Parliamentary Assembly
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COUNCIL OF EUROPE
CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE

Resolution 1261 (2001)[1]
Final version

Situation in "the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia"

Parliamentary Assembly

1. The Parliamentary Assembly recalls its Resolution 1255 (2001) on the situation in "the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia" adopted on 28 June 2001. It reaffirms the validity of the principles on which this text was based, in particular the full respect for the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Macedonia[2], respect for the rights of all citizens and ethnic groups, the condemnation of the armed action by ethnic Albanian extremist groups and the call for their complete disarmament as well as the condemnation of all extremist violence in general.

2. In conformity with this resolution, the Political Affairs Committee established an *ad hoc* committee, which visited Macedonia[2] from 16 to 19 July 2001. The Assembly takes note of the statement made by this *ad hoc* committee at the end of its visit, which concluded that the measures and recommendations contained in Resolution 1255 (2001) were justified and should be implemented without further delay.

3. The Assembly is alarmed by the fact that too many members of the two main communities in Macedonia[2] do not seem to be ready to live together in a common state. Therefore, it calls for more direct involvement of the Council of Europe in community work to support all those who want to establish the social, cultural and political conditions necessary to maintain the integrity of the country in the interest of all citizens living there.

4. The Assembly reiterates its firm belief that there is no other solution to this conflict than a peaceful one. Consequently, it expresses its serious concern that violent activities are still ongoing and that the tension and feelings of insecurity among the population remain high, in particular in the north-western part of the country. In this connection, it condemns the recent bomb attacks in Skopje as well as the destruction of homes, the forced displacement of citizens, the burning of their houses and plundering by extremists, as well as the desecration and destruction of churches, mosques and other buildings, and calls for an immediate dissolution of all paramilitary structures.

5. The Assembly welcomes the signature, on 13 August 2001 in Skopje, of the Framework Agreement, which aims at securing the future of Macedonia's[2] democracy and permitting the development of closer and more integrated relations between the Republic of Macedonia and the Euro-Atlantic community.

6. The Assembly considers that measures foreseen by this agreement give satisfaction to the Assembly's previous demands and correspond to the Council of Europe's generally accepted standards. Accordingly, it calls on all political forces to declare their support for the agreement and to work towards its implementation, in particular the approval of the resulting constitutional amendments and legislative modifications by the parliament in accordance with the agreed schedule and through the regular parliamentary procedure.

7. The Assembly considers that the Macedonian executive power should co-operate actively with the parliament and civil society during the implementation of this agreement.

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1. Assembly debate on 27 September 2001 (30th Sitting) (see Doc. 9234, report of the Political Affairs Committee, rapporteur: Mr Jakič). Text adopted by the Assembly on 27 September 2001 (30th Sitting).
2. The use in the text of the term "Macedonia" is for descriptive purposes and the convenience of the reader: it does not prejudge the position of the Assembly on the question of the name of the state.

8. The Assembly is also seriously preoccupied about the situation of internally displaced persons and calls for adequate security and confidence-building measures to be introduced in order to ensure their safe and sustainable return. It is also preoccupied by the humanitarian situation of the people affected by the conflict, both those who are displaced and those who remain in the villages which have been damaged by military activities, and calls for increased assistance to those people, especially for rebuilding their destroyed homes, in co-operation with international humanitarian organisations.

9. The Assembly considers that the crisis in the Republic of Macedonia[2] necessitates the increased involvement of Unmik and Kfor to control the borders with Macedonia, particularly in order to prevent illegal activities.

10. The Assembly considers that as soon as the collection of weapons has been successfully concluded a smooth transition from the end of the Nato operation “Essential Harvest”, foreseen on 26 September 2001, towards the presence of international observers and of an armed international force with a mandate from the United Nations at the invitation of the Government of Macedonia[2] would be beneficial for the normalisation of the situation and for the return of internally displaced persons. The Assembly also reiterates its call for an amnesty to be declared for all those who have not committed war crimes.

11. Neighbouring countries must provide Macedonia[2] with all possible co-operation and assistance to help it to overcome the present crisis and, especially, to act resolutely to prevent all arms supplies from reaching the extremists.

12. The Assembly calls on the Government of Macedonia[2] to fully co-operate with the Council of Europe as regards the adoption and the realisation of the programmes aimed at assisting the country in the implementation of the Framework Agreement.

13. At the same time, the financial support without delay of the international community for the reconstruction efforts as well as for the planned administrative reforms remain a key element in the successful implementation of the agreement and for reaching lasting stability.

14. The Assembly asks its Political Affairs Committee to follow the political developments in the country and to report back to it when necessary. At the same time, it calls on its Monitoring Committee to intensify the post-monitoring dialogue with Macedonia[2] and urges the Macedonian authorities to fully co-operate in this process.