

**President the Assembly of the Republic of Macedonia, Mr.
Liubisha Georgievski**

**Address at the Conference of the Speakers of European Union
Parliaments,**

Bratislava, Slovakia, 24 - 26 May 2007

(Topic II)

Distinguished President,
Distinguished Colleagues,

Parliaments, as citizens' true representatives, play an exceptionally important role - both at national and European level - in the development and enhancement of the awareness for the strategic goals of the future united Europe. It is exactly this Conference, along with the proposed documents - namely the *Hague Guidelines* and *Report of the Working Group* in the preparation of which the candidate countries participated as observers - that confirm the role and responsibility of parliaments and inter-parliamentary cooperation in the further development of the EU, its institutional arrangement and the future of Europe, in general. Both bilateral and multilateral parliamentary cooperation is especially important for the countries that currently have candidate status, and for all the aspirant countries, as well.

Namely, the entire process of harmonisation with the European norms and standards passes through our parliaments. In the process of the adoption of regulation, as well as its implementation, the cooperation with the parliaments of EU Member-States, the European Parliament,

and in a number of aspects with the European Commission, allows us to carry out this harmonisation in a faster and superior manner.

I, also, see another dimension to that cooperation. It derives from the fact that the spirit of parliamentarism and the institution of parliament, which were born at European soil, due to certain objective historical events, had been simply interrupted in our country and substituted by an idea for an absolute truth and dictatorship. It has been exactly through this cooperation that we have now been conquering anew the spirit and the idea of parliamentarism, the role and place of parliament.

Distinguished Colleagues, Ladies and Gentlemen,

The Assembly of the Republic of Macedonia dedicates great attention to the inter-parliamentary cooperation. In that context we have particularly focused our efforts on cooperation among parliaments of the countries of the region, regardless of their status and position in relation to the EU. Our commitment and conviction is that, through parliamentary cooperation, we will, first of all, overcome our historical antagonisms, demonstrating in that way that we have truly understood the European spirit and principles.

In that sense I should like to stress the role of COSAP as an inter-parliamentary body of the countries of South-Eastern Europe. I should remind you that in April, the Macedonian Parliament hosted the COSAP Conference. I should at the same time stress the cooperation and the assistance, carried out in various forms, with parliaments of the EU

Member States. Naturally, this cooperation process may and must continuously grow.

Therefore, I hope that this Conference will represent a significant step forward in the inter-parliamentary cooperation and realisation of the idea for a united Europe.