

РЕПУБЛИКА МАКЕДОНИЈА  
МИНИСТЕРСТВО  
ЗА НАДВОРЕШНИ РАБОТИ



REPUBLIC OF MACEDONIA  
MINISTRY  
OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS

Бр. 60-285/4

Скопје 06.03.2013

Министерството за надворешни работи на Република Македонија го изразува своето почитување кон Британската амбасада во Скопје и има чест во прилог да го достави писмото со датум 28 февруари 2013 год. од државниот секретар г-дин Владо Мисајловски упатено до Н.Е. Кристофер Ивон, амбасадор, со одговор кон Повикот за придонес кон Извештајот за балансот на компетенции помеѓу Европската унија и земјите-членки во областа на надворешна политика.

Министерството за надворешни работи на Република Македонија ја користи оваа прилика на Британската амбасада во Скопје да и ги повтори изразите на своето високо почитување.



Скопје, 6 март 2013 год.

БРИТАНСКА АМБАСАДА

СКОПЈЕ





Republic of Macedonia  
Ministry of Foreign Affairs  
State Secretary

Skopje, 28 February 2013

Your Excellency,  
Dear Ambassador Yvon,

Thank you very much for your letter dated 6 December 2012 concerning the Call for Evidence for the Report on the Balance of Competences between the European Union and Member States in Foreign Policy.

As a candidate country for EU membership that shares the principles and objectives of the European Union Foreign Policy, the Republic of Macedonia is honored of the opportunity to contribute to the Report and present views on several relevant questions based on Macedonian experiences and lessons learned.

*- Areas of global affairs where EU adds value or delivers impact -*

Foreign, Security and Defense Policy is an area where the added value of the European Union in global affairs has become evident. The European Union engagement in the Balkans is a positive example of its transformative power, of its ability to promote European values and contribute to regional stability, but also of its role as a cohesive force in international relations.

The Republic of Macedonia was the beneficiary of the first EU military operation "CONCORDIA" in the framework of the European Security and Defense Policy in 2003, which aimed to contribute further to the stable environment for implementation of the 2001 Ohrid Framework Agreement. The Republic of Macedonia also benefited from the EU police mission "PROXIMA" in 2003 and 2004, where Member States' police experts were monitoring, mentoring and advising the Macedonian police thus helping the promotion of European policing standards.

Experiences gained and lessons learned as a recipient of these first EU missions also brought added value to the development of Macedonian capacities and capabilities for participation in civilian and military crisis management operations. They also helped the Republic of Macedonia grow, within a very short period of time, from a security consumer into a security provider, contributing significantly to international crisis management missions in the Balkan region and beyond. For example, in ISAF Afghanistan, Macedonia has become the fourth largest contributor per capita.

H.E. Ambassador Christopher YVON  
British Embassy  
SKOPIE



*- Comparative advantages /disadvantages of working through the EU -*

Shared European foreign policy objectives could be better achieved working through the EU, then acting on individual basis. Working through the EU strengthens the legitimacy and credibility of foreign policy actions.

As a candidate country for EU membership, the Republic of Macedonia shares the European Union foreign policy principles and objectives. Macedonia strongly supports the efforts of the European Union to further enhance its role as a cohesive force in international relations and its ability to promote the European interests and values on the international stage. Macedonia has continually made a contribution to this end through building partnership relations with the EU and through accepting and implementing the European values and principles, as well as through supporting in concrete terms the efforts of the EU for maintaining regional stability and security.

Working through the European Union, in the field of Common Security and Defense Policy, the Republic of Macedonia has been able to contribute to the regional stability of the Balkans, which is among the topical foreign policy interests of Macedonia. The Republic of Macedonia actively participates in the EU led mission in Bosnia and Herzegovina, EUFOR ALTEA since 2006.

*- Effectiveness of the EU in combining its foreign, defense, economic and civil protection policy instruments to deliver best effect in foreign policy -*

The role of the European Union in tackling global issues has been evidently strengthened, as a result of a continuously improved combination of the variety of policy instruments at its disposal - diplomatic, development and humanitarian aid instruments, economic, civil protection, defense instruments, etc. The effectiveness of the European Union foreign policy actions could certainly be further strengthened.

The experience of the Republic of Macedonia in the context of its European integration process could also be seen as an example of the effectiveness of the EU policy in combining different foreign policy and enlargement policy instruments. The Republic of Macedonia is a security provider in the region and beyond. It is the only country in South-Eastern Europe to have resolved all border issues with its neighbours and achieved full border demarcation. The Republic of Macedonia has positively contributed to addressing regional challenges and to crisis and conflict resolution processes in the Balkans. The European and Euro-Atlantic community have widely acknowledged the stabilizing role of Macedonia, as a reliable and trustworthy partner in the region and beyond.

The views presented herewith have also been sent to the e-mail address of the Foreign and Commonwealth Office referred to in your letter.

Hoping that our reflections would contribute to a successful completion of the Balance of Competences Review, please accept Your Excellency the assurances of my highest consideration.

Vlado MISALOVSKI

