

## 2025 Commission report on North Macedonia

During the June 2026 plenary session, the European Parliament is due to vote on an own-initiative resolution on the European Commission's 2025 report on North Macedonia. The Committee on Foreign Affairs (AFET) report, adopted on 3 June, recalls its full support for the country's EU integration and reiterates the European Council's call from its 2024 conclusions on North Macedonia to accelerate the completion of the constitutional changes needed to open the first negotiating cluster as soon as possible, in line with the negotiating framework.

### Background

North Macedonia remains one of the most advanced EU [candidate countries](#) in the Western Balkans. The country obtained candidate status in 2005, while accession negotiations formally started in July 2022 following the resolution of long-standing disputes with Greece and the adoption of the compromise framework agreed with Bulgaria. However, the opening of substantive negotiating clusters remains blocked by the requirement to amend the Constitution and include the Bulgarian community among the country's constituent peoples. The government has [expressed](#) support for EU membership but has been reluctant to proceed with constitutional amendments. In June 2026, European Council President António Costa [recalled](#) that 'adopting the agreed constitutional amendments remains the necessary next step towards formally starting the accession negotiations'.

The domestic political situation is generally stable but characterised by strong polarisation between the governing coalition led by Prime Minister [Hristijan Mickoski](#) of the centre-right VMRO-DPMNE and the opposition Social Democrats (SDSM). Relations between Skopje and Sofia remain a sensitive issue. Ethnic relations between the Macedonian majority and Albanian minority remain largely stable, supported by the framework established under the Ohrid Agreement. [Analysis](#) by the Institute for Democracy and the Konrad Adenauer Foundation (January 2026) shows that the largest share of citizens (27 %) prefers renegotiating the negotiation framework with the EU, while 24 % support the demanded constitutional amendments.

According to the [Commission's 2025 report](#), North Macedonia continues to demonstrate a high level of alignment with EU foreign and security policy and remains moderately prepared in most areas of the *acquis*. The Commission welcomed progress in public administration reform, economic governance and anti-corruption legislation. Nevertheless, concerns persist regarding judicial independence, political influence over state institutions, corruption, public procurement and the effectiveness of democratic oversight mechanisms. North Macedonia continues to be regarded as a credible candidate country, but its accession process remains largely stalled due to unresolved political and legal conditions linked to relations with Bulgaria.

### European Parliament position

The AFET committee adopted its [report](#) on North Macedonia on 3 June 2026. The report reiterates its full support for North Macedonia's dedication to EU membership, based on clear and measurable progress and strict but fair conditionality. It notes, with regret, the lack of progress since its last report in 2025 and underlines that the momentum towards reform requires renewed political commitment and clear actions, including the necessary constitutional amendments, constructive cross-party cooperation and effective parliamentary oversight. It welcomes North Macedonia's valuable and significant contributions to regional cooperation and stability via its engagement in regional economic and diplomatic initiatives such as the Berlin Process, the Growth Plan for the Western Balkans and common regional market agreements.

Own-initiative report: [2025/2254\(INI\)](#); Committee responsible: AFET; Rapporteur: Thomas Waitz (Greens/EFA, Austria)

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