



EUROPEAN UNION

Delegation of the European Union

Skopje, 14 June 2013

**Kick-off event of the EU-funded project with Council of
Europe:
"Capacity building of the law enforcement agencies for
appropriate treatment of detained and sentenced persons"
(Hotel Holiday Inn)**

Speaking points
Ambassador Aivo Orav
Head of the EU Delegation

Dear Minister Ms Jankulovska,

Dear Minister Mr Bexheti,

Dear Ms Taylor,

Ladies and gentlemen,

It is a great pleasure for me that today we mark the start of EU-funded project that aims to improve the treatment of detained and sentenced persons, together with our partners Ministries of Interior and Justice, and the Council of Europe.

This project will provide direct support for improving practices and rules in police stations and prisons. A team of international and national experts shall work together with the national law enforcement bodies to strengthen management capacities and to ensure protection of human rights.

Furthermore, it should encourage understanding of the specific situation of the detainees and the sentenced persons, thus improving their conditions in line with international and European standards.

At the end, this EU-funded project should ensure that the country complies with the case law of the European Court of Human Rights and with the recommendations of the Committee for the Prevention of Torture of the Council of Europe.

We take note of the commitment of the Ministries of Interior and of Justice, as well as of the Directorate for the Execution of Sanctions and the Sector for Internal Control of the Police, for fulfilling the recommendations of the Committee for the Prevention of Torture of the Council of Europe.

The Ombudsman's National Prevention Mechanism is an important tool for prevention of torture and ill-treatment. However, additional efforts are needed to increase the knowledge of European standards, to improve physical conditions and to enforce safeguard measures against ill-treatment in police stations and prisons.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I believe that with this project, the European Union will further strengthen the capacities of the law enforcement agencies and that will result in better protection of human rights and democratic values.

I wish all partners a lot of success in the implementation of the project!

Thank you very much for your attention.