



**Universal Periodic Review of the Former Yugoslav Republic of MACEDONIA,
30 January 2014
Intervention by the delegation of Estonia**

Estonia warmly welcomes the delegation of the **Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia** to the UPR's 18th session. We thank you for the national report and for the additional information provided today. We look forward to the successful cooperation between our countries as members of the Human Rights Council.

Estonia positively notes the ratification of several human rights instruments, including the Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (**OP-ICESCR**) and the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (**CRPD**) and its Optional Protocol (**OP**).

We welcome the stock-taking report on the Ohrid Framework Agreement and stress the importance of continued efforts to ensure its full implementation.

We take note of the progress achieved in strengthening the principles of rule of law and encourage further efforts in this area. This includes effective implementation and enforcement of existing legal and policy frameworks, as well as efforts to intensify the fight against corruption. As regards the transparency, independence and impartiality of the judiciary, issues highlighted in the EU Progress Report for 2013 must be addressed.

Estonia also recommends further focus on media freedom, where international indicators are noting backslide. We echo the concerns raised by UN Special Rapporteur Frank La Rue and encourage fostering a more inclusive atmosphere between the government and media. We welcome the recent agreement between the government and journalists on the way forward regarding media laws. Estonia positively notes the decriminalization of defamation in 2012.

Estonia would like to make **the following recommendations**:

- to continue **regular dialogue between the government and journalists** in order to reach an agreement on pending issues in the media sector;
- to pay due attention to **transparency** issues of the judiciary
- to take steps to ratify the **Kampala Amendments** to the Rome Statute.

We would like to wish your delegation a successful review meeting.