



**INVITATION FOR MACEDONIA
TO BEGIN ACCESSION TALKS
TO JOIN THE ALLIANCE**



SECRETARY GENERAL
LE SECRÉTAIRE GÉNÉRAL
Jens Stoltenberg

SG(2018)0196

РЕПУБЛИКА МАКЕДОНИЈА
ВЛАДА НА РЕПУБЛИКА МАКЕДОНИЈА
КАНЦЕЛАРИЈА НА ПРЕДСЕДАТЕЛОТ НА ВЛАДАТА
РЕПУБЛИКА МАКЕДОНИЈА
ВЛАДА НА РЕПУБЛИКА МАКЕДОНИЈА
КАНЦЕЛАРИЈА НА ПРЕДСЕДАТЕЛОТ НА ВЛАДАТА
Скопје

Примено:	Орг. единица:	Број:	Прилог:	Вредност:
		17 07 2018		
	08	2456/18		

Арх. знак _____
Рок на чување _____
_____ 20 ____ год.
Потпис, _____

12 July 2018

Dear President of the Government,

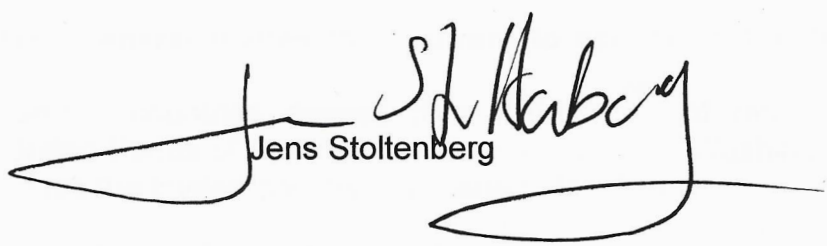
It is my great pleasure to inform you that, at their Summit meeting on the 11th of July 2018, NATO Allies decided to invite the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia¹ to begin Accession Talks to join the Alliance.

This is a momentous achievement for your country, and is something of which you and your citizens should be very proud. Membership in the Alliance will bring greater security and prosperity to your country and the wider Euro-Atlantic region. It is a clear sign that NATO's door remains open.

This invitation comes in the context of the historic agreement reached between Skopje and Athens on the name of your country. While I know that the compromises reached in this agreement were difficult for both sides, I believe that the agreement is in the best interests of your country and the wider region. The agreement has opened the path for your country to realise its aspiration to become a full member of the Euro-Atlantic structures. I look forward to the speedy and full implementation of the agreement, so that your country can be invited to accede to the Washington Treaty at the earliest possible moment.

I attach to this letter an overview of the NATO Accession Process, including the formal steps that will be taken to start the process. The coming months will be extremely busy for all of us, as we work jointly to prepare your country for membership in the Alliance. But for now let me extend to you my warmest congratulations.

Yours sincerely,



Jens Stoltenberg

His Excellency
Mr Zoran Zaev
President of the Government
Skopje

¹ Turkey recognizes the Republic of Macedonia with its constitutional name.

OVERVIEW OF THE ACCESSION PROCESS TO NATO

- 1. Allies decide to invite aspirant to conduct Accession Talks with NATO**
The North Atlantic Council (NAC) decides to issue an invitation to the aspirant to begin accession talks.
- 2. Allies agree the plan to conduct the accession process with the aspirant**
A Plan to Conduct the Accession Process with the Aspirant includes a standard overview of the steps involved in the accession process. The Plan includes an indicative programme for the continuation of reform, which includes specific issues upon which further progress is expected before accession, and a timetable for the accession process.
- 3. Secretary General invites the aspirant to conduct Accession Talks with NATO**
The Secretary General sends a formal letter to the aspirant country inviting it to begin Accession Talks with NATO. A copy of the Plan to Conduct the Accession Process is sent with the Secretary General's letter.
- 4. Accession Talks with NATO team**
Based on the Plan, the NATO team discusses objectives and deadlines that the aspirant country should meet during and following accession. The Aspirant prepares a proposed programme of reform. This programme is discussed with Allies, and the aspirant is expected to revise its programme, if necessary, to meet Allied concerns.
- 5. Exchange of letters between aspirant and Secretary General**
Following accession talks and agreement between Allies and the Aspirant on the programme of reform, the Aspirant country writes to the Secretary General confirming its acceptance of the obligations and commitments of membership. The Aspirant's letter, which includes the programme of reform, is agreed with Allies before submission to NATO.
- 6. Accession Protocol is signed by NATO countries**
The NAC agrees the text of the Accession Protocol to the Washington Treaty. The Accession Protocol is signed by each Ally.
- 7. Accession Protocol is ratified by NATO countries**
Once the Accession Protocol is signed, nations begin their ratification procedures, in accordance with the constitutional and legal requirements. Once ratified by all Allies, the protocol becomes an integral part of the Treaty itself and permits the invited country to become party to the Treaty.
- 8. The Secretary General invites the aspirant to accede to the North Atlantic Treaty**
Once all NATO member countries deposit their instruments of ratification with the Government of the United States of America, the depository of the Washington Treaty, the Secretary General invites the invited country to accede to the Treaty.
- 9. Invitee accedes to the North Atlantic Treaty in accordance with its national procedures**
- 10. Upon depositing its instrument of accession with the US State Department, invitee formally becomes a NATO member**