



Union of European Federalists  
Union Europäischer Föderalisten  
Union des Fédéralistes Européens

Mr Nikola Gruevski  
Chairman

VMRO DPMNE  
VMRO Square 1  
1000 Skopje  
Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia

Brussels, 15 February 2017

**Subject:** *Alarming actions of the organisation "SOS - Stop Operation Soros" towards the Young European Federalists (JEF) in the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia*

Dear Mr Gruevski,

We would like to bring an incident to your attention which you might consider rather limited in scope but which sends a disturbing message about the future European orientation of the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, not least in the circles of the firmest supporters of an eventual accession of the country to the EU.

On Friday, the 3rd of February 2017 the organisation "SOS - Stop Operation Soros" held a press conference to attack organisations considered to be detrimental to the national interest of the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia. To our greatest surprise one of the organisation listed are the Young European Federalists (JEF) Macedonia. The speaker at the press conference, Mr Cvetin Chilimanov, to our knowledge editor-in-chief of the government's Macedonian News Agency, described JEF Macedonia and in general the European Federalists as a controversial organisation and labelled our ideas as "deadly and dangerous".

We think it is worth pointing out that the Young European Federalists [JEF Europe] and its national section JEF Macedonia are non-partisan pluralistic youth organisations working towards a free and united Europe, governed according to the principles of democracy and the rule of law, striving to ensure peace, prosperity, security and justice. JEF Europe and JEF Macedonia are working towards a deeper integration of the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia in the European family which would hopefully lead to its eventual accession as a Member State. JEF Europe is the youth organisation of the Union of European Federalists (UEF), of which we are respectively the President and Vice President.

Given the vicinity of the SOS leadership to the government of the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, and considering other recent statements made by government politicians regarding the so-called "Desorosization" of the country, we are concerned for the activities of our local groups and we are even more concerned that those incidents might lead to the impression that the values supported by UEF and JEF are not shared by the government of FYROM. We do, however, have full confidence that it is in your power to reign in on those attacks against the European Federalists in your country and call upon you to make use of the instruments at your disposal to further nurture civil society activity in the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia in support of our common European values and goals.

Ourselves as well as JEF Europe and JEF Macedonia are at your disposal should you wish to take these matters forward in a constructive dialogue.

Cordially yours,

Elmar Brok  
President  
Union of European Federalists

Dr Andrey Kovatchev  
Vice President  
Union of European Federalists

**Union of European Federalists**

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