



UNIVERSITY "ST. KLIMENT OHRIDSKI" - BITOLA (NORTH MACEDONIA)

FACULTY OF LAW

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Dear ladies and gentlemen, dear Dr. Kamil Zajączkowski - Director of the Center for Europe at the Warsaw University; fellow speakers and guests; dear friends,

First, may I thank Dr. Kamil Zajączkowski and many dear friends of the Center for Europe for inviting me to this great event for all of us. Today's event marks the transition from silver to ruby jubilee and is a strong impetus for the further development of the Center for Europe into a respectable and established scientific institution in Europe and the world.

Today, on this solemn day, I am here in front of all of you who should be proud of the creation and development of the Center for Europe.

First, our cooperation started in the area of academic exchange when our colleague Dr. Artur Adamczyk first visited Bitola. It then expanded to joint academic initiatives, joint lectures, creating and conducting respectable scientific journals, co-organization of international scientific conferences, roundtables, projects, and the like - but first, activities that have created an unbreakable and, I believe, lasting friendship between our colleagues and our both institutions - the Center for Europe and the Faculty of Law in Bitola.

Today, we can look to the future with optimism, motivated by progress made so far and the need to advance our mutual relationship through intensifying bilateral cooperation and cooperation in European projects.

On this day, I want to mention three reasons to be cheerful.

First, confirmation of our friendship,

Second, bringing our institutions, countries, and colleagues closer together, and

Third, establishing new and fruitful connections for the future.

However, even if I open on a cheerful note, I would not like to give the impression that our work here is done - far from it.

There is much to do over the coming years, particularly as North Macedonia gets closer to the European Union. The cooperation with the Center for Europe and the cooperation with fraternal

Poland and the fraternal Polish people let them be one of the tiles that pave the way to the integration of my country - North Macedonia, to the full membership in the European Union.

The Macedonian and Polish peoples are nations very close to each other, nations that have identical histories, sufferings, identical destinies but one goal - building a modern Europe based on the values of peace, democracy, and mutual understanding.

We can do today to cement our friendship and work diligently to advance our cooperation and connection in the interest of our common future - guided by the highest values of modern civilization.

Moreover, as academic community members, we should work together to preserve and promote mutual connections in the spirit of honesty, diligence, and scientific objectivity, and the peace, democracy, and prosperity of our peoples and Europe as a whole.

Also, I would like to greet the Director Kamil Zajączkowski and emphasize his capacity, skills and knowledge in the management of the Center for Europe, as well as to congratulate him for his tireless contribution to the development and international networking of the Center for Europe and wish him more years of successful work and strength to deal with challenges. Director Kamil - go ahead! You are on the right track!

Ladies and gentlemen, let me once again thank the Center for Europe for inviting me to address this great event. You have done me a great honor!

On my personal and behalf of the Faculty of Law in Bitola, I once again congratulate you on the jubilee and sincerely wish our friendship and cooperation to develop at an even stronger pace in the future.

And let our *spiritus movens* be: Staying connected!

27.05.2022

Dean of the Faculty of Law

Prof. Dr. sc Goran Ilik

