

WEST BALKAN COUNTRIES AND THE CHALLENGES OF INTEGRATION PROGRESS-CASE OF MACEDONIA

Besa Kadriu

PhD candidate in European University of Tirana
Assistant Prof. in South East European University
Tetovo-REPUBLIC OF MACEDONIA

ABSTRACT

In the end of '90s onwards, for many western European countries and for other parts of it had to face major changes in the political, economic and social dimensions. Certainly a part of their involvement in these standards that were previously set was not easy. Based on these situations of which the vast extent not always been desired, for appearing occasionally difficulties in the process of transformation of these societies which manifest themselves with violence and other forms of undesirable. This situation has not escaped even Macedonia. Facing with this issues as one country in the western part of the Balkans, as most of the other Balkan states that did not escape the clutches of monism and communist isolated system, but also the outstanding problems found in relation to neighboring countries as well as domestic issues and defining The status of other ethnicities that comprise Macedonia. Taking into account that at the same time they must be fulfill basic criteria that must meet the aspirant countries and subsequently other areas for which they must be willing to be involved in the process of Euro-integration. These and several other elements will be priority which will be considered as part of this research leading to this paper. The main issues which will consider priority in this research will be the challenges facing these positions as they succeed in meeting the integration standards for their countries to the EU.

Keywords: Transition, integration, system, policy, standards.

BALKAN CHALLENGES AND MACEDONIA

The integration of the Western Balkans (BP) in the European Union (EU) is a comprehensive process, necessary and inevitable for the European future of these countries. This process is also known as the Stabilisation and Association Process which is basically the same strategy for all countries in west Balkan with specifications and criteria for each country. One common conditions imposed by the EU, for Balkan and Macedonia too is precisely their reforming public administration as one of the most important reforms they need to undertake within their integration into the European family. The period under analysis will be after the ratification of the ASA –(Agreement for Stabilization and Association) by the Balkan countries until today. Based on comparative method, this research study aims to analyze the development of public administration reform in Macedonia as Balkan countries in the most important stages of their own. With special emphasis will be analyzed periodical reports of the European Commission, expressing opinion on the process of administrative and other reforms of west Balkan countries. The question refers to research has to do with the fact that: Level of implementation of public administration reform; Depoliticization will be variable that will be studied and analyzed extensively as it is one of the elements that has a direct impact on the level of performance of public administration reform and its success. This is because a depoliticized, creates space for respect of the law, the implementation of meritocracy and reduces the political character of its function.

The aim of this research paper is to show the events that have marked special twist to the process of integration of the Western Balkan country and its importance leading to a common goal, that of alignment with European standards respectively of promoting processes that have aimed at reforming these countries that for a long time have been part of the process of isolation.

After the 90's, events and political developments of other areas in most countries in central Europe, reflected in many other parts of Europe and the Balkans. For this purpose there were created new conditions and standard which aimed to reform these countries and to include within those created standards. After World War II and Europe had to reflect positively in terms of peace-building and institutional capacity building that will significantly influence the reconstruction and remaking of a system completely different from the way society functioned and state was running of political, economic and wider spectrum.

Initially, conditions were created to establish and the European Community for Coal and Steel steps positively reflected in the creation of other relevant institutions which will be aimed at the unity of goals and long-term objectives of states that wanted the reconstruction of Europe. Initially it was the economic basis for united states which took the first initiative of France and Germany that the union of their strength created economic, political alliance and compiled the rate which will later join the other states of Europe to be a part of a unity which would reflect economic stability, political and other spheres that will be created later as standard.

As Europe has its history after years of the 50's onwards, the Balkan Peninsula is characterized by various processes that have marked special twist. As noted, the collapse of a system that had gripped the Balkan countries was difficult to change all its sacrifices. The collapse of a past which had built cults, raising the people in the highest pedestal and considering that those who have the power in their hands can do everything and a lot more for their nationality.

Conditions were created in postwar Europe and Balkan countries contributed to creating the political pluralism and fall of insulated monist system. Such cases of the beginning of reforms were involved also in Macedonia. Considering that this place is out of the brittle-party system, the redrawing of new structures was difficult course.

If deep traced events or events which have been part of human history but separate and initiatives that have been kind of essential reforms, today more and more are being created proper conditions and circumstances to realize a better life even here where we live. Should not be forgotten another fact that during the restaging of a policy should involve many external factors which have been linked by the history of the past. In this is what happened to Macedonia, Albania, Kosovo, Bosnia and Herzegovina and other countries that make up this peninsula.

Since 2001, after the armed conflict in Macedonia as events were held here, and elsewhere, to Balkan countries it was extremely important to establish peace and stability in their midst. Stabilization and Association Agreement was an agreement specifically for the Western Balkan countries. In its basic obligations incorporated the majority of countries which have been conflicting. The aims of this Association are:

– to provide an appropriate framework for political dialogue, allowing the development of close

political relations between the Parties;

– to support the efforts of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia to develop its economic

and international cooperation, also through the approximation of its legislation to that of the Community;

– to promote harmonious economic relations and develop gradually a free trade area between the Community and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia;

– to foster regional cooperation in all the fields covered by this Agreement. [1]

International policy significantly is designed as such for Balkan countries to have a similar symbolism in relation of solving the problems which it had to face. The current analysis clearly shows that even in relation to other countries not only in the case of Macedonia specific reports generate to each country, and the other Western Balkan countries aspiring to join NATO and the EU.

PARADOXES AND DILEMAS

Whenever feel disappointed by the actuality that surrounds us, events which are part of our everyday life, we say; Will be fun to be a part of the country or a city in which we live in the future ..? Dilemmas like this and a number of other reasons, are issues in most cases, not only me but others concern more and more. Convinced of these reasons which make our life difficult and directly confronted with these unwanted scenes which day by day we face them more, makes it possible to result in an extreme disappointment to a certain number of people in my country.

Of course, for someone these facts are evident, for another category are not, because as we have already learned to recognize our society to which we belong, between people exist those who enjoyed when something bad happens to someone or can happen and moreover feed themselves and their ego expressing outrage for people who do not act or think like them. This and a number of other phenomena are our unfortunate everyday life that our society has led us to a situation like this. There are numerous factors that have contributed to create an environment and a climate so unwanted in between. Undoubtedly, a great hesitation and emphasis is given first and foremost institutional actors and political subjects "government" instead. From every point of view to look at the situation, however seem easy to say something, the harder thing is to resolve the problem that stands as a puzzle for those who are competent to elaborate the issue. But this is not the result of today, we are aware of this, it has generated as a result of the past and not in vain, today we encounter these challenges and obstacles which pose a serious handicap for the progress and welfare of the country where there are aspirations.

Already is known fact that in every society and the world of civilized countries; social, political and economic factors are basic conditions and main pillars. Not surprisingly, the international standards established for the fulfillment of the basic conditions for a democratic state should have the basic elements upon which as apparatus and state power will face international spectrum. Long ago, the European Union's Copenhagen criteria trumpeted to states that wanted to join this international authority and other aspiring countries, pointing to the realization of states that socially, economically and politically are under construction or emerging from monist system!

We live in a century where multiethnic societies have other challenges facing them, the competition takes place in a climate that offers the best of dominance which may bring Tabor favor of companies that contribute more to social welfare, economic and political in the world, or .. not mistaken ..., this at least is the tendency of the great powers, which within their societies have overcome the difficulties that we face today ... but .. at least their tendencies are larger, because their foreign policy has priorities which respect authority, culture, language and other elements that constitute an ethnic group, subject or other actors that are of relevance within a society. Obviously the past has left big consequences at us. Whenever it is the need to start shorting the concept of the past at our best, we deal with anger or neglect initiatives that have the desire and intention of bridging and removing the evil from society. While going through the city streets of Tetovo, (city in western Macedonia, and also my residence) are felt not only resentment, unemployed people who roam the streets and deal with or without the right " deeds or gossip" to which find no compromise with others, and in fact this is the reality of disappointed people. They do not see a breakthrough window, point of hope for a better future but also they have lack of motivation to work and create conditions for a better future. Often we hear voices that express indignation for what the state unjustly robbed them, their future, -children whose parents leave their country for a better future, because they can't contribute to create better conditions in this country. This bias takes place in our current situation, because it is the truth, and as such we do little to change. If we had a higher consciousness in the mentality of the people who make up the measure, reactions will certainly be in time, but is also in cases where the initiatives emanating from people with experience in this country that with no right has been abused over and today with some of them even govern, we will have unenviable situations like this. To withstand these clutches contemptuous of this system that pose not only a whole its society but also the wider international factor, without doubt, should be to use all possible legitimate mechanisms that will help to overcome this situation. Analysts and researchers in different writing rightly said that: *"The governments of the Western Balkan countries after the wars of the 90s for a long time has been engaged with the formation and strengthening of new states, national security and resolving the problems of minorities. For this reason they lived delays in reforms required for EU membership and economic development."*[2]

However different might be thought, in the Balkans these days still can not overcome problems that have to do with issues of crime, breakdown of the rule of law, the issue of drug affairs networks, misuse of official positions, not implementation of institution obligations to citizens and citizens to public institutions. These and a series of problems that have plagued these even today not only in Macedonia but also other parts which are generally outside the structures of the European Union. In this regard, the EU structures are those which through appropriate mechanisms try to put on the right track these countries. Ways used by the relevant international structures are obligations which addresses these countries to the EU structures. Macedonia, since 2005, has candidate status, but it does not mean that has come across in the process. Currently there is an extreme stagnation of development of the integration processes. Even though early container subject tendency that emerged from the war and won the election and with it the Macedonian party in power and promised to participate more in relation to the development of these processes, but, in practice, the reality is far away. The performance of the development process to the EU for Macedonia is as follows: 2001 - SAA Stabilization and Association Agreement and Ohrid Framework Agreement; 2005 Macedonia gains status candidate !.

Failure signals come since the beginning of last year and after NATO Summit, held in Bucharest, Romania, in March 2008, where Macedonia in comparison with neighboring countries, Albania will not reach the member to engage in these structures. [3]

It will pass a long period of time which will include a series of failures by the current government in Macedonia that has the power in their hands, Macedonian VMRO-DPMNE, (Macedonian political party and political entity that participates in the power, BDI. *The original name of albanian political party who's participate in government- Bashkimi Demokratik për Integrim*).

Confident in these grim circumstances between governing parties and unwillingness to tackle the challenges facing the country's approximation to the alleged intentions, eventually end up as citizens concerned by this bitter reality. This is the impression created by the ocular environment to discuss outside institutional structures, not in public institutions, but the same is also the opinion of most of them, because we have failures in every sphere.

Not only are not fulfilled all the obligations taken by previous agreements, which guarantee the functioning of a multi-ethnic state, based on the Ohrid Agreement, which calls for legal views fair and proper treatment, or equal representation on a national basis for those entities that constitute Macedonia, results of a second official language in those countries where the majority are over 25% Albanian in relevant municipality, the use of symbols, the issue of education for higher education in mothertongue, etc. All the elements are gone with the wind because practically it is policy failure of these structures and the failure with their European partnership. This is more evident in the periodic reports that recent years addressed Macedonia. We will stop and take a critical look at references that the European Commission invites Macedonia to take care, including:

Reforms in the judiciary, public administration reforms, prevention of corruption, respect of minority rights, the start of accession negotiations, etc.

Reports indicate this way: In every year more and more, in relation to the position where the country has been, there is movement in the sphere of political criteria, from the moment when it has received candidate status. Country is invited to create a more qualitative report on direction to improve the dialogue with the opposition and the involvement of the opposition in institutions, respectively in parliament. According to periodic progress reports from the European Commission addressed Macedonia and relevant local authorities, said that: The IPA II, The European Union funds, intended for states that you are in the pre-accession phase, were poured funds for the period 2014-2020 that may reach a value to € 664 million. In this very normally it provided all the reforms that are necessary for a state to claim membership as the Macedonian case is. [4] Following the reports increasingly are getting cooler in this country to respect human rights, the functioning of the rule of law, respect for and implementation of the Ohrid Agreement and the changes that should be made in legislation. Western Balkan countries, except the obligations of this nature, they have also a number of other responsibilities before the international community. Copenhagen criteria are an element for many Balkan countries including Macedonia. With the acquisition of candidate status, Macedonia and other countries aspiring receive obligations of these criteria which are closely related to these elements: political criteria, economic and legal-administrative. All these elements make it possible to understand that it is difficult challenge this country to afford and easily overcome the same. [5] However, these criteria are part addressed to the countries that before this period were outside the European Union, including the Western Balkan countries. In the strategy of the reform of the judicial system among

others emphasize the fact that institutional reform is a fundamental prerequisite of Macedonia's integration into NATO and European structures.[6] These requirements primarily addressed with particular emphasis on the judicial system and its attributes. In this regard, Macedonia, since the signing of the Stabilization and Association Agreement, considers that has made a significant step towards reform efforts, especially in harmonizing national legislation with the European Union. From this agreement clearly reiterated in all applications addressed to the Copenhagen criteria. Stabilization and Association Agreement - represents one of the most important international documents signed between the European Community and the Republic of Macedonia.

This document is actually a nationwide initiative aspirations of countries which claim that in the future become members of the Union. Among other things this agreement allows signatory countries to use EU funds dedicated to these countries. The main objectives of this agreement are: promotion of free trade regime with the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and other countries of South-eastern and European Union member states; harmonization of the legal framework of the European Union; promoting cooperation between sectors of their natural environment, energy, telecommunication and transport.[7]

RECOMMENDATIONS

Balkan countries that are in pre-accession by the EU structures is recommended to follow these steps towards integration and overcoming the situation:

- Respect of human rights and diversity within the society,
- Implementation of agreements received for the above, that in the case of Macedonia the Ohrid Agreement and the obligations previously ratified by the government and institutions of higher state institutions,
- Prevention of corruption and organized crime,
- Implementation of reforms in the administration and equal treatment of other ethnicities that make up Macedonia,
- Meeting the standard requirements that are part of the *Acquis Communautaire* , that will help the country and integration process into the structures of the European Union and NATO,
- Proper functioning of the rule of law and an independent judiciary as key elements of a democratic state,
- Creating good conditions for a welfare policy society as a multiethnic state.
- Prevention of all deviations which are ways of crime, drugs and other forms of manifestation of degenerative form of society and the strengthening of state institutions to be in control after all of these cases.

This and a number of other elements have channeled in the form of European standards, in order to avoid such cases and to advance the country and society well put this dark period that has stuck Balkanin for a long time.

Balkan countries can be different even with these changes and reforms, then this society will be of assistance to these countries to prevent the migration from these regions, but creating proper conditions in the country of birth of the residents of this country.

REFERENCES

- [1] Agreement for Stabilisation and Association for FYROM http://ec.europa.eu/enlargement/pdf/the_former_yugoslav_republic_of_macedonia/saa03_01_en.pdf
- [2] Ramadani, Alber, -article web: <http://www.tetovasot.com/2015/01/balkani-vend-ku-meshkuj-jane-ataku-grupet-etnike-dhe-traditat-fetare/>
- [2] <http://fas.org/sgp/crs/row/RL34415.pdf>
- [3] The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia: Progress Report of EU Commission 2014 http://ec.europa.eu/enlargement/pdf/key_documents/2014/20141008-the-former-yugoslav-republic-of-macedonia-progress-report_en.pdf
- [4] EU site on membership criteria and accession http://ec.europa.eu/enlargement/conditions-membership/index_en.htm
- [5] European Council in Copenhagen 21-22 June 1993 http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_DOC-93-3_en.htm
- [6] Rezler, Paulina- The Copenhagen criteria are they helping or hurting the European Union http://www.tourolaw.edu/ILR/uploads/articles/V14_2/5.pdf
- [7] Strategy for reforms in the justice system in the Republic of Macedonia; page.4 paragraph 2