Parliamentary Assembly
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COUNCIL OF EUROPE
CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE

Recommendation 1453 (2000)[1]

Honouring of obligations and commitments by "the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia"

Parliamentary Assembly

1. The Assembly refers to its Resolution 1213 (2000) on the honouring of obligations and commitments by "the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia" in which it:

1.1. congratulates the Macedonian nation for its hospitality towards refugees all through the Kosovo crisis, for its restraint and its determination to maintain democratic stability, as well as for its co-operation with the international community, all of which have contributed to easing the dangerous situation in the Balkans;

1.2. commends Macedonia on having preserved the fragile equilibrium between the Macedonian majority and the ethnic Albanian minority and encourages both sides to continue striving for full integration of this and the other minorities, within one state that is respectful of all citizens' rights and freedoms;

1.3. notes that Macedonian authorities have undertaken many creditable legislative initiatives which have been interrupted during the Kosovo crisis but should be re-launched and where necessary accelerated;

1.4. welcomes the signature and ratification of many conventions of the Council of Europe;

1.5. understands and accepts that, during the conflict and in the aftermath of the crisis, among the commitments listed in Opinion No. 191 (1995), priority was given by the Macedonian authorities to Macedonia's humanitarian obligations towards refugees and displaced persons from Kosovo and that action to honour other commitments was temporarily interrupted.

2. In conclusion, the Assembly is of the opinion that Macedonia has honoured its obligations and most of its commitments and that the remaining commitments are in the process of being fulfilled. The Assembly therefore considers the current procedure as closed. It will pursue its dialogue with the Macedonian authorities on the issues referred to in paragraph 13 of its Resolution 1213 (2000), or on any other issue arising from the obligations of Macedonia as a member state of the Council of Europe with a view to reopening the procedure in accordance with Resolution 1115 (1997), if further clarification or enhanced co-operation would seem desirable.

3. The Assembly recalls the appreciation of the Council of Europe of the sacrifices made by Macedonia during the Kosovo crisis and the other member states' solidarity with the enormous damage caused to Macedonia's economy.

4. For these reasons, it recommends that the Committee of Ministers:

4.1. invite the member states to help Macedonia restore its economy as quickly as possible, in accordance with the Stability Pact for Southeastern Europe;

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1. Assembly debate on 5 April 2000 (12th Sitting) (see Doc. 8669, report of the Committee on the Honouring of Obligations and commitments by Member States of the Council of Europe, rapporteurs: MM. Dumitrescu and Sinka). Text adopted by theAssembly on 5 April 2000 (12th Sitting).

4.2. within the framework of its programme of Activities for the Development and Consolidation of Democratic Stability (ADACS), step up the assistance of the Council of Europe with the revision of Macedonian legislation in respect of higher education, citizenship, the media and police training.