

Proposal for a solution of the name issue between the FYR Macedonia and the Hellenic Republic

by Goran Popcanovski and Andreas Schwarz

The current differences between the FYR Macedonia and the Hellenic Republic in the so-called name issue can be solved by consideration of a couple of approaches (International Laws, Right of self determination, Territorial principle, etc.). All relevant issues, which led to these differences, will be considered, reviewed, and finally concluded in a bilateral treaty between both parties.

The so-called name issue originally, does not question the name of the FYR Macedonia, it questions further aspects like the overall history of Macedonia as a whole, its chronological classification, and the identity of the people in the FYR Macedonia. In this proposal it will be differed between a Macedonia as a Greek region as part of the Hellenic Republic and the FYR Macedonia as an independent subject regarding International Laws, it will be differed personally between Greek Macedonians as part of the Greek nation and ethnic Macedonians as an independent nation and it will be differed chronological between their several parts of the complete history of Macedonia.

From our point of view the name issue between the FYR Macedonia and the Hellenic Republic is the upcoming of a new Macedonian question, which superposed the classic Macedonian question and leads to an extended Macedonian question. While the classic Macedonian question is mostly solved, the new Macedonian question considers the clarification of the material meaning of the expressions "Macedonia" and "Macedonian" related to various aspects. The solution has to base on scientific findings and the International law, and it has to be implemented by both parties and their policies.

The main recommendations for solving the extended Macedonian question and their resulting name issue are following:

1. The FYR Macedonia will be recognized by all countries, all international institutions and organisation like the United Nations Organisations, in which the FYR Macedonia is a member, under the name "Republic of Macedonia". With the recognition of the constitutional name, the provisional name "Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia" will not be used anymore. Under this provisional name, the FYR Macedonia has become a member of the UN on 08th of April 1993.
2. In bilateral relations between the FYR Macedonia and the Hellenic Republic a different name as to pt. 1 can be used. Until a solution for this name is found, on behalf of the Hellenic Republic, the name "FYR Macedonia" will be used.
3. The definition of the attribute "Macedonian" is not exclusive for one party. To ensure a clear differentiation between both parties, a country code identification is needed, as "Macedonian (MK)" or "Macedonian (GR)". If this differentiation is not applicable, another method has to be used to assign the attribute to the relevant party.

4. The members of the Macedonian state-nations (citizens of the Republic of Macedonia) will be named as "Macedonians (MK)" The members of the Macedonian cultural nation will be named as "ethnic Macedonians". A clear differentiation to the Greek Macedonians is given, which identify themselves primarily as Greeks.
5. The language which is spoken by the ethnic Macedonians will be named "Macedonian (MK)".
6. An independent expert committee (Macedonian, Greek and international experts named by the UN) will be set up by the United Nations to discuss historical issues like the extended Macedonian question, to evaluate them in a scientific manner and define results and recommendations, which have to be recognized by both parties officially. The United Nations define the formation of the international members within this independent expert committee and monitor their work permanently. The members of the Macedonian and Greek side will be named by their countries. As a result of their findings, the expert committee will clarify the different parts of the History of Macedonia by claiming which one is a Greek part and which one belongs to the FYR Macedonia. Furthermore, the relationship between the present Macedonia and the antique Macedonia has to be evaluated as following:
 - a) Of what kind were the antique Macedonia and the antique Macedonians?
 - b) Of what kind are the present Macedonia and the present Macedonians?
 - c) What is the relationship between the antique Macedonia and the antique Macedonians and the present Macedonia and the present Macedonians?
7. Generally, the FYR Macedonia and the Hellenic Republic agree that the Antique Macedonia is not identical with the present Macedonia. Furthermore they agree that a solution of the name issue has to be assumed from the present Macedonia. A possible partial identity of the present Macedonia with the Antique Macedonia will remain unaffected and has to be clarified in pt. 6.
8. As long as the expert committee has not provided a final clarification for the relationship between the FYR Macedonia and the Antique Macedonia, the FYR Macedonia officially disclaims any references towards the Antique Macedonia.
9. Until the expert committee does not define a different final agreement, the FYR Macedonia won't raise an objection towards the Hellenic Republic if they refer to the Antique Macedonia.
10. The ethnic Macedonian Minority in the Hellenic Republic as such will be recognized. Elementary minority rights according to international standards will be guaranteed and ensured by the Hellenic Republic.
11. The Greek people, who live in the Greek region of Macedonia, which identify themselves due to the territorial principal as Macedonians, will be called "Greek Macedonians".

12. The FYR Macedonia will not claim territorial claims on the Greek region of Macedonia, neither on the Greek part of the Macedonian History and Culture.

The implementation of the mentioned aspects will be fulfilled by international and national policy (Media, Education, official publications, etc.) by both sides, the FYR Macedonia and the Hellenic Republic. This agreement will be stated in a treaty under international law. For coordination reasons of the implementation of this treaty under international laws and the clarification of all open issues, a common council will be founded. The same number of members of this council will be from both countries, the FYR Macedonia and the Hellenic Republic. Additionally, independent members will be part of this council as well.

A one-sided change of the name of the FYR Macedonia, like proposed in other solutions for this name issue, will not close the differences due to the extended Macedonian questions as cause for this name issue. Therefore a one-sided change of the name is inappropriate. The proposed solution is more effective and appropriate to solve the name issue. Therefore this solution provides a real alternative, which should be aimed by all parties.

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