



EUROPEAN UNION

Delegation of the European Union

Skopje, 9 March 2011

Official presentation of the EU Funded project:

"Technical Assistance to the Parliament"

Monday, 18 April 2011

EU InfoCentre, Delegation of the European Union

Speaking points

Ambassador
Mr. Peter SØRENSEN
Head of the European Union Delegation

Dear Mr Speaker Veljanovski;

Dear Deputy Prime Minister Naumovski;

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen;

It is a pleasure and an honour to extend you all a warm welcome here in the EU InfoCentre. Today's official presentation of the EU funded project: "Technical Assistance to the Parliament" is a very happy occasion.

The gathering here today, underscore the basic principle under which the European Union and its supports work – Our assistance comes and continues irrespectively of an election calendar.

The fact that you Mr Speaker at the 149th session of the Parliament participated in the adoption of the decision for the dissolution of the Parliament, does not change the course of a technical assistance project as the one we present here today.

Therefore, the "Technical Assistance to the Parliament" project will focus on the strengthening the Parliament's work. It is primarily an assistance project to the parliament and its staff.

It will, amongst other, aim at: (i) improve the function of the technical support to the Parliamentary Committees; (ii) improve the capacity of the Parliament's staff to deliver analytical reports to the members of Parliament on EU matters; (iii) improve the level and flow of information regarding the EU accession agenda.

The crucial role of an efficient, transparent and inclusive Parliament cannot be overemphasised. It is the venue for all political parties' dialogue. The Parliament plays a crucial role in a candidate country's integration process. Its full function is a prerequisite to reach and maintain consensus on the necessary reforms and timings of their implementation.

All areas of focus for the "Technical Assistance to the Parliament" project are in themselves extraordinary important for the efficient and effective functioning of a modern ad transparent parliament.

Each year the legislative work of the Parliament increases. It is clear that the Parliament's Committees have to prepare, review and debate numerous laws needed for the adoption of the EU acquis – the approximately 20,000 acts that is the body of our common rights and obligations, which bind all the Member States together within the European Union.

With the eventual commencement of future negotiations such tasks will increase for the parliament staff.

It is therefore extraordinary important that both the Parliament as well as its MPs are adequately staffed with well-trained and knowledgeable professionals that can find their way through the EU systems and especially our laws – professionals that at all times know where and how to find information necessary to support the work of the Parliament.

It is with that in mind, that today's "Technical Assistance to the Parliament project aims to provide resources through training programmes, policy advice, study visits, etc.

It is the attention that the Parliament at the end of this 18 month programme is left with a new set of resources, which will be of help to improve its efficiency and effectiveness.

I wish the project every success.

Thank you very much for your attention.

I shall now hand over the floor to the Speaker of Parliament Veljanovski.