

(English version)

**Priority question for written answer P-001382/24
to the Commission
Emmanouil Fragkos (ECR)
(18 July 2024)**

Subject: Taking the initiative to annul the 'Prespa Agreement'

The Prespa Agreement, which was the result of misrepresentation, distortion of the facts and disinformation, was clearly invalid from the outset. In addition, it resulted from vote-buying, which distorted the sovereign will of the Greek people, making the agreement deficient in legal terms.

Historically, culturally and geographically, the name 'Macedonia' (Macedonian) is an inextricable part of Greece.

From a technical point of view, the Prespa Agreement contains individual clauses that had already been breached by the Skopjan government, for instance concerning the naming of Skopjan sports teams.

When the new Skopjan government came to power, it seems that the name, which is the crux of the 'Prespa Agreement', officially ceased to be used.

The Commission often talks about the importance of good neighbourly relations and regional cooperation, including in relation to this issue.

In view of this, can the Commission answer the following:

1. Seeing as though the new Skopjan government has stopped officially complying with the so-called 'Prespa Agreement', is there any reason for the EU not to consider it invalid or is it waiting for the Greek Government to officially rescind the agreement first?
2. In light of the latest developments, does it confirm that Skopje will be excluded from the path to EU membership and from all EU funding for the foreseeable future?
3. Bearing in mind that right after the deplorable 'Prespa Agreement' was signed the Council and the Commission were quick to welcome this 'historic agreement' and given that Greece is the affected party here, how does the Commission intend to compensate Greece politically/legally?

Submitted: 19.7.2024

**Answer given by Mr Várhelyi on behalf of the European Commission
(30 September 2024)**

The Commission reiterates the importance of the Prespa Agreement between North Macedonia and Greece, which is binding under international law and sets an example of reconciliation for the Western Balkans and beyond.

As recalled in the December 2023 Council conclusions ⁽¹⁾ and in the 2023 Commission enlargement package on North Macedonia ⁽²⁾, the Prespa Agreement needs to be implemented in good faith by all parties. All parties have to date publicly confirmed their commitment to abide by the agreement.

Good neighbourly relations and regional cooperation remain essential elements of the enlargement process. The Commission will continue to call for full respect for and adherence to such legally binding bilateral agreements. The EU is actively addressing these matters with the authorities of North Macedonia ⁽³⁾.

⁽¹⁾ <https://data.consilium.europa.eu/doc/document/ST-16707-2023-INIT/en/pdf>

⁽²⁾ SWD(2023) 693 final.

⁽³⁾ European External Action Service, Statement by the spokesperson on the use of the constitutional name by the new President in her address at the swearing in ceremony, 12 May 2024 (https://www.eeas.europa.eu/eeas/north-macedonia-statement-spokesperson-use-constitutional-name-new-president-her-address-swearing_en).