



**EUROPEAN COMMISSION**

DIRECTORATE-GENERAL JUSTICE, FREEDOM AND SECURITY

The Acting Deputy Director-General

Brussels, **15 JUL 2009**  
JLS/B3+A2/AP D(2009) 10834

Mr Abdulkadar Mehmedi  
State Secretary at the Ministry of  
Foreign Affairs  
The former Yugoslav Republic of  
Macedonia

By email: [mk.mission@skynet.be](mailto:mk.mission@skynet.be)

Dear Mr Mehmedi,


I have the pleasure to inform you that on 15 July 2009 the European Commission adopted a proposal to add the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Serbia and Montenegro to the list contained in Regulation 539/2001 of countries whose citizens are exempt from the visa requirement when crossing the external borders of the EU (the Schengen 'positive list'). This Commission proposal to establish a visa free travel regime with the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia is the direct result of the continuous commitment and the important achievements of your authorities in fulfilling the requirements of the visa liberalization dialogue.

At the Senior Officials' meeting of 11 June 2009, the Commission services updated assessment on the implementation of the roadmap for visa liberalization of your country was presented. It was stated that the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia meets all the benchmarks set out in the Roadmap. I would nevertheless like to encourage you to maintain your efforts in the reform process, including full implementation of recently adopted legislation, which will be important on your way towards European integration.

The Council will decide on the Commission proposal after consultation of the European Parliament. The visa free regime for those countries meeting the benchmarks could enter into force by January 2010.

Finally, allow me to once again congratulate your country and the different authorities involved in the visa dialogue for the outstanding progress achieved in the visa liberalization dialogue. I expect that visa free travel will become a reality for your citizens by the beginning of next year.

Yours sincerely,



Jean-Louis De Brouwer