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NOTE

From: Presidency
On: 18 July 2022
To: Delegations

Subject: ENLARGEMENT
- Accession negotiations with North Macedonia
- Statement by the Republic of Bulgaria

Statement by the Republic of Bulgaria

With reference to paragraph 7 of the Council Conclusions on [Enlargement - North Macedonia and Albania] from [July 2022],

With reference to paragraph 22 of the Negotiating framework for the accession of the Republic of North Macedonia to the EU and the mention therein of the official language of the Republic of North Macedonia, according to its Constitution, as language of translation of the EU acquis,

Bulgaria hereby reiterates the following:

The Bulgarian literary language has six regional written norms (codifications). Three of them are based on dialects and three on the Bulgarian literary language. The creation of the “Macedonian language” in 1944/5 in former Yugoslavia was an act of secondary codification (re-codification) based on the Bulgarian literary language, additionally “enriched” with vernacular forms, thus simulating a dialect-based “natural” process.

Any reference to the official language of the Republic of North Macedonia in official/unofficial documents/positions/statements or others of the EU and its institutions, bodies, offices and agencies should be understood strictly in accordance with the Constitution of this state and shall not in any way be interpreted as a recognition by the Republic of Bulgaria of a “Macedonian language”.

Bulgaria continues to adhere to the language clause set forth in the Treaty of friendship, good-neighbourliness and cooperation signed in Skopje on 1 August 2017 between the Republic of Bulgaria and the Republic of North Macedonia for the purposes of bilateral treaties/agreements/memoranda and others between the two countries.
