



DELEGATION OF THE REPUBLIC OF MACEDONIA TO THE OSCE
September 23, 2013
Human Dimension Implementation Meeting (Working Session 1)
Statement by Ambassador Zoran Dabik, Permanent Representative of the Republic of
Macedonia to OSCE in response to the Head of the US HDIM Delegation

Thank you Mr. Chair,

I would like to extend warmest welcome to the newly appointed HCNM Madam Thors and would like to use this opportunity to assure her that we will not only resume the fruitful cooperation we had with her esteemed predecessor, but moreover we hope to further advance it.

At the same time, I would like to express my gratitude to my distinguished American colleague for the uttered concerns related to inter-ethnic state of affairs in the Republic of Macedonia and the implementation of the Ohrid Framework Agreement, which remains a high priority of the Government of the Republic of Macedonia.

Much progress has been achieved as noted in the report on OFA implementation approved last summer. The report constitutes a valuable tool for further efforts, especially in the areas of equitable representation of all ethnic communities, the use of non-majority languages, as well as on implementation of the Framework Agreement provisions at the local level. I would like to inform you that the second (quantitative) phase of the OFA review is underway and that state funding of EUR 100,000 have been provided.

Over the last eleven years of the implementation of the OFA, the Macedonian multi-ethnic society and our institutions have proven that they have a capacity to deal with the challenges of different nature (which we do not undermine). In this regard the Agreement itself has served and still serves as a fundamental instrument for building a common future. In this connection, let me underline that sporadic inter-ethnic incidents are of an isolated nature and do not have a potential to undermine the stability of the country, and even less to negatively trickle down to neighbouring countries.

The Government has made enormous efforts to strengthen the integration of different ethnic communities in all spheres of life to ensure long-term cohesion of the Macedonian society. Education has been an important, if not most important area, in this regard. The Strategy for Integrated Education is viewed by the Government as an important document which contains a comprehensive set of measures and recommendations in this area. We are satisfied that its implementation has started to bear fruit, although the progress has been uneven in all the thematic areas.

At the end Madam High Commissioner allow me to assure you that the Republic of Macedonia will continue to work building multi-ethnic and multicultural society.