



MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS

Mr Zoran Zaev
Socijaldemokratski sojuz na
Makedonija (SDSM)
Bihacka St. 8
1000 Skopje
Macedonia

The Hague,
May 2016

Dear Mr Zaev,

Des Zoran

As the Presidency of the Council of the European Union and a long-term supporter of your country, I am writing to you and the other signatories of the Pržino Agreement to express my serious concern about the political situation that has arisen. The international community remains firmly committed to assisting the parties involved. But full and unconditional implementation of the Agreement to which you have jointly subscribed and of the Urgent Reform Priorities is fundamental to your country's Euro-Atlantic future. There are no alternatives or shortcuts in this regard. It is therefore vital for the stability of your country and prosperity of your citizens that you and your fellow political leaders find a way out of the current crisis.

I wholeheartedly support Commissioner Hahn's statement that the breakdown of the Pržino Agreement would have very serious consequences, including for the EU accession process of your country. It is the responsibility of all political parties to urgently tackle the current crisis. In relation to this I would like to highlight two elements that must be addressed immediately.

First, the minimum criteria for credible elections as identified by the EU and the US in the January / February letters have not been met: 1) cleaning of the voters' list; 2) media reforms to ensure balance; and 3) separation of party and state, and ending the intimidation of voters. Free, fair and inclusive elections are crucial for the Pržino Agreement and indispensable to the democratic future of your country. These criteria should therefore be met without further delay.

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Second, the President's decision to pardon those convicted or under investigation in connection with the revelations in the intercepted communications, in particular those politicians currently under investigation by the Special Prosecutor's Office (SPO), needs to be reversed immediately. Allowing the Special Prosecutor's Office to fulfil its task without impediments is a vital part of the Pržino Agreement and essential to resolving the political crisis and restoring citizens' trust. I call upon all parties to work towards a revocation of this decision, as the prosecution of alleged offences and crimes is a basic principle of accountability and an intrinsic part of the rule of law.

The international community remains firmly committed to assisting the parties involved, but the key to solving this crisis lies with the political leadership as signatories of the Pržino Agreement. I therefore urge all of you to find a path out of this crisis immediately. For the sake of your constituents, the progress made on the Euro-Atlantic path should not be squandered.

Yours sincerely, *I am looking forward to our cooperation,*

Bert Koenders
Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of the Netherlands

This letter will also be sent to:

Mr Ali Ahmeti

Mr Nikola Gruevski

Mr Menduh Thaçi