

Plan 3-6-9 +

Introduction

The package of measures of the Plan 3-6-9, envisaged for implementation in the first three months, was fulfilled to a large extent, primarily as a result of the strong political will and commitment of the Government and the competent institutions. Some of the measures, whose implementation have started or are in progress, remain relevant for the upcoming period, as well.

The Government has established **an efficient mechanism for implementation of the measures of the Plan 3-6-9:**

- The political guidelines are given by the **Ministerial Working Group** chaired by the Prime Minister, and in which besides the Deputy Prime Minister in charge of European Affairs, who is at the same time the coordinator of the overall process, also participate the Ministers for Interior, Justice, Foreign Affairs, Defence, Finance, Information Society and Public Administration, the Minister without portfolio in charge of Communication, Accountability and Transparency, and the Secretary General of the Government.
- The monitoring of the implementation of the measures, the timely signalling as regards the inconsistencies in the implementation and the provision of daily communication are carried out by **the inter-ministerial Ad Hoc Group of Experts**, with representatives of the institutions headed by the ministers that participate in the Ministerial Working Group. The Ad Hoc Group is chaired by the Cabinet of the President of the Government, whereas the preparation and coordination is done by the Secretariat for European Affairs.
- **The political decisions are taken by the Government** and every regular session of the Government begins with a review of the status of implementation of the measures and the adoption of the necessary decisions.

The measures under Parts 6 and 9 are defined and updated on the basis of the recommendations contained in the Report of the Senior Experts' Group on Systemic Rule-of-Law issues and the consultations with all stakeholders. The envisaged measures **are planned to be implemented by December 2017/March 2018 or before the publication of the next regular European Commission's Report on the Republic of Macedonia.**

Judicial Reform
<p><i>In the area of the reforms of the judiciary, the Government accepts the comments and recommendations of the European Commission, the Venice Commission and GRECO, as well as the recommendations by the Senior Experts' Group on Systemic Rule of Law. The Government is working intensively and devotedly on building an independent, unbiased, professional and efficient judicial system. To this end, the Government will adopt a new Strategy on the Justice System Reform, which will constitute a roadmap for moving forward the reforms in the judicial system, restoring confidence in institutions, ensuring legal certainty, protecting individual rights and freedoms of citizens and creating an atmosphere of free judiciary, without any political pressures. By the end of December 2017, the Council for Determination of Facts and Initiation of Procedure for Determining Responsibility of a Judge will be abolished, amendments to the Law on Witness Protection will be adopted and a Report on the findings and recommendations from the first stage of the conducted inspection on the functioning of the ACMIS system will be published. In this period, the package of legal amendments on strengthening of the independence and impartiality, as well as on improving the work of the Judicial Council of the Republic of Macedonia will be proposed.</i></p> <p><i>In the area of penitentiary system reform, the Government accepted the comments and recommendations of the Committee for the Prevention of Torture within the Council of Europe and undertook measures for improving the conditions and capacities of the penitentiary facilities, implementation of alternative sanctions, as well as improving the health protection and safety.</i></p>

Key Measures:	
1. Adoption of the Strategy on the Justice Sector Reform for the period 2017-2022 with an Action Plan	12/2017
2. Adoption of a Law on annulling Law on the Council for Determination of the Facts and Initiation of Procedure for Establishing Responsibility of a Judge and a Law amending the Law on the Judicial Council of the Republic of Macedonia	12/2017
3. First Report on the conducted inspection on the functioning of the ACMIS system with determined findings regarding possible misuses with recommendations	12/2017
4. Adoption of a Law Amending the Law on Courts regarding the basis of disciplinary responsibility and disciplinary measures for judges, as well as the Law amending the Law on the Judicial Council of the Republic of Macedonia with the aim of improving the evaluation process of judges and the requirements for appointment of judges	1/2018
5. Adoption of a Law Amending the Law on Witness Protection	12/2017
6. Adoption of a Law Amending the Law on Whistle-blowers Protection	1/2018
7. Adoption of the Strategy for Information and Communication Technology in Judiciary	12/2017
8. Adoption of a Law amending the Law on Execution of Sanctions	1/2017
9. Start of operation of the Probation Office on the territory of the Basic Court Skopje 1, Skopje and staffing of the Probation Sector	1/2018
10. Transfer of the competence for prisoners' health protection from the Ministry of Justice to the Ministry of Health	12/2017

Reform of the intelligence and security services

The Government believes that reform of the intelligence and security services is more than necessary. Considering the fact that this is a comprehensive reform, the Government will provide a transparent and inclusive debate, in which the consultation process will be properly implemented. In that direction, a working group, composed of representatives of relevant institutions, the opposition and the expert public has been established, tasked to prepare a plan of measures and activities for overcoming the weaknesses in the current system of interception of communications, and in the interest of guaranteeing the legality, protection of human rights and safety of the country and the citizen. According to this plan, the reforms will be implemented practically and on the field, after previously specified plan and dynamics for the necessary changes, with the final aim of restoring confidence in the system.

Regarding the police reform, a process for establishing an independent external mechanism for control of the work of the police has begun and it should ensure impartiality in dealing with cases where there is a suspicion

<i>that criminal offenses have been committed by employees of the Ministry of Interior.</i>	
Key Measures:	
1. Adoption of the Plan for implementation of the recommendations of the group of senior experts on the systemic issues in the field of rule of law related to the interception of communications (2015/2017) with a list of legal acts, administrative and technical measures, as well as financial implications	11/2017
2. Adoption of a package of laws necessary for the reform of the system for interception of communications by the Government, as well as establishing of the external mechanism.	12/2017
3. Adoption of the National Strategy of the Republic of Macedonia for the Fight Against Terrorism with an Action Plan	2/2018
4. Adoption of the National Strategy of the Republic of Macedonia for the Prevention of Violent Extremism with an Action Plan	2/2018
5. Establishment of a special unit within the Basic Public Prosecutor's Office for Prosecution of Organised Crime and Corruption responsible for criminal prosecution of criminal offenses committed by the employees of the Ministry of Interior with police authorisations as well as members of the prison police	3/2018
6. Establishment of a special organisational unit within the Ombudsman of the Republic of Macedonia as a mechanism for civil control	3/2018

Assembly	
<i>The Government, within its competences, supports the measures for renewal and development of the democratic environment, through political dialogue and cooperation with all parliamentary parties, and especially with the opposition. The Government will continue to contribute in order to ensure conditions for full implementation of the agreed Recommendations after the unpleasant events of 24/12/2012, related to the violent events of 27/04/2017. The Government, the coalition partners and the majority in the Assembly, in an open and sincere cooperation with the opposition, will enable the oversight function of the Assembly and the parliamentary bodies over the work of the Government and its security and intelligence services, to be regular and routine, with the highest possible level of transparency.</i>	
Key measures of the Assembly:	
1. The regular and substantive supervisory work of the Committee for Supervision of the Security and Counter-Intelligence Directorate and the Intelligence Agency, and the Committee for Supervision of the Implementation of the Special Investigative Measure of Interception of Communications by the Ministry of Interior, the Financial Police, the Customs Administration and the Ministry for Defence, through regular meetings in which the competent institutions will be actively participating	Continuously
2. Strengthening the capacities of the members of the of the Committee for Supervision of the Security and Counter-Intelligence Directorate and the Intelligence Agency, and the Committee for Supervision of the Implementation of the Special Investigative Measure of Interception of Communications by the Ministry of Interior, the Financial Police, the Customs Administration and the Ministry for Defence, through active	11/2017

cooperation with the Geneva Centre for the Democratic Control of Armed Forces (DCAF)	
3. Continuation of the operations of the Working Group on the Assembly Reforms, with the aim to reach acceptable political agreement for amendments to the Rules of Procedures and strengthening the independent capacities of the Assembly.	01/2018
4. Active cooperation with the EU experts in the Assembly and their inclusion in the Working Group on the Assembly Reforms	11/2017
5. Adoption of Code of Conduct for the parliamentary members, according to the recommendations of the report of 24/12/2012 and GRECO	01/2018
6. Active support to the Assembly, by means of ensuring conditions for functioning and demonstrating political support to the MPs' multi-party interest groups, such as the Club of Women MPs and the Club of Young MPs	11/2017
7. Proactive participation of the parliamentary groups in international initiatives and initiating independent parliamentary initiatives for improving the confidence and promoting the dialogue between the majority and the opposition	Continuously

Appointments

The Government commits itself fully to respect the legal procedures and criteria in the course of appointing of persons on managerial positions, as well as members of management and supervisory boards. Also, the Government will do everything to continue ensuring smooth functioning of all state institutions, including the diplomatic network, with full respect of the defined constitutional and legal competences.

Key Measures:

1. Appointments of officials in managerial positions through a transparent and competitive procedure in line with the legal framework	3/2018
2. Appointments of new competent members of the management and supervisory boards in accordance with the legal framework	3/2018
3. Continuation of consultations with the President of the Republic of Macedonia, for filling the vacant posts in the diplomatic-consular representative offices.	3/2018

Public Administration Reform and Good Governance

The Public Administration Reform (PAR) is one of the key priorities of the Government, which has started with a preparation of a quality, overall accepted and feasible PAR Strategy. The main goals of the PAR are departmentisation and professionalization of the administration, as well as building quality and service-oriented administration that will function and work in improved conditions. By strengthening interoperability, increasing the number of e-services and applying modern IT technologies, the Government strives towards digitalisation to provide faster, simpler and easily accessible services for the citizens.

In the area good governance, the Government will publish a Citizen's Budget for the 2018 Budget, in order to provide the citizens with a clear picture of the spending of public finances. Also, the Government will adopt the Public Finance Management Reform Program 2018-2021, which is to ensure stability and strengthening of the

<i>medium-term planning.</i>	
Key measures:	
1. Adoption of the Strategy for Public Administration Reform 2018-2022 with an Action Plan	12/2017
2. Establishment of the Council for Public Administration Reform, in charge of coordination of the PAR process, chaired by the Prime Minister	12/2017
3. Adoption of the Law Amending the Law on Administrative Servants	1/2018
4. Adoption of Good Governance Guidelines for elected and appointed persons in the executive branch	3/2018
5. Preparation of Open Data Strategy	3/2018
6. Adoption of the Public Finance Management Reform Programme 2018-2021	12/2017
7. Publication of the Citizen's Budget for the 2018 Budget	11/2017
8. Public consultations on the reform of the public procurement system and accepting the SIGMA suggestions regarding the public procurement system and the Council	11/2017
9. Preparation of a Policy Paper for Public Internal Financial Control Reform	3/2018

Fight against organised crime and corruption	
<i>The Government believes that the fight against organised crime and corruption will be effective if the investigations are initiated and conducted in a lawful manner, in accordance with the principles of objectivity and impartiality. Hence a key priority is to strengthen and promote the mechanisms for fight against organised crime and corruption, and to relieve them from political influence and pressure. In this process, the recommendations of the domestic and foreign experts, as well as civil society, will be fully taken into account.</i>	
Key measures:	
1. Establishment of minimum standards for physical, administrative, information and technical protection in the Department for Suppression of Organised Crime and Corruption within the Ministry of Interior	3/2018
2. Material and technical upgrading of the National Coordination Centre for Fight against Organised Crime	12/2017
3. Adoption of the Strategy of the Republic of Macedonia for strengthening the capacities for conducting financial investigations and confiscation of assets, with an Action Plan for its	12/2017

implementation	
4. Implementation of the GRECO recommendations of the IV round of evaluation that have not been implemented so far and are referring to the prevention of the corruption among MPs, judges and public prosecutors	3/2018

Media	
<p><i>The media as pillars of a democratic society and the journalists have strong support from the Government, which is firmly determined to respect the freedom of expression, professional and objective functioning of the media and journalists, without any political influence, pressure or violence of any kind. The Government is committed to creating conditions for full independence and professionalization of the public broadcasting service (MRT), as well as full independence and removing of any influence on the regulator, the Agency for Audio and Audio-visual Media Services. The Government builds a partnership with the media associations and the civil sector in order to provide conditions for objective and impartial functioning of all other media, since it is in the interest of all citizens is to be accurately and timely informed. The Government will open a wide consultative process with the media community and the civil society organisations on possible amendments to the Law on Free Access to Public Information and to the Law on Media, as well as possible measures to facilitate the work of the print media.</i></p>	
Key measures:	
1. Opening a dialogue with the media community and the civil society organisations on possible amendments to the Law on Free Access to Public Information	12/2017
2. Opening a public discussion on possible amendments to the Law on Media	12/2017
3. Opening a public discussion on possible measures to facilitate the work of print media	12/2017
4. Adoption of the Law Amending the Law on Audio and Audiovisual Media Services	3/2018
5. Adoption of the Law Amending the Law on Establishing the Public Enterprise "Macedonian Broadcasting"	3/2018

Civil society	
<p><i>The Government treats the civil society as an equal partner and corrector of its decisions, with full right to participate in policy making, to suggest and to criticise. The Government is actively taking measures to build a continuous, transparent and fully inclusive dialogue with the civil society. By the end of 2017, the Government will establish a functional Council for Cooperation and Development of the civil sector after conducting comprehensive consultations with the civil society organisations and a transparent procedure for the selection of the members of the Council. Using the analysis and the strategic documents of the civil society organisations and with their direct and substantial participation, in March 2018, the Government will adopt a new Strategy for Cooperation with the Civil Sector with an Action Plan for the period 2018-2020. In order to provide a suitable environment for the development of the civil society, the Government will inform the public about the course of the conducted investigations directed towards the civil society organisations.</i></p>	

Key measures:	
1. Adoption of a Decision Amending the Decision on Establishing a Council for Cooperation between the Government and the Civil Sector, after conducting comprehensive consultations with the civil society organisations and conducting a transparent procedure for the selection of the members of the Council	12/2017
2. Adoption of a new Strategy for cooperation of the Government with the Civil Sector, with an Action Plan to be implemented for the period 2018-2020	3/2018
3. Informing the public about the conducted investigations on intimidation and pressure on civil society organisations	12/2017
4. Adoption of the Law Amending the Law on Personal Income Tax	12/2017
5. Starting a dialogue on the preparation of the most suitable model for the tax treatment of civil society organisations in terms of the profit tax	12/2017
6. Publishing and continuous updating of the register of civil society organisations in accordance with the Law on Associations and Foundations and the relevant e-mail addresses on the website of the Central Registry of the Republic of Macedonia	12/2017

Elections

Regarding the elections, the Government accepts the recommendations of the OSCE/ODIHR and the Venice Commission and is committed to open a comprehensive debate on the legal and institutional framework for the electoral system on a transparent and inclusive basis.

1. Opening a comprehensive debate with all the relevant stakeholders on the legal and institutional framework for the electoral system based on the recommendations of the OSCE / ODIHR and the Council of Europe expert	12/2017
2. Defining and adoption of a Draft Plan for Reforms of the Electoral System. The implementation of the reforms starts immediately and should be completed at least six months prior to the next elections	01/2018

Migration and border management

The Government considers that migration and border management policies are extremely important issues and their development influences the direction of the socio-economic development of the country, as well as the direction and control of the measures undertaken to protect the security of the country and citizens. In that regard, the negotiating team established by the Government has started negotiations with the European Commission on the Status Agreement with the European Border and Coast Guard Agency (FRONTEX). In order to harmonise the legislation that regulates the issue of rights and obligations of foreigners, as well as the realisation of the right to asylum, drafts of the Law on International and Temporary Protection and the Law on Foreigners have also been prepared.

Key measures:

1. Signing an Agreement between the Government of the Republic of Macedonia and the European Union for actions carried out by the European Border and Coast Guard Agency FRONTEX in the Republic of Macedonia	1/2018
2. Signing a Memorandum of Cooperation between the Public Prosecutor's Office of the Republic of Macedonia and the Ministry of Interior on the strengthening of the cooperation for fighting against smuggling of migrants and human trafficking	11/2017
3. Adoption of the Law on International and Temporary Protection	2/2018
4. Adoption of the Law on Foreigners	3/2018
5. Drafting of risk analysis for integrated border management (IBM) in the Ministry of Interior	11/2017
6. Adoption of an Action Plan for IBM for 2018 with measures for developing IBM, in accordance with the assessment of the National Strategy for IBM (2015-2019)	12/2017
7. Establishment of an analytical centre in NCCIBM, for preparation of risk analysis at strategic level according to CIRAM standards of Frontex	12/2017

Ohrid Agreement

Regarding the implementation of the Ohrid Agreement, in the spirit of cohesion, the Government has agreed to promote the implementation of legislative elements.