

Mr. Xhevat ADEMI,
Acting Head of Delegation,
Assembly, Skopje

„Connection – Cooperation – Communication: the way forward“

Distinguished Mr. Jandroković,

Distinguished colleagues,

Ladies and gentlemen,

At the very beginning, on behalf of the Speaker Mr. Talat Xhaferi, the MPs of the Assembly of the Republic of Macedonia and on my personal behalf, I would like to thank the Croatian Parliament and the Speaker Mr. Goran Jandroković for the successful Chairmanship of the Parliamentary Assembly of the South-East European Cooperation Process, as well as for the excellent organization of this Plenary Session.

Dear friends,

The South-East European Cooperation Process since its very beginning is an independent effort by South-East European countries to organize the mutual relations at multilateral level, in the spirit of cooperation and solidarity. The connection, cooperation and communication between the countries of the region remain the basic ground for successful political and diplomatic dialogue within the SEECP, as well as for enhancing stability, further democratization of our societies, increasing the economic development and deepening trade relations. That is why in the future we should focus on specific economic and infrastructure projects, along with advancing the EU integration process and strengthening the rule of law.

SEECP Parliamentary Assembly offers a new quality in the parliamentary cooperation within South-East Europe and it is an important factor in strengthening the connection, cooperation and communication between countries of the region. I believe we all agree that we need to further strengthen the SEECP Parliamentary Assembly, through the establishment of a Permanent Secretariat. This will further enhance the work of the Assembly, the cooperation between participating parliaments, as well as the cooperation with other inter-parliamentary assemblies.

Distinguished colleagues,

Allow me to briefly mention the situation in the Republic of Macedonia, the overcoming of the political instability, as well as the way forward.

One of the basic pillars of the parliamentary democracy is the unobstructed functioning of the parliament as the highest legislative power. That is why, after the unpleasant incidents of this 27 April in the Assembly of the Republic of Macedonia, we need to invest additional efforts to restoring the institutional integrity and credibility of the parliament and strengthening the citizens' trust in this institution.

I am convinced that the recent election of the Government of the Republic of Macedonia, as an expression of the new parliamentary majority, will offer a swift and sustainable solution to the political crisis in the country. The programme of the new government is based on three principles: economy and life for all, strong professional institutions and justice for all, membership in the European Union and NATO and perspectives for all. The parliamentary majority will be dedicated to building good inter-ethnic relations, based on principles of mutual trust and tolerance and implementing the Ohrid Framework Agreement. Our priority is for the Republic of Macedonia to be a sovereign, distinguished and prosperous international entity, with clear vision for achieving its strategic goals: versatile development of relations with our neighbours and integrating the country into the European and Euro-Atlantic structures.

In order to advance regional development and stability, the Government took on the commitment to strengthen the cooperation with its neighbours in all areas, through intensified participation and influence in the regional initiatives, a serious and active approach to projects from infrastructure, energy and telecommunications, cross-border development zones in support of the development of rural and cross-border regions, renewal of initiatives for new border crossings with neighbouring countries etc. The implementation of the South-East Europe 2020 Strategy, with its holistic approach to regional cooperation, will also receive the attention it deserves and corresponding assets will be allocated thereto.

Dear colleagues,

At the end I would like to underline that we, the MPs, as elected representatives of citizens, have the obligation to promote the interests of our countries by maintaining good relations with all our neighbours, by respecting European values and by being aware of the need for cohabitation with the other nations of the region. The SEECF Parliamentary Assembly itself, based on the pillars of regional ownership, solidarity and inclusion, is an excellent forum for exchanging opinions and sharing experiences in this aspect.

Thank you for your attention.