



PRESS RELEASE

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Conference: “EU Enlargement: Between Lisbon Treaty and Economic Recovery”

The OHRID Institute for Economic Strategies and International Affairs in cooperation with the Pan-European Union of Macedonia, on 29th May, 2010, held a Conference on the topic **“EU Enlargement: Between Lisbon Treaty and Economic Recovery.”** The Conference was supported by the Secretariat for European Affairs and the Assembly of RM.

The Conference focused on the EU enlargement with the countries from the Western Balkan, and especially on the issues and problems that these countries face in the process of their integration in the European Union, and also finding directions for speeding up the integration process, with a special emphasis on the Republic of Macedonia.

Eminent foreign and domestic speakers took part in the Conference, among which were the MEP Bernd Posselt, the International President of the PEU-Mr. Allain Terrenoire, Mr. Martin Kamp, Secretary General of the EPP-ED Group in the European Parliament, Mr. Siegbert Alber, Advocate general of the Court of justice of the European Communities in Luxemburg, Former Vice President of the European Parliament, Mr. Henri Bohne, Director of the Konrad Adenauer Foundation in Skopje, as well as Mr. Vasko Naumovski, Vice Prime Minister for European Affairs, Mr. Marjan Gjorcev, President of PEU Macedonia, and others.

It was noted that the new Greek government should show solidarity regarding the solution of the name issue with the Republic of Macedonia, because the spirit and the starting point of the European Union is showing good will and constructive approach in the solution of the bilateral problems, creating friendship and mutual functioning of the countries of Europe besides their historical and cultural differences. Each posing of veto regarding any issue between two countries shall endanger the existence and function of the European Union itself. The President of PEU, Mr. Allain Terrenoire, underlined that for the Pan-European Union, the Republic of Macedonia will always be Republic of Macedonia, and he also asked the blockage to be removed so that Macedonia could quickly become part of the family it belongs to.

The Vice Prime Minister Mr. Naumovski underlined that besides the obstacles, Macedonia is further devoted to the integration process and even without the date for start of negotiations in June, Macedonia will continue to fulfill each of the Copenhagen Criteria, first and foremost for the well-being of the country, and also to be fully prepared for the start of the negotiations.



The conference developed interesting discussions which are of great significance for Republic of Macedonia. Namely, the support demonstrated by the foreign guests is of crucial importance for the overall development of Republic of Macedonia and the EU and NATO integration of the country.

The OHRID Institute for Economic Strategies and International Affairs, Skopje will continue its effort and will work for the increase of the support and the development of the integration process of Republic of Macedonia.