



EUROPEAN UNION

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**Skopje, 27 September 2012**

**Closing event of the EU-funded project:  
"Technical assistance for capacity building of the  
Bureau of Metrology"**

**EU Info Centre**

**Speech by  
H.E. Mr. Aivo Orav  
Head of EU Delegation**

Dear Minister Mr. Sarachini,  
Dear Director Mr. Parnargicev,  
Dear Ms. Vukovac, Mr. Perissi,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,

I wish you warm welcome at today's event marking the successful closure of the project "Technical assistance for capacity building of the Bureau of Metrology".

This project represents an additional step towards further approximation of the country's legislation to the EU policies and standards in the area of free movement of goods.

An efficient and sustainable national quality infrastructure - working according to European standards and requirements – is a main precondition for free movement of goods across the states borders. In this line, the role of metrology bodies is extremely significant.

Measurements underpin virtually every aspect of our daily lives, helping to ensure quality and safety, keeping us health and helping us innovate and keep our economy competitive.

Sound data based on reliable measurements, form a cornerstone of evidence needed for successful policy-making and regulation. All governments, in advanced technological countries as well as less developed countries, support a measurement infrastructure because of the benefits it brings.

Therefore, European Union supported the project that further strengthened the capacity of the Bureau of Metrology.

The main objectives of this technical assistance contract were:

- to transpose and implement harmonised legislation in the area of metrology and pre-packaging;
- to provide high quality services to the business community, consumers and citizens.

Within 21 months of project's implementation, a team of experts mostly from the EU Member states' metrology institutes, worked jointly with the Bureau' staff in order to further increase the quality of metrology in the country.

I would like to highlight one significant development achieved in the course of project's implementation. The experts supported the Bureau of Metrology to acquire national accreditation for its four

calibration laboratories. In view of the recently signed Multilateral Agreement of the European Accreditation, the calibration certificates issued by these laboratories now shall be fully recognised by the corresponding authorities of the EU member states. Reduction of such trade barrier for export of goods on the EU market opens new prospects for local companies.

EU will continue its joint cooperation with the Government in this area in the future, as we have firm objective to assist the country in its path to integration to the EU.

Thank you for your attention.