



**The Minister of Foreign Affairs paid a visit to the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia - 27/11/2012**

The Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Cyprus, Dr Erato Kozakou- Marcoullis, in her capacity as chair of the General Affairs Council of the EU on EU enlargement, visited the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia yesterday. Minister Marcoullis' visit to the country constitutes part of the series of visits that she has paid, in her aforementioned capacity, to EU candidate countries and potential candidates.

Dr Marcoullis had a meeting with her counterpart Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Mr Nikola Poposki, with whom she discussed primarily the country's European perspective. She was also received by the President of the Republic, Mr Gjorgje Ivanov. During her short stay she also met with the Deputy Prime Minister in charge of European Affairs, and Member of the Albanian party DUI (Democratic Union for Integration), Mrs Teuta Arifis and with the Head of the EU Delegation to the country, Mr Aivo Orav.

During her meetings Minister Marcoullis reaffirmed the EU's support for the European perspective of the country and congratulated her interlocutors for the progress achieved so far by the country within the framework of the High Level Accession Dialogue. She also encouraged her interlocutors to continue and further intensify the relevant efforts for internal reforms.

Dr Marcoullis underlined the EU's principled position as regards good neighbourly relations, including the fact that a negotiated and mutually acceptable solution to the name issue, under the UN auspices, remains essential to this end. In this respect and in view of the General Affairs Council on December 11, the Foreign Minister also expressed the hope that relevant developments will permit decisive progress as regards the European perspective of the country.

The Minister of Foreign Affairs departed from Skopje for Berlin yesterday afternoon.

**(Last Update: 28/11/2012)**