



Thessaloniki, February 2016

In view of the recent increased activity with regard to the matter of the name of the state of FYROM, and following the initiative of academics and business people in our city involving a broad spectrum of more than 1,500 Thessaloniki residents (mayors, scholars, academics, physicians, senior military officers, members of the judiciary, lawyers, teachers, entrepreneurs and many others), we have decided to forward to you the following resolution:

RESOLUTION - APPEAL

As Greeks, we believe in and support the right of the state of Skopje to join the international organisations of the European Union and NATO. But we wish to make it clear that we have no intention of accepting its use of the historical name of Macedonia. As Macedonian Greeks, we feel it is a matter of honour and our responsibility to prevent the annihilation of our historical and cultural heritage for the sake of political expediency.

*We would remind you that for more than 20 years, the multi-ethnic state of FYROM has systematically violated, contrary to Greek interests, the letter and spirit of the Interim Accord of 1995, the related international treaties and the European *acquis communautaire*. It has not complied with the UN Security Council resolutions (817/1993, 845/1993); it has ignored the resolutions of the European Union in Brussels on 16.12.1991, Guimaraes on 3.5.1992, Lisbon on 27.6.1992 and Edinburgh on 12.12.1992, and of NATO in Bucharest in 2008.*

On the contrary, invoking its formal recognition by various countries by the name 'Macedonia', and the recognition and political support of the USA in particular, it persists in using the historically unfounded 'Macedonian' ethnonym, in defiance of both the historical truth and the Greek stance on the matter. Moreover, it insists on the self-appointed (and exclusive) self-determination of the inhabitants of its territories as 'Macedonians' and its Slavic language as 'Macedonian'. And, finally, FYROM's leaders continue to perpetuate this initial deception by invoking their 'Macedonianism' to promote irredentist aspirations at the expense of Greek Macedonia, their neighbouring territory and the largest region of the Greek state. Essentially, this goes beyond an attempt at ethnogenesis (and indeed of a belatedly created peculiar state), as it involves the cultivation of a climate of tension turned against a neighbouring and friendly country - Greece, to the territory of which historical Macedonia belongs. This climate of ahistorical and outdated 'irredentism' is fuelled by a variety of actions, beginning with the distorted history taught in schools and ending with the bizarre erection of statues depicting historic figures from ancient Macedonian history, and similar renaming of streets and airports, among other examples. FYROM is undertaking similar actions with regard to Bulgaria.

As Macedonian Greeks, we cannot stand by and watch without protest the appropriation of our own historical and national identity in the name of some political expediency with unspecified objectives and unknown impacts. Peoples who are in search of some national name in order to redefine themselves have no right to do so at the expense of others, and especially of neighbouring peoples.

Besides, even our own neighbours have occasionally admitted that such tactics lead to impasse. We recall:

- the statement of the first FYROM President, Kiro Gligorov, in 1992 that its residents are Slavs, that they came more than 1,000 years after the kingdom of Philip and Alexander the Great and that they have no relation to the Greek state of the ancient Macedonians;

- the letter by the distinguished American professor of Archaeology at University of California, Berkeley, Stephen G. Miller, published in Archaeology Magazine of the Archaeological Institute of America;

- the letter signed by 374 university professors from all over the world to President of the United States Barack Obama denouncing Skopje's usurpation of the name 'Macedonia' and decrying the distortion of history;

- the fact that up until World War II, the Yugoslavian region of the current FYROM was not called 'Macedonia', nor were its inhabitants 'Macedonians'.

Finally, we would remind you of similar incidences in the past (the cases of Austria, the United Kingdom, the Czech Republic, Serbia and others, for example), where attempts were made at the improper use of a 'national' name of a country, but where the names subsequently were required to change.

In view of the above: We call on those receiving our plea to carry out the duties inherent in their position in order to:

- make it impossible for FYROM to become a member of any international organisation under the ethnonym of 'Macedonia';

- to deprive this state of a platform for its claims contrary to the interests of its neighbouring countries (Greece and Bulgaria) to the extent imposed by the principles of good neighbourliness;

- to discourage the use of education to cultivate irredentist propaganda;

- to encourage the leadership of FYROM to comply with the aforementioned resolutions of the UN, the EU and NATO;

- to emphasise the need for the national name ultimately selected for FYROM to be consistent with and reflect its own history and the cultural heritage of its own citizens;

- to make the governments of countries which hastened to recognise FYROM with the name of 'Macedonia' aware of the potential impact their stance may have on the stability of the Balkans.

Turning to Greece's allies, partners and the international bodies, we would like to make it perfectly clear that if a proposed solution to the issue of the name results in the humiliation of the citizens of our country (and indeed at a time when our economic and social resilience is being sorely tested), the confidence of Greeks in these institutions will be undermined, and the stability and security of the broader region of south-eastern Europe will be upset.

We are certain that our thoughts will warrant your due attention and that we can rely on your support. We thank you.

Respectfully,

The Coordinators:

Pericles Mitkas

Achilleas Zapranis

Nikolaos Valergakis

Emmanouil Vlahogiannis

Athanasios Karathanasis

Rector, Aristotle University of Thessaloniki

Rector, University of Macedonia

President, Thessaloniki Bar Association

1st Vice-president, Thessaloniki Chamber of Commerce and Industry

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The signatories are listed on the following pages:

A non-exhaustive list of the signatories:

Bishops: His All-Holiness Metropolitan Anthimos of Thessaloniki; His Eminence Metropolitan Ioustinos of Nea Krini and Kalamaria; His Eminence Metropolitan Varnavas of Neapolis and Stavroupolis. **Academicians:** Tereza Valala; Marianos Karasis; Dimitrios Lazarides; Nikolaos Moutsopoulos; Ioannis Papapanagiotou; Nikolaos Stephanides; Antonios-Aimilios Tachiaos; Achilleas Tourkantonis; Antonios Trakatellis, former Vice-President of the European Parliament and former Rector of AUTH; **Rectors:** Pericles Mitkas, Rector of Aristotle University of Thessaloniki (AUTH); Achilleas Zapranis, Rector of the University of Macedonia; Nicolas Moussiopoulos, Vice-President of the International Hellenic University (IHU); Anastasios Manthos, former Rector of AUTH; Michael Papadopoulos, former Rector of AUTH; Olympia Gimba-Tsiambiri, former Vice-Rector of AUTH; Andreas Giannakoudakis, former Vice-Rector of AUTH; Panagiotis Ladas, former Vice-Rector of AUTH; Christoforos Koutitas, former Vice-President of IHU. **Regional Governor** and Deputy Regional Governors of Central Macedonia: Apostolos Tzitzikostas, Regional Governor of Central Macedonia; Athena Aedona-Athanasiadou; Haris Aidonopoulos; Voula Patoulidou; Yiannis Tachmatzidis and Ioanna Tzaki, Deputy Regional Governors of Central Macedonia; Antonios Gyftopoulos, President of the Regional Council of Central Macedonia. **Mayors of the wider Thessaloniki area:** Ignatios Kaitezidis, Pylaia-Chortiatis; Lazaros Kyrizoglou, Ampelokipoi-Menemeni; Theodoros Papadopoulos, Thermi; Ioannis Mavromatis, Thermaikos; Mimis Fotopoulos, Delta; Simos Daniilidis, Neapolis-Sykyes; Petros Soulas, Kordelio-Evosmos; Dimitris Dermoutzidis, Pavlou Mela; Asterios Gavotsis, Oraiakastro. **University Professors:** Georgios Dellios, Dean of the Faculty of Law; Giorgos Karakioulakis, Dean of the Faculty of Health Sciences; George Hasapis, Head of the School of Electrical and Computer Engineering; Ioannis Tsoukalas, former Member of the European Parliament and Head of the School of Informatics; Pantelis Nigdelis, Head of the School of History and Archaeology; Konstantinos Christou, Head of the School of Pastoral and Social Theology; Panagiotis Skaltsis, Head of the School of Theology; Konstantinos Bikos, Head of the School of Philosophy and Education Theocharis Zagkas, Head of the School of Forestry and Natural Environment; Kyriakos Anastasiades, Michail Daniilides, Ioannis Kanellos, Dimitrios Karakostas-Manousakis, Haralampos Karvounis, Antonios Michalopoulos, Ioannis Nimatoudes, Konstantinos Polyzoides, Miltiades Tsaligopoulos, Apostolos Hadjitolios, and Anastasios Orologas, Clinical Directors at AHEPA University Hospital Thessaloniki; Ioannis Konstandinidis Clinical Director at Papageorgiou University Hospital; Gakis Dimitrios, Transpalnt surgeon, Epameinondas Kriezis and Theodoros Tsiboukis, former Heads of the Department of Electronics, AUTH and Stavros Efremidis, Emeritus Professor of Radiology. **The Honorary Chief of Staff** Frangos Frangoulis and Lieutenant General Nikolaos Milioritsas, President of the Thessaloniki Association of Retired Officers. **Members of Agencies:** Dimitrios Bakatselos, Chairman of the Thessaloniki Chamber of Commerce and Industry (TCCI); Emmanouil Vlachogiannis, Vice-President of TCCI; Konstantinos Chantzaridis, General Secretary of TCCI; Konstantinos Karoulis, Treasurer of TCCI; Panagiotis Papadopoulos, President of the Thessaloniki Chamber of Small- and Medium-Sized Industries; Paris Billias, President of the Technical Chamber of Macedonia; Athanasios Saropoulos, President of the Geotechnical Chamber of Macedonia; Christos Mamalis, President of the Economic Chamber; Vyron Antoniadis, Efthimiadis Nikolaos, Vasilios Panoutsos, Alekos Bakatselos and Dimitrios Symeonides, honorary presidents and former presidents of the Federation of Industries of Northern Greece (FING); Panagiotis Tsaraboulides, President of the Thessaloniki Labour Centre; Konstantinos Mellios, President of the Thessaloniki Port Authority; the President and members of the Board of Directors of the Society for Macedonian Studies, Athanasios Karathanasis,

Konstantinos Christou, Vasilios Pappas, Haralambos Tsitsibikos, Konstantinos Plastiras, Theodoros Dardavesis, Evanthia Konstantinou or Tegou-Stergiadou, Georgios Nakos, Georgios Tsotsos; Veniamin Karakostanoglou, head of the former Thessaloniki office

of the Stability Pact for South-Eastern Europe; Eleftherios Hatzopoulos and Christos Takas, members of the Board of Directors of Transparency International-Greece. **Presidents of Associations:** Athanasios Exadaktylos, President of the Medical Association of Thessaloniki; Athanasios Nikolaides, former President of the Medical Association of Thessaloniki; Nikolaos Valergakis, President of the Thessaloniki Bar Association; Dimitrios Garoufas, former President of the Thessaloniki Bar Association; Kyriakos Theodosiades, President of the Pharmacists of Thessaloniki; Dimitrios Vagionas, former President of the Pharmacists of Thessaloniki; Pantelis Philippides, President of the Thessaloniki Trade Association, and Panos Menexopoulos, Vice-President; Ioanna Chrousala, Chairman of the Thessaloniki Notary Association; Georgios Solemetzides, former President of Rotary Club, Greece-Bulgaria region; Leonidas Papadopoulos, President of the Charitable Brotherhood of Men from Thessaloniki; Pantelis Savvidis, President of the AUTH Alumni Association, Ioannis Tzanis, President of the “Philologos” Alumni Association of the Faculty of Philosophy of AUTH; Stavros Bengas, President of the Association of Rice Industries of Greece; Georgios Tanimanides, President of the “Panagia Soumela” Association; Elias Louloudas, Thessaloniki Regional Scout Head; Iro Fouroutzi, President of the local Council of the Greek Guiding Association; Kaiti Tsiotra and Nana Brenda, President and Vice-President of the Lyceum Club of Greek Women, Thessaloniki; Nikolaos Makrantonakis, President of the Friends of Thessaloniki History Centre; Vyron Nathaniel, President of the Greek Scientific Association; Pavlos Efthymiou, former President of the Greek Scientific Association; Georgios Tzoulis, President of the Federation of West Macedonia Associations; Petros Petrakakis, President of the Pan-Cretan Brotherhood of Macedonia; Erotokritos Theotokatos, President of the “Agiou Pantes” Association of Large Families; Dimitrios Tolios, President of the Thessaloniki Commando Club; Vasilios Kafkias, President of the Epirotic Society of Thessaloniki; Georgios Girtzimanakis, President of the Thessaloniki Thracian Association; Pantelis Kalantzantonakis, President of the “Agios Pavlos” Pan-Hellenic Association of Macedonian Veteran Descendants, Violeta Papathanasiou, President of the Thessaloniki Association of Monastiriots; Michail Kaiklis, President of the Karipeio Foundation for Macedonian-Thracian Studies; Kaiti Gaki-Kapsi, President of the Association of Thessalonians in Athens; and Nikolaos Vasileiades, President of the Association of Floriniots of Thessaloniki.

On being informed of our action, the following bodies also requested to sign the resolution: Bill Mataragas, President of the Hellenic American National Council; Nina Gatzoulis, Coordinator of the Committee of World Pan-Macedonian Associations; Nick Fassoulas, Coordinator of the Pan-Macedonian Associations of Australia and President of the Pan-Macedonian Association of New South Wales (Sydney, Australia); Demetris Demetris Yantsulis, President of the Pan-Macedonian Association of Canada; Fr. Panteleimon Tsorbatzoglou, President of the Pan-Macedonian Association of Europe; Amyntas Papathanasiou, President of the Pan-Macedonian Association of Africa; Dimitris Minas, President of the Pan-Macedonian Association of Victoria (Melbourne, Australia); George Genimahaliotis, President of the Pan-Macedonian Association of South Australia (Adelaide, Australia); Paul Afkos, President of the Pan-Macedonian Association of West Australia (Perth, Australia); James Karas, President of the Pan-Macedonian Association of Ontario (Canada); Anastasia Svetzouri, President of the Macedonian Society of Great Britain.

The full list (by title/position) of all those who signed this resolution is available at www.ems.gr