

Vecer
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Kosovo has no pretensions towards its neighbors

“Macedonia’s place is in the European Union, and you have been given clear perspectives for membership. Since France and Holland rejected the European Constitution, the Union is not the same any more, but its expansion will continue. However, you must guarantee that the Union will benefit from its future expansion and therefore you have to know how to deal with the challenges in your country, in order to contribute to the common European values” Doris Pack, member of the European Parliament, said during yesterday’s lecture in Skopje. She stressed that membership in the Union is the key to the stability and prosperity of the Balkans. Still, the countries in the region should previously carry out a lot of reforms and satisfy the Copenhagen criteria. According to her, the key to integration is the regional collaboration between the Balkan countries and the fulfillment of the obligations accepted with the Stabilization and Association Treaty. However, each country will be rated individually and will have to earn by itself the membership in the Union, Pack considers.

The euro-diplomat Pack reckons it is still early for the annulment of the EU visa regime towards Macedonia. “If the European Union ends the visa regime, a lot of people from the Balkans will come to EU member countries and never leave. That is why it is of primary importance for the region to maintain its stability, so that young people would want to stay and work here, and only then the visa barrier may be lifted” she said. Pack, however announced that the EU will open a discussion for bringing certain relief in the visa regime for Macedonia at the end of this year. Issuing long-term visas and relief of the visa procedure for businessmen and students is a possible option.

She also made a reference to the future negotiations for the status of Kosovo. “One must be careful and find an acceptable solution. Kosovo must not have territorial pretensions towards Macedonia, Serbia and Montenegro or Albania when the final status is determined, nor must it demand alterations of the borders”, Doris Pack pointed out, with reference that the government and parliament in Kosovo will have to work hard to implement democracy.

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