

September 25, 2009

Press Release:

The Bulgarian Cultural Club – Skopje is very concerned with the contents of the two-volume encyclopedia published by the Academy of Sciences and Arts of the Republic of Macedonia and financed by the Government of the Republic of Macedonia.

We demand that all texts in the encyclopedia that falsify the history of the Macedonian Bulgarians be corrected so as to correspond to the facts that have been established by renowned international historians. The encyclopedia has to comply with world science that confirms the Bulgarian ethnic, cultural and religious heritage of prominent figures that belong to the history of both countries – Republic of Macedonia and Republic of Bulgaria. This includes the period from the Bulgarian Middle Ages (St. Kliment Ohridski and Tsar Samuil), through the Bulgarian National Revival (Kiril Peychinovich, Rayko Zhinzifov, the Miladinov brothers, Grigor Parlichev, Kuzman Shapkarev) to the Bulgarian National Liberation Movement (Damyam Gruev, Hristo Matov, Gotse Delchev and all members of the IMARO) and the periods between the First and Second World Wars.

We protest against discrepancies and misinterpretations of history in the education system of the Republic of Macedonia that makes its citizens hostages of a policy that causes disagreements and undermines good neighborly relations which we believe is the main obstacle to the Euro-Atlantic integration process. We are also seriously concerned about the lack of progress in countering the “hate speech”, particularly in the media and the education system, against neighboring states.

Understanding the necessity of the promotion of the joint celebration of the country’s common cultural and historic heritage with its neighbors, and especially with the Republic of Bulgaria, we urge the European Union officials and the relevant diplomatic representatives in the Republic of Macedonia to do everything that is possible to ensure compliance with the relevant EU and Council of Europe standards.

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