

Original Speech:

Thank you, President, dear colleagues.

In the beginning, I would like to express my condolences for the recent tragedy in Kocani and to the families of victims. My thoughts are with them.

I want to thank Mr. Thomas Waitz for his work on this report.

North Macedonia has made a significant progress over the past two decades. The country has improved its competitiveness through EU reforms, making progress in digital transformation, economic policy, and transport. I welcome initiatives like the instrument of pre-accession assistance, the growth plan for the Western Balkans, and the Jean Monnet Dialogue, all of which help bring the country closer to the EU integration process.

This report should take into account the previous two Commission reports. Several issues still require further examination. It is crucial for Northern Macedonia to understand the importance of honoring its responsibilities and undertake the necessary reforms.

North Macedonia, I think, needs to adapt first, constitutional reforms, second, rule of law reform, which emphasizes on judicial independence and combating corruption, three, media reform, focused on anti-concentration measures, four, electoral reforms, five, built merit-based public administration, and six, strengthen oversight bodies around security and intelligence services.

I understand the rapporteur's challenges, but the language needs to be more precise in the text, so I will be tabling some amendments and I look forward in assisting the rapporteur and my fellow Shadow Supporters in reviewing them.

We should do everything possible to support Northern Macedonian paths towards European Union.

Translation:

Hvala, predsednik. Dragi kolegi,

uvodoma bi izrazil sožalje ob nedavni tragediji v Kočanih in vsem svojcem žrtev. Moje misli so z njimi. Zahvaljujem se g. Thomasu Waitzu za delo pri tem poročilu.

Severna Makedonija je v dveh desetletjih dosegla velik napredek.

Država je z reformami izboljšala konkurenčnost, napredovala v digitalizaciji, gospodarski politiki in prometu. Pozdravljam pobude kot so predpristopna pomoč, strategija rasti za Zahodni Balkan in dialog Jean Monnet, ki državo približujejo EU.

To poročilo naj upošteva prejšnji dve poročili Komisije. Več vprašanj še zahteva nadaljnjo preučitev. Ključno je, da Severna Makedonija razume pomen izpolnjevanja obveznosti in izvedbe reform. Severna Makedonija se mora prilagoditi.

Prvič, ustavne reforme, drugič, reforma pravne države, ki poudarja neodvisnost sodstva in boj proti korupciji, tretjič, medijska reforma, osredotočena na preprečevanje koncentracije lastništva, četrtič, volilne reforme, petič, javna uprava na podlagi znanja in sposobnosti, in šestič, okrepitev nadzornih organov za varnostne in obveščevalne službe.

Razumem izzive poročevalca, vendar mora biti besedilo natančnejše, zato bom vložil nekaj amandmajev in veselim se sodelovanja s poročevalcem in kolegi podporniki pri pregledu. Podprimo pot Severne Makedonije v EU.