

SOCIETY FOR MACEDONIAN STUDIES

RESOLUTION

The Society for Macedonian Studies expresses its concern regarding developments in the negotiations with the Government of Skopje. Some progress is certainly being made on certain issues. It is likely that the neighboring state will accept the need to make changes to its constitution as well as the need to adopt a new name that shall apply both internationally and for domestic use. It seems, however, that this is to be coupled with an agreement on an all-purpose appellation that includes the name *Macedonia* with a geographic designation. As a result, the question arises as to whether the national identity and language of the citizens of Skopje will be characterized as “Macedonian”. The official name of the state and nation comprise the main vehicle for Skopje’s spurious “irredentism”, which, in reality, is simply expansionism. Giving way on the issue of the name will mean that we accept that there is a Macedonian state and nation, which, in the future, can’t help but claim the whole territory which it believes to be rightfully theirs.

For all of the above reasons, the Society for Macedonian Studies firmly reiterates its resolution of 16 January 2018 and

UTTERLY REJECTS

- a. The concession of the name *Macedonia* through its assignation with geographical or other signifiers;
- b. The Greek side giving way with respect to the neighboring country’s employment of a national identity and language characterized as “Macedonian”.

WE THEREFORE REQUEST

That Greek diplomacy insists upon the removal of all such elements that might promote Skopje’s expansionism, such as relevant articles in the state constitution, books and other texts – as a precondition for any possible mutually acceptable resolution of the name issue;
And that the political leadership of our country speaks with a unified voice to protect the rights of Macedonia.

THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Thessaloniki, 1st of June 2018