be solely organized by NATO and Republic of Macedonia will provide logistics support for the event. Guests from 49 countries have been invited to attend this Forum, including the Foreign Ministers, Interior Ministers, Defence Ministers, Academics and representatives of big companies. On this Forum, which will be chaired by NATO Secretary General Jaap de Hoop Scheffer, three issues will be main points of discussion: Kosovo and the Regional Security; Afghanistan and the Democratic Reconstruction of the country and the Energy Security in Europe. The possibility of important historical decisions to be adopted at the Forum in Ohrid is not excluded. This gathering will serve as an indicator that the whole region has progressed from a phase of democratic transition to a phase of democratic integration and Ohrid will be a symbol of this a new beginning. The Minister of Foreign Affairs also stressed the importance of the time-frame when the forum will be held, concerning that all unsolved issues on the Balkans should be closed by then and NATO will be in a phase of summing up the results of the candidate countries before preparing the invitations for membership.

## MACEDONIAN FOREIGN MINISTRY SENDS OF PROTEST NOTE TO GREECE



The Macedonian Foreign Ministry delivered a verbal Note of Protest to Greek Ambassador to Macedonia Theodora Grosomanidou for insulting slogans against Macedonia from the video tape of the military parade held in Tessaloniki on 28<sup>th</sup> October 2005. Igor Ilievski, State Secretary at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs delivered the Note of Protest to Ambassador Grosomanidou. Ilievski informed the Greek Ambassador at the meeting in the Foreign Ministry that the authenticity of the video tape with the Greek military units had been confirmed and that such provocations are not in the spirit of the commitments to good neighbourhood policy. Ilievski said that such incidents have a negative effect on the relations between these two countries. The Greek Ambassador did not comment on the meeting the Note of Protest or the possible reaction of the Greek Government. According to the unofficial reports, the Greek Ambassador expressed regret that the video tape is authentic, stressing that she would pass on the concern to Athens. The recording transmitted in the last few days shows Greek troops marching and singing nationalistic songs with insults against Macedonia and the other neighbouring countries.





## EU INFORMATION CENTER OPENED IN SKOPJE



An EU Information Centre was opened on Makedonija Square in Skopje on the occasion of the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Rome Treaties. This is a project of the Secretariat for European Affairs and it is part of the Government's Program and Strategy for informing and communicating with the public during the EU integrations processes. The opening of this Centre was supported financially by the Norwegian Government. The informative aim of this Centre is to avoid all disappointments related to the fulfilment of any unrealistic expectations.

### **BRIEF INFO**



◆ Macedonia will receive financial aid of 220 to 300 million dollars from the World Bank for the Program referring to the loans and investment projects over the next four years.

◆ About 500 unemployed persons in Macedonia will receive 1,500 euros instead of 2,500 euros as a state assistance for self-employment. The remaining 1,000 euros will be used for registration of business, payment of social contributions for three months and for a training course with experts provided by the Government.



◆ Nikola Gruevski was re-elected for a leader of VMRO – DPMNE at the 13<sup>th</sup> Party Congress of the governing party in Shtip. He announced full reorganization of the party over the next two months.

◆ The average gross and net salaries in January totalled 23,003 and 13,884 denars respectively, while 13.5 % of the employees in Macedonia did not receive their monthly salaries.

◆ The Government wants to bring a fourth mobile operator. The news comes only two days after Mobilkom Austria was granted a license to operate as a third mobile operator.



◆ Minister of Culture Ilirian Beqiri first prohibited the theatre play "Tito" and to change his decision later. This is an unprecedented scandal in the Macedonian Theatre, various artist and actors said. If governmental institutions should instruct artists what kind of art they should create, the point of creating art is lost and the right of freedom of expression is violated. He resigned from the ministerial post shortly after.



***Impressum***

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